

RECRUITMENT PROMISES & REALITY



Military recruiters are the first line of offense in the military machine. Recruiters tout slogans to make military jobs more appealing. Their training is largely oriented toward marketing and sales techniques. Recruiters have monthly quotas to fill, and the more people they sign up, the better their chances for promotion. Recruiters make all kinds of promises – often ones they have no ability to fulfill – in order to convince young people to sign up.

Before you enlist, take the time to learn about the truth behind military recruiters' promises.

Myth: You sign-up for a two-year commitment.

Fact: Once you have signed up for the military and arrive at basic training, you are subject to call-up duty for eight years.

Myth: You will get money for college.

Fact: Two-thirds of Montgomery GI Bill participants never receive any funding. Participants who do not receive funding actually lose \$1200 in nonrefundable deposits. Only 15% of recruits graduate from a four-year college.

Myth: You can go to college and serve one weekend a month with very little chance of being called back to active duty.

Fact: The current administration wants to call up 300,000 reservists. Thousands of reservists have been called back to active duty since 9/11 and thousands more have been sent to Iraq.

Myth: You receive high-quality medical and dental care at little or no cost.

Fact: After you leave the military, depending upon your level of disability, you may not be able to use VA medical facilities. If you do qualify, you could wait for several months for an appointment.

Myth: You will easily get a job after you serve

Fact: Studies show that veterans earn between 11% and 19% less than non-veterans of similar backgrounds. The VA estimates that 1/3 of homeless people are veterans.

A closer look at the enlistment contract, that all recruits sign when they enter the military, will tell you recruiters' promises are worthless. Section 9.5.b of this document says:

"Law 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."

The contract ensures that the military is not bound by any promise made to you by the recruiter or even by the contract itself.

Additional Resources

"Deceptions in Military Recruiting: an Ex-Insider Speaks Out" by Chris White gives an overview about how military recruiters are routinely dishonest. The article can be found at <http://join-snafu.org/recruiter/cwhite.htm>.

The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors' webpage "The Myths of Military Opportunity" debunks many of the assumptions about serving in the military. You can find the page at www.objector.org/before-you-enlist/myths.html.

"Enlisting in the Military: A Closer Look at the Enlistment Contract" by the Support Network for an Armed Forces Union shows what the military contract guarantees and what it is not responsible for. The webpage can be found at <http://join-snafu.org/recruiter/contract.htm>.

References: Support Network for an Armed Forces Union, Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, U.S. Army



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