Are you thinking of joining the military?

This is one of the biggest decisions of your life. Make the best decision for YOU.

- What do YOU want out of life? Seriously, what are your dreams?
  - College?
  - To make enough money to support yourself and your family?
  - Adventure?
  - To move away from a bad home situation?
  - A rewarding job?

You deserve these things. What career alternatives are out there?*

**DO YOUR RESEARCH!**

WATCH
READ
LISTEN
REFLECT
CHALLENGE

*Before You Enter
beforeyouenlist.org

Veteran and Service Members' Narratives
bit.ly/YWNarr

For those that came before

joining the military will change you forever!

Go here for more links, info, and stories
bit.ly/YWBrochure

*For career alternatives: https://bit.ly/YWMilAlt

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**WHAT WILL LIFE IN THE MILITARY BE LIKE?**

Even when off duty or on leave, you must obey your commanders without hesitation or face punishment.

No matter what job you're assigned, every position is a potential combat position.

You may end up being paid less than the minimum wage for your hours.

Military life is dangerously stressful: very boring or highly traumatic.

You can suffer a physical, mental, or moral wound as a result of your military service.

Some military families end up qualifying for food stamps!

The military is not a safe space where you can be yourself.

Racism and white supremacy are REAL problems in the military.

The military always puts the needs of the mission first. Service members come second.

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**DO YOU KNOW ABOUT...**

- Being sex and gender diverse in the military
- Different opportunities to pay for college
- College debt and the military
- Getting out of the DEP (Delayed Entry Program)
- Military discharges and Conscientious Objection

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**What career alternatives are out there?**

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**MILITARY LIFE FOR WOMEN**

Being a woman in the military is tough.

Military Sexual Trauma (MST) covers everything from sexual harassment to rape and murder.

Official MST rates are 1 in 4. (Including for male on male rape)

But much goes unreported.

Reporting MST can result in traumatic and career-ending retaliation.

Your body is not your own. Even your hairstyles are policed, body mass.

Still feel they have to work twice as hard as males to get half the respect?

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When I joined, I knew that women in the military faced an uphill battle, but I didn’t fully understand how serious the issues were and how reluctant leadership is to doing anything about it. The truth is that there’s a culture of pervasive sexual discrimination, harassment and assault that is incredibly harmful to all troops, but especially to gender minorities.

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Before Enlisting
Research and writing by: The National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth

Production and graphic design by: War Resisters League - www.warresisters.org

Graphics Attributions

Scan this to read more!

bit.ly/YWBrochure

Are you a GAMER? Check out bit.ly/VFPGamers

Last updated: June 27, 2022

bit.ly/YWBrochure

After Your Military Life

You will be changed by your military experience.

Military training is designed to break down individuals and make them into one part of a unit. You learn to follow orders without thinking, at an instant’s notice. It makes it hard to reflect and make wise choices.

Moral Injury

You may come home with profound shame and regret about things you participated in.

Suicide

In 2018, there were more than 17 Veteran suicides per day. (including all veterans)

Mental Health Disorders and Substance Abuse

Drug and alcohol abuse is way high in veterans.

Permanent Damage from War Wounds

- Amputations
- Blindness
- Burns
- Brain Trauma
- PTSD
- Fertility Problems
- Miscarriages

Suicide

In 2018, there were more than 17 Veteran suicides per day. (including all veterans)

Military Sexual Trauma

41.5% of women

4% of men

Other Physical Wear and Tear Injuries

- Hearing loss
- Back/Knee/Neck trauma
- Exposure to Toxic Chemicals (e.g. depleted uranium, burn pit exposure, etc.)
- Exposure to toxic water in military bases
- Ionizing Radiation
- Toxic Embedded Fragments

What Every Young Woman Should Know About the Military (And What You Can Do About It)