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Maine Veterans for Peace protest outside shipyard

Portsmouth Herald

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KITTERY, Maine – Police were called Saturday morning when protesters for the Maine Veterans for Peace showed up on the sidewalk across from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. They stayed on their side of the road and peacefully left, according to Kittery police.

The walk, led by monks and nuns from the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist order that does peace walks around the world, made a 175-mile peace walk down Route 1 from Ellsworth to Portsmouth, N.H., from Oct. 9-24. The purpose was to highlight links between the Pentagon's environmental impact on the oceans and climate change, organizers said. Saturday's portion of the walk began in Portsmouth's Market Square and crossed over Memorial Bridge.

Maine Veterans for Peace said the Pentagon has the largest carbon footprint on Earth yet was exempted from the Kyoto Protocols. War and military operations, the group said, consume massive amounts of fossil fuels and harm the environment – particularly the oceans.

– Suzanne Laurent