

SERVICE MEMBER Q&A:

Military Life



Think you know what life is like in today's military? It may be different than you think. Hear from service members as they discuss the day-to-day responsibilities, off-duty time and other experiences that have helped define their military life.

What does a typical day look like for you, from start to finish?



"My typical day as an instructor is waking up and thinking about what [I am] teaching today and how [I'm] going to advance the integration of cyberspace operations into Joint All-Domain Command and Control. Every day I'm reading Joint Publications and numerous other documents that help drive curriculum development. ... My downtime is spent with my wife and two kids! Between sports and extracurricular activities, I like to stay pretty busy. On top of that, I'm also working on my [Bachelor of Science] in computer networks and cybersecurity."

Technical Sergeant Kyle Carpenter
Cyber Warfare Operator/Instructor
U.S. Air Force

"[My] daily tasks ... consist of pulling rosters, accountability for the command, as well as anything related to customer service. ... After work I usually [do physical training (PT)] once more and spend my free time scrapbooking memories or completing art projects."

Lance Corporal Taylor Chesebro
Administrative Specialist
U.S. Marine Corps



"I am a gas turbine systems technician and the work center supervisor for engine room NR 1 and make sure to gather with all of my maintenance personnel to give out our direct worklist for the day. ... My day then goes on with possible command meetings as well as engineering training."

Once I am home, I ... begin working on my first book, which I am extremely excited about writing. I take a couple of hours to write as well as study. I am currently on track to become a certified real estate appraiser and am in my final course before taking my certification test. Now that I have done some work for myself, I always try to ... relax and take my mind off of everything."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Erynne Byrd
Gas Turbine Systems Technician
U.S. Navy

"Around 8:25, my [information technology] students come [into] class, I take attendance and I begin the day's block(s) of instruction. At 11:30, the students are released for lunch until 1 p.m. During that time, I eat my lunch, run errands, or finish administrative tasks relating to my class such as updating grade cards and ensuring exam materials are ordered. When the students return, we resume instruction until 4:15 when we stop for the day and clean the classroom and schoolhouse and prepare for the swing shift students [to] come in. ..."

Usually when I go home, and after settling in, I do some college work, watch the news, talk to my wife and kids about their day, then go to bed to do it all over again at 4 a.m."

Staff Sergeant Victor Jones Jr.
Information Technology Specialist
U.S. Army



Can you describe the friendships you've made in the Military?



"Making friends in the Marine Corps is easy because we are all brothers and sisters. Anywhere I go, I am treated like family because we are one big family ... I have made tighter bonds in the Marine Corps, [and] in a shorter time, than I would have ever thought possible."

Corporal Vencent C. Thomas, Jr.

Radio Maintainer
U.S. Marine Corps

"I have made many friendships in the Military with people from all around the United States, and I still talk with the people that I went to basic training and tech school with to this day."

Airman 1st Class Zachary Corbin Farrar

Aircraft Hydraulics Journeyman
U.S. Air Force Reserve



"I LOVE the Sailors and people I work with. ... In the Military, you may [share a room] with someone who is from another country. Your coworkers will speak different languages, practice different religions, come from different cultures, and yet you are one unit and one family."

Lieutenant Selina Benavides

Human Resources Officer
U.S. Navy

What kinds of things do you enjoy doing in your free time?

"I am enrolled in [a national mentoring program and] have [a mentee] I spend some time with outside of work. I [also] do a lot of home improvements at my place, so that also takes my time."

Lieutenant Anthony Solares

Port State Control Branch Chief
U.S. Coast Guard



"I grew up skiing and hiking the Rockies and continue to do so today as an adult. [I also participate in] the biathlon program run by the National Guard Bureau."

Specialist Philip Jeffries

Security Officer
U.S. Army National Guard

"I enjoy brewing beer and visiting local breweries, plugging into my community through community service, going to the range and spending time with my [husband and two dogs]."

Lieutenant Nyrel Allen

Enforcement Chief
U.S. Coast Guard



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