

Teaching Peace

Spring 2008

A Newsletter for Teachers & Counselors

from the Peace Education Center

Volume 2 Number 2

What does the REAL Military offer?

- Job Skills Training?
- Money for College?
- Self Discipline & Respect?
- Pride?

OR



- 20% Rise in Army Suicides
- Veterans Denied Care
- 1/4 of Homeless Are Vets
- Multiple Deployments

Are paid recruiters the only voice students hear at school about the military? Shouldn't schools be offering a more even-handed look at military life?

The military spends over \$4 billion a year on recruiting, handing out video games and iPods and offering pizza parties. Recruiters are paid to lend a hand at schools, even to bring flowers for Secretaries' Day. They make military life sound smooth and easy.

Here are some serious questions you can ask to help students figure out if joining the military is right for them:

- Will you take someone with you when you talk to recruiters? *You need someone with you who is looking out for your interests.*
- Do you have a strong family behind you? *You will need someone you can call. Kids from troubled backgrounds suffer more stress and depression in the military.*
- Can you handle being bullied? *Fitting in the military means learning to obey orders - no matter what!*
- Are you prepared to give up control of where you live, what you eat, who you hang out with, when you see your family?
- Are you prepared to fight and possibly be injured or killed?
- Are you willing to give up control of your life to your commander, whether or not you believe in the cause?

- Are you gay or lesbian? *If so, you will have to hide that fact for the eight years of your enlistment or risk being kicked out.*
- If you are female, did you know that up to 55% of women in the military report being sexually harassed by their fellow soldiers - up to 28% report being raped or assaulted?
- Did you know that your chances of going to college are less if you join the military?
- Are you aware that if you let anything false be written on your Recruitment Document, *even if the recruiter tells you it's ok*, you could be kicked out and have any bonus money taken away, even if you've already spent it?
- Do you know that if you join as a high school grad, you will not get the higher level jobs. *Flying planes, leading battles, planning missions are all done by officers with college credit.*
- How will you prepare yourself for the possibility of killing innocent people? *More civilians are killed than enemy soldiers in war.*

Don't leave students with only the hype! Teach them to think it through.

Pop Quiz: (answers at bottom of page)

1. How many months of job training does the average recruit get in a two year enlistment?
a. 6 b. 2 c. less than one
2. How many recruits never get an honorable discharge?
a. 60 % b. 40% c. 25%
3. How many recruits end up collecting all of their military college benefits?
a. 68% b. 28% c. 8%

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quiz answers: 1. c. 30 hours - less than one full week! 2. b. 40% 3. c. 8%