

# Frequently Asked Questions

The regular Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard are each important components of the total Army structure. While active duty Soldiers serve full time, Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers serve part-time. Find out more by clicking the links below.



<https://www.goarmy.com/about/serve-in-the-army/serve-your-way.html>

## **ACTIVE DUTY**

### **SERVING FULL TIME**

The Army counts on active duty Soldiers for day-to-day operations. Each Soldier has his or her own specialized training and serves a critical function within his or her unit.

### **WHAT IS ACTIVE DUTY?**

Active duty Soldiers serve in the Army 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the duration of their service commitment. Think of it as working a full-time job.

### **WHERE WILL I LIVE?**

Your living situation will be based on a number of factors, including your unit, your Army job (Military Occupational Specialty), and your deployment status. But generally, you will live on a base, either in a forward area of operations or within the United States.

Most bases have a fitness center, a community pool, parks, walking and biking trails and camping areas. You could also take part in a wide variety of intramural sports, including football, baseball, soccer and Frisbee golf. Soldiers have access to specialized and discounted shopping at the Post Exchange (PX), and you'll find all of the brands you would in the civilian world, but at much more affordable prices.

[Explore Post Locations](#)

### **WHERE WILL MY FAMILY LIVE?**

Both single Soldiers and Soldiers with families may live on an Army base. Single Soldier barracks are equipped with general-purpose washrooms, an apartment-style kitchen area, walk-in closets and a common area. Families are provided with modern housing with yard space, appliances, laundry rooms and a garage.

[Inside look at Post Housing](#)

### **HOW LONG WILL I SERVE?**

Active duty service terms typically last two to six years, but your service length may vary depending on your unit's mission. Soldiers are eligible for a two-week rest and relaxation leave after six months of deployment.

### **WHAT KIND OF JOB WILL I HAVE?**

When you make the decision to join the Army, you will take a test called the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). Think of it as the Army's version of the SAT. It's designed to help the Army understand your skills. Once you complete the test, you'll be able to choose from a list of Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) that match your qualifications.

[Learn more about ASVAB](#)

After you complete [Basic Combat Training \(BCT\)](#), you will then move on to [Advanced Individual Training \(AIT\)](#), where you will become an expert in the MOS you have chosen. Think of it as a technical school for Army Soldiers. After you graduate from your AIT school, you will receive orders to join your unit at your next duty station.

## **ARMY RESERVE & ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (RESERVE COMPONENTS)**

### **SERVING WHEN NEEDED**

Unlike active duty, Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers serve part time, allowing them to earn an extra paycheck, go to school, or work a civilian job while still maintaining many of the benefits of military service.

### **WHAT IS THE ARMY RESERVE COMPONENTS?**

The Army Reserve Components is the Army's pool of extra resources and personnel. Reserve Component Soldiers perform critical Army jobs on a part-time basis.

### **WHEN WILL I SERVE?**

You will spend one weekend a month on duty and two weeks a year in training. Soldiers in the Army Reserve Components may be called to active duty to provide their expertise, they Army National Guard Soldiers may be called to State active duty to provide expertise within their state boarder. Your total service contract length in the Army Reserve or Army National Guard may range from three to six years, depending on your Army Reserve job.

### **WHERE WILL I LIVE?**

Unlike serving on Active Duty, you will be able to live anywhere in the United States. If you are planning on attending college or advancing within your civilian career, Army Reserve Component service will provide you with the flexibility to live where you choose.

### **WHAT'S THE PAY LIKE?**

Even though you will spend a limited amount of your time on duty, Army Reserve Component Soldiers earn competitive salaries, and have access to a wide range of benefits. As a

Private, for example, you will make more than \$3,000 a year, and you'll receive health care, retirement and education benefits. As you move up in rank, your pay increases.

Simply signing up as an Army Reserve Component Soldier may qualify you for a list of bonuses and incentives, including a skills bonus, Officer Candidate School bonus, and a translator aide bonus.

Part of the benefit of becoming a Soldier in the Army Reserve Component is the free time you will have to accomplish your goals. In the Army Reserve Components, not only will you have time to complete school, but you'll have the money for it too. Soldiers qualify for a variety of education funding opportunities for their military service, including the Montgomery GI Bill Kicker, the Army Reserve Education Assistance Program and more.

### **DO ARMY RESERVE GET DEPLOYED?**

Generally, Active Duty Soldiers are the ones who are deployed overseas, while Army Reserve Soldiers fill their positions at home, but there are times of great need when Reserve Component Soldiers may be deployed. Unlike Army Reserve, Army National Guard Soldiers may be called upon by their Governors to State Active Duty to assist in disaster.



**U.S. ARMY**