

## **5 Spread the word.**

Tell your friends, neighbors, and colleagues about your efforts and why they are critical to student privacy.

## **6 Write a letter to the editor.**

Your letter can alert people and encourage others to become more active in guarding their privacy rights.

## **7 Fax your congresspersons.**

Write your congressperson in support of Student Privacy Protection Act (H.R. 1346). It changes No Child Left Behind so that schools release private information to military recruiters only if families request it, rather than the other way around. If you are not sure who your representative is, you can call your county board of elections or check [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org) in the "Scorecard" section.

## **8 Stay in touch.**

Let the ACLU of Ohio know what kind of actions you've taken to express your concerns about the recruiting database.

*Founded in 1920, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of civil liberties activists who are constantly at work in our communities, the courts and legislature fighting to preserve individual freedoms for all.*

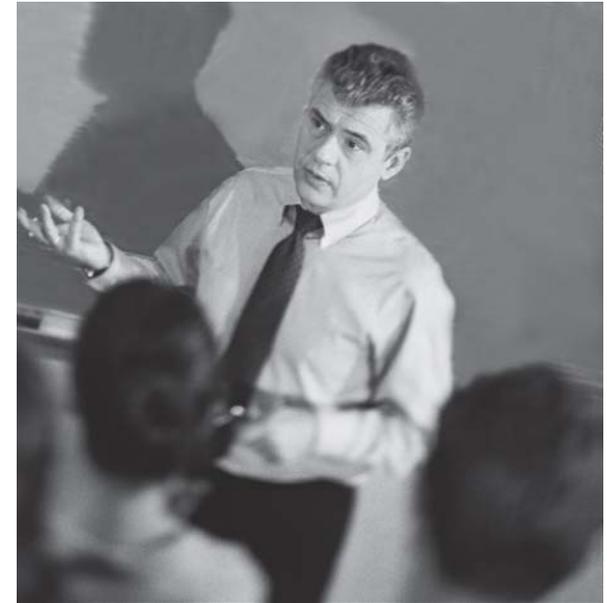
*The ACLU represents ordinary people who have experienced injustices, but have decided to fight for their rights. Without the ACLU's free services, these violations of civil liberties would go unchallenged.*

*The ACLU's work is often controversial, unpopular and misunderstood. While our litigation may make headlines, the ACLU of Ohio is also a national leader in creating and implementing educational programs that make the Bill of Rights a part of our everyday life.*

*Our work is supported by local and national activists who are committed to ensuring that many of the freedoms we take for granted are preserved. Nationally, there are more than 500,000 members of the ACLU, while the ACLU of Ohio has almost 30,000 members and supporters throughout the state.*

**Find out more about what the ACLU is doing in Ohio and join the ACLU at [www.acluohio.org](http://www.acluohio.org).**

# Military Recruiting Database and Your Privacy



Max Wohl Civil Liberties Center  
4506 Chester Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44103-3621  
(216) 472-2200

[www.acluohio.org](http://www.acluohio.org)  
[www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)



# Your privacy is at risk.

The Department of Defense is creating an intrusive national military recruitment database.

In 2003, the Pentagon's Joint Advertising, Market Research and Studies Group took over several recruiting databases managed by separate military agencies. On June 22, 2005, the Pentagon proposed the creation of a more expansive database to help with recruiting efforts.

The database will include information of high school students between the ages of 16 and 18; current college students and; those that have registered with the Selective Service System as required for 18-year-old males.

Records of these individuals will include full name, date of birth, gender and address. The database would also include, where available:

- social security number
- e-mail address
- ethnicity
- telephone
- high school name
- graduation date
- grade point average
- education level
- college intent
- military interest
- field of study
- current college attending

## The database violates privacy rights

The military obtains this information through the state motor vehicle department, private information brokers, and the Selective Service.

Also, a provision in the No Child Left Behind Act requires schools to disclose student records without the expressed permission of the student or the parent. Parents or students can notify their schools that they do not wish the military to gain access to these records, and thus "opt out" of the school sending this information to the military.

Although the military collects this information, the Department of Defense hired a private company, Mullen, to manage the information. This company has hired BeNOW to process the data.

The Department of Defense can also share this information with other agencies without the consent of individuals.

## There is no "Opt Out" for the database

Unlike the provisions in the No Child Left Behind Act, which allows a student to keep their information private, there is no way that a person can opt out of the database. Military officials have acknowledged that they already have 30 million names in the database. The

Defense Department has stated that it will allow students to opt out of the database but their personal information will still be collected in a "suppression list." You *can* find out whether your information is in the database and include your record in the suppression list, but you must write the Department of Defense and give them your name, social security number, and date of birth.

## What you can do

**1 Opt out.** Although you cannot opt out of the database, you can still make it harder for the military to get your information by opting out of the school's military recruitment list.

**2 Get your school involved.** Tell others and encourage your school and PTA to strengthen their privacy policies.

**3 Organize.** Plan a school board outing. Organize friends and neighbors to pay a visit to the local school board and present them with a proposal to strengthen student privacy policy.

**4 Party!** Host a back to school event to provide a public forum to discuss student privacy.