

MILITARY RECRUITING IN CHICAGO SCHOOLS: A FACT SHEET

Military Recruitment and JROTC are government programs that target youth and students to become cannon fodder in US wars for empire.

The 2021 military budget doubles nationwide funding for ROTC programs.

The "No Child Left Behind Act" ties federal funding of public schools to the presence of military recruiters, giving recruiters virtually unfettered access to high school students across the country .

Nationwide, recruiters are given access to children in schools, recreation centers, sports programs, and even online- the military has recruitment officers deployed on twitch and other online gaming platforms

Recruiters and JROTC target Black, Latino, and Immigrant students in Chicago

Chicago has the country's largest Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program, with more than 7,800 students enrolled at 44 schools. In the JROTC, military instructors rather than teachers instruct students, with the stated goal of training students in "citizenship and patriotism."

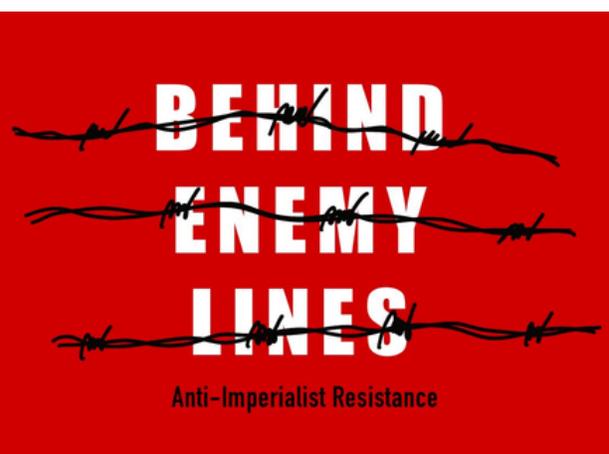
The military claims that the JROTC program is not a recruitment strategy, but 30% of JROTC cadets are recruited into the US military.

Military recruitment and JROTC programs begin targeting Chicago students as young as junior high.

Ten predominately Black and Latino CPS high schools have been automatically enrolling students in JROTC programs.

At King High School, the entire freshman class was automatically enrolled in JROTC, while the number of PE teachers was reduced from three to one

The Army, the military branch with the highest combat casualty rate, runs 80% of all JROTC programs in Chicago, and operates 70% of programs here in majority low-income zip codes. 93% of Chicago cadets are Black or Hispanic.



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**THE EMPIRE IS THE ENEMY--
FROM THE BELLY OF THE BEAST, WE CHOOSE TO RESIST IT!**

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Military recruiters and JROTC promise students discipline, a chance to get out of high crime neighborhoods, and funding for college.

The promises and guarantees of the military recruiters are full of lies and half-truths. The "discipline" that students and parents are promised, is aimed to mold potential soldiers into unthinking killing machines, who will not refuse unjust orders.

There is *no guarantee* that joining the military will result in funding for higher education on job training.

Once recruits join the military, they can be deployed to active combat zones at any time. Military service can be extended beyond the signed contract period at the military's discretion, and there is no way to leave the military at will.

The US military and the JROTC are hostile environments for women

in 2018 the US military itself reported that 1 in 3 women in the military had been sexually assaulted.

JROTC programs are rife with sexual assault. 33 JROTC instructors have been charged with sexual assault in the last five years alone.

In Chicago a JROTC instructor sexually abused a Roosevelt high school student for *nine months*. Six JROTC instructors and administrators in Chicago have been implicated in abusing students or failing to report abuse.

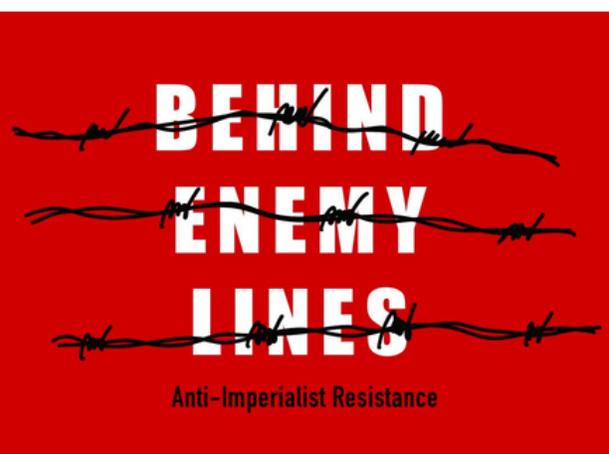
At Marine Leadership Academy thirteen adults, including three military instructors were found to either have committed or covered up sexual assault.

The sexual abuse in the the JROTC stems from a culture of rape and sexual violence in the military itself. Brothels follow the US military wherever it goes, and military members have been implicated in sexual assaults in Korea, Japan, and the Philippines.

The military targets students with a "poverty draft"

The US is an *empire*. It maintains its status as the top-dog country in the world by exploiting and oppressing other countries, and especially through maintaining the largest military in the world.

After the formal draft ended, the military started filling its ranks by targeting the poorest and most vulnerable young people. The military disproportionately recruits Black, Latino, Indigenous, and Immigrant young people- using them as cannon fodder to wage war around the world.



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