



I WANT YOU  
FOR U.S. ARMY

"Be all that you can be!"  
"Great Careers!"  
"Great Experiences!"  
"Your future with  
paid training"

"A class that  
moves with you"  
"We'll pay for college"  
"See the world!"  
"An Army of one"

Sign here: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**False Advertisement**



## **American Friends Service Committee**

Military recruitment targets youth and often make promises they cannot keep.  
For facts about military services and more information  
about alternatives, please contact the following:

### **American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) National Youth and Militarism Program**

1501 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
Email: [youthmil@afsc.org](mailto:youthmil@afsc.org)  
Phone: 215-241-7176 Fax: 215-241-7177  
Visit our website at:  
**[www.afsc.org/youthmil.htm](http://www.afsc.org/youthmil.htm)**

### **American Friends Service Committee**

Pacific Southwest Regional Office  
980 North Fair Oaks Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91103  
Phone (626) 791-1978 Fax (626) 791-2205  
Visit our website at:  
**[www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)**

This comic has been made possible through the  
American Friends Service Committee / PSWRO  
Peace Making in a Time of War 2004 Program.

Comic Book Coordinators • *Rebecca Elswit & Jochen Strack*  
Student Artist • *Sean Diaz and Dominique Garcia*  
Mentors • *Bryan Davidson and Angelo Logan*  
Layout • *Selma Plascencia*

The AFSC is a Quaker organization supported by individuals who care about  
social justice, peace and humanitarian service. Its work is based on a Quaker belief  
in the dignity and worth of every person, and a faith in the power of love  
and nonviolence to bring about change.

**High school is ending. Thinking about your future?  
Here are two young people and the choices they made.**



## David's Story

**David ~**

High school Senior with part-time after school job. He is in search of a better life and hoping to help out his family.

Will the Military help David and his family?



## Alejandra's Story

**Alejandra ~**

She has issues at home with a very macho father. Alejandra is searching for a way to go to college. Is the Army the right choice for her?

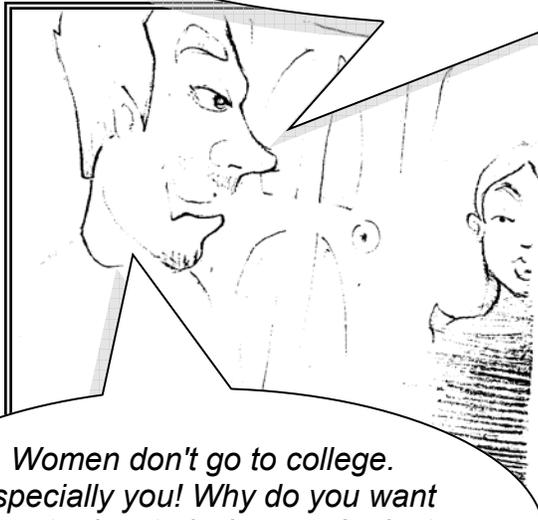
# Alejandra's Story



Alejandra! Come wash the dishes!

I have to finish my essay.

Who do you think you are?  
I'm your father. Come wash the dishes!

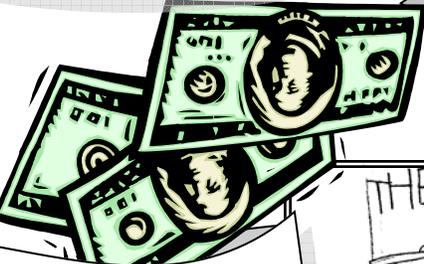


How do you expect me to get into college if I can't finish my homework?

*Women don't go to college.  
Especially you! Why do you want to get educated when you're just going to be a housewife like your mother?!*

How am I going to go to college?  
Who's going to pay for it?  
My dad's right.  
No, I have to show my dad women can be strong and educated. I have to get out of here.

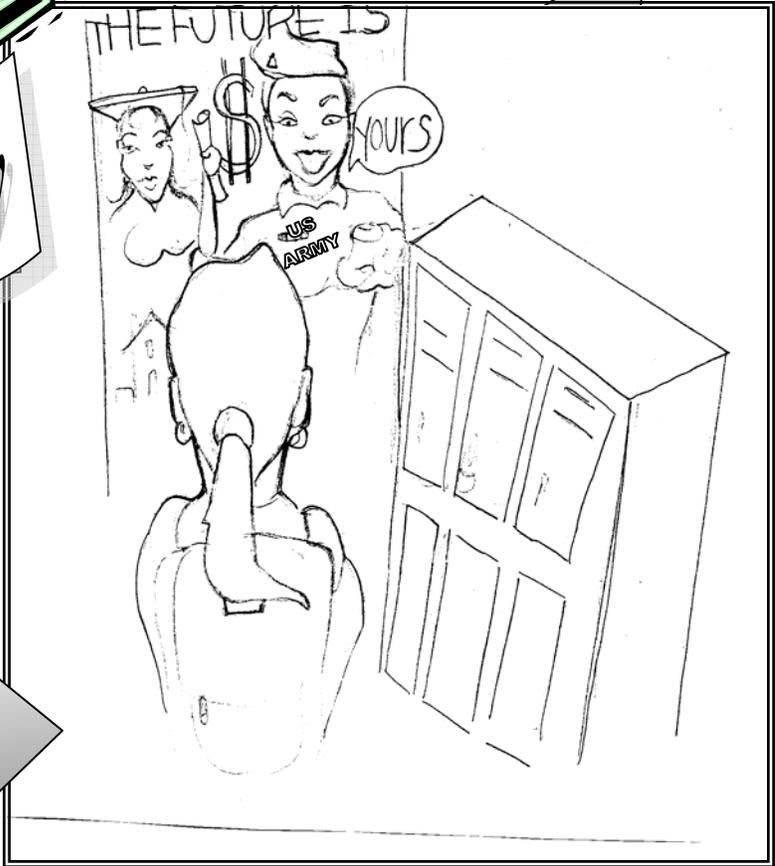


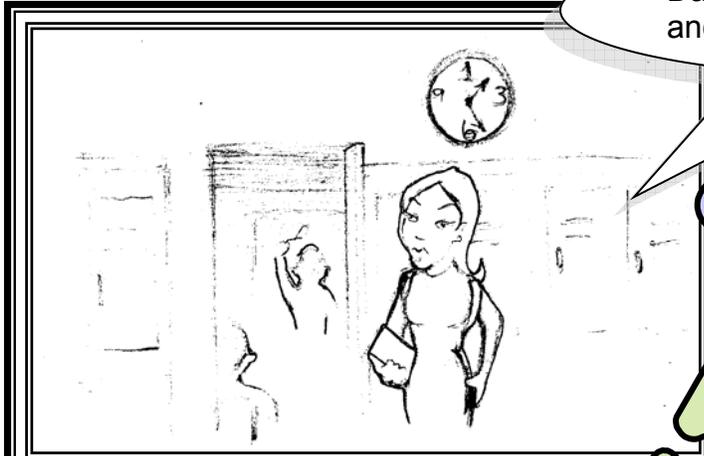


*A Career in the Military*

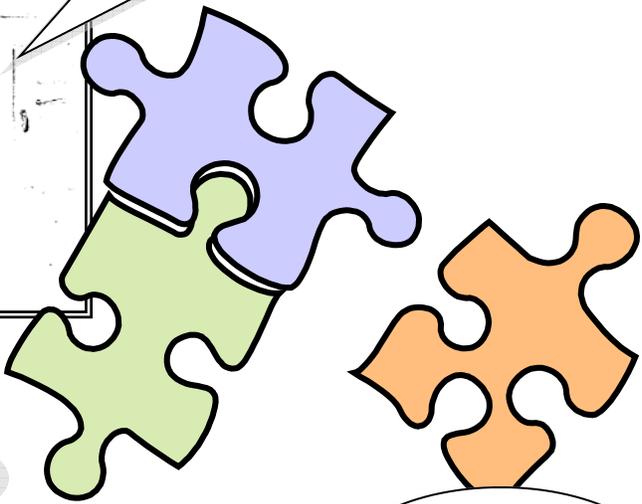


*The Future is Yours*





Damn. I'm late to class again, and Mr. Ceja's is gonna be mad.

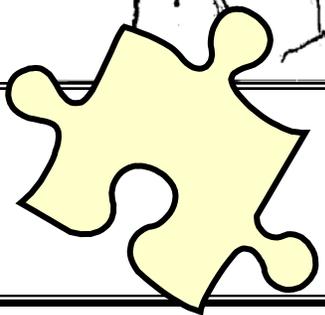


Thanks to the wisdom of our Founding Fathers...



What about the Founding Mothers?

Well, that's all the time we have for that. Today we have a special guest - Sgt. Gonzalez is here to tell us about exciting opportunities in the U.S. Army.



The Army is a great learning experience. You'll get to travel around the world. But tell me, what are your dreams?



I want a world where women are respected and where they have the same rights as men. I want to invite other women to make this world less male-dominated.

That's a very realistic dream. Just join the military and you'll see that can come true. You'll be respected the same as any other man! So come out today at lunch on the quad. Our recruiting van will be there.



I'll be waiting for you.



What are all those vans on the fields?



Free stuff?!

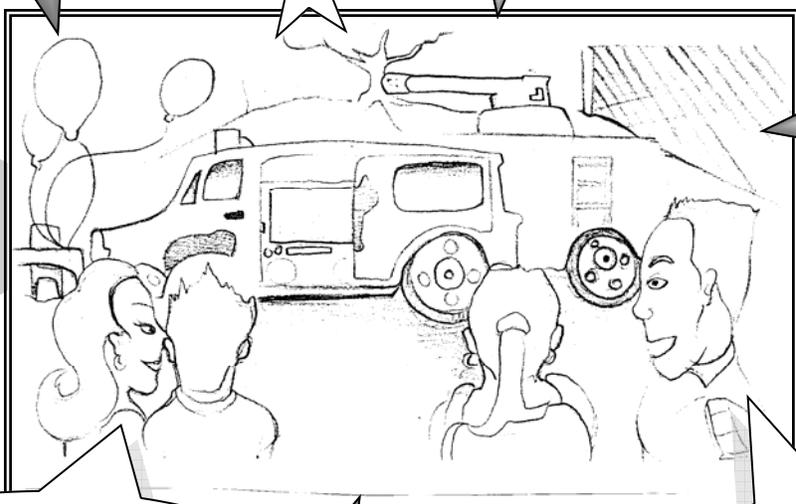
Come on!

Are we going, or not?

Lt. Gonzalez - from the Army said those vans are giving out free T-shirts and jackets if you enlist.

And he said the Army is a great learning experience. It'll help you reach your dreams.

I bet boot camp would help me get in shape. Hey, if it helps me lose weight, then okay!



If it treats women equally, and benefits my college achievements... then yes!

I knew you'd come! So you want to be part of the Army of One?

Hello,  
who is this?

This is Sergeant  
Gonzalez. May I  
please speak to  
Alejandra?

No, she's helping  
her mother cook  
dinner

Well, I spoke with  
your daughter  
today and...

What's this  
nonsense with  
Sergeant Gonzalez?!

It's nothing. I just...  
I told you I want to go  
to college!

You're not going  
to college.  
You're just a  
woman!

I'm tired of your sexist ideas.  
Always making Mom feel like she's  
nothing. Always demeaning women! I  
am pulling out the recruitment papers  
and filling them out. If you won't help  
me go to college, maybe the Army will!

4 months later

Private Guttierrez,  
report to the main office.  
Now!

Yes, Maam!

Come in,  
Private.

Pick that up,  
woman!

Watch out! Those  
men, they can be  
rowdy around here!  
Stay close to me, I  
can protect you.

Dear Josephine, You're the only one I can tell. I can't tell anyone else around here because he's an officer. I thought it was just 'boys being boys', but it ended up being rape. I don't want to put up with it for four more years. Help me, what can I do?



*Alejandra thought that the military was a way to escape sexism at home, but it didn't turn out that way.*

**FACT:** Various surveys show that up to 86% of women veterans reported sexual harassment, up to one-third of whom were raped.

**SOURCE:** Department of Veteran Affairs, *The Prevalence of Physical and Sexual Abuse in Women Veterans Seeking Care at a Veterans Affairs Medical Center*, 1996.

L. D. Bastian, A. R. Lancaster, *Department of Defense Sexual Harassment Survey*, 1995.

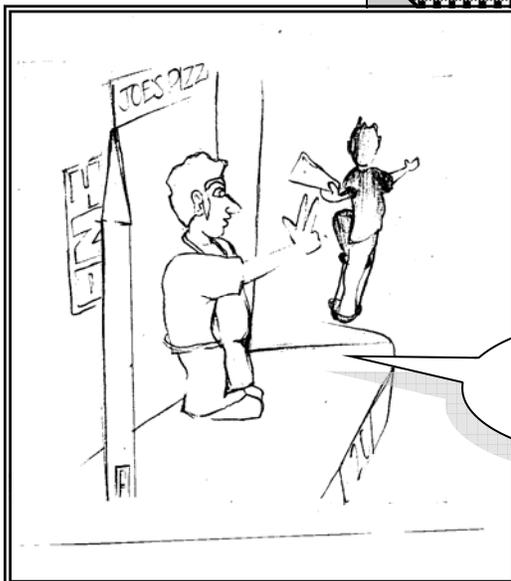
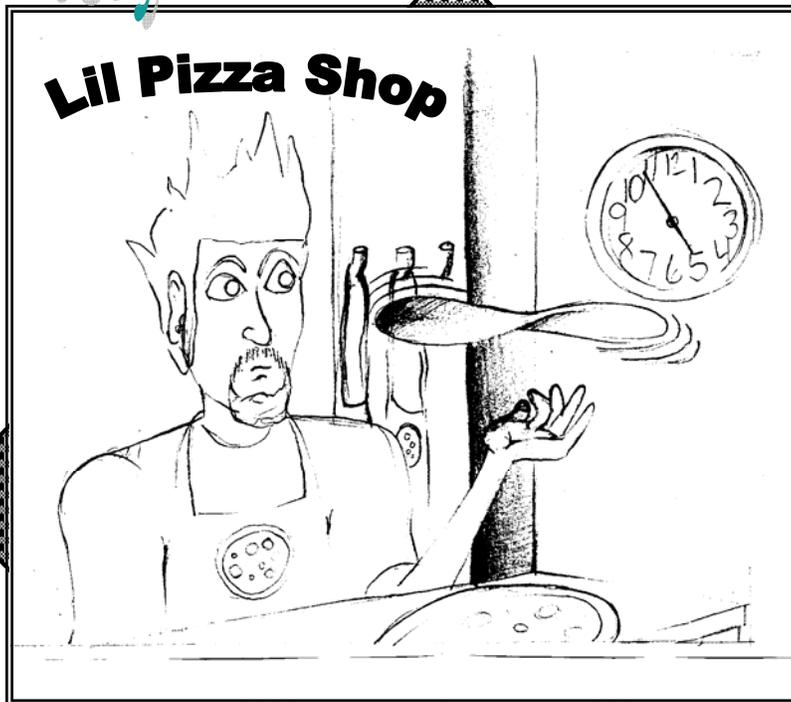
M. Murdoch, K.L. Nichol, *Women veterans' experiences with domestic violence and with sexual harassment while in the military*, 1995.

**FACT:** The Uniform code of Military Justice essentially makes you become military property. You lose various constitutional rights which are replaced with rights afforded by the UCMJ. You lose your rights to come and go freely. You are ordered around for hours a day, and can be punished by your commander without trial or jury.

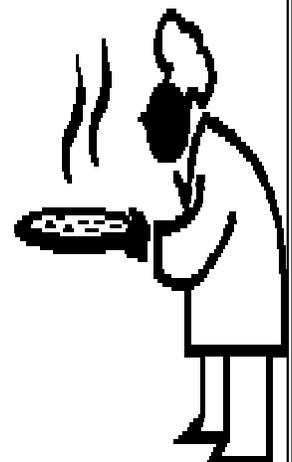
**SOURCE:** United States Code, Title 10, Chapter 47.

David makes pizzas with one eye on the clock. When it turns 5, he peels off his pizza shirt, jumps on his skateboard, and heads toward the door. He whizzes past his manager who holds his check, grabs it and is gone into the night.

# David's Story



Hey buddy, lets go home.



David comes through the door of his mom's one-bedroom apartment. He holds out his paycheck. Last week, Mario, David's little brother, wiped out on a skateboard, losing a tooth...



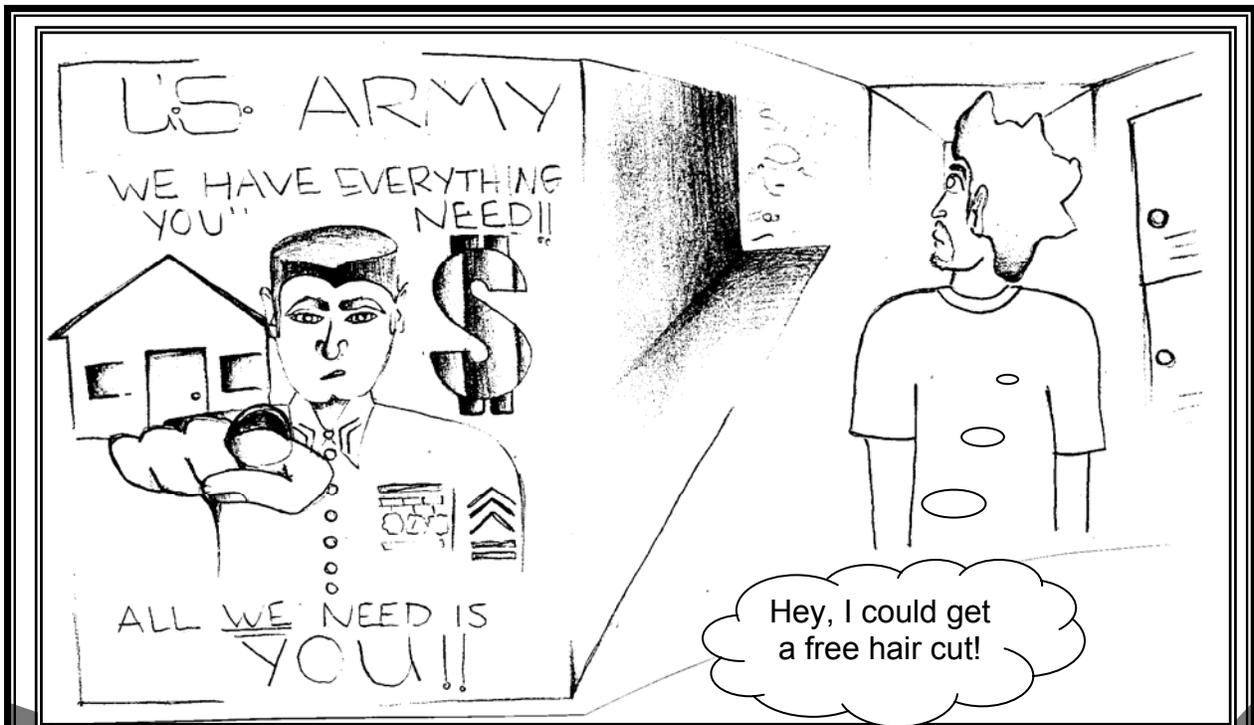
Mom!  
I'm home!  
I did some extra  
hours this week  
to pay for  
Mario's little  
accident.



You know, the phone  
bill is due this  
Tuesday... and the  
rent... and Mario's  
school uniforms...  
maybe we can buy  
them next week if  
you work some extra  
hours?

OK, Mom.  
I'll just put in  
some  
extra hours.





*After seeing a poster at school, David goes to a recruiter.*

If I enlist in the Army, how can that help me with my money problems?

The Army will train you for a good paying job and the GI bill offers a lot of money for college.

**FACT:** Veterans average only 1.78 months of training in 31 months of active duty.

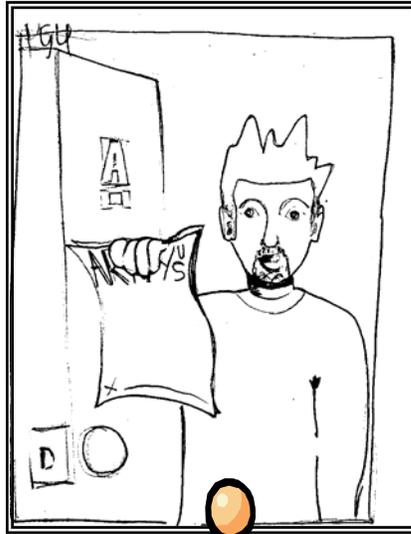
**SOURCE:** R. Bryant, A. Wilhite, Military Experience and Training Effects on Civilian Wages, Applied Economics, Vol. 22, issue 1, January 1999, p. 69-81.

**FACT:** Many military jobs are so different from civilian jobs that you may not be able to use your training after you leave the military.

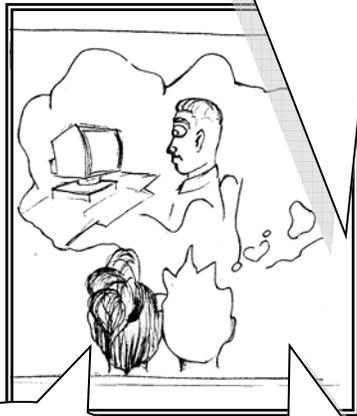
**FACT:** Only half of recruits applying and qualifying for military college money ("GI Bill Benefits") actually receive funds. Most of these (84%) receive only the basic benefit, and less than a quarter attend a four-year college.

**SOURCE:** Department of Veteran Affairs, 2000.

David bursts through the door of his mom's apartment with his recruitment papers.



Hey, Mom! Look! I'm going to get free computer training. I'll get a great job. No more pizzas!



A goodbye party for David



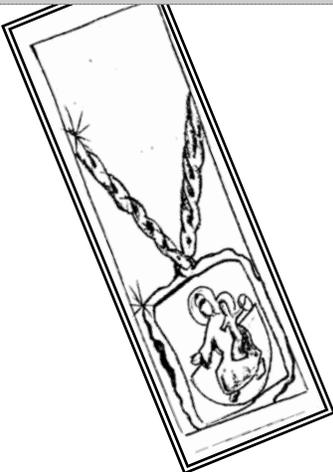
Are you sure you want to do this?

They will really take care of me, Mom. And then I can take care of you and Mario!

To our country's protectors. We'll miss you!

I got this to protect you when you're in danger

David's mother gives him a medallion of the Virgin Mary and places it around his neck.

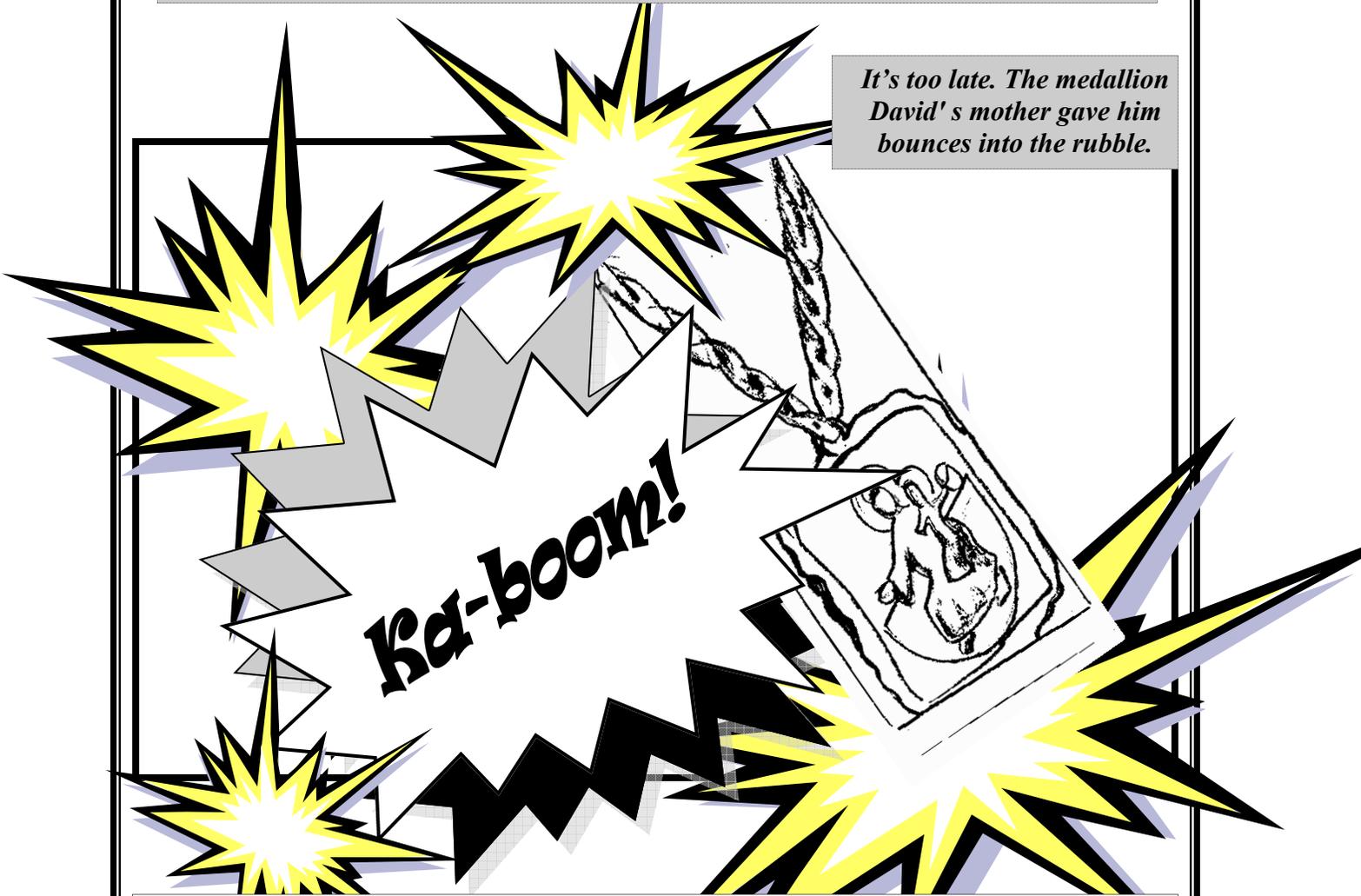


Thanks, Mom. I'll never take it off.

## 6 months later - Iraq

*David on patrol. A bombed-out building. Shooting. A fire-fight breaks out. The Captain calls for them to pull back. Again the Captain calls, "Pull back!" David starts to pull back, looks into the building, and sees a young boy crouched beneath the rubble. Joshua runs and grabs the boy, and starts to run for safety. The Captain keeps calling - Pull back! We've called in an air strike!*

*It's too late. The medallion David's mother gave him bounces into the rubble.*



**FACT:** On Veterans' Day 2003, the President signed into law a provision doubling the death benefit for soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan – to a whopping \$12,000

**SOURCE:** American Forces Press Service, November 2003.

**FACT:** One third of homeless persons are estimated to be veterans. Many veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

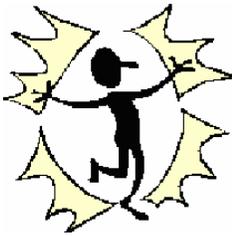
**SOURCE:** National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients (NSHAPC), 1996.

**FACT:** In the first two years, more than 1,500 US soldiers and an estimated 100,000 Iraqi civilians and soldiers were killed.

**SOURCE:** Veteransforpeace.org, iraqbodycount.net, other web sites and news agencies.

# GREAT CAREERS AND COLLEGE MONEY

## *Without joining the military*



There are many opportunities for training and education that can lead to **rewarding, exciting, and well-paid jobs and careers**, as well as for **money for college or other higher education and training**. **You don't have to have a high school diploma or GED** for many of these opportunities.

### **Job Training Opportunities**

Job training is offered by many different institutions, such as labor unions, occupational centers, private nonprofit, city, county, state, and federal agencies. Labor unions throughout the country run **apprenticeship programs**. These are an excellent chance to learn on the job while you train for a wide variety of careers. Apprenticeships usually include a salary and benefits. Other programs can include travel, housing, and even food!

Cities and school districts offer so-called *Regional Occupational Programs*. Ask your high school counselor for addresses.

Job Corps offers jobs and training, and even housing and food. Go to <http://jobcorps.doleta.gov> or call (877) US 2 JOBS.

U.S. Government jobs can be found at [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov).

A large union that offers apprenticeships is the Service Employees International Union ([www.seiu.org](http://www.seiu.org)). And there are many others unions, too. Get a good overview at [www.calapprenticeship.org/programs](http://www.calapprenticeship.org/programs) (a California web site with links to unions in most other states).

### **College and Other Higher Education Money Opportunities**

College can be cheaper than you think. A 2-year associate's degree at a public community college averages around only \$1,200, depending on where you live and how many classes are required.

To get money from the government, go to your high school or college counselor and ask for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA).

The Corporation for National Service hire tens of thousands of people a year to do rewarding, interesting work while earning money for college. Find out more at [www.nationalservice.org](http://www.nationalservice.org) or (800) 942-2677.

There are also private scholarships, grants and loans. Good places to start getting information are [www.objector.org](http://www.objector.org) and [www.college411.org](http://www.college411.org).

### **Job Placement and Career Planning Opportunities**

All kinds of support for making informed career decisions can be found at America's Career InfoNet website: [www.acinet.org/acinet](http://www.acinet.org/acinet).

In your area, ask a high school counselor for so-called *Career One-Stop Centers*. They list jobs, offer trainings and provide free internet access.



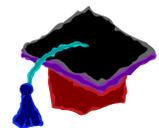
**The Great Outdoors**



**Agriculture & Farming**



**Arts  
Entertainment  
& Multimedia**



**Teaching**



**Mechanics:  
Automotive  
& Aviation**



**Cargo & Shipping  
Services**



**Business  
& Finance**



15



**Construction**

# Ten Points to Consider Before You Sign a Military Enlistment Agreement

## **1. Do not make a quick decision by enlisting the first time you see a recruiter or when you are upset.**

A recruiter is a salesperson who will give only a positive, one-sided picture of life in the military. Don't make this important decision when you are depressed, hard up for work, confused, unsure about your future, or pressured by your family. This decision affects many years of your life; don't make it lightly.

## **2. Take a witness with you when you speak with a recruiter.**

There is a lot of information to take in. A friend can take notes and help you ask questions.

## **3. Talk to veterans.**

Veterans can give you their view of military life, good and bad.

## **4. Consider your moral feelings about going to war.**

The mission of the military is to prepare for and wage war. Are you willing to kill another person if ordered to do so? Would you be willing to fight in any war, no matter what the reason? If you would have trouble engaging in war or in killing, you should not consider enlisting. If you become opposed to war after you join, you may try to get a discharge, but it is a long, difficult, and uncertain process.

## **5. Get a copy of the enlistment agreement.**

Read the fine print carefully, especially the part about what the military can order you to do. You have a right to take it home, look it over, and ask others about it.

## **6. There is no “period of adjustment” during which you may request and receive an immediate honorable discharge.**

Once you have left for basic training, you must fulfill the entire number of years (usually eight, with some of these in the Reserves) on your enlistment contract. You cannot leave of your own free will. In contrast, however, the military may decide you are “unsuitable” and discharge you without your consent.

## **7. Get all your recruiter's promises in writing,**

but also remember that the military can change the terms—such as pay, job, or benefits—of your work. Though there are no guarantees, a written statement may offer you (as a service member) some protection if promises are not met. However, the enlistment agreement is more binding on you than on the military. You are ultimately responsible for information on the form, so don't tell lies, even if pressured.

## **8. There are no job guarantees in the military.**

The military is not required to keep you on a full-time or permanent basis in the job you trained for. In fact, most recruiters were assigned to recruiting jobs against their will. The kind of job you get depends mostly on what jobs the military needs to fill. Most military jobs are in areas that account for only a small percentage of civilian jobs.

## **9. Military personnel may not exercise all of the civil liberties enjoyed by civilians.**

You will not have the same constitutional rights. Your rights to free speech, assembly, petition, and exercise of individual expression, such as clothing or hairstyle, will be restricted. You will be required to follow all orders given to you, whether you agree with them and consider them right or fair.

## **10. Many other opportunities exist for you to serve your community and enhance your skills.**

Before you decide to enlist, check out other options that would help you “be all you can be.” Travel, education, money for school, job training, and adventure can all be found in other ways. Your local community may even have opportunities that you haven't considered.

## **Learn more**

To learn more about these issues, check out our web site. It offers up-to-date information about military recruitment, what it is like inside the military, and alternatives to the military.

**[www.afsc.org/youthmil.htm](http://www.afsc.org/youthmil.htm)**  
American Friends Service Committee

"War is the enemy of the poor." *Martin Luther King*

"Be studious, stay in school and stay away from the military. I mean it."  
*Marine Staff Sgt. Russell Slay, giving instructions to his 5-year-old son, Walker, in a letter to his family shortly before he was killed. He was one of 12 soldiers from Texas killed in Iraq during the month of November 2004.*



**American Friends  
Service Committee**