

THE MILITARY

Today's military offers many opportunities for education and career training. A high school graduate may enter the military in one of three ways: by enlisting, by enrolling in an ROTC program at a college or university, or by receiving an appointment to one of the military academies, such as West Point or Annapolis.

The best sources of current information about jobs or careers in the military are military recruiters. If you think you may be interested in enlisting in a branch of the military or pursuing a career as an officer, it is wise to talk to several recruiters and compare what the various services offer. The following website is also a good source of information. <http://www.todaysmilitary.com>

Enlistment

By far the most common way of entering the United States military is by enlisting in one of the major branches: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, National Guard, Marines, or Navy. The entrance test required for the military is the ASVAB, which is also an indicator of what types of work a person may do best.

The military offers full-time employment with on-the-job training and excellent benefits. Today's military may provide job training in over two hundred occupations, as well as low-cost educational benefits while on active duty. Some services guarantee up to \$70,000 for college after a certain number of years of enlistment and/or the privilege of selecting one's duty station. See your local recruiters for further information.

Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC)

Many colleges offer ROTC programs, which combine officer training with ordinary college coursework. Standards for admission are high, although ROTC programs are not nearly as competitive as the academies. Scholarships are available for students with exceptional qualifications, including academic excellence, up to and including a full-ride scholarship combined with a monthly stipend.

If you are interested in ROTC, the first step is to visit recruiters and decide which branch of the service most interests you. Recruiters can provide information about admissions requirements and policies. Separate applications are required for the ROTC program and for the college or university. (See Section 1, "Four-Year Colleges and Universities.")

The Academies

There are four major United States military academies, as well as several "junior academies" that prepare students for entry into Annapolis, West Point, the U.S. Air Force Academy, etc. The academies are for students whose goal is to become an officer in one of the services. Life at the academies is rigorous and highly disciplined, combining physical and military training with academics.

Entrance into the academies is highly competitive. Students must have excelled academically, be in excellent physical condition, and be able to show evidence of good character.

Students interested in applying to one or more of the academies should begin in their junior year by accessing the website for the US Department of Defense, www.defenselink.mil, to request pre-candidate information. Instructions are included in this packet for requesting the nomination of a United States Senator or Congressman, which is required for consideration. The ACT or SAT will be required and should be taken early. For the few who are selected as officer candidates, the government pays tuition and expenses.