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NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

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Major General Michael D. Rochelle
U.S. Army Recruiting Command
Public Affairs Office
Bldg. 1307, Third Avenue
Fort Knox, KY 40121-2726

BY FAX (502) 626-0924
and regular mail

Dear General Rochelle:

I am writing on behalf of the New York Civil Liberties Union, the New York State affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union.

As I am sure you know, there have been several high profile stories in recent months regarding the improper conduct and tactics of some military recruiters in public high schools. We write to request information as to whom complaints should be directed and to learn what mechanism is in place to deal with such complaints, whether they involve deceptive recruiting practices or abusive conduct. If there are any documents which reflect this procedure, please forward them to me.

In addition, there is significant concern about protecting the privacy rights of students. Although parents have the right not to have their children's personal information released to the military (or anyone else), there are instances where this Congressional mandate is not being honored. For example, some schools have negligently released information in contravention of the request of the parent. In addition, some parents may not have enough time to advise the school of their desire not to have information released or have done so after the information was provided to recruiters. We would appreciate being advised of what the policy or practice is when directory information has been disclosed by a local school in contravention of the request of a parent or when that request occurs after disclosure. For example, does the Army have in place a mechanism for purging student information when advised that parents do not want that

information disclosed? Does the Army purge its records when a student indicates to a recruiter that he/she does not wish any information concerning a career in the military? Again, we would appreciate any documents which address this issue.

We are sure you realize the importance of these issue and of the need to reassure the public in general, and parents in particular, that the Army's recruitment efforts in the public schools are being handled consistent with the law, in the most respectful and dignified way, that students' rights to privacy are being protected and that there is a mechanism in place to remedy any problems which arise.

One of us, or a member of our staff, will call in ten days to follow up on this request.

Very truly yours,

Christopher Dunn
Associate Legal Director

Jeffrey E. Fogel
NYCLU Attorney