

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MILITARY RECRUITMENT AND STUDENTS' RIGHTS

The US Military is aggressively recruiting young people for military service. While enlisting in the armed services may be the right choice for many people, it is important that students and families know how to protect their rights in recruiting situations.

Recruiters often target immigrants, students from poor families and people of color. The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) gives military recruiters access to students' personal information and allows them to recruit at public schools, where they often spend time with students in class, during breaks and at extracurricular activities. In addition, the Department of Defense (DOD) spends millions of dollars on a database called JAMRS that is used to collect information about young people for purposes of recruiting.

You can keep your personal information—or your child's—private by opting out of NCLB and JAMRS. This pamphlet will tell you how to opt out, and answer some of the questions you might have about recruiting. For more information, visit the NYCLU's Project on Military Recruitment and Students' Rights at [www.nyclu.org/milrec](http://www.nyclu.org/milrec).

### WHAT INFORMATION CAN MILITARY RECRUITERS GET FROM MY SCHOOL?

Military recruiters can ask for students' names, birthdays, home addresses and telephone numbers. This information is called "directory information." Your school is required to give directory information to recruiters unless you or your parents opt out.

### CAN I STOP MY SCHOOL FROM GIVING MY INFORMATION TO RECRUITERS?

Yes. The school must give students and parents the chance to "opt out." The school cannot release directory information for students who have opted out (or whose parents have).

### HOW DO I OPT OUT?

Schools must provide students

and parents with opt-out forms. Fill out that form or a written request and return it to your school. There is also an opt-out form in this pamphlet that you can fill out and give to your principal. Either a student or a parent may opt out. Students do not need a parent's signature, but if a student opts out, the school will usually notify the parent of that decision.

### DO I HAVE TO BE 18 OR OLDER TO OPT OUT?

No. Students of any age can opt out of NCLB and do not need parent's permission to do so. To opt out of the JAMRS database, students must be 15-and-a-half or older (see below).

### IF I OPT OUT, WILL COLLEGES AND JOB RECRUITERS HAVE ACCESS TO MY INFORMATION?

Your school should allow you to opt out of military recruitment while remaining on college or job recruiting lists. It should also give you the option of keeping your information private from all types of recruiters.

### WHAT IS THE ASVAB EXAM?

ASVAB, or Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, is a standardized test that the military uses to determine if you are qualified to enlist. It is also used to collect your personal information—even if you have opted out. Only your principal can keep your information private on the ASVAB. To do so, he or she must select privacy "Option 8" on the ASVAB administrative forms. Before you take the ASVAB, ask your principal about the type of information your school releases. The ASVAB exam should be voluntary, and no student

should be forced to take it.

### I AM A NON-CITIZEN. ARE THERE CONSEQUENCES FOR ME OR MY FAMILY IF I OPT OUT?

No. You have the same privacy rights as other students. You do not have to answer recruiters' questions, including questions about your immigration status.

### DOES THE MILITARY HAVE OTHER WAYS OF GETTING MY INFORMATION?

Yes. Information from schools is only one part of DOD's military recruitment effort. There is also a program called JAMRS—a registry of 30 million Americans between the ages of 16 and 25. JAMRS may have your name, birthday, address, email address, phone number, GPA, college plans, standardized test scores, race, ethnicity and other information.

## OPT OUT OF THE JAMRS DATABASE

### JAMRS Database Opt-Out Form

The other side of this page contains an opt-out form that any parent, legal guardian or student aged 15-and-a-half or older may use to keep the information in the JAMRS database out of the hands of military recruiters.

To use the form, cut along the dotted line, fill out the form, place it in an envelope and mail it to:

Joint Advertising and Marketing Research & Studies  
Direct Marketing Program Officer  
Attention: Opt Out  
4040 North Fairfax Drive, Ste. 200  
Arlington, VA 22203-1613

## NCLB HIGH SCHOOL OPT-OUT FORM

The other side of this page contains an opt-out form that a student, parent or legal guardian can use to stop a school from releasing directory information to recruiters.

To use the form, cut along the dotted line, fill out the form, and give it to your principal or other administrator.

To Find Out More, Report a Violation or Get Involved:  
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NYCLU OFFICE

### HEADQUARTERS

New York, NY  
212.607.3300

CAPITAL REGION CHAPTER  
Albany, NY  
518.436.8594

### CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER

Syracuse, NY  
315.471.2821

GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER  
Rochester, NY  
585.454.4334

### NASSAU COUNTY CHAPTER

Hempstead, NY  
516.741.8520

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER  
Central Islip, NY  
631.650.2301

### LOWER HUDSON VALLEY CHAPTER

White Plains, NY  
914.997.7479

WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE  
Buffalo, NY  
716.852.4033

[WWW.NYCLU.ORG](http://WWW.NYCLU.ORG)

To opt out of the JAMRS Database, cut this form along the dotted line, fill it out, and mail it to the address listed here.

To withhold student information from recruiters, cut this form along the dotted line, fill it out, and return it to your principal.

## NCLB HIGH SCHOOL OPT-OUT FORM

PROHIBITING RELEASE OF STUDENT NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER

TO MILITARY RECRUITERS OR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Our school may be asked to provide the names and addresses of high school students to military, college and job recruiters. Please do not share my/my child's directory information with:

military recruiters  college and job recruiters

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

or

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

To withhold student information from recruiters, cut this form along the dotted line, fill it out, and return it to your principal.

## JAMRS DATABASE OPT-OUT FORM

Dear Direct Marketing Program Officer:

Please remove all information and data regarding the following individual from the JAMRS military recruitment database:

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To opt out of the JAMRS Database, cut this form along the dotted line, fill it out, and mail it to the address listed on the back.

### CAN I KEEP MY INFORMATION OUT OF THE JAMRS DATABASE?

Technically, no. JAMRS collects information from the Selective Service, DMV, standardized tests and commercial lists, so there is no way to keep your information out of the database. But if you send a request in writing to JAMRS headquarters, the DOD will put your info in a "suppression file," which means that recruiters will not have access to it. There's a form attached to this pamphlet that you can send in. You need to send a new opt-out form every time you change addresses.

### DO SCHOOLS HAVE TO ALLOW MILITARY RECRUITERS ON CAMPUS?

Usually, yes. Federal and state laws require that schools

give military recruiters "the same access" as college or job recruiters. So if your school has a job fair, for example, it has to allow military recruiters at the job fair. Military recruiters must be given the same access to students as other recruiters, but that does not mean greater or preferential access. They should never get access to classroom time, or try to recruit students in the cafeteria, hallways or gym, unless other college and job recruiters are given that opportunity.

### CAN STUDENT GROUPS OPPOSED TO THE MILITARY BRING OUTSIDE SPEAKERS TO CAMPUS?

It depends. Schools can choose whether to allow outside groups to visit the school. If your school allows any student group to invite outside speakers, it must allow all stu-

dent groups to invite outside speakers. And if a school allows the military to recruit on campus, it must allow organizations that offer information about jobs in the peace movement or other career alternatives.

### SOME SCHOOL DISTRICTS PROVIDE GREATER STUDENT PROTECTIONS. ASK YOUR PRINCIPAL OR SCHOOL BOARD FOR A COPY OF THESE POLICIES.

For detailed information about school districts in New York, visit [www.nyclu.org](http://www.nyclu.org).

### ARE THERE HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS WITH RECRUITING?

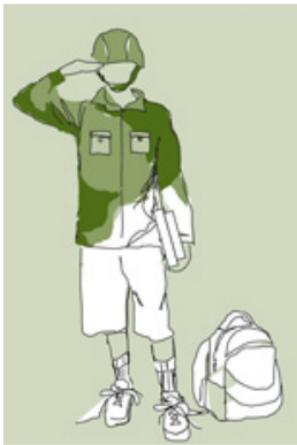
Yes. The United States is bound by an international human rights agreement called the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in

Armed Conflict. The Protocol protects the rights of youth by ensuring that military service and recruitment activities are completely voluntary. It prohibits the recruitment of youth 16 and younger for military service. In addition, it requires that recruitment of 17-year-olds be done on a voluntary basis, with the consent of a parent or guardian. Recruiters must fully inform youth of all service duties in order to ensure that participation is informed and truly voluntary.

IF YOU THINK YOUR SCHOOL OR A MILITARY RECRUITER IS VIOLATING YOUR RIGHTS, CONTACT THE NYCLU.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS WITH MILITARY RECRUITERS, VISIT: [www.nyclu.org/milrec](http://www.nyclu.org/milrec)

# NO STUDENT LEFT



## UNRECRUITED?

### Frequently Asked Questions about Military Recruitment and Students' Rights



New York Civil Liberties Union  
Project on Military Recruitment  
and Students' Rights  
125 Broad St. New York, NY 10004  
212.607.3300 / [www.nyclu.org](http://www.nyclu.org)