

So you want to join up?



Did you know?

- >> If you are under 18 and join the Army, you only have the chance to leave between the second and sixth month of service. After that you must serve until you are 22.
- >> You must remain in the reserves for another 6 years.
- >> If you go absent without leave you can be detained as punishment.
- >> You cannot buy yourself out.

At 16, politicians say you are too young to vote, learn to drive, buy a pint, or get married without your parents' permission. But politicians DO think that you're old enough for them to give you a gun and order you to risk being killed or maimed, or to kill and maim another. Britain is the only country in Europe putting 16 year olds on active service.

The adverts for the army make it look like you can star in your very own High-Tech video game where nobody gets hurt. The reality can be very different, as many currently serving in Iraq have found out. Gordon Gentle was 16 when he joined up and was killed near Basra, Iraq last June. His mother joined Military Families Against the War in supporting soldiers who oppose the war.