

# Another Mother for Peace

Summer 2005

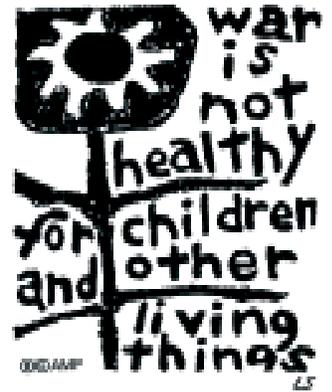


photo by Sean Donnelly

*Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) marching in 2004 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day parade, Los Angeles, California*

Albert Einstein once said, "You cannot simultaneously prevent and prepare for war." And yet, this is exactly what we are doing; and we're doing it with the youngest and most vulnerable among us. Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) and high school military recruiting are two ways that the military is reaching into our schools and the lives of our children.

These days while the Pentagon is struggling to maintain sufficient troop levels and some military branches are failing to meet recruitment quotas, JROTC and military recruiting have become increasingly more active on high school campuses across the nation. According to its own literature, JROTC is a free program that is open to all high school students. It is funded by the Department of Defense in conjunction with local school districts and offers young people "an opportunity to jump start your military career." The U.S. Army's JROTC is designed to teach high school students the value of citizenship, leadership and service to the community. The U.S. Marine Corp program states that one of its six aims is to build character and another aim is to teach young people about the elements and requirements for national security so that they won't be subject to emotional or uninformed judgments. How do they accomplish this?

JROTC cadets are taught to conform to military values. Recruits are trained to be loyal to those above them in the chain of command, and to follow orders — whether or not they agree. The philosophical argument is that in order to become a leader one must first learn obedience. Yet it is hard to believe that learning to obey without question is the best preparation for critical thinking and leadership.

Many JROTC programs train students to fire rifles or pistols. All of them drill with guns and teach military customs, history, traditions and beliefs. The point is, our children are being taught that violence against others is not only acceptable — it is a demonstration of patriotism.

*continued on page 2*

*continued from page 1*

IN ADDITION TO JROTC, THE U.S. MILITARY, WITH THE BLESSING OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, IS ACTIVELY RECRUITING ON HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUSES.

A provision that requires schools to release students' home addresses and telephone numbers to the military was buried in President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" Act of 2001. If a school refuses to release this information, they risk losing federal funds. Although students have the legal right to withhold their personal information, the procedures are often inadequately publicized, confusing to implement, or simply ignored by the school district. In one large Southern California district students were notified of "Opt Out" procedures after the records were released to recruiters.

Make no mistake. Recruitment is a sales activity, not an educational counseling service. The goal of all recruiters is not to provide prospective recruits with full information about career options. The goal is to fill enlistment quotas. To this end, the presence of military recruiters is not limited to a single high school Career Day. The Army's "School Recruiting Program Handbook" lays out a month-by-month plan to make recruiters "indispensable" on campuses. Recruiters are instructed to attend parent-teacher meetings, participate in school events and meet with student governments, newspaper editors and athletes. In some schools it is not unusual for high school students to be bombarded with weekly or even daily recruiting activities.

Many of our young men and women are learning the hard way that the recruiting literature is deceptive. For example, the Department of Defense advertises that financial aid for college is available to those who enlist. To participate, however, a non-refundable deposit of \$1,200 is required — and 65% of those who make the deposit do not take advantage of the benefit. According to a report in *Army Times*, between the years 1986 and 1993 the military took in \$720 million more in non-refundable deposits than they paid out in college benefits.

In the final analysis, JROTC and other high school recruiting programs are designed by the military to promote the military, and ultimately, to swell the ranks of the military. When he was Secretary of Defense, Richard Cheney chided Congress about the military budget. "The reason to have a military," he said, "is to be prepared to fight and win wars. That is our basic fundamental mission. The military is not a social welfare agency; it's not a jobs program."

Too bad Cheney's realistic assessment is not included in the high school recruiting literature for students who are seeking information about education and job training!

*Dear Friends of Another Mother for Peace,*

*How are you and your family members being affected by the war in Iraq?*

*We'd like to devote a section on our website to these experiences. Please share them with us by writing to [info@anothermother.org](mailto:info@anothermother.org) or send your stories to:*

*Another Mother for Peace, 8950 Olympic Blvd., Box 194, Beverly Hills, CA 90211.*



*JROTC, Memorial Day 2004 at Los Angeles National Veterans Cemetery*

photo by Sean Donnelly

#### DID YOU KNOW ?

- The Pentagon has also compiled and put into use its own database of personal information on 30 million 6 to 25-year-olds.
- This database is distributed monthly to the armed services for recruitment purposes.
- To learn how to “Opt Out” your child from the Pentagon’s list, see Peace Homework on page 4.

#### PARENTS AND TEACHERS ARE SPEAKING OUT !

- Recently a Seattle PTA voted to ban military recruiters from their school. However, the school district could not implement the ban without losing at least \$15 million in federal education funds.
- Parents who might otherwise support a strong military are now viewing military service negatively because they see the war in Iraq as controversial. In Whittier, California the father of a high school student said that he’d always been proud to have served in the military, but the fact that our invasion of Iraq was based on lies has changed his attitude about military service.
- The National Education Association (NEA), an organization of 2.7 million teachers, has taken an official stand in opposition to the mandate that schools turn over private student information to military recruiters without explicit written permission from parents.

**PAY ATTENTION:** A well-organized military propoganda machine is targeting our children.

# Peace Homework

AMP thinks that military recruitment at high schools is both a family privacy nightmare — and a possible warm-up to the Draft.

Parents and Grandparents: We want you to know that you have the right to deny recruiters access to your child's information. You can "Opt Out" your child from both the public school and Pentagon lists.

Protect your child from military recruiters. Call or write your legislators. Urge them to support H.R. 551, the Student Privacy Protection Act of 2005, a bill to change the current system by requiring written permission to have your child's name released to military recruiters.

Attend your local school board and PTA meetings to voice your dissatisfaction with the practice of preparing young people to go to war.

Access the Internet. LeaveMyChildAlone.org is just one of the online sites designed to help you find resources to refute the false promises of recruiters. At [www.LeaveMyChildAlone.org](http://www.LeaveMyChildAlone.org) you can:

- ✓ Create a customized "Opt Out" letter addressed to your school district
- ✓ "Opt Out" from the Pentagon's database
- ✓ Become a citizen co-sponsor of H.R. 551, federal legislation to change the system from "Opt Out" to "Opt In"
- ✓ Tell your friends how to "Opt Out" their children

Let's take back our public schools! War is not healthy for children and other living things.



## Peace Materials

Medallion	\$15.00
<i>"War is not healthy for children and other living things" (see picture above). Logo is approximately 1" x 1 1/4". Available in gold or silver metallic finish.</i>	
Note Cards	\$15.00
<i>Boxed set of 10 cards with matching envelopes. Our "War is not healthy . . ." logo in color on the front. Inside is blank.</i>	
Pax Materna Poster	\$15.00
<i>Original AMP purple poster (4 3/4" x 34") from 1985. "No mother is enemy to another mother" and our "War is not healthy . . ." logo in 18 languages. On the back is our Pax Materna.</i>	
Embroidered Patch	\$ 5.00
<i>Our beautiful "War is not healthy . . ." sunflower logo on a 3" x 3 1/2" patch to sew or iron onto clothing, backpacks, etc.</i>	
Letter Seals	\$ 2.00
<i>40 self-adhesive seals per sheet. Stamp-size seals with "War is not healthy . . ." logo.</i>	

Prices do not include tax or shipping.

Please visit [www.anothermother.org](http://www.anothermother.org) for a complete list of our Peace Materials and to order online – or use the enclosed order form. AMP is entirely supported by the sale of Peace Materials.

Another Mother for Peace is a non-profit, non-partisan association dedicated to eliminating the use of war as a means of solving disputes among nations, people and ideologies.

**Another Mother for Peace**  
[www.anothermother.org](http://www.anothermother.org)    [info@anothermother.org](mailto:info@anothermother.org)  
 8950 W. Olympic Blvd., Box 194, Beverly Hills, CA 90211-3575  
 (800) 763-4670    (310) 335-4925

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
 Rita Weingourt, Louise Katz Sullivan, Marlene Share, Carol J. Schneider,  
 Susan Messenger, Gerta Katz, Bill Donnelly, Melvin Avedon, Joshua Avedon

ADVISORY BOARD  
 Erica Tabachnick, Nancy Silverton, Carolyn See, Piper Rooney,  
 Susan North, Paul Kleven, Elisa Kleven, Ginger Jacobs, Shelley Hammill,  
 Marcia Goodman, Sarah Forth, Fionnula Flanagan, Isabel Allende