

gests that, all else being equal, young people should look to sources of training other than the military if they wish to optimize their careers."

Economic Opportunity?

Army Times reports that over 50,000 unemployed veterans are on the waiting list for the military's "retraining" program. The VA estimates that 1/3 of homeless people are vets.

TRAVEL, ADVENTURE AND DISCIPLINE

People often talk about a skill that you are supposed to learn in the military: discipline. It's something that is valued highly. But what kind of discipline will you learn? Do you want to learn how to make decisions on your own or learn how to always follow someone else's orders? The military takes care of every detail, telling you where, when and how to do everything. Maybe that's the kind of discipline you think you need. But it isn't the kind of discipline most of us need in the real world. We need to think on our own and make our own decisions.

RACISM, SEXISM AND HOMOPHOBIA

It's a form of economic discrimination, sometimes called economic conscription or an economic draft, that forces lower income people into the military in order to earn a living, try to learn a trade or get money for their education. The American Council on Education even attributes a drop in black college enrollment to more aggressive military recruiting in the eighties. The worst thing is, often those who are forced into the military to learn a trade, or earn money for school, don't even get what they believe they were promised!

WAR



Above all else, the military is an institution with one overriding purpose: to prepare for and fight wars. You literally sign your life over to the military. For some who joined the military before the Gulf War, they didn't fully realize this until they were faced with an actual war in Saudi Arabia against Iraq. Don't make the same mistake they made. If you're going to join the military be prepared to fight a war, even a war you may not agree with. It could be a war we "lose," like Vietnam. Or, it could be a war we

"win," like in Kuwait. Either way, people are killed and you might be the one who kills them. As much as the war in Iraq has been celebrated, you can find US veterans who can't forget some of the awful things they saw there. Is that the kind of risk you want to take to finance your college education?



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