



# Pathways to Service

## Exploring Military Options



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# Why Military?

- Pride, Patriotism, Purpose
- Many Ways to Serve
- Breadth of Job Types
- Career Training & Leadership Development
- Competitive Pay & Benefits



# Pride, Patriotism, Purpose



# Types of Military Service

- Active Duty
  - Full-time service
  - Stationed worldwide
- National Guard and Reserve
  - Part-time service
  - Typically ~39 days per year
  - Often serve regionally



# Types of Positions

## **Officer (10-20% of force)**

- Requires bachelor's degree
- Leadership & management roles
- Entry options:
  - Service Academies
  - Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at 4-year university
  - Officer Candidate School (OCS)

## **Enlisted (80-90% of force)**

- Technical specialist
- Requires high school diploma
- Entry process:
  - Contact recruiter
  - Go to Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS)
  - Take Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test

# ENLISTED

E-1	E-2	E-3	E-4	E-5	E-6	E-7	E-8	E-9	SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISORS	
ARMY										
no insignia			 							
Private E-1 (PV1)	Private E-2 (PV2)	Private First Class (PFC)	Corporal (CPL) Specialist (SPC)	Sergeant (SGT)	Staff Sergeant (SSG)	Sergeant First Class (SFC)	Master Sergeant (MSG)	First Sergeant (1SG)	Sergeant Major (SGM)	Command Sergeant Major (CSM)
										Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA)

# OFFICERS

0-1	0-2	0-3	0-4	0-5	0-6	0-7	0-8	0-9	0-10	SPECIAL
ARMY - AIR FORCE - MARINES										
Second Lieutenant (2LT)	First Lieutenant (1LT)	Captain (CPT)	Major (MAJ)	Lieutenant Colonel (LTC)	Colonel (COL)	Brigadier General (BG)	Major General (MG)	Lieutenant General (LTG)	General (GEN)	General of the Army (GA)

# Size and Scope

- 2.1M Active/Reserve Military
- Budget more than \$1T
- Maintains
  - 420K+ vehicles
  - 13K+ aircraft
  - 490 ships

**Walmart**  2.1M employees

**amazon** 1.6M employees

**Walmart**  \$652B Budget

**amazon** \$569B Budget

 **UNITED STATES  
POSTAL SERVICE** 258K vehicles

**American Airlines**  1069 aircraft

**Mediterranean Shipping Co**  900 ships

# What do Military Service people do?



# They do this as well

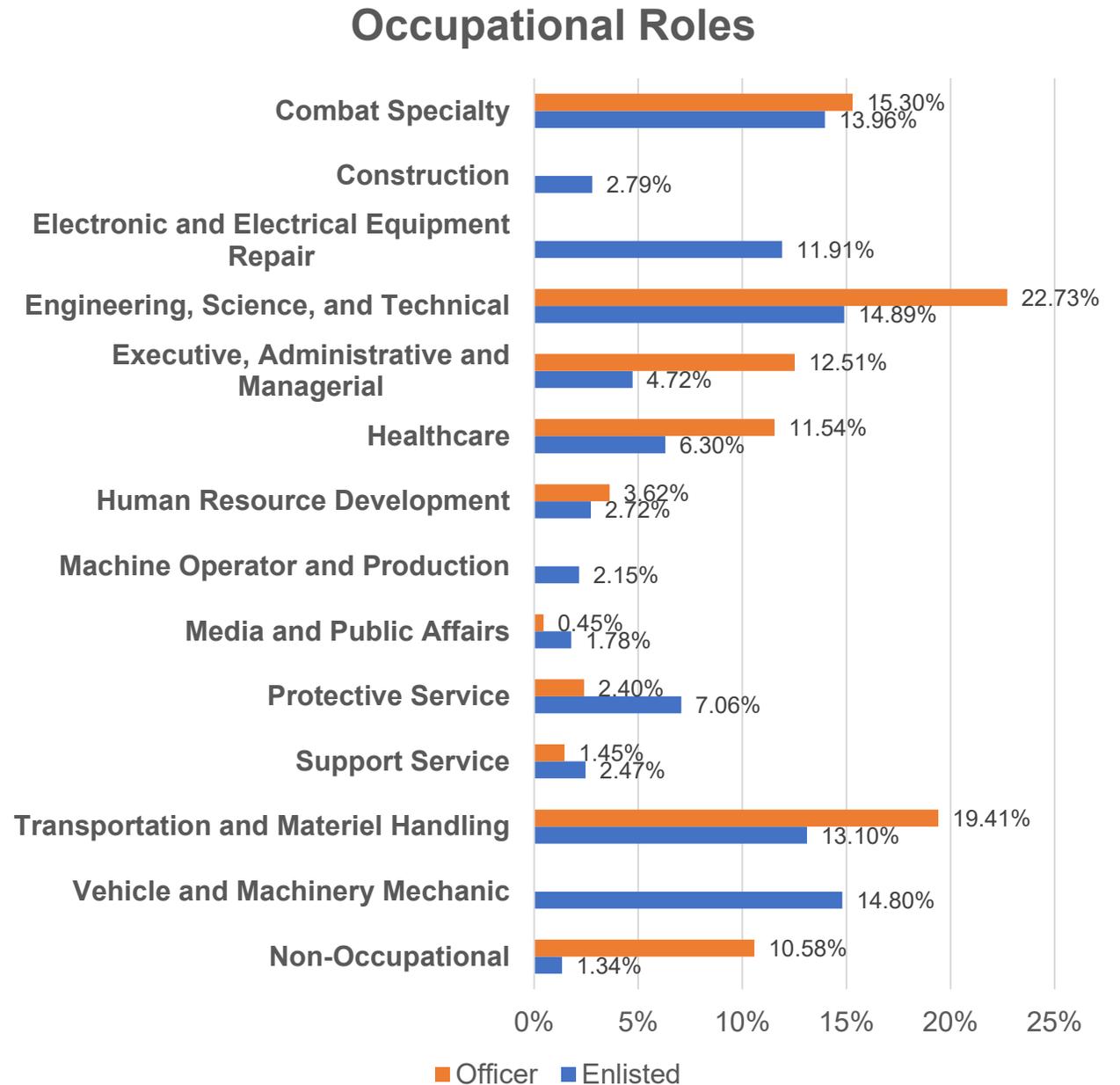


And this...



# Career Opportunities

- Personnel serve in thousands of career specialties
- Most roles require specialized training
- Leadership development required to promote



# Jobs You Can Actually Do In the Military

- Business Manager
- Community Services
- Corrections Specialist
- Cryogenics Equipment Operator
- Cyber Warriors
- Dietitian
- Entomologist
- Financial Manager
- Geneticist
- Journalists
- Instrument Repair Technician
- Multimedia Illustrator
- Musician
- Nuclear Reactor Engineer
- Packaging Specialist
- Pediatrician
- Water Support Technician
- Postal Clerk
- Quarrying Specialist
- Railway Equipment Repairer
- Refrigeration/Air Conditioning Technician
- Shower/Laundry and Clothing Repair Specialist
- Veterinarian
- Weather Specialist

# Education & Training

- The military grows its own workforce
- Continuous learning is key to promotion and retention
- Different types of training experiences
  - Basic entry training
  - Specialized skill training
  - On-the-job training (OJT)
  - Professional military education



# Pay & Benefits

- Competitive Total Compensation
- Housing & Food Allowances
- Medical & Dental Services
- Retirement System
- 30 days paid vacation per year
- Parental Leave
- Access to recreational facilities
- Educational Benefits



# Compensation examples

	Enlisted		Officer	
Rank Time in Service	E-1 <4 months	E-5 4 years	O-1 <4 months	O-3 4 years
Annual Basic Pay	\$26,708.40	\$47,361.60	\$49,802.40	\$88,592.40
Housing Allowance	\$25,992.00	\$29,124.00	\$30,816.00	\$42,192.00
Subsistence Allowance	\$5,723.40	\$5,723.40	\$3,941.76	\$3,941.76
Tax Advantage	\$3,523.93	\$4,751.92	\$4,739.69	\$13,012.09
<b>Total Compensation</b>	<b>\$61,947.73</b>	<b>\$86,960.92</b>	<b>\$89,299.85</b>	<b>\$147,738.25</b>

# Post-9/11 GI Bill

(Active Duty or Activated Reservist)

- Up to 36 months of education benefits
- Tuition and fees coverage
- Housing allowance
- Books and supplies stipend
- Transferable to family in some cases



# Education Benefits for Guard/Reserve

- Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve
  - Pays less than Post-9/11 GI Bill
- Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit
  - Interest-free and forgivable loan
  - Covers full tuition at public college in VT
  - Must complete 2 years of service for every year of disbursed money



PAYING FOR COLLEGE & TRAINING

## Scholarships & Forgivable Loans for Vermonters

For students attending college and training in 2026–2027



**Submission/  
postmark deadline**  
for all VSAC-assisted scholarships:  
**February 11, 2026**

*Vermont residency required,  
unless otherwise specified.*

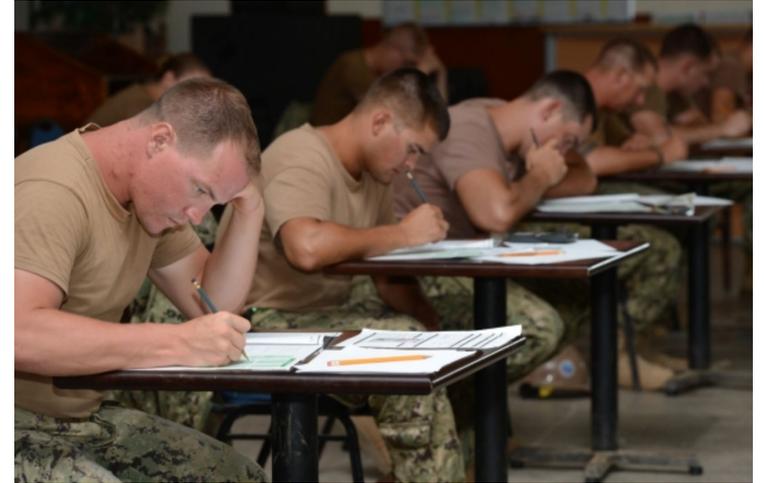
# Entry Requirements for Enlistment

- Minimum 17 years of age
- US. Citizen or legal permanent resident
- Good physical condition
  - Appropriate weight
  - Able to pass physical screening
- High school diploma or GED
- Good moral character



# Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)

- Multi-part aptitude assessment
- Determines eligibility and job placement
- Takes 1 – 3 hours
- Minimum enlistment score is typically 31
  - English and Math readiness are key



# Officer Opportunities



# Officer Commissioning Sources

- Service Academies
  - Produce only 15-20% of each service's officers corps
- Reserve Officer Training Corps
  - Largest source of commission for Army and Air Force – up to 70%
- Officer Candidate School
  - More responsive to services' technical specialty needs
  - Can produce up to 25% of service's officer corps
- Direct/Other Commissioning programs for unique service needs

# Military Academies



USMA  
West Point, NY



USNA  
Annapolis, MD



USAFA  
Colorado Springs, CO



USMMA  
Kings Point, NY

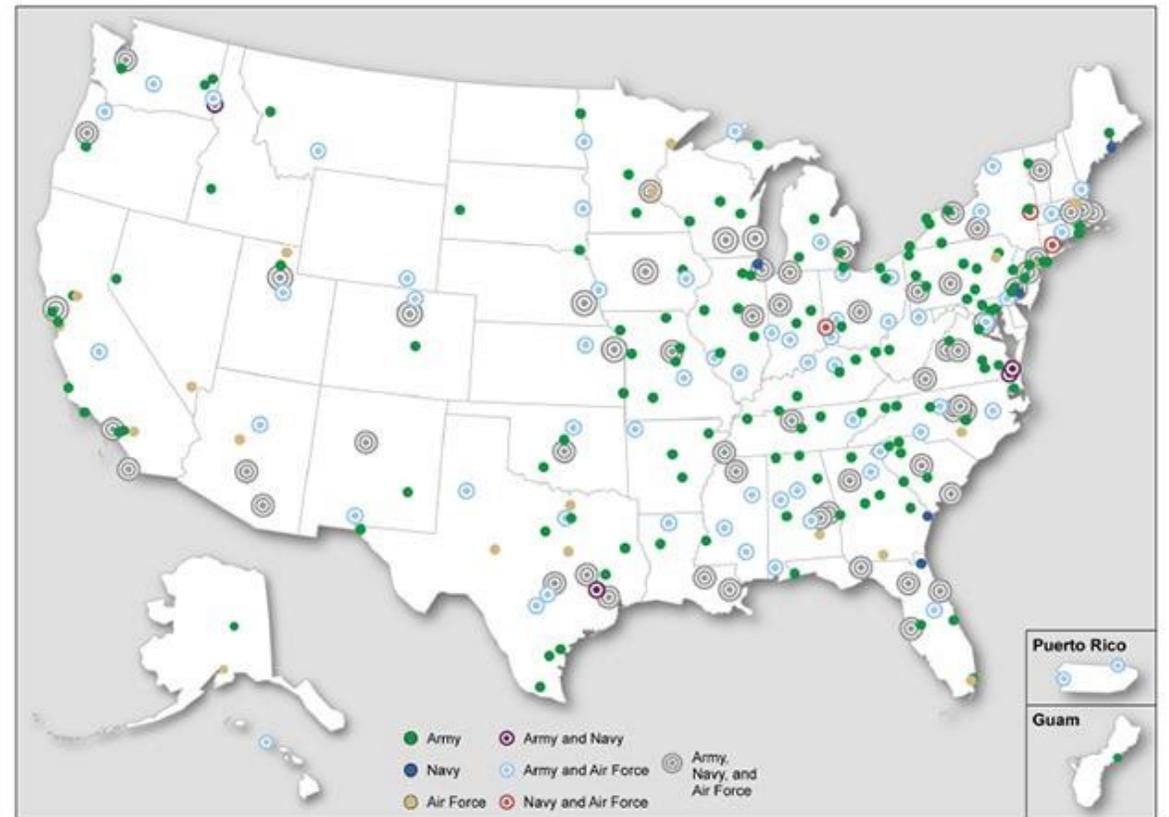


USCGA  
New London, CT

- Unique learning environment
- Highly competitive
- Application process generally begins in junior year

# Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)

- Available at 1,700+ colleges
- Scholarships available
- Commission as officer after graduation
- Senior Military Colleges
  - Norwich University
  - Texas A&M University
  - The Citadel
  - University of North Georgia
  - Virginia Military Institute
  - Virginia Tech



ROTC host sites



# Final Thoughts



Questions?