



# Student Peace Action Network

## Are you taking the military entrance exam?

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Test, offered for free to schools around the country by the Department of Defense (DOD), is a part of the military entrance exam. Schools are required to offer 2 career aptitude tests to students, and at a time when education funding is continuously diverted to fund war, the ASVAB seems like a great idea. Too bad the ASVAB is only useful as a career test if you're going into the military, and odds are good that the entire 11th grade class in your high school isn't planning on that, because this test only measures skills you currently have and how that compares to jobs in the military; it doesn't take into account your interests or ability to learn into account.

### Did you 'Opt-Out' at the beginning of the school year from having your information shared with military recruiters?

When you take the ASVAB you will give that information and more on the cover of the test, and you'll be told that you have to sign the cover in order for the test to be scored. Your signature is considered to be a release of your information to be used however the DOD wishes - though if you're under 18 you aren't legally allowed to do so without parental consent.

### So?

Then after you take the ASVAB the military recruiters not only have all your phone number, address and your social security number, they also have your test scores and will definitely be calling to follow up and tell you that your scores say you would be a great pilot, or whatever, and that you should enlist. It gives the recruiters greater ability and information to target people for enlistment and prey on insecurities: 'oh, with those math skills you'll never make it in college, but you'd be a good mechanic.'

### What can you do?

- ☆ Talk to your guidance counselor about why they offer the ASVAB instead of another test, ask them to consider other tests instead. Take it to the principal and school board if they won't listen
- ☆ If they insist on offering the test, ask them to choose 'Option 8,' on the list of choices school's may make when offering the ASVAB, 'Option 8' specifies that the test results and information will only go back to the school, and not to military recruiters.
- ☆ Spread the word to your friends and classmates on what the ASVAB really is - pass out flyers, use I.M., MySpace, Facebook, etc. to help you get the word out - and start a petition or hold a mass meeting with the administrators advocating for the test to collectively demand an alternative.
- ☆ If you're still getting nowhere with the school administration, find out when the test is going to be offered and organize a boycott against taking the ASVAB. They can require you to take a career test, but nothing in the law states that it must be the ASVAB, if they really want you to take a career test they'll have to come up with another one. This doesn't mean that people who do want to take the ASVAB, because they are interested in joining the military, will be prevented from doing so, only that it is not required for everyone to take it. Call your local chapter of the National Lawyers Guild or American Civil Liberties Union if you need local legal info and support.

### Let us know what's happening!

It helps to know where people are taking action, as well as hear your stories of obstacles and success, to better support others who are resisting the ASVAB. Give us a call with updates, to brainstorm or ask questions!

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