

# HELPING OUT

## A GUIDE TO MILITARY DISCHARGES AND GI RIGHTS

*Helping Out: A Guide to Military Discharges and GI Rights*

by Alex M. Doty, \$75.00 paperback, 308 pages

ISBN 0-933368-55-1 ♦ LCCN 97-91750 ♦ Pub. Date: Memorial Day (May 25), 1998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Chris Lombardi

(415) 474-3002

### Get the Facts About GI Rights

What do you do when your nephew, child, or client calls and says “I’m AWOL”? Is it possible to request a discharge from the military? What’s the difference between a General, Other Than Honorable, and Dishonorable discharge? What rights do members of the military actually have?

Most of us know someone in the military, even if it’s a college student in the reserves or a young person signed up for the Delayed Enlistment Program. We see people go AWOL in films and watch coverage of courts-martial on the TV news. Yet to many of us — including the teachers, counselors, and attorneys who are most likely to be asked for help — the inner workings of the US military are a mystery. Even attorneys with an interest in military law may have difficulty sorting through the maze of each Service’s regulations and policies when faced with an individual client in distress. Lay people and attorneys alike need a comprehensive reference work with which they can quickly access the information they need.

Help has arrived, in the form of *Helping Out: A Guide to Military Discharges and GI Rights*, by Alex Doty (Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, 1998). *Helping Out* — the long-awaited revision of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors’ *Military Counselor’s Manual* — provides a clear, concise guide to counseling distressed military personnel. A valuable resource for attorneys, counselors, parents, and concerned citizens, *Helping Out* is a reference no library should be without.

Beginning with an introduction to counseling members of the military and an overview of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the guide then moves step-by-step through a range of typical cases. With extensive reference every step of the way to the appropriate military regulation, *Helping Out* takes you through the process of filing grievances and complaints for harassment, discrimination or injury; fighting involuntary activation and separation; and facilitating discharges on a range of grounds, including disability, hardship, conscientious objection, and discharge in lieu of court-martial. A lucid explanation of the Pentagon’s current “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy carefully outlines the options of gay servicemembers, including how to avoid harassment and how to minimize the damage of investigation.

**400,000 YOUNG PEOPLE ENLIST IN THE MILITARY EVERY YEAR. THOSE WHO BELIEVE THEY MADE A MISTAKE DO NOT KNOW WHERE TO TURN. WHEN THEY COME TO YOU, TURN TO *HELPING OUT* FOR ANSWERS.**

The clean, readable narrative is further enlivened by six case studies (including Jamal, who received a hardship discharge after calling the GI Rights Hotline) and tips for counselors (such as, “Ask what all the acronyms mean.”). *Helping Out* decodes military jargon until the reader understands the difference between “nonjudicial punishment,” “summary courts-martial,” and “special courts-martial;” what a DD 214 is and why it matters



(888) 236-2226 Fax (215) 567-2096  
1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

what's on it; or, what the full documentation required for a member of the military to support a request for compassionate reassignment, entry level separation, or conscientious objector discharge is. We also learn when, and how, it's appropriate to approach commanders and review boards — and that communicating with military personnel in positions of authority can be crucial to helping those under their command.

Knowing full well that regulations alone don't begin to cover the circumstances of each military command, Doty goes into detail about the separate policies of each military Service, and how they are applied in individual cases. For example, Army policies regarding absence offenses differ markedly from Navy and Marine Corps policy. This up-to-date portrait of each Service's praxis may be one of the most invaluable aspects of *Helping Out*.

One of the most useful parts of the book is its listing of military regulations and sources for them. *Helping Out* discusses methods of accessing military regulations, including CCCO's *Military Regulations Access Project*. The guide also provides contact information for a range of advocacy groups — including the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, the Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild, the National Veterans Legal Services Project, and, of course, CCCO itself.

Libraries in communities near military bases will find *Helping Out* especially valuable, but friends and relations of servicemembers live in every community — and so do the professionals to whom they turn for help.

### **Publisher's Cataloging in Publication Data**

Doty, Alex M., 1968-

Helping out: a guide to military discharges and GI rights / by Alex M. Doty

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-933368-55-1

1. Military law — United States. 2. Soldiers — Civil rights — United States. 3. Sailors — Civil rights — United States. 4. Conscientious objectors — Legal status, laws, etc. 5. United States — Armed Forces — Laws and legislation. I. Title. II. Title: Military counselor's manual. — 5th ed. III. Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors.

KF7272.D74 1998

342.085

97-91750

CIP

*Helping Out* is printed on acid free, recycled paper.



*Helping Out: A Guide to  
Military Discharges and GI Rights*  
\$75.00

The most comprehensive reference work  
on military discharges in print.

*Choosing Peace: A Handbook on War,  
Peace, and Your Conscience*  
\$10.00

The successor to CCCO's *Handbook for  
Conscientious Objectors*, an essential  
guide to war, peace and conscience in  
today's world.

*Advice for Conscientious Objectors  
in the Armed Forces*  
\$20.00

A step-by-step guide to applying for  
conscientious objector status.  
Available spiral bound or looseleaf.

*Getting Out:  
A Guide to Military Discharges*  
\$3.00

A 20 page booklet summarizing military discharges.  
Bulk prices available.

*If You Change Your Mind...  
Getting Out of the  
Delayed Enlistment Program (DEP)*  
\$3.00

Step-by-step instructions for getting out of the DEP.

---

GI Rights Hotline Flyers  
100/\$7.00

GI Rights Hotline Business Cards  
100/\$4.00

DEP Flyers  
100/\$7.00

*Helping Out* Correspondence Course  
Call for information

*Helping Out* Basic Training  
Call for information

CCCO's *Report on AWOL/UA Policies*  
Call for information

Questions & Answers About Draft Registration  
100/\$7.00

*A 40% "Activist Discount" on CCCO literature is available to individuals or  
groups who provide free or below-cost counseling services.*



Title	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Subtotal			
Shipping <i>\$5 for 1 item, \$6 for 2-3 items, \$7 for over 4 items</i>			
Tax Deductible Contribution			
TOTAL			

Check Enclosed       VISA    MasterCard

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizing Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Firm/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_  Please send me CCCO's complete catalog.

I am an active duty member of the military living on base. (To avoid possible disciplinary action, we will send you only single copies of our literature.)

CCCO 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102, Fax (215) 567-2096  
For faster service, call us toll free at (888) 236-2226



## ACTIVIST ORDER FORM

Title	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Subtotal			
Deduct 40% Activist Discount (subtotal x .4) <i>The Activist Discount does not apply to the Helping Out Package.</i>			
Shipping <i>\$5 for 1 item, \$6 for 2-3 items, \$7 for over 4 items</i>			
Tax Deductible Contribution			
TOTAL			

CCCO's "Activist Discount" is available to individuals and organizations who provide free or below-cost services to members of the military. I/We qualify for CCCO's Activist Discount and provide services at:

\_\_\_\_\_

Nearby Military Base \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed       VISA    MasterCard

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizing Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Firm/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_  Please send me CCCO's complete catalog.

CCCO 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102, Fax (215) 567-2096  
For faster service, call us toll free at (888) 236-2226