

## IT'S YOUR LIFE AND YOUR CHOICE

**Q.** If not the military, what *are* my options?

**A.** There are many civilian job training and financial aid programs. Some are listed below. You can easily find out about them by contacting a guidance counselor, using the internet or making a phone call.

### FOR FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID:

Student Aid on the Web:  
<http://studentaid.ed.gov>

Federal Student Aid Information Center:  
1-800-433-3243

The California Student Aid Commission:  
<http://cal.grant.org>  
1-800-CA-GRANT

The Corporation for National Service  
(Federal financial aid for civilian service)  
<http://nationalservice.org>  
1-800-942-2677

### FOR PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS:

Contact the financial aid office of the school you want to attend. Numerous private scholarships are available. Be careful about internet scams that try to charge you for scholarship information.

### FOR VOCATIONAL AND JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS:

City of Los Angeles One-Stop Workforce Development Centers:

<http://calapprenticeship.org>  
1-800-FOR-A-JOB

## We Can Help and it's FREE!

**Already Signed Up in the Delayed Entry Program?** Once you sign up, military recruiters tell you that you can't get out. This is incorrect. Learn the "no hassle" way out of the Delayed Entry Program by calling us.

**In the Military and Need Help?** You have a variety of legal rights that the military doesn't tell you about. Contact us to find out if you qualify as a conscientious objector, get help with a discharge, obtain information about AWOL consequences, or get answers to any other questions.

**Turning 18?** Young men turning 18 are required to register with the Selective Service System. The failure to do so can result in denial of student financial assistance, denial of federal employment, denial of employment by state governments and, in rare situations, criminal prosecution. We can advise you about your legal rights.

**For free help, call (323) 653-6671**

*Free counseling sessions are offered in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas.*



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Don't Die  
in a  
Dead-End  
Job!

**INFORMATION  
FOR YOUNG  
PEOPLE  
CONSIDERING  
THE  
MILITARY**

## Don't Believe Military Recruiters

Military Recruiters are prowling high school campuses looking for warm bodies to send to Iraq. Over 2.4 billion dollars is spent every year trying to convince young people like you to join up. Many are now dead or seriously injured. Before you sign up for military service, here's some information you'd better know. It's information that the military recruiter won't tell you. **But it could save your life!**

**Q. Doesn't the military provide valuable training and job opportunities?**

**A.** No. Most "skills" learned in the military are not useful for civilian jobs. One study found that only 12 percent of male veterans and only 6 percent of female veterans use skills learned in the military in their later civilian jobs. Another study found that veterans also earn less – 11 to 19% less – than non-veterans from similar economic backgrounds.

**"The reason to have a military is to be prepared to fight and win wars...it's not a jobs program."**

-Vice President Dick Cheney

**Q. Won't the G.I. Bill pay for college?**

**A.** Probably not. Most people who apply for G.I. Bill benefits after discharge receive **no money** for college, even after paying a **non-refundable** deposit of \$1200 during their first year in the military. You're much more likely to receive college money by applying for civilian financial aid. And, on average, civilian programs, such as Pell Grants and Stafford Loans, provide **more money** than the G.I. Bill. In short, the military is not good at providing training or educational opportunities.

**Q. If the military doesn't provide education and job training, why do young people join?**

**A.** Because military recruiters lie to them about military benefits, promise them they won't get sent into combat, and don't tell them about other options. But more and more youth are refusing to believe the lies. Many who signed up for the Delayed Entry Program are changing their minds and are getting out before it's too late. As the public learns more about the deaths and the serious injuries occurring in Iraq and Afghanistan, more young people know the military is no place to be.

**"As for a recruiter making promises and not following through, the recruiter's not in any position to promise anything. We hope that all our recruiters are communicating honestly with our applicants, but [the enlistment contract] says, 'Anything the recruiter may have promised ... means nothing.'"**

-Douglas Smith, U.S. Army spokesman.

**Q. Even if it's not ideal, isn't the military better than no job since it's only a few years out of my life?**

**A.** No. Don't be fooled! Military service may last much longer than you signed up for. Under the current "Stop Loss" policy, the military can extend your service until the end of combat in Iraq, Afghanistan, or anywhere else — regardless of when your service was set to expire! Even Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld now admits: "That insurgency [in Iraq] could go on for any number of years...five, six, eight, 10, 12 years."

**Q. What if a recruiter promises specialized training, or that I won't get sent overseas?**

**A.** Don't believe it! Recruiters have become so desperate that they will say or do anything to get young people to join. Even the Pentagon's Enlistment Contract says that a recruiter's promises are **worthless**; that the military may change your pay, benefits and duties – **at any time and without notice** – and that, in the event of a war, your term of service can be involuntarily extended.

### **THE DELAYED ENTRY PROGRAM**

**Q. What is the Delayed Entry Program?**

**A.** It is a program that allows recruits to begin their active duty up to a year after they sign up. 90% of military enlistees join through the Delayed Entry Program.

**Q. Can I get out of the Delayed Entry Program if I change my mind?**

**A.** Yes, absolutely! Getting out is easy. The Lawyers Guild offers free help. But don't wait until after you report for duty. Then it's too late! Check with one of our counselors as soon as you change your mind about serving in the military.

**Q. What if a recruiter threatens me with forced activation, jail time or loss of student financial aid?**

**A.** They can't do anything to you and you should not believe their threats. Getting out of the Delayed Entry Program **will not** result in jail time or affect your eligibility for civilian financial aid. The important thing is to avoid contact with recruiters. They will use every lie and trick in the book to keep you in the program. Call the Lawyers Guild and we can help you get out. It's easy and it may save your life!