



VETERANS FOR PEACE

TRUTH IN RECRUITING: INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS CONSIDERING THE MILITARY

Very often, the public's perception of the military lifestyle is limited to what they've seen on the news, TV, or video games.

Recruiters are salespeople, plain and simple. They undergo extensive sales training and are judged by their superiors primarily upon the number of recruits they sign up. Sign up large numbers, and they're judged to be a good recruiter. Fail to sign up the minimum number assigned (known as "making mission"), and a recruiter is looking at a dead-end career. This policy pressures some recruiters to adopt unethical practices in order to "make mission."

As veterans we know the truth of what happens in war and VFP members across the U.S. work with young people before they enlist, to help them understand what it's really like to be part of the U.S. military.

BEFORE YOU JOIN WE ENCOURAGE POSSIBLE RECRUITS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Why do you want to enlist?

Every young person is attracted to the military for their own reasons. It is important to understand that a great deal of research and resources are devoted to painting a certain image of the military life. Take some time to really think about your expectations and the commitment that you will be making.

Have you been fully informed?

This is extremely important. You must ask all of the right questions before enlisting. Make sure you do the appropriate research and talk with as many people as possible, especially be sure to talk to a veteran. This way, you won't feel misled or cheated when the actuality of your situation becomes evident. Don't listen selectively; actively listen to your recruiter. Make a list of things you need to know about and get informed.

Are you willing to give up your rights?

It is important to understand that you will give up many civilian rights. Your rights to free speech, assembly, petition and exercise of individual expression (such as clothing or hairstyle) are restricted. G.I. stands for "Government Issue," and you are a resource in the strictest sense of the word. If you are the kind of person who values basic liberties, or who doesn't conform well, this will be a significant matter to deal with. You must follow all orders given to you, whether or not you agree with them and consider them right or fair.

Are you willing to kill (or be killed)?

Seriously consider your moral feelings about going to war. The mission of the military is to prepare for and wage war. If you cannot in good conscience engage in war or in killing another person, you should not consider enlisting. Would you risk your life in a fight for someone else's cause? Even soldiers who believe in fighting to defend their country have found themselves ordered to carry out a mission that they felt was wrong.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU JOIN, CONTINUED:

Do you have other options?

If you want to earn money for college, find adventure, or travel, don't assume you must enlist. Below you will find a list of resources that can walk you through many options for thinking about jobs and careers, serving your country, seeing the world, and paying for training or college.

ALTERNATIVES TO ENLISTMENT

Alternatives to the Military (*National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY)*)

The NNOMY website has a huge list of alternatives and resources for a range of opportunities that include: Schools/Scholarships, Internships/Training, Jobs, Civilian Corps, Cultural, Public Service, Sports, Travel, Volunteer, and more:

<http://bit.ly/NNOMYalternatives>

Peaceful Career Alternatives

An extensive list of non-military career alternatives: www.peacefulcareers.org

Alternatives to Enlistment by State (*Center on Conscience & War*):

<http://bit.ly/COCAalternatives>

Alternatives to Meeting Your Goals Without Joining the Military (*NY Civil Liberties Union*):

Vast list of scholarships for various fields, preparation for college websites, lists of job training and trade schools sites, links to job sites, and more:

<http://bit.ly/NYCLUalternatives>

Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (YANO):

Project YANO primarily serves young people who are looking for job training, wish to go to college or want to make a difference in other people's lives -- but they might not see enough opportunities to pursue these goals: www.projectyano.org

OTHER HELPFUL LINKS

Read More About Enlisting: <http://bit.ly/NNOMYConsideringEnlisting>

Top Military Recruitment Facts: <http://bit.ly/NNOMYRecruitmentFacts>

Watch the Video "Before You Enlist": <http://bit.ly/BeforeYouEnlist>

Opt-Out of Recruiting: <http://bit.ly/NNOMYOptOut>

For an online list of these links, more information, and additional resources, visit the Veterans For Peace Truth in Recruiting webpage:

<http://bit.ly/VFPTruthInRecruiting>



About Veterans For Peace: Veterans For Peace is a global organization of military veterans and allies whose collective efforts are to build a culture of peace by using our experiences and lifting our voices. We inform the public of the true causes of war and the enormous costs of wars, with an obligation to heal the wounds of wars. With over 140 chapters worldwide, our work includes educating the public, advocating for a dismantling of the war economy, providing services that assist veterans and victims of war, and most significantly, working to end all wars.