

Here are a few **VERY IMPORTANT** things to remember when talking to a military recruiter.

- **NEVER** sign or fill-out anything on the spot. (Take it home, carefully read it and go over it with some one who understands it all).
- You have the right to have a copy of the contract before signing it, just to have for your own information. If they deny you the contract or say it's against their policy to give them out, they're lying and just don't want you to have time to read the contract carefully.
- If you have a police record, drug history, or medical condition, don't hide it. The recruiter may tell you it doesn't matter but you will end up getting punished for lying, not the recruiter.
- No matter what the recruiter promises you, the contract clearly states that you are not guaranteed **ANYTHING!**

Where we got our facts:

1. Commission on Servicemembers & Veterans Transition Assistance, 2/23/99
2. Testimony, Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee, US House of Representatives, 9/27/00
3. Department of Labor Report, cited in Committee on Veterans Affairs Report, US House of Representatives, 2/26/04
4. 1999 report, Washington Associated Press, by former Defense Secretary William Cohen
5. New York Times, 3/16/2003.
6. DD Form 4/1. Jan 2001, Part-C, section 9b.
7. 10 USC, Section 654

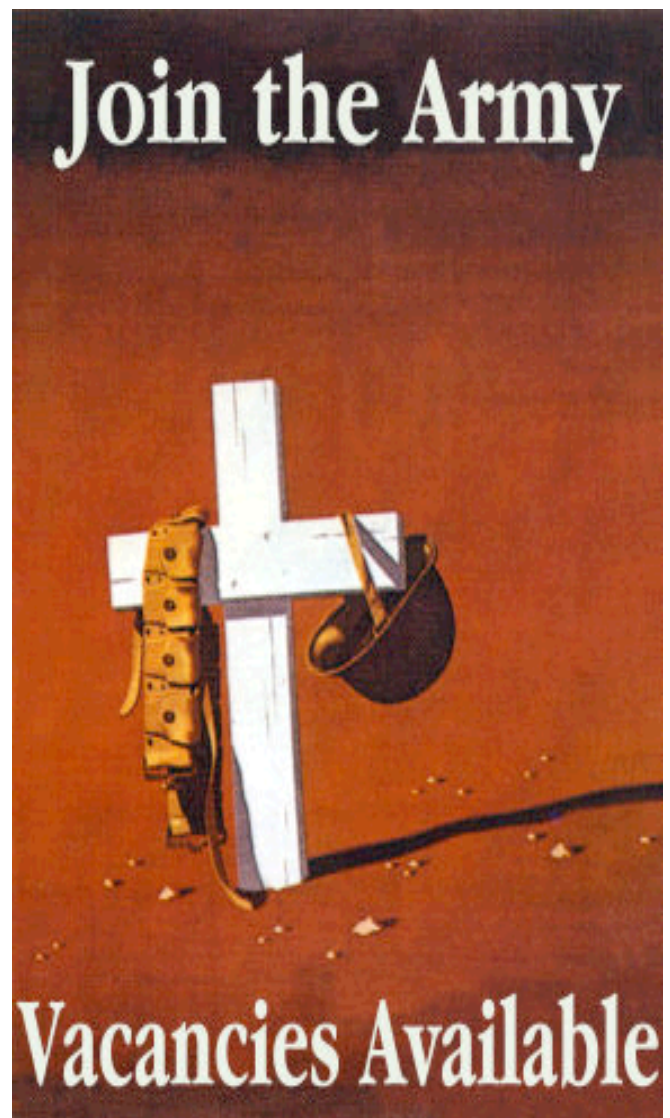
To find out more information about the military and alternatives to joining up:

Ya-Ya Network 212-239-0022
AFSC 215-241-7176
CCCO 877-378-2146
Project YANO 760 634-3604
War Resisters League 212-228-0450
G.I. Rights Hotline 1-800-394-9544

Websites:

www.objector.org
www.Youth4Peace.Org
www.comdsd.org/
www.projectyano.org

WHAT MILITARY RECRUITERS DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW



**Never think that YOU can't be sent off
to War.**

I'm sure many of you have heard Military Recruiters say "We'll give you \$\$ for college tuition" or "We'll train you for an exciting career." Well here's some things they don't tell you:

\$\$\$ 4 College:

- Recruiters may promise you tens of thousands of free dollars for college. But its NOT FREE- and its not automatic or guaranteed to anyone. To qualify for any college money, you have to pay \$1,200 (non-refundable) to the military. On the military contract it states that nothing is guaranteed. This includes \$\$ for college. If you leave the military early, decide to put off going to college until later or receive a less than-honorable discharge, the military will keep your money and give you NOTHING!!! Even if you meet the requirements you've got a less than 50/50 chance you'll ever see a penny of that money.¹

Job Training:

- In short and simple words, military training is designed for military jobs, not to help you get a job in the "real-world" later.

When Dick Cheney was Secretary of Defense he was blunt: "The reason to have a military is to be prepared to fight & win wars. The military is not a social-welfare agency. It's not a jobs program."

- The unemployment rate for veterans is "substantially higher" than their peers who stayed home.² Of course, if you are young and of color, you are even worse off. For Black male vets, 20-24 years old, the unemployment rate is 21.9%. If you are Latina, its 21.4%³

Racism and Sexual Harassment:

- 75% of Blacks, 67% of Hispanics and other ethnic minorities reported experiencing racially offensive behavior. Many said they believed they were given poor assignments or evaluations based on race.⁴

- The military really is a man's world. According to a report in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine, 1 out of 3 women veterans reported some form of sexual assault or harassment. (That's just the ones who actually came out and spoke about their experiences).

- The New York Times quotes a female cadet at the US Air Force Academy: "They tell you to expect getting raped, and if it doesn't happen to you, you're one of the rare ones."⁵

You Lose Your Basic Rights:

- Your right to say what you think, when and how you want will be restricted.
- Think that if you get promises in writing you are covered? The contract says "Laws and regulations that govern military personnel may change without notice to me. Such changes may affect my status, pay, allowances, benefits and responsibilities...REGARDLESS of the provisions of this enlistment agreement."⁶ In other words, they don't guarantee you jack!

Discipline & Living Conditions:

- Do you like being bossed around? How about constantly having someone telling you what to do and how to do it? If your answer is "No" (which I'm sure it is), you may have a hard time adapting to military life. They tell you how to stand, walk, dress, eat, fold your clothes, make your bed. They even tell you how to wipe your own a\$\$.
- Federal law states that members of the military are subject to military law 24 hours a day and disobedience (including being late and talking back) can land you in prison.⁷ You can be punished without having the right to see a lawyer or have a trial. Any disobedience can result in criminal punishment. (Can you imagine what their definition of punishment is?).

It's 8 Years of Your Life.

Think 4 years of high school takes a long time?

Recruiters talk about a 2 year hitch, but the enlistment contract is for 8 years. Once your active duty is done, you are still in the Reserves, and they can call you back up any time.

Is it REALLY Worth Your Life?

Recruiters may say that if you join the National Guard or Reserves, or sign up for certain jobs, they "guarantee" you'll never see combat. It's a LIE! There is no such thing. Just ask Army Specialist Shoshawna Johnson. She signed up to be a chef but she ended up a wounded P.O.W. in Iraq. 9 members of her "maintenance company" were killed. So much for promises.