

MoneyforCollegeLeadershipOpportunitiesAdventure

Dear Guidance Counselor:

High school students make many decisions, some of which affect their entire adult lives. We are concerned that, with military recruiters increasingly present in the schools and military advertising available everywhere, students are not hearing about the non-military options available to them.

So, why this packet?

We recognize that joining the military will be the best choice for some students. However, we believe it is important that they enlist only after being fully informed about military life, and that they receive that information from several non-military sources. Unlike many other post-high school endeavors, military service changes the quality of life students can expect to enjoy for the rest of their lives, whether or not they remain in the military.

What's in this packet?

- **Left Pocket:** Options for job training and funding a college education that do not involve enlistment in the military.
- **Right Pocket:** Information to help students carefully consider whether enlistment in the military is right for them.

The materials in this folder are intended to aid you as you help your students make informed and thoughtful decisions when considering the post-high school options available to them. We hope you will find the materials in this packet useful when counseling your students about life after high school. And we are available to help with any questions you or your students might have. Thank you.

You are welcome to reproduce anything in this folder.

Sincerely,

Vicki Berenson, Madison Friends Meeting (Quakers)
Todd Dennis, Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice,
U.S. Navy Submarine Service Veteran



Sponsoring Organizations:

- Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice
- Madison Friends Meeting (Quakers)
- Veterans for Peace
- Truth and Alternatives to Militarism in Education (TAME)

Contact us at: info@wnpj.org

The top two reasons students say they would consider military service are:

1. To get job training; and
2. To get money to attend college.



Here are some facts to consider:

1. **Most military training is not useful in civilian jobs.**

American Friends Service Committee, "Do You Know Enough To Enlist?"
<http://tinyurl.com/9ev576> (accessed January 17, 2009).

2. **Only 43% of military personnel who have paid into the GI Bill receive any college money.**

American Friends Service Committee, "GI Bill: Here are some things to consider:"
<http://tinyurl.com/6vr7p8> (accessed January 17, 2009).

3. **Study: War veterans face job search woes**

The 2007 study by the consulting firm Abt Associates Inc. found that 18 percent of the veterans were unemployed within one to three years of discharge, while one out of four who did find jobs earned less than \$21,840 a year. Many had taken advantage of government programs such as the GI Bill to boost job prospects, but there was little evidence that education benefits yielded higher pay or better advancement. *Hire a Hero*: <http://tinyurl.com/6wwhhw>, *New York Times*: <http://tinyurl.com/9qd55e> (accessed January 17, 2009)

4. **Only 3% of military veterans graduate from a 4-year college.**

The department's most recent data show just 3 percent of veterans who entered a four-year college program in 1995 graduated by 2001, compared with a 30 percent overall graduation rate. Aaron Glantz, "Vets' tough march from military to college," *San Francisco Chronicle*: <http://tinyurl.com/7vpqjs> (accessed January 17, 2009).

5. **The military can extend your enlistment contract without your consent.**

Jeff Schogol, "Judge throws out challenge to Army's stop-loss program," *Stars and Stripes*: <http://tinyurl.com/9qtpjs> "Stop-Loss orders up in 2008", *Los Angeles Times*: <http://tinyurl.com/9tqg3l> (accessed January 17, 2009).

6. **28% of surviving Iraq war veterans are returning home with health problems (both physical and mental) that require treatment.**

RAND Study on Invisible Wounds: <http://tinyurl.com/9rldyy> (accessed January 17, 2009).

7. **1 in 3 homeless persons is a military veteran.**

CBS News: <http://tinyurl.com/2nlbed> (accessed January 17, 2009), National Coalition for Homeless Veterans: www.nchv.org