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assigned to the same place after our basic training period?

- If you don't like your new job, you can't switch and you can't quit!** Early discharges are hard to get.

### FINDING A NON-MILITARY JOB

Looking for a job is hard work, and the better prepared you are, the greater your chance to find, get and keep the job you want. The following are some job-hunting tips.

**Know yourself.** Think about all the job experience you have. Don't forget to include volunteer work, baby-sitting, home carpentry, or painting. Put together a resume that outlines your skills, abilities and interests. If you don't know how to put together a resume, get help at a local library or career center. Think about what you want to do in your life. Talk to people who have the type of job that you are interested in. Ask them how they got their first job.

**References.** Employers want to know who you are and if you are trustworthy and reliable. Before you go for a job interview, get the names, addresses, and phone numbers of three people that can tell your employer what kind of person you are. They should have known you for at least a year, and not be relatives. Be sure to tell them so they are prepared to answer questions about you, if asked.

**Interviews.** Go dressed neatly and appropriately. Go by yourself. Be on time. Before the interview, try and find out something about the company. You can get this information from someone who works there or by researching it at the library or the Employment Development Office. Be friendly during the interview, the only way for them to find out about your skills, interests and abilities is for you to tell them.

**Applications.** Be sure to bring a pen. To make a good impression, follow the directions carefully and fill out the application neatly and completely.



is a dispute between what you were promised and what you get.

- If you have a police record or medical condition, don't hide it, even if the recruiter tells you it doesn't matter.** You'll be the one in trouble later on, not the recruiter.
- Don't sign any papers until you have taken them home and read them over carefully.** If you ask for a copy of the enlistment agreement, they must give it to you. If the recruiter refuses, don't sign it. Remember, you're not in the military yet. The recruiter can't tell you what to do.
- Talk the enlistment agreement over with your parents and friends and with a trained counselor.** Ask about the parts of the agreement that you don't understand.
- Get all promises in writing and have them signed by the recruiter.** Spoken promises are worthless.
- Get copies of everything you sign.** Keep the copies in a safe place.
- If you want one of the military's enlistment options,** be sure to ask the recruiter the following questions:
  - For how long do I have to enlist to get this option?
  - Are there any extra requirements (schooling, physical standards, security clearance, etc.) that I have to meet to qualify for this option? What happens if I don't meet them, but I've already enlisted?
  - For options that include assignment to a particular base or area: Does that guarantee my assignment will be for the entire time I'm in?
  - For the buddy plan: Do my buddy and I get

For free counseling, referral and more information about what recruiters aren't telling you, contact:

War Resisters League  
339 Lafayette Street  
New York, NY 10012  
(212) 228-0450 wrl@igc.apc.org  
www.nonviolence.org/wrl

WRL/New England  
P.O. Box 1093  
Norwich, CT 06360  
(203) 889-5337  
wrlne9@mail.idt.net

CCCO-WR  
655 Sutter #514  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 474-3002  
cccowr@igc.apc.org  
www.libertynet.org/~ccco

American Friends Service Ctte.  
Youth and Militarism Program  
1501 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215) 241-7176  
www.afsc.org/youthmil.htm

G.I. Rights Hotline  
Toll free: (800) 394-9544

Project YANO  
P.O. Box 230157,  
Encinitas, CA 92023  
(760)753-7518

*CHOICES: Young People, the Military and Alternatives That Can Make a Difference* is an interactive multimedia software program to help teenagers explore future options. It is available at <ftp://ftp.igc.org/pub/Choices/chcs1w3.exe>, or for \$5 from Project YANO, P.O. Box 230157, Encinitas, CA 92023; phone (760) 753-7518.

Local contact:

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# The Military's Not Just A Job...

## It's Eight Years of Your Life



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# Check Out the Facts About Military Life Before You Sign

## ARE YOU CONSIDERING ENLISTMENT?

You've probably heard the recruiter's sales pitch—travel, training, money for college. Sounds pretty good, doesn't it? All advertising does.

But if military life doesn't live up to the advertising, you can't bring your enlistment agreement back to the recruiter for a refund. You're in for at least eight years of your life, including reserve duty. You wouldn't buy a car without looking under the hood. Don't enlist before you check out the reality of military life that lies behind the glamorous television ads and glossy brochures. Check it out carefully.

## MILITARY DISCIPLINE AND LIVING CONDITIONS

Do you enjoy being bossed around? Do you want someone constantly telling you what to do and how to do it? If your answer is no, you may have a hard time adapting to military life.

Federal law states that the military places "numerous restrictions on personal behavior that would not be acceptable in civilian society." Military members are subject to military law 24 hours a day (10 U.S.C. Sec. 654). Disobedience in the military can result in imprisonment court martial or even the lifetime problem of bad discharges.

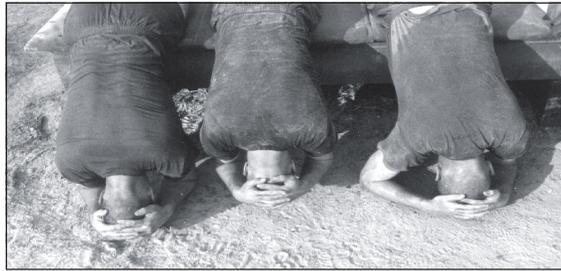
## THE MILITARY JOB TRAINING MYTH

Many people join the military expecting to receive job training. But remember, military training is designed for *military* jobs, not to help you get a civilian job later.

Even in the technically-oriented Air Force, most jobs require particular military skills that won't do you much good in the civilian world.

If you get the training you were promised for a particular military occupation, you still might not get any experience in the job because the military doesn't have to use you in the field you requested. In an Army survey, 67.2% of enlisted people said they were "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied" with their opportunity to select a job, training or duty station of their choice; 71.1% were "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied" with their basic pay.

Has your recruiter told you that according to the Veterans Administration, unemployment among young male veterans is about 31% higher than among non-veterans in the same age group? Young female veterans face a 58% higher unemployment rate. As stated by former Defense Secretary Richard Cheney, "The military is not a social welfare agency; it's not a jobs program."



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## THE EASY MONEY FOR COLLEGE MYTH

Recruiters might promise you tens of thousands of free dollars for college. But it's not free—you must work for it. And it's not automatic. Unless you qualify for special jobs or sign up for an extra-long term, you'll never see the higher amounts of money. To qualify for any aid at all, you have to pay a \$1200 nonrefundable deposit to the military. If you receive a less-than-honorable discharge (as about one out of four people do), leave the military early (as one in three do), or later decide not to go to college, the military will keep your deposit and give you nothing.

According to the Veterans Administration, less than half of eligible veterans are using their educational benefits, which means the military takes in a lot of money that will not be paid back. In other words, it's really the military that profits, not veterans.

Colleges can help you find aid if you need it, and it pays to investigate these options before agreeing to give away years of your life to the military. Once you complete school, you can start earning the higher wages of a college graduate right away.

## RACISM

In 1991, the chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights received hundreds of complaints of racism in the military. He issued a report saying discrimination haunts African-Americans, Latinos and women in the military. In 1998, 36% of the enlisted personnel were people of color, but only 15.9% of the officers were. Latinos in the Marine Corps, for example, made up 12.1% of the enlisted ranks, but only 4.4% of the officers. When the Los Angeles Times investigated the Fort Leavenworth military prison in 1994, it found that 50% of all the inmates, and 83% of those under a military death sentence, were people of color.

## SEXISM

Women often join the military to gain job training and break out of traditional roles. However, women are still limited in the jobs they actually perform in the military. Even when men and women share the same job title, often women are made to do filing and typing, while men get the more "exciting" work. Sexual harassment and rape are a real threat to women in the military. In 1990 and 1995, the armed forces surveyed female members and found that 64% reported sexual harassment. This was twice the rate of harassment reported by women in civilian jobs in a 1990 Harris poll. And in 1993, when women veterans under the age of 50 were questioned at the Veterans Affairs Military Center in Minneapolis, 90% of them reported that they had been sexually harassed while in the military!

## HOMOPHOBIA

Discrimination against gays, lesbians, and bisexuals is not only intense within the military, it is official policy. Witch-hunts to kick lesbian and gay personnel out of the military continue. Since the so-called, "Don't ask, don't tell policy" was introduced, the pace of forced discharges has actually increased. Violence and threats against those "suspected" of being gay are routine.

## YOU WILL LOSE BASIC RIGHTS

- If you leave your work without permission, you can be arrested.
- Any disobedience can result in criminal punishment.
- You can be punished without the right to see a lawyer or have a trial.
- Your right to say what you think when and how you want will be restricted.
- Individual expression through the way you dress and wear your hair won't be tolerated.
- You'll be subject to routine urine tests for drugs.

## WAR—YOU THINK IT WON'T HAPPEN TO YOU?

Many of the U.S. soldiers who fought in Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf never thought they would be the ones to see combat. Many of the Reserve soldiers who fought in the Gulf had been told that this would never happen to them. But the main purpose of the military is to fight wars, and if you enlist you will have no choice if you are ordered to fight for something you don't believe in—like protecting a for-

eign dictator or oil profits. After enlisting, if you discover that your religious, moral or ethical beliefs won't allow you to kill, it will be hard for you to get a discharge as a conscientious objector. (hundreds of U.S. soldiers were imprisoned when they objected to the Persian Gulf War).

Before enlisting, it's important to talk to a veteran or someone who has fled a war-torn country to learn about the horrors of war.



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## DEP: THE DELAYED ENTRY PROGRAM

Once you have signed up for the DEP, many recruiters will tell you that you can't get out. **This is not true.**

There are a variety of DEP discharges, like enrolling in college, finding a long-term job or family hardship. However, you will need to work to take steps to get discharged. The military will *not* do it for you. Contact one of the groups listed on the back for free counseling and help.

## 9 THINGS TO REMEMBER IF YOU TALK TO A MILITARY RECRUITER

1. **Recruiters are interested in you in order to make a sale.** If they fail to meet their quota of recruits, they can be forced to work overtime. An award winning recruiter told The Boston Globe, "You have to convince these little punks to do something...I figure if I can sell this, I can sell anything." Another veteran recruiter told a reporter for the Albany Time Union, "I've been recruiting for years and I don't know one recruiter who wasn't dishonest about it. I did it myself."
2. **Take along a parent or friend as a witness if you go to see a recruiter.** That way you'll have somebody to back up your side of the story if there