

## ***Things to ask a Military Recruiter***

Thinking about the joining the Military as a career choice or as a possible decision to help you reach other goals may be a good idea, but it comes with a major commitment. Involving your family in decisions about your future is a good idea, because no one knows you better.

You will need to talk to a recruiter about questions that you and your parents have. Be prepared and write down any and all questions you have and the answers you get. Here are a few ideas.

### **When do I take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)?**

This is an important test. Everything you do in the military depends upon this score. There are preparation and practice tests online. Military.com and other sites are available to help prepare.

### **How soon will I leave for basic training?**

Joining the military and leaving for basic training are two completely different things. When you join the military, you are qualifying first by testing and second by taking a physical. After qualifying in both areas, you will pick your job and swear-in. You won't leave for basic training at this time. It is important that your recruiter and Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) liaisons know when you are available to leave for basic training.

### **When will I get my job assigned?**

Each branch is different.

### **What documents do I need to start the recruiting process?**

Your recruiter will give you a list of documents you need. They may include government IDs like driver's license, social security card, high

school diploma, birth certificate, college transcripts, medical documents, court documents, etc.

### **Do you need my complete medical and legal history?**

Providing your medical history and/or legal violations work pretty much the same. Providing supporting documentation for medical issues will give you the best possible chance of qualifying for the military. If you decide to start the application process, your recruiter will give you a list of questions. You may be asked for proof that a condition is no longer present or serious. Be upfront and honest with your recruiter. *This list is available if you ask your Transition Coordinator.*

### **Branches of the Military: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Guard and Reserves**

All branches have differences but also have similarities. Here are some questions to ask any recruiter.

- What is your branch and how are you different from others?
- What are the qualifications to join?
- What are some of the benefits of joining?
- Are there bonuses for enlisting now?
- What if I am not a U.S. citizen?
- How long is boot camp?
- What is boot camp like?
- How do I become an officer?
- What Reserve opportunities are there?
- What jobs are there?
- How do I choose my school or specialty?
- Will I be paid while in training?
- Where could I be assigned?
- Can I talk to someone in the service now?

## Parent Questions

Helping to prepare our children for a career in the future is an important part of parenting.

When your child asks about the military, a variety of images and emotions may arise. Providing them with information can help them with the decisions that are right for them.

- How does the military compare with the private sector?
- Do you have to be a U.S. citizen to join?
- When is the next time that I will be able to see my child after they leave for boot camp?
- How often will my child be away from home?
- Will the military prepare my child for a civilian job?
- Can the military help my child pay for college?
- What is the difference between enlisting and commissioning?
- How much will they get paid?
- How long is my child's commitment?
- Could my child get hurt?
- Are there medical benefits?
- How much vacation time will they earn?
- How old does my child have to be to enlist?
- What if my child wants out?
- What sort of training will they receive?
- How can I help?

Answers to these questions and more can be found at <http://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/military-parents-questions.html>.

*\*Information from Military.com website, May 2, 2017.*

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