The First Line of Defense: Military Recruiters â€“ Tell one (or more) Thank You

Description

This is a multi-purpose post:

First up â€“ a suggestion of how you can provide a very meaningful â€œThank You!â€• in this season (or actually any time at all). While you may live far from a significant military presence, you most likely donâ€™t live far from the local US Military Recruiting Office in your neck of the woods. Staffed with service members, if you have wanted to say â€œThank youâ€• to someone in uniform, thereâ€™s your sign. Next time youâ€™re driving by, take a few minutes to stop in and shake hand or two.

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Why? These men and women are the ones who get us men like SSGT Guinta and SGT J.D. Williams and so many others, whoâ€™s names weâ€™ve read and those most all of us will never hear the names of, but know it took them all to defend the Nation. Itâ€™s the recruiters are the ones who either go out and find them to talk to, or have to assess them as they walk in to volunteer.

The eye for the ones who fit the specs, and the ones who do not. Itâ€™s the recruiters who do it. They do it not in a combat zone, but they do it with tremendous pressure to meet quotas, to make sure they check these men and women out, provide career counseling and work with the community, the parents and a number of others. They canâ€™t â€œworkâ€• as well during what the civilian world calls â€œworking hours,â€• they have to catch them when they can: After school, on weekends, in the evening, and they still have to keep â€œoffice hours,â€• too. Read: Many hours to perform their assignments. Reports, follow up, get them to physicals, paperwork for security checks, get them on the transport to the first assignment in the service of the Country. Then, they get to spend some â€œshore dutyâ€• (the Navy version) time with their families.

And donâ€™t forget some people make it difficult, and occasionally impossible to meet those who might be willing to hear about the opportunity for them.

In addition to just â€œdoing their job,â€• more than likely they will be in dress uniforms much of the time, and they (as far as I know) donâ€™t get extra funding to maintain them, with the extra wear and tear and spaghetti sauce stains, etc that have probably resulted in unplanned purchases as a result. No doubt the many more miles put on their own vehicles is a cost they also bear accomplishing the mission.

Secondly: As an officer, I had more interaction with discipline cases along my time in service, and, for the â€œrepeat offendersâ€• weâ€™d usually flip their service record open to the â€œPage 2â€• (Enlistment Contract) and look for the date of the signature of the person in question. While not in every case, when the date was the 30th or 31st of the month, weâ€™d manage to vocalize how some lazy

recruiter just grabbed whoever off the street â€œto make quota.â€• While it was easy to use that as a issue to vent over, more often as not, it certainly wasnâ€™t the case. Not to mention Iâ€™ll admit, I never pulled the records for my great sailors and look at the same data point, and neither did I then allow myself to vocalize so sharp sailor in some community somewhere had done an outstanding job finding those men and women who were exemplary serve personnel. Fairâ€™s fair, so Iâ€™ll have to make that acknowledgment now, late as it is.

Bottom line: Wars are fought with expensive hardware, cool planes, and massive amounts of ammo, fuel food and parts, but it is the man or women handling or using those things who defend the Nation. The recruiters who find them are the scouts to get them into uniform and they deserve special recognition for faithfully executing the duties of those assignments.

When you thank one, please let them know you know they are the ones who get us the protectors, and you appreciate the effort that takes them.

Now, google up the all the recruiting offices in your area and see if you can brighten a day in those places.

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