

You have to get permission to give out flyers in school, so get your facts and materials together. Your school does have the right to make sure you are not being obscene or disrupting classes, but they cannot forbid you to give out info. Think about what teachers or staff members might back you up, and ask for their help. Show the principal your materials & discuss the importance of students making educated decisions about their future.

If the school says "No" whip out your legal knowledge:

- **The right to distribute flyers, circulate petitions etc:** High school students fought for these rights. They took it all the way to the Supreme Court, and won! The case is called *Tinker v. Des Moines*. If your principal want to see it, you can get a copy at: bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/comm/free_speech/tinker.html

- **Equal Access for Counter-Recruiters:** Tell them that there is a federal court ruling in which states that military service is a controversial political issue, and if a school lets the military present its views, it must give opponents equal access. If they want to see for themselves, you can download a copy of the court ruling at <http://www.comdsd.org/pdf/ninthcirc.pdf>

One more idea: Get credit for your work.

Does your school require community service or let you get elective credit by doing a project? See if you can talk them into letting you organize a counter-recruitment campaign for credit. You can pitch it to them as peer education, civics, career education, etc. If they require an organization to supervise you, talk to the groups listed on the back of this flyer.

For info, help and flyers:

Ya-Ya sez: Call us. We have flyers, videos, and lots of advice.

Ya-Ya Network
212-239-0022
<http://www.yayanetwork.org/>

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
215-241-7176
www.youth4peace.org

Project YANO
760-634-3604
www.projectyano.org

For help getting out:

G.I. Rights hotline
1-877-447-4487
www.girightshotline.org

For help with your rights:

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
www.aclu.org

July 2009 The Ya Ya Network



Recruiters in your school got you pissed off?

The "No Child Left Behind Act" requires schools to give military recruiters the personal records of all high school students.

This means YOU! But you don't have to give up your privacy. All you have to do is tell your school in writing that you don't want your info given to the military.

So what can you do?

Sign an opt-out form. This one's a no-brainer. If your school does not provide an opt-out form, ask why.

Talk to your friends. Get them to sign opt-out forms. Then get them to help you get the word out.

- **If you have friends who are interested in joining the military:** Tell them what you know. Give facts to back up statements, and it may be important to have pamphlets handy.

- **If you have friends who have already signed up for the Delayed Entry Program (DEP)** let them know it is NOT TOO LATE to change their minds. Getting out is as simple as writing a letter to recruitment command saying that they changed their mind, and sending a copy to their congressman. For specific info go to: www.yayanetwork.org/dep; www.girightshotline.org



Remember, once you report for boot camp, it is VERY difficult to get out of the military. Call a GI Rights counselor before you make the trip!
1-877-447-4487

Run an opt-out campaign

- Find out the deadline for opt-out forms in your school
- Explain to students the importance of opting-out.
- Try to get teachers and staff involved. Ask for time at staff meetings. School staff may not know as much as you do about the military, so present basic counter-military recruitment info. Try to get them to hand out forms (and explain them!), but if they say "no," ask if you and other students can do it for them. Remind them that "No Child Left Behind" REQUIRES them to notify students of their right to opt-out.
- Provide students with a list of school staff they could give the opt-out forms to once they have been signed.
- Try to find places where you can get cheap/free copies of the opt-out form to have with you.
- Have reminders about the deadline for the opt-out forms like over the loud speaker or bulletin boards.

Speak Truth to Power:

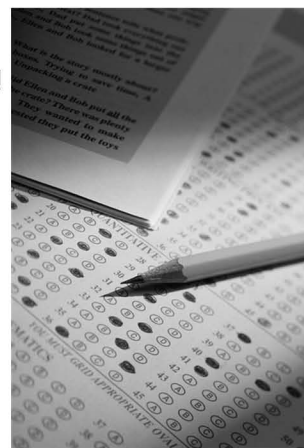
Don't stop at opt-out forms. The military has \$4 billion to spend to convince people to join up. Recruiters have free run of our schools. Don't let them get away with it. Students need to hear the facts recruiters don't tell them and need to know that there are alternatives to enlisting in the military. Make sure that counter-military recruitment info is available in your school. Get school staff to understand that this information is not meant to bash the military, but to allow students to make informed decisions about their lives.

Make sure your school's college office is not a recruiting station. In many schools, the college/career/guidance office is full of military brochures & displays. Some schools even give recruiters their own desk. Often school counselors believe the hype about the military, so you will have to explain the facts to them. Ask them to limit the amount of time/space the recruiter can have. Then ask for equal time/space. Have materials/flyers ready to show them & ask if you can put them in the office for students to read.

Do Counter-recruitment at career/college fairs. Military recruiters nearly always come to school career and college fairs. They show up with a ton of glossy flyers, videos etc. They look and sound pretty impressive, and students tend to believe whatever they say. So, what do you do about this? Get your school to let you set up a counter-recruitment table. You can run it yourself, (being that there is power in numbers get some friends to hang out at the table with you) or you can invite an outside group to come in.

Say "NO" to the ASVAB test!

They push the ASVAB test to the schools as a career exploration tool BUT ITS NOT! The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a military test given to high school students which shows the recruiters what military job you are qualified for. You can refuse to take this test & you can get your friends to refuse to take it too. Also you can explain to your school how bogus this test is and you can try to convince them to stop giving it.



Educate & Organize parents. You can start with your own parents or your friends' parents, or you can ask for time to talk at a PTA meeting.

Sound hard? Well you don't have to do it alone. Here are some suggestions & facts you can use to make things easier (and more fun).

Things you can do:

- Find allies among teachers, staff and other students.
- Find teachers who would let you give a lesson or invite in guest speakers.
- Find teachers who would help you negotiate with the principal if you don't feel comfortable doing so yourself.
- Find Student groups/ clubs to help you organize teach-in's or other events.
- Give out info/flyers
- Find other students who will give out info/ flyers.
- Post info on bulletin boards.
- Follow recruiters around and talk to everyone they talk to.
- Set up your own table with info wherever recruiters set up.
- Run Assemblies/Workshops or invite guest speakers.
- Get in touch with other counter recruiters to share info.

Facts you should know:

Your school staff may be afraid to limit the presence of recruiters because of a law that is part of the No Child Left Behind Act. It says the school must give recruiters "equal access". That means that if the school lets colleges or employers into the school to talk to students, they have to let recruiters in too, or the school could lose its federal funding. But some schools don't understand that "equal access" is not the same as "free access". If college recruiters only come once a year, so should military recruiters. Counter-recruiters are also entitled to equal access.