

RESOURCES:

CAMS (Coalition Against Militarism in Our Schools)

www.militaryfreeschools.org

www.projectgreatfutures.org

626-483-6160

GI Rights Hotline

1-800-394-9544

www.girights.org

SWAN (Service Women's Action Network).

supportwomenvets@gmail.com

War Resisters League

339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012

Tel: 212-228-0450, 877-269-0138

Fax: 212-228-6193

wrl@warresisters.org

<http://warresisters.org>

Women of Color Resource Center

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Tel: 510-444-2700

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WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE



Women of Color Resource Center

For bulk copies of this brochure, please call 212.228.0450 or visit www.warresisters.org

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**WHAT EVERY
GIRL SHOULD
KNOW ABOUT
THE U.S. MILITARY**

**CONSIDER THIS -
BEFORE YOU ENLIST.**



WHAT WOMEN VETERANS HAVE TO SAY

"Being a soldier is not the same as being a warrior. When I heard the enemy territory in Iraq being called 'Indian country,' I stood there wondering if I was fighting on the wrong side. As a Native American woman, I no longer take orders from those who continue to see me as the enemy. Instead I am creating an alternate path of peace for young sisters who are considering the military."

- Eli PaintedCrow , US Army 1981-2005



"I joined the service to have the opportunity to go to school and serve my country as a proud American. After being raped while in the military, I could not go to school because of my depression. I lost my marriage, went into debt because I could not go to work, and almost lost my life after my suicide attempt."

-Maricela Guzman, US Navy, 1998-2002



"My recruiter promised me freedom and respect in the military. Sure, they taught me to take their abuse 'like a man,' but I felt more trapped and afraid in uniform than when I was in high school. I didn't know that the military doesn't honor its promise to pay for school. I left college with over \$30,000 in debt and orders to go to war."

-Aimee Allison , U.S. Army Medic, 1987-1993



"I was promised a very interesting life in the military, great benefits: money for education, good health care, traveling, moving up the ranks

quickly, a job training of my choice and many more! Yet that wasn't all true. The best thing you'll ever do is to talk to another female veteran who has been there already. It's not all that great like they say it will be!"

-Elouise Brown, U.S. Army, 1989-2004

YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT...

Rape, Harassment and Sexual Assault

Thousands of service women are harassed or sexually assaulted each year. Many don't report incidents for fear they will be ignored, exposed or punished.

One study concluded that sexual assault is three to ten times more prevalent for women serving in the armed forces than for women in the general population.

Nearly one-third of a nationwide sample of female veterans who sought health care through the VA said they experienced rape or attempted rape during their service. Of that group, 37 percent said they were raped multiple times, and 14 percent reported they were gang-raped.

Over the past 10 years, more than 700 army recruiters have been accused of sexual misconduct or rape.



Psychological Trauma

Women in the military are at high risk for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Many experience both the trauma of combat and the trauma of sexual assault.

More than 25 percent of soldiers and marines reported experiencing depression, anxiety, PTSD or alcohol misuse after deployment to Iraq.

More than one-third of the 23,635 women veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan and were evaluated at VA health facilities between 2002 and 2006 had a preliminary diagnosis of a mental disorder.

The Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration cannot provide adequate care for all those who need treatment for service-related mental health problems.

CONSIDER THE REALITIES...

Myths

By the time you join up, finish basic training and job training, you won't be deployed to Iraq.

Legally, women cannot be placed in combat positions.

You'll receive bonus money, free college education, and health care.

Military service will make you a strong, independent woman.

Realities

Over 155,000 women have been deployed to Iraq & Afghanistan since 2002.

Every position in Iraq is a combat position; women are in greater danger than ever before. Dozens of women have been killed. Hundreds return home wounded.

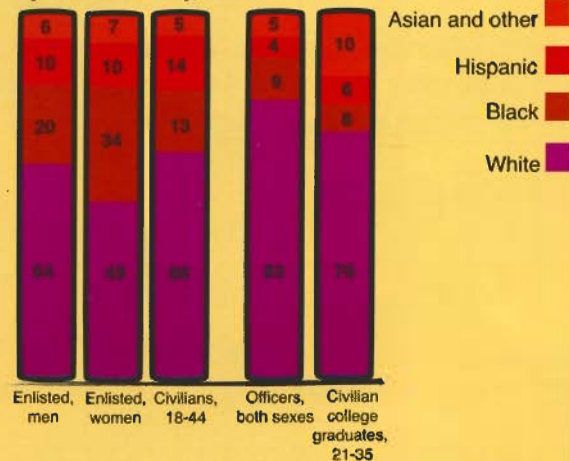
Military recruiters won't tell you how hard it is to access benefits.

The military takes away your voice as a woman and trains you to follow orders – no questions asked.

WHO SERVES?

American Indian, Latino, Asian-American and African-American youth are especially targeted for recruitment. Young women and men of color are over-represented in the armed forces and under-represented on college campuses.

Active Duty Military and Civilians by Race/Ethnicity, 2002



Source: DoD, Population Representation in the Military Services, FY2002 (2004); tables 4.5 and b-24, and page 4-9.

Sources:

"Task Force Report on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault," Department of Defense, April 2004, <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/May2004/d20040513SATFRreport.pdf>

"Sexual Abuse by Military Recruiters," http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/08/19/national/main1913849_page2.shtml

"Stresses of War Take Toll on Female Veterans," VFW Magazine, March 2007, http://www.vfw.org/resources/levelmagazine/0703_Women%20Vets%20and%20Stress.pdf

"A Considerable Sacrifice: The Costs of Sexual Violence in the U.S. Military," September 2005, <http://www.law.buffalo.edu/baldycenter/pdfs/MilCult05Hansen.pdf>

"The Women's War," New York Times, March 18, 2007 <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/18/magazine/18cover.html?pagewanted=5&ei=5088&en=823808201240cefd&ex=1331870400&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>