

Talking Points #2: JOBS IN TODAY'S MILITARY

In the Military, people do just about every kind of work that exists in civilian life. They are physical therapists, computer repair technicians, photographers and journalists, management analysts, auto mechanics, life scientists, and more. Free job training is provided for many of the thousands of individual military jobs. If a particular type of work interests your child, he or she can most likely find it in the Military.

There is an extremely wide range of job opportunities in Today's Military.

Here are 23 broad categories into which military jobs fall:

- Accounting, Budget, and Finance
- Arts, Communications, Media, and Design
- Aviation
- Business Administration and Operations
- Combat Operations
- Communications Equipment Technologists and Technicians
- Construction, Building, and Extraction
- Counseling, Social Work, and Human Services
- Education and Training
- Engineering and Scientific Research
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Health Care Practitioners
- Human Resources Management and Services
- Information Technology, Computer Science, and Mathematics
- Intelligence
- International Relations, Linguistics, and Other Social Sciences
- Law Enforcement, Security, and Protective Services
- Legal Professions and Support Services
- Medical and Clinical Technologists and Technicians
- Mechanic and Repair Technologists and Technicians
- Naval and Maritime Operations
- Personal and Culinary Services
- Transportation, Supply, and Logistics

Each category contains both enlisted and officer jobs. Most job categories are available in several Military Services. For more information, visit www.todaysmilitary.com/careers or speak with a recruiter.

High-quality job training is provided right from the start. After Basic Training, trainees typically attend Advanced Training (AT), where they learn the skills necessary to do specific jobs. AT combines classroom and hands-on learning environments. Well-trained instructors and a low student:teacher ratio are the norm. Note: The American Council on Education certifies more than 60 percent of Advanced Training courses for college credit.

Can my child choose his or her military job? Candidates' preferences DO have an influence on the job specialties they receive when they enlist, but the needs of the Military at the time and your child's ASVAB scores (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, offered in many high schools) also affect job assignments. You should accompany your child on a recruiter visit and ask about all the specialties for which new recruits are eligible, based upon their ASVAB scores.

Are all jobs in the Military open to women? Opportunities for women in the Military have never been better:

% of Jobs Open To Women	
Army	93%
Marine Corps	94%
Navy	96%
Air Force	99%
Coast Guard	100%

What do all military jobs have in common? Responsibility. Excellence. Pride. Servicemembers are expected to perform their assigned duties with a high level of competence. Team members need to be able to depend on each other. More often than not, the Military offers a surprising amount of responsibility early in a career. Leading a team or crew of six to seven people at age 20 is common; so is making tactical decisions on the spot—even at junior levels. Most military jobs offer the opportunity to mature quickly, through responsibility.

How many military jobs have civilian equivalents? About 88 percent of military jobs have counterparts in the civilian world, and many military jobs are virtually identical to the “hot” jobs forecasted to grow the fastest over the next few years. All military jobs give servicemembers an edge when they re-enter the civilian world. That's because employers prize the things military veterans have learned—among them dependability, focus on the task, extra effort, reliability, teamwork, and striving for excellence (see Talking Points #3 for more information).

FINAL THOUGHTS

No matter what a young person's job is in the Military, there's an opportunity to do it well and utilize newfound skills, while earning the respect of his or her peers and superiors. This nearly always leads to greater self-confidence and a sense of pride. Every job in the Military is important because everyone contributes to military readiness and everyone helps protect the freedoms all Americans enjoy.