

Do you want recruiters in our schools? Check out today's Rachel Maddow Show, to find out what military recruiters have to offer our kids:

MP3: <http://www.airamericaplace.com/upload/aarm052005.mp3>

or

XML Podcast:

http://podcastingcouch.com/air_america/podcast_feeds/The_Rachel_Maddow_Show.xml

Here's a transcript of 29:19 to 32:49 of the audio.

Rachel: The last item on my front page today concerns recruiting. Today is May 20th, which is the day that the military has set aside to reschool it's recruiters on ethical standards. Um, there's been various reports of recruiters asking teens to lie to their parents, guiding teenagers through duping the drug test system for the military, literally forging documents so that they could get kids recruited. One Houston area recruiter was caught on tape threatening jail time if an applicant didn't keep his appointment with the recruiter.

Voice of answering machine: Yesterday at 9:36 am

*Recruiter: Hey Chris, this is *recruiter's name* with the Army man, I think we got disconnected. Ok, I know you're on your cell phone and just had bad reception connection or something like that, I know you didn't hang up on me. Anyway, uh by uh Federal Law you got an appointment with me at 2:00 this afternoon at Green Point Mall. Okay? That's the Green Point Mall, Army Recruiting Station, at 2:00. Fail to appear, and uh, we'll have a warrant. Okay? So give me a call back. 281... (fade)*

Rachel: We played that for you a little while ago on The Rachel Maddow Show, a week or so ago. Now there are new allegations about recruiting malfeasance among recruiters. There is a television station in Cincinnati, WLWT, that put out a television report this week including tape recordings of recruiters lying to teenagers about the relative threat of them living in the United States or joining up to fight the war in Iraq. Listen to this.

Recruiter: You have more chance of dying here in the United States at a, what it is, 36% die, uh kill rate, here in the United States. People just dying left and right. You have more chance of dying over here than you do over there.

Rachel: Ok, a 36% kill rate in the United States. What the hell is he talking about? If there was a 36% kill rate in the United States, more than 100 million people would be killed every year, which is more than 1/3 of the US population. It's incredible. Listen to this other quote.

Recruiter: You get on the internet and look up how many deaths are in Columbia South Carolina in the past year, year and a half, and compare that to how many deaths in Iraq, there's more death going on in Columbia, South Carolina for no reason. None. Over a

pair of Nikes. And over a.. um.. jacket. People stealing people's wallet and shooting people. There's more deaths going in Columbia, South Carolina. I know, I just got back from there. Than there was in the whole time I was in Iraq.

Rachel: Columbia South Carolina police department, by the way, says there were 16 murders in the city of Columbia in 2004. In 2005 so far there are 5. Revelations like this, of course, leading to intense worry among parents about the recruitment of their kids.

Some parents joined a group called Main Street Moms. They've set up a website called LeaveMyChildAlone.org. They want to raise awareness about fact that the No Child Left Behind Act means that not only do recruiters not need a permission slip to recruit your kids in High School. The law also gives them access to every student's personal data, including address and phone number. Palm Beach Post editorial today says that the military started taking advantage of that last month. You can opt your kid out of military recruitment. And Main Street Moms is trying to raise awareness of that. If you go to LeaveMyChildAlone.org you can learn more about the movement to opt out, and the movement to get this requirement out of education law.