

**THE MILITARY TARGETS CPS TO GET ACCESS TO LOW INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS AND TO USE BLACK, LATINO, IMMIGRANT, AND WORKING CLASS STUDENTS AS CANNON FODDER FOR THEIR UNJUST WARS.**

Since the end of the draft in 1973, the US has been desperate for 18 year old bodies to throw into its wars for empire. Adopting a "poverty draft", recruiters have strategically targeted low income areas across the US with claims that careers in the military offer a way out. In Chicago, 70% of JROTC programs are in low income zip codes. Most JROTC programs in Chicago are run by the Army- the branch of the military that has the highest causality rates. The military makes promises of free rides to college, paths to citizenship, and bonuses for long enlistment periods. What JROTC and military recruiters fail to mention is the possibility for injury and death, the high rates of suicide, and most importantly that *service to the US military is service to expanding and maintaining the US empire.*

With CPS schools- especially on the South and West sides- underfunded and understaffed, the military is able to offer JROTC programs and military recruiters as a substitute for PE and extracurricular activities. This deprives students and schools of well trained union teachers, and gives another avenue for the US war machine to reach young, vulnerable Chicago students. In 2020 at least ten majority Black or Latino high schools automatically enrolled students into a JROTC class without parental consent.



# GET THE MILITARY OUT OF CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS



**BEHIND-ENEMY-LINES.ORG**

**@ANTI\_IMPERIALIST\_RESISTANCE  
ON INSTAGRAM**

***The empire is the enemy. From the belly of the beast, we choose to resist it.***

Chicago Public Schools boasts of having the largest Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program in the country. This program gives the military unfettered access to students with the ultimate goal of recruitment.

The purpose of JROTC programs and the presence of military recruiters in Chicago's schools is to prey on young people, promising them access to education or a "way out" while turning them into cannon fodder for US wars of aggression. The United States is an empire. People who live in the US have an obligation to resist that empire and stand with the people of the world. That means students, parents, and teachers have an obligation to oppose JROTC and military recruiters in Chicago schools.

**JROTC HAS A HISTORY OF SEXUALLY ASSAULTING CADETS, MIRRORING HOW WOMEN ARE TREATED IN BY THE US MILITARY.**

A New York Times report uncovered a checkered past of JROTC instructors sexually assaulting cadets. In fact, one in every 232 JROTC instructor has been arrested for sexual assault in the past five years. This is because officers have unusually high and often unmonitored access to their cadets through afterschool programs that can require overnight trips. Officers are given more authority over students than the average teacher. Cadets are taught that obedience is one of the most important qualities in a soldier. Officers have the ability to either make or break a career in the military. This means that making complaints against an officer can have extremely negative consequences. Even when allegations are made against instructors, they can go unaddressed. Many instructors who were eventually charged had previous complaints made against them.

The history of sexual assault in JROTC stems directly from the culture of rape in the US military. The Pentagon reported that one in three service members reported sexual assault in 2018. However, the actual rate of assaults is likely much higher. Of the women who did report their sexual assault, 43% said they faced retaliation. In 2020, Vanessa Guillen was murdered and dismembered after reporting to the military that she had been sexually harassed. Rape culture goes well beyond women enlisted in the military. There are countless US military bases around the world, many surrounded by brothels. In South Korea, service members were given access to trafficked Filipino women. In Malaysia, prostitutes were used to bribe officers. In Japan, an official brothel system was created for US troops.

**THE US MILITARY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MASSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION, THE MURDER OF MILLIONS, AND THE LEVELING OF ENTIRE COUNTRIES.**

**Recruits who join the US military become part of the US war machine, carrying out atrocities such as:**

- Overthrowing the government in Libya that plunging the nation into civil war so destabilizing that there are now open-air slave markets.
- Drone strikes, a procedure that allows soldiers to treat extrajudicial killings like a video game including targeting civilian infrastructure and killing first-responders. Daniel Hale, a air force intelligence officer who is now in prison for whistleblowing about the drone assassination program says:

*"When it comes to the drone assassination program the disparity between the guilty and the innocent killed is incalculably higher. In some cases as many as 9 out of 10 individuals killed are not identifiable."*

- The occupation of Afghanistan which left hundreds of thousands dead, empowered war lords, and brought the Taliban into power.
- Supporting the Saudi war against Yemen, in which US made bombs have been dropped on water treatment facilities and a school bus.
- Dropping bombs on Somali shepherds, some of the poorest people in the world

*"Recruiters are paid to entice and lie to our youth. They don't say that if you sign up for four years in the military that, in all actuality, you will live with the emotional scars of service for 40."*

*-Iraq war veteran Ethan McCord*

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Resist the lies of the recruiters and the JROTC programs! Distribute this pamphlet and other counter-recruitment materials to youth and students.
- Investigate the ways the military is currently entrenched in your school or neighborhood. Are there recruiters? Is there a JROTC program? Shoot us an email with your findings.
- Invite Behind Enemy Lines to lead an anti-recruitment discussion in your school.
- Talk to students and families about why the US military should be kicked out of schools.
- Organize a protest against military presence in your school.
- Reach out to Behind Enemy Lines to get more involved.

*I wish someone had been there to challenge me on whether I would serve in a war I thought was harmful and illegal. Would I be able to participate in the accidental killing of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians? Would I be okay with signing over my rights to voice my own opinion, to say "no," to change my mind? In any other job, you can change your mind. You can quit. You can walk away without consequences. When you join the military, you sign an eight-year, legally binding contract that is very, very hard to get out of.*  
*-Rosa del Duca, National Guard conscientious objector*