


Choosing the Military: The Basics



- Take the ASVAB**
 - Explore jobs you qualify for at 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


- 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

Officer – select from the following:

 - Attend a senior military college or service academy*

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
• Army Reserve	• Marine Corps Reserve	• Navy Reserve	• Air Force Reserve	• Coast Guard Reserve
• Army National Guard			• Air National Guard	

- 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/lpb-e9ZDA_M