To protect your privacy you can use the form below or just write your instructions on a piece of paper and give it to your school.

I,

_____

(Print Your Name)

instruct

_____

(Name of School or School District)

and the Department of Education NOT to release any information about me to military recruiters.

The school (check one)

May _____

May not _____

release my child's information to colleges and employers.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

*** Note to school administrators: Section 9528(a) of Public law 107-110 states that once this request is given to you, it is a serious violation of federal law to disregard it and release the name, address or phone number of this student to any military recruiter without prior written consent.**

It's your child…
It's a matter of life and death…
Shouldn't you be in the loop?

Q. Can you answer this question correctly?

By law, schools are ***required*** *to release information about your son or daughter to:*

a) Colleges and universities
b) U.S. military recruiters
c) Telemarketers

A. *The correct answer is* ***b****. As early as 9th grade, your son or daughter's name, phone number and address are given to the military. It's part of the 'No Child Left Behind' law. Not obeying this law can result in your school losing its funding. In other words, the schools have no choice.*

For more answers to your questions about military recruiting in your school, look inside…

Q. What happens to my child's name once the military recruiters receive it?

A. Once they receive your child's name, they may begin to call your house. They may call repeatedly. Like good salespeople, military recruiters know not to take *no* for an answer. They'll attempt to interest your child by offering many incentives. Unfortunately, as with so many salespeople, military recruiters make promises and claims that turn out to be false, such as "you won't see active combat," "you're a candidate for higher-level position," "you'll have college paid for." For more details on the types of claims made, log onto www.objector.org/before-you-enlist/myths.html

Q. Shouldn't I have a say in whether my child is contacted by the military?

A. *You should have a say, and you do.*

Q. How?

A. First off, if you're comfortable with your son or daughter being contacted by the military, then you don't have to do anything. But if you want to prevent the school from handing over your child's information, you need only do the following:

Write a letter to your school's principal stating that your child's information should not be given to the military.

It's that simple. Your child can even write the letter him/herself. This process is called "opting out." *We recommend you send this opt-out letter at the start of each school year.*

Q. What should my opt-out letter say?

A. There's a sample on the back page.

Q. Will the school be penalized if I opt-out?

No. As a parent you have a right to "opt out." The schools cannot do it. Their hands are tied. But you can.

Q. Will opting out mean my child cannot approach recruiters for information?

A. No. Your child can do this at any time.

Q. Why am I just now finding out about this?

A. That's a hard question to answer. Perhaps school districts are just so busy taking care of other matters. Perhaps they are still figuring out how to deal with this fairly new legal requirement. Perhaps you missed the fine print in a handout that came home at some point. And, let's face it: it may be that school officials are a bit intimidated when the U.S. military comes knocking at their door.

Whatever the reason, we think joining the military is a decision of life-or-death importance. That's why we thought we would share this information with you. We hope you will pass on the favor by spreading the word to other parents — anywhere in the U.S.

Q. Who are you?

A. We are New Jersey Peace Action: ordinary people working together to eliminate nuclear weapons, reduce military spending, support global peacemaking, and restoring the well-being of our planet.

Our Web site is: www.NJPeaceAction.org.

Q. What can I do?

A. Get involved —

- Talk this over with your child
- Send an opt-out letter to your school
- E-mail us for further questions at info@njpeaceaction.org
- Find out about recruiter activity in your school
- Spread the word! Let's put everyone in the loop!