

Opportunities in the Armed Services

There are a number of options when it comes to exploring the Armed Services. Individuals may enlist directly out of high school or you may choose to attend college first and be commissioned as an officer. There are a wide variety of career opportunities available through the military. There are also a large number of benefits available to military personnel and their families.

Representatives from all branches of the military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and National Guard, and Reserves) visit the high school on a regular basis. The visit is announced during the morning announcements and posted on the bulletin board outside the Guidance Office. Interested students may sign up in the Guidance Office. You may also visit the recruiting office by calling to arrange an appointment. The phone numbers for the various branches are listed under *United States Government* in the white pages. Some local recruiters have left their business cards in the Guidance Office.

The Enlistment Process

1. Students should meet with recruiters from the different branches to determine which enlistment would be the right choice for you. You would want to explore benefits, educational opportunities, occupational opportunities, station assignments and enlistment requirements.
2. You will be required to take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) to determine your eligibility for enlistment and an MOS (Military Occupational Speciality). The ASVAB is a group of 12 sub-tests which give you information about your current academic achievement and acquired skills for occupational areas: Verbal, Math, Mechanical, Business and Clerical, Electrical and Health, Social and Technology.
The ASVAB may be taken by any student with no military obligation.
3. If you meet the educational standards, you are then given a military physical examination to determine if you meet the physical requirements.
4. Your first involvement will be Basic Training, followed by specific MOS training, and then your first station assignment.

Benefits

1. Physical training and discipline.
2. A full-time job.
3. Training in a specific occupational area (MOS) which you choose, as long as you meet the eligibility requirements (ASVAB scores).
4. A minimum of 30 days paid vacation per year.
5. Life, health and medical insurance.
6. Tuition program to enable enlisted personnel to enroll in college courses for minimal cost.
7. Montgomery G.I. Bill – a program to provide you with money for college after military service.
8. Retirement after twenty years of service with benefits.

Additional Considerations

Participation in the high school JROTC program will allow you to enter the military on the third step of the enlisted pay scale.

Four year scholarships are available at many colleges across the country by Army, Air Force, and Navy R.O.T.C. programs. This scholarship pays tuition, books, fees, and includes a monthly allowance in

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Page 2 of 2

Additional Considerations-continued

addition, the amount depending on the year of school for the student. Receipt of the scholarship does require a commitment to serve in that military branch of service for a certain number of years.

All Officers must have earned a four year college degree (pilots are included in this group) with the exception of Army Warrant Officers (helicopter pilots) who can achieve that level with a high school diploma.

Military Academies are colleges that are tuition-free for students who earn admittance (called appointments) into the highly-selective institutions. There are four across the country, *Westpoint* (Army) located in New York, the *U.S. Air Force Academy* in Colorado Springs, Colorado, the *Naval Academy* in Annapolis, Maryland, and the *Coast Guard Academy* located in New London, Connecticut . Upon graduating from a military academy, the newly-commissioned officer commits to serve in that branch of service for a certain number of years.