

IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR presents: ***THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT RECRUITERS PROMISE***

- “I can promise you won’t go to Iraq or Afghanistan because of your assigned Military Occupational Specialty/Duty Station/branch of service/reserve or guard status/because I say so.”
Recruiters can promise this, but their word means nothing to the people who will actually decide what the military does with you. A lot of the people who join the military today will go to Iraq or Afghanistan. Some of them won’t come home. Personnel from the Navy and Air Force are being pulled as “Individual Mobilization Augmentees” to run convoys in Iraq after a two-week crash course. The Marine Corps has even sent band members to Iraq for combat missions.
- “You can choose active duty or reserves and an enlistment period of two years, four years, or more, depending on the commitment you want to make. When you complete your enlistment, you can get out and won’t be called back.”
Every contract is for a period of eight years including time in the inactive reserves. The contract you sign is unilateral, meaning it only binds you, not the military. You can choose what that contract says, but it does not stop the military from putting you on stop-loss or involuntarily extending you. At least 80,000 military personnel have been affected by these policies since 9/11. Section C, Paragraph 9 of the enlistment contract states: "Laws 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/reenlistment document."
- “If you’re enlisted in the Delayed Entry Program (DEP) you can’t get out of serving.”
It’s easy to get out: just don’t show up. Recruiters will tell you that you will go to jail if you don’t, but that’s just another lie. For more information, go to www.girights.org or call 1.800.394.9544.
- “If you don’t like it, you can get out at any time with a ‘failure to adapt’ discharge.”
There are a variety of unpleasant ways to get out of the military, but “not liking it” is not one of them. If you refuse to train, the drill sergeants will use any means available to keep you in. If the command finally decides that discharge is the only option, the process may take months to complete.
- “You will get plenty of money to get a college degree when you get out of the military, as well as numerous chances to get ahead on your education while still on active duty.”
On average, the Montgomery GI Bill will only cover 1/2 the cost of a public college and 1/5 the cost of a private college. In order to get that money for college after you get off active duty, you have to contribute money to the fund from the day they start paying you. So many servicemen are disqualified from getting that money that the military *makes money* from the program. But even if you do qualify, it’s very difficult to apply for college while in Iraq, and even more difficult psychologically to go straight from combat to a classroom.

“Before you become a weapon of your democracy, ready to fight and die and kill in the name of the United States of America, you need to have the utmost faith in that democracy.” – Adam Kokesh, Iraq Veterans Against the War, USMC, Fallujah, Feb-Sep 2004



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