

FUTURES

CHOOSE ^{your} TOMORROW

BENEFITS ^{BY}
THE NUMBERS

MYTH ^{VS.}
REALITY

ACTIONS ^{WITH}
IMPACT

AND MUCH
MORE



YOUR FUTURE STARTS NOW

Finishing school is an exciting time for any student. You, your family and friends — everyone is thinking about what comes next. There's no "right" answer, of course, and what you choose might be very different from your classmates. But that's the key: It's *your* choice.

Throughout these pages, you'll discover stories from men and women who had the same big thoughts and decisions about the future as you. They explored their interests, followed their dreams and found their answers in the Military. Now they're living full lives, whether it be through continuing education, meaningful work or lasting friendships.

In today's military, opportunity awaits. What will you choose?

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](https://www.todaysmilitary.com/futures).

WHAT'S INSIDE

04

MILITARY
101



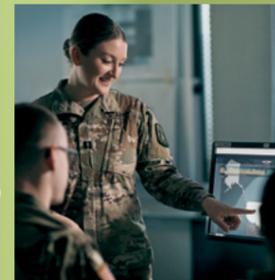
10

MAKING
THE GRADE



22

CYBERWARRIORS
AMONG US



26

CUTTING
EDGE



30

MYTH VS.
REALITY



06

DAY IN
THE LIFE



14

ACTIONS
WITH IMPACT



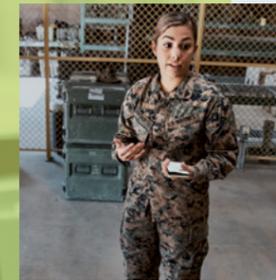
24

UNPARALLELED
EXPERIENCES



28

SKILLS TO
LAST A
LIFETIME



32

MILITARY
LIFE



FACE OF SERVICE



2ND LIEUTENANT
JASON DAVID TOGUCHI
ARMY



STAFF SERGEANT
KALYNTAE WILLIAMS
ARMY



SPECIALIST
JENNIFER LIRIANO
ARMY RESERVE



CAPTAIN
SHAELYN LAYTON
ARMY RESERVE



SPECIALIST
JAUNTAVIA PRATHER
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



SPECIALIST
PHILIP JEFFRIES
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



CAPTAIN
AUSTIN DICKEY
MARINE CORPS



CORPORAL
CRISTALY GARCIA-ORTIZ
MARINE CORPS



PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS
SIDNEY WILSON
NAVY



PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS
THOMAS SCHWAB
NAVY



1ST LIEUTENANT
PHILLIP LANE
AIR FORCE



TECHNICAL SERGEANT
KYLE CARPENTER
AIR FORCE



STAFF SERGEANT
KAYLAN JAMES
AIR FORCE RESERVE



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
ZACHARY CORBIN FARRAR
AIR FORCE RESERVE



SENIOR AIRMAN
LOGAN BALVIK
AIR NATIONAL GUARD



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
JACOB ALLEN
AIR NATIONAL GUARD



PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS
ADRIAN VASQUEZ
COAST GUARD



PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS
DEJANAI CAMACHO
COAST GUARD



101 MILITARY

The Military is made up of six branches, each with its own specific mission. Together, they offer a variety of ways to serve and over 250 different occupations.

- >>> ARMY
- >>> AIR FORCE
- >>> MARINE CORPS
- >>> SPACE FORCE
- >>> NAVY
- >>> COAST GUARD

Founded in 2019, the Space Force organizes, trains and equips service members in order to protect U.S. and allied interests in space. Space Force responsibilities include developing military space professionals, acquiring military space systems and guiding the action of space power.

THERE ARE TWO DISTINCT PATHS TO JOINING THE MILITARY:

- 1 ENLISTING**

Enlisted roles require a high school education. While enlisted careers do include infantry roles, most jobs involve hands-on training for mechanical, transportation, human services or office fields that transfer well to the civilian world.

 - >>> **BOOT CAMP**

Basic Training, often known as boot camp, prepares recruits for all elements of service: physical, mental and emotional. It gives service members the basic tools necessary with the goal of preparing new recruits for successful service.
- 2 COMMISSIONING AS AN OFFICER**

Officers are the managers of the Military, acting in roles that include planning, directing operations and making critical decisions. Positions require a college degree or equivalent. Individuals can become an officer by earning a commission through enlisted service, attending one of the highly competitive service academies or participating in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program.

 - >>> **SERVICE ACADEMIES**
 - >>> **ROTC PROGRAMS**

Service academies offer a world-class education with fully funded tuition that includes room and board. Graduates receive a Bachelor of Science degree and are commissioned in their respective Service branches.

ROTC programs provide officer training for students during college in exchange for a paid college education. In return, students commit to serve either on Active Duty or part time in the Guard or Reserve for a set period of time after graduation, usually five years.



"IT'S DEFINITELY A CAREER — A VOCATION, A PROFESSION, SOMETHING TO DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO. YOUR CALLING, IF YOU WILL."

CAPT. AUSTIN DICKEY
MARINE CORPS



"I LOVE BEING ABLE TO GET THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS. I ENJOY THIS LIFE THAT I HAVE ON THE CIVILIAN SIDE AND I ENJOY MY MILITARY LIFE."

STAFF SGT. KAYLAN JAMES
AIR FORCE RESERVE



"I LIKE THE IDEA OF SERVING PART TIME NOT JUST FOR THE NATION, BUT FOR THE STATE AS WELL, BECAUSE I GREW UP HERE. I WANT TO CONTINUE TO GROW HERE AND HAVE MY LIFE HERE."

SPC. PHILIP JEFFRIES
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

ACTIVE DUTY

FULL-TIME MILITARY SERVICE

Active Duty is a full-time job with set work hours (on duty) and time off (off duty). Being on duty is similar to any other workday, working in an occupational specialty. Off duty is the time for active-duty service members to pursue their own interests like hobbies, their education or spending time with friends and family.

RESERVE

PART-TIME MILITARY SERVICE

Most Services also have 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.

Full-Time Civilian
*One-Weekend-a-Month Military Drill**
*Two-Weeks-a-Year Military Training**

**minimum*

NATIONAL GUARD

PART-TIME MILITARY SERVICE

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 active-duty service members when necessary. Members of the National Guard hold civilian jobs and can attend school while conducting their military training part time.

Full-Time Civilian
*One-Weekend-a-Month Military Drill**
*Two-Weeks-a-Year Military Training**

**minimum*

DAY IN THE LIFE

Active-duty service members have full-time jobs in the Military that are typically 40-50 hours a week; sometimes more depending on the mission and sometimes less for holidays. See Military Life on page 32 for more on how service members spend their downtime.

TECH. SGT. KYLE CARPENTER

As an Air Force cyberwarfare operations instructor, Tech. Sgt. Kyle Carpenter leads a fulfilling life both professionally and personally. He teaches a wide range of cyber classes on various aspects of cyberwarfare for everyone from the most junior to the most senior members of the Military. No matter what the workday holds, his evenings are filled with family time at home on base.



6 am

Like many of us, Kyle starts his day with a cup of coffee on the way out the door to work. Once there, he checks email and chats with his coworkers before going to teach his first class of the day.



11 am

Kyle teaches an introductory-level class providing a 30,000-foot view of cyberspace operations and how they work, including the defensive and offensive nature of cybersecurity.

2 pm

In the afternoon, Kyle instructs in a lab setting, where he and his students practice planning cyberspace missions and operations to keep U.S. systems, infrastructure and digital information secure. Like anyone who's learning something new, hands-on training is crucial to being the best in the field.



7 pm

Following practice, Kyle and his son head home for some quality family time. After dinner, they like playing games — UNO™ is one of their favorites.

9 am

The Air Force has some of the most complex cyber systems and information technology in the world, and requires the best, brightest and most creative thinkers to help the Department of Defense stay ahead of any threats. Here, Kyle and his class discuss the latest cyberthreats facing the digital world and how to defend against them.



12 pm

During lunch, Kyle enjoys catching up with friends and colleagues in the shared break area.



5 pm

After work, Kyle coaches his son's baseball team on base. Military bases are a lot like towns and have communities all their own. Service members and their families have access to many amenities offered on base, including year-round youth sports programs.



“AS AN INSTRUCTOR, I ENJOY WHAT I DO AND THE LIFE IT’S PROVIDED FOR ME AND MY FAMILY.”

TECH. SGT.
KYLE CARPENTER
AIR FORCE



SNAPSHOT OF
PART-TIME SERVICE

Members of the Reserve and National Guard typically hold a civilian job or attend school while serving. They attend military drill a minimum of one weekend a month and annual training two weeks a year.

SPC. JENNIFER LIRIANO

As a licensed practical nurse (LPN) in the Army Reserve and civilian world, Jennifer's using the complementary experience and training she's received to progress toward her goal of being a registered nurse (RN) — all while doing what she loves most: taking care of people.



9
am

Not only is Jennifer an LPN, she's currently in school — debt free due to the Military's educational benefits — to become an RN. As part of her education, Jennifer does clinicals, the hands-on portion of nursing school, at a local hospital. There, she manages patients, hangs IVs and works the floor.

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

8
am

Jennifer spends one weekend a month training with her unit. As a platoon leader, she helps get Soldiers into formation before checking to ensure they're up to date with their medical readiness, licenses, certifications and more.



“ I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD BE DOING WHAT I'M DOING IN THE MILITARY. I FEEL LIKE I'VE GROWN AND LEARNED SO MUCH.”

SPC.
JENNIFER LIRIANO
ARMY RESERVE



4 pm

At the end of her clinical, Jennifer gathers with fellow nursing students to discuss what they experienced during the day while their instructor tests their knowledge.



6 pm

After Jennifer finishes for the day, she often gets her heart racing by kickboxing.

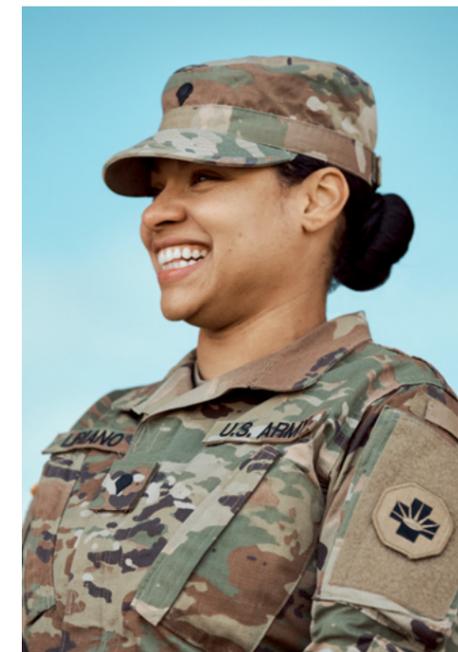
1
pm

In the afternoon, Jennifer teaches a first-aid class to other Soldiers, which includes how to stop bleeding in the event of an injury. "I've taught classes before," she says. "It's a little nerve-racking standing in front of people but I enjoy it."



3 pm

Jennifer continues her drill day by doing refreshers on medical skills like using tourniquets and managing pain until the day ends around 5 p.m. After an overnight stay in a nearby hotel, she begins her second drill day with PT (physical training) and goes outdoors to practice battle drills with other Soldiers. Jennifer returns to her civilian life on Monday morning after her drill ends on Sunday afternoon.



MAKING THE Grade



COLLEGE



SENIOR AIRMAN
LOGAN BALVIK
AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Whether you're looking to get technical skills, complete your undergraduate degree or pursue graduate school, the Military can give you the tools you need to accomplish your goals

Air National Guard Senior Airman Logan Balvik is a full-time student at North Dakota State University, just across the street from the Air National Guard base where he serves part time.

By using some of the Military's educational benefits like Tuition Assistance, Logan's able to focus on his studies, rather than on how to pay for school and living expenses.

"I use my Tuition Assistance and then I have a monthly stipend for going to school. It covers 100% of my tuition, and the monthly stipend covers my rent, my groceries — it's made my financial stress much less," he says.

Logan not only has financial support through the Air National Guard, he has the support of his leadership and fellow Airmen to help keep him on track. "The people you meet in the Military genuinely want you to succeed because that's what makes everybody better and makes the mission go smoother. It's what's best for everybody, so you get that really nice support system right away."

Since joining the Navy, Petty Officer 3rd Class Thomas Schwab's full-time job has been learning. After completing Boot Camp — where he learned basic military customs, courtesies and culture — Thomas began the first phase of his advanced training, called Nuclear Field "A" School.

In "A" School he learned the details of his job, starting with the basics of technical mathematics and power distribution. Next, he completed Nuclear Power School, gaining theoretical knowledge and understanding of how nuclear plants work both in day-to-day operations and what to do in case of an emergency. The final phase of his training took place at a nuclear power training unit where Thomas began prototype training, the hands-on, practical phase of training that helps ensure he has an understanding of nuclear radiation and how to apply it to the safe operation of a complex Navy power plant. In his role as a nuclear electronics technician, Thomas will operate a reactor on either an aircraft carrier or submarine, overseeing and performing maintenance on the reactor and its related systems.

"Through the nuclear pipeline, you gain a level of technical experience and academic knowledge that is invaluable to anyone who's interested in the nuclear field," he says.

"I plan on working toward my degree in nuclear technology. Through the Navy's nuclear pipeline, you're most of the way to having a bachelor's degree already."



FAST FACT

In addition to financial benefits to help service members achieve their education goals, the Military has many programs that work with colleges and universities to accept recommended college credits based on military trainings and experiences.



PETTY OFFICER
3RD CLASS
THOMAS SCHWAB
NAVY

Thomas works with classmates on a circuit board as part of his nuclear training program's electrical lab.

Benefits

BY THE NUMBERS

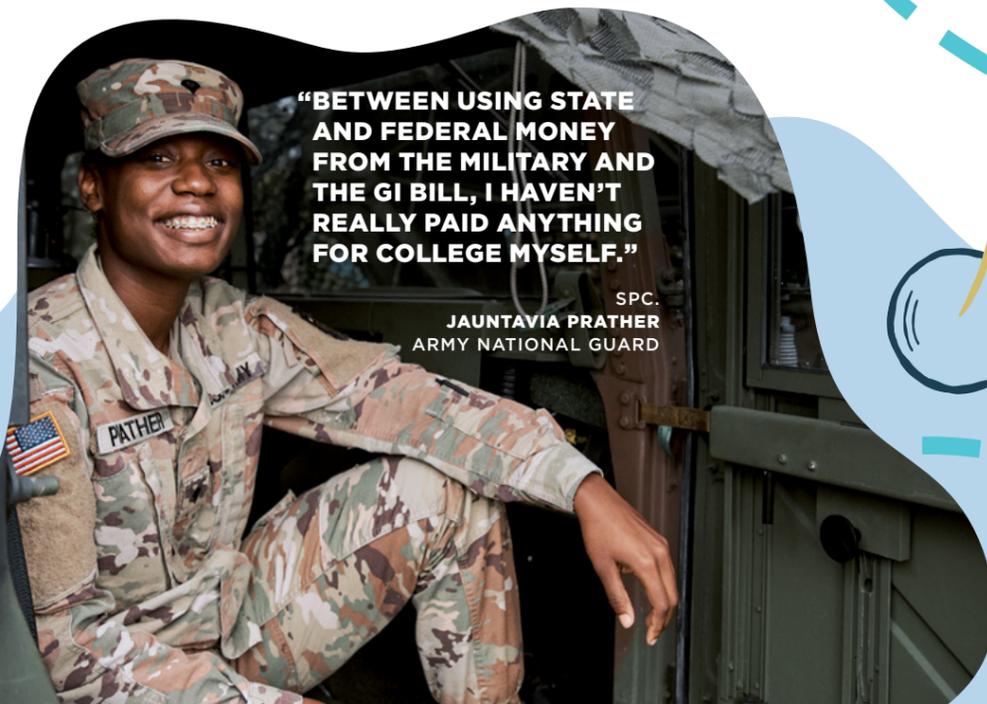
Tuition Assistance covers up to **100%** of tuition or expenses for courses taken at accredited colleges, universities, junior colleges or vocational schools.¹

The federal government provides **\$150 BILLION** per year in grants, work-study programs and federal loans to college students in Active Duty, National Guard or Reserve service.²

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

SOURCES

- ¹todaysmilitary.com/education-training/paying-college
- ²militaryonesource.mil/-/how-to-use-the-military-tuition-assistance-program
- ³medicineandthemilitary.com/officer-and-medical-training/medical-school



“BETWEEN USING STATE AND FEDERAL MONEY FROM THE MILITARY AND THE GI BILL, I HAVEN’T REALLY PAID ANYTHING FOR COLLEGE MYSELF.”

SPC.
JAUNTAVIA PRATHER
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



“WHEN THE ARMY SENT ME TO TRAIN FOR CYBER, I WAS ABLE TO EARN ALL OF THESE CERTIFICATIONS. AS SOON AS I FINISHED MY TRAINING, I STARTED LOOKING FOR JOBS IN THE CIVILIAN SECTOR THAT MATCHED UP TO MY DESIRE TO BREAK INTO THE CYBER INDUSTRY.”

CAPT.
SHAELYN LAYTON
ARMY RESERVE



GI Bill Benefits

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

Post-9/11 GI Bill

pays all public school in-state tuition and fees and provides a living stipend for housing and allowance for books and supplies.¹

Each of the Services and their components may offer some form of college

Loan Repayment

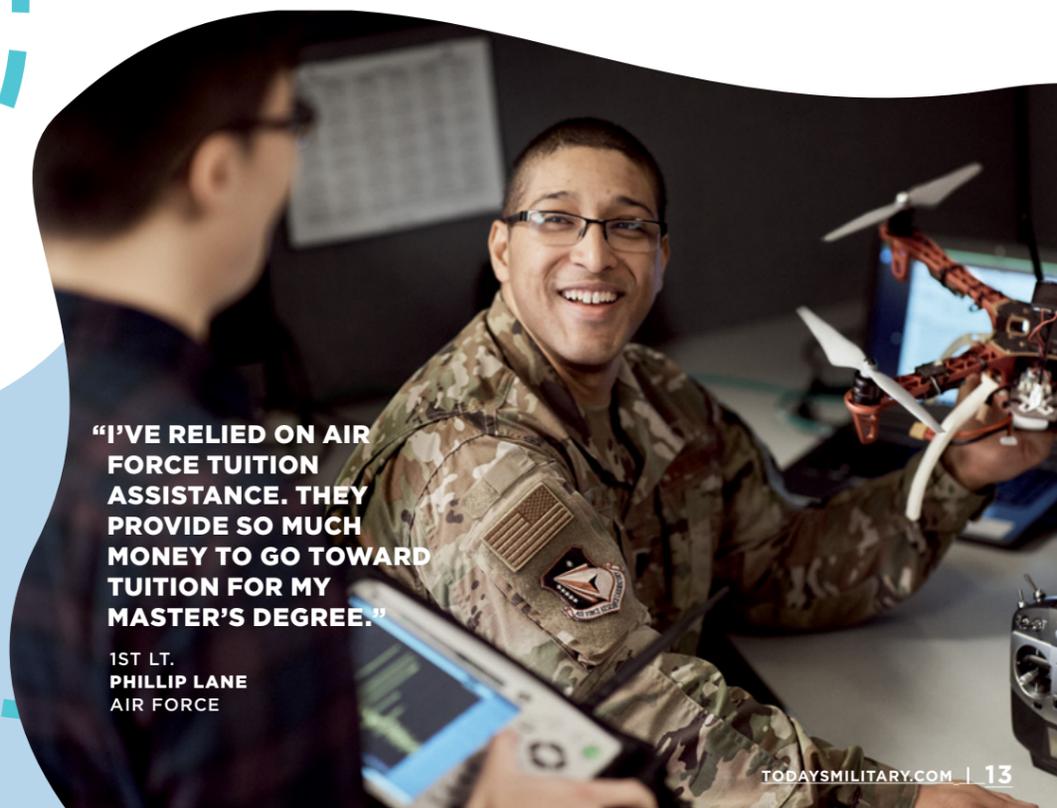
to newly enlisted members to pay off college loans accrued prior to joining the Military. While requirements and opportunities vary by Service, all programs are designed to help recent students manage educational debt.¹

The College Fund Program

can be added to benefits received through the Post-9/11 GI Bill for eligible service members.¹

While each Service will determine who qualifies for this program, two basic requirements are that you:

- ✓ **Have a high school diploma**
- ✓ **Be enrolled in the Post-9/11 GI Bill**



“I’VE RELIED ON AIR FORCE TUITION ASSISTANCE. THEY PROVIDE SO MUCH MONEY TO GO TOWARD TUITION FOR MY MASTER’S DEGREE.”

1ST LT.
PHILLIP LANE
AIR FORCE



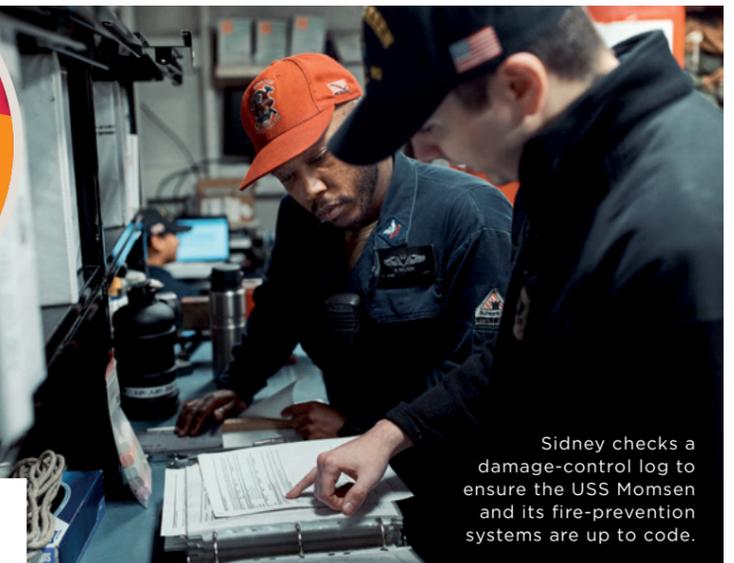
HELPING OTHERS

Learn how service members are contributing meaningfully to their communities, others and work

Fire can be one of the most destructive things to happen on a ship. As damage controlmen in the Navy, Petty Officer 2nd Class Sidney Wilson and his team are responsible for preventing a fire from spreading and further damaging a ship if one breaks out. In his role, Sidney is able to pursue his passion for “helping people; teaching; letting the crew know they’re in good hands.”

PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS
SIDNEY WILSON
NAVY

Sidney and another team member check their firefighting gear to ensure it's functioning properly in the event of an emergency.



Sidney checks a damage-control log to ensure the USS Momsen and its fire-prevention systems are up to code.

ACTIONS WITH

IMPACT

Damage controlmen play a vital role in the Navy. Sidney's job is to ensure all firefighting systems and damage-control equipment are functioning properly. As a supervisor, he's also tasked with training his crew on preventative maintenance.

“If we're not growing and continuously learning and checking updated specifications and the systems that we have on board, if we're not continuously challenging ourselves, we're failing the crew,” he says.

Sidney's top priority is the safety of his crew. He takes pride in knowing he's helping keep his crew and the ship safe, and helping them survive life-threatening situations, should they arise. Making a difference in the lives of his fellow service members gives Sidney great satisfaction.



SPC.
JAUNTAVIA PRATHER
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Jauntavia and a fellow crewmember camouflage their Avenger weapon system as part of a training scenario.

When natural disasters strike, the National Guard is often called in to provide humanitarian aid and relief. After hurricanes damaged Army National Guard Spc. Jauntavia Prather's hometown, she and fellow members of the South Carolina Army National Guard were called to provide aid and relief. When assigned to hurricane-relief duty, Jauntavia can be doing anything from rescue and recovery to passing out water.



Helping others and her community is what's most important to Jauntavia, so this mission was a personal one.

"Just seeing the destruction and the devastation so close to home — I know what a hurricane can do. I've seen it often ... and being someone that people reach out to for help, that's big," says Jauntavia.

Although Jauntavia has been called to aid in humanitarian efforts, her main role in the Army National Guard is as an Avenger crewmember. Jauntavia and her team are responsible for operating and maintaining the Avenger weapon system, which is designed to provide protection against various aerial threats. Whether they are maintaining their weapon systems or providing aid to those in need, her team is able to make a meaningful impact in their community.

"I think when people go through something that's traumatic or stressful, they're constantly thinking, 'How do I get out of this?' They want someone who's a strong figure. Even if they don't know them, all their trust is in that person. Being that person for someone else is pretty cool," she says.



Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Adrian Vasquez is no stranger to lending a helping hand. Prior to joining the Military, he taught martial arts to children with autism. As rewarding as teaching was, Adrian knew he wanted to do more, but didn't think he'd have another opportunity to help others in such an impactful way.

When Adrian first joined the Coast Guard, he only intended to serve for four years. As an electronics technician, his job is to maintain navigational and communication equipment on the Service's cutters. Though the role is important, Adrian never expected to be fully invested in it. Then Hurricanes Maria and Irma hit, and everything changed. Adrian immediately knew his purpose in the Coast Guard was bigger than vessel maintenance — he was meant to help others.

"I think there's just more of a purpose. I've worked regular jobs before, and your purpose seems so small in comparison to the purpose of service and helping people," Adrian says. "There have been tangible lives saved."

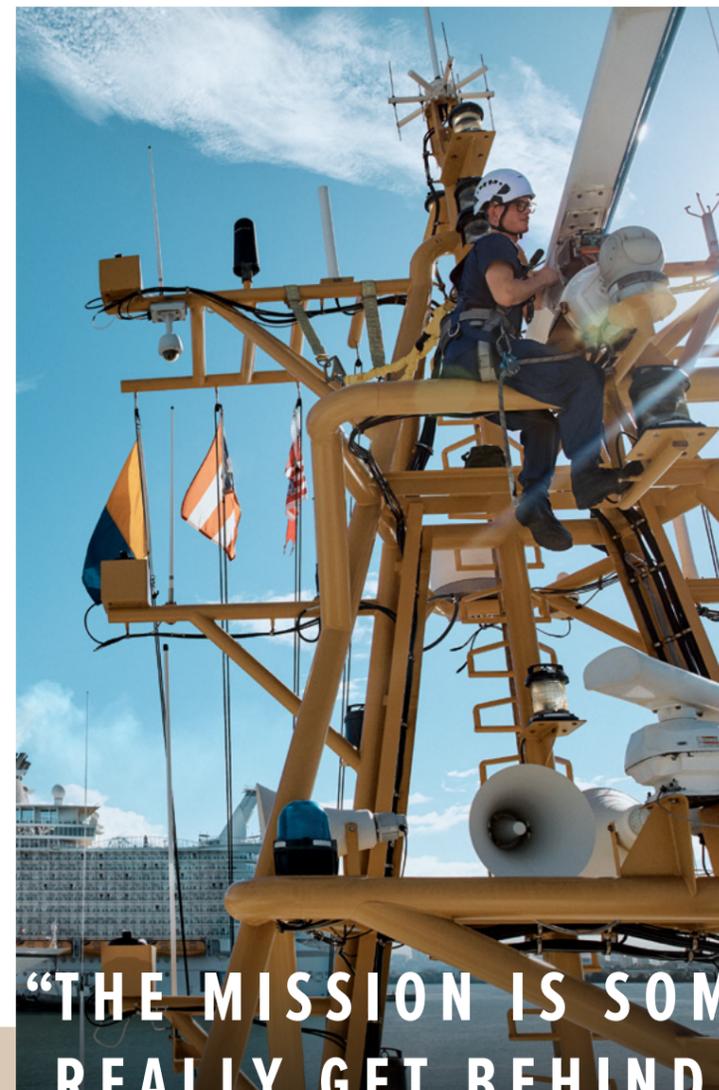
Once, while returning from a port call to Martinique, an island in the Caribbean, Adrian and his crew came across some individuals who had been lost at sea for weeks. Suddenly, Adrian felt the gravity of his job. "These are people that happened to be out there, and I'm doing my job of being an electronics technician, but then I'm also contributing by standing watch and helping the boat operate and work. It's tangible," he says.

For Adrian, more than anything, the impact and humanitarian aspect of the Coast Guard spoke to him. He's found his purpose and himself in the Military.

Pictured below:

[Left] During quarterly maintenance, Adrian repairs the primary radar on a fast response cutter used for search and navigation.

[Below] Adrian routinely makes and fuses connectors for radios to help with communication between vessels.



"THE MISSION IS SOMETHING THAT I CAN REALLY GET BEHIND AND BELIEVE IN, IN TERMS OF SAVING LIVES."

PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS
ADRIAN VASQUEZ
COAST GUARD



2ND LT.
DAVID TOGUCHI
ARMY



MEANINGFUL WORK

Discover some of the careers in the Military that make an impact, both at home and abroad

From a young age, Army 2nd Lt. David Toguchi was fascinated by helicopters. When his father was stationed at an Army post in Hawaii, he would watch helicopters take off and land near his home and began envisioning a future for himself. “I want to do that,” he thought.

Fast forward 15 years and David has just completed a year at Fort Rucker, Alabama, where he learned to fly helicopters at the world’s largest helicopter-training installation. A rigorous course by nature, flight training has provided David with the basic skills he’ll need in the cockpit of any Army rotary aircraft, whether it be a Black Hawk, Chinook or Apache.

While helicopters support a variety of missions in the Military, David hopes to specialize in the Chinook because of its specific purpose: the transportation of troops, artillery, supplies and, in some cases, civilians.

Without the comprehensive training David and his fellow pilots receive in flight school, they would not be able to perform this critical role to ensure Soldiers and civilians across the globe have aid when they need it, whether it be medical evacuation or delivering needed supplies.

“There are countless stories of aviators providing support right when someone needed it,” he says. “I really want to make an impact on the people around me. ... I hope in a number of years, I’m still out there learning and helping people.”

Pictured left:
[Top] David secures his helmet prior to a routine flight exercise.

[Bottom] David prepares his helicopter and its rotors for a training flight.



David conducts a preflight safety check.



From first aid to hospital care, Spc. Jennifer Liriano and Staff Sgt. Kaylan James are making an impact in the medical field



“It’s about keeping people alive. You’re impacting the most important part of the mission, which is the Soldier.”

SPC.
JENNIFER LIRIANO
ARMY RESERVE



“We do anything from basic life support to first aid to taking care of critically ill patients and stabilizing them. We’re the nurses in the Air Force.”

STAFF SGT.
KAYLAN JAMES
AIR FORCE RESERVE

FAST FACT

The Military offers unparalleled medical training and experience.

To learn more about the range of medical careers offered in the Military, visit medicineandthemilitary.com.



“WHEN I’M IN THE FIELD, I BECOME MORE OF A COACH. I’LL SUPERVISE OFFICERS, SO NOT ONLY DO I TEACH THEM HOW TO BE A RIFLE PLATOON COMMANDER, I ALSO TEACH THEM HOW TO BE AN OFFICER.”

CAPT. AUSTIN DICKEY
MARINE CORPS



Marines are often the first on the scene to confront threats around the world, and as a combat infantryman, Capt. Austin Dickey is at the heart of what Marines do. With the primary goal of seizing and controlling terrain, his role is to close on and defeat enemy combatants. Not only does he lead and operate as part of a team on the battlefield, in his current assignment he prepares new officers to lead their own teams.

One of the Military’s most defining characteristics is movement: movement of service members, movement of equipment and movement of ideas. No one understands this more than Cpl. Cristaly Garcia-Ortiz, who serves as a transmissions system operator in the Marine Corps.

Whether on base, in the field or deployed, Cpl. Garcia-Ortiz’s team uses and maintains radio systems to effectively communicate timely insights on enemy movement and strategic commands to fellow Marines in every section of her unit.

“Our job is critical,” she says. “Any supply demands, any medical emergencies ... we’re the primary communicators to ensure it gets done.”

Because she grew up in Puerto Rico with Spanish as her first language, Cpl. Garcia-Ortiz’s communications role did not come easily, but through extensive training and the support of her fellow Marines, she forged a meaningful career that impacts the health and safety of those around her.

“If someone is in a dangerous situation, we’re there to make the call and ensure they get the support they need,” she says.

“THROUGHOUT MY CAREER, I’VE BEEN ABLE TO POSITIVELY IMPACT PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT WAYS THROUGH MY SERVICE.”

CPL. CRISTALY GARCIA-ORTIZ
MARINE CORPS



CPL. CRISTALY GARCIA-ORTIZ
MARINE CORPS



While Cpl. Garcia-Ortiz is responsible for communicating the movement of Marines via radio in the field, Petty Officer 3rd Class Dejanai Camacho supports the movement of service members in a different way. As a yeoman in the Coast Guard, a role that closely equates to a human resource specialist in the civilian world, Dejanai moves Coast Guardsmen from one duty station to the next.

“On a regular day, I deal with mission-critical requests, which are requests for people,” she says. “If a boat in Florida needs a specific rate (i.e., job) and rank, it’s my job to figure out who’s available so I can give the boat who it needs right away.”

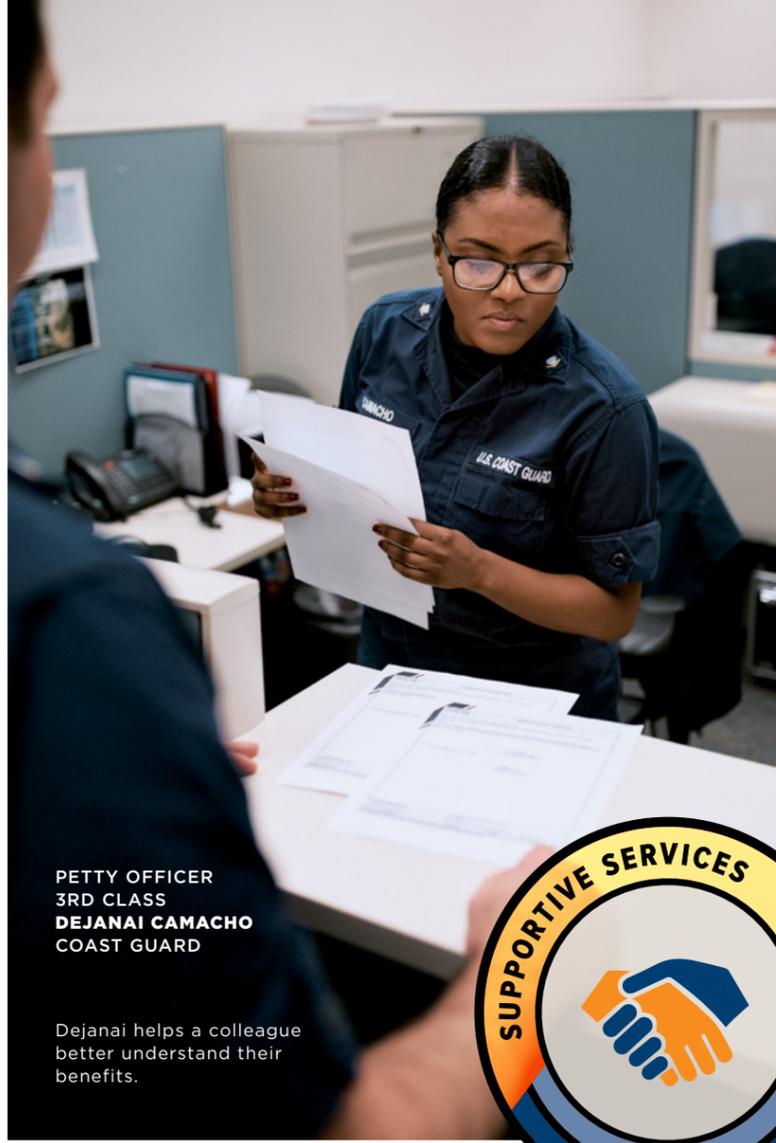
Yeomen serve a very specific purpose in the Coast Guard that helps every aspect of the Service run efficiently. “It really makes a difference in morale,” Dejanai says. “I think it really helps people to know that they have someone who’s going to take care of their admin needs, their pay needs and more, because those things all matter.”

Dejanai sees firsthand each day how impactful the Military is on the lives of those who make up its ranks. “I just love the humanitarian aspect of the Coast Guard,” she says. “I love that you’re directly there to help people ... not just civilians but people in the Coast Guard as well.”

“I LOVE THAT YOU’RE DIRECTLY THERE TO HELP PEOPLE ... NOT JUST CIVILIANS BUT PEOPLE IN THE COAST GUARD AS WELL.”

PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS DEJANAI CAMACHO
COAST GUARD

Dejanai often meets with colleagues on Coast Guard vessels that are ready to get underway to ensure their pay and benefits paperwork are up to date. Here she is pictured on the USCGC Henry Blake north of Seattle, Washington.



PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS DEJANAI CAMACHO
COAST GUARD

Dejanai helps a colleague better understand their benefits.



CYBERWARRIORS AMONG US

CYBERMISSION.TECH

THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A CYBERWARRIOR?
TAKE THE CYBER CHALLENGE TODAY:
[CYBERMISSION.TECH](https://www.cybermission.tech)



CYBERMISSION.TECH

CAPT.
SHAELYN LAYTON
ARMY RESERVE

Whether you're looking to serve Active Duty or part time in the Guard or Reserve, the Military offers a range of cyber careers for both officers and enlisted service members across all Service branches

Shaelyn's civilian job in cybersecurity closely mirrors her job in the Military.

Growing up as a ballet dancer, Army Reserve Capt. Shaelyn Layton spent most of her free time honing her skills onstage. It wasn't until college, when she became interested in the Military, that her dream of working on a different stage started to form.

Now, as a cyber operations officer on one of the Army Reserve's cyber protection teams, she serves her country in one of the Military's rapidly growing career fields.

Her team's primary responsibility is to defend the U.S. Department of Defense's networks against external threats that seek access to sensitive information, from service members' personnel records to strategic plans.

"Cyber is becoming more important than ever," she

says. "It's the biggest threat that we face currently, and having people in the Military that understand the threat and know how to defend against it is absolutely critical to the future."

In addition to her part-time role in the Army Reserve, Shaelyn has a full-time civilian career in cybersecurity at a software development company. The training Shaelyn received through the Army Reserve helped her obtain two certifications she needed to get this job: CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) and CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional).

"If the Military had not provided me with this level of training, I would never have been able to make this pivot into the cybersecurity industry," she says.

As Shaelyn's story illustrates, the training service members receive in the cyber field is second to none. Enter Air Force Tech. Sgt. Kyle Carpenter, one of the highly skilled specialists the Military relies on to train the next generation of cyberwarriors.

"I teach 170 to 220 students about the basics of cyberspace operations. When I see something I'm teaching really click for my students, it's just so rewarding."

TECH. SGT.
KYLE CARPENTER
AIR FORCE

Kyle instructs a large class of Airmen on the basics of cyberwarfare.

Before cyberwarriors can even think about protecting the country from cyberthreats, service members like Air National Guard Senior Airman Logan Balvik are responsible for setting up and supporting complex, specialized hardware and software systems. These technical systems guard vital intelligence while keeping data safe and flowing freely around the globe.

"I make sure that information like personnel records, strategic plans, etc., can get where it needs to go as smoothly as possible. I think it's a really unique environment to work in."

SENIOR AIRMAN
LOGAN BALVIK
AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Logan runs a diagnostic test on a computer system inside a server room.



UNPARALLELED

Experiences

From making friends you can lean on to developing cutting-edge technology and skills that will last a lifetime, the opportunities available in today's military are unmatched



“The biggest benefit of the Military really is the relationships. Even if I didn't do this job anymore, if I stepped away from it tomorrow ... I don't feel like these relationships are something that will wither away, because there's so much intentionality behind them.”

SPC.
JAUNTAVIA PRATHER
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

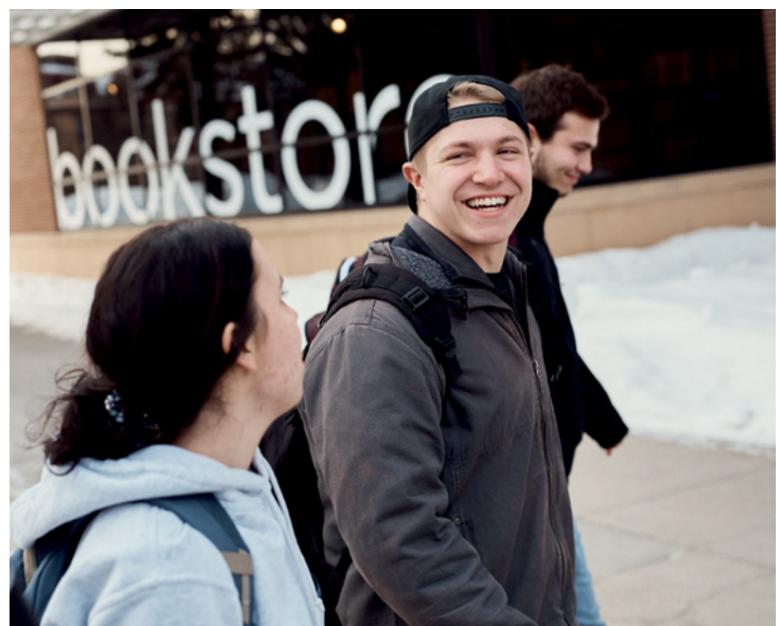


LEAN ON ME

Through life's ups and downs, the friends you make in the Military can support you through anything

“Military friendships happen in the funniest ways. You're just kind of thrown together with a bunch of people you know nothing about, but those one or two similarities that you come across — you can be instant friends.”

PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS
SIDNEY WILSON
NAVY



“You always try to treat your team like your family, and I get that same feeling here, it's literally like we're a family. We work together, we do what we need for each other and you get that feeling pretty much from day one.”

SENIOR AIRMAN
LOGAN BALVIK
AIR NATIONAL GUARD



“I feel like they're like family. ... You build a bond and a connection that you can't get anywhere else.”

SPC.
JENNIFER LIRIANO
ARMY RESERVE



CUTTING EDGE

Technology is constantly changing and the Military is taking the lead in developing new, innovative solutions

Air Force 1st Lt. Phillip Lane always knew he wanted to be an engineer. Inspired by his sister, Phillip researched engineering roles in the Air Force, and when an opportunity presented itself, he jumped at it. Now an electrical and developmental engineer at an Air Force research lab, Phillip is helping solve an important problem: how to eliminate the threat of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

While UAVs, more commonly known as drones, are often used as aerial cameras or toys, they can also pose a much bigger threat. UAVs can be modified by adversaries to destroy equipment and make sensitive information known. Using Air Force UAV technology, Phillip and his team find ways to counter hostile drones and prevent them from getting close to U.S. military aircraft.

“WHEN I LEARNED ABOUT THE TYPE OF DRONE TECHNOLOGY WE WERE DEVELOPING IN THE AIR FORCE TO TACKLE A VARIETY OF PROBLEMS, I THOUGHT, ‘MAN, THIS IS COOL.’”

1ST LT.
PHILLIP LANE
AIR FORCE



Using research to develop technology that can be used to defeat UAVs, Phillip and his team run various tests to find new ways to counter the threat of adversary UAVs.



Phillip and one of his civilian team members configure and modify a UAV prior to a routine test.

Army Staff Sgt. Kalyntae Williams has always been an avid gamer, but he never expected his interest in video games would lead to a career-broadening assignment in the Army. An artillery Soldier by trade, Kalyntae spent much of his downtime participating in online gaming competitions and would stream videos of himself playing on Facebook. As a highly skilled player, he quickly caught the attention of the Army’s growing eSports division. Now Kalyntae specializes in fighting games such as *Mortal Kombat™* and *Street Fighter™* as one of 16 hand-selected players who represent the Army in the world of competitive gaming.

Many people are surprised to hear that the Army has an eSports team, but with over one-third of careers in the Army being STEM-related, the Service must adapt to remain relevant and stay competitive in those fields. By leveraging technology like Twitch, Facebook and YouTube, Kalyntae has a platform to share the opportunities available in the Military. “In the Army, you’re trained to think quickly and critically, to make sound, ethical decisions in dynamic and uncertain environments. You’re trained to solve complex problems with minimal guidance and resources,” he says. “Adapting these skills has made me a better gamer and I get the chance to showcase the range of opportunities the Military has to offer.”

“IT’S ALL ABOUT TECHNOLOGY NOW. THAT’S WHAT THE ARMY’S ADAPTING TO. THEY’RE PULLING OUT OF THE OLD WAYS AND INVESTING IN SOMETHING THAT’S GOING ON NOW.”

STAFF SGT.
KALYNTAE WILLIAMS
ARMY



Kalyntae refines his gaming strategy in the Army eSports facility at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

FAST FACT

The search for breakthroughs in innovation is in full force across the civilian and military worlds. The Department of Defense founded the Defense Innovation Unit to focus on scaling technology across the Military to help identify national security challenges and solve critical problems.¹

¹www.diu.mil

Cpl. Garcia-Ortiz speaks to a group of Marines during a Professional Military Education (PME) session. Marine Corps PME programs are designed to help develop leaders, strengthen values, and foster critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills.

SKILLS TO LAST A LIFETIME

Whether it's on-the-job training, educational opportunities and certifications, or just having mentors and leaders to look out for you, the Military provides the building blocks for success

PUBLIC SPEAKING



Part of Cpl. Cristaly Garcia-Ortiz's role as a transmissions operator in the Marine Corps is to help maintain and defend lines of communication. How does this translate to the civilian world? She says, "It builds my public speaking skills. ... As a speaker, you have to have fluency in the way you speak. You can have a great message but not know how to deliver it. So, as operators, we know how to fluently give out a message and deliver it in a timely manner in a way that's understood."

CPL. CRISTALY GARCIA-ORTIZ
MARINE CORPS

LEADERSHIP



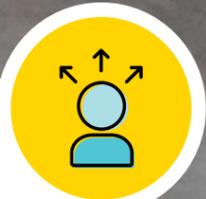
From day one, the Military works to develop strong leaders, giving them tools and guidance to help others be successful. Marine Corps Capt. Austin Dickey is one of those leaders. In his role, he helps prepare Marines for the next level of responsibility as they progress in their careers. "When you first start out, you're impacting 40 Marines. The next rank, there's 160 Marines; the next, 300. Soon you're impacting hundreds of thousands of people. How we mold them now will impact generations of Marines," he says.

TEAMWORK



Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Corbin Farrar is part of a team that's responsible for ensuring the squadron's aircraft hydraulics are functioning properly. Being able to rely on his teammates is essential to complete the task at hand and something Corbin really appreciates. He shares, "One of the most valuable skills I've learned is how to work with other people; working through a problem and helping each other — the overall camaraderie and being able to collaborate with different people. Even in my civilian life, it's helped me be a better team player."

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS



The skills Airman 1st Class Jake Allen has gained while serving part time in the Connecticut Air National Guard go well beyond his technical training. "I've learned overall life skills and a lot of things I don't think I would've learned if I hadn't gone into the Military. Just general awareness and how to handle certain situations ... like being able to breathe and think before acting, even if I'm upset or don't agree with something."

FOCUS



Discipline is not about being strict and following orders; it's about working hard and contributing to the larger mission — often by focusing on the task at hand. As a yeoman working in an administrative human resources role, Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Dejanai Camacho has to quickly pivot to prioritize and tackle a range of tasks on any given day. "I've always been a hard worker. Being able to perfect a work ethic has been the biggest one for me because I know I can carry that with me when I leave the Military," she says.

MYTH VS. REALITY

MYTH

THERE'S NO INDIVIDUALITY IN THE MILITARY

REALITY

"I believe there is a misconception around the Military that there isn't room for autonomous thought or individuality. 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
COAST GUARD



MYTH

SERVING IN THE MILITARY MEANS 24/7 COMBAT

REALITY

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

SPC.
JENNIFER LIRIANO
ARMY RESERVE



MYTH

EVERYONE IN THE MILITARY IS SUPERHUMAN

REALITY

"The Military is made up of America's sons and daughters. It's people who are just regular Joes who are going to go out there, and they just want to do something bigger than themselves."

CAPT.
AUSTIN DICKEY
MARINE CORPS



MYTH

WOMEN CAN'T HAVE THE SAME JOBS AS MEN

REALITY

"People think females can't really get involved, 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."

CPL.
CRISTALY GARCIA-ORTIZ
MARINE CORPS



MYTH

PEOPLE IN THE MILITARY AREN'T SMART

REALITY

"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
NAVY



MYTH

YOU WON'T MAKE IT THROUGH BASIC TRAINING

REALITY

"People think it's so hard and that they couldn't make it through basic training. Anybody can make it through basic if they want to do it."

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
CORBIN FARRAR
AIR FORCE RESERVE



MILITARY



On base and off, service members are pursuing their interests and living full lives — in and out of uniform

Hanging Out on Base

Military bases are a lot like towns and have communities all their own. In addition to various housing options, there are shopping centers, post offices, movie theaters, splash parks and more. Though not all service members live on base, they all can take advantage of amenities whether they live on base or not.

Naval Station Everett offers a lounge for Sailors to kick back and relax with flat-screen TVs, gaming stations, Ping-Pong tables and more. After work, Sidney takes advantage of the sound booth to record music with friends. "It's something I do to relieve stress," he says.

Everett, Washington

PETTY OFFICER
2ND CLASS
SIDNEY WILSON
NAVY



TECH. SGT.
KYLE CARPENTER
AIR FORCE

Hurlburt Field,
Florida

Kyle and his family take advantage of the year-round youth sports programs offered on base. He grew up playing baseball, so he was excited about the chance to coach his son's team. "I wasn't planning on being a coach but it is so much fun, and seeing the kids develop is great," he says.



2ND LT.
DAVID TOGUCHI
ARMY

With access to a lake on post, David's able to easily grab his fishing gear and some friends when his workday is over. "If I can go fish, that's awesome. My roommate and I love fishing."

Fort Rucker,
Alabama

For Kalyntae, being close to his family is his number-one priority. Living on post and close to work allows him to maximize quality time with them every day. "Just the fact that I can come home and actually watch my kids grow up is the best part," he says.

Fort Knox,
Kentucky



STAFF SGT.
KALYNTAE WILLIAMS
ARMY

Connections on Base and Beyond

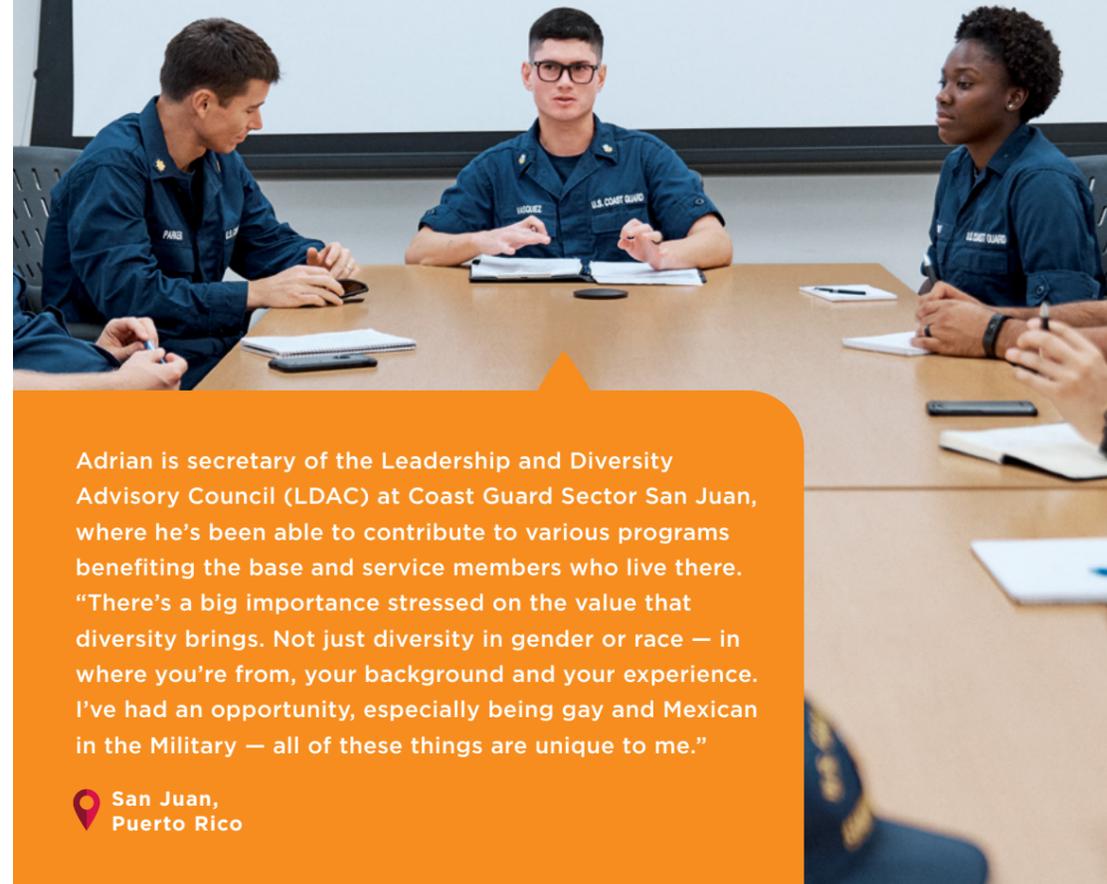
In addition to amenities like private campgrounds, beaches, libraries and restaurants, service members can take advantage of extracurriculars on base, including clubs, leadership development groups and more

At Camp Pendleton, Cpl. Garcia-Ortiz is vice president of the Female Committee. "It's a group of female Marines, and it's an opportunity for us to talk, get to know each other and network. We talk about opportunities that you could have and things we don't usually talk about. That moment gets us together and builds that camaraderie even tighter."

Camp Pendleton, California

CPL. CRISTALY GARCIA-ORTIZ
MARINE CORPS

PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS
ADRIAN VASQUEZ
COAST GUARD



Adrian is secretary of the Leadership and Diversity Advisory Council (LDAC) at Coast Guard Sector San Juan, where he's been able to contribute to various programs benefiting the base and service members who live there. "There's a big importance stressed on the value that diversity brings. Not just diversity in gender or race — in where you're from, your background and your experience. I've had an opportunity, especially being gay and Mexican in the Military — all of these things are unique to me."

San Juan, Puerto Rico

FAST FACT

There are a variety of on-base entertainment resources available to service members and their families — golf courses, rec centers with gaming systems, coffee shops like Starbucks and parks.

There are also more than

400

EXCLUSIVE ENTERTAINMENT SHOWS

hosted around the world each year by **Armed Forces Entertainment** featuring popular musicians, comedians, athletes and actors.

The Services' **Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR)** programs help service members keep an active social life.

LEARN MORE



PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS
DEJANAI CAMACHO
COAST GUARD



Dejanai enjoys volunteering for the Coast Guard's Ceremonial Honor Guard, where she and fellow service members present the colors (i.e., the flag) at official functions. "It's the most rewarding thing I've done since being in the Coast Guard. I decided to volunteer, and it's given me a lot more confidence in life," she says.

Seattle, Washington

Off the Clock

From practicing yoga to getting their private pilot's license, see how these service members spend their time off base and out in the world



SPC. PHILIP JEFFRIES
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

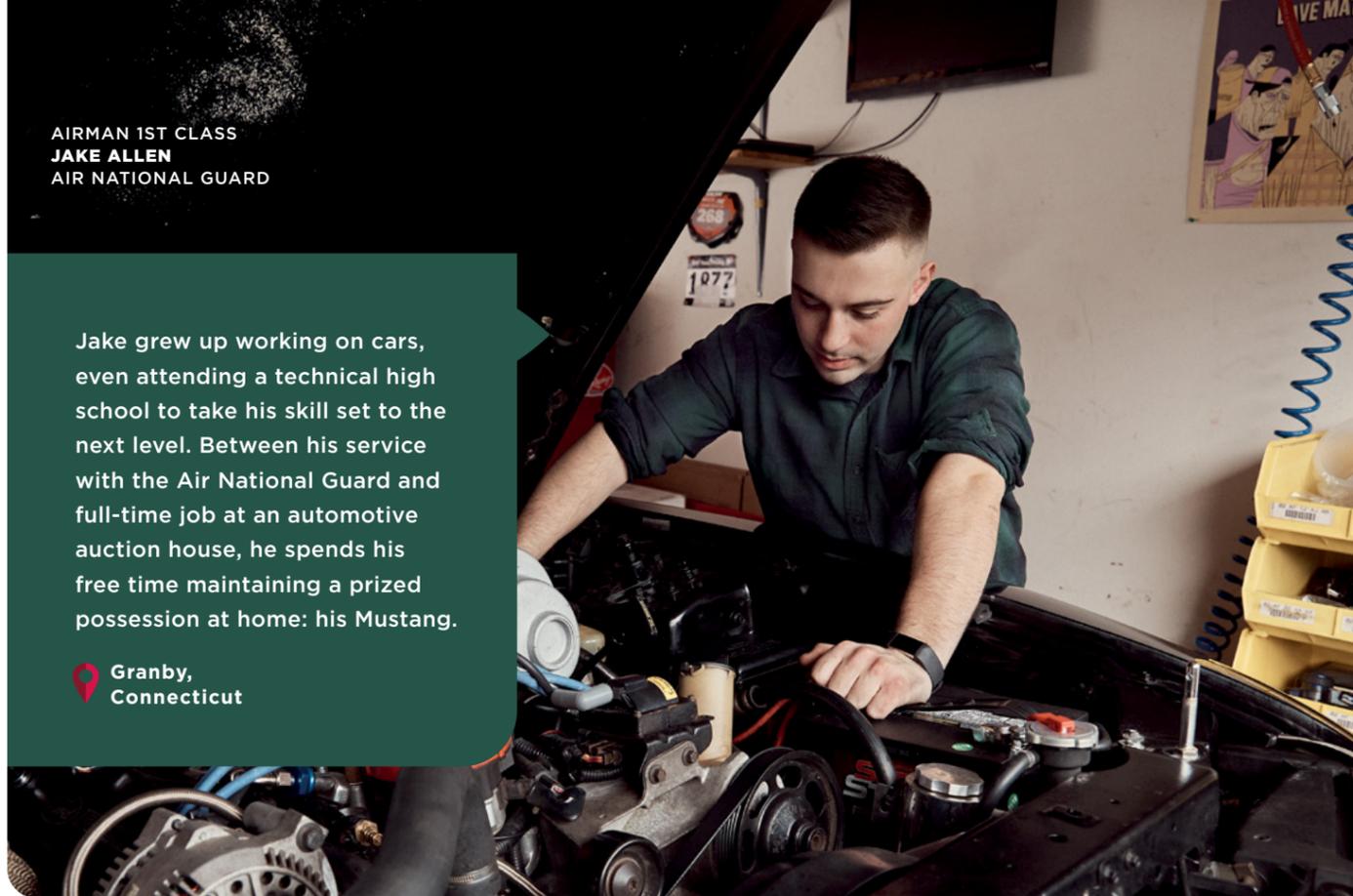
Philip knew there were opportunities in the National Guard, but didn't realize they'd extend beyond his career to something he's always enjoyed — competing in biathlons. "Combining a lifelong hobby with a military-related program has greatly reinforced my decision and pride in joining the National Guard."

Keystone,
Colorado

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
JAKE ALLEN
AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Jake grew up working on cars, even attending a technical high school to take his skill set to the next level. Between his service with the Air National Guard and full-time job at an automotive auction house, he spends his free time maintaining a prized possession at home: his Mustang.

Granby,
Connecticut



Jauntavia turns to yoga to help her unwind. "Yoga was my biggest outlet for a long time. I'm currently pursuing my yoga teacher's certification. ... I love it."

Myrtle Beach,
South Carolina

SPC. JAUNTAVIA PRATHER
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



1ST LT.
PHILLIP LANE
AIR FORCE

Not all pilots fly commercially or in the Military. Phillip's in the process of getting his private pilot's license simply for the fun of it. He's a self-described "adrenaline junkie" and is always in search of his next adventure.

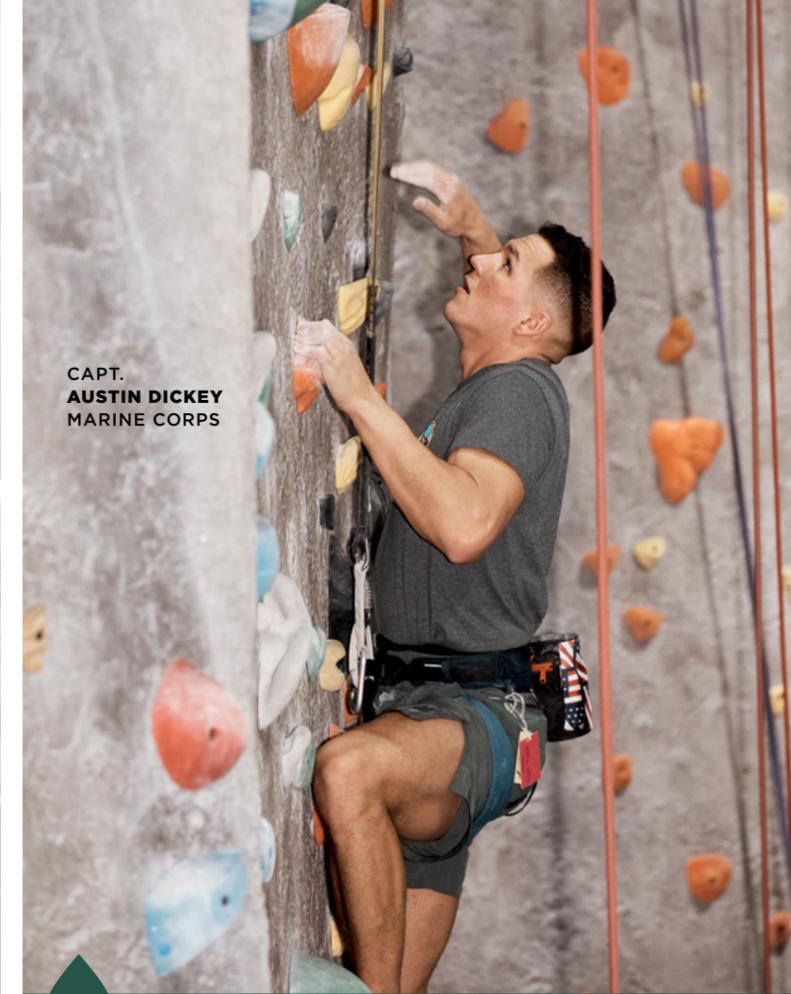
Rome,
New York

Adrian and his husband own a condo just up the street from the beach. They love taking advantage of the short walk to the water and often bring their dog along with them for more fun.

San Juan,
Puerto Rico



PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS
ADRIAN VASQUEZ
COAST GUARD



CAPT.
AUSTIN DICKEY
MARINE CORPS

One of the benefits of military service is making diverse friends who introduce you to new hobbies. Capt. Dickey never thought about rock climbing until a fellow Marine took him to a local gym. From that moment on, he was hooked.

Alexandria,
Virginia



CPL.
CRISTALY GARCIA-ORTIZ
MARINE CORPS

Cpl. Garcia-Ortiz and her husband are stationed in Southern California. After work, they enjoy getting out and exploring all the area has to offer, like this pet-friendly vineyard about 15 minutes from where they live.

Murrieta,
California



Weekly, Kaylan teaches gymnastics to kids in her area. "I loved the sport enough as a child that I still wanted it to be a part of my adult life in some fashion. I've been coaching since I was 15."

Little Rock,
Arkansas



STAFF SGT.
KAYLAN JAMES
AIR FORCE RESERVE

START YOUR JOURNEY NOW

Discover the information you need to create the future you want

ARMY +
ARMY RESERVE
goarmy.com

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
nationalguard.com

MARINE CORPS +
MARINE CORPS RESERVE
marines.com

NAVY + NAVY RESERVE
navy.com

AIR FORCE
airforce.com

AIR FORCE RESERVE
afreserve.com

AIR NATIONAL GUARD
goang.com

SPACE FORCE
airforce.com/spaceforce

COAST GUARD +
COAST GUARD RESERVE
gocoastguard.com

“DON'T HOLD YOURSELF BACK — THE MILITARY GIVES YOU THE TOOLS TO DO WHATEVER YOU MAY WANT TO ACCOMPLISH.”

2ND LT.
DAVID TOGUCHI
ARMY



YOU
HAVE A
GALLING

WE
HAVE AN
ANSWER

ARMY | MARINE CORPS | NAVY | AIR FORCE | SPACE FORCE | COAST GUARD
ACTIVE • GUARD • RESERVE

 TODAY'S
MILITARYSM

VISIT TODAYSMILITARY.COM