

Careers in the Military



The U.S. Military consists of five active-duty Services and their respective Guard and Reserve units. All branches are equal parts of the United States Uniformed Services, headed by the president as commander in chief. The Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense (DoD). The Coast Guard reports to the

Department of Homeland Security during peacetime and to the DoD (by way of the Navy) during wartime.

Reserve and National Guard units perform as active-duty service members on a part-time basis. These troops train close to home, deploying when needed to aid in international conflict or domestic disaster relief.

Air Force

The U.S. Air Force protects American interests at home and abroad with a focus on air power.

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Army

As the oldest branch of the U.S. Military, the Army protects the security of the United States and its resources.

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Marine Corps

The Marine Corps is often first on the ground in combat situations.

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Things to Consider Before Joining

Joining the US Military can be one of the most challenging and rewarding decisions you ever make. This being said, however, it is something you want to carefully consider before taking the plunge. In order to ensure that you are making the right decision for yourself and your country, there are a few things you should consider before enlisting.

1. What are your interests?

Joining the military will provide you with specialized training in any number of fields. Think about what skills you would like to possess at the end of your term of service. Learn as much as you can about each branch of military service and see which one will suit your needs.

2. What skills are you bringing to the table?

If you are already proficient with certain skills, perhaps you would like to hone these skills in the military. Whether it is working with computers, mechanics, or administrative duties, the military can provide you with training in a wide variety of areas.

3. Are you willing to make the commitment?

Many people are enchanted with the idea of the military, only to have “buyer’s remorse”

after joining. Seriously contemplate whether or not you will be happy with the commitment you are going to make. Once you have enlisted, you are under contract with the US government.

4. Have you been fully informed?

This is extremely important. You must ask all of the right questions before enlisting. Make sure you do the appropriate research and talk with as many people as possible. This way, you won’t feel misled or cheated when the actuality of your situation becomes evident. Don’t listen selectively; actively listen to your recruiter. Make a list of things you need to know about and get informed.

5. What do you want to do in the future?

After being in the military for a while, some decide that they would like to make a career out of military life. Others decide that they would like to move on and pursue their education or a career in the civilian world with the skills they picked up while serving. Have your future in mind when selecting a job when you enlist. Make sure that you will leave the service with the proper tools to be successful in life.



More Information

For more information on careers in the military visit the following websites:

[Careers in the Military](#)

[Today’s Military](#)

[US Military](#)



Joining the Military

Enlisted Service Members

Once an individual has talked to a recruiter and made a commitment to serve, he or she sets a date to visit a Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) to finish the enlistment process.

The MEPS is a joint-Service organization that determines an applicant's physical qualifications, aptitude and moral standards as set by each branch of military service. There are MEPS locations all over the country. Candidates officially complete the process of joining the Military once they meet all of the requirements at the MEPS. This process may take up to two days. Food and lodging are usually provided for candidates. Below are the steps required for enlistment.

1. Take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery ([ASVAB](#))
2. Pass the Physical Examination
3. Meet with a Counselor and Determine Career
4. Take the Oath of Enlistment
5. After the MEPS
 - Direct Ship – report to Basic Training between 2 and 2 months after completing MEPS requirements.
 - Delayed Entry Program

Officers

Commissioned officers generally enter the Military with a four-year college degree or greater, or receive officer training following tours of enlisted service. Officers are generally employed in management roles or highly specialized fields that require professional degrees (e.g., doctors, lawyers and chaplains). An officer's education often determines which career he or she will have in the Military. In most cases, the candidate will meet with a military advisor or career counselor during college to select a potential job specialty.

An individual interested in serving as an officer has four options: Attend a Senior Military College or Academy, enroll at a traditional college or university with a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program, attend Officer Candidate School (OCS) after graduating from college or receive a direct commission after earning a professional degree.

Click the links for more information on:

- [Academies & Colleges](#)
- [ROTC](#)
- [Officer Candidate School](#)



Basic Training – often called [boot camp](#) – prepares recruits for all elements of service: physical, mental and emotional. It gives service members the basic tools necessary to perform the roles that will be asked of them for the duration of their tour. Each of the Services has its own training program, tailoring the curriculum to the specialized nature of its role in the Military. Basic Training is an intense experience. The purpose of this training isn't to “break” recruits. In fact, the combination of physical training, field exercises and classroom time makes individuals strong and capable. It's a tough process, but a rewarding one that many service members value for life.



Air Force

Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard

The U.S. Air Force is the primary aerospace arm of our nation's armed forces. The mission of the Air Force is to defend the United States through control and exploitation of air and space. The Air Force flies, maintains, and supports the world's most technically advanced aerospace vehicles, including long-range bombers, supersonic fighters, Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft, and many others. These forces are used whenever and wherever necessary, to protect the interests of the United States and our allies. Almost 350,000 highly trained officers and airmen make up today's Air Force. Some pilot aircraft — everything from helicopters to the Space Shuttle. Many others do the jobs that support the Air Force's flying mission; they

may work as firefighters, aircraft mechanics, security police, or air traffic controllers, or in many other Air Force career fields. The Air Force currently recruits about 30,000 to 35,000 men and women each year to fill openings in hundreds of challenging Air Force careers.

Helpful Websites:

- [Air Force](#)
- [Air Force Reserve](#)
- [Air National Guard](#)





Army

Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard

Today's "Expeditionary Army" is a modern and powerful military force redesigning to a goal of 68,500 officers, 12,000 warrant officers, and over 400,000 enlisted soldiers. Army men and women work in many types of jobs, ranging from general administration to the operation and maintenance of the Army's many thousands of weapons, vehicles, aircraft, and highly technical electronic systems. Soldiers, working as a team, perform the Army's mission of protecting the security of the United States and its vital resources. The Army stands constantly ready to defend American interests and the interests of our allies through land-based operations anywhere in the world.

Those who enlist into the Army will find hundreds of challenging career opportunities that can offer a lifetime of security and

excitement to them and their families. The individual soldier, the noncommissioned officer (NCO), and the officer make the Army's sophisticated technology work. They operate tanks, fly helicopters, and launch missiles. They build bridges, calibrate and operate computers, and apply state-of-the-art tools and methods to solve critical problems. Working together, these elements enable the Army to accomplish its mission to deter war and be prepared to fight and win should deterrence fail.

Helpful Websites:

- [Army](#)
- [Army Reserve](#)
- [Army National Guard](#)





Coast Guard

Coast Guard, Coast Guard Reserve

The Coast Guard constantly performs its mission of protecting America's coastlines and inland waterways by enforcing customs and fishing laws, combating drug smuggling, conducting search and rescue missions, maintaining lighthouses, and promoting boating safety. The Coast Guard is part of the Department of Transportation; in time of war it may be placed in the Department of Defense under the command of the Navy. A vital part of the Armed Services, the Coast Guard has participated in every major American military campaign. With a work force of about 5,580 commissioned officers, 1,490 warrant officers, and 27,130 enlisted members, Coast Guard personnel perform in many different occupations to support the missions of the

Coast Guard. Each year, the Coast Guard has openings for more than 4,000 men and women in a wide range of challenging careers.

Helpful Website:

[Coast Guard](#)





Marine Corps

Marine Corps, Marine Corps Reserve

The United States Marine Corps has served as the aggressive tip of the American military spear since its inception in 1775. Often thought of as "First to Fight", the Marines are a smaller, more dynamic force than any other in the American arsenal. Marines operate around the world as America's quick strike expeditionary force, ready at a moment's notice to effectively insert elite warriors into any situation in any place that calls for it. Marines are trained to attack enemies from the air, land and sea with a fury unmatched by any other military organization in the world.

To perform the many duties of the Marine Corps, approximately 178,000 Marines excel at everything they do. Their intense training and drive for excellence is world-renowned. The self-discipline and abilities gained in Recruit

Training pour over into 300 different individual specialties in which they may become an expert. Each year, the Marine Corps recruits approximately 40,000 men and women to fill openings in its numerous career fields. Whether operating a 60-ton tank, setting up a communications outpost or maintaining an F/A-18 fighter jet, every role on the team is essential to our mission. In addition, the Marine Corps accepts approximately 1,500 new officers into its ranks to lead them. As important as enlisted Marines are to the Marine Corps, Marine Officers are essential to success.

Helpful Websites:

- [Marine Corps](#)





Navy

Navy, Navy Reserve

The Navy defends the right of our country and its allies to travel and trade freely on the world's oceans and helps protect our country and national interests overseas during times of international conflict through power projection ashore. Navy cruisers, destroyers, frigates, submarines, aircraft carriers, and support ships are ready to maintain the freedom of the seas.

The Navy is made up of over 360,000 officers and enlisted sailors. Nearly 53,000 officers serve on active duty in the Navy. They may be in a variety of assignments on ship, submarine, and shore facilities or in the air as pilots or flight officers. They serve as nuclear power instructors, and special warfare officers. Others perform specialized duties in intelligence, engineering, law, medicine, and scientific careers. Between 5,000 and 6,000 men and

women join the Navy as officers every year. Navy people operate and repair nearly 300 ships and over 4,000 aircraft; they serve in such diverse fields as radio operators, network systems administrators, dental specialists, seamen, computer programmers, photographers, ship electricians, and gas turbine systems technicians and work in many other exciting careers. Navy people serve on ships at sea, on submarines under the sea, in aviation positions on land and sea, and at shore bases around the world.

Helpful Websites:

- [Navy](#)
- [Navy Reserve](#)

