

MILITARY READY CHECKLIST

Achieve more.



Each branch of the military has a unique scope and mission. Here is some brief information to help you start your research and determine which is the best fit.

Branch	Scope	Sample Careers
Air Force	Defends the U.S. and its global interests—to fly, fight and win in air, space and cyberspace	Aircraft maintenance; special investigations officer; pilot; flight nurse
Air National Guard	Supports the Air Force with combat-ready reserve air forces, while protecting their states	Pilot; weather officer; airfield management
Army	Protects vital national interests, and to fulfill national military responsibilities on land	Infantryman, cryptologic linguist; medical corps officer
Army National Guard	Supports active duty military in responding to domestic emergencies and threats abroad	Mechanics and maintenance; logistics specialists; cybersecurity
Coast Guard	Conducts search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, navigation assistance, ice breaking, environmental protection, port security and military readiness on waterways	Survival technician; public affairs specialist; maritime enforcement specialist
Marines	Conducts expeditionary and amphibious operations with the Navy, Army and Air Force	Combat infantry; cybersecurity technician; military working dog handler
Navy	Maintains, trains and equips combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining the freedom of the seas	Intelligence specialist; pilot; flight officer; attorney and legal support
Space Force	Prepares for and conducts military operations in space	Space, nuclear and missile operations officers; missile and space systems maintenance; space facilities specialist

Classes and grades

- ☐ Meet with your counselor to create your class plan.
- ☐ Work hard in gym class and try new activities to stay healthy. Physical fitness is incredibly important in all branches of the military.
- ☐ Begin taking dual credit courses. Learning how to study and to take tests are valuable skills you'll use no matter what your plan is after college.
- ☐ Take your Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test. This test helps determine the jobs you may be good at and in which branch. These scores could even impact enlistment bonuses!
- ☐ Keep on top of your behavior, both in and out of school. You don't want an impulsive decision to negatively affect your plans for the future. An expulsion or suspension will cause you to not meet the quality citizenship element required for the military.

Outside-of-school activities

- ☐ Expose yourself to new experiences and community issues by volunteering outside of your school.
- ☐ Enhance your teamwork and leadership skills by participating in extracurricular activities like sports, youth group activities, music or the arts.
- ☐ Visit with an adult who has military experience. Discuss the branch they were in, their job and daily life in the military.
- ☐ Work with a recruiter to learn about the enlistment procedures and requirements of the branch you will enter. Some students enlist while they are in high school and complete basic training between their junior and senior years.
- ☐ Ask your parents or another trusted adult about money management and take control of your finances so you're well practiced by the time you're financially on your own. Start saving early because you will be financially independent earlier than some of your classmates.
- ☐ Before leaving for basic training, visit with your family about who will take care of your personal affairs: getting your mail, paying your bills and handling any other personal matters.



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