

JOINING THE MILITARY



THE FIVE MILITARY BRANCHES

AIR FORCE

MISSION: To protect and defend the U.S. through air, space, and cyber space.

OP-TEMPO: Airmen deploy and rotate less frequently than the other branches.

LOCATIONS: The Air Force has bases spread out throughout the U.S., Europe, and Northwest Asia.

ARMY

MISSION: To protect and defend the U.S. through use of ground troops, armor, and artillery.

OP-TEMPO: Soldiers spend a lot of time on deployment (up to 18 months) and training for deployments.

LOCATIONS: The Army has bases in 25 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Japan, and Korea.

NAVY

MISSION: To protect and defend the U.S. at sea and in the air.

OP-TEMPO: Sailors can be assigned to shore duty along the coast, where deployments are unlikely. They can also be assigned to sea duty, where they deploy on vessels for 6 months to 1 year.

LOCATIONS: Most bases are in CA, VA, WA, FL, AL, MS, and TX. There are also bases overseas in Spain, Italy, Greece, Japan, and more.

MARINE CORPS

MISSION: To protect and defend the U.S. through amphibious operations.

OP-TEMPO: Marines deploy for 9-18 months at a time and spend other parts of the year training for deployments.

LOCATIONS: Most duty stations are located in CA, NC, HI, the Washington D.C. area, and Japan.

COAST GUARD

MISSION: To protect and defend the U.S. by providing law enforcement, boating safety, sea rescue, illegal immigration control, and drug interdiction.

OP-TEMPO: Coast Guardsmen deploy and rotate less frequently than the other branches, but have cutter ships that will deploy internationally for usually 2-6 months.

LOCATIONS: Like the Navy, Coast Guard duty stations are mainly located along the coast or on vessels at sea.

BENEFITS OF SERVICE

Job Security
Steady Paycheck
Health Care
Career Exploration
Education Benefits
Vacation/Leave Time

Travel
Apprenticeships
Advanced Training
Leadership Development
Retirement
Military Discounts



ACTIVE DUTY

(FULL-TIME)

RESERVE

(PART-TIME)

NATIONAL GUARD

(PART-TIME)

MILITARY JOBS



- Combat operations
- Medicine
- Engineering
- Aviation
- Public Affairs
- Intelligence
- Administration
- Culinary Arts
- Logistics
- Mechanics
- + more

WAYS TO JOIN



ENLISTED:

- Basic Training

OFFICER:

- Officer Candidate School (OCS)
- ROTC (college/university)
- Military Academy
- Direct Commission

RECRUITING PROCESS

1. Research available jobs and which branch interests you before visiting a recruiter.
2. Find local recruiting offices by visiting the branch's official website.
3. Meet with a recruiter. Find a recruiter you feel comfortable with and that you trust throughout this process. Ask your recruiter specific and direct questions and do not make assumptions about information they provide without being sure.
4. Visit MEPS to take the ASVAB, conduct a physical/medical screening, and select a job.
5. OPTIONAL: Delayed Entry Program (DEP) - This program exists to prepare recruits for the military while they wait to leave for basic training.
6. Visit MEPS on the day you leave for basic training to recite the Oath of Enlistment.

RESOURCES

Air Force

<https://www.airforce.com>

Army

<https://www.goarmy.com>

Navy

<https://www.navy.com>

Marine Corps

<https://www.marines.com>

Coast Guard

<https://www.gocoastguard.com>

ASVAB

<https://www.4tests.com/asvab>

<https://asvabpracticetestonline.com>

Operation Military Kids

<https://www.operationmilitarykids.org>

