

EARLY SERVICE MEMBER MILESTONES



Enlisting in the Military

Enlisted members of the Military have important, hands-on roles that often include mechanical, transportation, infantry, office professions and more. Although the process of enlisting is an experience unique to every individual, joining often follows a similar road map of required steps and rewarding milestones.

PLEASE NOTE:

- ✓ With very few exceptions, a high school diploma is required to enlist.
- ✓ This timeline does not represent all pathways or guarantee milestone timing.



MILESTONE 6

GRADUATING BASIC TRAINING

- ✓ Celebrate a momentous occasion — family members may be able to virtually attend due to current pandemic restrictions.
- ✓ Attain first enlisted military rank, E-1.
- ✓ Receive instructions on next steps via out-processing.

MILESTONE 8

TAKING LEAVE



- ✓ 10 days of leave is often granted before service members report to their first duty station.

MILESTONE 10

RECEIVING ON-THE-JOB TRAINING AND CONTINUING TO GROW

When: Ongoing

- ✓ Apply and expand upon specialized skills while performing duties.
- ✓ Achieve higher ranks during military service — promotions are largely based on time in service and/or time in pay grade, and a clean track record during service.



MILESTONE 7

ATTENDING ADVANCED TRAINING

When: Following Basic Training

- ✓ Report to Advanced Individual Training (AIT) school, technical training school or school of infantry (depending on Service branch).
- ✓ Specialize in a chosen military role — training can range from four to 52 weeks, depending on the role.
- ✓ Receive orders of what and where your unit assignment will be.

Note: After completing AIT, many service members attain another promotion to rank E-2 or higher.

MILESTONE 9

REPORTING TO A FIRST DUTY STATION

- ✓ Relocate, if necessary, to a unit assignment; here service members will perform the duties they have been trained in.
- ✓ Reserve and National Guard service members will return home and report to their units for weekend drills and training.



Although this guide represents some early milestones that enlisted service members may encounter, it offers only a small glimpse of what it's like to join the Military. For a more complete picture of career opportunities, military life, education, benefits and more, visit [TodaysMilitary.com](https://www.TodaysMilitary.com)