

Project YANO News Fall-Winter 2012

Notes on recent activities and
developments

• **General developments:**

With the help this year of youth intern Rodrigo de la Rosa, we updated and improved the three-panel display we use at high school career fairs. It has new graphics and updated factual information. Rodrigo also updated our directory of college financial aid sources and list of job training programs (San Diego County).

We are now seeking funds to hire a part-time youth intern in 2013. We also hope to be able to update and reprint several educational brochures, including "Careers in Peacemaking and Social Change," "The Military's Not Just a Job" (English and Spanish), our brochure in Spanish for parents, and our directory of youth service programs.

We continue to attend career fairs and give presentations in San Diego County schools and would like to expand these activities, but our pool of available speak-



ers is in need of new volunteers, especially military vets. Please let us know if you are interested and are available during the school day. Photo: Rick Jahnkowitz

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• **San Diego school district policy on recruiting.**

In 2010, San Diego Unified adopted a new policy that strictly limits recruiting in the nation's eighth largest urban school district. The policy was passed by a vote of 4-1 after a year-long campaign waged by the Education Not Arms Coalition. Project YANO members researched other policies and drafted the language of

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the policy that was adopted here. It is worded to apply to all recruiting activities, including by colleges and civilian employers, but military recruiters are the ones who will be most affected.

There have been some problems with incomplete implementation of the policy, which the Coalition and Project YANO are continuing to discuss with the school district.

For more info., visit the Education Not Arms page at: www.projectyano.org/educationnotarms/

● **JROTC unit removed from school, involuntary enrollment still an issue:**

The students at Mission Bay H.S. in San Diego evicted Marine Corps Jr. ROTC by, essentially, boycotting the class until enrollment remained below the required minimum for three years. Letters of protest to the principal were still required before he complied with the federal requirement to disband the program, but eventually he did.

It is suspected that other schools in the San Diego district are packing their JROTC classes by automatically placing students in the class, a violation of California state law. The Education Not Arms Coalition is trying to obtain enrollment statistics in San Diego to document this practice. So far, the district has not released all the requested information.

A Special Appeal to San Diego Supporters:

We urgently need more San Diego County people to help plan, organize and carry out our activities, including people to speak in classrooms and staff displays at school career fairs. Please contact us to volunteer, or complete the volunteer form on our Web site.

● **Research for a possible lawsuit over the ASVAB:**

Project YANO is working with a group of legal professionals and Rutgers University law students who are investigating the possibility of using a lawsuit to stop the military from using its high school aptitude testing program to invade student privacy. The test, the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is given to approx. 600,000 students a year under the pretext of helping them explore their career options. The vast majority of students are not aware that their personal information is automatically being given to recruiters, and parental permission is not being required. It is hoped that a test case will evolve from the legal research.

● **Finances:**

Project YANO's income has seriously suffered during the economic crash, and thus we were forced to temporarily cut our full-time organizer's hours in half for the summer. We have always operated on an average annual budget of less than \$38,000, but it will about \$5,000 short of that in 2012. We do not receive any significant support from other organizations, and even progressive foundations generally do not support the kind of work we do. Individual donations are our most important source of support.

Donations to Project YANO can be mailed to our P.O. Box. You can also make a single donation or pledge a periodic amount with a credit card via our Web site, www.projectyano.org. Contributions are tax-deductible.

● **National Networking:**

Project YANO continues to serve on the steering committee of the National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth (www.nnomy.org). We also provide a few hours of in-kind staffing each week to the network.