

It is really important that you report any threats or improprieties to recruiting command and, if you are a student, that you report the recruiter to school authorities. For every one who knows their rights, there are many more who get bullied or manipulated into joining the military when they really don't want to. If we don't report these violations, recruiters will just keep getting away with it. Reports should include the name of the recruiter, their branch of the military, your name and age, the date(s) of the incident and a description of what occurred. This report should be sent to the recruiting command of your local recruiting office. One month after the report has been filed, a follow-up phone call should be made to the recruiting command to find out what has been done about the incident. Further follow up may be required.

Additional Resources

Addresses of recruiting command can be found at:

Army: www.usarec.army.mil

Navy: www.navycs.com/districts.html

Marines: www.mcrc.marines.mil/Units.aspx

Air Force: www.rs.af.mil/units/

Regulations regarding DEP and recruiter misconduct:

Army: USAREC Regulation 601-56 Chapter 3 section c

USAREC Regulation 601-45, Chapter 2-3 section h

Navy: COMNAVCUITCOMIST 1130.8F, 6A-6, Note 1

Marines: MCO P1100.72C, 4301, 3d(2)

Local Contact:

Signed Up for the Military and Want to Get Out?



You may not have to go. Here's the real story on the D.E.P.

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Adapted from a fact sheet prepared by YaYaNetwork

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Download copies at www.nnomy.org

Most people join the military through the Delayed Entry Program

("DEP" or Future Soldiers Training Program or "FSTP"). Basically it means you sign up now and go later. "Later" can be anywhere from a day to a maximum of twelve months after signing the initial enlistment agreement. *To be clear:* there is NO penalty for withdrawing from the DEP. People who change their minds about joining the military are under NO obligation to report for training or active duty.

One of the most common forms of serious recruiter misconduct is threatening young people who have joined the DEP and then changed their minds about enlisting. Recruiters are under a huge amount of pressure to sign up enough recruits. If they don't make their quota they are punished, harassed and possibly re-assigned. Recruiters don't get credit for people who enlist in the DEP until they actually show up for boot camp. Since they have invested time and energy in each DEP recruit, if they think they are losing you, they may do or say anything to get you to not back out.

The most important thing to remember is NOT to report for basic training unless you intend to really enlist, even if a recruiter tells you must do so before you can get out of the DEP. This is a lie. *If you do report for basic training, you will no longer be a civilian and it will be very difficult to get out because you will have to be "discharged", which is not easy.*

Warning: If you signed up for the Guard or Reserves, your situation may be more complicated and you should call the GI Rights Hotline 877-447-4487 before you take any action.

Over the years, we have had reports from students who were told that if they change their minds, they would be considered deserters in war time and could be hunted down and shot. **THESE ARE LIES!** They are also serious examples of recruiter misconduct.

If you want to withdraw from the DEP write a brief letter addressed to: Commander, Recruiting Station. Use the sample letter included in this booklet or download one from the GI Rights Hotline. Send it to the recruiting station where you were recruited. Do not address it to your individual recruiter. The address should be listed in the phone book under "US Government" or check the websites on the back of this brochure. This letter should state that you have changed your mind about enlisting, that you are requesting "separation" and will not be reporting for induction. You can give the reason you have changed your mind or the plans you have made instead, although you do not have to. This letter should indicate that you are sending a copy to your congress member, which you should also do.

(Find the address of your congressperson at www.house.gov.)

This letter should be taken to the Post Office and sent by certified mail, return receipt requested. Once the letter is sent refuse all further contact with the recruiter. Do not go to the recruiting station to "fill out paperwork". You are not obligated to meet with the recruiter at home, in school or on the street. Do not get into a vehicle with the recruiter.

While recruiters are permitted to try to "resell" you on the idea of enlisting, they are strictly prohibited from "threatening, coercing or intimidating" you. Unfortunately, this behavior is still quite common and can be a frightening experience. So get a backup. Find a sympathetic teacher or guidance counselor who will write to the recruiting command and/or school administration to protest the recruiter's actions. Talk to your family so they support you if the recruiter calls or shows up at your door.

Some groups you can contact for help:

GI Rights Hotline (877) 447-4487 www.girightshotline.org. You can find detailed instructions and sample letter for getting out of the DEP on their website. You can also talk to counselors who will explain your rights.

Ya-Ya Network (212) 239-0022 www.yayanetwork.org



Sample DEP Separation Letter

(Source: GI Rights Hotline, 5/2013)

Note: Substitute your own personal information and details that apply specifically to you.

[recruit's address]

[date]

Commanding Officer [no actual name is required; the title is enough]

[address of recruiting station where recruit enlisted]

Dear Commander:

I am currently a member of the Navy Delayed Entry Program scheduled to enter active duty on [date]. I am requesting complete separation from the Delayed Entry Program and the Navy. I enlisted in the Delayed Entry Program [date] at the West Portal Navy Recruiting Station in San Francisco, where I was recruited by [name of recruiter]. My request for separation is based on the following factor(s):

Since my entrance in the Delayed Entry Program, my mother's arthritic condition has worsened considerably. I am the oldest child in my family with two siblings aged 7 and 12. My mother now has great difficulty doing simple household chores and her doctor has informed her that her condition is likely to deteriorate further. She now feels that she must have my help at home to take care of my brothers.

In addition, in the past 5 months I have had a complete change of career plans. I had planned on becoming a technician at the time of joining the Navy, but now I have decided to become a graphic artist. I was hired by Schmidt Advertising on January 9, 1990. They plan to provide me with further training on the job. With this job I will still be able to live at my family home.

Therefore, I request separation from the Delayed Entry Program and the Navy, and I hereby request prompt processing of this separation request. In the event that this separation request has not been fully processed on the date I am scheduled to report for active duty, I request an extension in my delay status until my separation has been finally decided.

Sincerely,

[recruit's name and social security number]