



TWELVE!

THE ~~FOUR~~ BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY

When you think about the branches of the U.S. Military you probably immediately think of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. But did you know that our military is really made up of 12 branches: five active duty and seven part-time duty? Here's the breakdown:

1

ACTIVE DUTY (FULL TIME)

Active duty members are full-time members of the military stationed at a base domestically or overseas. Active duty military members are usually enlisted for 2-6 year terms.

2

RESERVES (PART TIME)

The Reserves were created as a means to have trained forces at home while active duty members are deployed. Reserve units may be deployed in times of national emergency or wartime, but are otherwise part-time service members. This allows reservists to have a civilian job or attend school while serving their country, as peacetime requirements consist of one weekend per month and a single two-week program annually.

3

NATIONAL GUARD (PART TIME)

Like the Reserves, National Guard members are required to serve one weekend per month as well as an annual two-week service. The National Guard mainly serves to provide homeland security and humanitarian relief, such as during natural disasters. Also, like the Reserves, National Guard members are able to have civilian careers or attend school while serving.

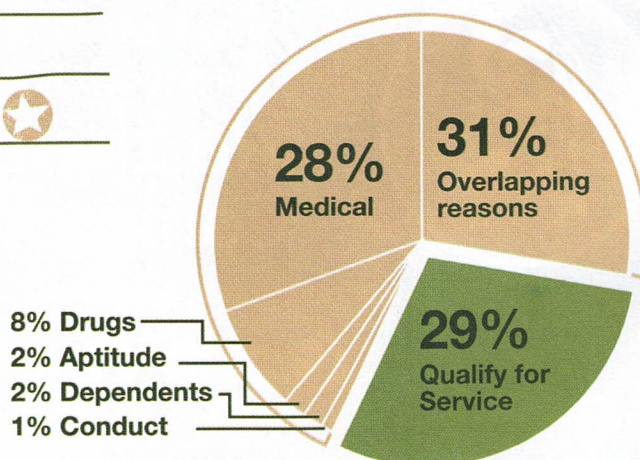
	Active Duty	Reserves	National Guard
Army	★	★	★
Marines	★	★	
Navy	★	★	
Air Force	★	★	★
Coast guard	★	★	

DO YOU QUALIFY?

DID YOU KNOW that only one in four of all 17-24 year olds is fit to serve in the United States military? Reasons such as the rising levels of obesity, tattoos, and even ADHD medications, are the reasons that the majority are ineligible. Would you make the cut?

- Must score a minimum 33 on Armed Forces Qualification Test
- No tattoos on neck, face or fingers
- No ear gauges
- No ADHD medication within the past 12 months
- No felony convictions (remember, there is no such thing as "sealed records" for the government!)
- No persistent illegal drug use
- No insulin-dependent diabetes
- Must meet height & weight requirements

Reasons for Not Qualifying





Military Myths



While there's a wealth of information out there about joining the military, there's also a wealth of MISinformation. Cpl. Krista E. James debunks some of the most common myths about military service.

MYTH: Bootcamp is designed to make you fail.

False. Recruit training is designed to break down the old version of recruits and mold them into well-disciplined members of the military. Recruits learn the value of teamwork and leadership, straying from a, "What's in it for me?" mentality into a, "How can I help the team?" mentality.

MYTH: All military service members have to go to war and fight.

False. While it is a Marine's duty to serve their country, whether in a war-zone or in a peaceful atmosphere, there are many Marines who have never seen combat. I myself was on a non-combat deployment for six months on the Black Sea Rotational Force in Mihail Kogalniceanu, Romania. Our primary job was crisis contingency, not fighting a war.

MYTH: What you learn in the military has no applicability to life outside of the service.

False. There are many Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) in the Marine Corps that translate into the civilian world. We have jobs in fields such as administration, communications, electronics maintenance, legal services, music, aircraft maintenance, and many others that can all translate into the civilian world. Many people think we are just taking young adults and sending them off to war, but we are actually preparing them to be great leaders in the community.

MYTH: Going into the military forfeits your chance to get a college education.

False. We have many resources that allow recipients to get a college education and then serve their country as an officer. We also provide tuition assistance. That means Marines can serve their country, receive benefits like medical and dental, and still go to school free of charge. After their time-in-service has ended, Marines can still utilize their GI Bill. This bill provides up to 36 months of education benefits, to include a housing allowance.



Making of an Officer



Wondering exactly what it takes to become an Army Officer? CPT Nick Kolodziey, Assistant Professor of Military Science at Jacksonville State University, has the answers.

1. What's the difference between enlisted and Officer?

Enlisted Soldiers are the backbone of the Army. They have specific specialties within an Army unit. Officers act as managers to those Soldiers. They plan missions and provide guidance, direction, and motivation to accomplish the mission and improve the organization.

2. What is the process to become an Officer?

There are four paths to becoming an Officer:

- A. Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) is a program for students to enroll in elective leadership and military courses at colleges and universities in addition to the courses required for their degree.
- B. U.S. Military Academy at West Point is the oldest and most rigorous military training academy in the United States.
- C. Officer Candidate School (OCS) is the main training ground for prospective Army Officers.
- D. Direct Commission provides leaders in certain professional fields such as law, medicine, and religion the opportunity to become an Army Officer.

3. How long does it take to become an Officer?

It depends on which path you choose. If you choose to become an Officer through the ROTC or the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, you will become an Officer after completing four years of college. Through Officer Candidate School (OCS), you are commissioned as an Army Second Lieutenant upon completion of the 12-week course, but you still must have earned a four-year degree from an accredited university. If you join through direct commission, you enter the Army as an officer, but your commission may still hinge upon other requirements.

4. Do I need a college degree to become an Officer?

Yes, the one basic requirement to becoming an Officer is that you must have a bachelor's degree — not necessarily at the start of the process, but by the time you are commissioned as an Officer.

5. Can I be an Officer and still live where I want?

Yes. If you are an Officer in the Army Reserve or National Guard, you can commit to your country while you continue your civilian career at home.

6. What is the salary like?

Army Officer salaries are generally comparable with mid-to-senior-level corporate executives. When you factor in the savings from Army housing, food allowance, tax advantages and health care, you come out ahead.

★ Alabama ROTC Programs ★

SCHOOL	ARMY ROTC	AIR FORCE ROTC	NAVY ROTC
Alabama A & M University	X		
Alabama State University (ASU)	AUM	X	
Athens State University	A&M		
Auburn University (AU)	X	X	X
Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM)	X	ASU	
Birmingham Southern College	UAB	Samford	
Faulkner University	AUM	ASU	
Huntingdon College	AUM	ASU	
Jacksonville State University	X		
Jefferson State Community College		UA	
Judson College	X		
Marion Military Institute	X	UA	
Miles College	UAB	Samford	
Samford University	UAB	X	
Shelton State Community College		UA	
Southern Union Community College		AU	
Spring Hill College		USA	
Stillman College	UA	UA	
Troy University	AUM	X	
Troy University at Montgomery	AUM	ASU	
Tuskegee University	X	X	X
University of Alabama (UA)	X	X	
University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)	X	Samford	
University of Alabama in Huntsville	A&M		
University of Mobile		USA	
University of Montevallo	UAB	Samford	
University of North Alabama	X		
University of South Alabama (USA)	X	X	
University of West Alabama		UA	



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY ROTC



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY ROTC

★ National ROTC Scholarships ★

ARMY ROTC

TYPE	DURATION	FINANCIAL AID	SERVICE OBLIGATION
Army	Two, three, or four years	Full tuition and fees; book allowance; monthly stipend up to \$5,000 per year	Four years

NAVY ROTC

TYPE	DURATION	FINANCIAL AID	SERVICE OBLIGATION
Navy Option	Two or four years	Full tuition and fees; book allowance; monthly living subsistence	Two-year option: Four years Four-year option: At least five years active duty, except for medical/dental school graduates; 12 years if attending military medical/dental school; nine years if attending civilian medical/dental school
Marine Option	Four years	Full tuition and fees; book allowance; monthly living subsistence	At least three years
Navy Nurse Corps Option	Four years	All tuition and fees, including lab fees; \$250 per semester book allowance; monthly living subsistence varying between \$250 to \$400	Four years if receiving one to 12 months of stipend; five years if receiving 13 months or more in stipend money

AIR FORCE ROTC

TYPE	DURATION	FINANCIAL AID	SERVICE OBLIGATION
1	Four years	Full tuition, most fees and includes an annual \$900 book allowance; monthly living stipend	Four years active duty, except for pilots who commit for ten years, and Combat Systems Officers and Air Battle Managers who commit for six years
2	Three or four years	Tuition and fees up to \$15,000 and a \$900 annual book allowance; monthly living stipend	Four years active duty, except for pilots who commit for ten years, and Combat Systems Officers and Air Battle Managers who commit for six years
7	Four years	Up to the equivalent of resident public school tuition or up to \$9,000 and includes the annual \$900 book allowance; monthly living stipend	Four years active duty, except for pilots who commit for ten years, and Combat Systems Officers and Air Battle Managers who commit for six years

Source: <https://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/rotc-guide/>



military

national guard

PAY FOR SCHOOL THROUGH SERVICE



College is expensive—plain and simple. There are tons of ways you can finance your education, from scholarships to student loans. Here's an option a lot of people don't think of when deciding how to pay for school: joining the National Guard. The National Guard offers programs for every type of student, whether you're still in high school, attending college, or working toward a technical certification.

Major Valisa L. Hadley saw the opportunity to fund her college education through military service and went for it. Here's her experience!

LIFE BEFORE THE GUARD

I played softball in high school, and all I ever wanted was to play ball in college. I got pregnant when I was 17, though, and my priorities shifted. When I moved off to college, it was really difficult trying to maintain a job, go to school full-time, and take care of a baby. I was working as a manager at McDonald's when I met my recruiter, and he told me about the Alabama Army National Guard.

JOINING THE GUARD

When I returned from basic training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT), my recruiter saw more potential in me than I saw in myself. He thought I was a really good leader and said the ROTC program at Jacksonville State University would be a great opportunity for me—he was right, and I enjoyed the program.

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

The Alabama National Guard helped fund my education through Federal Tuition Assistance, the Montgomery GI Bill stipend, and the Alabama National Guard Education Assistance Program (ANGEAP). I also received an ROTC dorm scholarship, which I was able to use towards on-campus living for my daughter and myself. Because of this financial assistance, I was able to graduate with a double major and commission as an officer.

The National Guard provided me with benefits that I will be able to pass on to my daughter for funding her college education as well. It also allowed me the opportunity to spend additional time with my daughter, and it gave me another job in addition to my civilian career.

WHAT I LEARNED

Anyone who is considering joining the Guard should definitely sit down with not only a recruiter, but also an education service officer. The National Guard is not the best path for everyone—you should definitely know all of the options available to you before you make the decision. Make sure that you involve your parents or guardians as well. The Guard is all about supporting your family, and they should be involved in any decision you make.

If you are joining for education benefits, make sure you choose a school that supports military education, because not all schools support the military benefits you receive. Always remember to have fun and enjoy it. If you're not enjoying it, then this may not be the career path for you. The difference between a job and a career is whether you enjoy it and are happy with what you are doing! 🌟

**Major Valisa
L. Hadley**



For more information about funding your education with the National Guard, contact the Guard Support Center at 866-628-5999, via email at arng.gsc@mail.mil, or online at www.NATIONALGUARD.com/education