

Important:

If you signed onto the military's *delayed enlistment program* (DEP), you are not bound to it by law!

If you change your mind,
you don't have to go!

Getting out of the DEP is easy!

The DEP attracts high school seniors who are unsure about what to do after they graduate. Still, a lot can happen in a year—especially for teens who often change their minds about what they want to do with their lives.

Most who enlist by signing onto the DEP (known also as the *delayed entry program*) wait up to a year before they report for active duty training. This “Sign now, pay later” scheme is a popular way to sell cars, stereos—and military enlistment; but, the difference is that you can get out of the DEP.

Please make an appointment now to speak to an A.M.O.R. counselor and or contact:

G.I. Rights Hotline (800) 394-9544

<http://www.girights.org>

For more info, contact or visit:

Alternatives to Military:
Options & Resources

A . M . O . R .

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Myths and Realities
about the Military



*Before you enlist ...
please read this carefully!*

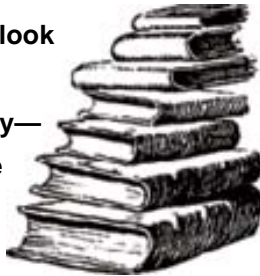
Myth: You will get useful job-skill training in the military.

Reality:

- Very little of what one learns in the military is found to be useful in civilian life.
- Among male veterans, only 12% found military skills useful in civilian life.
- Among female veterans, only 6% found military skills useful in civilian life.
- Veterans earn 11% to 19% less than non-veteran men and women from similar socio-economic backgrounds.
- Veterans are unemployed at a higher rate than non-veterans.

An Ohio State University study concluded that:

“Young people should look to sources of training—other than the military—if they wish to optimize their careers.”



Alternatives to Military: Options & Resources—A.M.O.R.—in Ventura County, CA counsels youth in high school and college, the unemployed, underemployed, and underpaid who: a) are considering military enlistment, or b) have enlisted and need support. For targeted youth and other career seekers, A.M.O.R. provides:

- 1) the facts about the military’s coercion, deceit, and risks,
- 2) an opt-out process to stop the aggressive solicitation by the military,
- 3) sources of legal aid,
- 4) options to military service, and
- 5) help to find resources to fund the options.

front panel art by Mike Flugennock

Myth: You will get full financial aid for education and college.

Reality:

- 65% of all recruits never get a cent for education as veterans.
- Only 5% of recruits meet all of the requirements for the maximum G.I. Bill educational benefits.
- To qualify for maximum benefits, you must score in the top half of a special test, spend at least two years in assignments rejected by most other enlistees, and pay \$1,200—non-refundable—to a special fund.
- If the military does not grant you an honorable discharge after your service, that will forfeit all of your rights under the G.I. Bill.

Note that 20% of all recruits fail to get an honorable release from the military.

You can finance your education—without the military—through:

- Private grants
- State grants
- Federal grants
- scholarships
- special loans
- work-study programs.

Every year, \$6.6 billion of private financial aid ... is never applied for and used.

This amount is in addition to various State and Federal financial-aid programs.



Financial aid, career, and college counselors will help you. Please consult with them. It is their job to serve you.

Myth: You will find adventure, develop your mind and body, and learn self-discipline in the military.

Reality: You may find yourself:

- fighting in a desert, swamp, or jungle in unbearable conditions,
- killing children, mothers, and elders,
- dead—coming home in a coffin—or injured for life.

17% of Iraq war veterans come home suffering severe mental illness.

Myth: As a veteran, you will get the help you need in civilian life.

Reality:

- There are over 400,000 homeless veterans in any given year.
- About 1.6 million veterans have no health insurance.

Beware of these traps:

- Recruiters cannot guarantee you anything.
- The military can break their "contract" with you at any time.
- The military has *coded conditions*, which are not explained in your contract; for example, the code—AR-145-1—means that: you agree to be kept in *ready reserve* after your release from active tour of duty.

Beware of these and other traps! For more information, please contact us:

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