Your Potential

Careers Are Made Of

And Women With a Mission

Picture Your Potential
CONTENTS

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.

2 / 3 Ways to Serve
Military paths to finding your future success

4 / A Day in the Life
Follow a Marine Corps combat photographer through her day

6 / More Than a Job
Why have a job when you can have a dream career?

14 / Rising to the Challenge
Discover service opportunities that change lives

20 / Double Dose of Drive
Two stories of service united by a lifelong dream to help others

22 / Wonder Women
From fighting fires to flying jets, they get the job done

26 / A Foundation for Success
The Military can help you reach your educational goals

32 / Full Days, Full Lives
Living life to the fullest while on duty and off

36 / Stronger Together
Friendships formed in the Military are bonds that last a lifetime

1. LATASSIA MORRIS
Sergeant 1st Class
Army

2. KEITH RUSSELL
Sergeant 1st Class
Army

3. GREGORY CHING
Sergeant
Army Reserve

4. IAN RIVERAAPONTE
Sergeant
Army Reserve

5. MILLER FORD
Cadet
Army National Guard

6. PAIGE HERBST
Cadet
Army National Guard

7. BROOKE DEITERS
Corporal
Marine Corps

8. KALALEA SHIM
Lance Corporal
Marine Corps

9. CODY GREER
Petty Officer 2nd Class
Navy

10. JONATHAN RUBIN
Constructionman
Navy

11. NICOLE LEONARD
Captain
Air Force

12. GERAINE VADEN
Staff Sergeant
Air Force

13. RELY FINNELLY
1st Lieutenant
Air Force Reserve

14. JURELL RILEY
Staff Sergeant
Air Force Reserve

15. ALEJANDRA CEPEDA
Staff Sergeant
Air National Guard

16. ALEXANDER THIANI
Senior Airman
Air National Guard

17. BRANDON ABDALLAH
Petty Officer 3rd Class
Coast Guard

18. MELISSA SPROUT
Petty Officer 1st Class
Coast Guard Reserve
ACTIVE DUTY
Full-Time Military Service

Each Service has members who serve full time. They’re referred to as Active Duty. In addition to working in an occupational specialty, active-duty service members can pursue a college or advanced degree, as well as off-duty activities, while they serve.

RESERVE
Part-Time Service
One-Weekend-a-Month Military Drill*
Two-Weeks-a-Year Active Duty*

Each Service also has 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.

NATIONAL GUARD
Part-Time Service
One-Weekend-a-Month Military Drill*
Two-Weeks-a-Year Active Duty*

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 in times of conflict or natural disaster. They may also be deployed internationally alongside full-time service members when necessary. Members of the National Guard hold civilian jobs or attend school while conducting their military training part time.

*minimum

WAYS TO SERVE

The Military offers various paths to a successful future. Discover which one is right for you.

“I think the Military has helped me grow as a person, because I’ve always wanted to be a good leader. The Military does a good job at teaching you that.”
— Air Force Capt.
Nicole Leonard

“In the Reserve, my lifestyle is perfect. I like to be active, and there’s always room for progression. It helps you structurally get on the right path.”
— Army Reserve Sgt.
Gregory Ching

“It’s a perfect fit for me — being able to work a civilian job when I graduate, and also to serve the country at the same time.”
— Army National Guard Cadet
Miller Ford

“I think the Military has helped me grow as a person, because I’ve always wanted to be a good leader. The Military does a good job at teaching you that.”
— Air Force Capt.
Nicole Leonard

“In the Reserve, my lifestyle is perfect. I like to be active, and there’s always room for progression. It helps you structurally get on the right path.”
— Army Reserve Sgt.
Gregory Ching

“It’s a perfect fit for me — being able to work a civilian job when I graduate, and also to serve the country at the same time.”
— Army National Guard Cadet
Miller Ford
Everyone dreams of waking up excited to go to work. For Marine Corps combat photographer CPL. Brooke Deiters, that dream is a reality.

CPL. DEITERS' MORNING KICKS OFF with a trip from her barracks to an on-base field with her unit for physical training, or PT. After her workout around 8:00 a.m., she makes sure she eats a good breakfast at the nearby chow hall (usually mixed fruit and a loaded omelet with salsa on top) before starting her workday.

AFTER PUTTING ON HER UNIFORM, CPL. Deiters reaches for one of her favorite electronic devices. No, not her phone, her camera. Every day is different. One day, she could be assigned to photograph a new exhibition at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and the next day, she could be raising her hand to photograph a retirement ceremony, one of the most memorable moments in a Marine’s career.

AFTER THE MORNING’S PHOTOSHOOT, CPL. Deiters heads back to her team’s studio on base to make initial edits to the photos she snapped. When she first became a Marine, CPL. Deiters went to Defense Information School, a four-month photojournalism course that covered everything from how to use photo editing software to how to take photographs in potentially life-threatening situations. Even today, CPL. Deiters is constantly learning new tips and tricks from her fellow combat photographers. With this round of editing wrapped up, it’s time to break for lunch at a local diner off base with some of her Marine friends.

AFTER LUNCH, CPL. DEITERS RETURNS TO HER DUTIES, THIS TIME TAKING portraits of fellow Marines. These photos aren’t your typical headshots. They’re lasting representations of the Marine Corps that end up in professional publications, official command websites, promotion boards and more. It’s her job to not only capture every photo but assist her subjects in making sure everything about their appearance is in regulation (service ribbons are centered and the proper distance from the shirt pocket, rank insignia is properly placed, etc.). This ensures that everyone photographed is representing the Marine Corps in the best possible way.

AFTER FINISHING UP AT THE STUDIO FOR THE DAY, CPL. DEITERS HEADS TO A nearby park to unwind and get some time in on her longboard before sunset. She learned to ride while stationed in Okinawa, Japan, in 2015, and loves how it lets her check out the surrounding area — wherever she may be in the world — in a flash. After longboarding, she’ll usually grab a quick bite for dinner at the chow hall and head back to her room to play some online video games with friends before going to sleep.

I was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, from August 2015 to August 2017, where I was given the opportunity to take part in some of the most exhilarating trainings of my career. Whether I was underwater photographing an intermediate swim qualification course (top), on the ground getting up close and personal with the nonlethal-weapons students during training (middle) or in the air photographing a tactical air control scenario (bottom), I used my camera to capture the Marine Corps at its finest. Each and every photo I take represents a valuable moment in the history of the Marine Corps that will be remembered by future generations.

— Marine Corps CPL. Brooke Deiters
Why have a job when you can have a dream career? From deep-sea diving and humanitarian efforts to training K-9s, it’s not work when you’re focused on service.
Living and serving in a place like Hawaii is special to Ian and his parents and siblings, who followed him there shortly after he arrived. He'll never forget his time in Puerto Rico, but he's enjoying the balanced life he leads in Hawaii — serving part time and being a civilian full time.

When he's not training as a sniper, Ian works as a safety officer at a local gun range where he educates others on the proper use of firearms. After work you'll likely find Ian, his wife, Nina, and their dog, Luna, heading to the beach to play in the late-afternoon sun.

Serving his country by doing what he loves in a place like Hawaii once seemed like a dream for Ian. Now it's a reality that promises to keep him fulfilled for years to come.

“Growing up, I played with Tonka toys, and now my job as an adult is playing with real-size Tonka toys. It's cool,” says Jonathan Rubin.

He is a member of the United States Naval Construction Battalions, also known as a Navy Seabee. Seabees got their interesting name from the initials “C.B.,” short for Construction Battalion. Seabees like Jonathan wear many hats and are frequently involved in humanitarian efforts, where they need to have a wide range of skills to complete various construction projects. In the event of a natural disaster, Jonathan and his team help build whatever medical facilities are needed or clear roadways so humanitarian relief services can effectively reach those in need. Most recently, Jonathan traveled to Puerto Rico to help set up medical facilities following Hurricane Maria in 2017.

“Once you’re in there and you start driving and operating these machines, you feel pretty cool. It’s like a dream. As a little kid, we all sit there in the sand and play around and say, ‘I wish I could move this with real equipment.’ Now I’m actually doing it,” says Jonathan.

IF YOU’VE WATCHED A MOVIE ABOUT SNIPERS, YOU MAY THINK YOU know what the job is all about. Think again. “The movies tend to show snipers in their established positions, but they don’t show all of the training they needed to get to those spots,” explains Ian Riveraaponte, a sniper in the Army Reserve. “You’ve got to be extremely proficient with your skills in marksmanship and fieldcraft.”

While many of his high school classmates were unsure of what they wanted to do after graduation, Ian knew he had a calling — to become a Soldier. As a senior, he scored well on the Military’s aptitude test, graduated and enlisted. Joining the Army Reserve allowed Ian the flexibility to live anywhere he wanted in the United States. He chose to move to Hawaii shortly after Basic Training and pursue a career as a part-time sniper in the Army Reserve.

In a matter of months, Ian went from being a high schooler in a small town in Puerto Rico to being a Soldier in Hawaii, joining one of the top sniper units in the Army. This shift inspired his younger schoolmates back home. “I always like to joke that you could make a platoon out of the people who joined from my town after I enlisted,” Ian says. “Just my story itself probably changed the lives of 20 other families.”
Another aspect Cody loves is the ability to explore the world and help others. As a diver, he had the opportunity to go to Africa, where his team trained members of other militaries to dive.

Being in the Navy has allowed Cody to live his life in a way he never thought possible. "It's amazing. I've seen some really cool things that you can't stand on the shore and look down 140 feet and see, like a sunken ship," Cody says. "I am able to walk around the bottom of the ocean and see all types of cool things. I think it's awesome!"

"I JOINED THE NAVY, AND IT’S THE COOLEST THING. I HAVE THE BEST JOB!" Cody Greer has turned a dream career into his "day job," spending every day doing what he loves. Before joining the Navy, Cody was working in the oil industry. But he was looking for more. Cody says, "I asked myself, 'Can I see myself doing what I'm doing right now, every single day for the rest of my life?' And the answer was 'Absolutely not.'"

Today, Cody loves his job. As a deep-sea diver in the Navy, Cody's job consists of underwater ship husbandry (maintenance), salvage, search and rescue, anti-terrorism/force protection, demolition and supporting the SEALs and explosive ordnance disposal techs. With such a wide range of responsibilities, Cody's learned a diverse set of skills, empowering him to tackle any challenge that comes his way.

"I am able to walk around the bottom of the ocean and see all types of cool things. I think it's awesome!"
A "9 TO 5" DESK JOB. ALEXANDER TRIANI KNEW it wasn’t for him. “Growing up thinking about what I wanted to do when I was older, I was just absolutely sure I did not want to sit behind a desk for the whole day,” he says.

Now serving part time as a Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) specialist in the Air National Guard, he’s found the perfect job to fit his active lifestyle. “I need dynamic work, and this is exactly what the Military has offered me,” he says.

When he’s on duty, Alex is rarely standing still, constantly out in the wilderness on training missions teaching fellow Airmen how to survive in extreme situations — everything from how to start a fire to properly performing an emergency medical evacuation with limited resources. These are what keep Alex on his toes when he’s drilling one weekend a month and two weeks a year, the minimum service requirement for members of the Air National Guard.

He doesn’t miss a beat when out of uniform either, serving as a lifeguard at a local beach in the summer and a CrossFit instructor year-round in his hometown. Balancing his part-time service in the Air National Guard with his other professional pursuits creates a lifestyle he could only dream of growing up. Now, it’s a life he can be proud of.

A “9 TO 5” DESK JOB. ALEXANDER TRIANI KNEW it wasn’t for him. “Growing up thinking about what I wanted to do when I was older, I was just absolutely sure I did not want to sit behind a desk for the whole day,” he says.

Now serving part time as a Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) specialist in the Air National Guard, he’s found the perfect job to fit his active lifestyle. “I need dynamic work, and this is exactly what the Military has offered me,” he says.

When he’s on duty, Alex is rarely standing still, constantly out in the wilderness on training missions teaching fellow Airmen how to survive in extreme situations — everything from how to start a fire to properly performing an emergency medical evacuation with limited resources. These are what keep Alex on his toes when he’s drilling one weekend a month and two weeks a year, the minimum service requirement for members of the Air National Guard.

He doesn’t miss a beat when out of uniform either, serving as a lifeguard at a local beach in the summer and a CrossFit instructor year-round in his hometown. Balancing his part-time service in the Air National Guard with his other professional pursuits creates a lifestyle he could only dream of growing up. Now, it’s a life he can be proud of.

MARINE CORPS LANCE CPL. KALALEA SHIM KNOWS HIS ROLE as a dog handler is highly coveted and shouldn’t be taken for granted. “[As a part of the military police,] you’re held to a higher standard because you’re the one keeping the law,” he says. “It’s the best job in the Marine Corps.”

For the past several months, Lance Cpl. Shim has served in the K-9 unit at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia. This small, specialized group of two- and four-legged Marines is critical to the safety and security of the service members and civilians around them. Day in and day out, Lance Cpl. Shim trains with his dog, Freddy, on everything from explosive detection to search and rescue. “As a K-9 handler,” he says, “you definitely have to be able to think freely, see what your dog’s doing and be able to listen to your dog at all times.” If not, lives could be at risk.

Dogs are known as man’s best friend, but for Lance Cpl. Shim, being able to work with them while enforcing the law has been a unique opportunity he’s really enjoyed. “Getting assigned to K-9 has been the most rewarding experience of my time in the Marine Corps,” he says.
Brandon Abdallah
COAST GUARD

Aviation and helping people. Those are two things in which Brandon Abdallah has always had an interest. Little did he know the Military would provide him the opportunity to do both. As an avionics electrical technician in the Coast Guard, Brandon maintains and operates all the electrical elements of his helicopter — including radios and navigation equipment — before, during and after search and rescue missions.

“I’m telling the pilots where to position the aircraft so I can do my job,” he explains. His job also entails dropping a basket, stretcher or rescue swimmer in precisely the right spot to hoist people into the helicopter and out of danger, quickly.

Brandon’s service and missions have taken him all over the country in times of need. When Hurricane Harvey battered the Gulf Coast in 2017, Brandon was among the first to head to the devastated area. “Every day, we’d do six hours of search and rescue, pick people up and take them to a safe place.” Many of the individuals he rescued had to be lifted from rooftops and taken to higher ground or hospitals. Seeing those he saved be so thankful is something he’ll never forget. “It affected me — in a good way,” he says. “I love helping people.”

“I love helping people.”
— Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Abdallah

As part of a survey mission, Brandon keeps an eye on the Gulf of Mexico for any signs of distress or hazards.
Do you love the ocean and the animals that call it home? Then you have something in common with Melissa Sprout. As a child growing up in Florida, Melissa spent her days at the beach, digging around in the sand and falling in love with marine life. Today, Melissa balances her appreciation of the ocean with her desire to help others as a part-time marine science technician in the Coast Guard Reserve.

When on duty, Melissa works to both prevent and respond to pollution in the ocean. From making sure hazardous materials are packaged correctly so they don’t spill to responding to pollution incidents on the waterways of St. Petersburg and the western coast of Florida, Melissa and her team work to make sure marine life is protected.

When she’s not out protecting the environment, Melissa and her Coast Guard team participate in Partners in Education, visiting schools to teach kids about the Coast Guard and the work it does. Serving part time, Melissa’s able to spend her free time exploring other passions, including pursuing her master’s in counseling with a concentration in school counseling, spending time with her two daughters and teaching “kid yoga” at the beach.

“I love my job! I think it’s awesome,” she says. “I’m able to help deal with different spills. It’s nice to be able to say you are protecting people and the environment.”

Melissa Sprout
COAST GUARD RESERVE

"It’s nice to be able to say you are protecting people and the environment.”
— Coast Guard Reserve Petty Officer 1st Class Melissa Sprout

DID YOU KNOW?

The Military assists the country and world in times of natural disasters ranging from hurricanes and floods to earthquakes and tsunamis, providing supplies, search and rescue operations, medical treatments and other forms of relief. After Hurricane Harvey, all branches of the Military provided resources to help with rescue and relief efforts, including providing machinery, rescue packages, generators, fuel, medical supplies and more.

Mentorship is my passion. I am preparing Soldiers to go out and mentor and lead others, which has a big impact on the rest of the Army.

— Army Sgt. 1st Class Latasia Morris

It gives you that sense of service to really help those who may possibly need it.

— Air Force Staff Sgt. Gerame Vaden

Above all, the Army has taught Latasia Morris the importance of discipline, something she believes every person needs, whether they’re in the Military or not. “I think you can have the ability to be great if you have the right tools or the right person steering you in the right direction,” she says. Latasia spends a large part of her day leading others, hoping to be an example younger Soldiers model themselves after. “Mentorship is my passion. I am preparing Soldiers to go out and mentor and lead others, which has a big impact on the rest of the Army.”

— Latasia Morris

Gerame instructs fellow Airmen on the proper use of a portable radio used for communication in the field.
you ask Nicole Leonard what she wanted to be when she was younger, she will answer without hesitation: a doctor. “I’d always had my heart set on being a doctor,” she says. “I was one of those weird kids who was like, ‘No, this is what I’m going to do.’”

Nicole, a captain in the Air Force, currently serves as an emergency medical physician at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, where she works alongside some of the country’s top medical professionals. No matter what kind of attention a patient needs, Nicole and her colleagues are there to help. “Whether they go home in a day or they stay for a week or a month, we’re their first line of defense,” she says.

Two stories of service, united by a lifelong dream to help those in need

Serving full time works for Nicole and has helped her accomplish her goals of graduating from medical school, with the support of a military scholarship, and becoming a doctor, but there are other ways to pursue a medical career in the Military. Like Nicole, Jurell Riley always knew he wanted to go into the medical field, and in his case, serving part time was the best path for him to achieve his goals in a way that translated to career advancement in the civilian world.

As a member of the Air Force Reserve, Jurell has a fulfilling career in the Military as a flight medic that complements his civilian career as a registered nurse on a behavioral medicine unit at a hospital. Not only is Jurell able to practice more traditional nursing skills in his military career, where he provides physical in-flight patient care, he’s also able to treat civilians in another capacity by focusing on mental health in his career outside the Service. This gives Jurell the opportunity to practice a more holistic view of nursing and allows him to explore different disciplines within his field, an opportunity most nurses his age don’t have.

When he’s not providing patient care, Jurell loves to work out, spend time with his family and work on cars. Serving part time has helped Jurell pursue many of his goals outside of the Military, something he knows will set him up for a fulfilling and successful future.

“I’D ALWAYS HAD MY HEART SET ON BEING A DOCTOR. I WAS ONE OF THOSE WEIRD KIDS WHO WAS LIKE, ‘NO, THIS IS WHAT I’M GOING TO DO.’”

— Air Force Capt. Nicole Leonard

“JOINING THE MILITARY IS PROBABLY THE BEST DECISION I’VE EVER MADE. … THEY SAY IF YOU SHOOT FOR THE MOON, YOU MAY LAND ON A STAR, AND I FEEL LIKE I LANDED ON A STAR WITH MY JOB IN THE MILITARY.”

— Air Force Reserve Staff Sgt. Jurell Riley

DOUBLE DOSE of Drive

Two stories of service, united by a lifelong dream to help those in need

Serving full time works for Nicole and has helped her accomplish her goals of graduating from medical school, with the support of a military scholarship, and becoming a doctor, but there are other ways to pursue a medical career in the Military. Like Nicole, Jurell Riley always knew he wanted to go into the medical field, and in his case, serving part time was the best path for him to achieve his goals in a way that translated to career advancement in the civilian world.

As a member of the Air Force Reserve, Jurell has a fulfilling career in the Military as a flight medic that complements his civilian career as a registered nurse on a behavioral medicine unit at a hospital. Not only is Jurell able to practice more traditional nursing skills in his military career, where he provides physical in-flight patient care, he’s also able to treat civilians in another capacity by focusing on mental health in his career outside the Service. This gives Jurell the opportunity to practice a more holistic view of nursing and allows him to explore different disciplines within his field, an opportunity most nurses his age don’t have.

When he’s not providing patient care, Jurell loves to work out, spend time with his family and work on cars. Serving part time has helped Jurell pursue many of his goals outside of the Military, something he knows will set him up for a fulfilling and successful future.
FROM FIGHTING FIRES TO FLYING, THEY GET THE JOB DONE
★ ALWAYS ★

Alejandra Cepeda, a New York City–based nursing student who serves part time as a firefighter in the Air National Guard.

“I just love the idea of being a superhero,” says Alejandra Cepeda, a New York City–based nursing student who serves part time as a firefighter in the Air National Guard.

“What I wanted to do since I was little was anything pertaining to helping people,” she says. Shortly after completing Air Force Basic Military Training, Alejandra found her calling by becoming the first female firefighter in her squadron’s history. She’s as proud of this as she is of the impact she’s had on others.

“It’s really fulfilling for me, knowing that I’m making a difference in someone’s life,” she says.

Whether she’s serving part time as a firefighter or studying to become a nurse, Alejandra enjoys being able to help others while serving close to home. “I like the closeness to home,” she says. “I like to be able to have a life with my close family, in addition to having this side of life where I am out and traveling with the Guard. It’s the best of both worlds.”

In a few years, when she finishes her nursing degree, she hopes to commission as an officer in the active-duty Air Force and become a flight nurse full time. This is a testament to the impact her part-time military service has had on her. With the skills she’s gained in her nursing classes and out in the field fighting fires, there’s no doubt she’ll find success in the coming years as she commits to serving her country full time.

“The Military instilled in me resilience, determination and courage.”

— Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Alejandra Cepeda
I want to get my hands in there and guide people the right way,” says Paige Herbst, Army National Guard cadet. While she’s a natural leader, she admits she had a little help. “I’d say that’s who I am, but more so, the Military definitely brought it out in me,” she says.

In high school, Paige participated in Junior ROTC and enjoyed it so much that she joined the Army National Guard after high school graduation. Now she balances college classes and being a varsity athlete at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, with serving part time. During her monthly drill weekends and annual training, she leads a platoon of 40 Soldiers in practice and by example. “I’m very positive around all my Soldiers and I strive to make everyone better, as well as myself, so that way I can learn and grow to be a better person,” Paige says.

During one particularly memorable training mission, her platoon hiked 25 miles a day, with Paige right there guiding them. One of her Soldiers thanked her for her hands-on leadership approach. “That was a proud internal moment,” she says. “I was out there with my Soldiers, getting dirty, getting things done, doing what we have to do to serve the state.”

You can be a pilot! You can be a pilot!”

That’s what Reily Finnelly wishes she could tell every young girl across the country. In a field dominated by men, in both the Military and the civilian world, Reily’s part of a smaller pool of female pilots she hopes will continue to grow in the coming years. “People just don’t think that women can be pilots,” she says. “That’s the biggest misconception. In reality, anybody can do it.”

Reily comes from a long line of pilots. Two of her uncles fly for commercial airlines, just like her grandfather did before them. But it wasn’t until late in college that she decided to follow their lead, first by getting her civilian pilot license, and later when she decided to join the Air Force Reserve.

Now Reily has the opportunity to fly all over the world, including places like Hawaii, Germany, Japan and South Korea. “I operate the C-17 aircraft, and we are focused on air mobility: moving cargo and people, wherever they need to go throughout the world, safely and efficiently.” Cargo can be anything from vehicles and equipment to medical evacuation patients. The fact that she has the ability to travel all over never gets old. “I’ve had days where I’ve woken up in Spain where it’s 85 degrees out,” Reily says, “and then flown to a place like Iceland where it’s 10 degrees. Being able to experience different cultures is definitely a rewarding part of the job.”

Reily likes to think she has the best of both worlds, being a pilot in the Reserve, traveling to all these amazing places, while still knowing she’ll always be able to call the Seattle area home. When she’s not airborne on one of her monthly training missions as part of the Reserve, she can usually find her in the mountains of Washington with friends and family (see page 35) or putting in time at her local CrossFit gym. In the coming months, she plans to start flying for one of the major commercial airlines, so if you’re ever on a flight out of Seattle, be sure to take a peek and see if Reily’s in the cockpit.

In addition to her love of flying, Reily finds plenty of time to pursue other interests, such as skiing.
FOUNDA TION

SUCCESS

A

for

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CADET MILLER FORD

knew from a young age that he wanted to join the Military, but he didn’t realize it could also help him pay for his education. Miller is a junior at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, but when he arrived, a college degree wasn’t his only ambition. “Going into the Military was definitely a goal of mine,” he says. The Tennessee native joined the South Carolina National Guard and now drills one weekend a month on campus with fellow students while balancing schoolwork and spending time with friends. And the Army National Guard is helping him pay for what would’ve been an expensive out-of-state tuition, providing immense financial relief. “I don’t have to worry about graduating in $200,000 worth of debt,” Miller says. “It’s taken a huge stressor off my life and my parents’ lives. Being able to get out and have one less thing to worry about has been essential for me, honestly, and it’s allowed me to focus on other things.”

“I don’t have to worry about graduating in $200,000 worth of debt. It’s taken a huge stressor off my life and my parents’ lives.”

— Army National Guard Cadet Miller Ford

Thanks to a range of education, training and tuition programs, when you commit to serve, the Military commits to supporting your future
“[The Military] has so many benefits. It’s been paying for my school since I joined. Every year, they give me $4,000 for tuition, so instead of wasting it and it not being spent, you might as well use it and better yourself professionally and personally.”
— Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Abdallah

“The Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) ended up working out really well for me. In medical school, it was wonderful because I didn’t have to worry about expenses. I always had a place to live. I knew I always had money coming in for food. I didn’t have to live off of loans. All my books and supplies were paid for. I was able to live a life that I wanted to.”
— Air Force Capt. Nicole Leonard

“There were times when I was stationed at Fort Hood when I was taking classes in person. In Korea, I took classes online and in person. The Military has always taken care of the entire bill.”
— Army Sgt. 1st Class Keith Russell
MORE THAN 1 MILLION veterans and their families are taking advantage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill to attend college at little or no cost.2

THE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM
Some Services offer loan repayment programs that help enlisted service members pay off college loans accrued prior to joining the Military. While requirements differ by Service, all of the programs are designed to help recent college graduates manage educational debt.1

GI BILL EDUCATION BENEFITS
Benefits are available to Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve members. Benefits are based on length of service and can be used to cover all public school in-state tuition and fees.1

MORE THAN 1 MILLION

Tuition assistance covers up to 100% of tuition or expenses for courses taken at accredited colleges, universities, junior colleges or vocational schools.3

The Military has several medical-specific financial assistance programs that will pay your tuition and an average of $60,000 a year to attend classes and study.3

98.9% of active-duty military officers have a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to only 30.3% of the general population.4

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROVIDES $150 billion per year in grants, work-study programs and federal loans to college students in active duty, guard or reserve service.5

1 todaysmilitary.com/living/paying-for-college
2 ncsl.org/research/education/veterans-and-college.aspx
3 medicineandthemilitary.com/officer-and-medical-training/medical-school
4 Defense Manpower Data Center and census.gov
5 militaryonesource.mil/-/how-to-use-the-military-tuition-assistance-program

FULL Days, Full LIVES

Maybe it’s mountain climbing, skiing or simply hanging out with family and friends. These service members know how to live life to the fullest — on duty and off.

GREGORY CHING
ARMY RESERVE

When he’s not serving part time as a cable installer in the Army Reserve or working his civilian job as a government contractor, Gregory can usually be found hiking in the beautiful mountains of Hawaii. The Reserve allows him to serve close to home, so he’s able to hike in paradise and let out his inner “islander” on a daily basis.
KEITH RUSSELL  
ARMY

After a day of work or on the weekend, Keith likes to unwind by bow hunting with Jason, a fellow Soldier and friend. Growing up fishing with his grandfather fostered his love for the outdoors from an early age, but it was only this past year that he took up bow hunting. The first time he went out with his military buddies, he was hooked.

LATASIA MORRIS  
ARMY

When she’s not on duty, you’ll find Latasia with her son, Andrew. One of their favorite spots is the playground a few blocks from Andrew’s school on base. There, Andrew gets the opportunity to play with his friends, many of whom are sons and daughters of Latasia’s coworkers. This sense of community is something Latasia has come to cherish.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are military-owned resort hotels across the globe providing vacation accommodations at affordable prices for service members and their families.

DESTINATIONS INCLUDE:

• SHADES OF GREEN RESORT (Florida)
• HALE KOA HOTEL (Hawaii)
• EDELWEISS LODGE AND RESORT (Germany)
• NEW SANNO HOTEL (Japan)
• DRAGON HILL LODGE (South Korea)

Source: militaryonesource.mil/-/vacation-with-military-lodging

REILY FINNELLY  
AIR FORCE RESERVE

Snow in the forecast on her day off? You can bet you’ll find Reily, a pilot in the Air Force Reserve, on the slopes. Since she was young, Reily has had a passion for skiing. She even raced competitively in college prior to joining the Military. Serving part time and close to home enables her to spend time with family and friends up in the mountains of Washington state, where she grew up.
The bonds of friendship formed in the Military are the kind that last a lifetime. Ask any service member and they'll likely tell you that the people you meet become a second family, there to support you through whatever comes your way. It's a special type of camaraderie unique to the Military.

"I have a lot of friends in my platoon in the Military. And those friendships are like a family."

— Army National Guard Cadet Paige Herbst
“I feel like I’ve grown as a person. I met my husband through the Military. I’ve gained a lot of friends. I’ve moved to different places I never thought I would. It’s given me a lot of opportunities I never saw available to me.”

— Air Force Capt. Nicole Leonard

“Going through training is where you start to make the closest friends. You get to know them, their families, their likes and dislikes. Those are the people you can count on.”

— Air National Guard Senior Airman Alexander Triani

“We’re all brothers and sisters, no matter what happens, no matter what uniform we wear. It’s great!”

— Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Alejandra Cepeda

“In the Military, you make new friends. You make lifetime friends, especially in the community that I’m in, being a diver. It’s so tightly knit and such a small community, the camaraderie and the brotherhood are amazing.”

— Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cody Greer
“Joining the Military has afforded me countless opportunities to be challenged outside of my comfort zone. These experiences have allowed me to develop a confidence and skill set that are unique to service members.”

— Air Force Reserve 1st Lt. Rally Finnally
YOU HAVE A CALLING

ANSWER

WE HAVE AN

TODAY'S MILITARY

TODAYSMilitary.com