

ARMY STRONG





Becoming a Soldier

A PROCESS THAT CHANGES YOU - FOR THE BETTER

Becoming a Soldier can be challenging, but it's also a rewarding life. The process can be summed up in three steps. The first is to work with a Recruiter. Once you sign up and are sworn in, you attend Boot Camp. Then you learn valuable job skills at Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Each of these steps is explained in more detail below.



WORKING WITH A RECRUITER

You can either meet with a Recruiter at a Recruitment Center or email one to get answers to your questions. However, working with a Recruiter face-to-face is the best way to find the Army job and service option that fits your abilities and goals.

<http://www.goarmy.com/soldier-life/becoming-a-soldier/working-with-a-recruiter.html>



BOOT CAMP

Your transformation into a Soldier at Boot Camp (known as Basic Combat Training) will be demanding, but well worth it. During these ten weeks, you'll become physically & mentally stronger — capable of taking on any mission.

<http://www.goarmy.com/soldier-life/becoming-a-soldier/basic-combat-training.html>



ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING

At AIT, Soldiers become specialists by learning the ins-and-outs of their Army jobs. Whether it's a technical job or a combat infantry job, you'll develop the skills needed to succeed.

<http://www.goarmy.com/soldier-life/becoming-a-soldier/advanced-individual-training.html>

MILITARY COMPENSATION: ARMY BENEFITS

IT'S MORE THAN JUST A SALARY

The Congressional Budget Office recently estimated that the average active duty service member receives an Army benefits and pay compensation package worth \$99,000. Noncash compensation represents almost 60 percent of this package. Noncash compensation includes health care, retirement pay, child care and free or subsidized food, housing and education. Coupled with regular cash compensation, this adds up to attractive military compensation for Soldiers.

CIVILIAN/ARMY COMPENSATION COMPARISON

Compare and contrast the total compensation and expenses for civilians and U.S. Army Soldiers.

Enlisted Soldier	Civilian Job Police Patrol Officer	Army Job* Military Police Sergeant
Salary	\$49,953**	\$29,380
Housing	0	\$16,164
Food Allowance	0	\$3,900
Special Pay	0	\$1,800
Tax Advantages	0	\$2,716***
Health Care	- \$13,100****	Included
Net Income	\$36,368	\$53,960

*Salary and allowances based on 2010 national averages from <http://militarypay.defense.gov> — Sample based on a Sergeant (E5) with 4 years service with family size of four. Figures do not include bonuses.

**Civilian salary based on national averages. Source: Salary Wizard® at Salary.com.

***Tax advantages are an often unseen and overlooked aspect of military pay. Most allowances are tax-exempt.

****Health-care costs based on a report by the National Coalition on Health Care for a family of four.

Officer	Civilian Job Telecommunications Engineer II	Army Job* Signal Corps Officer
Salary	\$67,578**	\$52,189
Housing	0	\$17,844
Food Allowance	0	\$2,686
Special Pay	0	\$1,800
Tax Advantages	0	\$3,623***
Health Care	- \$13,100****	Included
Net Income	\$54,478	\$78,142

*Salary and allowances based on 2010 national averages from <http://militarypay.defense.gov> - Sample based on a Lieutenant (O2) with 4 years service with family size of four. Figures do not include bonuses.

**Civilian salary based on national averages. Source: Salary Wizard® at Salary.com.

***Tax advantages are an often unseen and overlooked aspect of military pay. Most allowances are tax-exempt.

****Health-care costs based on a report by the National Coalition on Health Care for a family of four.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

As a Soldier, a U.S. Army education is a valuable part of your overall military compensation. In the Army, qualified students can earn full-tuition, merit-based scholarships; allowances for books and fees plus an annual stipend for living expenses.

You'll also be presented with hands-on career and leadership training from experts in your field, incredible internship opportunities and a variety of valuable experiences to help you prepare for success in any career path you choose.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL

The Montgomery GI Bill is designed to help you pay for your college education.

Depending on how long you enlist with the Army and the job you choose, you can get over \$50,000 to help pay for college. All you have to do is give \$100 a month during your first year of service.

While most people think of the Montgomery GI Bill as a military benefit, it's not actually managed by the Department of Defense or any branch of the U.S. Military. The Montgomery GI Bill is actually a "veteran benefit" and is managed by the Veterans Administration, which administers the program based upon the laws enacted by Congress.

To find out more about current amounts and eligibility requirements, contact your local Army recruiter or Army job counselor.

ARMY RESERVE BENEFIT

The Army Reserve offers a selected Reserve Montgomery GI Bill of up to \$12,132. If you qualify for and accept a critical position in the Army Reserve, you can earn an additional MGIB kicker.

ARMY RESERVE MGIB KICKER

You can add up to \$687 a month to your Montgomery GI Bill for up to 36 months (total of up to \$24,732) with the GI Bill Kicker. "Kicker" amounts may vary according to job and rank.

Post 9/11 GI Bill

Soldiers who have served 90 or more days on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The bill provides up to 36 months of benefits for education at an institution of higher learning. Benefits of the program include tuition, fees, a monthly living allowance, books and supplies. Benefits can also be transferred to a spouse or dependent children.

COLLEGE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

The Loan Repayment Program is a special enlistment incentive offered to qualified applicants at the time of enlistment. Under the LRP, the Army will repay one-third of your loan for each year of full-time duty served.

ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ENLISTED COMMISSIONING PROGRAM

Active or Reserve Army enlisted soldiers are eligible to attend college full-time to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and can earn the following benefits:

- Up to \$9,000 per academic year for tuition and mandatory fees for up to 24 months
- Up to \$1,000 per academic year for books
- Full pay and allowances, including eligibility for promotions

ARMY NURSE CANDIDATE PROGRAM

This program is open to undergraduate students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from an accredited nursing program and offers the following benefits:

- A \$5,000 bonus when you begin the program, plus a \$5,000 bonus at graduation
- A monthly stipend of \$1,000 during the months you are enrolled with a full-time commission in a Collegiate Nursing Education — or National League for Nursing-accredited nursing program

FUNDED NURSE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Army officers on active duty are eligible to become Army nurses while receiving full pay and benefits. FNEP provides the opportunity to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing or a Master of Science in Nursing and earn the following benefits:

- Up to \$12,000 per year for tuition, books and fees
- Full pay and allowances

MEDICAL AND DENTAL SCHOOL STIPEND PROGRAM

Students enrolled in accredited medical schools are eligible for a monthly stipend of more than \$1,900. And once you graduate, you'll train as part of an Army Reserve unit and get a chance to serve.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This program is open to associate degree/diploma nurses currently enrolled in an accredited Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Recipients can receive a monthly stipend of more than \$1,900.

TAKING CLASSES WHILE IN THE ARMY

If going to college while in the Army is your goal, there are several opportunities for Soldiers to continue their education by attending classes while serving on active duty or in the Army Reserve. Whether it's in accredited four-year universities or through an online university, Army tuition assistance enables Soldiers to attend college while serving in the military. There are also excellent high-tech learning facilities on Army posts across the nation.

eARMYU

eArmyU provides Soldiers with unlimited Army “e-learning” access to over a hundred degree plans at regionally accredited colleges and universities. You can earn your certificate or degree from a college at your convenience while taking online classes from multiple schools anywhere in the world, while you're deployed or at home.

GOARMYED

GoArmyEd.com is the Soldiers' gateway to taking courses for college credit, earning certifications and furthering their Army training. In essence, it's an Army tuition assistance program. Through GoArmyEd, you can request online Army tuition assistance for classroom, distance learning and eArmyU online college courses. Eligible Soldiers will also receive 100 percent funding for tuition and course fees up to \$4,500 per year.

COLLEGE OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER

College of the American Soldier works in conjunction with GoArmyEd and colleges whose degrees participate in the career Noncommissioned Officer degrees program. CAS expands existing civilian higher education degree choices to provide career NCOs with broad preparation degree options not tied to a specific Military Occupational Specialty and offers the following benefits:

- Provides flexibility in degree completion time
- Maximizes credit transfer between colleges
- Maximizes college credit for military training and education
- Minimizes academic residency requirements
- Provides business and management-related degrees

Satellite Campuses

Most Army posts feature satellite branches of local accredited universities that let Soldiers attend college classes without ever leaving post. Credits earned on satellite campuses transfer automatically to the host university and allow Soldiers to earn credit toward everything from an associate's to a master's degree.

PROFESSIONAL TRADE CERTIFICATES

As a Soldier working in an Army job, you'll be presented with many opportunities to earn professional and trade certifications. From providing administrative support and working with computers to repairing aircraft and assisting physicians, the Army will provide you with expert training and certification to excel both in the Army and civilian world.

JOB OPPORTUNITY GROWTH 2008–2018

Once you earn your college degree through the Army, you'll be ready to enter the workforce fully equipped with all the skills and experience needed to succeed in your chosen career. See how the demand for various Army careers is expected to increase over the next few years.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, 2008-18 PERCENTAGE GROWTH IN TOTAL NUMBER OF JOBS

JOB CATEGORY	# OF NEW JOBS	
Administrative Support	616,400	16%
Arts & Media	212,000	14%
Combat	239,000	10%
Computers & Technology	791,700	21%
Construction & Engineering	963,200	13%
Intelligence & Combat Support	329,000	7%
Legal & Law Enforcement	399,500	13%
Mechanics	229,400	3%
Medical & Emergency	3,023,800	26%
Transportation & Aviation	346,000	4%

Additional Enlistment Options

Foreign Language Recruiting Initiative (FLRI)

This enlistment option is open to all qualified Army or Army Reserve applicants without prior service whose primary language is not English.

Army Civilian Acquired Skills Program (ACASP)

Applicants with prior training, education and/or experience (not obtained through military service) may qualify for enlistment at a higher pay grade and use their civilian skills in the Army.

Education Career Stabilization

Education Career Stabilization applies to non-prior service standard training only and provides the opportunity to serve in the Army Reserve and complete up to four years of post-secondary education.

Applicants must be a high school senior, high school diploma graduate, National Guard Youth Challenge or home school and score into I-III A on the ASVAB. Days of service, split option/alternate training program and prior service applicants are ineligible.

Applicants who enlist will be stabilized for up to 48 months upon accessing into the Army Reserve and completing Initial Entry Training. The stabilization period exempts Soldiers from current mobilization authority, but does not exempt Soldiers from a new federal mobilization under Presidential authority. The stabilization period is based on unit priority and length of enlistment.

Applicants enlisting for two-year ECS are entitled to an enlistment bonus and Student Loan Repayment Program. Those enlisting for three-and four-year ECS are entitled to student loan repayment. All ECS are entitled to the Reserve GI Bill, tuition assistance and Montgomery GI Bill Kicker.

Partnership for Youth Success (PaYS)

PaYS is a program to connect American industries and state and local government agencies with the U.S. Army. Applicants, upon selecting an MOS, will sign a Statement of Understanding (SOU) with a participating PaYS partner. The SOU contains information on a specific job vacancy. Soldiers departing the Army or Army Reserve who satisfactorily completed IMT and are awarded an MOS are guaranteed an interview with the selected PaYS partner. For information, visit www.armypays.com.

Army Language Program

Individuals desiring to learn a foreign language are evaluated on their ability to comprehend a foreign language on the Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB). Passing DLAB score is 105 but can be waived down to 95. Those enlisting under this program will attend basic training followed by 25-63 weeks (depending on language) of language training conducted at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLI-FLC), Presidio of Monterey, Calif. Upon successful completion of language training, Soldier will attend 35P AIT. Graduates receive up to 45 semester hours of college credit.

Individuals who already profess to speak a foreign language have the opportunity to enlist as skilled linguist under the Army Civilian Acquired Skills Program (ACASP). An individual's language ability is evaluated through the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT). The DLPT measures an individual's reading and listening skills in the language they profess to speak. Passing score is a 2 in both the reading and listening areas. Current languages eligible for this program are Arabic, Korean, French, Pashto, Persian Farsi and Spanish. Enlistees qualified for this program may be eligible for Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB) and advance pay grade of E-4. After completion of basic training, Soldier would attend AIT in 35 P, depending on language.

If attending DLI, applicants must be U.S. citizens, be eligible for a top secret clearance, score a 105 on the DLAB (waiverable to 95), have a 91 ST score on the ASVAB and have Tier I education credentials. Family members of students enrolled at DLIFLC may enroll concurrently with the military spouse on a space available basis at no cost.

If enlisting as a linguist under the ACASP program, must be a U.S. citizen, be eligible for a top secret clearance, score a 2 in both reading and listening on the DLPT test, have a 91 ST score on the ASVAB and have Tier I education credentials.

For information contact the USAREC foreign language advocate at (800) 223-3735, ext. 60163.

09L Interpreter/Translator

This program is available for Regular Army, Army Reserve and IRR enlistments. English training is based on the English Comprehension Language Test (ECLT score) or American Language Course Placement Test (ALCPT). Applicants attend basic training to learn to be a Soldier then AIT to learn the skills of being an Interpreter/Translator. Entry pay grade is E-4 (SPC) through ACASP.

Army Reserve Standard Training Program

Initial entry training is completed during the same time period. A Soldier will finish BT and then begin AIT. Upon completion of all training, the Soldier will return to his or her Army Reserve unit.

Army Reserve Alternate Training Program

Initial entry training is split between two time periods - usually two summers, one year apart. Alternate training enables students to continue high school, college or vocational studies. It is available for seasonal employment personnel. Alternate training is only authorized for MOSs where AIT is 13 weeks or less.

Specialized Training for Army Reserve Readiness (STARR)

STARR is a program that allows non-prior service and prior service Soldiers to be trained in a medical MOS by taking their MOS training at a local community college. The Soldier is not entitled to room and board or active duty pay while attending the civilian school. NPS must attend basic training prior to the Army paying for the schooling.

The Army will pay for all books, tuition, laboratory fees, uniforms, equipment, student health insurance, etc., up to \$6,000 per year. All civilian schooling must be completed in two years. Soldier may also qualify for enlistment bonuses, loan repayment program or Montgomery GI Bill. Upon completion of the program, the Soldier will be promoted to the grade E-4 for MOS 68EN5, 68D, 68P, and 68Q; and E-5 for 68K and 68V.

The following MOSs are eligible for the STARR program:

- 68D Operating Room Specialist
- 68E Dental Specialist
- 68EN5 Dental Laboratory Specialist
- 68G Patient Administration Specialist
- 68H Optical Laboratory Specialist
- 68J Medical Logistics Specialist
- 68K Medical Laboratory Specialist
- 68M Nutrition Care Specialist
- 68P Radiology Specialist
- 68Q Pharmacy Specialist
- 68R Veterinary Food Inspection Specialist
- 68S Preventative Medicine Specialist
- 68T Animal Care Specialist
- 68X Mental Health Specialist

Army Band

Entrance into the Army Band Program requires a passing audition score. Auditions can be scheduled through your recruiting brigade Band Liaison.

For more information, visit www.band.goarmy.com or call (800) 223-3735. ext. 6-0485 or DSN 536-0485.

Over 150 ways to be a soldier

There is no limit to the opportunities in the Army — so there's no limit to what you can learn and achieve. The Army strengthens you, and your future, with expert training in one of over 150 different jobs for Soldiers on Active Duty and over 120 in the Army Reserve.

From working with computers to assisting physicians to fixing helicopters, there's an Army job right for you — providing the experience that will give you an edge over those in the civilian world.

[Chaplain Assistant](#)

[Financial Management Technician](#)

[Human Resources Specialist](#)

[Shower / Laundry and Clothing Repair Specialist](#)

[Unit Supply Specialist](#)

[Financial Manager](#)

[Adjutant General Branch: Human Resources Officer](#)

[Quartermaster Officer](#)

[Chaplain](#)

[Human Resource Information System](#)

[Management Specialist](#)

[Public Affairs Specialist](#)

[Visual Information Equipment Operator-Maintainer](#)

[Multimedia Illustrator](#)

[Public Affairs Broadcast Specialist](#)

[Army Bandsperson](#)

[Special Band Member](#)

[Band Officer](#)

[Combat Documentation / Production Specialist](#)

[Air Defense C4I Tactical Operations Center Enhanced Operator Maintainer](#)

[Special Forces Communications Sergeant](#)

[Special Forces Engineer Sergeant](#)

[Special Forces Medical Sergeant](#)

[Air and Missile Defense \(AMD\) Crewmember](#)

[Cannon Crewmember](#)

[Cavalry Scout](#)

[Field Artillery Automated Tactical Data System Specialist](#)

[Field Artillery Firefinder RADAR Operator](#)

[Fire Support Specialist](#)

[Indirect Fire Infantryman](#)

[Infantryman](#)

[M1 Armor Crewman](#)

[Multiple Launch Rocket System](#)

[\(MLRS/HIMARS\) Crewmember](#)

[PATRIOT Fire Control Enhanced](#)

[Operator/Maintainer](#)

[PATRIOT Launching Station Enhanced](#)

[Operator/Maintainer](#)

[Special Forces Weapons Sergeant](#)

[Infantryman](#)

[Special Forces Candidate](#)

[Air Defense Artillery Officer](#)

[Field Artillery Officer](#)

[Armor Officer](#)

[Infantry Officer](#)

[Special Forces Officer](#)

[Air Defense Battle Management System Operator](#)

[Air Defense Enhanced Early Warning System](#)

[Operator](#)

[Cryptologic Linguist](#)

[Signals Intelligence Analyst](#)

[Multimedia Illustrator](#)

[Avionic Communications Equipment Repairer](#)

[Avionic and Survivability Equipment Repairer](#)

[Cable Systems Installer-Maintainer](#)

[Military Intelligence \(MI\) Systems](#)

[Maintainer/Integrator](#)

[Microwave Systems Operator-Maintainer](#)

[Multichannel Transmission Systems](#)

[Operator-Maintainer](#)

[Network Switching Systems Operator-Maintainer](#)

[Radio Operator-Maintainer](#)

[Radio and Communications Security \(COMSEC\) Repairer](#)

[Computer/Detection Systems Repairer](#)

[Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Maintenance Support Specialist](#)

Intelligence Analyst
Information Technology Specialist
Satellite Communication Systems Operator-Maintainer
Signal Support Systems Specialist
Signals Collector / Analyst
Nodal Network Systems Operator-Maintainer
Signal Officer
Warrant Officer Corps
Geospatial Intelligence Imagery Analyst
Combat Engineer
Special Forces Engineer Sergeant
Construction Equipment Repairer
Bridge Crewmember
Concrete and Asphalt Equipment Operator
Horizontal Construction Engineer
Interior Electrician
Petroleum Laboratory Specialist
Petroleum Supply Specialist
Plumber
Technical Engineer
Quartermaster and Chemical Equipment Repairer
Power Generation Equipment Repairer
Utilities Equipment Repairer
Water Treatment Specialist
Quarrying Specialist
Geospatial Engineer
Carpentry and Masonry Specialist
Engineer Officer
Allied Trade Specialist
Interpreter / Translator
Food Service Specialist
Cryptologic Linguist
Signals Intelligence Analyst
Human Intelligence Collector
Psychological Operations Specialist
Special Forces Engineer Sergeant
Special Forces Medical Sergeant
Ammunition Specialist
Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Specialist
Field Artillery Surveyor / Meteorological Crewmember
Multiple Launch Rocket System Operations / Fire Direction Specialist
RADAR Repairer
Radio and Communications Security Repairer

Diver
Armament Repairer
Fire Control Repairer
Small Arms/Artillery Repairer
Automated Logistical Specialist
Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Specialist
Intelligence Analyst
Watercraft Operator
Civil Affairs Specialist
Special Forces Candidate
Ammunition Stock Control and Accounting Specialist
Civil Affairs Officer
Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Officer
Psychological Operations Officer
Military Intelligence Officer
Ordnance Officer
Geospatial Intelligence Imagery Analyst
Military Police
Jag Corps Attorney
Firefighter
Criminal Investigations (CID) Special Agent
Internment / Resettlement Specialist
Paralegal Specialist
Military Police Officer
Avionic Communications Equipment Repairer
Integrated Family of Test Equipment (IFTE) Operator/Maintainer
Construction Equipment Repairer
AVENGER System Repairer
Armament Repairer
Artillery Mechanic
Fire Control Repairer
M1 ABRAMS Tank System Maintainer
Quartermaster and Chemical Equipment Repairer
Small Arms/Artillery Repairer
Track Vehicle Repairer
AH-64 Attack Helicopter Repairer
Avionic Mechanic
Bradley Fighting Vehicle System Maintainer
CH-47 Helicopter Repairer
Power Generation Equipment Repairer
Utilities Equipment Repairer
Air Traffic Control Equipment Repairer
Biomedical Equipment Specialist

Railway Equipment Repairer
Railway Section Repairer
Watercraft Engineer
Land Combat Electronic Missile System Repairer
Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic
PATRIOT System Repairer
Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) Repairer
Stryker Systems Maintainer
Allied Trade Specialist
Chief Medical Noncommissioned Officer
Animal Care Specialist
Firefighter
Pharmacy Specialist
Dental Specialist
Health Care Specialist
Nutrition Care Specialist
Biomedical Equipment Specialist
Medical Laboratory Specialist
Medical Logistics Specialist
Mental Health Specialist
Mortuary Affairs Specialist
Operating Room Specialist
Optical Laboratory Specialist
Patient Administration Specialist
Preventive Medicine Specialist
Radiology Specialist
Veterinary Food Inspection Specialist
Veterinary Corps Officer
Nurse Corps Officer
Medical Specialist Corps Officer
Medical Service Corps Officer
Dental Corps Officer
Medical Corps Officer
Respiratory Specialist
Avionic Communications Equipment Repairer

RADAR Repairer
M1 ABRAMS Tank System Maintainer
Aircraft Electrician
Aircraft Pneudraulics Repairer
Aircraft Powerplant Repairer
Aircraft Powertrain Repairer
Aircraft Structural Repairer
AH-64A Armament/Electrical/Avionic Systems Repairer
AH-64D Armament/Electrical/Avionic Systems Repairer
Bradley Fighting Vehicle System Maintainer
CH-47 Helicopter Repairer
Observation/Scout Helicopter Repairer
OH-58D / ARH Armament / Electrical / Avionics Systems Repairer
OH-58D / ARH Helicopter Repairer
UH-60 Helicopter Repairer
Utilities Equipment Repairer
Air Traffic Control Equipment Repairer
Air Traffic Control (ATC) Operator
Aviation Operations Specialist
Cargo Specialist
Motor Transport Operator
Parachute Rigger
Railway Operations Crewmember
Transportation Management Coordinator
Watercraft Operator
Power Distribution Specialist
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operator
Unmanned Aircraft Systems Repairer
Aviation Officer
Transportation Officer
Warrant Officer Corps
Avionic Mechanic
Allied Trade Specialist