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To: vfp-all@yahoo.com

Subject: [vfp-all] JROTC - inside report

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I was a substitute teacher at our local public school system recently. They assigned me to a JROTC class. I did data entry vs. teaching - but I was itching to jump out of my seat and say "this is BS". It was Army Recruiter Day - here's what they're telling these kids - in their best drill sergeant type voice with the young troopies yelling back their "hoo-yas".

1. They showed a video of weapons systems with rock music playing in the background. At one point it showed a guy firing a 50 cal, and the recruiter said "Think of this as your long distance phone company. You can really reach out and touch someone!"
2. "Enemy" was used incessantly.
3. "Only 13% of the population is qualified to be in the military" (implying that these kids are the elite).
4. "Serve your country" was used incessantly.
5. "The Army is the only branch that guarantees that you'll get the job you want". He later added that if you're not qualified you can chose dishonorable discharge or reassignment.
6. "The death reports in Iraq are exaggerated".
7. Big stress on "giving back to your country", rolled in with "freedom", and "rights".
8. "We're in Iraq to give rights to the people - especially women the right to vote."
9. Stressed "values".
10. "Everyone in the military is a warrior first".
11. "You'll represent the US in the world."
12. "In time of war you must serve your country."
13. Said that colleges have to accept you after the military.
14. "You can take courses in Baghdad."
15. "Iraq is safer than most US cities."
16. Lots of talk about \$s for college.
17. Said the Army pays \$10K for college. If you only use \$5K, you keep the rest.
18. "Leadership opportunities".
19. Healthcare is 100% covered.
20. You will not go to Iraq after basic training.
21. Join the Army and lead your own life (vs. what your parents want you to do).
22. Women are equal to men in the military.
23. If you came out as a diesel mechanic, you'll have a guaranteed interview at John Deere.
24. The military has a responsibility to contact 100% of HS students.

The recruiter started with his list of medals and certificates. He said he helped restore democracy in Haiti in 1994 (I wonder if the Haitians know that?)

I spoke with the Lt. Col. who ran the class. He said he was in Kosovo and his team tested for DU contamination. Said none was found. Said DU is harmless and the reports to the contrary are not true. I wore a pin that says "Real men don't use violence". I told him I was in Vietnam - he was skeptical.

It was interesting. Oh yea - as I came in the door there was a life size cut out of Bush - blue suit, white shirt, red tie - with a JROTC patch on his shoulder. I almost lost it.

Peace,
Army Stieber
Michigan

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