

## JOB TRAINING?

According to the Veterans Administration, only 12% of male veterans and 6% of female veterans make any use of the skills they learned in the military in their civilian jobs.

## MONEY FOR COLLEGE?

Getting help with college tuition is one of the major enticements used in recruiting campaigns. In reality, however, you will rarely get anywhere near the amount of financial aid your recruiter may lead you to believe.

The average participant in the GI Bill actually receives less money than a student who simply receives a Pell Grant and a Stafford Loan.

You may not even qualify for the GI Bill or the Army/Navy College Fund, because these benefits require you to serve under specific conditions.

According to the Veterans Administration, only 57% of veterans who sign up receive GI Bill funds for college.

The average payout for college funds is less than you might expect.

Only 15% of veterans ever receive a four-year college degree.

**According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 33% of adult homeless men are veterans.**

## THE COST OF WAR;

Thousands of veterans will require a lifetime of medical treatment due to lost limbs, exposure to toxic substances such as depleted uranium, exposure to foreign diseases, PTSD and traumatic brain injuries. Their lives will never be the same. They, like many veterans in the past, will be shut away in VA hospitals, at the mercy of government budget cuts, receiving poor treatment, broken and forgotten.



This pamphlet is distributed by a group of veterans who have been where you are right now. We urge you to really think through any decisions about joining the military and we would be glad to talk with you about it and discuss alternative career options and opportunities to serve your community and country.

### Broome County Veterans for Peace

Contact us at:  
**BCVFP**  
**PO Box 2211**  
**Binghamton NY. 13902**  
[jpmony@juno.com](mailto:jpmony@juno.com)  
**(607) 723-0759**

#### Websites:

<http://www.veteransforpeace.org/>  
<http://ivaw.org/splash.html>

Please feel free to show this pamphlet to your recruiter. If he or she says, "You'll be defending their right to say those things," ask them how fighting a war in Iraq or Afghanistan is defending the freedoms of any American or supporting and defending the Constitution.

# THINKING ABOUT ENLISTING IN THE MILITARY?



# WHAT YOUR RECRUITER WON'T TELL YOU



"I do solemnly swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

**Our government spends over \$4 billion dollars a year to recruit you into the military. It even makes your high school give recruiters your name and address.**

Recruiters are not “counselors.” Their job is to convince you to join their branch of the military.

Their main selling point to you and your parents is to make the military look like a desirable choice for your future.

#### **WHAT THE MILITARY IS NOT:**

The military is not a job you can just quit. The military is not a program to help you develop character. The military is not an educational institution.

#### **WHAT THE MILITARY IS:**

The military is a government institution charged with preparing for and waging war.

#### **WHAT WAR IS NOT:**

War is not a rite of passage into manhood.  
War is not a video game.  
War is not romantic.  
War is not a movie.

#### **WHAT WAR IS:**

War is permanent traumatic physical and emotional injury. War is death.

A recent Rand Corporation study found out that about 20% of returning soldiers suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or depression.

#### **SOME LIES YOU MAY HEAR FROM YOUR RECRUITER:**

**“You will be defending our country.”**  
No country has attacked us since Pearl Harbor. Just the opposite, our troops have been misused to attack others. Since the end of WWII, we have launched 25 attacks against countries which posed no threat to us.

**“You will be defending our freedoms.”**  
No country or outside group of individuals can take away our freedoms. That has to be an inside job. Congress did it with the Patriot Act. It needs to be repealed. Benjamin Franklin had this to say about that: **“They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty no safety.”**

**“You will be spreading democracy.”**  
U.S. military interventions have not spread democracy. All too often they have aided and abetted its replacement, as in Chile, Nicaragua, Haiti, Guatemala, Iran, Honduras, and Grenada. Or, our military strength has been used to support and arm anti-democratic regimes, such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Columbia.

After WWII, on the pretext of “stopping the spread of Communism” or “fighting terrorism,” our military has been misused to attack weaker nations. The result has been the death of over six million people.

#### **Look at the fine print in the enlistment contract:**

The military can change your job field, pay status, or educational benefits at any time, for any reason, without prior notice:

*“Laws and regulations that govern military personnel may change without notice to me. Such changes may affect my status, pay, allowances, benefits, and responsibilities as a member of the Armed Forces REGARDLESS of the provisions of this enlistment/re-enlistment document.”*  
(Department of Defense Form 4/1 Section. 9.5b)

The military can keep you on active duty longer than you signed up to serve:

*“In the event of war, my enlistment in the armed forces continues until six (6) months after the war ends, unless my enlistment is ended sooner by the President of the United States.”*  
(Department of Defense Form 4/1 Section 9.5c)

#### **Delayed-Entry Program:**

If you are in the DEP, regardless of anything you signed, you can change your mind and do not have to go into the military. If your recruiter tells you it’s illegal or impossible to back out of your DEP contract, he or she is lying.

The military releases all DEP recruits who request separation.