

Questions to Ask and Points to Consider Before You Enlist

How long is my enlistment commitment actually for?

Your enlistment period will last for 8 years. Some portion will be active duty and some portion will be on reserve duty. Reserve duty can be made active at any time. National Guard service may be made active duty overseas.

Am I guaranteed money for college if I want? *The benefits are not guaranteed. If you leave the service early, you will get reduced benefits. If you receive less than a fully honorable discharge, you will lose all GI bill benefits. Veterans who wish to attend college outside the state where they live may only get part of their tuition.*

Will the skills I learn in the military be useful in civilian life? *Many military jobs are very different from civilian job, so you may not be able to use your training after you leave the military. Training is designed for military jobs, not to help you get a civilian job later.*

What are the negative aspects of my training? *Studies show that people who are trained to kill and deal with the stress of warfare have a tendency towards later psychological problems. Post-traumatic stress disorder may develop when one experiences or witnesses a traumatic event such as combat or the effects of combat.*

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Explore All Your Options

Do not make a hasty decision by enlisting the first time you talk to a military recruiter or when you are upset. Before you join, take a good look at what you're getting into. Military people are sales people; their job is to sell you on enlistment. The decision to enlist will affect your life and the lives of others. Don't rush.

Get a copy of your enlistment agreement. Get help to understand it. If the recruiter will not give you one to take home and study, do not sign it!

Other opportunities exist for you to serve your country or community, to learn a skill, or pay for college without joining the military. Look at all your options before you sign away 8 years of your life. Read: Options for Life After High School.

For more information, contact:

Granny Peace Brigade - www.grannypeacebrigade.org grannypeace@gmail.com

Code Pink NYC - www.codepinknyc.org

American Friends Service Committee – www.afsc.org/youth&militarism

See: [Thinking of Enlisting?](#) Post 911 GI Bill, analysis of education benefits

Young Activists–Young Allies: www.yayanet.org (alternatives & great student info)

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