Post-Secondary Resource Guide: Military Information Pulaski County, GA

Marines

Requirements to join

Basics:

- o To enlist, you must be a U.S. citizen or a resident alien.
- o Be between the ages of 17-29. Seventeen-year olds need parental consent.
- Have a high school diploma.
- Women are eligible to enlist in all occupational fields, with the exception of combat arms specialties: infantry, artillery, and tank and amphibian tractor crew members.

Medical/Physical

- If you have any diseases or conditions that are life threatening or contagious they
 are probably going to disqualify you from service. However, not all conditions are
 disqualifying.
- O You must be in good physical condition. You will be physically trained at basic training but you will have to pass a physical prior to enlistment.
- Height and Weight Requirements: http://www.militaryspot.com/marines/height-and-weight-requirements-marine-corps
- o Fitness Test Standards: http://www.militaryspot.com/marines/marine-fitness-test

• Academic:

- o Have a high school diploma. (Enlisted)
- o Have a Bachelor's Degree. (Officer)

• Tests required:

- You must score a 32 minimum on the ASVAB, or Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. Some jobs in the Marine Corp may require a higher score.
- o If you don't initially meet every requirement, this doesn't necessarily mean you are disqualified. If you have questions about your eligibility, contact a recruiter to determine if your circumstances warrant a special waiver.
- o Pass a Military Entrance Processing Station medical exam.

If you meet requirements, talking with a recruiter is the first step:

- Marine recruiters must present an accurate picture of basic training. You should be aware
 of all aspects of the military lifestyle. Be sure you fully understand the enlistment
 contract. You should ask about:
 - o Details and qualifications for each specialty.

- o The current Enlistment Bonuses.
- o Films or videos about training and duties.
- o Boot camp.
- Special enlistment programs if you have completed Junior ROTC or Navy Cadet training.
- Overseas assignments, remote and long duty.
- Haircut and grooming standards.
- o Off-duty education and educational benefits.
- o Guaranteed training programs.

How long the average soldier serves:

- 4 years active status, 4 years inactive
- 5 years active status, 3 years inactive
- 6 years active status, 2 years inactive

What options are available in the military for promotion

- You are promoted based on job knowledge, your performance, time in pay grade and service requirements.
- Promotion breakdown: https://www.thebalancecareers.com/enlisted-promotions-made-simple-3332773

What compensations someone receives both while serving and after serving

- <u>Health Care</u>: While on active duty, you will receive complete medical and dental care at no cost.
- <u>Life Insurance</u>: Active duty members select up to \$400,000 in term life insurance for a low price.
- <u>Allowances</u>: You may also receive additional tax-free money for Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) if government housing is not available; Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS), if government food facilities are not available in the area you are stationed; and a uniform allowance (for enlisted personnel only) to help maintain your uniform.
- <u>Tax Advantage</u>: Only your basic monthly pay is subject to Federal or State income tax.
- GI Bill: The GI Bill will help pay for college education or vocational training.
- <u>Tuition Assistance</u>: While on active duty, you may continue your education, and may be helped in defraying the cost of college-accredited courses.

- Many stores and restaurants provide military discounts
- You will also be able to utilize USAA, a banking and insurance company that is only accessible to active military, veterans, and their families
- USAA provides competitive rates on different insurance rates as well as banking options
- Veterans also have access to other loans and benefits that non-military personnel does not have access to

Salary information for basic entry level positions

- Most **enlisted** Marines start out at a pay grade of E-1. At this rank, with less than four months in the Marines, you'll make a base pay of \$1,514 a month. As soon as you go over four months in service, pay goes up to \$1,638 a month. You also receive \$548 a month for housing if you don't have dependents, and \$730 a month if you have dependents.
- Most **officers** start out at a pay grade of O-1 and earn a base pay of \$3,107 a month with less than two years in the Marines. Officers at this rank also earn \$743 a month for housing if they don't have dependents, and \$991 if they have dependents.

General information on what is expected of someone who joins a military branch

• Things to consider before joining the Marines: https://www.thebalancecareers.com/things-to-consider-before-joining-the-marine-corps-3354335

What options are available outside the military once a person finishes serving

- After serving in the marines a person has a wide variety of career options.
- List of highly sought after careers available following military service:
 https://www.aol.com/2011/10/13/20-best-jobs-if-youre-leaving-the-military/

Coast Guard

Requirements to join

- Basics:
 - o Be a U.S. citizen or nationalized to be a Coast Guard officer.
 - o To enlist, you must be a U.S. citizen or a resident alien.
 - o Be between the ages of 17-27. Seventeen year olds need parental consent.
 - o Have no more than two dependents.
- Medical/Physical:
 - To meet minimum qualifications for graduation, you must be able to perform the following:
 - PUSH-UPS:

(in 1 minute)

male: 29 female: 15

SIT-UPS:

(in 1 minute)

male: 38 female: 32

• 1.5 MILE RUN:

(minutes)

male:12:51 female: 15:26

COMPLETE SWIM CIRCUIT:

Jump off a 1.5 meter platform into the pool, swim 100 meters unassisted.

- Academic:
 - o Have a high school diploma.
- Tests required:
 - o Take and pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test.
 - o Pass a Military Entrance Processing Station medical exam

If you meet requirements, talking with a recruiter is the first step:

- Coast Guard recruiters must present an accurate picture of Coast Guard training. You should be aware of all aspects of the Coast Guard environment. Be sure you fully understand the enlistment contract. You should ask about:
 - o Details and qualifications for each specialty.
 - o Films or videos about training and duties.
 - o Boot camp (There is a video called "Training to Be Part of the Action.")
 - o Length and location of training.
 - Special enlistment programs if you have completed Junior ROTC or Sea Cadet training.

- o Overseas assignments, remote and long duty.
- Haircut and grooming standards.
- o Off-duty education and educational benefits.
- o Guaranteed training programs.

How long the average soldier serves:

- Enlistment contracts are for 8 years.
- The most common contracts consist of 4 years active duty and 4 years in the inactive reserve component. Three, four or six year active duty contracts may be offered in some cases.

What options are available in the military for promotion

- The first few promotions are as Seamen (E-1-E-3). These promotions are essentially automatic with time served
- The following Petty Officer promotions (E-4 E-6) are based on illustrations of technical ability, responsibility, and leadership. These promotions are also for a limited number of vacancies.

What compensations someone receives both while serving and after serving

- Steady Income: You are paid twice a month, on the 1st and 15th, every month, based on your pay grade and service requirements.
- Advancement: You are promoted based on job knowledge, your performance, and time in pay grade and service requirements.
- Paid Vacation: You earn 2.5 days paid vacation per month for a total of 30 days each year up to 60 days.
- Training: You choose your career path based on your aptitude, physical abilities, security clearance, motivation and determination. All specialties are open to women including combat roles.
- Health Care: While on active duty, you will receive complete medical and dental care at no cost.
- Life Insurance: Active duty members select up to \$400,000 in term life insurance for a low price.
- Allowances: You may also receive additional tax-free money for Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) if government housing is not available; Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS), if government food facilities are not available in the area you are stationed; and a uniform allowance (for enlisted personnel only) to help maintain your uniform..
- GI Bill: The GI Bill will help pay for college education or vocational training.
- Tuition Assistance: While on active duty, you may continue your education, and may be helped in defraying the cost of college-accredited courses.
- Additional Benefits: There are exchange and commissary privileges, moving allowances, temporary lodging expenses, travel, survivor benefits, Veterans Administration home loans and more.

Salary information for basic entry level positions

• All active-duty enlisted members entering the Coast Guard start out making approximately \$20,000 annually. This is just basic pay. Members may also be entitled to other allowances depending on their status. Other allowances might include sea pay, housing allowance (if you don't use the government housing that is provided), clothing allowance, family separation allowance and hazardous-duty pay. Pay increases are also given based on time in service and promotions.

General information on what is expected of someone who joins a military branch

- The Coast Guard, during an average day, will:
 - o Board 90 large vessels for port safety checks
 - o Process 120 seaman's documents
 - o Seize 209 pounds of marijuana and 170 pounds of cocaine worth \$9.2 million
 - Conduct 120 law enforcement boardings
 - Investigate 17 marine accidents
 - Inspect 64 commercial vessels
 - Save 14 lives
 - Assist 328 people in distress
 - o Save \$2,490,000 in property
 - o Service 150 aids to navigation
 - o Interdict 176 illegal migrants

What options are available outside the military once a person finishes serving

- Highly sought after careers available to military personnel: https://www.aol.com/2011/10/13/20-best-jobs-if-youre-leaving-the-military/
- The transition is virtually seamless, as the majority of your training and experience should directly relate to your next job or career. Transition assistance, from resume writing and interviewing workshops to aptitude testing, is available to Coast Guard members prior to departing, if they desire it.

National Guard

Requirements to join

- Be between the ages of 17 and 35
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Be at least a junior in high school, or have a high school diploma or a GED certificate
- Achieve a minimum score on the ASVAB test (31 with a high school diploma)
- Meet medical, physical and moral requirements
 - Moral requirements include the absence of judicial restraint, felonies, or extensive criminal records

If you meet requirements, talking with a recruiter is the first step:

How long the average soldier serves:

- Your total enlistment period will be 8 years, but you can serve on active duty as little as 3 or 6 years
- The remainder of your time can be spent in Individual Ready Reserve (IRR)
 - o IRR soldiers do not train with a unit but can still be called up in the case of an emergency

What options are available in the military for promotion

- There are different ways to become an officer:
 - o If you are attending college, the ROTC program is the way to go
 - o If you enlist, you can attend Officer Candidate School (OCS)
 - Special qualifications such as attorneys, chaplains, and medical professionals may be eligible for direct commission

What compensations someone receives both while serving and after serving

- Steady Income: You are paid twice a month, on the 1st and 15th, every month, based on your pay grade and service requirements.
- Advancement: You are promoted based on job knowledge, your performance, and time in pay grade and service requirements.
- Paid Vacation: You earn 2.5 days paid vacation per month for a total of 30 days each year up to 60 days.
- Training: You choose your career path based on your aptitude, physical abilities, security clearance, motivation and determination. All specialties are open to women including combat roles.
- Health Care: While on active duty, you will receive complete medical and dental care at
- Life Insurance: Active duty members select up to \$400,000 in term life insurance for a low price.

- Allowances: You may also receive additional tax-free money for Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) if government housing is not available; Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS), if government food facilities are not available in the area you are stationed; and a uniform allowance (for enlisted personnel only) to help maintain your uniform..
- GI Bill: The GI Bill will help pay for college education or vocational training.
- Tuition Assistance: While on active duty, you may continue your education, and may be helped in defraying the cost of college-accredited courses.
- Additional Benefits: There are exchange and commissary privileges, moving allowances, temporary lodging expenses, travel, survivor benefits, Veterans Administration home loans and more.

Salary information for basic entry level positions

- Your pay in the National Guard depends on your rank and time in the military. You're paid any time you're drilling or called up to active duty. An E-1 (the lowest enlisted rank) with less than four months in the service makes around \$50 for each drill. Generally, you'll complete four drills during a drill weekend for just over \$200. Once you go over four months, an E-1 makes \$54 per drill. An E-1 with more than four months of service who's called up to active duty makes a base pay of \$1,638 a month. As an E-2, you'll make \$61 per drill and a base pay of \$1,836 a month if you're called up to active duty.
- An officer in the Guard at a pay grade of O-1, which is the lowest officer rank, makes \$103 per drill, so around \$414 over a drill weekend. If you're called up to active duty, an O-1 makes a base pay of \$3,107 a month. An O-2 makes \$119 per drill and a base pay of \$3,580 a month.

General information on what is expected of someone who joins a military branch

- Soldiers in the National Guard are expected to complete the same 10-week boot camp as soldiers in the Army
- Members of the National Guard also have the ability to complete skills training for different specialties to better help with career advancement in the military
- Most military personnel start their career living on base, but service members may also qualify for off-base housing allowances.

What options are available outside the military once a person finishes serving

- o https://www.aol.com/2011/10/13/20-best-jobs-if-youre-leaving-the-military/
- Service in the National Guard is not a full-time job. You are able to work other jobs while serving.

Army

Basic Requirements:

- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Must be between the ages of 17-34 (If you are 17, you must get parental consent)
- Have a high school diploma
- Have no more than 2 dependents

Steps to Join

- Meeting with Recruiter
 - First you need to reach out to a recruiter to meet with and determine if the Army is the right branch of the military for you
 - o Recruiter in Warner Robins: 478-953-3533
 - The recruiter will ask questions to see if you qualify for enlistment. He will ask about:
 - Education level
 - Criminal history
 - Age
 - marital/dependency status
 - Physical condition
 - The recruiter will then conduct a mini version of the ASVAB (Army Services Vocational Aptitude) test
 - o The recruiter will then conduct an Army Entrance Interview
 - This is essentially the same thing as a job interview
 - Some good questions to ask your recruiter:
 https://www.goarmy.com/learn/talking-to-a-recruiter.html
- Required documents
 - o Proof of citizenship (if you were NOT born in the United States)
 - Social Security Card
 - o Valid Driver's License or current state identification card
 - A direct deposit form from your checking account (signed by a bank official)
 - o Original college transcript; GED or high school diploma
 - o If applicable:
 - Original or certified copies of your marriage certificate, divorce decree, or separation order
 - Original or certified birth certificates of children under 18; affidavit of support from parents; court documents and direct deposit forms if ordered to pay spousal and/or child support copies of your lease agreement or rental contract for any dependants residing outside of government quarters
 - If married to a service member in the military, you need to have the name, social security number, and military address of your spouse
- The recruiter with then conduct a background check
 - o It is important to disclose all legal offenses during the screening process
 - o The following offenses will exclude you from service:

- Felony convictions
- Drug and domestic violence charges (some minor drug offenses will be waived on a case-by-case basis)
- Juvenile offenses
- Depending on your job in the military, a more thorough investigation may be necessary
- Academic Evaluation
 - The ASVAB (Army Services Vocational Aptitude) Test
 - Used to determine if you have the mental aptitude to enlist
 - This test is required to enlist and is valid for 2 years
 - The ASVAB can be given on a computer at a Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) or as a paper version at various Military Entrance Test (MET) sites around the country
 - There is a MET site in Warner Robins
 - Areas of the ASVAB include general science, arithmetic reasoning, word knowledge, paragraph comprehension, mathematics knowledge, electronics information, auto and shop information, mechanical comprehension, and assembling objects
 - o The minimum score on the ASVAB is a 31 to join the Army
 - There is no set minimum on high school GPA. A high school diploma or GED will qualify you for service.
 - Without either of these things, it will be difficult for the recruiter to consider you for service.
- Physical Evaluation
 - o All candidates will be given a standard physical exam which consists of:
 - Height and weight measurements
 - Hearing and vision exam
 - Urine and blood test
 - Drug and alcohol test
 - Muscle group and joint maneuvers, in underclothing
 - Complete physical examination and interview
 - Medical questionnaire (given and explained by a medical technician)
 - The following medical conditions can disqualify you from service but often depends on the severity: https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/disqualifiers-medical-conditions.html
 - o There is also a Body Composition test to determine qualification
 - Body composition calculator: https://www.goarmy.com/learn.html
- You must also pass the Army Physical Fitness Test
 - You must score a minimum of a 50 per event and a 150 overall at the end of Basic Training
 - A scoring calculator can be found here: https://www.goarmy.com/soldier-life/fitness-and-nutrition/exercise.html

How long will I serve?

- The typical active duty service term is 2-6 years
 - o This length can vary depending on the unit you serve in

Promotion opportunities

- Many promotions have to do with length of service
- Other promotions occur with exemplary performance and leadership ability
- If you are enlisted, it is also possible to be promoted to officer

Options after the Army

- During your time in the army, you have the opportunity to receive professional training certificates in a variety of areas including those in administrative support, technology, and engineering
- There are also a lot of teaching opportunities once you have completed your service through the Army's Troopers to Teachers
- There are also various retirement plans should you choose to make a career out of military service

Compensations while serving and afterward

- The base pay for the first year as an enlisted soldier is \$20,170
 - The base pay for an enlisted soldier a the lowest rank is actually closer to \$25,000-\$32,000 with little to no expenses
 - o Although this seems low, those enlisted in the Army are given housing and food allowances as well as healthcare benefits.
 - You can also earn bonuses as you serve

After the Army

- After leaving the Army, the current GI bill will pay up to 4 years of education depending on the length of your active duty
- Many stores and restaurants provide military discounts
- You will also be able to utilize USAA, a banking and insurance company that is only accessible to active military, veterans, and their families
 - USAA provides competitive rates on different insurance rates as well as banking options
- Veterans also have access to other loans and benefits that non-military personnel does not have access to

What is expected while serving

- The expectations of service are different for different positions in the military. For example, nurses will likely not be in the combat zone but those in the infantry may be deployed for longer periods of time.
- Deployment

- The average deployment length in the Army is around 1 year, but the range is from 90 days to 15 months
- o Where you are deployed is determined by the mission assigned to you
- The Army is known to deploy more frequently than most other branches of the military
- You are expected to serve for the length of your contract as discussed with your recruiter
- Benefits
 - Bonuses
 - o 30 days paid vacation each year
 - Special pay (depends on job)
 - o Can get tuition paid for during/after service
 - Housing and insurance during service

Navy

Basic Requirements

- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Must be between the ages of 17-34 (If you are 17, you must get parental consent)
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent certification
- Must take and pass the ASVAB Test
- Women are eligible to enlist in all occupational fields with the exception of the Navy Seals and submarines
- You may not have more than 2 dependents to join

Steps to Join

- Contact a recruiter
 - o The closest recruiter is in Centerville (Warner Robins). Phone: 478-953-1372
 - The recruiter is able to explain all your career and educational opportunities that come from serving the Navy
- Take the ASVAB test
- Take a physical exam
 - This is similar to a routine doctor visit in that height, weight, vision, hearing will be measured
 - There will also be a drug and alcohol screening as well as different joint maneuvers the Navy has a zero tolerance policy in this area
 - Some specialized tests such as pregnancy tests or body fat percentage tests are used in certain circumstances
- If the previous steps are satisfied, you will meet with a navy counselor to discuss your career path in the navy
- Once enlisted, you must commit to a 7-9 week Boot Camp in Illinois

Other Requirements

- Physical (average on Navy Physical Readiness Test)
 - Males
 - 62 sit ups
 - 51 pushups
 - 1.5 mile run: 11 minutes
 - o Females
 - 62 sit ups
 - 24 pushups
 - 1.5 mile run: 13 minutes
 - You must also pass a Swim Test, but no swimming ability in needed prior to the basic training
- Academic
 - o To enlist, only a high school diploma is needed
 - o To become an officer, a college degree in required
 - o Tests required
 - ASVAB the minimum score for enlistment is a 35
 - Navy Physical Fitness Assessment
 - Body Composition Assessment
 - Navy Physical Readiness Test
 - Navy Physical Screening Test

How long does the average Navy soldier serve

- Soldiers typically serve a total of 8 years
 - o 3-4 in active duty and 4-5 in the reserves following active duty

Promotion opportunities

• Promotions are based on time served, performance on duty, and various training programs to qualify you for promotion

Opportunities once service is completed

- There are many opportunities to continue to work as various types of analyst for the government as a civilian the security clearance you gain as a soldier is highly sought after in this sector
- You can also work in the civilian field as an analyst as well
- Many companies like to hire military vets in management positions as well

Compensations and Salary while serving and after

- Starting pay: \$1555/month this goes up after only a few months of service
- Pay range for enlisted soldiers serving 2-6 years: \$1681-\$3721 per month
- Education opportunities:
 - o All military veterans have access to college education benefits through the GI Bill
 - o The navy also has tuition assistance programs for those on active duty

- Special Training: During training for the navy, you receive training in various specialties that can assist you in your career after the military
- You also have access to military discounts which range from grocery stores to insurance plans
 - USAA offers banking and insurance plans for veterans and active duty

Expectations of service

- Enlisted soldiers must complete a 7-9 week training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center
- After training is complete, you are expected to serve the full time of your contract unless otherwise discharged
- Other expectations include grooming and etiquette standards which are established during basic training

Benefits to joining the Navy

- Free education and training
- Financial support housing and food stipends as well as health insurance
- Travel opportunities
- Military discounts
- Building life-long friendships

Air Force

 https://www.airforce.com/frequently-asked-questions/enlisted-path/what-healthstandards-must-i-meet-to-join-the-air-force-and-how-is-my-health-statusdetermined

Basic requirements

- Must be between the ages of 18 and 39
- Must be a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident
- Have a high school diploma, GED, or GED with at least 15 college credit hours
- Air Force Requirements: https://www.airforce.com/how-to-join/process/enlisted

Other requirements

- Physical (upon arrival at basic training)
 - o Males:
 - 25 pushups in one minute
 - 35 sit-ups in one minute
 - 1.5-mile run in 13:45 minutes
 - o Females:
 - 15 pushups in one minute
 - 30 sit-ups in one minute,
 - 1.5-mile run in 16:00 minutes
- Academic
 - o Must have a high school diploma or GED to enlist
- Tests required
 - o ASVAB
 - Minimum overall score with high school diploma: 31
 - Minimum overall score with a GED: 50
 - There are also career related sections that will qualify you for different air force careers
 - Blood and urinalysis
 - o Physical

Steps to join

- Contact recruiter
 - The recruiter will discuss careers as well as the next steps in the enlistment process
- Take the ASVAB test
 - The air force looks at 4 main sections: arithmetic reasoning, work knowledge, paragraph comprehension, and math knowledge
- Physical and mental screening
 - After you take the ASVAB, your recruiter will set up an appointment at a Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS)

- At MEPS, you will meet with a job counselor
 - o You will discuss careers in the air force you are qualified for
 - You will get to choose a career that you are willing to do or get assigned one that best fits your strengths
- Prepare of Basic Training (BMT)
 - o After acceptance into the air force, you will have some time before BMT
 - o The air force advises people in this step to exercise in order to meet the physical requirements at basic training

Length of service

- Enlisted airmen serve an 8 year term
 - o There are options for either a 4 or 6 year active duty obligation followed by 4 or 2 years in the reserves, respectively

Promotion opportunities

- Most promotions occur with time served for the lower enlisted ranks
- After staff sergeant, promotions are based on points earned in certain criteria
 - o Points earned for time in-service
 - o Points earned for time in-grade
 - Points earned from medals or decorations received
 - Scores based on annual performance reports
 - Scores from written promotion test(s)

Options after the Military

- Veterans have access to the Montgomery GI Bill which offers more than \$35,000 per student
- There are over 200 careers in the military, and the training received for each of these careers can be applied to the private sector
 - Consulting and analyst jobs
 - Other government jobs

Compensations during and after service

- During service
 - o 30 days of vacation with pay every year
 - o Comprehensive medical and dental for you, and if married, your immediate
 - o Thrift Savings Plan [similar to a 401(k)]
 - o Tax-free food, clothing and housing allowances
 - o Discounted shopping at base department and grocery stores
 - Low-cost life insurance
 - o Noncontributory retirement after 20 years of qualifying service
- After service

- All military veterans have access to the Montgomery GI bill which pays for over \$35,000 per student
- All military personnel also has access to USAA, a banking and insurance provider for military and their families

Salary (enlisted)

- E-1 basic airman: \$1680.90 per month
- E-2 airman: \$1,884.00 per month
- E-3 airman first class: \$1,981 per month
- E-7 master sergeant (highest enlisted rank): \$3020.70 per month

Expectations of service

- You are expected to complete training and take on greater responsibilities as more time is served
- You will be assigned to a base where you are most needed, but you can apply to change bases every 3 years
- 8 hour work day
- Possibility of deployment to an active military site every 20 months
- You are also expected to maintain certain physical and appearance standards

Benefits of joining

- Most benefits are listed under compensations during service
- Travel opportunities
- Structure
- Military discounts
- Very affordable housing and insurance

Can students with disabilities join the military?:

- The best answer to this question is "it depends." Most disabilities are considered on a case-by-case basis, and high-functioning people with disabilities can be accepted into the military.
- If your recruiter determines you could qualify for military service, you can fill out a medical waiver as instructed by the recruiter.