

CTE: THE KEY TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The U.S. Military:

Includes more than

3.3 million



Operates **worldwide**

Adds **billions** each year to state economies²



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U.S. Military & Veterans

Protecting Americans and promoting freedom and peace abroad, the U.S. military:

- includes the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard; the Reserve components of these branches; and the Air National Guard and Army National Guard
- develops many technological innovations that also have commercial use
- provides opportunities across a wide range of career fields

What jobs are available in the U.S. military?

The service branches continually seek new recruits, as service members are promoted through the ranks, retire or leave the military. This includes 60,700 positions projected for Fiscal Year 2017 for the U.S. Army, across 200-plus career options, with particular need in STEM occupations such as satellite communications systems and multi-channel transmission systems operators/maintainers as well as geospatial intelligence imagery analysts, cryptologic linguists and cyber operations specialists.³ STEM jobs are particularly in demand across the branches: The U.S. Navy needs cryptologic technicians and mechanical and electrical gas turbine specialists, while the Marine Corps requires technicians in explosive ordnance disposal.⁴ The Air Force needs Airmen for specialized roles in law enforcement and air base defense.⁵

Pay varies for service members, based on rank, duties, skills and years of service, up to \$16,000 per month.⁶ Service members also receive free housing or a housing allowance, and access to education, health care, retirement and other benefits. These benefits add up: In the Army, the average active duty soldier receives a compensation package worth \$99,000.⁷

Enlisted service members must have a high school diploma or GED and a minimum Armed Forces Qualification Test score, which varies by service branch, while officers need a bachelor's degree.⁸ If the occupational specialty requires it, individuals may need civilian licenses or certifications. Recruiters can provide details on specific requirements. Military service members employ technical, academic and employability skills for a range of occupations in such career areas as:

- logistics
- communications systems
- law enforcement
- health care
- public affairs
- combat support
- aviation
- mechanics



Endnotes

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ARMY: GoArmy.com

NAVY: Navy.com

MARINE CORPS: Marines.com

AIR FORCE: AirForce.com

COAST GUARD: GoCoastGuard.com



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Connecting Education and Careers

How does CTE prepare the military workforce and its veterans?

Career and technical education prepares high school, postsecondary and adult students for careers in the U.S. military and afterward, through:

- the National Career Clusters® Framework, which outlines course progressions that help students explore career options in the 16 Career Clusters, including IT; Transportation, Distribution and Logistics; Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security; and Health Science, among others
- CTE courses in a variety of occupational areas, including STEM fields that prepare students for the military's most in-demand careers
- career guidance resources, such as the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Career Exploration Program (ASVAB CEP), which combines a multiple-aptitude test with an interest self-assessment and a wide range of career exploration tools⁹
- career and technical student organization enrichment experiences, during which students practice technical, leadership and teamwork skills
- stackable credentials such as industry-recognized certifications and licenses, which can earn service members points toward promotion—the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps each help service members find relevant credentials through their respective Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) websites¹⁰

What are CTE pathways for future service members and veterans?

The **Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)** offers leadership development and scholarship opportunities to students at participating colleges, and the **Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)** is the Department of Defense's largest youth program designed to foster leadership skills in high school students, whether or not they choose a career path in the Army.¹¹ JROTC is grouped with CTE programs in some states, including Georgia, and shares many goals with more occupationally focused courses, including the development of leadership, teamwork and communications skills. At **Benjamin E. Mays High School** in Atlanta, the cadets of "Raider Battalion" benefit from a student-centered curriculum focused on character building and civic responsibility, within a military structure that provides a sense of discipline and order. Seven cadets have won the national Legion of Valor Bronze Cross Award for Achievement, the highest award a cadet can earn on merit, and Raider Battalion has maintained the highest possible rating of an Honor Unit with Distinction since 1982.¹²

CTE helps veterans turn their military-honed skills and experience into fulfilling civilian careers. At **community and technical colleges** nationwide, veterans can pursue a postsecondary certificate or associate degree in a CTE area related to their military career. For instance, veterans who worked with electronics equipment might choose to earn a certificate in electrical and power transmission installation or electromechanical systems, two of the higher paying career fields for individuals with less than a bachelor's degree, while accessing support services such as tutoring, priority registration and assistance with veterans education benefits.¹³ Plus, veterans can earn these credentials in less time, as military skills and experience are increasingly recognized for college credit. Veterans with at least four years of service who have passed the five College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP) exams may need only a few additional credits to gain a credential with value in the civilian workforce.¹⁴