

# SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

As a female do you think by joining the military you'll get respect?

How would you feel if you were called a bi#@h, sl@t or a wh&\*e by the same men who are supposed to watch your back? Think your body will be respected?

One out of five women veterans said that they have experienced Military Sexual Trauma.<sup>5</sup>

Think this only affects women? Out of the 65,264 veterans who got treated for Military Sexual Trauma (MST) in 2009, **40% of them were men.**<sup>6</sup>

# GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON WAR, NOT PEOPLE

Is your school over-crowded? Can't pay for college? Can't afford healthcare?

Every year, about half of our tax dollars go to fund war and the military. That money could pay for 4-year scholarships for 1.5 million students or health care for more than 1 million people.<sup>7</sup>

So far the U.S. has spent over **1 trillion dollars** (1,000,000,000,000) **on war.** That's a lot of money—if you made a million dollars a year, it would take you a million years to earn \$1 trillion.<sup>7</sup>

5. Kristen Paquette, "Veterans Experiencing Homelessness" 2010, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, <http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=48809>

6. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General. 2010, "Review of Inappropriate Copayment Billing for Treatment Related to Military Sexual Trauma" <http://www4.va.gov/oig/54/reports/VAOIG-09-01110-81.pdf>

7. "Cost of War" counter, National Priorities Project website <http://costofwar.com/en/tradeoffs>

# RESOURCES

**The National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY)** [www.nnomy.org](http://www.nnomy.org)

**Service Women's Action Network**  
[www.servicewomen.org](http://www.servicewomen.org)

**Iraq Veterans Against the War, Operation Recovery campaign**  
[www.ivaw.org/operation-recovery](http://www.ivaw.org/operation-recovery)

**G.I. Rights Hotline**  
[girightshotline.org](http://girightshotline.org)

**Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities**  
[www.projectyano.org](http://www.projectyano.org)

**Center on Conscience & War**  
[www.centeronconscience.org](http://www.centeronconscience.org)

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**THE YA-YA NETWORK**  
[www.yayanetwork.org](http://www.yayanetwork.org)

**THE WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE**  
[www.warresisters.org](http://www.warresisters.org)



# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO 'CAUSE THERE'S NO RESET BUTTON

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# WHEN YOU JOIN THE MILITARY, WHAT ARE YOU SIGNING UP FOR?

Do you think you will get everything your recruiter promised you?

The military contract states, "Laws and regulations that govern military personnel may change without notice to me. Such changes may affect my pay, benefits, and responsibilities as a member of the Armed Forces **REGARDLESS** of the provisions of this enlistment document."<sup>1</sup>

When you sign up, **you sign up for eight years**. The military can send you to war at any time, regardless of any promises you've been made.

If the U.S. is at war, **you will most likely be sent to war**. People who are promised non-combat jobs like mechanics and supply are sent to combat zones and put in combat positions.

When you're in the military, you are subject to military law. **Your body is not your own**. How would you feel about losing your freedom? About having someone telling you how and when to sleep, shower, and poop?

The military is a **job you can't quit**, without risking punishment or even jail time.

1. DOD Enlistment Contract, <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd0004.pdf>

# MILITARY SERVICE MYTH VS REALITY

**MYTH:** Think you're going to get money for college?

**REALITY:** People who get anything less than an honorable discharge (like many people do) lose their G.I. College Bill benefits. You need three years of active duty to be eligible for the full amount.

**MYTH:** Think military job training prepares you for working in the civilian world?

**REALITY:** The job of the military is to fight wars, not to build your career. More and more unemployed veterans are being told to join Job Corps to get the job training they never got in the military. Fail!!!<sup>2</sup>

**MYTH:** Think that if you risk your life in combat the military will take care of you and give you the benefits you deserve?

**REALITY:** Many soldiers diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) are pumped full of psych meds and sent back into the battlefield.

Nearly 1/3 of homeless adults are veterans. 56% of all homeless veterans are African-American or Latino.<sup>3</sup>

2. U.S. Dept. of Labor, Veterans Career Transition Project at Select Job Corps Centers, [http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr\\_doc.cfm?DOCN=3005](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=3005)

3. "Facts and Media," the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans <http://www.nchv.org/background.cfm>

4. "Population Representation in the Military Services" Fiscal Year 2009, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness <http://prhome.defense.gov/MPP/ACCESSION%20POLICY/PopRep2009/index.html>

"From Representation to Inclusion: Diversity Leadership for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Military" Final Report, Military Leadership Diversity Commission website <http://mldc.whs.mil/index.php/final-report>

Art: Ryan Dennie

**MYTH:** Think if you signed up for the Delayed Entry Program (DEP) you can't change your mind?

**REALITY:** There are simple steps you can take to quit the DEP before your date to report to basic training, even if your recruiter tells you different.

**MYTH:** Think the military treats all recruits equally?

**REALITY:** People of color are heavily recruited into the military, but don't get equal opportunities. For example, African-Americans are only half as likely to become officers compared to white people, but they are almost twice as likely to get court-martialed (brought up on criminal charges).<sup>4</sup> Many others, including women, Muslims, and people seen as gay or lesbian, experience violence and harassment while serving.

## MILITARY SERVICE AS A PATH TO CITIZENSHIP

So you got your green card and think you can get citizenship by joining the military?

No one who serves in the U.S. military is guaranteed U.S. citizenship. **Many people serve and then get deported.**

If you get an "other than honorable" discharge from the military, your citizenship gained while in the military could be revoked.

The military will NOT accept you if you are in the U.S. without papers.