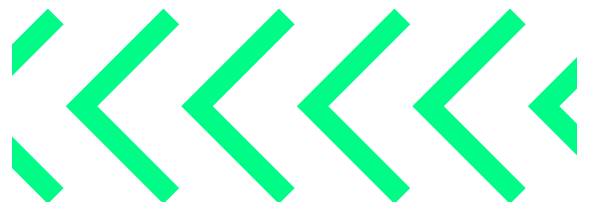
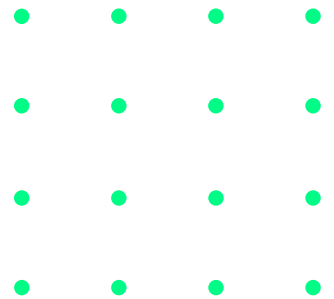




**Big Brothers Big Sisters.**  
OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

# ENLISTMENT GUIDE



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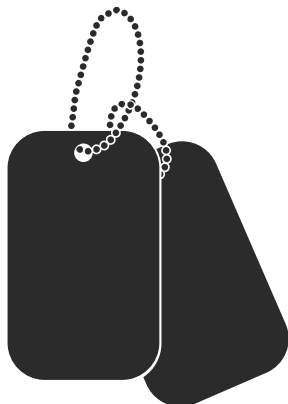
# INTRO



**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 it is important to do your research on which is best suited for you.



**Air Force**

**Army**



**Coast Guard**

**Marine Corps**



**Navy**

**Space Force**



**Which Branch  
of the Military  
should you join?**

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

# 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:

				
<b>THE AIRFORCE</b>	<b>THE ARMY</b>	<b>THE COAST GUARD</b>	<b>THE MARINE CORPS</b>	<b>THE NAVY</b>
<p> The military's main source of air and space power</p> <p> Tasked with flying planes, helicopters, and satellites</p>	<p> Provides power on the land with ground troops and artillery</p> <p> Guards global U.S. installations and properties</p>	<p> Clears domestic waterways and provides water rescue</p> <p> Serves as law enforcement and drug prevention</p>	<p> The rapid-reaction force, usually the "boots on the ground" in a conflict area</p> <p> Trained to fight by sea and land</p>	<p> Secures/protects the oceans, providing peace and stability for travel and trade</p> <p> Accomplishes missions mainly by sea, but also by air and land</p>
				
<p><b>SPECIAL OPERATIONS:</b></p> <p>» Special Tactics teams include combat controllers, pararescuemen (also known as PJs), and weather teams.</p>	<p><b>SPECIAL OPERATIONS:</b></p> <p>» 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 experts.</p>	<p><b>SPECIAL OPERATIONS:</b></p> <p>» The Deployable Operations Group handle natural disasters, environmental catastrophes, terrorism, and other threats.</p>	<p><b>SPECIAL OPERATIONS:</b></p> <p>» Force Recon are elite reconnaissance Marines who explore areas in order to gain information.</p>	<p><b>SPECIAL OPERATIONS:</b></p> <p>» Navy SEALs are naval commandos who conduct short, high-risk missions to eliminate threats and rescue hostages. SEAL Team Six is the secretive special mission unit.</p>

**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**



# 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**

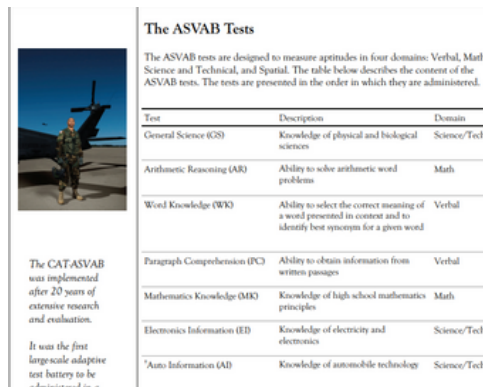
**Navy: 17-39**

**Space Force: 17-29**



# 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

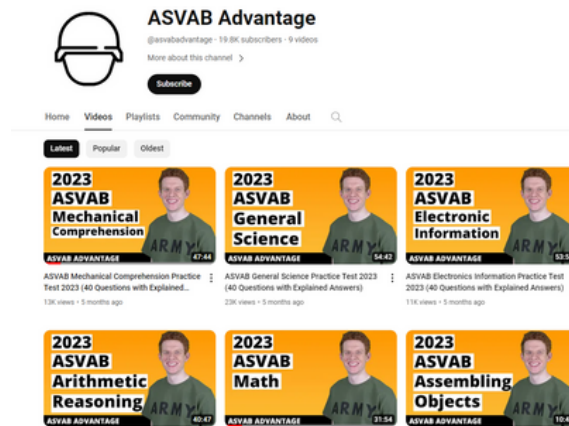


**The ASVAB Tests**

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 synonyms 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

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



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](#)
- [Study Guide](#)



# RECRUITMENT

## Air Force

- Air Force: 1-800-423-USAFA (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-USAFA (1-800-423-8723)









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



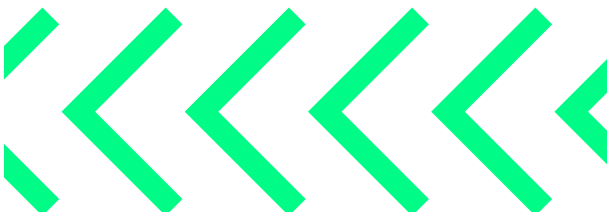


# BOOT CAMP

**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.**

 <b>Army</b> BASIC COMBAT TRAINING	 <b>Marine Corps</b> RECRUIT TRAINING	 <b>Navy</b> RECRUIT TRAINING	 <b>Air Force</b> BASIC MILITARY TRAINING	 <b>Space Force</b> BASIC MILITARY TRAINING	 <b>Coast Guard</b> RECRUIT TRAINING
<b>DURATION</b> <b>10 weeks</b>	<b>DURATION</b> <b>13 weeks</b>	<b>DURATION</b> <b>10 weeks</b>	<b>DURATION</b> <b>7.5 weeks</b>	<b>DURATION</b> <b>7.5 Weeks</b>	<b>DURATION</b> <b>8 weeks</b>
<b>LOCATION</b> Fort Benning Columbus, Georgia Fort Jackson Columbia, South Carolina Fort Leonard Wood Waynesville, Missouri Fort Sill Lawton, Oklahoma Fort Knox Fort Knox, Kentucky	<b>LOCATION</b> Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island Parris Island, South Carolina Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego San Diego, California	<b>LOCATION</b> Great Lakes Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Illinois	<b>LOCATION</b> Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) Lackland San Antonio, Texas	<b>LOCATION</b> Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) Lackland San Antonio, Texas	<b>LOCATION</b> Cape May Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, New Jersey
<b>PHYSICAL FITNESS REQUIREMENTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timed 2-mile run or provided alternative</li> <li>3 repetitions of maximum deadlift</li> <li>2 minutes of hand release pushups</li> <li>1 to 5 minutes of plank</li> <li>Standing Power Throw, 10lb ball</li> <li>Sprint-drag-carry, 5 repetitions of 50m</li> </ul>	<b>PHYSICAL FITNESS REQUIREMENTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pull-ups or Push-ups</li> <li>Timed Crunches or Plank</li> <li>Timed Three-mile Run</li> </ul>	<b>PHYSICAL FITNESS REQUIREMENTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timed 1.5-mile run</li> <li>2 sets, 30 seconds of planks</li> <li>2 minutes of pushups</li> </ul>	<b>PHYSICAL FITNESS REQUIREMENTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timed 1.5-mile run</li> <li>2 minutes to complete as many correct repetitions of pushups</li> <li>2 minutes to complete as many correct repetitions of situps</li> </ul>	<b>PHYSICAL FITNESS REQUIREMENTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timed 1.5-mile run</li> <li>2 minutes to complete as many correct repetitions of pushups</li> <li>2 minutes to complete as many correct repetitions of situps</li> </ul>	<b>PHYSICAL FITNESS REQUIREMENTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timed 1.5-mile run</li> <li>1 minute of Pushups</li> <li>1 minute of Sit-ups</li> <li>1.5 mile run</li> <li>Complete a Swim circuit (Jump off a 1.5 meter into the pool, swim 100 meters unassisted)</li> </ul>

**Click to watch what Boot Camp is like for Navy Recruits**



# MILITARY BENEFITS

Joining the military can offer high school kids 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:

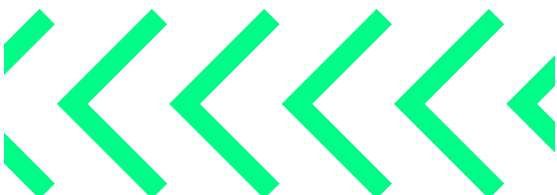


## Army:

- **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:

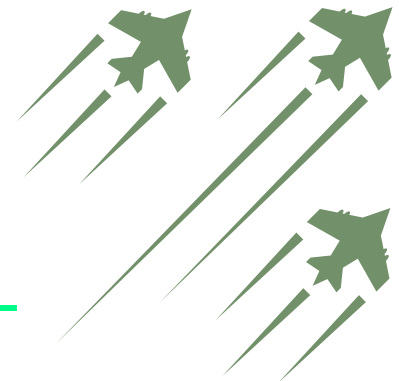
- **Global Travel:** The Navy offers the chance to see the world through deployments and assignments to various international locations.
- **Technical Training:** Opportunities to gain valuable technical skills, particularly in areas like engineering and aviation.
- **Education and Training Opportunities:** 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.**

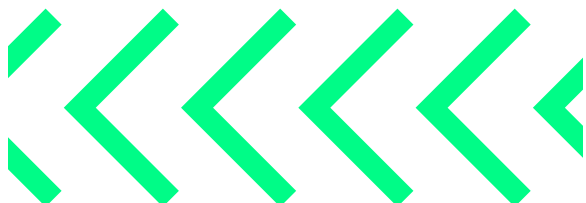
Regardless of the branch, common military benefits include healthcare coverage, housing allowances, retirement plans, and a structured career path. It's essential for high school kids considering joining the military to research each branch thoroughly, speak with recruiters, and carefully assess their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



## References

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIDHIDYVzFM>

<https://www.defense.gov/About/Our-Forces#:~:text=The%20Army%2C%20Marine%20Corps%2C%20Navy,in%20part%20under%20state%20authority.>

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