

AR 600-43  
Application 2-1  
Appendix B

a. General information.

**1. Full Name:**

Clifton Fitzgerald Hicks.

**2. SSN:**

000-00-0000

**3. Selective Service Number:**

Not applicable.

**4. Service Address and component:**

Regular Army  
C - 1/1 Cavalry, Armstrong Barracks.  
APO AE, 09076

**5. Permanent home address:**

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**6. Name and address of each school attended:**

St. Paul Elementary, Savannah GA. Public. 1987-1991.  
Mendenhall Elementary, Tampa FL. Public. 1991-1995.  
Booker T. Washington Middle, Tampa FL. Public. 1995-1997.  
Oak Grove Middle, Tampa FL. Public. 1997-1998.  
Hillsborough High, Tampa FL. Public. 1998-2002.

**7. Chronological list of occupations:**

No previous occupations.

**8. All former addresses and dates of residence at those addresses:**

Not applicable.

**9. Parents' names and addresses:**

Father: living.  
(name & address)  
Mother: living.  
(name & address)

**10. Religious denomination of both parents:**

Father: Agnostic.  
Mother: Buddhist.

**11. Was application made to the Selective Service System (local board) for classification as a conscientious objector before entry into the armed forces?**

No application was made to Selective Service System for classification as a conscientious objector prior to entry into Armed Forces.

**12. Was any previous application made in service for classification as a conscientious objector?**

No previous application was made in service for classification as a conscientious objector.

**13. Has the person served less than 180 days in the Armed Forces?**

More than 180 days have been served in the Armed Forces.

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b. Training and Belief.

**1. An express, specific statement as to whether the person requests classification as a conscientious objector 1-0, or as a conscientious objector 1-A-0.**

I, Clifton F. Hicks, request status as a conscientious objector (1-0).

**2. A description of the nature of the belief that requires the person to seek separation from the military service for reasons of conscience.**

It is against my moral and religious beliefs to destroy human life or take part in any form of war.

**3. An explanation as to how beliefs changed or developed, to include an explanation as to what factors caused the change in or development of conscientious objection beliefs.**

The first time in my life that I witnessed death was on January 20th, 2004. I was gunning on an up armored HMMWV. As we prepared to RP the main gate to Camp Slayer, our base of operations, I spied something in the road and yelled down to the driver of the vehicle to be aware of it as it might very well have been an IED. As we passed by we saw it to be a dead body laying in the road. There had been a lot of shooting that night so we all supposed he was a victim of some local feud. Upon closer examination he was found to be quite dead but with no sign of any bullet wounds. The only things on him were a few bruises and tread marks that matched the tires on our HMMWV's. This man was unarmed, he had been run over by American soldiers and left to die.

On February 20th, 2004 I again found myself gunning on an up armored HMMWV when we came across an 82nd Airborne infantry platoon that had just fought through an ambush. According to them, they had been attacked with small arms fire from both sides of the road, and they in turn had returned fire in both directions. We talked with them a while and helped secure the area while they called it up. Before long It was discovered that one source of the firing had indeed been enemy insurgents, while the other source was a wedding party. It is a common tradition for people in Baghdad to celebrate weddings by firing rifles and other firearms into the air, these people just happened to be celebrating a wedding at the same time as the 82nd patrol was ambushed. There was no sign of enemy casualties, however we discovered three civilians who had been wounded in the ensuing firefight. A young girl had been shot in the leg, a middle aged man was wounded in the arm, and another younger girl had been killed, all as a result of firing from American soldiers.

After the 82nd reported the incident to their chain of command we simply continued our patrol and nothing much was ever said of this incident again.

On March 1st, 2004 I was on a patrol in Baghdad that came under small arms fire from one or two insurgents as we entered the local ICDC compound. I was gunning in the trail HMMWV, I identified where the firing was coming from and returned fire, the enemy firing stopped immediately and nothing more became of it, the incident was never reported. This was a major turning point in my life, I was thoroughly repulsed by what I had done and prayed that I would never have to try to kill a fellow human being again.

I witnessed many sad and terrible things during my time in Iraq, but these three are the most relevant to my claim as a conscientious objector. In Iraq I hated everything, I hated the air that I breathed, the food that I ate, the rifle that I carried; I was disgusted by my own reflection. I saw and did things there that should never be viewed as acceptable by civilized people. I have been shot at, I have been mortared, I have destroyed the livelihood of innocent people, I have seen men rejoice in the torment of other men. As I recall these unfortunate events I find myself disgusted and ashamed. I pray that I may never live to endure such things again.

**4. An explanation as to when these beliefs became incompatible with military service:**

I decided to seek Conscientious Objector status during this past gunnery of Jan-Feb '05. I no longer wished to take any part in combat operations. I found everything we trained for to be personally, morally, and religiously offensive and became extremely disturbed at times as I watched targets being engaged through my periscopes in the driver's station of my vehicle. In all actuality, these inanimate targets represented human life, which is not meant to be destroyed so carelessly, and with so much naive enthusiasm. I realized that I could never return to a combat zone and perform the duties which that circumstance would require. I would only be a hindrance to the Army's mission and unreliable in combat, quite possibly causing the unnecessary deaths of other soldiers.

**5. An explanation as to the circumstances, if any, under which the person believes in the use of force, and to what extent, under any foreseeable circumstances.**

There are no circumstances under which I would employ the use of deadly force.

**6. An explanation as to what in the person's life most conspicuously demonstrates the consistency and depths of his beliefs.**

Though I am opposed to war in all its forms I have continued to honor my contract with the military by not refusing to wear the uniform, performing all of my required duties (to include driving a distinguished tank at gunnery), and refusing to desert the Army or be absent without leave. I have also chosen not to use drugs and alcohol to escape the realities of my situation as an alarming number of my peers in this Squadron have done. I have a history of positive counseling statements and have always done my best to help train new soldiers and teach them what I have learned while deployed to improve their chances of survival. My actions speak for themselves; I am a man of high moral character, my beliefs are bona fide.

**7. An explanation as to how the applicant's daily life has changed as a result of their beliefs and what future action he plans to continue to support his**

**beliefs.**

Every day I spend in the military is pure misery. I am disgusted each time I enter my vehicle or handle or view weapons as they are cruel instruments of death. In the future I will continue my chosen life of non-violence for as long as I may live.

**c. Participation in organizations.**

**1. Information as to whether the person has ever been a member of a military organization or establishment before entering his present term of service:**

I was never a member of any military organization or establishment before joining the Army.

**2. A statement as to whether the person is a member of a religious sect or organization:**

I am not a member of a religious sect or organization. Organized religion is the greatest killer in the world and the source of history's cruelest atrocities.

**3. A description of the applicant's relationships with and activities in all organizations with which he is or has been affiliated, other than military, political, or labor organizations.**

I am affiliated with no such organizations, nor have I ever been.