



# Choosing the Military: The Basics



- Take the ASVAB**
  - Explore jobs you qualify for at [careersinthemilitary.com](https://careersinthemilitary.com)
  
- Meet Age Requirements**
  - 17 with parental consent
  - 18 without
  
- Meet Physical Requirements**
  - Good physical condition
  - Of appropriate weight
  - Able to pass a standard physical screening

 **What to expect from the physical exam**  
[https://youtu.be/lpb-e9ZDA\\_M](https://youtu.be/lpb-e9ZDA_M)
  
- Meet Educational Requirements**
  - High school diploma
  - GED
  
- Meet Citizenship Requirements**
  - U.S. Citizens
  - Legal Permanent Residents (people who have an INS I-151/I-551 Green Card)
  - Properly documented noncitizens
  
- Register with the Selective Service (Males)**
  - Register for the Selective Service: Learn more at <https://www.sss.gov/>
  
- Choose Enlisted or Officer**

This decision has implications on everything that follows.



**These are the ways to become an officer:**  
<https://youtu.be/DTeVrJfqNG0>

**Enlist** – ship out, start earning a paycheck, get education and training while serving

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**Officer** – select from the following:

  - Attend a senior military college or service academy\*

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Admissions criteria include:

  - High school academic performance
  - Standardized test scores (SAT or ACT)
  - Athletics and extracurricular activities
  - Leadership experience and community involvement
  - A congressional letter of recommendation

- Enroll at a traditional college or university with a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program
  - Attend Officer Candidate School (OCS) after graduating from college
  - Receive a direct commission after earning a professional degree
  - Advance through the enlisted ranks and then complete officer training

\*Applicants must meet the age requirements as of July 1 of the year of entry.  
\*Find more information about Service Academy Application, here.
  
- Choose a Service and a Commitment**

• Army Active Duty	• Marine Corps Active Duty	• Navy Active Duty	• Air Force Active Duty	• Coast Guard Active Duty	• Space Force Active Duty
• Army Reserve	• Marine Corps Reserve	• Navy Reserve	• Air Force Reserve		
• Army National Guard			• Air National Guard	• Coast Guard Reserve	
  
- Prepare for and Meet with a Recruiter to Determine Job**
  - What are three questions you will ask the recruiter?
  - What are your top three job choices?
  - Who will accompany you to the meeting with the recruiter?
  
- Complete a Security and Background Check**
  - Applicants complete this step at MEPS

 **What to expect from the security and background check:**  
<https://youtu.be/gbFMaBQUAp0?feature=shared>