

List of resources:

Check out the Safe Passage website:

www.safepassagenetwork.org

Find your elected representatives:

www.congress.org/congressorg/dbq/officials/?lvl=L

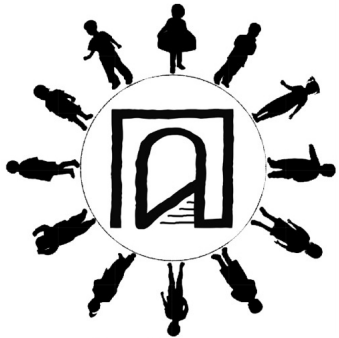
Read the "No Child Left Behind Act":

www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/index.html

(note particularly Sec. 9528)

Watch the video "Before You Enlist":

www.safepassagenetwork.org/node/86



Safe Passage Network

phone: (678) 517-6790

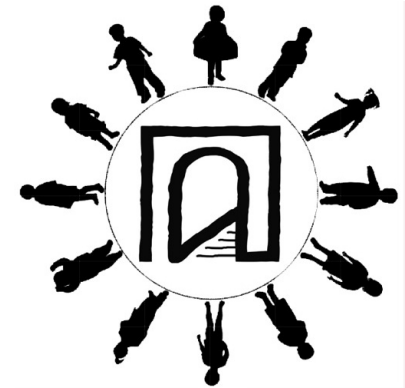
website: www.safepassagenetwork.org

e-mail: info@safepassagenetwork.org

Safe Passage Network

***Parents Teachers
Students***

**Make the
Right Choice!**



SafePassageNetwork.org monitors the practices of the military in our public schools and advocates education about the pros and cons of a career in the military so that every American student can **make an informed choice.**

Unequal Access to Schools

Military recruiters are authorized under federal law to compel schools to turn over students' home addresses and contact information. Isn't it reasonable to ask *why* the armed forces are accorded such unfettered access to young students? Shouldn't we all be opposed to handing over student records that private employers and colleges cannot obtain?

American youth are at a critical crossroads of life and are a captive audience in public schools. Military recruiters have tremendous access to students of all grade levels, with little or no opportunity for alternative views to be heard. Recruiters are allowed into school cafeterias, classrooms, assemblies, and athletic fields on the justification that enlistment in the armed forces provides a post-graduation career path.

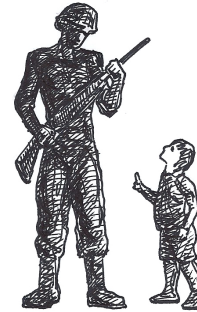
However, there is no comparable presence in the schools by private employers, colleges, trade associations, or vocational schools except during the occasional college fair or career day. These unheard voices of post-graduation opportunities might provide alternatives to enlisting in the military during wartime.

From an early age, American children are fed a diet of positive impressions about the military, calculated to funnel a sufficient number of young recruits to fill the ranks of our all-volunteer armed forces. Along the way, there are few voices to point out that a military career *might not be right for everyone*. Certainly these voices can scarcely counter-balance the coordinated message of the military recruitment machine.

A career in today's military may not be the best choice.

It is crucial for students to hear different perspectives, and for them to have a fair opportunity to weigh alternatives.

The life-changing decision to enlist *must be a fully informed choice.*



Military service is one time-honored expression of devotion to our great nation – but it is *not the only one*. A career in the armed forces offers some security and benefits, but it is *not the only career path* that offers these kind of advantages. The discipline and order of military life is beneficial to some young people, but joining the military is *not the only way to put one's life in order*. The military is a good fit for many, but *life in uniform is not for everyone!*

The best interests of the United States are served by armed forces made up of American men and women who have made an informed and conscientious choice to assume the responsibilities of military service.

Unbalanced Information

Recruiters for the armed forces are motivated to meet their monthly quotas, and tend to overemphasize the positive aspects of military service. Students are entitled to information about military life that includes a fair critique of the experience. Students cannot be expected to make life-changing decisions based only on a recruiter's sales pitch.

All Americans deserve the opportunity to choose a direction that will allow them to reach their individual potential. It is not enough to determine if you are right for the military – *the real question is whether the military is right for you!*

What You Can Do:

- Inform your school *in writing* that you do not give your consent for your private contact information to be turned over to military recruiters. Safe Passage Network has a downloadable "opt-out" form on its web site.
- Request that the guidance counselor's office at your school provide career information that offers good alternatives to military service.
- Contact your local school board, your representatives in the state legislature, and your representatives in Congress to tell them that you want your school to be a de-militarized zone.