



Full Disclosure Recruiting

A Presentation by
The Santa Fe Chapter of
Veterans for Peace

The Mission

Young people are making irrevocable decisions with lifelong impact based on false, incomplete, or misleading pretenses that end up costing lives.

The Veterans for Peace full-disclosure program enables young people to make informed decisions about serving their country.

Background: Full Disclosure as an American Principle

- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products
- Food labeling is required for most prepared foods, such as breads, cereals, canned and frozen foods, snacks, desserts, drinks, etc.
- SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema, And May Complicate Pregnancy.
- Former Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge, has proposed that publicly traded companies be required to disclose how they are protecting the security...

Question

- Shouldn't the principle of full disclosure apply to one of the most important decisions a young American can make: the decision to put one's life on the line in service to the country that we love?

One Answer

- The US Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit states that the question of military service is a controversial political issue, and if a school establishes a forum for one side to present its views, it must give opponents equal access to the forum. [790 F.2D 1471]

What We Propose

- Teams from Veterans for Peace will provide information to students in five venues:
 - As classroom guests (e.g. history, health, or social studies classes)
 - In student assemblies
 - In “drop-in” offices if those made available to recruiters
 - At job and college fairs
 - Wherever recruiters’ information is posted

What We Propose

- Teams from Veterans for Peace will also provide information to faculty, counselors, and administrators inasmuch as they are targeted for special influence efforts by recruiters.

What We Propose (cont'd)

- Information will include
 - Questions students should ask recruiters
 - Alternatives to military financing for college
 - Alternative service to the nation
 - Facts related to job training opportunities in the military and elsewhere
 - VA and DoD data related to Women in the Military
 - The “fine print” on enlistment contracts
 - Data on the Montgomery GI Bill benefits

What we will and will not do!

- We will provide honest, documented information to facilitate mature, deliberate decisions
- We will NOT tell students either to join or not to join the military. It is their decision to make. But they should make that decision only on the basis of complete information.

Sources of Information

- Department of Defense Publications
- Veterans Administration Publications
- Academic and Foundation Studies
- Our personal experiences

Our Approach to the Schools

- Met with District Sup't, Dr. Gloria Rendon
 - Approved the program in principle and recommended meeting with Director of Curriculum and the Curriculum Council
- Met with the Curriculum Council at their January Meeting.
 - No action required.
 - Note (Previous Director of Curriculum approved the program with enthusiasm and stated she would recommend the program to the high school principals)
- Now meeting with high school principals seeking
 - Endorsement of program
 - Approval to implement in early 2005
 - Guidance on procedures to be followed in implementation

What we want from you

- The go-ahead
- Agreement on “ground rules”
- Establishment of open communications
- Access to teachers, counselors, administrators
- Information on current recruiter practices

A Post-script

- We are aware that Paragraph 2, Sub-section (a) of Section 9528 of Public Law 107-110 requires you to provide recruiters with contact information for 11th and 12th grade students.
- As veterans who have served their government honorably, we believe that young men and women should not be subjected to these invasions of privacy without the informed consent of both them and their parents.
- We therefore propose to work with you to ensure that parents and students are made aware of the opt-out provisions. Sample letters follow.

Sample Parent Letter

(to be available in English & Spanish)

Dear Principal of

_____ High School:

I, (parent name), am writing on behalf of my child, (child name), to request that you do not make my child's name, address or telephone listing available for military recruitment purposes as is provided for under Paragraph 2, Subsection (a) of Section 9528 of Public Law 107-110. I look forward to your prompt response to this letter.

Sincerely, (sign with your signature, your name typed or printed, and the date)

Sample Student Letter

(to be available in English & Spanish)

Dear Principal of

_____ High School:

I, (student name), am writing to request that you do not make my name, address or telephone listing available for military recruitment purposes as is provided for under Paragraph 2, Subsection (a) of Section 9528 of Public Law 107-110. I look forward to your prompt response to this letter.

Sincerely, (sign with student's signature, name typed or printed, and the date)