

Military Service & Training

Section 1: Military Entrance Requirements

There are five branches of the military service: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. These services offer training in over 200 different occupations. In fact, the military services hires 330,000 new recruits each year. It is considered one of the largest employers in the United States.

All branches of the military services require an entrance exam called the ASVAB: Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. This is an aptitude test. This test will help each person find the best career. Each branch of the service requires a minimum ASVAB score for enlistment. Military recruiters will talk with students and give the ASVAB to students on campus. They use this information to recruit qualified students.

The ASVAB will show each person's specific skills. If these match a career, the military may provide the training. If a person chooses a career that does not match their skills, the recruiter will talk with them about other careers. The recruiter will help the person find a career that matches their skills.



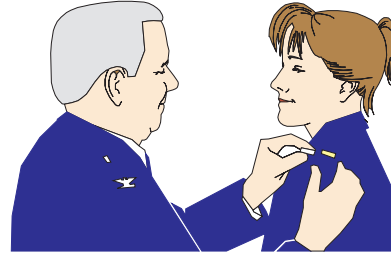
To complete the Expert Group Guide, work with your group to answer the following questions:

1. What are the five branches of military service?
2. Why does a person need to take the ASVAB before getting into a branch of military service?
3. How could the ASVAB help a person choose a career?
4. Can you change your mind about being in the military once you have signed up? Why?
3. Can you change your mind about the career you have chosen after you begin to serve in the military?

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Section 2: Training

Each person in military service will receive both general and specialized training. General training prepares each person for life in the military. This training includes physical strength, mental discipline, loyalty, self-confidence and the ability to follow the orders of superior officers. Specialized training is training for the military career each person chooses to pursue.



Training is offered in a variety of occupations. These include auto mechanic, paramedic, nurse, computer programmer, photographer, machinist, pilot and communications technician. There is training for almost any technical career. There is also training for some professional careers. The length of time in training depends on the career. Training can last from 5 to 44 weeks. Some careers require up to six years enlistment.

While in the military, each person is paid during training. Some careers offer bonuses if there is a shortage of workers. Once a person finishes their enlistment period, they may re-enlist or return to the civilian work world. The training each person receives can be very valuable in the civilian work world.

To complete the Expert Group Guide, work with your group to answer the following questions:

1. What kind of training do military recruits receive?
2. What is the difference between general training and specialized training?
3. Why is training important for each person?

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Section 3: Post Military Training

After finishing their enlistment, military personnel can continue their education. They can go to college or training using grants. These grants or scholarships are offered through something called the GI Bill.



The GI Bill is a program that deducts a part of the person's pay each month. Later, the government pays a scholarship for most of the education costs. This scholarship can go towards the cost of college, technical school, or apprenticeship programs. The GI Bill is valuable to all people who complete their military service.

Check the website for current information.

There is another option for people already in college. This is a scholarship program that pays part of the cost of a four-year college education. In this program, college students sign up to take military training courses and regular college courses. After they graduate from college, they must serve four years as an officer in the service.

To complete the Expert Group Guide, work with your group to answer the following questions:

1. What program does the military offer to pay for education?
2. How can a person get a military scholarship toward their future education?
3. Why does the military offer scholarships to persons who serve in the military?

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Section 4: Enlisted Personnel & Officers

Enlisted personnel have eight weeks of general or combat training. After combat training, they take specialized training. Some branches of the military offer over 400 different courses toward career training.

Most people in the service are enlisted personnel. Some may stay in the military for only a few years. Others earn promotions to higher ranks and become noncommissioned officers (NCO's). The lowest NCO level is a Corporal. NCO's must take four leadership courses. After the courses, they will reach the highest rank. This is Sergeant Major. To be an NCO is a good career goal to have in the military.

Enlisted members can become Commissioned Officers. They do this by completing an Officer Training Program. This training is offered in Officer Candidate Schools or Military Academies. Anyone can try for an appointment at one of these schools. There are three national Military Academies. The academies have very high standards for acceptance and are: West Point (Army), Annapolis (Navy) and the Air Force Academy. Congressmen and Senators usually make the final appointments for acceptance.



To complete the Expert Group Guide, work with your group to answer the following questions:

1. Which is the largest group in the military?
2. How does an enlisted member become an officer?
3. Why could the military be a good career choice?
4. Why could it not be a good career choice for you?

Expert Group Guide

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title of section: _____

Circle your assigned section: 1 2 3 4

1. Important point from paragraph 1: _____

2. Important point from paragraph 2: _____

3. Important point from paragraph 3: _____

4. What would you tell a friend about the military after reading this section?

