

SERVICE MEMBER Q&A

Military Myths vs. Realities



There's a lot more to military life than what movies and TV shows would have you think. As you'll discover from these service members, you may be surprised to learn that some of the things you've heard are more myth than reality.

What common misconceptions about military service have you discovered to be untrue?

"I believe there is a misconception around the Military that there isn't room for autonomous thought or individuality. The reality is that the Military takes pride in the strength that diversity brings. There is room for all types of people, and every individual has strengths to bring to the Service."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Adrian Vasquez
Electronics Technician
U.S. Coast Guard



"People think females can't really get involved, and that we don't have a place or we're just going to be in desk jobs. But the Marine Corps just includes us all. It's not even about gender anymore. It's about us representing the Marine Corps. We're all one team, one fight."

Corporal Cristaly Garcia-Ortiz
Transmissions Systems Operator
U.S. Marine Corps

"I would say the greatest misconception people have about the Military is that there's no intellectual stimulation ... and that's patently false. I have never faced a greater mental challenge. I've never faced more growth, mentally, than I have now."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Thomas Schwab
Electronics Technician (Nuclear)
U.S. Navy



"The biggest misconception is that everybody who joins goes to war and that's not the case."

Specialist Jennifer Liriano
Practical Nurse Specialist
U.S. Army Reserve



What misconceptions about military service have you discovered to be untrue?

“People think the Military is so hard and that they wouldn’t even make it through Basic Training. Anyone can make it through Basic Training if they want to.”

Airman 1st Class Zachary Corbin Farrar
Aircraft Hydraulics Journeyman
U.S. Air Force Reserve



“I didn’t have a realistic understanding of the Military before I was exposed to it at the U.S. Naval Academy. It’s not just shooting weapons. You can be a data analyst like me, or a chef, linguist, lawyer, doctor, accountant, photographer — the list goes on and on.”

Lieutenant Selina Benavides
Human Resources Officer
U.S. Navy

“That you must give up your passions in order to serve in the Military. You don’t — it’s just a matter of having the willingness to seek out the resources that’ll allow you to do what it is you love while continuing to serve.”

Sergeant Olivia Outar
Culinary Supervisor
U.S. Army



“One common misconception is that everybody who outranks you yells and bosses you around. This is not true at all; everyone in the Military shares mutual respect. In my experience, my superiors in my reserve unit have been helpful, supportive and offered me guidance whenever I needed it.”

Private 1st Class Kamal Mohammad Abdulla Moinuddin Chishty
Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Expert
U.S. Army



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