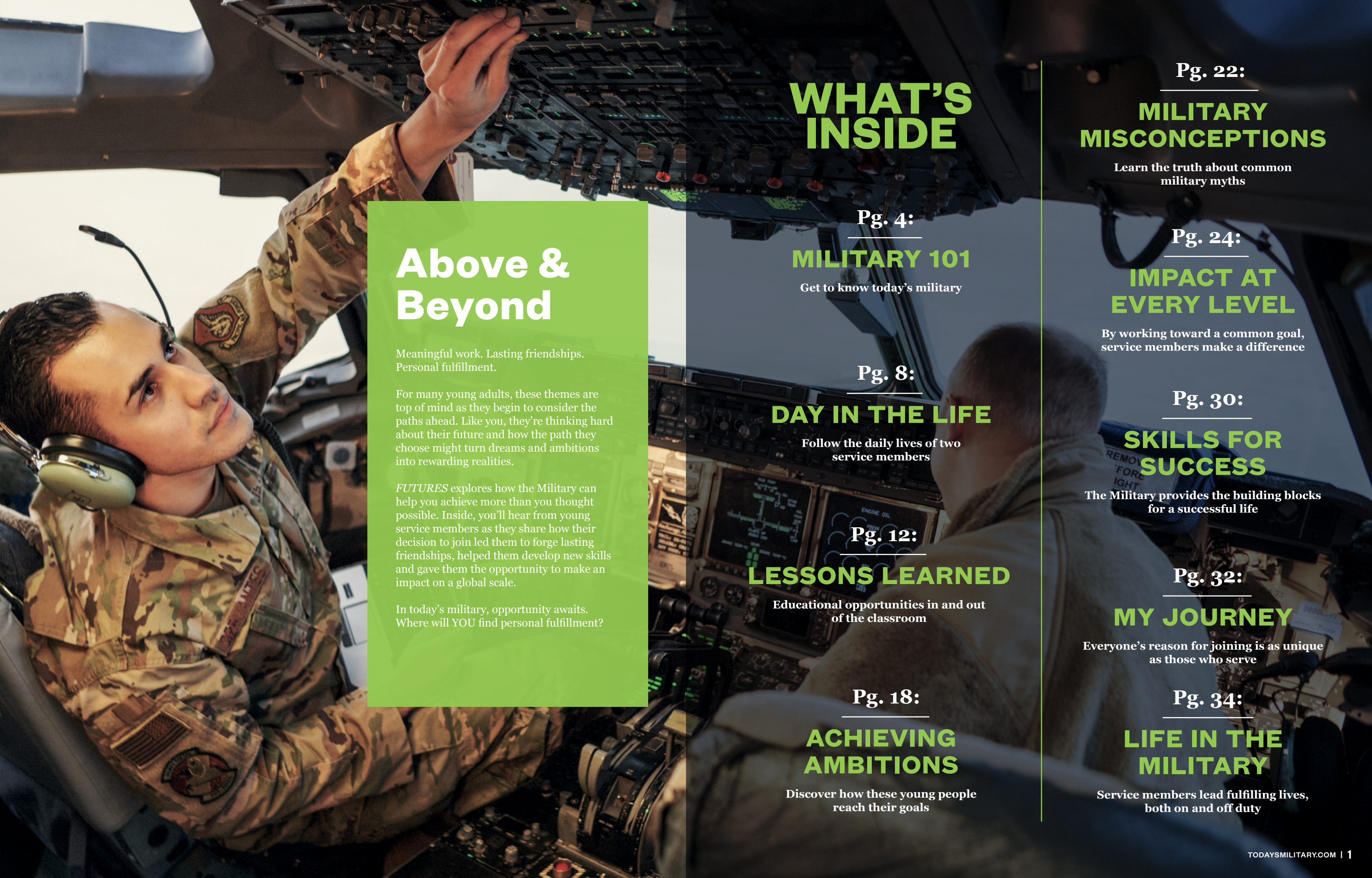


FUTURES



GO BEYOND THE EXPECTED

IN THIS ISSUE **MILITARY 101** **ACHIEVING AMBITIONS** **IMPACT AT EVERY LEVEL**



Above & Beyond

Meaningful work. Lasting friendships. Personal fulfillment.

For many young adults, these themes are top of mind as they begin to consider the paths ahead. Like you, they're thinking hard about their future and how the path they choose might turn dreams and ambitions into rewarding realities.

FUTURES explores how the Military can help you achieve more than you thought possible. Inside, you'll hear from young service members as they share how their decision to join led them to forge lasting friendships, helped them develop new skills and gave them the opportunity to make an impact on a global scale.

In today's military, opportunity awaits. Where will YOU find personal fulfillment?

WHAT'S INSIDE

Pg. 4:

MILITARY 101

Get to know today's military

Pg. 8:

DAY IN THE LIFE

Follow the daily lives of two service members

Pg. 12:

LESSONS LEARNED

Educational opportunities in and out of the classroom

Pg. 18:

ACHIEVING AMBITIONS

Discover how these young people reach their goals

Pg. 22:

MILITARY MISCONCEPTIONS

Learn the truth about common military myths

Pg. 24:

IMPACT AT EVERY LEVEL

By working toward a common goal, service members make a difference

Pg. 30:

SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

The Military provides the building blocks for a successful life

Pg. 32:

MY JOURNEY

Everyone's reason for joining is as unique as those who serve

Pg. 34:

LIFE IN THE MILITARY

Service members lead fulfilling lives, both on and off duty

faces of SERVICE



ALEJANDRO GERVANTES-CASTRO

AIR FORCE // SENIOR AIRMAN

FUN FACT

Alejandro loves cooking and works on developing his own recipes in his spare time.



MIRANDA DELAMORENA

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD // STAFF SERGEANT

FUN FACT

Miranda recently got a new German shepherd puppy and named her Xena Warrior Princess.



ADAM KRAULAND

ARMY // STAFF SERGEANT

FUN FACT

While living in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Adam developed a love for rock climbing and does it about every other day both indoors and outdoors.



TYRA NEWTON

NAVY // ENSIGN

FUN FACT

Not only does Tyra like to read comics and graphic novels, she also enjoys drawing them.



AEI LIN

COAST GUARD // PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS

FUN FACT

Lin loves playing video games – her favorite one is *Mario Kart*.



MIKE PEREZ

MARINE CORPS // SERGEANT

FUN FACT

Sgt. Perez enjoys playing in the competitive sports leagues offered on base like softball, basketball and football.



CHANEL ROBBS

SPACE FORCE // SERGEANT

FUN FACT

Chanel loves gardening and has more than 23 houseplants!



SOURAV CHOUDHURY

AIR FORCE RESERVE // AIRMAN 1ST CLASS

FUN FACT

Fascinated with paper airplanes as a kid, Sourav knew he wanted to be a pilot and eventually an astronaut.



JOSHUA VACCIANNA

ARMY RESERVE // 2ND LIEUTENANT

FUN FACT

Joshua is a full-time student at Georgia Southern University, working toward his goal of becoming a neurosurgeon.



TRAVIS STEPHAN

AIR NATIONAL GUARD // CAPTAIN

FUN FACT

Travis and his family love the outdoors and recently took a trip to hike Big Bend National Park in Texas.

FUTURES is a product of Today's Military® and an authorized publication of the Department of Defense (DoD). However, contents are unofficial and not to be considered the views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, including the DoD. All articles contained in this publication, including all military titles mentioned, follow the guidelines set forth by the Associated Press. To request additional copies of FUTURES, please visit TODAYSMILITARY.COM/FUTURES.



AIR FORCE RESERVE

AIR NATIONAL GUARD



MILITARY 101

The Military is made up of **six branches**, each with its own specific mission. Together, they offer a variety of ways to serve and more than **250 different occupations**.

ARMY
MARINE CORPS
NAVY
AIR FORCE
SPACE FORCE
COAST GUARD

Most Service branches have active-duty and part-time components. Part-time duty includes the Reserve and National Guard (see page 7 for more on part-time service).

Learn more about the different ways to serve.



OFFICER



ENSIGN /
**TYRA
 NEWTON** /
 NAVY

“I knew the Military would be a good development opportunity for me while getting to do something bigger than myself.”

FUN FACT: In her military role, Tyra works with civilians and does not have to wear her uniform to the office.

SERVICE ACADEMIES offer a world-class education with fully funded tuition that includes room and board. Graduates receive a Bachelor of Science degree and are commissioned in their respective Service branches.

ROTC PROGRAMS provide officer training for students during college, usually in exchange for a paid college education. In return, students commit to serve either on active duty or part time in the Reserve or Guard for a set period after graduation, usually five years.

ENLISTED

Enlisted roles require a high school diploma or GED. There are a variety of enlisted careers, most of which involve hands-on training that transfers well to the civilian world.

BASIC TRAINING, often known as boot camp, prepares recruits for major elements of service: physical, mental and emotional. It gives service members the basic tools necessary and has the goal of preparing new recruits for success.

“During Basic Training, the drill instructors would sit down with us and answer our questions, get our input. They want to know how we feel and our experiences to make sure that they’re doing the best they can as well.”

SGT. /
**MIKE
 PEREZ** /
 MARINE
 CORPS





PETTY OFFICER
3RD CLASS /
AEINT LIN /
COAST GUARD

DIFFERENT WAYS TO SERVE

Service can be full time while balancing school, part time while pursuing a career or any combination in between. Discover which way is right for you.

ACTIVE DUTY

Full-Time Military Service

Active Duty is a full-time job with set work hours (on duty) and time off (off duty). Being on duty is like a civilian workday, in which you work in an occupational specialty. Off duty is the time when active-duty service members pursue their personal interests such as hobbies, their education or spending time with friends and family.

“I joined because I wanted job stability, financial support for my education and the opportunity to grow professionally.”

RESERVE

Part-Time Military Service*

Full-Time Civilian

Most Services also have a Reserve force made up of service members who typically balance school or full-time civilian careers while serving in the Military. The Reserve components combine an individual's civilian experience with military skills. Reserve members can be called to active duty to support mission needs.

*One-Weekend-a-Month Military Drill**

*Two-Weeks-a-Year Military Training**

**minimum*

“The Reserve provided me an opportunity to live both aspects of a civilian and military life. I’m a regular person who at the end of the day is also a Soldier.”



2ND LT. /
JOSHUA
VACCIANNA /
ARMY RESERVE

NATIONAL GUARD

Part-Time Military Service*

Full-Time Civilian

The Army National Guard and Air National Guard are community based and report to the governor of their respective state unless called to protect U.S. domestic interests during times of conflict, natural disasters or civil emergencies. They may also be deployed internationally alongside active-duty service members when necessary. Members of the National Guard hold civilian jobs and can attend school while conducting their military training part time.

*One-Weekend-a-Month Military Drill**

*Two-Weeks-a-Year Military Training**

**minimum*



STAFF SGT. /
MIRANDA
DELAMORENA /
TEXAS ARMY
NATIONAL GUARD

“Serving in the National Guard is really the best of both worlds. I love serving close to home while still being able to enhance my civilian career.”

day IN THE life



Full-Time Service with Sgt. Mike Perez

Active Duty — or full-time service — is typically a 40- to 50-hour workweek, sometimes more if the mission requires it and sometimes less for holidays and vacations. Sgt. Perez serves active duty in the Marine Corps and is currently stationed at Quantico in Virginia, where he lives on base with his family.



6 am

Up early, Sgt. Perez grabs breakfast before heading to work to teach martial arts. In addition to his role as an audiovisual (AV) technician, he trains Marines as part of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP). Once training wraps up, he returns home to get ready for the workday ahead.

8 am

After a short commute to work, Sgt. Perez provides AV support for an in-person and virtual training. Communication is integral to the success of the Marine Corps, and Sgt. Perez and his small team are tasked with coordinating and setting up equipment for various events, ceremonies and meetings.



1 pm

With a two-hour break for lunch, Sgt. Perez heads home to eat and spend extra time with his family. After lunch, he returns to base and meets with fellow Marines to complete administrative tasks to ensure his unit is meeting their fitness goals.



The Military definitely provides work-life balance. If you have time on your hands, you're free to do what you want, and I choose to spend my extra time with my family.

3 pm

As he wraps up his workday, Sgt. Perez uses some downtime to get ahead of his school assignments for his bachelor's degree in software development and security at the University of Maryland. "Staying focused and dedicated, you'll always have time for school. The Marine Corps is supportive of Marines who pursue educational opportunities because they want us to be set up for success in or out of the Military," he says.



5 pm

After work, Sgt. Perez walks over to the football field on base to meet his family and watch his stepson practice. Once practice is over, they head home to have dinner together, and Sgt. Perez puts his kids to bed before relaxing for the night.



Part-Time Service with Airman 1st Class Sourav Choudhury

Members of the Reserve and National Guard typically hold civilian jobs or attend school while serving. They attend military drill a minimum of one weekend a month and annual training two weeks a year. Airman 1st Class Sourav Choudhury is a pilot for United Airlines, pursuing his doctorate and serving part time as an air transportation specialist in the Air Force Reserve. Here's a quick snapshot of a typical drill weekend for Sourav.

friday

10 am

After piloting his last flight of the week, Sourav returns to Miami International Airport and heads home to prepare for his upcoming drill weekend. Sourav has dreamt of being an astronaut since he was a child, so he's using his experience as a commercial airline pilot and his role in the Air Force Reserve to pursue that lifelong goal. Read more about his ambitions on page 20.

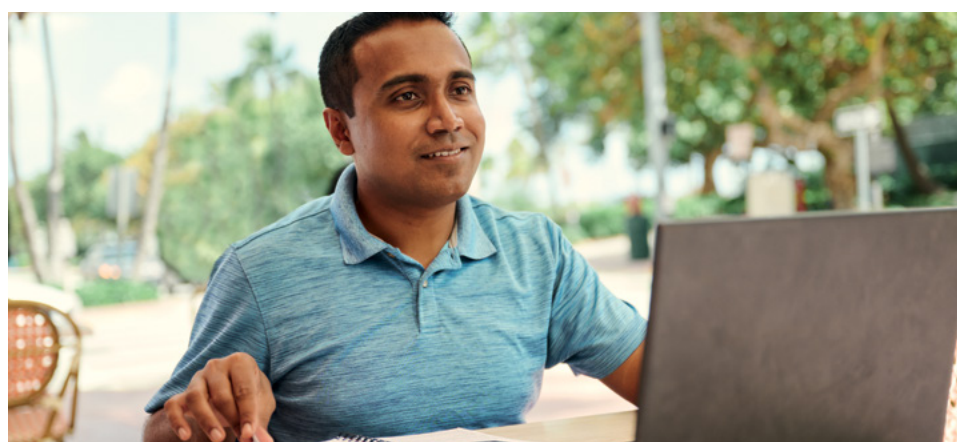


12 pm

Sourav goes for a run around town to prepare for the day. Afterward, he heads to a local cafe for a quick bite to eat.

2 pm

Currently getting his doctorate in unmanned systems at Capitol Technology University, Sourav is working to learn more about artificial intelligence and autonomous technology. After working on his research assignments, Sourav heads home for dinner with his sister.



Serving part time is ideal for me. The flexibility allows me to further my education and pursue a career as a pilot, all while serving my country.

saturday

8 am

Coveniently located near base, Sourav takes a short 20-minute drive to get back to base where he drills. During drill weekends, Sourav attends various trainings and works in his job as an air transportation specialist. Sourav's role, a critical Air Force job, is to handle all logistics of ensuring the plane's cargo is loaded properly and airports can efficiently transport service members.



12 pm

Sourav and his friends eat lunch and chat with each other at the dining facility on base. "Being in the Air Force Reserve, I've met some of the coolest people. My role requires a lot of teamwork, and we all support each other while supporting the mission," he says.

3 pm

Assigned to the cargo section for the first time, Sourav completes the necessary paperwork and training to learn how to build a cargo packet and operate a forklift. As the day winds down, Sourav returns home for dinner and to prepare for his final day of drill on Sunday before heading to bed.



LESSONS LEARNED

With access to financial assistance programs and specialized training, members of the Military are continuing their education beyond the traditional classroom setting



2ND LT. / JOSHUA VACCIANNA / ARMY RESERVE

Joshua dedicates time to schoolwork and studying for upcoming exams. Organization and time management are skills he's gained through service, especially while balancing his on-duty role with his college course load.

With his sights set on becoming a neurosurgeon, Army Reserve 2nd Lt. Joshua Vacciana is taking advantage of the Military's educational benefits to attain his dream.

Joshua's a full-time student at Georgia Southern University on the pre-med track, pursuing a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and exercise science while serving part time as a Medical Service Corps officer.

Joshua credits the Military with fully covering his tuition and fees, giving him the chance to focus on becoming a surgeon instead of on the financial burden of higher education.

“Going to college and pursuing a medical degree is something I wouldn't have gotten to do without the Army Reserve. Financial support was one of the benefits that motivated me to move forward with my passions, as I can continue my education without worrying about money.”

Using the education benefits provided by the Military has helped Joshua work toward his goal of becoming a surgeon and provided opportunities for him to grow professionally within his current role. “After high school, when I found out that serving in the Military was an opportunity that allowed me to grow and influence the lives of so many people other than myself, it created a sense of selflessness within me that directly translates to helping the people around me.”

“With the help of Tuition Assistance, I've received my Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) associate degree in space technology. I've also used it toward my undergraduate degree. At little to no cost, I'm taking online courses at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Worldwide pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautics.”



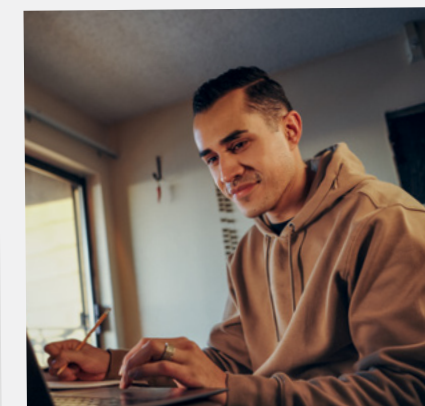
SGT. / CHANEL ROBBS / SPACE FORCE

“Using the Navy ROTC scholarship, which covered my undergraduate tuition fees and books and provided a small monthly stipend, I was able to attend Georgia Tech, where I majored in mechanical engineering. Now I plan to take advantage of Tuition Assistance to get a master's degree in nuclear engineering from Penn State University.”



ENSIGN / TYRA NEWTON / NAVY

“I'm currently enrolled in an online master's program. We all know how expensive formal education can be in the U.S., but a lot of schools will allow you to use Tuition Assistance. There's also the DoD Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) program, which allows service members to pursue additional professional certifications. I'm grateful to the Military for the opportunity to pursue meaningful opportunities that I otherwise would not be able to afford.”



SENIOR AIRMAN / ALEJANDRO CERVANTES-CASTRO / AIR FORCE



PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS / AEYNT LIN / COAST GUARD

“Education benefits are one of the best opportunities that motivated me to be in the Military. I love learning, and I have enough time to study when I get home from work. I'm currently using Tuition Assistance for graduate school, and I still have my GI Bill to further my education if I wanted to pursue that as well.”



SGT. / MIKE PEREZ / MARINE CORPS

“I've specifically taken advantage of the Tuition Assistance program where they provide \$4,500 per year for anything school related. There are also schools that work with the Military — I'm currently at the University of Maryland Global Campus pursuing a degree in software development and security.”

FAST FACT:

The DoD COOL program recognizes the important role that occupational credentials can play in professionalizing the Force and is aimed at enhancing service members' ability to transition into the civilian workforce upon completion of service. Service members can also utilize the COOL program to see how their job in the Military relates to other military and federal civilian jobs, as well as civilian occupations. Turn the page to learn more.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS



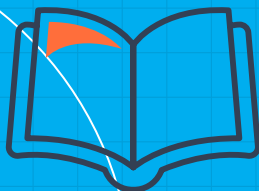
TUITION ASSISTANCE

covers up to

100%

of tuition or expenses for courses taken at accredited colleges, universities, junior colleges or vocational schools.¹

THE POST-9/11 GI BILL



pays all public school in-state tuition and fees and provides a living stipend for housing and an allowance for books and supplies.¹

These benefits are available to Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve members. Benefits are based on length of service and can be shared with family members.¹

The federal government provides

\$150 BILLION

per year in grants, work-study programs and federal loans to college students in Active Duty, National Guard or Reserve service.²



STAFF SGT. / ADAM KRAULAND / ARMY

“I used Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) credit-by-exam testing, along with the regionally accredited courses at the Defense Language Institute to obtain an associate degree in Mandarin at little to no cost.”



COLLEGE FUND PROGRAMS

are offered to eligible service members when they first join the Military. These programs offer an additional amount of money that can be added to the Post-9/11 GI Bill.¹

Incentives and amounts received will vary by Service and, while each branch will determine who qualifies for this program, two basic requirements are that you:

- ✓ Have a high school diploma
- ✓ Be enrolled in the Post-9/11 GI Bill



MEDICAL-SPECIFIC

financial assistance programs that will pay 100% of your tuition and an average of

\$60K A YEAR

to attend classes and study, as well as provide a housing stipend.³

“There are so many resources, and I can transfer my educational benefits to my kids or even to my wife.”



CAPT. / TRAVIS STEPHAN / TEXAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Photo credit: Maggie Stephan

THE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

may be offered to new members to pay off college loans accrued prior to joining the Military. While requirements and opportunities vary by Service, all programs are designed to help recent students manage educational debt.¹

FAST FACT:

In addition to financial benefits to help service members achieve their education goals, the Military has many programs that work with colleges and universities to accept recommended college credits based on military training, experience and credentialing.



Sources
1: todaysmilitary.com/education-training/paying-college
2: militaryonesource.mil/-/how-to-use-the-military-tuition-assistance-program
3: medicineandthemilitary.com/applying-and-what-to-expect/medical-school-programs

LEARNING ON THE JOB

Beyond access to traditional education benefits, the Military provides many opportunities for professional growth

Growing up, Petty Officer 3rd Class Aeint Lin's father loved to show her different aspects of his job as an electrical engineer, sparking her interest in technology. Now she's an electronics technician (ET) in the Coast Guard, responsible for installing, maintaining, repairing and managing sophisticated electronic equipment for small boats. Her work ensures communication, navigation and data encryption all run smoothly for her unit, which is especially vital during coastal search and rescue operations.

Enlisted members of the Military attend an initial technical training period called "A" School, where they learn their occupational specialty. "A" School prepares members of the Coast Guard to work in industries like ship handling, intelligence, law enforcement, communications and health. Lin's "A" School was a six-month program in Petaluma, California — just north of San Francisco — focused on learning the ins and outs of being an ET. "I enjoyed ET school because it gave me the opportunity to work on my professional development and better myself," Lin says. "We also had a lot of freedom and could leave the base and explore the area during our free time."

Troubleshooting repairs has become one of Lin's favorite aspects of the job, requiring plenty of trial and error and team collaboration to solve the puzzle. "One time, we couldn't figure out what was wrong with some communication equipment needed for a mission," Lin says. "I looked back at what I learned in 'A' School and realized the wrong fuse was installed, and it all clicked into place," she says.

Professional education doesn't end with technical training — the Military offers service members plenty of training opportunities to expand their knowledge and develop new skills. As a lifelong learner herself, Lin continues to learn on the job every day and applies the knowledge she developed in her training.

"One of the main reasons I joined the Military was the opportunity to grow professionally. I love that my team is constantly teaching me something new on the job to help me master my skills and build my resume."



PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS / AEINT LIN / COAST GUARD

As a pilot in the Texas Air National Guard, Travis builds on the knowledge he gained through his training during each flight. **"Every landing is different since there are so many variables — wind, rain, ice. The best way to learn is by doing, so you can be exposed to different challenges."**

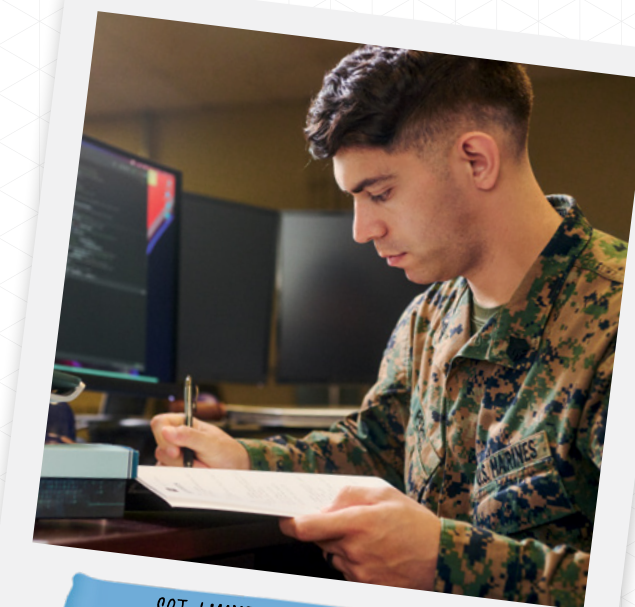


STAFF SGT. / ADAM KRAULAND / ARMY

Sgt. Perez has found there's always something new to learn about his job. **"The Military invests so much time and energy into training to ensure we're all ready to do our specific jobs. Even after I officially started my job, I was constantly training, getting my hands dirty and learning while doing."**



CAPT. / TRAVIS STEPHAN / TEXAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD



SGT. / MIKE PEREZ / MARINE CORPS


ACHIEVING AMBITIONS

No matter what your goals are, the Military provides opportunities to make them a reality



DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT

Travis Stephan was destined to fly. Born into a family of pilots, he wanted nothing more than to follow in the footsteps of both of his grandfathers and father. "Since I was a kid, I wanted to be a pilot. I'm one of 13 in my family," Travis says.

 **I love my military job. Getting paid to fly airplanes is a dream come true.**

CAPT. / TRAVIS STEPHAN /
TEXAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For Travis, serving in the Air National Guard was the most efficient way to see his dreams come to fruition, allowing him to receive access to first-class training at little to no cost. "Joining the Military was the path to get my foot in the door because I wanted to fly in the National Guard, and I needed a way to finance my life. I've been trained to do the same jobs as the airlines, but the GI Bill and National Guard have covered the vast majority of costs for my licenses and certifications," Travis explains. Without his benefits covering 80% of the costs, Travis could have spent upward of \$100,000 to get his airline transport pilot's license if he had taken the traditional civilian route to becoming a pilot.

As a C-130 pilot, Travis has dropped paratroopers, moved cargo and passengers, and performed medevac missions, experiencing many different aspects of military flight. This wide breadth of training is setting him up for a successful career as a commercial airline pilot when he's finished serving. He's also been able to fulfill his dreams in more meaningful ways than anticipated. "I joined because I want to fly airplanes, but I spend the majority of my time working closely with my team and helping others. Service is one of the most rewarding, fulfilling things. It's something bigger than me, and I have the opportunity to do it every day," he says.



Travis and his co-worker discuss flight preparations.



Travis in the cockpit.


REACH FOR THE STARS

Like Travis, Airman 1st Class Sourav Choudhury wanted to be a pilot when he grew up. But Sourav's goals weren't limited to this atmosphere — he dreamed of being an astronaut. “Kalpana Chawla was an Indian pilot who became an astronaut, and, reading her story at six years old, I thought to myself, ‘If she can do that, so can I,’” Sourav says. Fast-forward 20 years and Sourav is already halfway there.

Serving part time in the Air Force Reserve as an air transportation specialist (read more about his role on page 10), Sourav is learning about the many sides of flight. This additional aircraft training not only helps him in his civilian job as a pilot for United Airlines, it's providing a pathway to accomplish his goal of becoming an astronaut. “The next step for me is to commission as an officer and become a pilot in the Air Force Reserve. I could be an Air Force pilot, apply for Test Pilot School and eventually become an astronaut one day,” Sourav says.

I want to be an astronaut one day, and the Military is helping me achieve that goal.

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS / SOURAV CHOUDHURY / AIR FORCE RESERVE



Even before I worked in law enforcement, I always knew I wanted to do something for the betterment of others. Serving in the Army National Guard gives me the chance to help people who need help, and that's something I really value.

STAFF SGT. / MIRANDA DELAMORENA / TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

A CUT ABOVE

Joshua Vacciana always had a penchant for science. Inspired by his family, Joshua is pursuing a degree in kinesiology and exercise science at Georgia Southern University (read more about his education on page 12), with the hope of one day becoming a neurosurgeon. “My passion is in surgery, with a particular focus in neurosurgery. I've always been particularly interested in how the mind operates,” he says.

Though not currently in a medical role in the Army Reserve, Joshua plans to commission as a Medical Service Corps officer, taking him one step closer to achieving his goal. Joshua explains, “Joining the Army Reserve expedited that process to help cover a lot of the costs and make my life so much easier.” The Military has a range of medical opportunities Joshua can leverage, which will enhance and complement his plans of becoming a neurosurgeon.

The Army Reserve has provided me with the opportunity to really pursue my passions.

2ND LT. / JOSHUA VACCIANNA / ARMY RESERVE

FAST FACT



The Military offers unparalleled medical training and experiences. To learn more about the wide range of medical careers available, visit medicineandthemilitary.com.

Military Misconceptions

MYTHS VS. REALITIES

MYTH

There's no work-life balance



REALITY

"The Military gives you plenty of opportunity to have a normal life — to balance your family life and even take vacations each year. I'm a very social person, so it's great to be able to spend time with friends and family."

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS /
SOURAV CHOUDHURY /
AIR FORCE RESERVE

MYTH

Everyone is the same



REALITY

"Pretty much every kind of person is in the Military. Every day I am floored by the depth and diversity of the people, values and beliefs that I encounter in the Military. We truly are representative of the melting pot of our nation, all unified by our desire to help others."

STAFF SGT. /
ADAM KRAULAND /
ARMY

MYTH

It's college or the Military



REALITY

"It turns out you can actually go to college and have a career in the Military, and the Military can often facilitate that. They're not mutually exclusive — it's very encouraged to further your education while serving."

ENSIGN /
TYRA NEWTON /
NAVY

MYTH

There's no flexibility



REALITY

"If something comes up that needs my attention, say I have an appointment or need to handle a family situation, my co-workers are always really understanding. Everyone has families, whether close by or farther away, so it's a no-brainer to give people the space to handle situations like that, emergency or nonemergency."

SENIOR AIRMAN /
ALEJANDRO CERVANTES-CASTRO /
AIR FORCE

MYTH

You won't be prepared for the civilian world



REALITY

"The Military provides lots of help finding a job when you're ready to transition to civilian life. Aside from the education benefits and professional development opportunities accessible throughout our Service, I've seen leaders offer resume advice and interview tips to help with the transition."

PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS /
AEINT LIN /
COAST GUARD

MYTH

There's no room for creativity



REALITY

"You can always find ways to express the creative aspects of yourself in the Military. I love photography and art, so if there is an upcoming retirement or promotion ceremony, I'll get to draw a storyboard of what the event will look like and photograph members of my unit celebrating. The Military has many possibilities to allow Soldiers to follow other passions in life with full freedom."

2ND LT. /
JOSHUA VACCIANNA /
ARMY RESERVE

MYTH

It's like the movies



REALITY

"People imagine that we are always being yelled at or going to war, but it's so much more calm than it's portrayed in movies. We spend the majority of our time training and building connections with one another."

SGT. /
MIKE PEREZ /
MARINE CORPS

IMPACT

AT EVERY LEVEL

No matter the role, service members have an effect on their colleagues, their communities and the world

REACHING THE DESTINATION

Air Force Senior Airman Alejandro Cervantes-Castro works to ensure planes are in perfect working condition so pilots can safely conduct a variety of missions, like delivering supplies to Airmen and Soldiers across the country. "At the end of the day, we're the ones who are making the plane fly," Alejandro says. "Feeling like we have all this knowledge to solve problems ... it's a very cool feeling."

As an instrument and flight control systems specialist, Alejandro uses a variety of tools to locate malfunctions and repair them. Working closely with his three-person team, he conducts regular maintenance on a C-17 cargo plane — from its computers to its fuel components. "There is so much more that goes into aircraft maintenance than you would imagine," Alejandro says.

Luckily, he and his team work together like the precision machines they maintain. "There are so many different specialties within a single aircraft that it would take one many years to master them all," he says. "Instead, we all master our individual specialties, mine being instrument and flight control systems." Through his work, Alejandro gets to leverage his expertise to ensure the safety of his co-workers and the successful delivery of supplies.





Miranda and her team plan for a mission by testing the frequencies in the surrounding area for any existing interference.

LENDING A HAND

Having a direct impact on the people around you isn't just for those in leadership positions. Take 2nd Lt. Joshua Vacciana, an executive officer in the Army Reserve. Like a deputy supervisor in the civilian world, Joshua provides an extra set of eyes or backup to the supervisor who's overseeing more than 300 Soldiers. While they're in charge of strategic planning for the unit, Joshua verifies that everyone is doing their assigned roles to support the overall mission — all without micromanaging them.

Joshua does this by regularly interacting with the Soldiers in his unit, assessing their workloads and offering help as needed. His position calls for him to be a jack-of-all-trades, stepping in with assistance like another set of hands when performing an inventory check, making spreadsheets and expediting information to be processed.

“You look behind you and see that there’s a wake of people who are reaping the benefits of what you sow in their lives, not just your own.”

2ND LT. / **JOSHUA VACCIANNA** / ARMY RESERVE

While the significance of Joshua's role may not be obvious, it's essential in supporting the Army's overall mission. “If my role didn't exist, the commander would get overwhelmed and nothing would get done,” he says. “Things would fall through the cracks and high-priority tasks would be missed.”

Not only is Joshua making an impact on his unit, but he's also supporting incoming ROTC cadets who will eventually be in his same position by asking questions, guiding them along and ensuring they're making progress in their roles. “It's an opportunity for me to influence the lives of others. You look behind you and see that there's a wake of people who are reaping the benefits of what you sow in their lives, not just your own,” he says.

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

From a young age, Texas Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Miranda Delamorena knew she wanted to pursue a career to better the people around her. Now she is leaving her mark on her community by keeping people safe during natural disasters. As an electromagnetic spectrum manager, she's trusted as a subject matter expert to solve communication problems so first responders can communicate clearly and act quickly.

Miranda uses computer software to find the best range of frequencies for satellites and radio systems to operate on — like turning a car radio dial to find a station with a clear signal. This is especially helpful during catastrophic events. “We even work with FEMA [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] and Homeland Security to look for interference and make sure communication is seamless for them,” Miranda says.

Miranda is one of only five people in the state of Texas working in this job, and has helped save many lives in the process. During an emergency, every second counts, so Miranda's ability to troubleshoot communication problems ensures public service agencies and first responders can know where they are needed and get there quickly. “Being able to help people is really what drew me to the National Guard,” Miranda says.

“Being able to help people is really what drew me to the National Guard.”

STAFF SGT. / **MIRANDA DELAMORENA** / TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



MAKING TIME FOR MENTORSHIP

After completing a professional development course where he learned the techniques and resources to become a leader, Army Staff Sgt. Adam Krauland was placed in a position to motivate and mentor other service members. “I’m helping direct Soldiers underneath me, and it’s not just me telling people what to do,” he says. “You basically become their go-to person.”

Monthly, Adam holds counseling sessions where he meets with newly enlisted Soldiers to check in on how they’re doing and give life lessons like how to find fulfillment outside of work and make the most of their time. “We talk about everything — what’s going on in their lives, their finances ...,” he says. “My number one job is development, and the Army encourages us to develop Soldiers in any way.”

Adam understands the positive impact he’s having not only on those he mentors, but also on the Military overall. “It’s really about people development. If you help someone thrive as an individual, then they’re going to be a better performer. They’re going to be a lot happier, more motivated and more successful.”

And while Adam initially found this challenging, he also discovered huge satisfaction in mentoring others.

“I get a lot of tools to help my Soldiers be the best people they can be, which is awesome. I love being able to work with people and help develop them and see them grow. It’s extremely fulfilling, and that’s for sure the best part of my job.”

STAFF SGT. / ADAM KRAULAND / ARMY

FINDING SPACE TO GROW

As a space systems operator, Chanel keeps an eye on the nation’s assets such as satellites, conducting threat modeling and analysis to ensure they’re safe. The satellites she tracks are used by nearly everyone, every day. “Using your phone, banking, taking the Metro — all of these things use satellites, which we help keep safe,” Chanel says.

The significance of Chanel’s role extends far beyond her local community. “There’s definitely a global impact. These satellites are used by people around the world — it’s the reason why your phone can work outside the country or why you don’t need to be a U.S. citizen to use GPS.” In her role, Chanel gets to determine how to best keep these satellites safe. She and her team give input on the different types of models and software they use. “I think it’s great that we’re listened to. They want our work to be better, and they want us to be better,” Chanel says.

Because the Space Force is the newest Service branch, Chanel has been able to shape its future in many ways beyond her work. “They’ll send us surveys to get our input on different things — our uniforms, our rank insignia ... I even got to sit on the board for the development of our core values,” Chanel says. “I really enjoy the fact that I get the chance to continuously better myself and the organization I’m a part of.”

“When I take a step back and look at my job, I think, ‘Wow, I’m doing important stuff.’ Knowing I’m making a difference makes me really enjoy what I do.”

SGT. / CHANEL ROBBS / SPACE FORCE

These are just some of the many careers the Military has to offer. While jobs vary in terms of skills, each is essential and contributes to the overall mission in its own way.



COMBAT OPERATIONS



CYBERSECURITY



HEALTH CARE



ENGINEERING



COMMUNICATIONS



HUMAN RESOURCES



Learn more about career opportunities

SKILLS *for* success

Whether it's networking or public speaking, the Military provides its members with the tools needed to succeed

CONFIDENCE

Texas Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Miranda Delamorena wasn't always the confident Soldier you see today. Based on her experience, Miranda emphasizes that **"you never know until you have a challenge in front of you that you can actually take that step to do it. Your feet may not want to move, but you just need to take the step. The Military gave me that confidence."**

TEAMWORK

Cryptologic linguists like Army Staff Sgt. Adam Krauland are vital to the Military. Supporting their fellow service members in the field by identifying and analyzing foreign communications, Adam and his small crew of three have to work together to ensure the success of the mission. **"We're definitely a team. When we're out in the field, there are a lot of different roles that need to be fulfilled. Everyone's working together, and we get to the point where our brains are functioning in sync because we just get it. Everyone can function together so well that there doesn't need to be words,"** Adam says.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Though Marine Corps Sgt. Mike Perez is typically behind the scenes setting up AV equipment to help others get their messages across, communicating clearly is an essential part of his role as well. **"It wasn't until I joined the Marine Corps that I realized I needed some work on my public speaking. Now I feel pretty comfortable talking in front of crowds."**

CREATIVE THINKING

Before Navy Ensign Tyra Newton graduated and became a naval reactors engineer, she was the battalion commander of Georgia Tech's Navy ROTC program. Going to school remotely can be tough, but leading a battalion of 70 people virtually came with its own set of obstacles. **"Juggling schoolwork and leading a mostly online battalion in ROTC forced me to become more creative in how I thought about doing things,"** she says. In addition to the engineering training specific to her role, Tyra is now able to adapt to a new way of thinking in order to solve complex nuclear formula problems that she faces in the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program.

ADAPTABILITY

Serving part time in the Air Force Reserve has given Airman 1st Class Sourav Choudhury the opportunity to work with diverse groups of people. Being in new environments and learning to adapt in various situations have only helped enhance Sourav's personal and professional lives. **"I'm stronger emotionally. Before, I was very timid, but, going through Basic Training, I definitely learned that I can work in any environment with anyone,"** he says.

NETWORKING

As a full-time student and member of the Army Reserve, 2nd Lt. Joshua Vacciana has had the opportunity to interact with people he likely wouldn't have met as a civilian. **"In the Army Reserve, you're surrounded by so many talents in regard to people who know people — people who can make things move and are willing to make things move for you specifically,"** Joshua says. The network and connections he's able to make every day are two of the aspects that Joshua values most about serving part time.

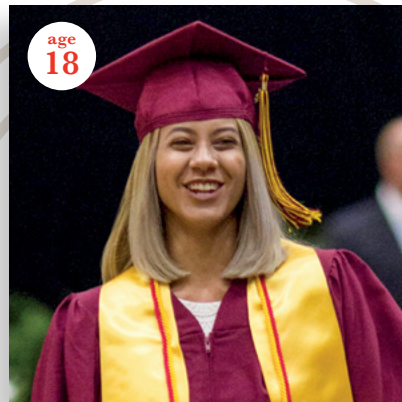


My Journey

See how each service member's unique path ultimately led them to the Military

Chanel Robbs Sgt. / Space Force

Chanel grew up in Brooklyn, New York, where she spent a lot of time outdoors. Her grandmother had a large courtyard, which provided the perfect spot for Chanel and her childhood friends to spend time together hanging out and playing games.



While in high school, Chanel realized just how expensive college is, and, with that in mind, she decided to visit the Air Force recruiting office. "The costs of school and the fear of being complacent drove me to join." And fortunately for Chanel, her mom was incredibly happy and supportive of Chanel's decision to join as a first-generation service member.



Today

Now Chanel is a space systems operator and staff evaluator in the Space Force. After her previous Air Force post ended, Chanel's mentor and superintendent introduced the possibility of transitioning over to the Space Force and provided tangible steps on how to successfully pivot in a new direction. Because space is constantly changing, Chanel and her team ensure that all threat and safety procedures and evaluations are kept up to date and are reflected within the most recent software modeling changes. This is done to ensure that the space assets civilians use in their daily lives, like GPS satellites and communications satellites, are safe, working properly and free from any external threat.

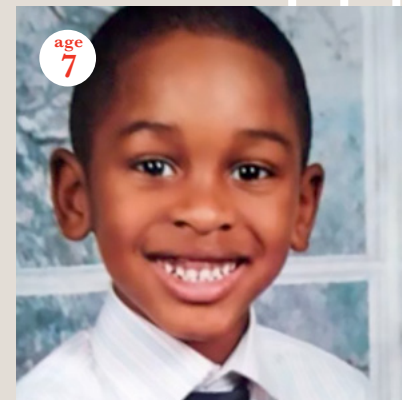
Joining & Eligibility

The Military offers more than 250 career options, providing endless opportunities for professional and personal development. Learn more about each opportunity and how you can start your journey today.



Joshua Vacciana 2nd Lt. / Army Reserve

Joshua spent most of his childhood years in New York City, where he and his friends frequently played at a nearby playground. At age 11, Joshua moved to Georgia, where he recalls having to acclimate to his new surroundings.



age 7



age 19

Growing up, Joshua knew he was passionate about the sciences. Both of his uncles were scientists, and he felt that it was a part of him too. "Seeing the elder men in my family enjoy their jobs in their fields definitely provided a lot of inspiration for me." In high school, Joshua joined the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program because he was drawn to the exposure and opportunities the Military presented.



Today

Joshua is a headquarters company executive officer. He and his team serve as an information hub for cadet Soldiers entering new units while also ensuring they can fulfill their roles efficiently and effectively. He does this by helping those cadets understand and process all the new information they're introduced to while communicating with the rest of the unit to make sure everyone is aligned and working toward the same goal. Meanwhile, Joshua is focusing on commissioning into the medical corps where doctors and surgeons are classified for the Army.

Tyra Newton Ensign / Navy

Tyra grew up in the Caribbean and eventually moved to Gainesville, Georgia. As a child, Tyra enjoyed reading comics and graphic novels and playing a variety of sports. Looking back, Tyra remembers wanting to be a meteorologist after seeing broadcast coverage of a hurricane on TV, a comic book writer or artist, or a pediatrician.



age 10



age 19

When in high school, Tyra spoke to a recruiter about joining the Military, but what really convinced her to join was watching her brother's graduation from Marine Corps boot camp. "I saw it as a challenge. I went to my brother's graduation and saw the confidence they had and the camaraderie they had, and thought, 'I want something like that for myself.'"

Tyra is a naval reactors engineer, responsible for the refueling and defueling of nuclear submarines. Her day-to-day role typically includes completing trainings on proper procedures and taking classes to learn more about the submarine program and its fundamentals. Tyra enjoys that her role is both technically and intellectually challenging because it provides room for her to grow and employ her critical thinking skills.



Today

LIFE IN THE Military

On duty and off, service members pursue interests, spend time with friends and family, and so much more

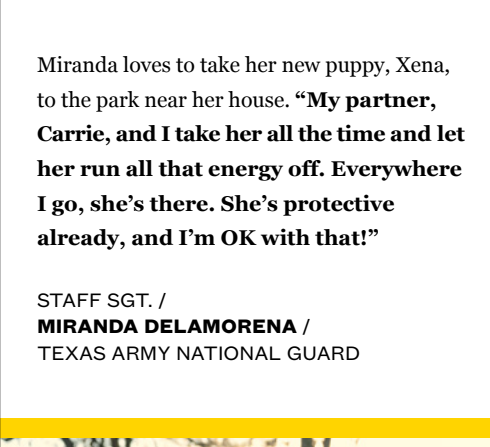
Chanel enjoys tending to her plant collection and has developed a green thumb. “I found a really great hobby in buying plants and taking care of them,” she says. “I have an aspect of relaxation through repotting plants and being able to take time and clear my mind while watering.”

SGT. / **CHANEL ROBBS** / SPACE FORCE



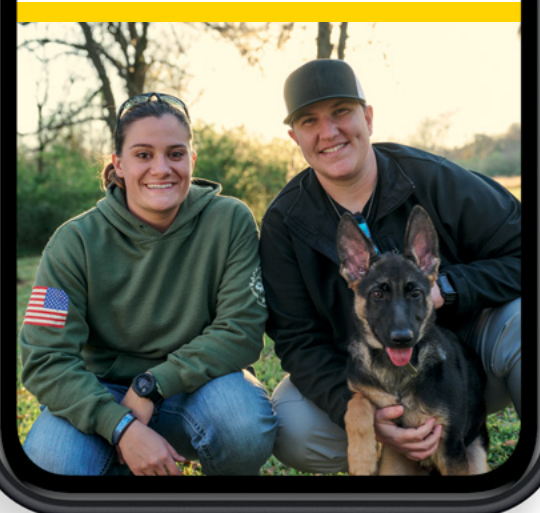
Since Travis lives close to base, he’s able to get to and from work quickly, leaving him with more family time throughout the day. He has a space for woodworking at home, where he uses reclaimed pieces of wood to build things like an outdoor deck where his family can spend time together.

CAPT. / **TRAVIS STEPHAN** / TEXAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD



Miranda loves to take her new puppy, Xena, to the park near her house. “My partner, Carrie, and I take her all the time and let her run all that energy off. Everywhere I go, she’s there. She’s protective already, and I’m OK with that!”

STAFF SGT. / **MIRANDA DELAMORENA** / TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



Tyra stays active by utilizing some on-base amenities. “I really enjoy the fitness center we have here! We have a lot of free weights, which has allowed me to take an interest in weightlifting, and I’ve been using the treadmills a lot more.” Tyra also plays tennis with other teammates in her section, as the courts are located close to their office.

ENSIGN / **TYRA NEWTON** / NAVY



Currently stationed in Alaska, Adam and his friends often go hiking together on post, which offers extensive trails and scenic views. He also enjoys taking advantage of military days at a local ski resort where they provide equipment rental and lift passes at no cost to members of the Military. “I love being outside, in nature and in Alaska — there’s amazing hiking and snowshoeing. There’s a lot of time to go after your hobbies with friends.”

STAFF SGT. / **ADAM KRAULAND** / ARMY



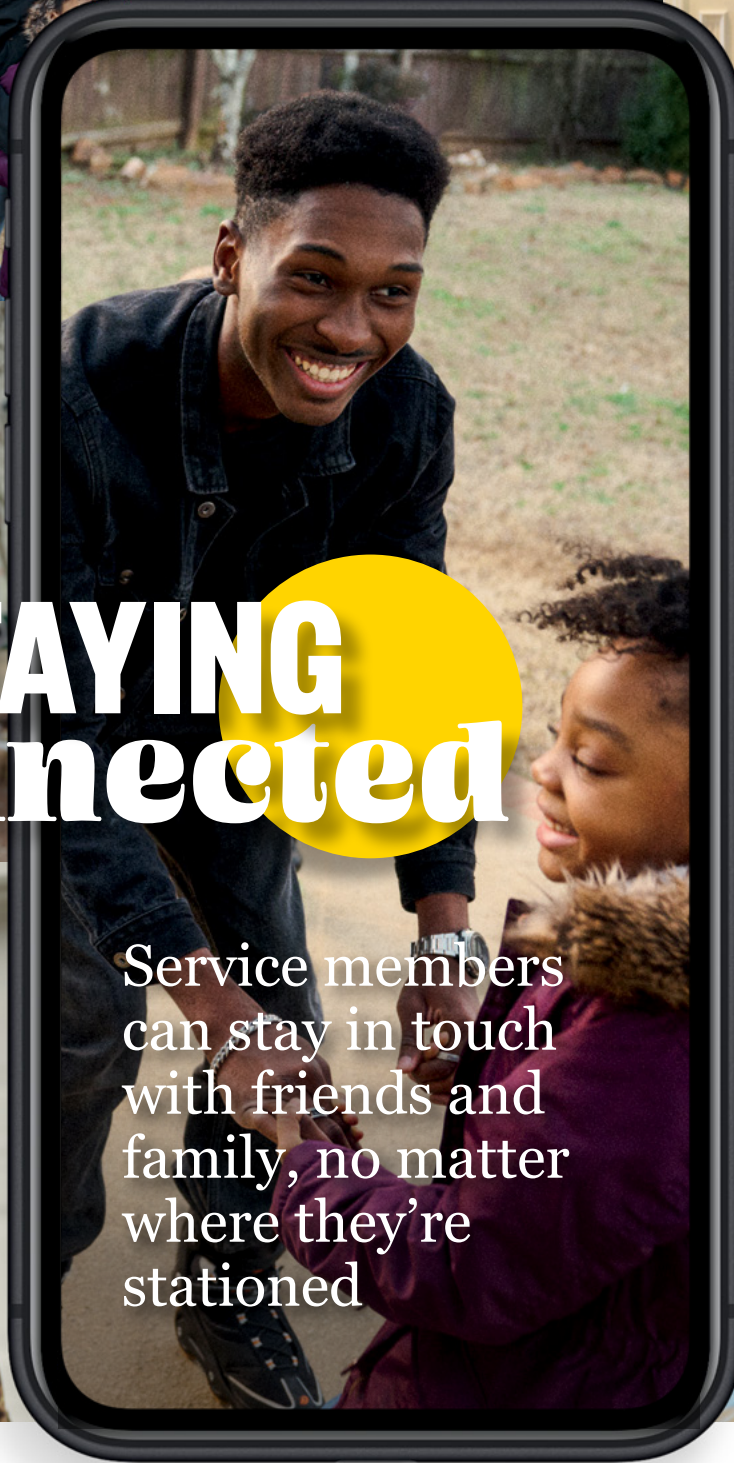
Sourav loves living in Miami and often starts his day walking around the city. “Having so many friends and family living nearby really gives me a great sense of home. Plus the weather is so good all year round, I simply love it — I am so happy to be here!”

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS / **SOURAV CHOUDHURY** / AIR FORCE RESERVE



Lin and her husband look forward to decompressing from the day by going on walks in a nearby park. The relaxing environment and waterside docks provide a great place to reflect on the day. “The nature around me reminds me of home, and it’s relaxing to walk with my husband — we get to talk!”

PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS / **AEINT LIN** / COAST GUARD



STAYING connected

Service members can stay in touch with friends and family, no matter where they're stationed

While Joshua goes to college near Savannah, Georgia, about a four-hour drive from home, his monthly drill weekends are just outside Atlanta where his family lives, so he's able to see them every month. "One of our passions is roller-skating — it's a family event."

"I'll call and be like, 'I'm bringing my skates this weekend!' We go have fun and, for the most part, it's just making the most of those experiences."

2ND LT. / **JOSHUA VACCIANNA** / ARMY RESERVE



Tyra keeps in regular contact with her friends and family. "We text every day and video chat all the time too. We had a movie night and we all got on an app where you can watch the same movie at the same time," she says. Tyra and her family like planning visits to each other so they can spend special days and holidays together. "My family is actually coming up to Washington, D.C., for Thanksgiving, and I will be visiting them in December!"

ENSIGN / **TYRA NEWTON** / NAVY



Sgt. Perez lives and works on base, so he can use his breaks to go home and have lunch with his family. "If my day is slow and I want to run back home to spend some extra time with my wife and kids, then I'm allowed to do that," he says. After work, he goes to the on-base field to watch his stepson's football practices. The base offers competitive leagues for Marines, their spouses and their kids. "I think it's neat for the kids to get out and interact with other kids and play. It's about learning the sport, having fun and making new friends."

SGT. / **MIKE PEREZ** / MARINE CORPS



Although Alejandro and his family don't live on base, they like to take advantage of the amenities their base has to offer. "I love spending time with my family and finding things to do together, and there are tons of things on base. It's basically a small town, so anything you need, it's there. There are playgrounds, pools, bowling alleys, football fields, basketball courts, everything."

SENIOR AIRMAN / **ALEJANDRO CERVANTES-CASTRO** / AIR FORCE

ON-BASE AMENITIES:

Though not all service members live on base, they can all take advantage of the amenities whether they live on base or not.

In addition to various housing options, there are shopping centers, post offices, splash parks and more.

Learn more about life in the Military



MOVIE THEATERS



GROCERY STORES



FOOD TRUCKS



PLAYGROUNDS



BOWLING ALLEYS



GYMS



RESTAURANTS



LIBRARIES



ART CENTERS



VETERINARY SERVICES





CAMARADERIE AT THE CORE

One of Miranda's favorite things about being in the Army National Guard is the people. **"Being in the Military, you meet extraordinary people. I have made so many connections and so many good friendships, and being able to lean on that support system builds my resiliency."**

STAFF SGT. /
MIRANDA DELAMORENA /
TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

The kind of camaraderie found in the Military forges unmatched connections you can depend on — in and out of uniform



Although Sourav hasn't been with his team for long, he is already reaping the benefits of his new friendships. **"I'm still new to my unit, but I've made such good friends in the Military. We work as a team, and everyone supports each other."**

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS /
SOURAV CHOUDHURY /
AIR FORCE RESERVE



Getting to work with a variety of people with different experiences and backgrounds has helped shape Tyra's life. **"I get to meet a bunch of people of varying backgrounds in the Military, and we are always able to find things we have in common and bond over shared experiences. Meeting people from all over builds me up, and it has made me a better person. My military friends are amazing people."**

ENSIGN / **TYRA NEWTON** / NAVY



Relying on one another for success has made Lin realize just how much she values her military friendships. **"I've made a lot of close friends in the Military, and I can say they are friends for life. The bond between us is different than others."**

PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS /
AEINT LIN /
COAST GUARD



REGISTER ONLINE AT [SSS.GOV](https://sss.gov)

OR WRITE TO:
SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM
REGISTRATION INFORMATION OFFICE
P.O. BOX 94638
PALATINE, IL 60094-4638

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT REGISTERING WITH SELECTIVE SERVICE

What's Selective Service?

Selective Service is an independent federal agency responsible for providing additional personnel to the Department of Defense or the Alternative Service Program in the event of a national emergency.

Who's required to register?

All 18-year-old men living in the U.S. - both citizens and non-citizens. Male citizens living abroad must also register with Selective Service.

Where can I register?

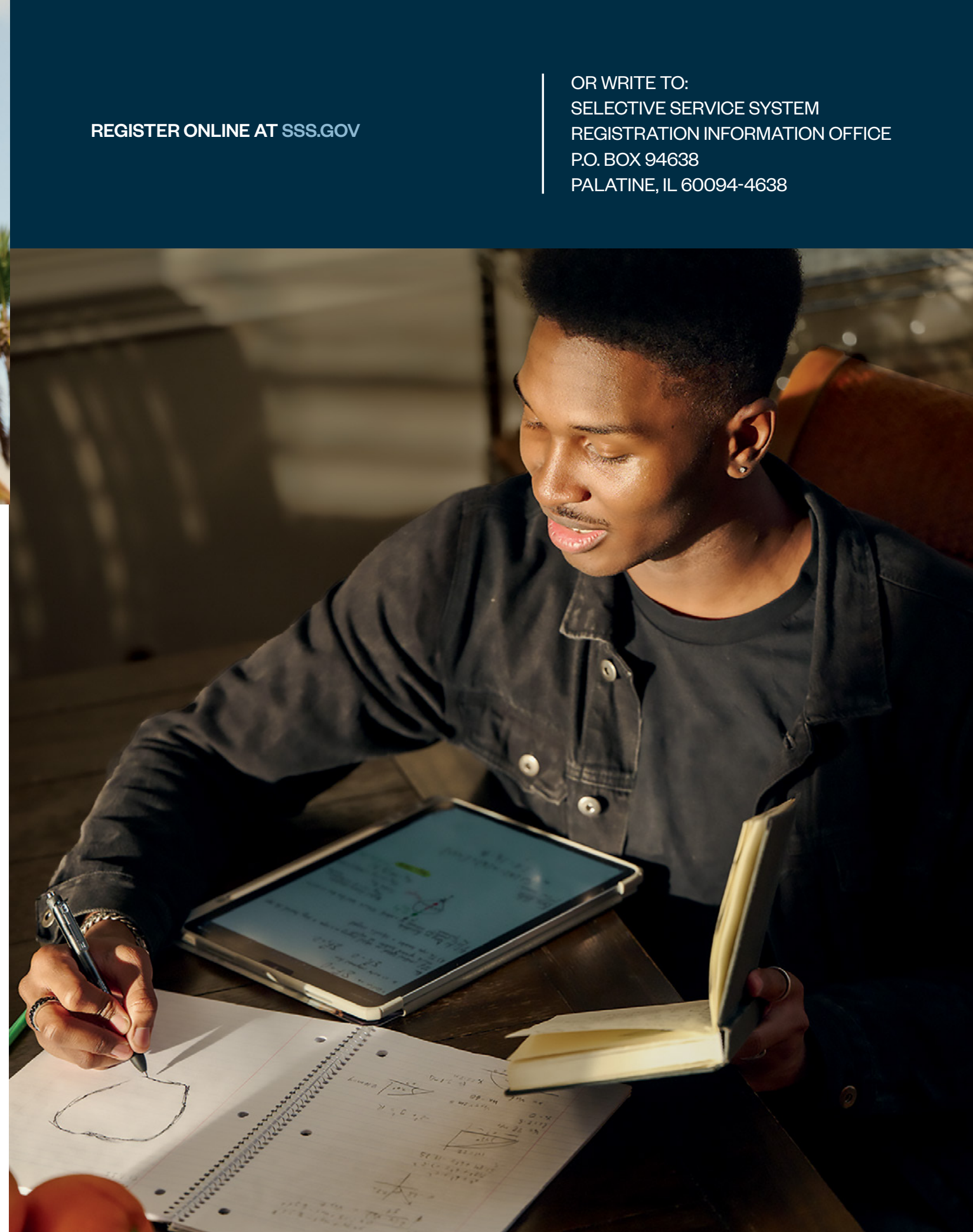
At [SSS.gov](https://sss.gov) in just 45 seconds or pick up a registration card at any U.S. post office or high school and mail it in. Your guidance counselor should also be able to help you register.

What if I don't register?

It's not good - you won't qualify for numerous educational loans or scholarships, job training programs, all federal and postal jobs and an increasing number of state, municipal, first responder and contractor positions. Registration is not only a civic duty, it's the law, and your future.

When should I register?

You can register as early as 17 - but you are required to register within 30 days of your 18th birthday. If you missed that date, register immediately. There is no penalty up until your 26th birthday. Once you turn 26, it's too late and you cannot ever register. Keep in mind that the longer you wait, the longer you're breaking the law and jeopardizing your future benefits. Research shows that people who don't register when they turn 18 forget or fail to register later. So don't put it off - it's your future.



“The Military will train you to be great in your field and show you that you can do anything you put your mind to. There are so many possibilities.”

SGT. / **CHANEL ROBBS** / SPACE FORCE

START YOUR JOURNEY NOW

ARMY
goarmy.com

ARMY RESERVE
goarmy.com/reserve

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
nationalguard.com

**MARINE CORPS &
MARINE CORPS RESERVE**
marines.com

NAVY & NAVY RESERVE
navy.com

AIR FORCE
airforce.com

AIR FORCE RESERVE
afreserve.com

AIR NATIONAL GUARD
goang.com

SPACE FORCE
spaceforce.com

**COAST GUARD &
COAST GUARD RESERVE**
gocoastguard.com



YOU HAVE A CALLING WE HAVE AN ANSWER

ARMY | MARINE CORPS | NAVY | AIR FORCE | SPACE FORCE | COAST GUARD
ACTIVE • GUARD • RESERVE

VISIT [TODAYSMILITARY.COM](https://www.todaysmilitary.com)

 TODAY'S
MILITARY