Important information about military recruitment for high school students

Federal law requires Portland Public Schools to allow military recruiters to speak with high school students during the school day. As a PPS high school student, you may encounter military recruiters at your high school. As you make decisions about your future, the school district wants to make sure that you have accurate information about military recruiting and service.

If you talk with a military recruiter

- Take along a friend who can help ask questions and listen to the answers that the recruiter gives you.
- Do not give any false information to the recruiter about anything — school records, police records or health issues — even if the recruiter tells you that it doesn’t matter.
- Get a copy of any papers you sign. It is your legal right to have a copy of what you sign.

Before you sign anything from a military recruiter

- Ask questions and make sure you understand the answers.
- Take all documents home before you sign them, and get advice from your parents, friends, counselors or other organizations. See the resource list below for organizations that can help you.
- Make sure that any promises the recruiter makes are in writing and signed by the recruiter. However, even if you sign the Enlistment/Reenlistment Contract or get promises from the recruiter in writing, there is no guarantee that promises will be kept. The Enlistment/Reenlistment Document states on page 2: “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.”
- Do not give any false information about your medical or legal history. If you do give false information, you can later be prosecuted by the military for fraudulent enlistment.
- Don’t rush! Enlisting with the military involves a commitment of at least eight years. Once you sign up, you cannot back out of your commitment.
- Military service is not the only option for getting a job or paying for college. Talk to your school counselor and check out these resources.

Counseling about military service

- The Military and Draft Counseling Project (503-238-0605)

Scholarships and school loans

- Northwest Education Loan Association (1-800-562-3001, www.nela.net; ask for a free copy of the booklet “Paying for College"
- U.S. Department of Education (1-800-433-3243, studentaid.ed.gov; ask for a copy of the “The Student Guide”)
- “The Scholarship Book,” available at your local public library
- FastWeb (www.collegelink.com)
- College Scholarships.org (www.collegescholarships.org)
- Opportunity Grant (www.getcollegefunds.org)
- Pacific Northwest Scholarship Guide (www.collegeplan.org)

Other job opportunities

- Americorps (www.americorps.org)
- Apprenticeships (www.boli.state.or.us)
- Oregon Tradeswomen (www.tradeswomen.net)