

War. A possible draft.
Military programs and recruiters in our schools.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Produced by the Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft, San Diego.

There is a lot of concern right now about how war may affect our children, loved ones, friends and ourselves. The chances of a draft occurring anytime soon are actually very slim, but it's a good idea to learn ahead of time how it might work and who could be drafted. A more immediate problem is the increased militarism in our schools, media and culture that is conditioning us to accept war and paving the way for a draft in the future. Also, many young people who are joining the military right now are actually being "drafted" because they come from low-income families or communities where youths are not given enough options besides the military.

People should be worried about the impact of war and a possible draft on themselves and their loved ones, but they should also be concerned about the many others who might be taken or recruited by the military. And everyone should worry about the long-term consequences for our country when we let the Pentagon expand its presence and influence in elementary, middle and high schools. That's where the seeds of war and militarism are planted, and that's where we can do something to stop it!

What high school students can do

- If you are a high school student who is 18 or older, request that your name not be included if student directory information is to be released to the military. This is your right under the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA). [PLEASE SEE BOX ON REVERSE]
- Learn about your free speech rights at school. Exercise your right to put up posters and distribute literature with alternative views on war, JROTC and military recruiting.
- Oppose the introduction of high school military training programs like JROTC.
- Create clubs to educate other students about peace and social justice issues.
- When the military is going to be present at your school, ask that community groups with alternative views be invited to give the other side.
- Learn how a draft would work and what the possible consequences are for registering or not registering for it.
- If you know someone who has changed her/his mind after enlisting in the military, have her/him contact one of the groups listed at the end of this flier for help.

Please turn over

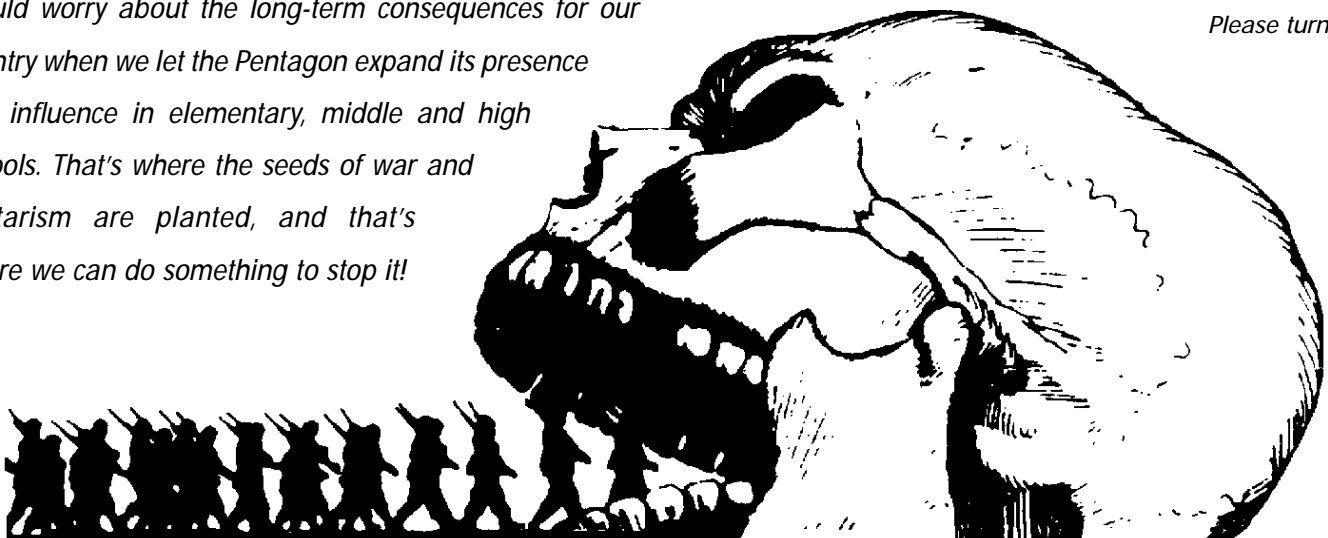


ILLUSTRATION: SOUTHERN EXPOSURE / CPP

WHAT YOU CAN DO

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What parents can do

- Complain when schools allow the military to use school partnerships to propagandize and recruit students. If members of a military unit, base or ship want to support local education, ask that they donate their services out of uniform and just like any other business or group, without promoting their organization or its special interests.
- If you have sons or daughters in high school, request that their names not be included if student directory information is to be released to the military. This is your legal right under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Campaign to get your school district to require that all parents and students be given a form to use to make this request at the beginning of each school year.
- Contact a draft counseling group to learn about draft registration and how conscription would work if it were activated in the future.
- Oppose militaristic programs in middle schools, like the Young Marines, Starbase Atlantis and the Cadet Corps.

Military Recruiting and School Lists

A federal law passed in early 2002 says that schools must surrender lists of students' names, addresses and phone numbers to military recruiters who request them. But the law also allows students to choose not to be included when the list is released. Schools must also notify students of this right to "opt out."

To take advantage of this right, students and parents should mail a letter to the school district headquarters, with a copy to the principal, stating that as provided under federal law, they are directing that no information about the student be released to the armed forces or its representatives. To be safe, send the letter via certified mail from the local Post Office station.

To ensure better privacy protection, school districts can make it a policy to require that all students complete a form at the beginning of each school year that indicates whether or not they want their names released to the military. If your district doesn't already do this, organize a campaign to get such a policy adopted.

What everyone in the community can do

- Campaign for your school district to allow military recruiters at school *only* when representatives will also be present from civilian employers, colleges and universities.
- Oppose the introduction of military training programs like JROTC in local high schools; propose the termination of existing JROTC units.
- Help distribute counter-recruitment literature and information to high schools; contact groups that already do this or start one if none exists locally.
- Support campaigns in Congress to end draft registration.
- Oppose any further congressional efforts to force schools to drop all restrictions on military recruiter access to campuses and student lists.

For more information on these issues, including useful organizing resources, contact these groups.

Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft (COMD)

P.O. Box 15195, San Diego, CA 92175
619-265-1369, 760-753-7518; www.comdsd.org

AFSC Youth & Militarism Program

1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-241-7176; www.afsc.org/youthmil.htm

Center on Conscience and War/NISBCO

1830 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009
202-483-2220; www.nisbco.org

Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO)

630 20th St., #302, Oakland, CA 94612
510-465-1617; www.objector.org

Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (Project YANO)

P.O. Box 230157, Encinitas, CA 92023
760-634-3604; www.projectyano.org

War Resisters League

339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012
212-228-0450; www.warresisters.org