

FUTURES



MAKE EVERY
DAY COUNT

IN THIS
ISSUE

MILITARY MISCONCEPTIONS | EDUCATION IN ACTION | MILITARY LIFE

TIME TO THRIVE

2ND LT.
BRITTANY HUME-DAWSON
AIR FORCE

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Service members lead fulfilling lives, both on and off duty

Today, as many young adults think about the future, they often face a fundamental question: Where will their life's journey take them? Ultimately, whatever the answer might be, what's truly important is that the path leads to fulfillment – both personal and professional.

FUTURES explores how the Military can help you achieve more than you thought possible. Inside, you'll hear from young service members as they share how their decision to join led them to thrilling new challenges, lasting and impactful friendships, and skills that last a lifetime.

In today's military, opportunity awaits. Where will YOU choose to thrive?

FACES OF SERVICE



LUIS
VILLEGAS

ALEX
NGUY

NOOR
MICHEL KHALIL HABR

CHYNA
GIBBS

NICK
O'SULLIVAN

BRITTANY
HUME-DAWSON

ALEXIS
SUAREZ

ISAAC
ESENE

ISAAC
MAYARD

JOANALICIA
RAMIREZ

Army

Army Reserve

Army National Guard

Marine Corps

Navy

Air Force

Air Force Reserve

Air National Guard

Space Force

Coast Guard

RANK: Sergeant
ROLE: Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operator – Drone Pilot

RANK: Specialist
ROLE: Combat Medic

RANK: Private 1st Class
ROLE: Cavalry Scout

RANK: Sergeant
ROLE: Combat Marksmanship Coach

RANK: Petty Officer 1st Class
ROLE: Special Warfare Combat Crewman

RANK: 2nd Lieutenant
ROLE: Uniformed Services University Medical Student

RANK: Staff Sergeant
ROLE: Public Affairs Specialist

RANK: Senior Airman
ROLE: Aerospace Medical Technician

RANK: Sergeant
ROLE: Cyber Operations Specialist

RANK: Petty Officer 3rd Class
ROLE: Machinery Technician



GET TO KNOW TODAY'S MILITARY

With **six branches**, more than **250 different occupations** and multiple paths to service, the Military offers unique opportunities to support your personal and professional development.

Most Service branches have active-duty (full-time) and part-time components. Part-time duty includes the Reserve and National Guard.

» **ARMY**

» **AIR FORCE**

» **MARINE CORPS**

» **SPACE FORCE**

» **NAVY**

» **COAST GUARD**

ENLISTED

roles require a high school diploma or GED. There are a variety of enlisted careers, most of which involve hands-on training and skill development that transfer well to the civilian world.

BASIC TRAINING, often known as boot camp, prepares recruits for different aspects of service: physical, mental and emotional. It gives service members necessary fundamental tools and aims to prepare new recruits for success.

“During Basic Training, you have your shipmates with you to support you. There are people who are working to help you succeed each day. Nobody is in it by themselves.”



PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS
JOANALICIA RAMIREZ
COAST GUARD

OFFICERS

are the managers of the Military, acting in roles that include planning missions, providing direction and supporting the enlisted people within their units. These positions require a college degree or an equivalent. You can become an officer by earning a commission through enlisted service, completing Officer Candidate School (OCS), attending one of the highly competitive Service academies or participating in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program at one of over 1,700 colleges and universities across the United States.

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

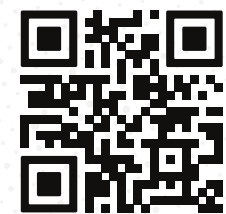
ROTC PROGRAMS provide officer training for students during college, typically in exchange for a paid college education. In return, students commit to serve either on active duty or part time in the Reserve or Guard for a set period after graduation, usually five years.

“I see the Military as an opportunity to not only establish myself financially, in terms of job security, but also develop soft skills. It's a win-win that will serve me even beyond my time in the Military.”



2ND LT.
BRITTANY HUME-DAWSON
AIR FORCE

» **LEARN MORE ABOUT**
today's military



DIFFERENT WAYS TO SERVE

Service can be full time while balancing school, part time while pursuing a career or any combination in between. Discover what path best suits your future.

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 like a civilian workday, in which you work in an occupational specialty. Off duty is the time when active-duty service members pursue their personal interests, such as hobbies, education or spending time with friends and family.

“I decided to serve full time because I wanted something that had real meaning behind it, day in, day out — a career where I could leave a mark on both the people around me and on the world.”



SGT. / CHYNA GIBBS / MARINE CORPS

RESERVE

PART-TIME MILITARY SERVICE* FULL-TIME CIVILIAN

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 part time. The Reserve components combine your civilian experience with military skills. Reserve members can be called to active duty to support mission needs.

*Minimum one-weekend-a-month military drill and two-weeks-a-year military training



SPC. / ALEX NGUY / ARMY RESERVE

“Being in the Army Reserve allows me the free time and flexibility to pursue everything I want to in my civilian life. I don’t have to sacrifice my education, my career or time with my family.”

NATIONAL GUARD

PART-TIME MILITARY SERVICE* FULL-TIME CIVILIAN

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 during times of conflict, natural disasters or civil emergencies. They may also be deployed internationally alongside active-duty service members when necessary. Every U.S. state and territory, as well as the District of Columbia, fields their own separate Guard unit. Members of the National Guard hold civilian jobs and can attend school while conducting their military training part time.

*Minimum one-weekend-a-month military drill and two-weeks-a-year military training



SENIOR AIRMAN
ISAAC ESENE
D.C. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

“My unit is very cognizant that we have jobs and school outside of the Military, so we come together to support each other during drill weekends. We even receive a calendar of the year ahead so I can work with my professors and my unit on a schedule that works for me.”

A DAY IN THE LIFE



Full-Time Service with Space Force Sgt. Isaac Mayard

Active Duty — or full-time service — is typically a 40- to 50-hour workweek, sometimes more if the mission requires it and sometimes less for holidays and vacations. Isaac serves full time in the Space Force and is currently stationed at Schriever Space Force Base in Colorado. Continue reading for a glimpse into his active-duty role.

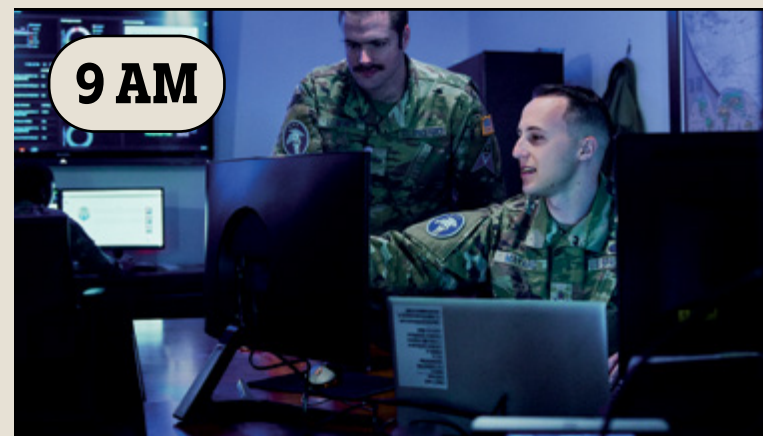
“Our leaders understand how dynamic our jobs are and reiterate how important it is to take care of ourselves outside of work. You have opportunities to take time off if you need or want it, which helps maintain a strong work-life balance.”



8 AM

Isaac starts work with a 30-minute commute to base, where he works in defensive cyber operations. He also serves as a squadron training representative for the 68 members in his unit.

9 AM



Once at his desk, Isaac evaluates the training statuses of his unit members to make sure they're up to date. He organizes and leads various trainings, such as teaching the origins of the newest Service branch, and information sessions on adversaries and mission systems. Isaac's role is integral to the daily operations of his unit because he ensures each member has completed the correct training for their specific mission.

After eating lunch together at the on-base dining facility, Isaac and his colleagues spend the remainder of their break catching up outdoors and enjoying the scenery around Schriever Space Force Base.

1 PM



3 PM



- Character
- Commitment
- Connection
- Courage

In addition to monitoring his unit's training statuses, Isaac and his unit oversee the protection and maintenance of Space Force infrastructure. This plays a vital role in keeping all systems operational so that there are no disruptions in satellite connectivity. In the event that an attack is successful, Isaac's unit is responsible for implementing established protocols to identify where the threat originated, how it surpassed various points of the Service's cyber terrain and how to detect similar attacks before they occur. From there, Isaac and his unit incorporate new technologies to further develop and safeguard the country's assets from future threats.

After work, Isaac dedicates time to completing schoolwork for his degree in network engineering at the University of Arizona. He also works on restoring his vintage bicycle, a hobby that reminds him of his childhood. Later in the evening, Isaac decompresses by cooking dinner at home before watching TV.

5 PM



A DAY IN THE LIFE



Part-Time Service with Army National Guard Pfc. Noor Habr

Members of the Reserve and Guard typically hold a civilian job or attend school while serving. They attend military drill a minimum of one weekend a month and annual training two weeks a year. Noor works at her family's restaurant, is pursuing her undergraduate degree and serves part time as a cavalry scout in the Virginia Army National Guard. Here's a quick snapshot of part-time service.

9 AM



FRIDAY

Noor likes to go for a run in the mornings so she can plan out the day ahead. "It's a release for me! It gives me time to just step away and think about everything." After lacing up, she'll either hit the pavement near home or go to the local beach with her dog, Tori.

After lunch, Noor does homework for her classes in the homeland security program at Tidewater Community College. Once she finishes her credits there, she'll transfer to Old Dominion University to finish her bachelor's degree. "The Guard is a great option because it's one weekend a month and I have all that time between drill weekends to take school classes," she says. "I'm using Tuition Assistance I get from being in the Guard to pay for my school now and in the future."

1 PM



5 PM

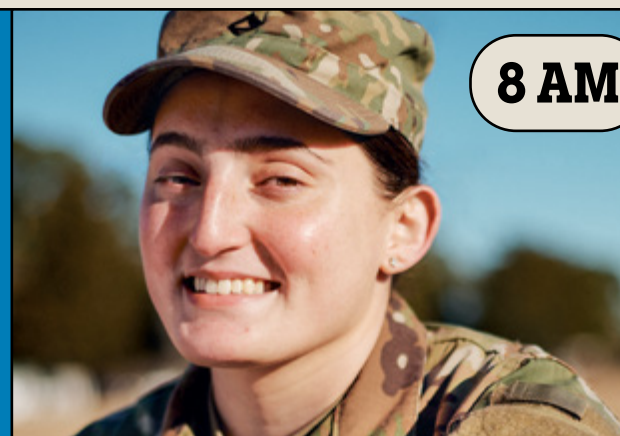


Since Noor serves part time in her community, she's able to be close to home and can even work a few days a week at her family's restaurant. "It's really nice because they know I'm here, and, even though I have school and drill, I'm still able to help my dad. I can step in when someone calls out or they're down a worker," she says.

SATURDAY

8 AM

In the critical role of a cavalry scout, Noor acts as the commander's eyes and ears. She collects important information on the enemy, like their location and equipment, and prepares Soldiers for any unseen obstacles. One weekend a month Noor takes a quick 10-minute trip to the location where she trains. Based on her role, training consists of weapon preparedness and testing, ensuring electronics such as drones are working and up to date, and restocking trucks with gear and supplies.



1 PM



Following a lunch break with her friends, Noor takes part in medical lane training. This training teaches Soldiers how to be prepared for potential injuries in the field should they be deployed. She learns how to provide basic care ahead of qualified medical personnel arriving on the scene.

"I really wanted to keep my civilian life because it's very important for me to stay and support my family. I also wanted to go to school close to home, and that's what serving in the Guard did for me."

4 PM



Like many of us, Noor ends her day tying up loose ends, such as updating personal information for recordkeeping. After heading home for the night, Noor will go back to her training facility on Sunday morning to finish her drill weekend. She returns to her civilian life on Monday after drill ends Sunday afternoon.



“I don’t think I ever would have started my own photography business if it wasn’t for the career development I’ve received in the Military.”

STAFF SGT. / ALEXIS SUAREZ / AIR FORCE RESERVE

AN EMPOWERING EDUCATION

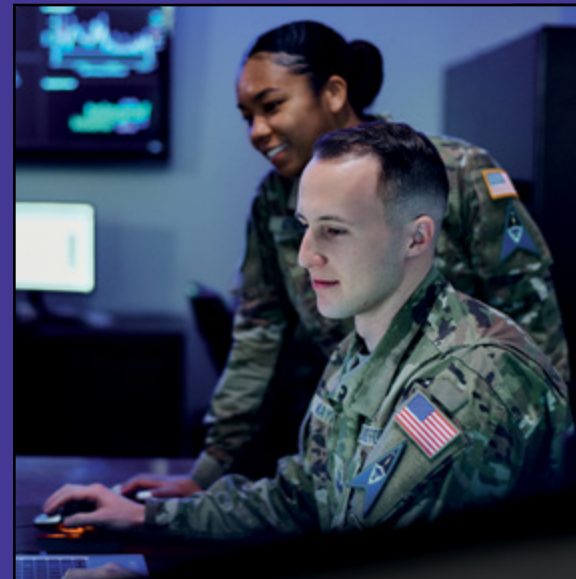
Through certifications, technical courses and unparalleled on-the-job training, service members are expanding their skill sets beyond the traditional classroom setting

Like many young adults, Air Force Reserve Staff Sgt. Alexis Suarez grew up playing sports and knew she wanted to continue to feel like part of a team after high school. Once she graduated from college, she found an opportunity for camaraderie and a career in the Military. Now she’s leveraging the skills and training she’s received in her role as a public affairs specialist and photojournalist in both her military and civilian life.

The Military offered Alexis the opportunity to learn photography at the Defense Information School and continue her public affairs education by taking online courses through Purdue University.

“I took several courses on social media management, advertising and analytics to grow the Air Force Reserve’s social media presence,” she says. “Not everyone gets this opportunity to learn the valuable skills that I’ve gained in the Military.”

As a photojournalist, Alexis is responsible for capturing and documenting the visual history of the Air Force’s mission through photos and videos. She writes press releases, drafts articles and creates content for her unit’s social media channels and website. She’s transferred the skills she gained in the Military to build a side hustle offering photography and social media services for weddings, local restaurants and small businesses.



Isaac has earned certifications in cybersecurity through the advanced training offered by the Space Force.

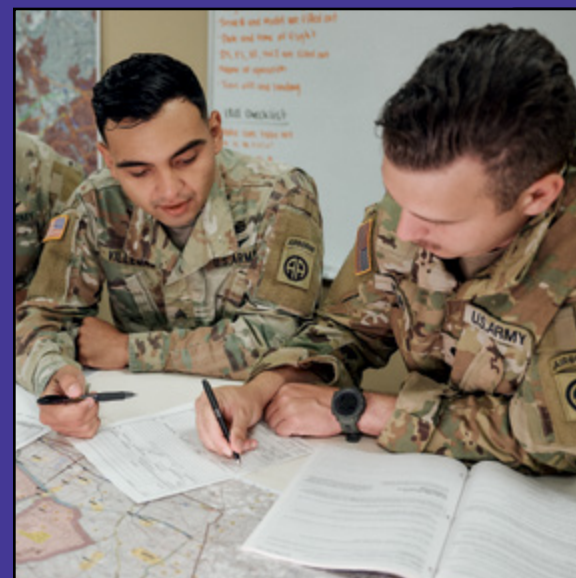
“I’m starting a new program called **Supra Coder**. It’s a three-month software development, full-stack (front-end and back-end domains) training, and then you intern for a company doing software development,” he says. “I’d like to start my own business of contracting to the government’s network and security services, so that will really help.”

SGT. / ISAAC MAYARD / SPACE FORCE

Nick completed an instructor qualification course that set him up for success in his current teaching role.

“It helped me develop my way of interacting with the candidates, teaching classes and public speaking,” he says. “Now I can read the room more confidently and adapt to how they’re learning.”

PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS / NICK O’SULLIVAN / NAVY



Luis has taken advantage of many professional development opportunities like the Army’s Basic Leader Course, where he developed a variety of skills, such as critical thinking and effective listening.

“It teaches you how to better help the Soldiers that you’ll be responsible for, then you make that your own and figure out your style of leadership.”

SGT. / LUIS VILLEGAS / ARMY

“I’m using state and federal Tuition Assistance for my community college education now and for my bachelor’s and master’s in homeland security in the future. One of my life goals is to avoid debt, and the Military is helping me do that.”

PFC. / NOOR HABR / VIRGINIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



“A lot of people my age are graduating with debt, but I don’t feel that stress because the Military helped me graduate debt free with my bachelor’s degree in kinesiology. Now, I’m pursuing a second bachelor’s degree in nursing using Tuition Assistance.”

SPC. / ALEX NGUY / ARMY RESERVE

EDUCATION

Members of the Military have access to many educational opportunities and



IN ACTION

resources, and they’re achieving their educational goals — all while serving

“I used the GI Bill and Tuition Assistance for my undergraduate education. Now, I’m leveraging the Veterans Affairs Health Professions Scholarship Program to financially support my physician assistant program.”

SENIOR AIRMAN / ISAAC ESENE / D.C. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Learn more about Isaac’s medical pursuits on page 21.



“

I’m obtaining my bachelor’s degree in general studies, made possible through Tuition Assistance.

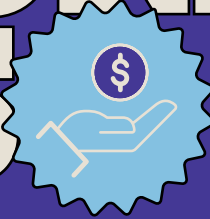
Without Tuition Assistance, I probably wouldn’t be able to work toward my bachelor’s degree. The Military makes it easy for me to go to college and not have to pay for my education out of pocket.

SGT. / CHYNA GIBBS / MARINE CORPS

”



EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS



COLLEGE FUND PROGRAMS

are offered to eligible service members when they first join the Military. These programs offer an additional amount of money that can be added to the Post-9/11 GI Bill.¹

Incentives and amounts received will vary by Service, and, while each branch 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

STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS

may be offered 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

\$60K

The Military has several medical-specific financial assistance programs that will pay 100% of your tuition and an average of \$60K a year to attend classes and study, as well as provide a housing stipend.³

“The Military has really broadened my access to education. I’m a senior in college using Tuition Assistance for my degree in network engineering.”

SGT. / ISAAC MAYARD / SPACE FORCE



THE POST-9/11 GI BILL

pays all public school in-state tuition and fees, a portion of private and international colleges and universities, a living stipend for housing, and an allowance for books and supplies.¹

These benefits are available to Active Duty, Reserve and Guard members. Benefits are based on length of service and can be shared with eligible family members.¹



100%

TUITION ASSISTANCE COVERS UP TO 100%

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

\$150 BILLION IN GRANTS

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

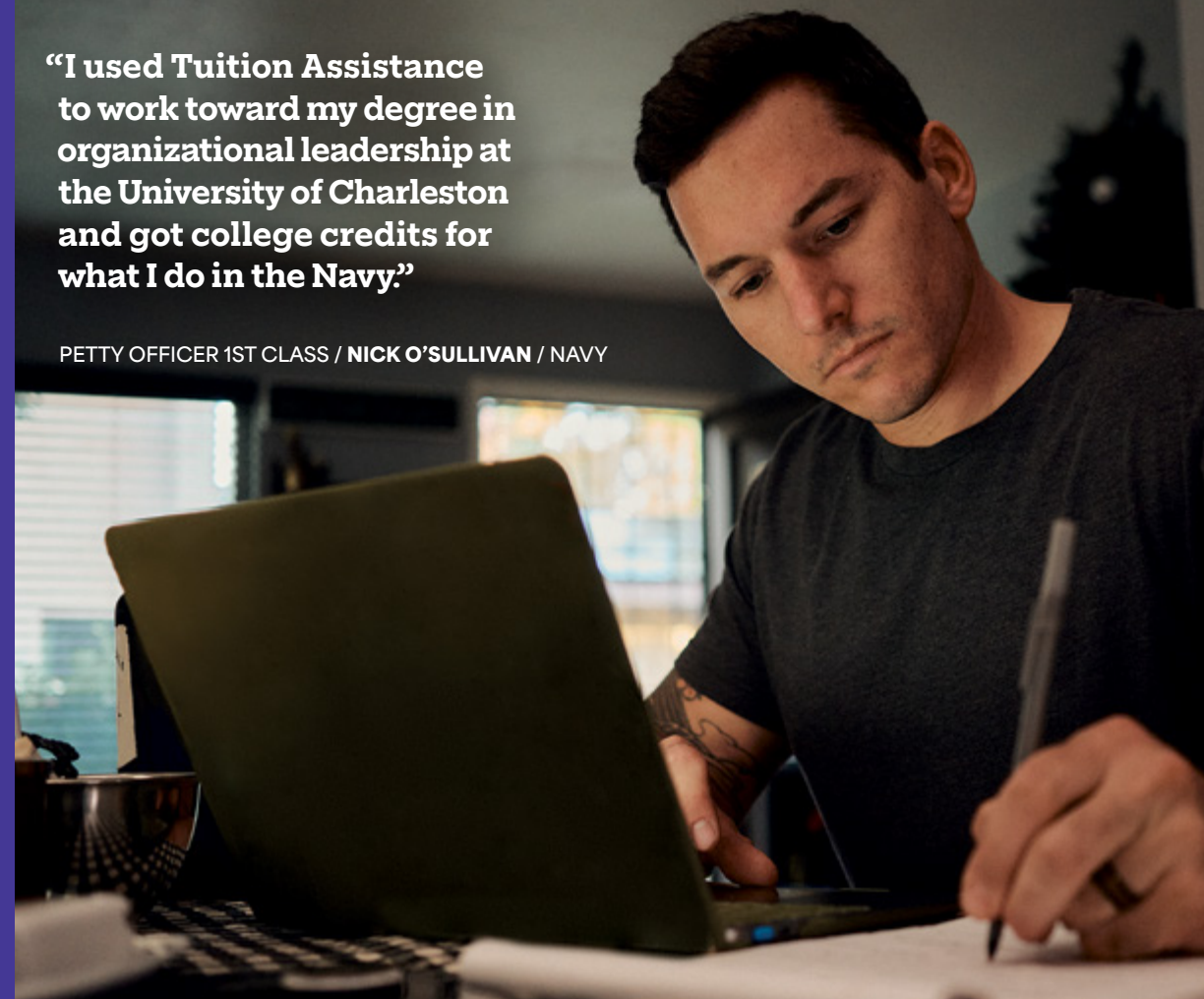


“I won’t have any debt from medical school. I’m getting paid to go to school and won’t be hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt.”

2ND LT. BRITTANY HUME-DAWSON
AIR FORCE

“I used Tuition Assistance to work toward my degree in organizational leadership at the University of Charleston and got college credits for what I do in the Navy.”

PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS / NICK O’SULLIVAN / NAVY



FAST FACT

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



MEDICINE THE MILITARY

From medical technicians to physicians, there's a wide range of health care roles available

While doing some inner reflection for an ROTC-related paper in college, Air Force 2nd Lt. Brittany Hume-Dawson realized every profession she thought about pursuing had one thing in common – helping people. When she learned there was an option to pursue both her education and career aspirations by attending the Uniformed Services University (USU) of the Health Sciences to become a military physician, she jumped at the opportunity. “It was a logical steppingstone,” Brittany says. “I love the environment, the people, the military culture, and I wanted to continue that path.”

USU offers world-class medical education, including leadership development and education in global health and medical diplomacy. As a military medical student, Brittany attends classes and lectures, does rotations at military treatment facilities, and will eventually get matched with a medical specialty – just like a civilian but with a bonus. “I get paid to go to school, which is separate from the tuition and supplies they're covering in full,” she says. “I don't have to worry about where I'm going to live or how to pay for my car. I can really focus on the curriculum and perfecting my craft.”

Aside from financial support, Brittany knew she wanted to pursue medicine in the Military because of the community it provides. “I wanted a career in the Military because of the people, the camaraderie,” she says. “I truly enjoy my work environment and the people I work with.”

“I used to think the Military wouldn't benefit me. Now I see how it's changed me — helped me personally, professionally, financially. I never thought it was going to be like that.”

2ND LT. / BRITTANY HUME-DAWSON / AIR FORCE

[Right] Brittany and her classmates catch up before a lecture.



[Above] After class, Brittany studies for a test at her off-campus apartment.

[Left] Brittany performs an exam on a patient as part of her clinical training.

[Below] Brittany (middle) and her Air Force friends love spending time downtown on the weekends.



In his civilian career as an EMT, Alex (left) prepares to transport a patient.



Stitching His Future

After obtaining his license through the Army Reserve, Spc. Alex Nguy became a civilian EMT, a job that closely resembles his part-time service role. “As a combat medic, I do pretty much the same thing as my civilian career, like giving medical advice and attention,” he says. “But it’s more than just transporting patients and providing medical care in stressful environments. A lot of it is going over our equipment, practicing our skills and inspecting our vehicles to make sure we are mission ready.”

Not only is Alex serving his community in a health care role, but he’s also taking prerequisite courses to get into nursing school – paid for by the Military. “I’m taking human anatomy, which I already learned about being a combat medic. A lot of my military training translates into what I’m doing right now,” he says.

Alex credits the Military with inspiring him to pursue a medical career. “Becoming an Army Reserve combat medic sparked my interest in medicine in my civilian life,” he says. “I’m working toward becoming a nurse, which is never something I thought I would do before the Military.”

“I never saw myself being an EMT before, and then being a combat medic put my foot in the door. I really appreciate the Military for providing those experiences for me.”

SPC. / ALEX NGUY / ARMY RESERVE



A Dose of Drive

With both of his parents working as nurses, Senior Airman Isaac Esene always knew he wanted to work in the medical field when he grew up. Now, he’s serving part time as an aerospace medical technician in the D.C. Air National Guard while attending physician assistant (PA) school full time at Frostburg State University in Maryland.

During his monthly drill weekends, Isaac administers immunizations, draws blood, assists with physical exams and provides tactical medical support for large events. “My job is like a mixture of an EMT and a nurse,” he says. “We are medical technicians who have the capability to work on ambulances and also in hospital settings.”

Isaac realized he wanted to be a PA during Basic Training. “I saw that I was able to use my military training as experience, and it would help me become a PA,” he says. “My military medical experience, along with the jobs I was able to get because of my military background, bolstered my resume and made me competitive enough to get into physician assistant school.”

“The Military is a resource. You can leverage it to live out your dreams if you have a plan.”

SENIOR AIRMAN / ISAAC ESENE / D.C. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

FAST FACT

The Military offers unparalleled medical training and experiences. To learn more, visit medicineandthemilitary.com.



MILITARY MISCONCEPTIONS

myths
vs.
realities



MYTH:
YOU'RE ALWAYS IN COMBAT MODE

REALITY

"Before joining, I used to think I was going to be clearing buildings and that everyone did the same thing, but that's not the case at all. I was surprised to find out that there are myriad different career opportunities afforded to service members through the variety of jobs the Army provides."

SGT.
LUIS VILLEGAS
ARMY

MYTH:
THERE ARE LIMITED
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

REALITY

"The Coast Guard allows its members to have an active role in planning what they'd like their career to look like. There are many resources available to help us decide on a particular path, and, as long as we're communicating our personal needs and interests, the Military will help find those opportunities."

PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS
JOANALICIA RAMIREZ
COAST GUARD



MYTH:
YOU LOSE YOUR PERSONAL IDENTITY

REALITY

"You don't have to change who you are or become someone new when you join the Military. You can still do the things you want to do; you can still have fun and you can still express yourself the way you want to express yourself. I've always been an outspoken person, and that hasn't changed much since joining the Marine Corps."

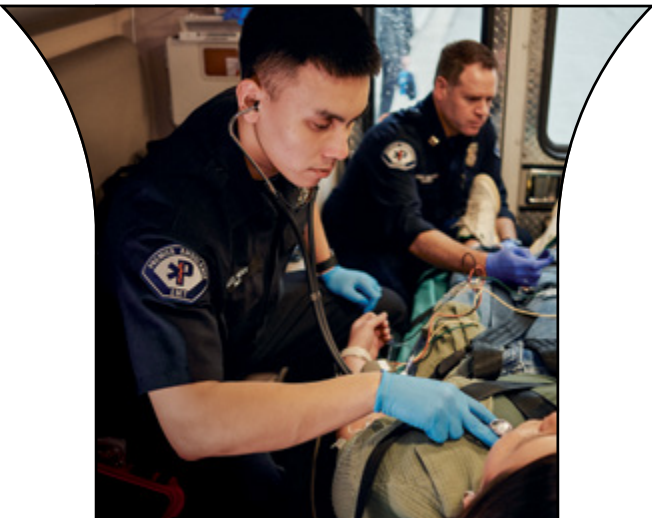
SGT.
CHYNA GIBBS
MARINE CORPS

MYTH:
IT'S COLLEGE OR THE MILITARY

REALITY

"People believe that the Military is a backup option to college, but I would argue that joining the Military and going to school is a great combination. The Military provides a solid foundation, experience, credibility and a sense of purpose, which are all helpful attributes when compiling a resume. A college degree would only help to strengthen that."

SENIOR AIRMAN
ISAAC ESENE
D.C. AIR NATIONAL GUARD



MYTH:
YOUR CIVILIAN LIFE IS PUT ON HOLD

REALITY

"I was able to pursue my military career without having to sacrifice my civilian life. Your leadership team will always help find ways to work around your schedule to pursue an education or other interests. In fact, I believe that through enlisting, I was able to further my civilian career more than if I hadn't joined the Military."

SPC.
ALEX NGUY
ARMY RESERVE

MYTH:
THERE'S NO DIVERSITY
OF THOUGHT

REALITY

"We never get stuck in a single way of thinking or problem-solving because we always have new people coming in who can throw in their two cents and share another perspective and approach. Having a group of people covering a broad range of ages, there is a lot of experience and fresh, new suggestions or plans to be introduced."

PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS
NICK O'SULLIVAN
NAVY



SKILLS

TO LAST A LIFETIME



Regardless of your goals, the Military provides the building blocks for success — both in and out of uniform



Public Speaking

Marine Corps Sgt. Chyna Gibbs is passionate about the teaching aspect of her role as a combat marksmanship coach, instructing new recruits how to effectively use a rifle. Through these interactions, she's developed a skill that's valuable in both her military and civilian life: public speaking.

"This job helps me professionally because I always have an audience I'm talking to or teaching," she says. **"I'm constantly growing as an instructor, gaining a better understanding of how to talk to people and teach recruits without feeling like I'm lecturing them."**



Critical Thinking

As a Coast Guard machinery technician, Petty Officer 3rd Class Joanalicia Ramirez and her team are responsible for inspecting, analyzing and resolving any potential mechanical issues like fuel leaks or broken valves on boats the Coast Guard relies on to protect key waterways.

"I have to always think critically and provide solutions in a timely manner to maintain the complex engineering and ensure that the vessels are always operable at a moment's notice if needed."



Effective Communication

Space Force Sgt. Isaac Mayard is responsible for training Guardians so they can protect infrastructure like satellites that are integral to internet communications and GPS usage. To ensure they are prepared for a variety of missions, Isaac has developed strong communication skills.

"I enjoy finding new ways to communicate because not everyone will understand things immediately," he says. **"I constantly have to pivot while training Guardians to give them the individualized mentorship they need to grow."**



Adaptability

Part of an elite defense force, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Nick O'Sullivan is a special warfare combat crewman, or SWCC. As one of the Sailors who works to safely insert and extract Navy SEAL teams from classified locations around the world, Nick has received extensive training to quickly adjust to various environments, climates and scenarios. Learning to adapt to new situations and problems has helped him grow both professionally and personally.

"Being able to quickly adapt and be creative definitely developed through my time in the Military."



Networking

When Air Force Reserve Staff Sgt. Alexis Suarez first joined the Military, she was shy, but as a photojournalist she's stepped outside her comfort zone to interact and engage with others.

"Networking and building connections with people to understand what other units are doing increases the quality of my work and helps me create a story," she says. **"The storytelling skills I've learned and people I've met within the Military also enabled me to start a small photography business for myself."**



commit to SUCCESS

At every level, service members are making a positive impact on their peers, communities and the world

ON TIME, ON TARGET

As a special warfare combat crewman (SWCC), Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Nick O'Sullivan is highly trained in operating small yet powerful boats to assist in critical, often classified, missions. Since the craft Nick and his team operate are especially nimble, they can navigate close to the shore, through shallow water or within narrow rivers to bring special operations teams, such as the Navy SEALs, to locations they otherwise could not access. SWCCs are also essential in extracting these teams, sometimes at a moment's notice, and collecting information essential to the mission through reconnaissance.

"Our motto is 'On Time, On Target, Never Quit,' because at any given time, there could be people relying on us to get them off a beach or to a location they need to get to for a mission," Nick says. Not only is he essential to the mission at hand, but he also has an impact on future missions through his role as an instructor.

Nick trains other crewmen to join these elite teams; he helps them understand the boat, its capabilities and how to navigate it. "I get to pass along the knowledge I've gained over the years so they can take ownership in their roles and eventually pass that knowledge along to the next batch of crewmen one day," Nick says. "It's really rewarding to bring a group of people together and help them be their best."

"We're always adapting to the latest technology to ensure our boats and our crew are up to par whenever they're needed. I always wanted a job that would challenge me, and that's exactly what I got."

PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS / NICK O'SULLIVAN / NAVY

EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY

Equipped with their military medical training, Air National Guard Senior Airman Isaac Esene and his co-workers were an integral part of the COVID-19 vaccination efforts in the Washington, D.C., area for service members and civilians alike. Isaac says, "The whole world was shut down, so it felt really good to do something meaningful."

In the wake of these efforts, Isaac explored how he could leverage the training he obtained through the Air National Guard to make a difference in his community. He began hosting workshops to teach CPR, eventually expanding to neighborhoods across the country and creating a nonprofit called GoodWorks. Now, several volunteers, including

other military service members, health care professionals and medical students, work with Isaac to provide lifesaving instruction.

"The community aspect of the National Guard inspired me to start something that strengthens communities," Isaac says. "Since National Guard units are community based, when I respond during local emergencies, patients can relate to me and know I have their best interests in mind." In the coming years, Isaac hopes to use his GI Bill to pursue a master's degree in policy or nonprofit management to expand on his nonprofit and connect additional communities with the resources they need to stay safe and healthy.

"A lot of the training we do in the National Guard is centered around readiness, so I am grateful to be able to share that with the community."

SENIOR AIRMAN / **ISAAC ESENE** / D.C. AIR NATIONAL GUARD



Isaac teaches CPR to local kids during one of his nonprofit workshops.

BREAKING BARRIERS

As the first female cavalry scout in the Virginia Army National Guard, Pfc. Noor Habr has been recognized by her colleagues and recruiters for paving the way for future female service members who want to be in combat. "It's really inspiring to have accomplished something in my unit that has only been completed by my male counterparts. It shows women can complete endurance trainings, they can be in infantry roles and they can be cavalry scouts," Noor says.

Noor's role has a direct impact on her unit and the Army National Guard due to the nature of her responsibility. "A cavalry scout is essentially the eyes and ears of the commander," she says. "We conceal ourselves behind enemy lines to collect information on the opposition force."

The information usually includes how many Soldiers there are, what weapons they have and any special equipment they may be using." Relaying this intel back to her unit allows them to prepare infantry quickly and accurately to proceed with or alter their mission accordingly.

Her team is also responsible for identifying any potential obstacles and communicating those ahead of time to make sure the entire unit is aware of them and can take appropriate safety measures. This is not something Noor takes lightly, and she plans to eventually apply the skills and tactics she's learned in her current position to a larger leadership role in the Army National Guard.

"My squadron commander took the time to tell me that I've set a new standard for my unit as a female, and it gave me a sense of pride and confidence in and out of work."

PFC. / **NOOR HABR** / VIRGINIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

MISSION MAINTENANCE

Space Force Sgt. Isaac Mayard's role in defensive cyber operations is integral to the day-to-day processes of both his unit and the Space Force. "This Service branch relies heavily on satellites, radio and ground networks to perform critical missions at all times, and any serious disruption to normal operations would be devastating," he says. A disruption could affect vital communications from being delivered from one unit to another, which could cause delayed action, loss of situational awareness or increased risks.

Civilians rely on the Space Force and its infrastructure in their normal routines. Any interruption to these signals and connections could impact even the most trivial aspects of our lives that we may take for granted, like using GPS

"My role is integral to the unit because it's imperative we have properly trained, extremely sharp and capable individuals ready at a moment's notice to successfully defend any type of external threat. We do this to safeguard and keep the satellites we rely on for navigation and communication functional."

SGT. / ISAAC MAYARD / SPACE FORCE

while traveling or hiking, sending an email, or using a cellphone. "To avoid this, our unit must stay up to date on trainings, as it is essential to maintain our systems and ensure they're operational," Isaac says.

With U.S. allies, the impact of the Space Force's missions reaches beyond national security. "We have a very broad scope that includes a lot of space infrastructure, and it's important to be able to have complete visibility of all of it," Isaac says. "We need to be able to protect and defend these assets to ensure no foreign adversary is capable of harming them." Having allies across the globe enables the Space Force to bolster their capabilities, reach and impact of their initiatives.



Luis and his colleagues plan out their next aerial route.

GUIDING FUTURE CAREERS

As an unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) operator specializing in aviation all-source intelligence, Army Sgt. Luis Villegas combines various sources of information to help provide "eyes in the sky" for missions on the ground. Luis and his team operate drones that conduct surveillance and reconnaissance. The information they obtain from drones such as these is crucial to the safety of Soldiers on the ground, enabling them to complete whatever the mission at hand may be. Luis also gets to support future missions and junior team members in his current role.

As an instructor, Luis teaches new Soldiers the basics of UAS and helps them expand upon those

building blocks. He oversees essential trainings and evaluations, setting the conditions for success. "I get to make an impact every day as an instructor," Luis says. "Helping someone become better at their job, seeing them achieve their goals ... it just makes me feel good."

Luis knows his work has the power to influence missions far in the future through the ripple effects of teaching others. "I love seeing the people I mentor progress in their careers. Some even become instructor-operators like me, passing that knowledge along," he says. "It gives me such a sense of fulfillment to see them succeed and leave their mark on the Army."

"Having my mentors readily accessible to share their advice, experience and knowledge has helped me grow in my career. I want to give my junior Soldiers the same gift. I want to ensure they're following whatever path they want to follow and help them advance."

SGT. / LUIS VILLEGAS / ARMY

There are hundreds of meaningful career opportunities in the Military that allow service members to fulfill their goals and leave a mark in their own unique way.



ENGINEERING



CYBERSECURITY



COMBAT OPERATIONS



HEALTH CARE



COMMUNICATIONS



HUMAN RESOURCES



Isaac and his colleague monitor the status of required computer-based trainings.



Learn why each of these service members joined the Military

SGT. / **LUIS VILLEGAS** / ARMY



CHILD

Luis grew up in Los Angeles, where he spent a lot of time outdoors with neighborhood kids doing group activities like riding bikes. He always loved playing sports and wanted to be a professional athlete when he got older.



TEEN

After working a few jobs in high school, Luis wanted an opportunity with more benefits and direction, so he looked to family members who previously served in the Military. "I sought out their guidance and saw the Military could open a lot of doors for me," he says. "I found many similarities between the Military and sports, like the opportunity to build camaraderie."



TODAY

Luis is an unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) operator and instructor in the Army, serving as the "eyes in the sky" for Soldiers on the ground by remotely operating and piloting aircraft like drones. As an instructor, Luis enjoys his role mentoring fellow service members, helping them set goals to ensure they're progressing in their careers.

PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS / **JOANALICIA RAMIREZ** / COAST GUARD



CHILD

Joanalicia grew up in Washington and South Florida and loved playing outdoors with her brothers. Her dad was in the Coast Guard, and watching him be happy and fulfilled in the Military drove an early aspiration to join the same branch when she got older. "I grew up knowing how much the Coast Guard actually cares about not only its members but their families too."



TEEN

When Joanalicia joined the Coast Guard, her family was completely supportive and proud of her, seeing her enlistment as a step in the right direction. From the moment she joined, Joanalicia enjoyed the camaraderie she found in the Military, which made her job more fun and something to look forward to each day.



TODAY

As a Coast Guard machinery technician, Joanalicia is responsible for inspecting, repairing and maintaining systems like internal combustion engines, heating and ventilation, and basic electricity. These systems keep boats ready for any mission, from rescues to humanitarian efforts. In her role, she's had the opportunity to explore new places by traveling to Antarctica, Hawaii, Australia and Tahiti.

2ND LT. / **BRITTANY HUME-DAWSON** / AIR FORCE



CHILD

Growing up, Brittany aspired to make a difference in her community. "I always changed my mind on what profession I wanted to have as an adult, but I realized they all had one common thread: helping others," she says. In sixth grade, she started taking an interest in medicine, inspired by her mother, who is a health care professional.



TEEN

Brittany decided to join JROTC in high school after seeing her sister enroll and fall in love with it. She says the camaraderie she experienced was just what she needed to grow, which prompted her to pursue ROTC in college. These steppingstones eventually led Brittany to apply to the Uniformed Services University (USU) and commission as an Air Force officer.



TODAY

As a medical student at USU, Brittany's job is to go to school and work toward her goal of becoming a practicing military physician – for free. She attends lectures, works on assignments and will complete rotations in various specialties at military hospitals and treatment facilities. "Every word I read for my courses is one step closer to fulfilling the dream I had as a child," she says.

Offering more than 250 career options, the Military provides countless opportunities for professional and personal development. Learn more about how you can start your journey today.



MILITARY LIFE



Service members experience unparalleled friendships both on and off duty, and are encouraged to pursue interests and hobbies in their free time

Camaraderie on the Job

Work Friends

Sgt. Gibbs and her co-workers have a positive impact on each other's days, making the workday more fun through great conversation and friendly competition. "People are always joking around with each other, laughing and making the day go by faster. It makes you excited to go to work. Most mornings, I'm thinking, 'I can't wait to see my friends at work today.'"

SGT. / CHYNA GIBBS / MARINE CORPS



"We're always encouraging one another to succeed."

Stronger Together

Noor is able to rely on her co-workers for advice when she faces a new challenge. "If I'm trying to plan out a training exercise and feel like I'm getting stuck on the details, the people in my unit will step in to help. They'll give me a different way to think about a problem, either based on their past experience or just by offering a different point of view. We're always encouraging one another to succeed."

PFC. / NOOR HABR / VIRGINIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Colleagues and Confidantes

Because she played sports growing up, Alexis sought team building in her adult life – and found it in the Air Force Reserve. "Our public affairs team is pretty small, but we're always helping each other out. They encourage me, offer help when I need it and give me tips on how to improve on certain skills like video editing."

STAFF SGT. / ALEXIS SUAREZ / AIR FORCE RESERVE



Unbreakable Bonds

While serving part time, Alex has forged strong relationships with his co-workers and looks forward to seeing them during drill weekends. "I typically see my co-workers one weekend a month, but when I see them again, we don't miss a beat. We'll go to lunch together during drill, and we are always cracking jokes with each other. These people are like my second family."

SPC. / ALEX NGUY / ARMY RESERVE

MILITARY LIFE

Friendships Beyond the Uniform ↘



“I know I can call him at any hour and depend on him.”

Luis and his friend love to mountain bike at the trails on base. “Necollier and I have been stationed in North Carolina together for about four years, so literally every opportunity we get, we’re doing something together – barbecues, family events, paintballing, mountain biking.”

SPC. / **LUIS VILLEGAS** / ARMY

Sgt. Gibbs found a supportive group of friends in the Marine Corps, who she relies on not just professionally but personally.

“I’m with Liyah all the time; she loves my dogs and they love her. She’s so full of light, and she understands me, especially since we’ve had similar experiences.”

SGT. / **CHYNA GIBBS** / MARINE CORPS



Brittany and her classmates enjoy exploring the local region together in their free time.

“The greater D.C. area offers many culturally diverse restaurants, and I have appreciated the opportunity to try them with my friends who are also in the Military. It’s nice to work with them and have those relationships transcend the office or classroom.”

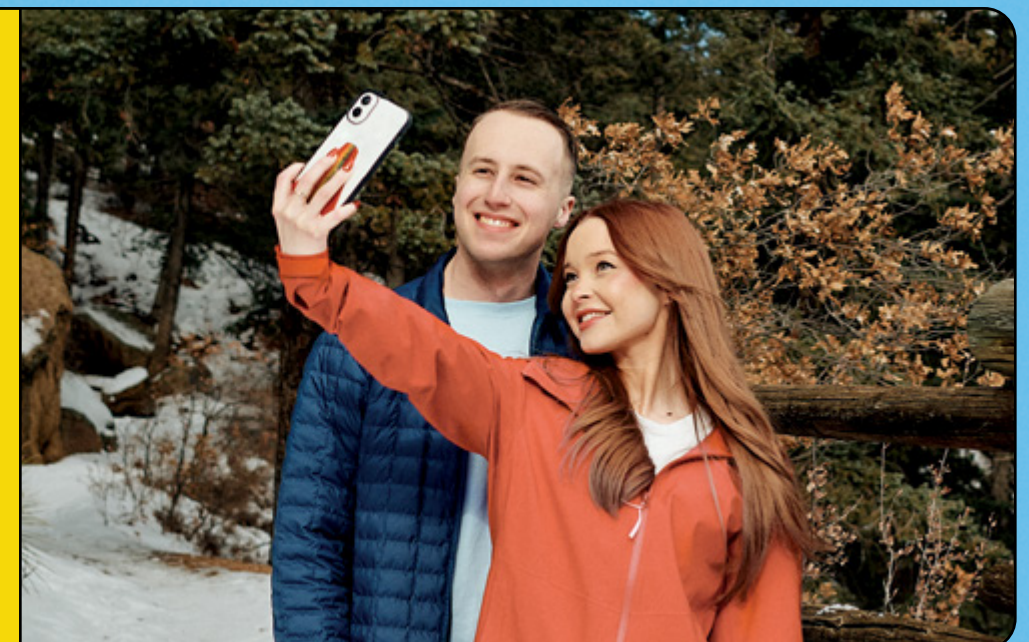
2ND LT. / **BRITTANY HUME-DAWSON** / AIR FORCE



On weekends, Isaac and his friend Ashlyn, who he met through the Space Force, spend time exploring local Colorado trails.

“There’s innate rapport between me and the people I’ve met in the Military. We have this common ground based on our shared experiences that helps us understand each other better.”

SGT. / **ISAAC MAYARD** / SPACE FORCE



Out of Office



“You can rent bicycles, kayaks or paddleboards. I’ve brought my family out here to hang out on the beach!”



Alexis loves using on-base amenities.

“There are monthly events like horseback riding and snorkeling, and the base offers tickets to football, baseball and hockey games,” she says.

STAFF SGT. / **ALEXIS SUAREZ** / AIR FORCE RESERVE



In his free time, Isaac works on his nonprofit. Using the medical training he’s received through the Military, he helps teach CPR to kids in underserved communities.

“I wanted to figure out how to take my training and make it digestible for the people in my community,” he says. “I find local mentoring groups and teach them basic CPR – it’s a skill I think most people should have.”

SENIOR AIRMAN / **ISAAC ESENE** / D.C. AIR NATIONAL GUARD



After volunteering to help at a local grappling club, Joanalicia discovered an interest in teaching kids wrestling and No-Gi, a form of jujitsu performed without a traditional uniform.

“I definitely enjoy teaching kids, helping them develop their grappling skills and developing them as athletes as well,” she says. “Every time I’m teaching, I’m relearning what I know.”

PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS / **JOANALICIA RAMIREZ** / COAST GUARD



Nick started crafting his own wooden displays to showcase his growing collection of military patches and coins.

“I saw how people on YouTube did things and incorporated that into what I wanted to make and put my own twist on it.”

Interest in his work was so high that Nick developed his own small business and now sells his pieces on Etsy.

PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS / **NICK O’SULLIVAN** / NAVY

Though not all service members live on base, they can all take advantage of the amenities offered like:



MOVIE THEATERS



GROCERY STORES



BOWLING ALLEYS



RESTAURANTS



LIBRARIES



VETERINARY SERVICES

In addition to on-base entertainment like youth recreation programs, intramural sports and clubs, the Services’ Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs help service members keep an active social life.

Bases also provide many amenities designed for families, like community pools and splash pads, parks and playgrounds, art centers, and performance venues. **Learn more about things to do on base.**





**“ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.
YOU CAN GENUINELY
LOVE YOUR CAREER AND
LIVE A FULFILLED LIFE IN
THE MILITARY.”**

STAFF SGT. / ALEXIS SUAREZ / AIR FORCE RESERVE

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 TODAY'S
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