






Are You Considering Enlisting in the Military?

-  If you're thinking of enlisting in the military, start with some research.
-  It's a big decision and you'll have important choices to make when you sign up.
-  As an active duty enlisted member, you'll learn a job specialty and do hands-on work. You'll sign a contract, usually for four years active and four years inactive service.

The military has five branches: the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and the Navy. Each has its own focus, job specialties, base locations, and more.

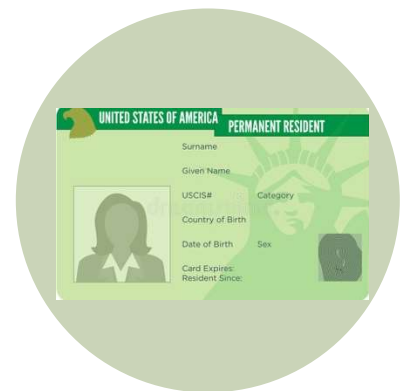
Requirements to Enlist

Citizenship



U.S. citizen

or



Lawful permanent resident with a valid "Green Card".

Age Limits

Enlist at 17 with parental consent, or 18 or older without. Each service has a different enlistment age limit:

				
Marines 28	Coast Guard 31	Army 34	Air Force 39	Navy 39

Education and Training



High School Diploma

or



GED

Everyone must take the **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)** test. The ASVAB has 10 subtests: your scores on 4 of those subtests make up your Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) score which determines which branch(es) you may join, and your score on *all* 10 subtests determine which job specialties you qualify for.

Health and Fitness



Pass a physical exam and meet weight limits. Each service has different fitness standards.

Steps for Enlisting

1 Contact a Recruiter

Get in touch with a recruiter for each branch you're interested in. They'll answer your questions.



2 Report to MEPS

If you decide to enlist, you'll spend a day at a military entrance processing station (MEPS). You'll take the ASVAB, have your physical exam, and meet with a career counselor. If you're accepted, you'll take the oath of enlistment.



3 Await Orders for Basic Training

You'll receive orders for basic training within a few weeks. If you enrolled in the delayed entry program, you'll get orders within a year.



The Paths to Becoming an Officer

Attend a Senior Military College or Service Academy

These highly competitive schools offer world-class education, a deeper understanding of military culture, and are virtually free of charge for those accepted. In return, the graduates are commissioned as officers in their respective branches, and are obligated to serve a minimum of 5 years.

West Point, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Merchant Marine Academy

Enroll at College/University with ROTC Program

ROTC programs provide officer training for students during college in exchange for scholarship money. In return, the students commit to serving for a set period of time after graduation. These programs enable students to have the traditional college experience while preparing his/her future as an officer.

Army ROTC, Navy (and Marine Corps) ROTC, Air Force ROTC

Officer Candidate/Training School (OCS/OTS)

This prepares recruits for managing others to understanding military culture and law. Three types of people attend OCS/OTS: graduates from traditional 4-year college, enlisted service members transitioning into officer roles, & Direct Commission Officers with specialized skills. Duration and type of training varies for all services but covers the same topics/themes.

Army OCS, Navy OCS, Marine Corps OCS, Coast Guard OCS, Air Force OTS

Direct Commission

Direct Commission Officers are civilians who have special skills needed for military operations; typically, they are individuals who've earned professional degrees in medicine, law, religious studies engineering or intelligence. DCOs attend Officer Indoctrination School (OIS), Officer Development School (ODS) or the Direct Commission Officer Indoctrination Course (DCOIC).

Employed through: JAG Corps, Chaplain Corps, and Medical Corps