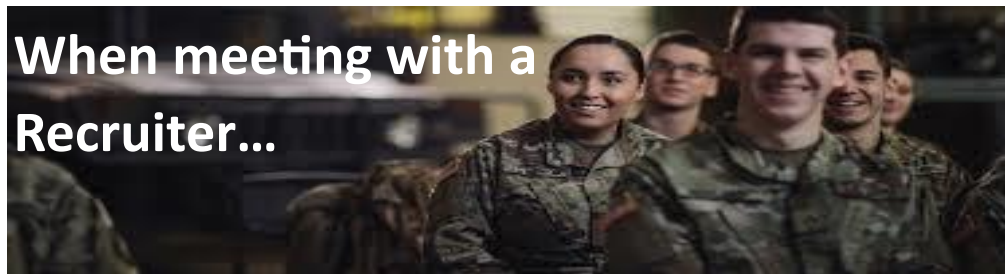




<p><b>Minimum Enlistment Qualifications</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien.</li> <li>• You must be at least 17 years old (17-year-old applicants require parental consent).</li> <li>• You must (with very few exceptions) have a high school diploma.</li> <li>• You must pass a physical medical exam.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Air Force</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be between the ages of 17-39</li> <li>• Have no more than two dependents.</li> <li>• Pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test. (Minimum AFQT score: 36)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Army</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be between the ages of 17-35</li> <li>• Have no more than two dependents.</li> <li>• Pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test. (Minimum AFQT score: 31)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Coast Guard</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be between the ages of 17-27</li> <li>• Have no more than two dependents.</li> <li>• Pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test. (Minimum AFQT score: 40)</li> <li>• Have a willingness to serve on or around the water.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Marines</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet exacting physical, mental and moral standards.</li> <li>• Be between the ages of 17-28</li> <li>• Pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test. (Minimum AFQT score: 32)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Navy</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be between the ages of 17-34</li> <li>• Pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (<a href="#">ASVAB</a>) test. (Minimum AFQT score: 35)</li> </ul>



1. Don't feel intimidated. Remember you are under no obligation when speaking to a recruiter. You may be asked to sign paperwork before taking the [ASVAB](#) and possibly at other steps in the process. This is standard procedure so don't be alarmed. **You have the ability to change your mind at any time before you sign the final enlistment contract.**
2. Go with someone. You may feel more at ease if you take a friend, parent or someone else you trust. Mr. Quinlan is a great resource for questions about Military service and can also help you manage the recruiting process. Remember, recruiters want you to join their branch. They will highlight the benefits but may downplay the challenges. It is highly recommended you take someone with you who can remain objective.
3. Know the ASVAB. You may get the job you want, but to do so, you must score well on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test. But the ASVAB alone doesn't guarantee you'll get the job you want. Military job selection is also based on other specified criteria, such as physical fitness, eyesight, security requirements and education level. Keep in mind the job you want may not be available at the time you are joining. Depending on how important the choice of a particular branch is to you, consider that another branch may offer you the job you want or maybe offers something similar.
4. Be stationed where you want. Some services have programs where they can guarantee your first duty station. Be sure to ask, but remember that after your first unit you could serve anywhere.
5. Get paid more. If you have special training or education, you may qualify to join at a higher rank and [pay](#). Some examples include Junior [ROTC](#), Eagle Scout, and Civil Air Patrol. Ask the recruiter.
6. Choose your start date. Use the Delayed Entry Program to your advantage. Tell your recruiter the earliest date you are able to go to basic training.
7. Choose your commitment. The shortest enlistment contract requires a commitment of two years of active duty and four years in the inactive reserve. The standard enlistment contracts are four or six years of active service, followed by an inactive reserve commitment.
8. Correct the contract before signing. Typos and errors can create problems. Make sure the contract is right before you sign it.
9. Get it in writing. Guarantees such as the military occupational specialty (MOS), bonuses and the college fund must be reflected in the enlistment contract. **The military can help pay for college. Be sure to ask how, especially if this is your primary reason for joining.**
10. Remember you're signing up to be a Soldier, Airman, Sailor, Marine or Coast Guardsman. It is important that you are honest with your recruiter. Don't hesitate to ask questions. You should work to get the job you want, but understand that your role as a service member comes first. Be honest with yourself; serving in the military is not like a regular job. You can't quit when the going gets tough. The military requires diligence, dedication and a commitment to teamwork. Remember, your actions could potentially cost or save lives.