



Big Brothers Big Sisters®

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY



ENLISTMENT GUIDE

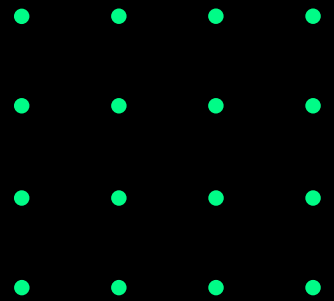


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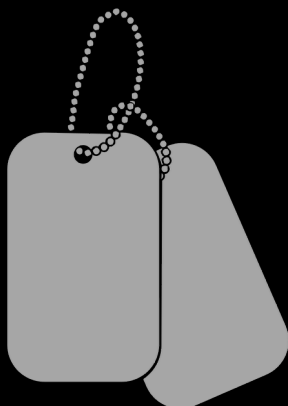
INTRODUCTION



Welcome to our Enlistment Guide! This guide will provide resources to help you get started on the path to enlistment in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Joining the military is a serious commitment. Enlistment is typically sought after because of the benefits that the military provides to its service members and their families, but one should be prepared for the sacrifice it takes and make an informed decision that they feel confident in.

In this guide, you'll learn about the different branches of the military, enlistment requirements, and recruitment information to help you understand if this path is right for you!



BRANCHES

There are 6 branches in the military. Each offer a different experience so its important to do your research on which is best suited for you.



Air Force

Army



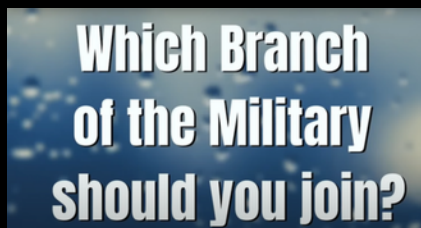
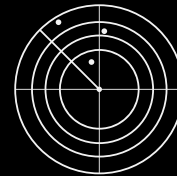
Coast Guard

Marine Corps



Navy

Space Force



[Click here to watch a video that breaks down each branch and what you should consider before choosing](#)



Check out these resources to see more about what each branch is responsible for



[Defense.gov/About/Our-Forces Military Branches Explained](https://www.defense.gov/About/Our-Forces/Military-Branches-Explained)

MILITARY BRANCHES

THE COMMON DEFENSE: BRANCHES OF THE U.S. MILITARY

Keeping our homeland safe and secure is one of our Nation's top priorities. Maintaining a robust defense with multiple functions requires a vast array of personnel, resources, and organization. With over 1.3 million men and women on active duty, over 700 thousand civilian personnel, the Department of Defense is the nation's largest employer. Additionally, more than 800 thousand serve in the National Guard and Reserve forces. America's Armed Forces are made up of five branches:



THE AIRFORCE



The military's main source of air and space power



Tasked with flying planes, helicopters, and satellites



THE ARMY



Provides power on the land with ground troops and artillery



Guards global U.S. installations and properties



THE COAST GUARD



Clears domestic waterways and provides water rescue



Serves as law enforcement and drug prevention



THE MARINE CORPS



The rapid-reaction force, usually the "boots on the ground" in a conflict area



Trained to fight by sea and land



THE NAVY



Secures/protects the oceans, providing peace and stability for travel and trade



Accomplishes missions mainly by sea, but also by air and land



SPECIAL OPERATIONS:

- » Special Tactics teams include combat controllers, pararescuemen (also known as PJs), and weather teams.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS:

- » Special Forces, or Green Berets, conduct difficult military strike missions and help train forces in allied countries. Delta Force is a team of elite counter-terrorism



SPECIAL OPERATIONS:

- » The Deployable Operations Group handle natural disasters, environmental catastrophes, terrorism, and other threats.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS:

- » Force Recon are elite reconnaissance Marines who explore areas in order to gain information.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS:

- » Navy SEALs are naval commandos who conduct short, high-risk missions to eliminate threats and rescue hostages. SEAL Team Six is the secretive



Did you know the Space Force is the newest military branch? It was established in 2019. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Space Force



Army

Primary Mission:
Land-based military operations

The Army is the largest branch and is responsible for protecting and defending U.S. interests through ground combat operations. Soldiers perform mission ranging from combat and logistics to healthcare, engineering, communications, intelligence, and cybersecurity.

[Visit the U.S. Army Website](#)

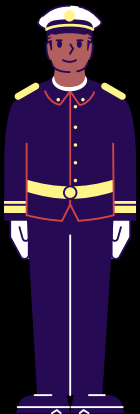


Marine Corps

Primary Mission:
Rapid-response combat force

The Marines specialize in expeditionary operations and are often among the first military forces deployed during crises, conflicts, or humanitarian missions.

Visit the Marines Website

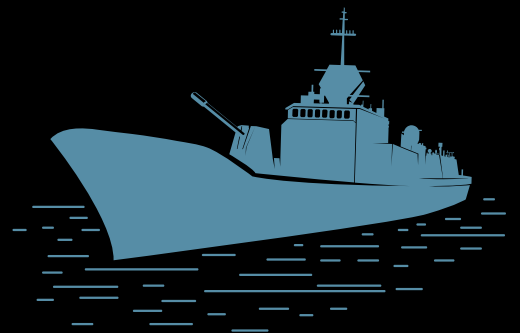


Navy

Primary Mission:
Maritime operations and global sea power.

The Navy protects U.S. interests on and under the oceans. Sailors operate ships, submarines, aircraft carriers, and advanced technology systems.

Visit the Navy Website

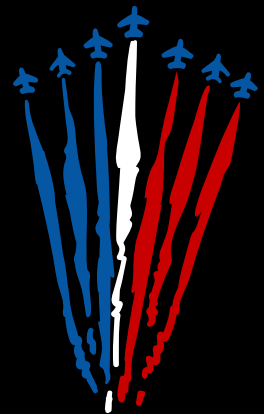
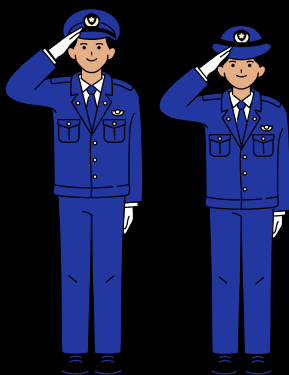


Air Force

**Primary Mission:
Air and space superiority.**

The Air Force conducts missions involving aircrafts, intelligence, cyber operations, and global mobility.

Visit the U.S Air Force Website



Coast Guard

Primary Mission:
Maritime safety, security, and law enforcement.

The Coast Guard protects U.S. waterways, conducts search-and-rescue missions, enforces maritime laws, and responds to natural disasters.

Visit the U.S. Coast Guard Website

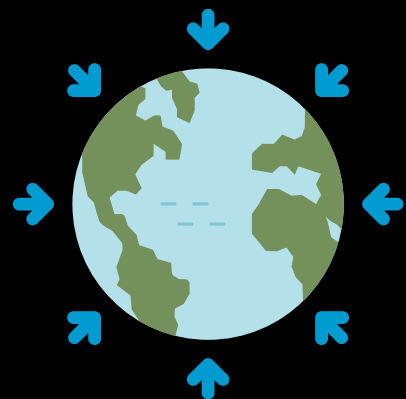


Space Force

Primary Mission:
Space operations and national security.

The newest branch of the military, the Space Force protects U.S interests in space, including satellite systems, communications, missile warning systems, and space-domain awareness.

Visit the U.S Space Force Website



REQUIREMENTS

☒ **Must be a U.S. Citizen or have a U.S. Permanent Resident Card**

☒ **Must take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)**

☒ **Must have a high school diploma or GED. There are fewer spots for those with a GED but those that have GED have a better chance if they have earned college credits or have a high score on the ASVAB**

☒ **Must complete a medical exam**

☒ **Age limits to enlist in active duty:**

Air Force: 17-29

Army: 17-35

Coast Guard: 17-31

Marine Corps: 17-28

Navy: 17-39

Space Force: 17-29



Enlisted vs. Officer: Understanding the Difference

Enlisted Personnel: Most people who join immediately after high school enter as enlisted members.

Requirements:

- **High School Diploma or equivalent**
- **Meet physical and medical standards**
- **Pass entrance testing**

Responsibilities:

- **Learn a military specialty**
- **Operate equipment**
- **Perform technical and operational duties**
- **Develop leadership skills over time**

Commissioned Officers: Officers are the military's leaders and managers.

Requirements:

- **Bachelor's degree**
- **Officer training program such as: ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps), Officer Candidate School (OCS), Service Academy.**

Responsibilities:

- **Lead units**
- **Manage personnel**
- **Plan missions**
- **Make operational decisions**

Going to College First, Then Joining the Military

Many students believe they must choose between college and military service. In reality, earning a degree first can create significant advantages.

- **Higher Starting Rank:** College graduates who become officers typically enter at a higher pay grade than enlisted members. Officers begin their military careers in leadership positions and generally receive higher compensation.
- **Higher Lifetime Earnings:** Officers generally earn higher base pay, larger housing allowances, greater retirement benefits over a military career.
- **Expanded Career Opportunities:** Many specialized military careers prefer or require degrees including, medical professions, engineering, intelligence, cybersecurity, legal careers, aviation.
- **Stronger Civilian Career Prospects:** A college degree combined with military leadership experience makes candidates highly competitive in fields such as: government, business, technology, healthcare, public safety.
- **ROTC Scholarships:** Students can attend college while participating in ROTC programs, which may provide scholarships and a pathway to becoming commissioned officers upon graduation.

ASVAB

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military



The ASVAB Tests

The ASVAB tests are designed to measure aptitudes in four domains: Verbal, Math, Science and Technical, and Spatial. The table below describes the content of the ASVAB tests. The tests are presented in the order in which they are administered.

Test	Description	Domain
General Science (GS)	Knowledge of physical and biological sciences	Science/Tech
Arithmetic Reasoning (AR)	Ability to solve arithmetic word problems	Math
Word Knowledge (WK)	Ability to select the correct meaning of a word presented in context and to identify best synonym for a given word	Verbal
Paragraph Comprehension (PC)	Ability to obtain information from written passages	Verbal
Mathematics Knowledge (MK)	Knowledge of high school mathematics principles	Math
Electronics Information (EI)	Knowledge of electricity and electronics	Science/Tech
*Auto Information (AI)	Knowledge of automobile technology	Science/Tech

The CAT-ASVAB was implemented after 20 years of extensive research and evaluation.

It was the first large-scale adaptive test battery to be

[Click here to see the ASVAB Fact Sheet](#)



ASVAB Advantage

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2023 ASVAB Mechanical Comprehension

ASVAB Mechanical Comprehension Practice Test 2023 (40 Questions with Explained Answers)

13K views · 5 months ago



2023 ASVAB General Science

ASVAB General Science Practice Test 2023 (40 Questions with Explained Answers)

23K views · 5 months ago



2023 ASVAB Electronic Information

ASVAB Electronics Information Practice Test 2023 (40 Questions with Explained Answers)

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2023 ASVAB Arithmetic Reasoning

ASVAB Arithmetic Reasoning Practice Test 2023 (40 Questions with Explained Answers)

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2023 ASVAB Math

ASVAB Math Practice Test 2023 (40 Questions with Explained Answers)

21K views · 5 months ago



2023 ASVAB Assembling Objects

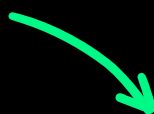
ASVAB Assembling Objects Practice Test 2023 (40 Questions with Explained Answers)

16K views · 5 months ago

[Check out this YouTube Channel that highlights the different sections on the ASVAB with answer explanations](#)



Check out additional ASVAB study materials



- ASVAB Study Guides
- Practice Tests



RECRUITMENT

Air Force

- Air Force: 1-800-423-USAF (1-800-423-8723) Air Force Reserve: 1-800-257-1212
- Air National Guard: 1-800-6-864-6364

Army

- Army and Army Reserve: 1-888-550-ARMY (1-888-550-2769)
- Army National Guard: 1-800-GO-GUARD (1-800-464-8273)

Coast Guard

- Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve: Chat w/ recruiter

Marine Corps

- Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserves: 1-800- MARINES (1-800-627-4637)

Navy

- Navy and Navy Reserves: 1-800-USA-NAVY (1-800-872-6289)

Space Force

- Contact the Air Force to join the Space Force: 1-800-423-USAF (1-800-423-8723)

Click for more
information and to
connect to a local
recruiting office



BOOT CAMP

Basic Training, or most commonly known as Boot Camp, is an intense training that prepares one for the physical, mental, and emotional requirements needed for service in the U.S. Armed Forces. While it is a tough experience, it provides recruits a foundation that they will carry throughout their service.

Duration:	Duration:	Duration:	Duration:	Duration:	Duration:
10 Weeks	13 Weeks	10 Weeks	7.5 Weeks	7.5 Weeks	8 Weeks
Location	Location	Location	Location	Location	Location
-Fort Benning Columbus, Georgia	-Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island,	-Great Lakes Recruit Training Command	-Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) Lackland	-Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) Lackland	-Cape May Coast Guard
-Fort Jackson Columbia, South Carolina	Parris Island, South Carolina	Great Lakes, Illinois	San Antonio, Texas	San Antonio, Texas	Cape May, New Jersey
-Fort Leonard Wood Waynesville, Missouri	-Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego,				
-Fort Sill Lawton, Oklahoma	San Diego California				
-For Knox Fort Knox, Kentucky					
Physical Fitness Requirements:	Physical Fitness Requirements:	Physical Fitness Requirements:	Physical Fitness Requirements:	Physical Fitness Requirements:	Physical Fitness Requirements:
- Timed 2-mile run or provided alternative 3 repetitions of maximum deadlift 2 minutes of hand release pushups 1 to 5 minutes of plank - Standing Power Throw, 10lb ball	- Pull-ups or Push-ups - Timed Crunches or Plank Timed Three-mile Run	- Timed 1.5 mile run 2 sets, 30 seconds of planks 2 minutes of pushups	- Timed 1.5 mile run 2 minutes to complete as many correct repetitions of pushups 2 minutes to complete as many correct repetitions of sit-up	- Timed 1.5 mile run 2 minutes to complete as many correct repetitions of pushups 2 minutes to complete as many correct repetitions of sit-up	- Timed 1.5 mile run 1 minute of Pushups 1 minute of Sit-ups 1.5 mile run Complete a Swim circuit (Jump off a 1.5 meter into the pool, swim 100 meters unassisted)



Click to watch
what Boot Camp is
like for Navy
Recruits



Military Education Benefits

The military offeres substantial education assistance both during and after service.

Tutuion Assistance: Eligible service members can recieve up to \$4,500 anually for college courses while serving.

Post- 9/11 GI Bill (may cover)

- College tuition
- Housing allowance
- Books and supplies
- Some graduate programs and certificaitons

Student Loan Repayment Programs: Some branches offer assistance with qualifying student loans.

MILITARY BENEFITS

Joining the military can offer a unique set of benefits across various branches, each with its distinct advantages.

Here's a brief overview of the military benefits provided by each branch:



- Army:**
- **Career Opportunities:** The Army offers a wide range of career paths, from combat roles to technical and administrative positions.
 - **Education Benefits:** Access to the GI Bill for college education and various training programs.
 - **Leadership Development:** The Army emphasizes leadership skills, providing opportunities for personal and professional growth.
- Navy:**
- **Global Travel:** The Navy offers the chance to see the world through deployments and assignments to various international locations.
 - **Technical Training:** Opportunities to gain valuable technical skills, particularly in areas like engineering and aviation.
 - **Education and Training Opportunities:** Access to the GI Bill and the Navy College Program for further education.



MILITARY BENEFITS

- **Air Force:**

- **Technology and Innovation:** The Air Force is at the forefront of technological advancements, offering opportunities to work with cutting-edge equipment.
- **Education Benefits:** Strong emphasis on education, with numerous programs and tuition assistance opportunities.
- **Quality of Life:** The Air Force is known for its high-quality living standards and excellent facilities.

- **Marine Corps:**

- **Discipline and Leadership:** The Marine Corps places a strong emphasis on discipline, leadership, and physical fitness.
- **Elite Training:** Known for its rigorous training, the Marine Corps instills a sense of pride and achievement.
- **Versatility:** Marines are trained to be adaptable, often serving in various roles within the military.

- **Coast Guard:**

- **Humanitarian Missions:** The Coast Guard often engages in search and rescue operations and humanitarian missions, providing a sense of service.
- **Law Enforcement:** Opportunities for careers in maritime law enforcement and border security.

[Click here for Active Duty Pay](#)

Education Benefits: Access to the GI Bill and various educational programs.

Regardless of the branch, common military benefits include healthcare coverage, housing allowances, retirement plans, and a structured career path. It's essential for high school kids considering joining the military to research each branch thoroughly, speak with recruiters, and carefully assess their personal goals and interests before making a decision.



JROTC

While not exactly a military preparation program, there are benefits to participating in a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program while in high school before enlisting in the military.

- Learn skills that you can carry into your military career such as:
 - Leadership
 - Discipline
 - Citizenship Self-confidence
 - Accountability
 - Community Service
- JROTC is structured like the military and taught by retired service members, which can give you more insight on military life
- The successful completion of at least 2 years in JROTC can help you enlist at a higher rank (pay grade)



Click to learn more
about JROTC to see
if it is something
you would want to
join!



Sources

- (YouTube Video) Which Branch of the Military Should I Join:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIDHIDYVzFM>
- U.S Department of War Website: <https://www.defense.gov/About/Our-Forces#:~:text=The%20Army%2C%20Marine%20Corps%2C%20Navy,in%20part%20under%20state%20authority.>
- Military HomeSearch Website: Provides Information on the different roles in each branch: <https://www.militaryhomesearch.com/military-branches-explained.php>
- Student Governmental Affairs Program: List the special operations for each branch: <https://www.sgap.org/the-common-defense-branches-of-the-u-s-military/>
- (YouTube Video) Space Force Is The Newest U.S. Military Branch:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pmvS7afJg0>
- USA Gov Website: Provides Requirements and Contact Information
<https://www.usa.gov/military-requirements>
- ASVAB: Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test Information Guide: <https://www.asvabpracticetests.com/asvab-free-online-study-guide/>
- ASVAB Study Guide:
<https://www.studyguidezone.com/images/asvabteststudyguide.pdf>
- Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Information-High School Elective Program: <https://veteran.com/high-school-jrotc/>
- (YouTube Video) What is JROTC, And Should You Join:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-jmBlz6OAw>