

## **Military/ Enlisted Member: Xello:**

<https://student.xello.world/goals-and-plans/pathway-profile/military>

- **Make sure you meet the requirements:**

Age and citizenship requirements

To join the military, you need to:

- Be at least 18 years old, or 17 with parental consent

- Be a US citizen, or a legal permanent resident with a green card

There are also opportunities for properly documented non-citizens to enlist. But there are likely to be fewer job opportunities in these cases.

Education requirements

To join as an enlisted member you'll need at least a high school diploma. You can also enlist with a GED, but you may have fewer job opportunities.

Physical requirements

Each branch has its own physical requirements. In general, you need to:

- Be in good general health and physical condition

- Meet weight limits

- Be able to pass a standard physical exam

- **Research the options available in the military:**

The military is made up of six active-duty branches: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force. The Army and Air Force also have National Guard components. Most branches have Reserve components, too.

Each branch is different. Do some research into each one, so you know which one might be the best fit for you before you talk to a recruiter.

There are also lots of different jobs in each military branch. You could be anything from a human resources specialist to a construction electrician. Think about what kind of job you'd like to do.

To investigate your options:

- Talk to people who have served in the military

- Talk to your counselor

- Explore the websites for the different military branches

- a. [Air Force](#)
- b. [Air Force Reserve](#)
- c. [Air National Guard](#)
- d. [Army](#)
- e. [Army Reserve](#)
- f. [Army National Guard](#)
- g. [Coast Guard & Coast Guard Reserve](#)
- h. [Marine Corps & Marine Corps Reserve](#)
- i. [Navy & Navy Reserve](#)
- j. [Space Force](#)

- **Make a list of questions for a recruiter:**

You'll have specific questions about the military based on your own interests and situation. Make a list of these questions so you're prepared when you speak to recruiters.

Tip: Ask a parent or another trusted adult to review your list of questions.

Sample questions

How does one branch differ from another?

Are the jobs I'm interested in currently available?

What is a day in the life like in the jobs I'm interested in?

What are advancement opportunities like for the jobs I'm interested in?

How long will my enlistment be for?

Do I qualify for any special enlistment programs or bonuses?

- **Talk to a recruiter:**

Recruiters can answer all of your questions. Each military branch has its own recruiters.

Contact a recruiter from each branch that interests you.

Parents and other trusted adults are welcome to talk to recruiters, too.

Contact info:

[Air Force](#): 1-800-423-8723

[Air Force Reserve](#): 1-800-257-1212

[Air Force National Guard](#): 1-800-864-6264

[Army](#) and [Army Reserve](#): 1-888-550-ARMY (1-888-550-2769)

[Army National Guard](#): 1-800-GO-GUARD (1-800-464-8273)

[Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve](#)

[Navy and Navy Reserve: 1-800-USA-NAVY \(1-800-872-6289\)](#)

[Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve: 1-800-MARINES \(1-800-627-4637\)](#)

[Space Force: 1-800-423-8723](#)

Note: The Air Force handles recruiting for the Space Force.

- **Report to MEPS:**

After discussing your options and answering your questions, your recruiter will make an appointment for you to go to the nearest MEPS. MEPS stands for Military Entrance Processing Station. This is where you will complete the enlistment process.

You'll spend 1 to 2 days at the MEPS. Your food and accommodation will be provided.

An overview of the MEPS process

Here's what you'll do at MEPS:

1. Take an aptitude test

This is a multiple choice exam. You'll answer questions about subjects like English, math, and science. The results will help determine which military careers you are best suited for.

2. Take a physical exam

This is to make sure you are medically qualified to enter the military. You'll need to meet the specific physical requirements of the branch you're joining. Your height and weight measurements will be taken. You'll also have vision and hearing checks. There will also be blood and urine tests, too.

3. Meet with a service enlistment counselor

You'll talk to a counselor to figure out which job you'll do in the military. This will depend on a few factors. These include:

- Which jobs are available

- Which ones you qualify for

- Which jobs interest you

4. Take the Oath of Enlistment

This makes your enlistment official.

## Helpful Hints and Tips

Before you report to MEPS:

- Try to find out about your childhood medical history
- Bring any medical documentation you have
- Bring your glasses or contacts, along with your prescription
- Bring your Social Security card, birth certificate, and driver's license
- Make sure you remove all piercings and jewelry
- Wear comfortable clothes
- Get a good night's sleep
- Plan to arrive early
- Invite any family members you'd like to watch you take the Oath of Enlistment

- **Wait for orders to report to Basic Training:**

New recruits do 8 to 13 weeks of Basic Training, also called boot camp.

### An overview of Basic Training

Basic Training prepares you for life in the military. The exact program varies by military branch. In general, expect a mix of in-class learning, physical training, and field exercises.

You'll learn about military protocol, values, and ethics. You'll focus on areas like teamwork and self-discipline, too.

The physical training will improve your endurance. You'll need to pass certain physical tests during basic training. You might be required to do a timed 2-mile run. Or you might do 2 minutes of pushups or situps, or 5 minutes of treading water.

### Timelines

The terms of your enlistment dictate when you will report to Basic Training. Some recruits go to basic training not long after fulfilling the MEPS requirements.

Most recruits enter the Delayed Entry Program (DEP). This means you'll be committed to going to Basic Training in the future. This is typically within 1 year of enlisting.

## Helpful Hints and Tips

Before you report to Basic Training:

- Start a daily workout routine

Practice living according to a daily schedule

Practice getting to places early

Ask someone to manage your daily affairs at home, such as paying your bills

Mentally gear up for an intense period of training

Come up with techniques to handle stress