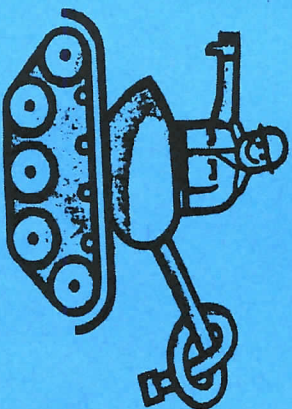
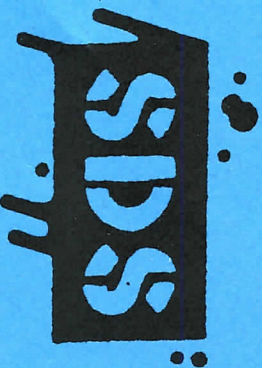


# CONFRONTING MILITARISM AND MILITARY RECRUITMENT IN OUR SCHOOLS



First Edition

FREE!



**STUDENTS FOR A  
DEMOCRATIC  
SOCIETY**

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Greetings!

This is my first 'zine, and I write it for two key reasons: one, as part of an ongoing project in confronting war, militarism and occupation, and two, because there seems to be a lack of counter-recruitment material in 'zine form from what I've seen so far.

Readers, please note: this 'zine is not meant to be an exhaustive analysis of CR work - I am still learning about it myself. It is only a primer; a source of ideas and inspiration borrowed from many different sources. Thus, this 'zine will always remain a work in progress. If you have any information that you feel should be included in any future editions, please e-mail me at [evan.peacock@yahoo.com](mailto:evan.peacock@yahoo.com).

I hope that this 'zine inspires you to take action against military recruitment and militarism in your schools and communities. Together, we will rise up to end war and bring the truth about the military to the masses.

Solidarity,

*Evan Peacock*



[www.crimethink.com](http://www.crimethink.com) : [www.objector.org](http://www.objector.org)

But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine,

then let us work together.

If you have come to help me you are wasting your time.



Are you willing to leave you family for extended periods of time? Are you ready to kill or die for a cause you don't believe in? Are you prepared to give up the rights you enjoy as a civilian? Are you ready to obey any order given to you? Are you willing to fight someone else's war?

If you answered "NO" to any of these questions, then the military may not be for you.

## Ten Points to Consider Before You Sign a

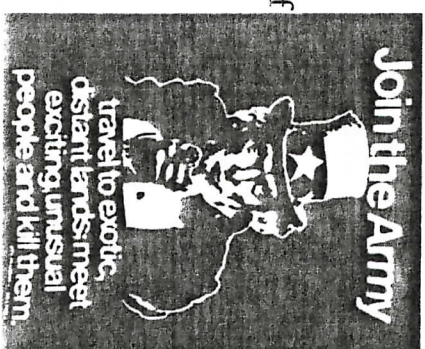
### MILITARY ENLISTMENT AGREEMENT

- ✓ 1. Do not make a hasty decision by enlisting the first time you see a recruiter or when you are upset.
- ✓ 2. Take a witness with you when you speak with a recruiter.
- ✓ 3. Talk to veterans.
- ✓ 4. Consider your moral feelings about going to war.
- ✓ 5. Get a copy of the enlistment agreement.
- ✓ 6. There is no "period of adjustment" during which you may request and receive an immediate honorable discharge.
- ✓ 7. Get all your recruiter's promises in writing but also remember that the military can change the terms (such as pay, job, or benefits) of your work.
- ✓ 8. There are no job guarantees in the military.
- ✓ 9. Military personnel cannot exercise all of the civil liberties enjoyed by civilians.
- ✓ 10. Many opportunities exist for you to serve your community and enhance your skills.

## TEN REASONS FOR COUNTERRECRUITMENT

As a part of the counterrecruitment movement you can:

- | 1. Support student and youth leadership.
- | 2. Bring veterans to the forefront.
- | 3. Meet the needs of poor and working-class youth.
- | 4. Effectively challenge the teaching of military values.
- | 5. Help build long-term relationships between teachers, parents, community groups, veterans and students.
- | 6. Effectively challenge war and empire.
- | 7. Discover and create alternatives to military values, war, and empire.
- | 8. Affect citywide, nationwide, and international efforts for peace and justice.
- | 9. Build communities committed to social, economic, and political justice.
- | 10. Take concrete action that feels good.





# FACTS ABOUT MILITARY RECRUITMENT: separating the truth from their lies

## 1) The military guarantees nothing.

The military's own contract states that your pay, status, benefits, or responsibilities in the military may change at any point without your consent.

## 2) 30% of all homeless people are veterans.

In any given night there are over 200,000 veterans on the streets.

## 3) 65% of enlistees never get \$ for college. Only 15% ever even get a college degree.

1) The military does not have to place you in your field of choice. Unfortunately, there aren't many jobs for an M240 state-side.

Simply put, recruiters lie.

## DELAYED ENLISTMENT PROGRAM (DEP)

### What is the Delayed Enlistment Program?

Most people who enlist are signed up into the Delayed Enlistment Program (DEP), also called the Delayed Entry Program, for up to a year before they report for active duty training.

The DEP is pushed hard by recruiters to high school seniors and are unsure what to do after graduation. A lot can happen in a year, and many people change their minds about what they want to do with their lives.

### How does someone get out of the Delayed Enlistment Program?

Fundamentally, the way to get out of the DEP is NOT TO GO, not to report on your ship date.

They often tell you that if you report to a military base, they will process you out, but that is NOT the case. Some people simply do not go; others choose to write a letter stating their decision not to go. In either case, the results are the same: you do not have to go to MEPS

on the ship date.

## RESOURCES

The Project on Youth and Nonmilitary Opportunities (YANO).  
[www.projectyano.org](http://www.projectyano.org)

The Coalition Against Militarism in Our Schools (CAMS)  
[www.militaryfreeschools.org](http://www.militaryfreeschools.org)

Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft (COMD).  
[www.comdsd.org](http://www.comdsd.org)

Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW)  
[www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org)

The War Resisters' League (WRL)  
[www.warresisters.org](http://www.warresisters.org)



The New Yorker's Guide to Military Recruitment.  
[www.counterrecruitmentguide.org](http://www.counterrecruitmentguide.org)

[www.notyoursoldier.org](http://www.notyoursoldier.org)

Objectors (CCCO) [www.girights.org](http://www.girights.org)  
The Central Committee for Conscientious



Courage to Resist  
[www.centeronconscience.org](http://www.centeronconscience.org)

[www.couragetoresist.org](http://www.couragetoresist.org)  
Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)

The National Network Opposing Militarization of Youth (NNOMY) [www.nnomy.org](http://www.nnomy.org)

Rochester Indymedia  
[rochester.indymedia.org](http://rochester.indymedia.org)  
Food Not Bombs  
[www.foodnotbombs.net](http://www.foodnotbombs.net)

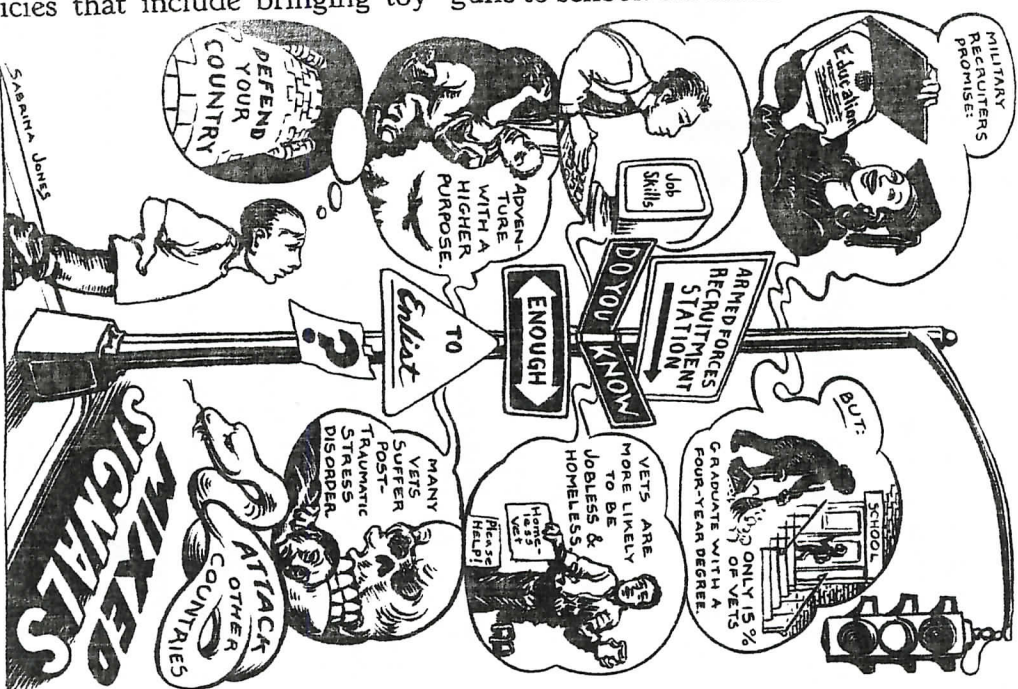
Allison, Aimee, and David Solnit. Army of None. New York: Seven Stories P, 2007.

TIP: Search the Yahoo.com groups page with "counter-recruitment" and you'll find over twenty local online groups discussing counterrecruitment.



Instead of preparing young officers, JROTC helps recruit the lowest-level military ranks.

The curriculum of JROTC brings a discriminatory policy toward LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) people, violence as conflict resolution, and weapons training into schools.



- Number of youths 8–18 in Young Marines units: 10,000
- Number of Young Marines after-school programs: 240<sup>55</sup>
- Number of on-campus arrests of children for violations of “zero tolerance” policies that include bringing toy guns to school: 3.1 million<sup>56</sup>

From “Mixed Signals,” a counter-recruitment tool in comic book form. Available to activists, teachers and others, from [peacecomic@yahoo.com](mailto:peacecomic@yahoo.com)

## TACTICS ON CAMPUS

Fliering:

Passing out fliers/pamphlets is an easy

tactic, and can be done without much planning at all – there is a lot of

literature available on CR/antiwar websites.

Tabling: Setting up CR tables with fliers, pamphlets, and pens or other free

“goodies” on high school or college campuses is very effective, especially when done

near where military recruiters are tabling.

You can also set up tables at job/career fairs promoting jobs in the social justice movement.

Classroom presentations:

Arranging a presentation by a counter-recruiter or Truth in Recruiting activist during the school day is a valuable tool in challenging the teaching of military values to students. Encouraging students to attend similar events such as Winter Soldier is a great way to elicit interest in the antiwar movement.

Visual protest: Altering signs, billboards, banner drops, or putting up posters and stickers will get people’s attention quickly. Street theatre is a popular form of spreading resistance to the war and U.S. foreign policies that ruin other countries’ economies and exploit their people.

Direct action: Demonstrations, rallies, school/workplace occupations, human blockades, and walkouts deliver a strong message of resistance and

Be warned: these forms of protest can also result in disciplinary and legal consequences, and the police/bosses/administrators will often seek to punish you to the fullest extent of their “power”. Don’t let that discourage you from direct action – indeed, it may be the only thing that

solidarity

from liberal institutions



e of the biggest mistakes of counter recruitment activists  
 o tell people not to join the military but offer no alternatives  
 what the military does offer young people. People join for  
 variety of reasons such as: money for college, job training/skills,  
 action in life, discipline, to be part of a team, traveling, to  
 ve their country, to get out of trouble with the law, physical  
 ring, even citizenship. It is important to keep all of these  
 mind when talking to young people, especially those  
 o want to join. Because a majority of recruits join to get  
 ney for college, it is critical to inform youth (especially low  
 ome and people of color communities) of the non-military  
 tions available to them. Too many activists fail to address  
 s issue and leave young people feeling as though counter recruitment activists are trying to limit  
 ir options or guilt trip them but not addressing their needs.

#### Some non-military options for youth:

- College & Universities
- Job training programs
- Americorps
- Peace Corps
- Non-profit/organizing work
- Internships
- Traveling opportunities
- Mentorship
- Sports
- Community Service
- Cultural & creative activities
- Trade schools



WHAT THEY TELL YOU

NOT YOUR  
SOLDIER



The Military's Not  
Just a Job ...

... It's Eight Years  
of Your Life!

*What are the consequences if I do not go to MEPS on my ship date?*

There are no consequences and no records as a result of withdrawing from the DEP that currently have any effect on things like employment or your legal record. This is the case for non-citizens as well as citizens. The military has also been telling immigrants and the children of immigrants that there will be negative consequences for their citizenship if they back out. Once again, this is NOT true.

Do you know enough to

The JROTC program  
enlists?

- Number of students currently enrolled in JROTC programs: 500,000
- Percentage of JROTC cadets who are recruited into the lowest enlisted military ranks: 50 percent
- Percentage of JROTC cadets who are youth of color: 54 percent
- Average JROTC annual operating cost paid for by local school districts: \$76,000<sup>41</sup>
- Average cost to school district for an after-school tutoring program: \$40,000
- Average length of time military pays for costs of JROTC programs: 1-3 years<sup>42</sup>
- Subjects required to be taught in JROTC program: None<sup>43</sup>

The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) claims to keep "at-risk" students from dropping out, though there is no proof that it does.

The "leadership" training is actually intensive recruitment of low-income youth enticed by excellence, comradeship, and patriotic zeal.



If the school, district or city denies your right to freedom of expression, contact the ACLU at [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)

# YOUR BLOOD FOR OUR PROFITS!

As a student:

- You have a right to organize, promote, and participate in organizations and political groups.
- You have a right to circulate newspapers, literature, or political leaflets on school property.
- You have a right to wear political or other types of buttons, badges, or armbands and to post bulletin-board notices within the schools.

And if you choose to:

- March in the street.
- Stage a rally of more than twenty people.
- Use a bullhorn or other source of amplified sound.

*Thanks!*  
*There more power to you -*  
*The streets are ours -*  
*take them back!*  
*from your friends at...*

## HALLIBURTON

[oldamericancentury.org](http://oldamericancentury.org)

Contact local groups to learn from their past experience with local law enforcement.

### MONTGOMERY GI BILL:

"Money for college?"

The Montgomery GI Bill is advertised and believed as the answer to many young people's problem with finding a way to finance college. However, there are a few things to know and let others in on...

To get \$70,000 you must qualify for the Army College Fund or Navy College Fund, something only 1 in 20 enlistees are able to do. Some of these qualifications include:

- serving 2 years active duty,
- have an AFQT (Armed Forces Qualification Test) score of 50 or higher,
- and enlist in a specific Military Occupational Specialty (usually unpopular jobs that have no transferrable skills to the civilian world) designated under the ACF or NCF.

Otherwise the maximum you can get from the MGIB is \$36,144. That \$36,144 includes, believe it or not, \$1,200 of your own money! So, now we're down to \$34,944.

To receive any of that \$36,144 you must be among the eighty percent of veterans to receive an honorable discharge. Even after all this, you still may not see all of your benefit. Because of the monthly benefit payment structure, you have to attend school for four years to get all \$36,144. Only 15% of those who pay in have graduated with four year degrees! If you are among the majority who attend a two year school, you'll receive a maximum of \$18,072. Subtracting your \$1,200, you'll have only netted \$16,872 from the military!

As bad as this sounds, for most recruits who have paid into the Montgomery GI Bill it's even worse. Only 35% of all program participants have received any benefits at all! Two-thirds of Montgomery GI Bill participants are paying nonrefundable deposits of \$1200 without receiving a dime in return!

**NO MORE GIFTS  
FOR THE U.S.  
ARMY  
NO RECRUITS  
NO TROOPS NO WAR**

*Have have never hurt anybody except  
the people who die.*

*- Salvador Dali*



Nothing like watching an army of eight-year-olds goosestepping to the tune of a sadistic DI to make you feel all warm and fuzzy about being an American . . .

—Henry Chinaski, responding online to a blog about Young Marines<sup>54</sup>

ledge, obtain your private information gathered from many sources, including the ASVAB test, the No Child Left Behind Act, and data collected by the Pentagon database from My Space profiles, teen magazines, class ring companies, raffles, your classmates, and many other unexpected sources.

### The No Child Left Behind Act:

#### SEC. 9528. ARMED FORCES RECRUITER ACCESS TO STUDENTS AND STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION.

##### (a) POLICY

#### (1) ACCESS TO STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION

Notwithstanding section 444(a)(5)(B) of the General Education Provisions Act and except as provided in paragraph (2), each local educational agency receiving assistance under this Act shall provide, on a request made by military recruiters or an institution of higher education, access to secondary school students names, addresses, and telephone listings.

##### (2) CONSENT

A secondary school student or the parent of the student may request that the student's name, address, and telephone listing described in paragraph (1) not be released without prior written parental consent, and the local educational agency or private school shall notify parents of the option to make a request and shall comply with any request.

#### Borrow, Deny, and Build

People have been doing CR work for quite awhile, there are hundreds of brochures and resources out there for you to utilize. Of course information that is specific to your community and school is relevant and helpful, but you should utilize what has been done to help build your work and free up your time to find resources and info specific to your area.

#### The color/accessibility of the movement

Creating a movement where everyone is welcome and respected is essential to social change always keep this in mind in doing your work. People of color have long been targeted for military recruitment because of economic status. There is a term used in the movement, "poverty draft" which acknowledges that people of color and folks in rural areas are often "drafted" into the military because of a lack of economic opportunities in their communities. These days, parents of color are discouraging their children from joining the military, which is a valid but often unrecognized form of counter recruitment. Also, we have to acknowledge and address the privilege of activism work and think about ways to make the movement more accessible to people. A couple ways to do this it to consider in what ways issues are relevant different groups of people, providing child care during meetings, getting to know people on a personal level as well as on an organizational level, translation (of flyers/signs and meetings) and listening to what issues different communities are struggling with.



## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: Equal Access in Public Schools

In order to effectively counterrecruit, you should learn and defend your rights.

#### As a private citizen:

■ You have a right to hand out materials to students before they enter school grounds, but you cannot enter school grounds without permission (boundaries may extend beyond the building).

■ You have a right to have a table in a park that has only

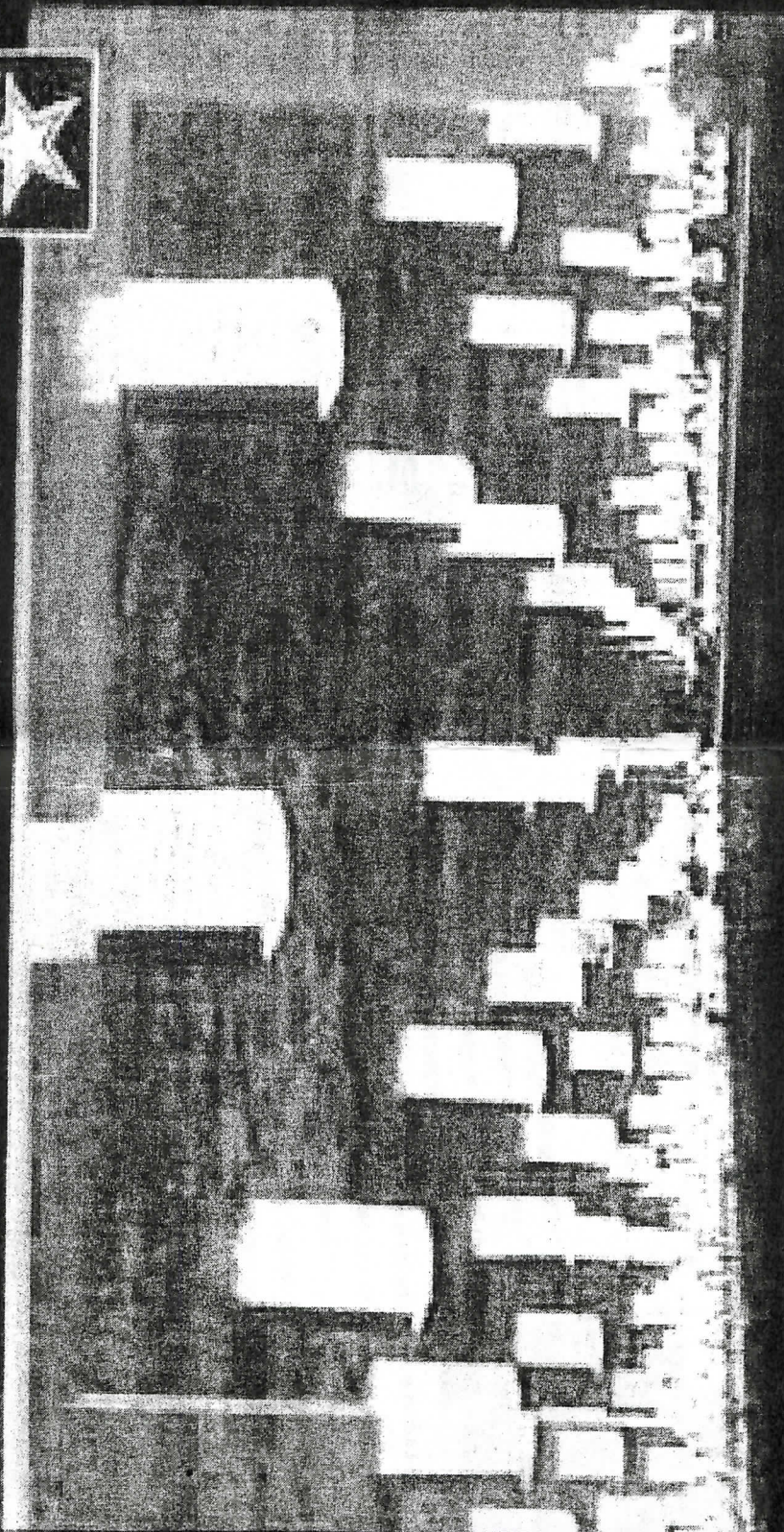
printed materials.

■ You have a right to march on a public sidewalk.

Schools are bound to respect the law of equal access. If a school allow military recruiters, it cannot keep out organizations offering information about jobs in the movement.



YOU CAN'T BE ALL THAT YOU CAN BE



THE MARINE

IF YOU'RE DEAD



