

MILITARY INFORMATION

| | Navy | Air Force | Army | Marines | Coast Guard |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| Roles according to Department of Defense | The Navy maintains trains and equips combat-ready maritime forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas. | The air Force provides a rapid, flexible, and when necessary, a lethal air and space capability that can deliver forces anywhere in the world in less than 48 hours. | The Army defends the landmass of the United States, its territories, commonwealths and possessions. | The U.S. Marine Corps maintains ready expeditionary forces, sea-based and integrated air-ground units for contingency and combat operations, and the means to stabilize or contain international disturbance. | The U.S. Coast Guard provides law and maritime safety enforcement, marine and environmental protection and military naval support. |
| Web site | www.navy.com | www.airforce.com | www.goarmy.com | www.marines.com | www.gocoastguard.com |
| Size | 384,000 active 152,000 reserve | 350,000 active 136,000 reserve 112,000 Nat'l Guard | 796,000 active and reserve | 174,000 active and reserve | 50,000 active and reserve |
| Job opportunities | More than 80 jobs, such as aviation, electronics, emergency, fire and rescue, intelligence and communications, medical, dental, media and special operations. | Categories of jobs are mechanical, administrative, general and electronics. | More than 200 jobs, such as combat specialty, engineering, science, technical, medical, military intelligence and protective service. | More than 400 jobs in aviation, combat arms, computers, communications, intelligence, electronics and combat service support. | Categories of jobs are deck, operations, engineering, aviation and support. (19 career fields – reserve and active.) |
| Promotions* | 1 st at 9 months 2 nd at 9 months 3 rd at 6 months | 1 st at 6 months 2 nd at 16 months | Every 6 months | 1 st at 3 months 2 nd at 6 months 3 rd at 12 months | Every 6 months |
| Incentives for enlisting | Vary according to ASVAB score and job selected | Vary according to ASVAB score and job selected. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20,000 based on job and length of service. • \$6,000 for 60 college credits. • \$3,000 for certain jobs and training. | Vary according to ASVAB score and job selected. | Vary according to ASVAB score and job selected; guaranteed geography districts. |
| Minimum enlistment term | 4 years / 2 years | 4 years | 2 years | 4 years / 2 year call to service ASVAB score/job only certain programs. | 4 years |
| Location and length of basic training | 8 weeks and 5 days in Chicago | 6 weeks in Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas | 9 weeks in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fort Knox, KY • Fort Sill, OK • Fort Benning, GA • Fort Jackson, SC • Fort Leonard Wood, MO | 13 weeks in Parris Island, S.C. or San Diego, Calif. | 8 weeks in Cape May, N.J. |
| Educational requirements | High school diploma, GED is occasionally accepted with 15 college credit hours. | High school diploma; GED is occasionally accepted with 15 college credit hours. | High school diploma; GED is occasionally accepted. | High School diploma; GED is occasionally accepted with 15 college credit hours. | High school diploma; GED is occasionally accepted with 15 college credit hours. |
| Education benefits (in addition to MGIB) | Full tuition while serving. \$15,000 extra from the Navy College Fund for certain jobs. Classes available on ships. \$50,000 college fund. | Full tuition while serving. Receive credit for training at Community College of the air Force (the largest Community College in the world.) | Full tuition while serving. Up to \$70,000.00 (including MGIB) from the Army college Fund. Money for qualifying federal student loans. | Full tuition while serving. Classes available on base. \$50,000 M.C. college fund. \$38,000 MGIB. | \$4,500 tuition assistance while serving. Coast Guard Institute available. |