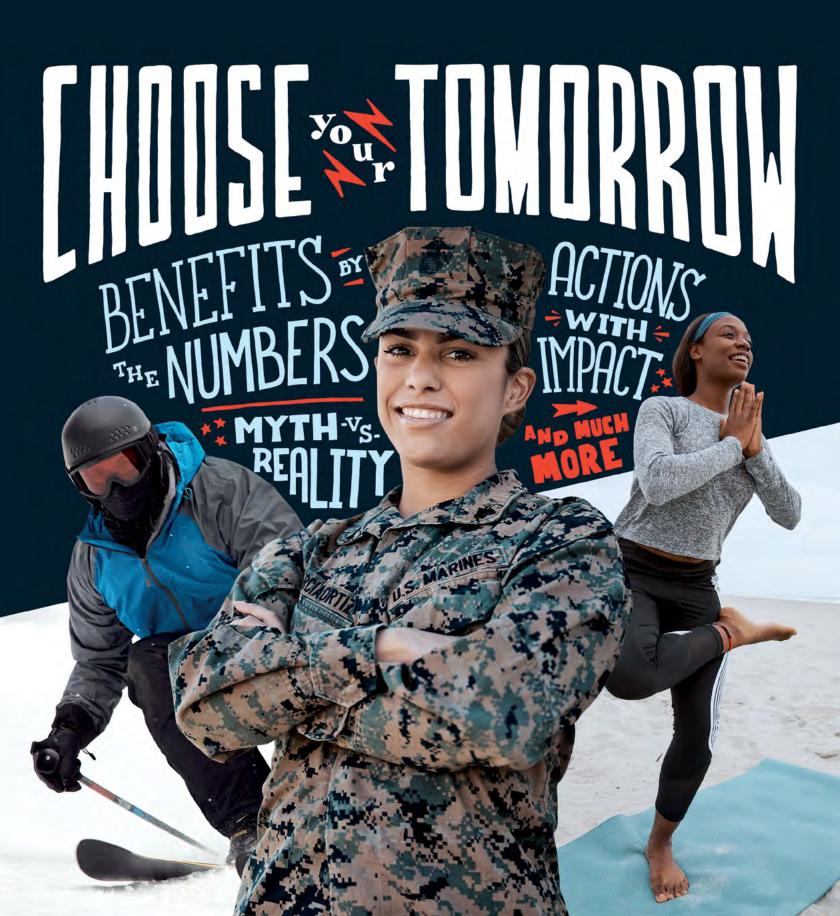
FUTURES

















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















OF SERVICE

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**























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

>>> MARINE CORPS

>>> NAVY

>>> AIR FORCE >>> SPACE FORCE

>>> 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.

DISTINCT PATHS TO JOINING THE MILITARY:



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 mental and emotional. goal of preparing new recruits for successful service.



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

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

>>> ROTC PROGRAMS

ROTC programs provide officer training for students during college in exchange for a paid college education. In return, the Guard or Reserve for a set period of time after graduation,



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

AUSTIN DICKEY



"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."**

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.**"

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*

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

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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.



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.



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.

During lunch, Kyle

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.



TECH. SGT. KYLE CARPENTER AIR FORCE



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



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.





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.



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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

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

> JENNIFER LIRIANO ARMY RESERVE



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.



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

SATURDAY

FRIDAY

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.

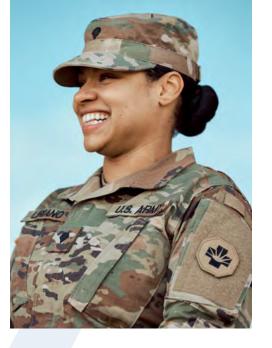


In the afternoon, Jennifer teaches a first-aid class to other Soldiers, which includes how to stop bleeding in the event of an injury. "I've taught classes before," she says. "It's a little nerve-racking standing in front of people but I enjoy it."



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.







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

ir 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."

ince 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."





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.



Tuition Assistance covers up to

of tuition or expenses for courses taken at accredited colleges, universities, junior colleges or vocational schools.¹

The federal government provides

per year in grants,
work-study programs
and federal loans

in Active Duty, National Guard or Reserve service.²

BILLION to college students

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

 ${}^{1}\underline{todaysmilitary.com/education-training/paying-college}$

²militaryonesource.mil/-/how-to-use-the-military-tuition-assistance-program ³medicineandthemilitary.com/officer-and-medical-training/medical-school "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



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

JAUNTAVIA PRATHER ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



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

IST LT.
PHILLIP LANE
AIR FORCE





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.

oast 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.



IN TERMS OF SAVING LIVES."



MEANINGFUL WORK

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

rom 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.

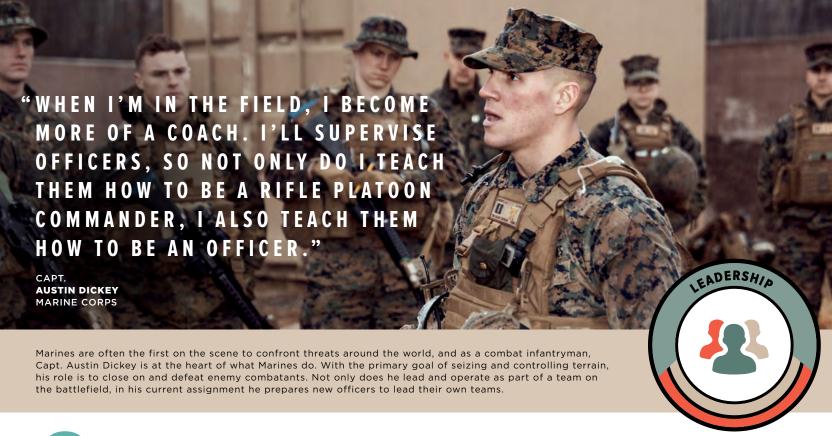
"There are countless stories of aviators providing support right when someone needed it," he says. "I really want to make an impact on the people around me. ... I hope in a number of years, I'm still out there learning and helping people."

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.





ne 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

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."

to ensure it gets done." **CRISTALY GARCIA-ORTIZ** MARINE CORPS **CRISTALY GARCIA-ORTIZ** MARINE CORPS

hile 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

PEOPLE ... NOT JUST

IN THE COAST GUARD

AS WELL."

PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS **DEJANAI CAMACHO**

COAST GUARD



THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A CYBERWARRIOR? TAKE THE CYBER CHALLENGE TODAY: CYBERMISSION.TECH



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

CYBERWARRIORS AMONG US

cybersecurity closely rowing 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.

EXPLOIT AT ESCALATE CXIL DATA Kyle instructs a large class of A on the basics of cyberwarfare.

As Shaelyn's story illustrates, the training service members receive in the cyber field is second to none. Enter Air Force Tech. Sqt. 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."

KYLE CARPENTER

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."

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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

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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."

JAUNTAVIA PRATHER ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



"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



"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."

JENNIFER LIRIANO ARMY RESERVE



CUTTING EDGE

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

ir 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





rmy 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*TM and *Street Fighter*TM 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 NOY!"

STAFF SGT.
KALYNTAE WILLIAMS
ARMY



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

'www.diu.mil

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camaraderie and being able to collaborate

with different people. Even in my civilian

life, it's helped me be a better

team player."

hundreds of thousands of people. How we

mold them now will impact generations

of Marines," he says.

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

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.

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... like being able to breathe and think before

acting, even if I'm upset or don't agree

with something."



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."

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."

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."

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

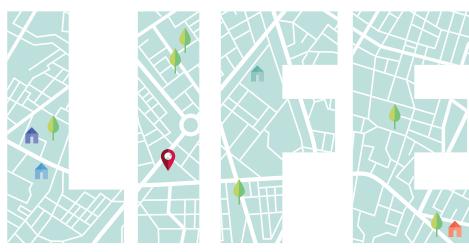
REALITY

"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



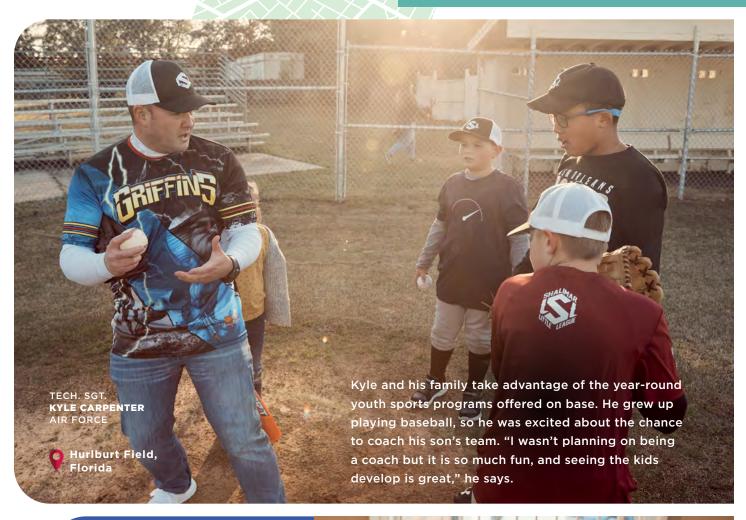
On base and off, service members are pursuing their interests and living full lives in and out of uniform

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 flatscreen 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.

C Everett,



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.









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



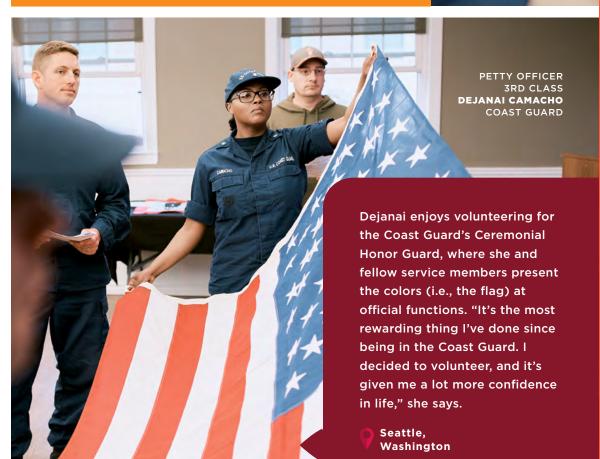
Connections on **Base and Beyond**

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."







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

ENTERTAINMENT **SHOWS**

hosted around the world

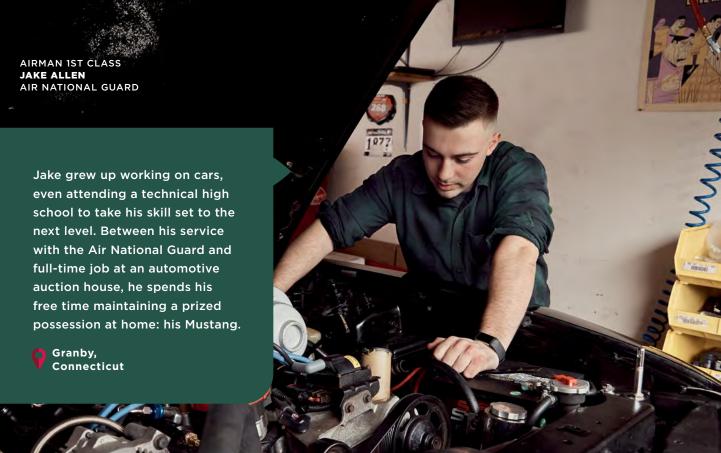
each year by **Armed Forces Entertainment** featuring popular musicians, comedians, athletes and actors.

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

LEARN MORE









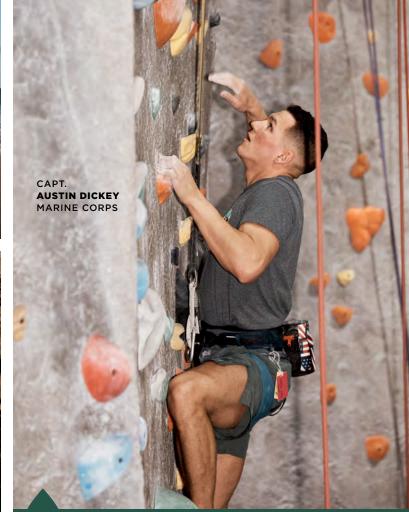


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beach. They love taking advantage



Cpl. Garcia-Ortiz and her husband California. After work, they enjoy getting out and exploring all the friendly vineyard about 15 minutes



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

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





