Hispanics in the Military
By: Anthony Ortiz & Varinderjit Kaur
First Year Seminar 09 Ethnic Studies 125, Professor Jodie Roure

Military Recruitment

The No Child Left Behind act (NCLB) is a seemingly sole educational piece of legislation, but in reality has a buried provision “…promoting overt school militarization by increasing military recruiters’ access to school campuses and students for recruitment” (Furumoto, R. 2005).

The military focuses the No Child Left Behind act (NCLB) recruiting method on “…students of color in mostly poor and working-class schools where parents lack knowledge about military recruitment practices” (Furumoto, R. 2005).

Another crucial factor of having to assemble such a large voluntary force is efficiently determining which groups to target and how to target them.

In a recent study, high school graduates have reported that military recruiters are a constant presence on campus during the lunch period, and have also reported coming in contact with these recruiters at least two to three times a week either physically or through phone calls (Furumoto, R. 2005).

In response to the methods utilized by the military, the Latino community has organized in order to fight against this overt militarization of their youths, launching “…a campaign to educate Latino parents and students about military recruitment in schools” (Lovato, R. 2005).

Military Rankings

The qualified workforce also excludes most Latinos who lack the immigration status. According to estimates by Jeffrey Passel, a demographer The Urban Institutes, about 60% of undocumented population has not completed high school. Passel estimates that in 2001 there were about 1.2 million Latinos with at least a high school degree or equivalent.

There are 11.7 million Latinos in the civilian workforce of military age ONLY 7.5 million have educational credentials that qualify them for military service.

Hispanics Share in the Four Branches of the U.S. Military, 1997-2006

- Hispanics are heavily concentrated in 01-03 ranking system. Some 69% of Hispanics officers are in the pay grade: Compared to Whites (57%) and Blacks (64%).
- Hispanics make up 5.49% of the officers in the junior rank.
- In the 07-10 section of the ranking system there are only 30% of Hispanics officers as compared Whites (42%) and Blacks (36%).
- Latinos make less than 3% of the officers in these ranks while Whites hold account more than 86%
- This is dominated by whites who hold 93% of the flag billets, compared to 1.36% of Hispanics.

In conclusion, based on the given information as a foundation the military is over recruiting the Hispanics minority group. They are being disproportionately targeted, because of their lack of education in unison with hasty recruitment methods. Latinos are also underrepresented in the higher ranking. Latino are fighting on the Frontlines in numbers disproportionate to their percentage of the population and are not given the proper opportunities for advancement.