

## WHY SHOULD COUNSELORS BE CONCERNED?

Many students make the choice to enlist in military service based on misleading and inaccurate information. They often lack awareness of other options which may be open to them.

Counselors are objective and better informed on career and college options than military recruiters. Counselors are bound by ASCA and ACA ethics to serve the student's interest, while military recruiters have only one goal – getting recruits for the military. Recruiters lack objectivity and omit information needed by young people to make informed decisions about their future.

The military spends more than \$4 billion on recruiting annually and employs 27,000 recruiters.

## KNOW YOUR DISTRICT'S POLICIES

What measures are taken to protect students from incomplete or inaccurate information about war, enlistment, and realities of military life?

What oversight is provided when recruiters are

present in the school with minors under the age of 18? What is the District doing to minimize its liability? Recruiters are not employees of school districts and there have been cases of sexual harassment and rape.

What is the District policy on the ASVAB test (Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery)? This test is used by the military as a recruiting tool, but offered to schools as a vocational test. Students should be aware that they are not required to take this test, and/or to give their test scores to military recruiters. When the school district chooses Option 8, it ensures that, if a student takes the test, the results will not be sent to military recruiters.

Are parents and students effectively informed of the NCLB Opt-Out choice for information released to the military? Is the military Opt-Out choice separated from other choices, and not combined?

If there is a JROTC program, how much does it cost the District and what are the qualifications of its teachers? Is the JROTC curricula compliant with state curricula guidelines?

**Protecting students under the age of 18 is the responsibility of the school district and its employees.**



## GET INVOLVED

Ensure that all parents and students know about their Opt-Out right to privacy. According to the NCLB Act, a student of any age can Opt-Out, with or without parental involvement.

Find out what your school policy is regarding recruiting in your school and extent to which military recruiters have unsupervised access to students under the age of 18. Ensure that balanced information about the military is available in your school's career center or cafeteria.

Include information and speakers on alternatives to the military at all school and district career fairs.

Inform students of their rights:

1. To request cancellation of their agreement in the Future Soldiers Training Program (a.k.a. Delayed Enlistment Program) without consequences;
2. To refuse to take the ASVAB test;
3. To become a conscientious objector to war;
4. To learn how to finance college without joining the military;
5. To access meaningful non-military careers.

## MILITARY SERVICE IS CATEGORICALLY DIFFERENT FROM OTHER CAREER CHOICES

Commitment is for 8 years. Once the oath of office has been taken, a soldier cannot change his/her mind – penalties



or desertion are prison and potentially the death penalty. What other career has such severe restraints?

It is a 24-hour a day commitment during the active duty phase. Financial compensation could be less than minimum wage.

Regimentation is for total obedience. Many civil rights, including the right to free speech, are surrendered.

Service members may be ordered to kill people, often innocent civilians including young children. The connection with national defense may not be clear: it could be for resources or to impose a belief system on another country.

Pay and benefits are generally better in the civilian sector, including educational and pension benefits.

Sexual harassment and rape in the military, especially for women, is twice that of their civilian counterparts.

Skills learned are generally not transferable to the civilian sector.

## WHO WE ARE

WaTiR is an organization working to educate people about choices young people may make regarding military service. It is founded upon some of the highest ideals of western civilization to which most Americans aspire:

- The protection of children from exploitation by adults.
- Ensuring students receive fair and balanced information from the

educational institutions in which they are enrolled.

- Educating students in critical reasoning skills to adequately prepare them to function in a democratic society.
- Providing students with criteria by which they might judge the relative advantage of various career and life choices.
- Honoring and celebrating the transition between childhood and maturity by supporting informed consent decisions.

Young people under the age of 18 are not allowed to sign contracts, buy alcohol, get married or vote. Yet, recruiters are frequently in Washington schools every day, often unsupervised, appealing directly to students to enlist in the military.

## RESOURCES

### WEB SITES

[www.nnomy.org](http://www.nnomy.org)  
[www.comdsd.org](http://www.comdsd.org)  
[www.objector.org](http://www.objector.org)  
[www.nisbco.org](http://www.nisbco.org)

### PUBLICATIONS

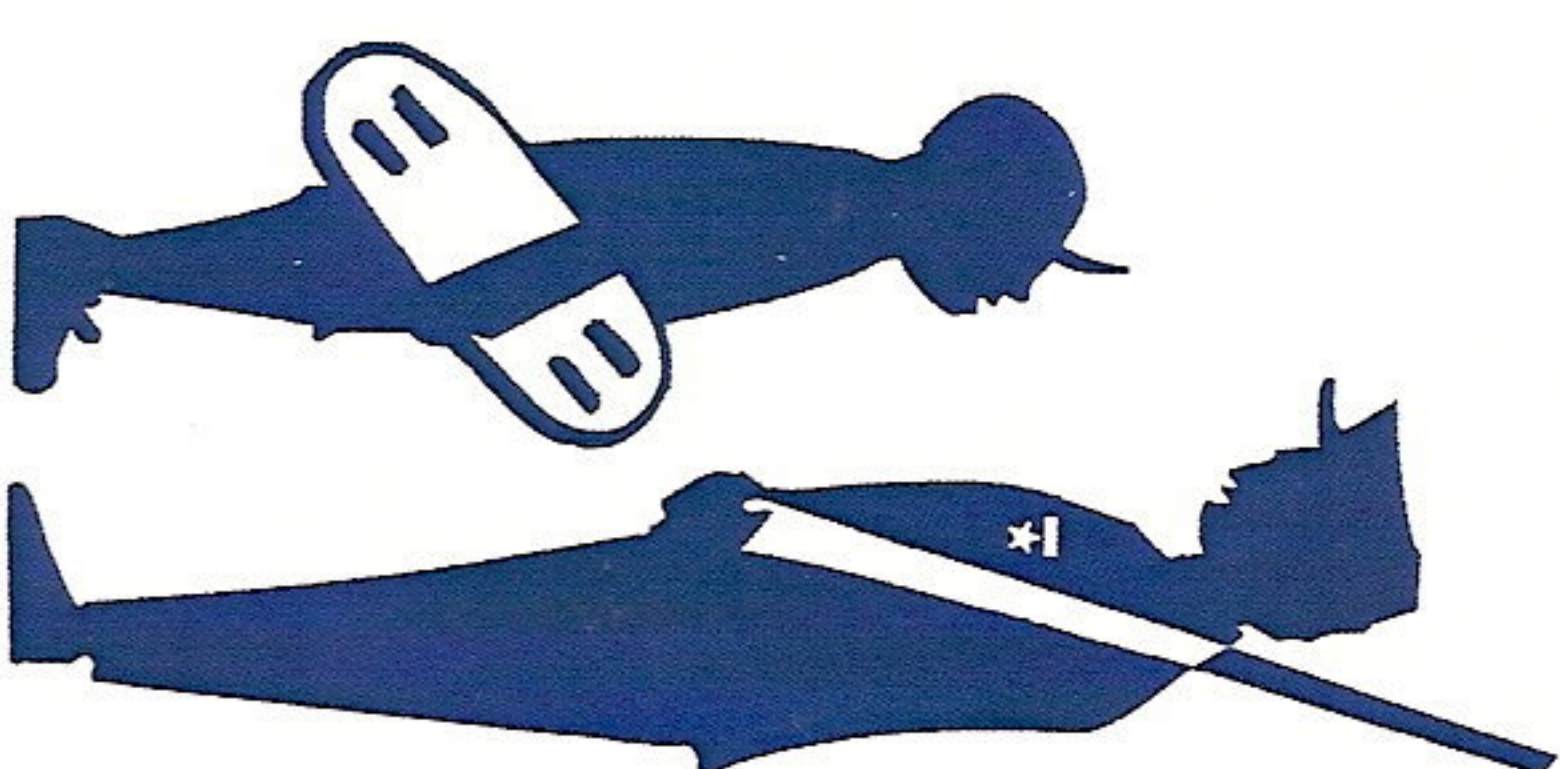
"Do You Know Enough to Enlist?"  
[www.afsc.org/youth&militarism](http://www.afsc.org/youth&militarism)

Choosing Peace: Robert Seely  
[www.objector.org](http://www.objector.org)

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Our work depends upon your donations for printing costs. Please contribute your tax deductible donation today.

## Military Recruiters in High Schools?



## Considerations for Counselors

Prepared by  
Washington Truth in Recruiting

**WaTiR**

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Providing objective information on military recruiting, war, and the militarization of our schools.

WaTiR is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization incorporated in the State of Washington. It is not affiliated with any political party, religion or other organization.