

# Teaching Peace

September 2006

A Newsletter for Teachers & Counselors

from the Peace Education Center

Volume 1 Number 1

## Helping your Students Get Money for College

### *What everyone needs to know about military college benefits*

Join the military - get money to go to college. It seems like a good idea for students who are poor or who haven't made up their minds about what to do after the last bell rings on graduation day. After all, the military will teach them a skill, teach them some manners, and give them a college scholarship. What could be wrong with that?

Look closer though, before you tell your students that they can get money for college through the military.

The U.S. military admits that its college benefit program is NOT designed to help kids go to college. It is a recruiting tool. Nothing more. Therefore, a lot of what is promised or at least used as a lure to get kids to sign on the dotted line never comes to pass.

What percentage of recruits get the \$70,000 that is promised in the recruiting posters? All of them? Half? A quarter? Nope. Only 5% of recruits are eligible for the maximum benefit after their enlistment. The average amount veterans get for college is \$2150. That's all!

What gives? The military puts a lot of qualifiers between kids and the big college money. Here is a partial list of the hurdles kids must jump to get that big promised payout:

- ☞ Pay the military \$1200 out of their meager first years pay just to sign up for college benefits
- ☞ Serve three years of active duty (not the two that kids usually sign up for)
- ☞ Score above 50 on the AFQT (most high school recruits score about 30)
- ☞ Sign up for a job nobody wants or a duty station no one wants.
- ☞ Get an honorable discharge
- ☞ Complete four years of college

Seventy percent of high school graduates are already eligible for college money through the Federal Student Aid Program. Remember the military's purpose is to train soldiers for war. It is not a jobs program nor a scholarship program. If your students want a higher education they would be better off looking for money for college somewhere else.

### *Matters of Conscience*

Young people should also be counseled to carefully examine their own moral and ethical beliefs about killing before making a decision to enlist. Causing the death of another human being may be the price they pay for whatever college money they may get

### **Pop Quiz:**

1. If you join the National Guard or the Army Reserves, how many years do you have to use your college benefit after you are discharged?
2. When you sign a military contract, how many years are you signing up for?
3. Does entering the military make kids more likely to go to college or less likely?

### *Peace Education*

The Peace Education Center believes that every young person facing the decision to enlist should hear from more than their military recruiter. This organization has members available to speak to classrooms, clubs and parent/ teacher groups. They also have a library that includes books, pamphlets and videos. They can be reached at 517 337-8087 or at [www.peacedcenter.org](http://www.peacedcenter.org)

**Because:** A bookstore, gift shop & community resource center for EVERYBODY featuring Peace, Social Justice & Multi-Cultural Books & Stuff for EVERYBODY

- Everybody has needs
- Everybody has abilities
- Everybody has stories to share
- Everybody is part of our community...Because:

**10% off ANY PURCHASE** with this coupon

**EVERYBODY READS** books and stuff

2019 E. MICHIGAN AVE. LANSING, MI 48912  
517/349-9900

[everybodyreads@sbcglobal.net](mailto:everybodyreads@sbcglobal.net)/<http://www.becauseeverybodyreads.com>

- Pop Quiz Answers**
1. NONE. Use them while you are in...or lose them as soon as you are discharged. (This is used to encourage re-enlistment)
  2. Eight years (Active duty plus the balance in the reserves with the potential for being called back up).
  3. No matter which socio-economic group they come from, kids are more likely to go to college if they never joined.