

**REVIEW of POLICY BULLETIN 2067**  
**Military Access to Schools**  
**Arlene Inouye, CAMS Coordinator, HRC/UTLA Member**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

After a Board presentation was made by CAMS and the Human Rights Committee, UTLA (United Teachers Los Angeles) in February 2003, a District Committee was established to address questions and concerns regarding military recruitment. For over a year, members and supporters of CAMS, a grassroots coalition of teachers, school staff, students, parents and community have documented and reported to this School District Committee specific instances of aggressive and abusive military recruiter tactics. We have been concerned about the lack of parameters regarding military recruitment, the lack of information and misinformation. We once again went to the Board of Education September 12, 2005 to express our concerns and present specific resolutions to address them. At the same time, approximately 250 email messages mobilized by the Leave My Child Alone campaign were sent to the Board of Education members to support our efforts. Following the Board presentation by a student, parent, teacher and CAMS Coordinator, we were promised that action would be taken within the next month.

**ANALYSIS OF POLICY**

We feel that this policy is a significant and important step in the right direction towards insuring the safety and protection of our students. For the past year we have been repeatedly told that military recruitment was a LOCAL SCHOOL DECISION. We believe that by providing the documentation of violations of district policy and safety concerns along with recommendations were important in the development of this policy. We acknowledge that the guidelines still leave many decisions regarding military limits up to the discretion of the school principal or designee. We are continuing to discuss with the District and lawyers, our concerns and possible changes. We welcome any suggestions. Specific comments are:

- The first page states that the “military recruiters MAY” have various limits, which makes it optional and subjective according to the school principal.
- We had requested for Option 8 to be the recommended choice for schools on the ASVAB test. There appears to be confusion and lack of understanding about the specific process of keeping the scores private. This will be researched along with requiring parental permission.
- We like the fact that student first amendment rights of free expression, and to lawfully protest the military are stated, along with an attachment which can be easily duplicated and given to students. Unfortunately there is no mention of counter recruiter rights to pass out literature and present alternatives. It was stated by the district official that community persons can gain access through teacher contacts at the local school, and that it is a local school decision.
- This policy does not address other methods of military recruitment such as through school sponsored sports events and programs. Concerns were specially raised regarding the Classic Football game between Garfield and Roosevelt High School and the heavy

recruiting and vendor access given to the military recruiters. Who makes this decision and the process for approval will be researched by the district.

- The policy makes clear the school district policy of voluntary placement into the JROTC program, but states that those who enrolled in a JROTC/ROTC class in lieu of physical education who choose to drop the JROTC/ROTC class will be prioritized for enrollment in physical education. This does not address the fact that there are insufficient physical education classes to meet the needs of students, and JROTC does not meet the state physical education requirements. According to the California Standards for Physical Education, JROTC along with other electives such as drill team, are out of compliance. LAUSD has until June 2006, to remedy this situation.
- Under the responsibility of Military Representatives, the Office of Risk Management must approve all military equipment or vehicles on campus in advance. Thus far, there have been no requests to this office, so this should dramatically decrease and possibly eliminate the humvees and military vans on campus.
- The policy does not address the unequal representation of the military representatives over college and career representatives at career fairs. There were a few schools over the past year which had a career fair with excessive military recruiters and lack of career and college recruiters. Whenever this occurs, we can notify the school district and they will address this.
- The policy clarifies that the school does not approve of any trips or transporting by military recruiters outside of school hours. We had documented cases of this occurring which the district had not known. We feel that it is important to strengthen parental rights in relation to transportation issues and taking the ASVAB.
- There are some inconsistencies in the District's Opt Out policy, and what is written in the policy (i.e., 17 year old students being able to Opt Out without parent signature).

## **MONITORING**

Two months ago we began our Adopt A School Project in 37 schools in the Los Angeles County including 25 LAUSD high schools (of which there are approximately a total of 60). Through our grassroots contacts at these 25 LAUSD schools, we will monitor this policy through a form with specific issues and areas to look for. In order to simplify the process, we will have a violation checklist to address the areas where the military recruiters have not followed the guidelines and protocol such as the limits regarding time and location that the school administrator may determine. The form will also document any difficulties of gaining equal access, school staff not complying with these guidelines (i.e. restricting the first amendment rights of students) and JROTC involuntary placement.

A policy is only effective when it is known, implemented and holds persons accountable for violations. We of CAMS will collect the data from the 25 schools in LAUSD, and see that the district is made aware of violations or problems with this policy. We are appreciative for the hundreds of volunteers in our schools, which make this possible.