



GET READY TO BE SURPRISED



All those things you want to accomplish...
you can. In today's Military. See how
these service members are maximizing
their potential, achieving their dreams
and finding fulfilling careers.

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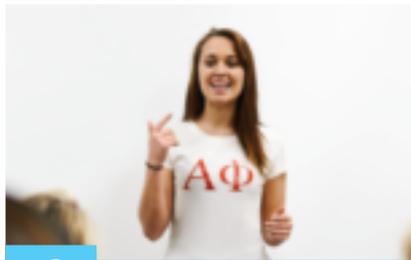
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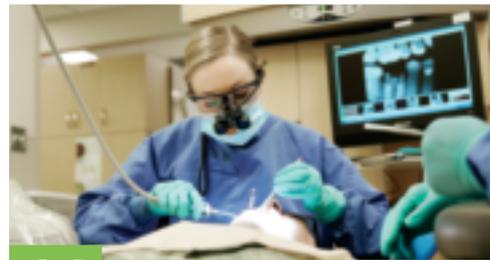
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MEET YOUR FUTURE

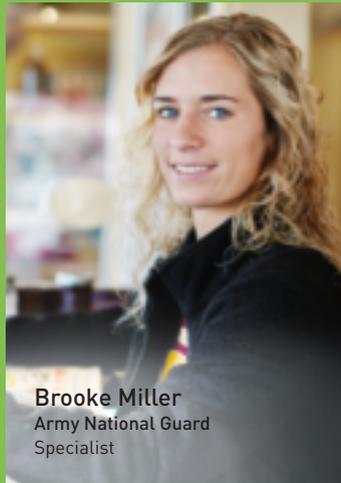
ARMY



Andrew Miltenberger
Army
Staff Sergeant



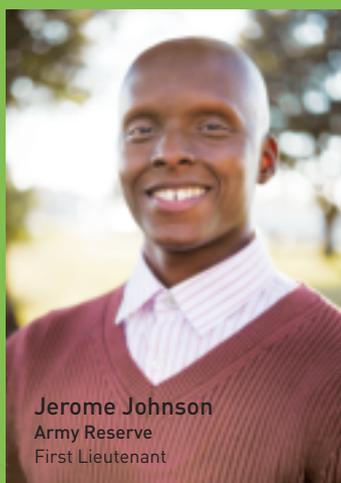
Jillian Seglem
Army
Captain



Brooke Miller
Army National Guard
Specialist



Kevin Lim
Army National Guard
Specialist



Jerome Johnson
Army Reserve
First Lieutenant



Robert Burke
Army Reserve
Sergeant

MARINE CORPS



NAVY



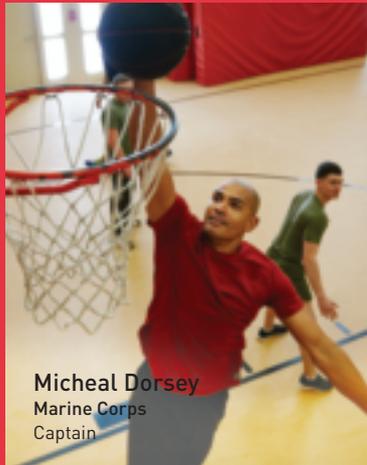
Korey Cunningham
Navy
Petty Officer Second Class



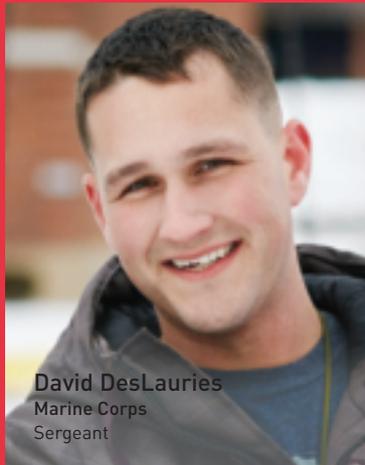
Mellany George
Navy Reserve
Lieutenant Junior Grade

Melody George-Jones
Navy Reserve
Lieutenant Junior Grade

IN TODAY'S MILITARY



Micheal Dorsey
Marine Corps
Captain



David DesLauries
Marine Corps
Sergeant

AIR FORCE

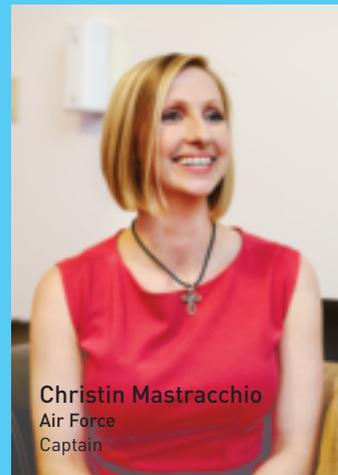


Geoffrey Rigby
Air Force
Staff Sergeant

COAST GUARD



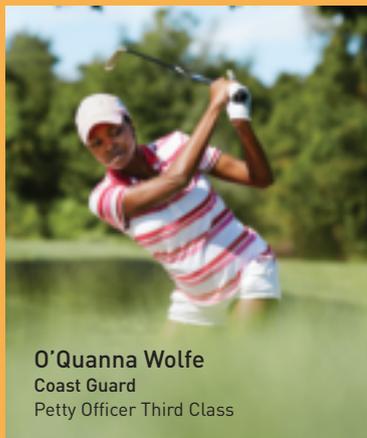
Nathanael Kruse
Coast Guard
Petty Officer Second Class



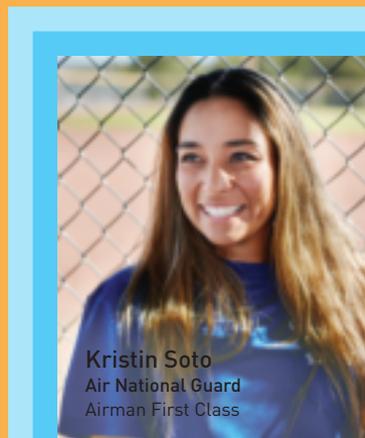
Christin Mastracchio
Air Force
Captain



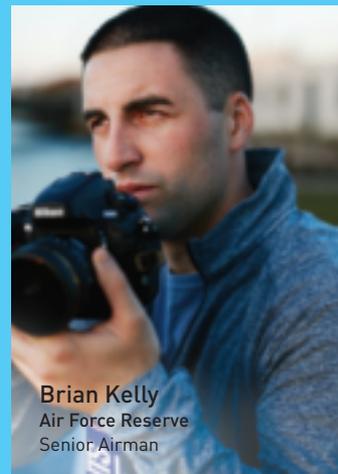
Amanda Lafky
Air National Guard
Senior Airman



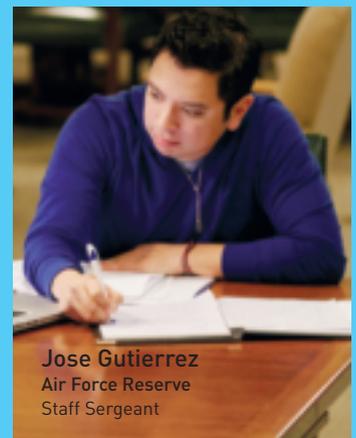
O'Quanna Wolfe
Coast Guard
Petty Officer Third Class



Kristin Soto
Air National Guard
Airman First Class



Brian Kelly
Air Force Reserve
Senior Airman



Jose Gutierrez
Air Force Reserve
Staff Sergeant



WAYS TO SERVE

Service may look different than you expect. It could be full time or part time while balancing a career or school. See why four service members chose the type of service they did.



Each Service has members assigned to full-time service. They're referred to as Active Duty.

Each Service also has a Reserve force made up of service members who balance full-time civilian careers while serving in the Military. The Reserve components combine an individual's civilian experience with military skills. Reservists can be called to Active Duty to support mission needs.

The Army National Guard and Air National Guard are community-based, but they are controlled by state governors unless called to serve federally during domestic and international emergencies or to support military objectives. Members of the National Guard hold civilian jobs or attend college while conducting their military training part time.

David works on a helicopter rotor.



ACTIVE DUTY

FULL SPEED TOWARD A CAREER

C

HOOSING ACTIVE DUTY came down to the desire to move forward — faster — for Marine Corps Sgt. David DesLauries. “I wanted to be able to start my career right off the bat,” he says. “I wanted to start off quickly, pay my dues and move ahead.” And that’s just what he did by joining full time.

As a helicopter crew chief, David serves as the definitive expert on his aircraft. “I monitor the security and mechanics of the aircraft,” he says. If something breaks midflight, David springs into action. He has even flown with the president of the United States. “That was probably the most nerve-racking thing ever,” he says. “But it was really cool.”

Now David is not only a crew chief, but also a leader. “Becoming an instructor pushed me to excel even more because I wasn’t just doing my job, I was teaching others how to do theirs.”

“I wanted to be able to start my career right off the bat.”

— Marine Corps Sgt. David DesLauries

Melody (left) and Mellany inspect a missile at a Missile Defense Agency testing facility.



TWO TIMES THE OPPORTUNITY

MELLANY GEORGE and Melody George-Jones have a lot more in common than a last name and a military rank. Mellany and Melody are twins from Birmingham, Ala., and have been nearly inseparable since birth. “Our mom always tried to make sure we were in the same classes,” Melody says. “Even in high school,

most of the classes were the same. I think the only difference was that I took French and she took Spanish.”

The twins work alongside each other at their civilian jobs with the Missile Defense Agency, and they even decided to join the Navy Reserve together. Today, Mellany and Melody are enrolled in the intensive Navy Reserve Engineering Duty Officer Program, after which they’ll serve in engineering positions that can include ship or submarine design and repair, and developing and maintaining weapons and communications systems.

“I like that in the Reserve, you can choose where you live and where you go.”

— **Navy Reserve Lt. j.g. Mellany George**

Part-time service provides flexibility, allowing Mellany and Melody plenty of time to pursue civilian careers. “I like being in the Reserve as a woman,” Melody says. “Once a month, you have to become a military person, but otherwise you can get your nails done and you can wear some color some days — you have an opportunity to show your creative side.”



Kevin checks the underside of a Humvee.

“In college, I wasn’t exactly sure what I wanted to do,” Kevin says. “I wanted to experience more things in life before I committed to a career. I thought the Military would be a great way for me to experience different cultures and get a new perspective on things.”

“I decided to join the Guard because I’m able to live at home and still serve my country.”

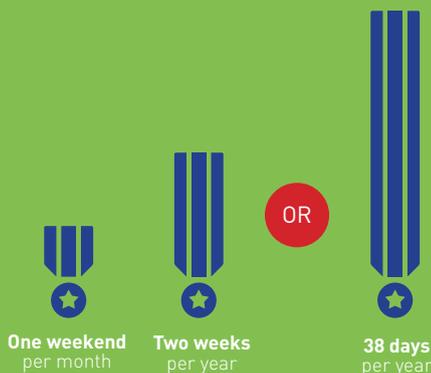
— *Maryland Army National Guard Spc. Kevin Lim*

Kevin found his calling in the Maryland National Guard, and as a specialist, he has the time and flexibility to pursue his civilian career as a police officer as well. “The police academy is a mixture of college and basic training,” Kevin says. “The police force takes a lot of things you see in the Military and incorporates them into an everyday environment.”

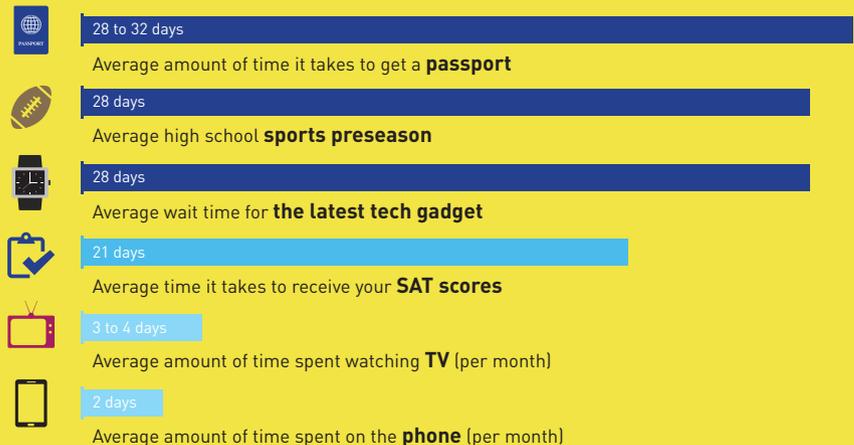
GIVING BACK to both the nation and his local community is what motivated Kevin Lim to choose the Maryland Army National Guard. Knowing he could live and work where he grew up was another plus. “Growing up, I’d always wanted to join the Military,” Kevin says. “I decided to join the Guard because I’m able to live at home and still serve my country.”

HOW CAN SERVICE FIT INTO YOUR LIFE?

Military Reserve and Guard service members serve an average of one weekend per month and two weeks a year, or an average of 38 days per year.



The average person spends 7X more time on the Internet than service members spend serving in the Reserve and Guard. Check out how else we spend our time.



Learn More: todaysmilitary.com/joining/types-of-military-service • www.bls.gov/news.release/atus.t11.htm • www.bls.gov/news.release/atus.nr0.htm • www.mobilestatistics.com/mobile-news/23-days-a-year-spent-on-your-phone.aspx • travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports/information/processing-times.html • sat.collegeboard.org/scores/availability • en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Season_%28sports%29 • www.cnn.com/id/102575962

**A SMART
MILITARY
ISA**

Service members aren't only encouraged to get a higher education, they're empowered to do so. Every branch offers programs to help pay for college, earn advanced degrees and gain experience before, during and even after you serve. Meet three young people who have taken advantage of the Military's educational benefits to prepare for their careers and beyond.

**TRONG
MILITARY**



Amanda studies with classmates in the University of Wisconsin-Stout library.

STUDIES, SORORITY AND SERVICE: THE PERFECT COLLEGE COMBO

WHAT DOES IT MEAN to have a “normal” college experience? If you’re anything like Senior Airman Amanda Lafky, it means being an actively engaged member of her campus community and finding new ways to get involved in her school’s academic and social programs. In addition to managing a full course load, Amanda is involved with several organizations on campus, including her sorority, for which she serves on the executive board. And on top of it all, she still makes time for the part-time job she’s passionate about: being a sports photographer for her school, the University of Wisconsin–Stout in Menomonie, Wis.

But how exactly does Amanda manage such a busy schedule while excelling academically and still finding time to hang out with her friends? She relies on the organizational skills she learned in the Wisconsin Air

National Guard — an important, perhaps unexpected, part of her life.

“It takes my friends by surprise to learn that I’m in the Military, and that I have been for the past few years,” Amanda says. “I think people expect everyone in the Military to act and appear a certain way, but I’m just this girly girl who wears heels to class and does her makeup every day.”

For Amanda, serving in the Wisconsin Air National Guard doesn’t define her as a person, but she says it’s given her the tools she needed to become the best version of herself. “My decision to join was kind of spontaneous, actually. Growing up, I never really thought about joining the Military and I didn’t know a whole lot about it,” Amanda says. “When I was in high school, the only thing I knew for sure was that I wanted to go to college, and I didn’t really want to put it on hold.”

“I knew I wanted to be really involved. I wanted to be in a sorority and in a bunch of clubs. But when other opportunities came up, like being a sports photographer, I wanted those, too. I’ve always had a normal college experience because I always wanted to have one.”

**— Wisconsin Air National Guard Senior Airman
Amanda Lafky**



But after learning about the Air National Guard from a family friend, Amanda’s heart was set on joining. “Before that, I had never even heard of the Guard, and she just kept telling me all these great things about it, like how it could help me pay for school,” Amanda says. And, as a part-time service member — attending drill weekends once a month and two weeks of military training each year — she would be able to have the normal college experience she’d always wanted.

To help pay for school, Amanda takes advantage of the Wisconsin National Guard Tuition Grant Program, which provides financial reimbursement to eligible student Guardsmen. She also receives monthly payments through Chapter 1606 of the Montgomery GI Bill. “What I love about Chapter 1606 is that it basically helps me pay my rent each month!”

Through the Wisconsin Air National Guard, Amanda is truly having the “best of both worlds.” “I’m basically getting paid to be a student, which is awesome.”



(Clockwise from top) Amanda speaks to her sorority, takes photos of the university's baseball team practice, and walks through campus with a friend.



Robert participates in a study group on the campus of Baton Rouge Community College.

PART-TIME SOLDIER, FULL-TIME STUDENT

A **BALANCE** between service, career and education was what Robert Burke was looking for. He joined the active-duty Army after high school, but always knew he wanted to go to college and pursue a civilian career, too. "My sister's a civil engineer, and then my old roommate was a chemical engineer," Robert says. "And just hearing what they did interested me a lot. And I knew I wanted to go into the engineering field."

Robert found the balance he craved when he joined the Army Reserve after a few years of active-duty service. He is now studying petroleum engineering at Baton Rouge Community College in Louisiana, and spends his battle assembly, or drill weekends, as a specialist and intelligence analyst with the Army Reserve.

Attending college as an Army Reserve Soldier helps Robert find balance in his life and pay for his education, too. "It's great," he says. "Especially for college students — you get forty-five hundred dollars a year for tuition assistance (location dependent)." Robert enjoys that he can have a normal college life while being part of the Army Reserve community. "You'll be surrounded with like-minded people who are trying to excel at their own personal goals. You have a good foundation and a good support system. You're around a great group of people and they'll help you do well in life."



PATH TO THE IVY LEAGUE

JOSE GUTIERREZ'S CAREER hasn't been a straight line, but his zigs and zags have taken him from Active Duty to the Reserve and from Security Forces to the Ivy League.

Jose started thinking about joining the Military in high school. "In all honesty, I wanted an adventure," he says. "I wanted to see places, meet people and do things. I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life yet, but I did know that I wasn't ready to commit to a life of monotony and predictable routine."

Jose joined the Air Force in a full-time, active-duty capacity, but after a few years he felt called to help others in a different way and turned his attention and efforts to becoming a nurse. He started taking prerequisite courses, transitioned to the Air Force Reserve and enrolled in nursing school.

But he didn't stop there. Today, Jose, already a registered nurse and a staff sergeant, is a graduate student at Yale University working toward his master's degree, and eventually his doctorate, in nursing, with a concentration on global health. His end goal is to become a nursing professor.

With all this on his plate, Jose is still committed to the Military as a bioenvironmental engineering technician. Over his drill weekends, Jose ensures that fellow Airmen's work environments are safe, which complements his civilian career and studies. "My military job has given me another perspective on investigating how a patient's environment, occupation and activities may be affecting their health."

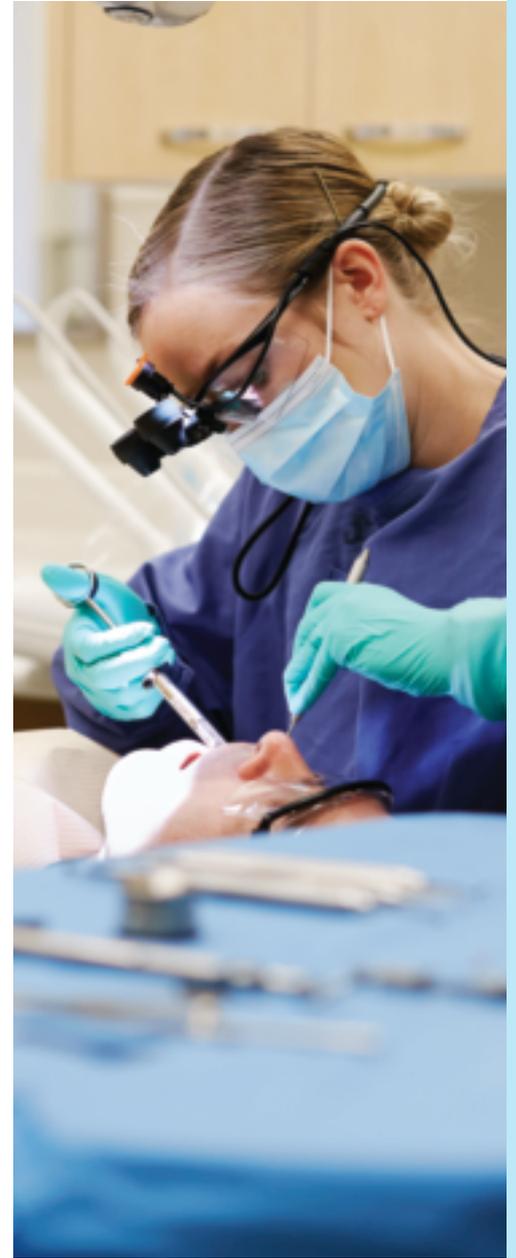
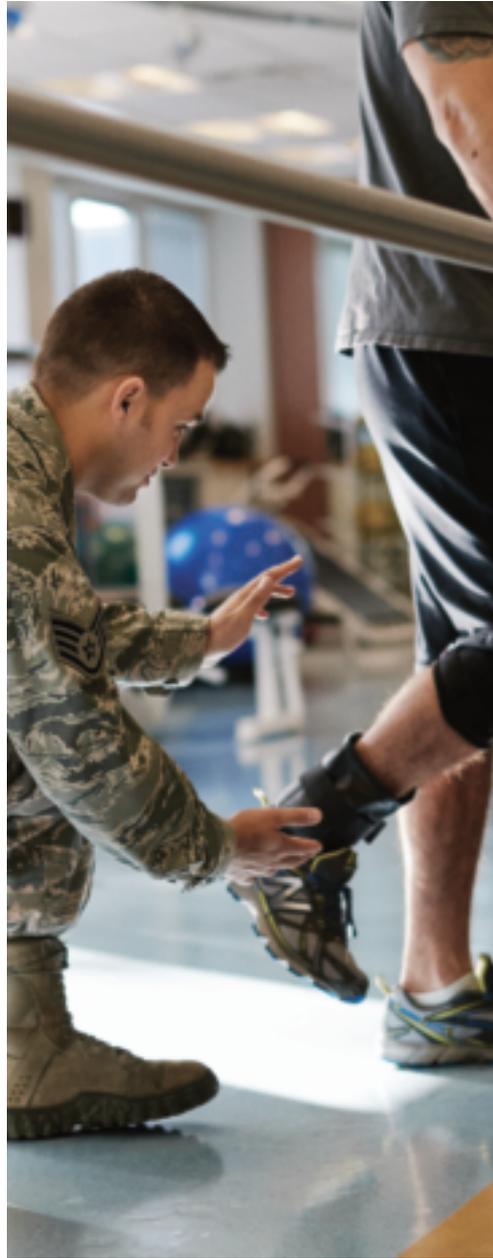
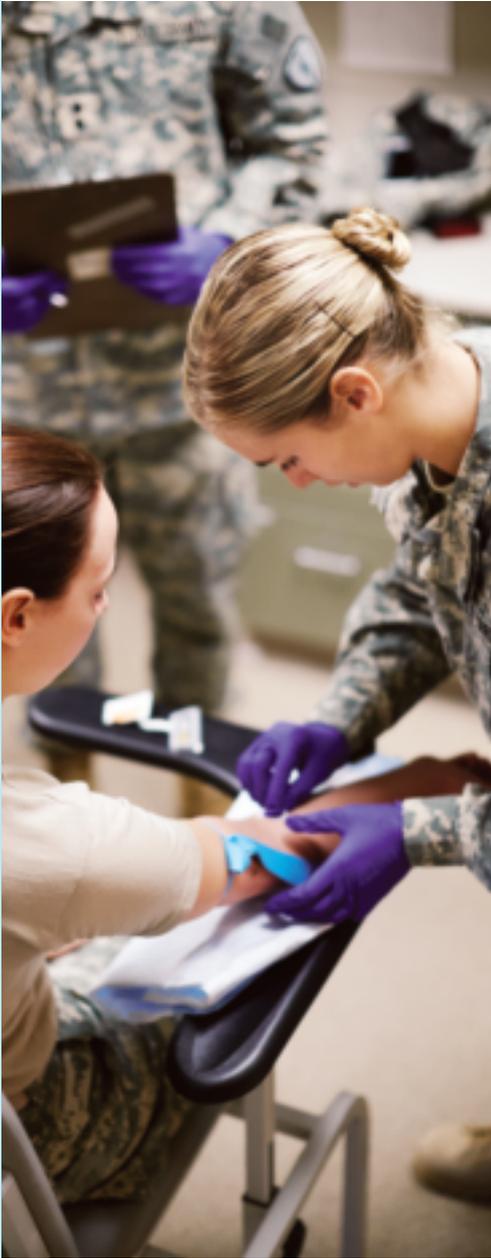


A young man with dark hair, wearing a blue zip-up hoodie, is seated at a wooden table in a library. He is looking down at a piece of paper he is holding in his left hand, while his right hand rests on a pen over a binder on the table. The background is a blurred library interior with bookshelves and warm lighting.

“I’m probably the only nurse practitioner student who knows how to fire an M4 carbine with a grenade launcher. Should the zombie apocalypse happen, I’m prepared to either heal or terminate.”

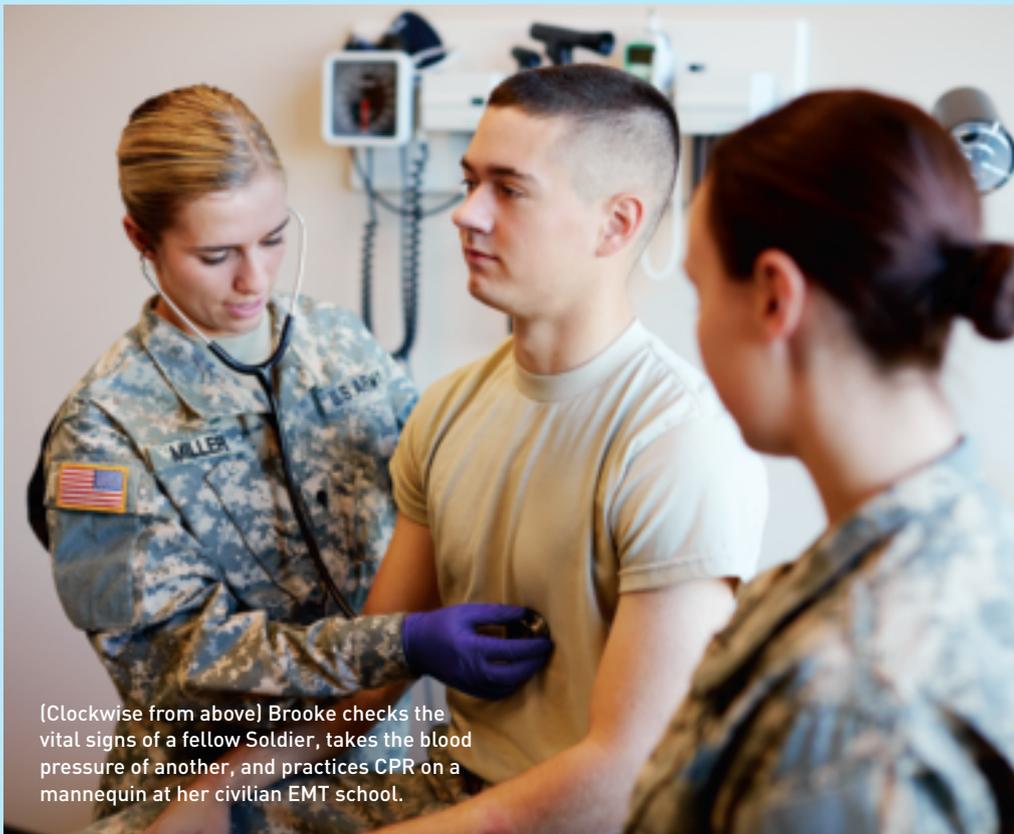
**— Air Force Reserve Staff Sgt.
Jose Gutierrez**

Jose reviews notes in one of the libraries on Yale’s campus (above). Jose tests a substance while on duty (top left), examines a patient (middle left), and socializes with friends at an on-campus pub (bottom left).

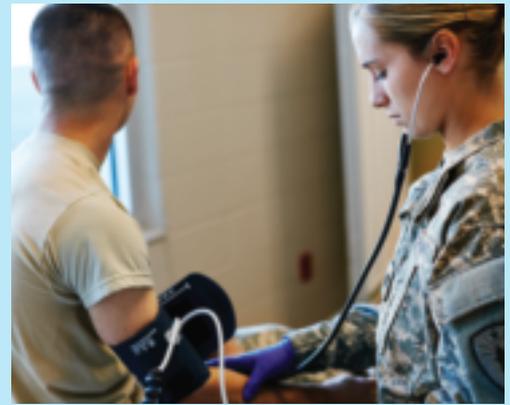


FUTURES IN MEDICINE

Doctor. Dentist. Nurse. EMT. Physical therapist. Careers in health care are booming. And military health care is no exception.



(Clockwise from above) Brooke checks the vital signs of a fellow Soldier, takes the blood pressure of another, and practices CPR on a mannequin at her civilian EMT school.



PASSION FOR MEDICINE NO MATTER THE UNIFORM



N **O** ONE wants to find themselves in a situation where an ambulance is required. But if you did, you'd probably want Indiana Army National Guard Spc. Brooke Miller to respond.

"At that moment, everything else in the world doesn't matter," says Brooke. "You just focus on the one task that you have to do: take care of your patient and get them to where they need to go."

That focus and determination have marked Brooke's career as an Indiana Army National Guard medic. Today, Brooke finds herself a step ahead of her peers as she pursues her lifelong passion for the medical field.

"I started Basic Training right after high school graduation. By that December, I received my national EMT certification

“
One of my instructors had a huge influence on me. He always said, ‘Don’t say you want to do something. Say you are going to do it.’ So now I just say I am going to do something – like become a paramedic. Then I go out and do it.

— *Indiana Army National Guard Spc. Brooke Miller*

through the Guard. When I returned home, I immediately began work as an EMT and began studying to become a paramedic. The situations and training I received in the Guard definitely gave me a jump start on my education.”

Today, as she continues her college classwork financed through the Army National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance program, Brooke has her sights focused on the future.

“My immediate goal is to join the fire department so I can get more experience working 911 and trauma situations while I earn my paramedic certification. From there, I can pursue a paramedic to registered nurse track to ultimately work in an emergency department or intensive care unit.”

“Whatever path I take, I know I’ll be helping people, and the Guard will help me get there.”

TAKING PRIDE IN HELPING OTHERS

“FROM a practical standpoint, people will always need care,” Air Force Staff Sgt. Geoffrey

Rigby says. “So to me, pursuing a career in medicine always seemed like a smart business decision, with the added benefit of giving back and helping others.” This is a lesson that Geoffrey learned from those closest to him: His two grandmothers were nurses, and his dad had a career as an X-ray and cardiology technician.

With his sights set on a career in the medical field from an early age,

Geoffrey began his studies in high school through a program designed to provide students the opportunity to take foundational classes in anatomy, biology and other health care-related studies. He was even certified as an EMT. Then two years of additional studies in junior college led to a crossroads.

“I really wanted to gain real-world experience outside of the classroom, and the Military is the place where that can happen.”

His background in health care helped Geoffrey quickly expand his studies to specialize in rehabilitative physical

and occupational therapies. Today, Geoffrey is on voluntary assignment in London, treating fellow service members with shoulder, knee and back issues stemming from duty- and sports-related injuries or issues.

After years spent learning every part of the human anatomy, every bodily function and system, and being trained on numerous technologies, Geoffrey’s career comes down to one thing: “Regardless of everything you learn, doing this job requires people skills, because I’m not repairing a plane or a car. My medium is a human being.”

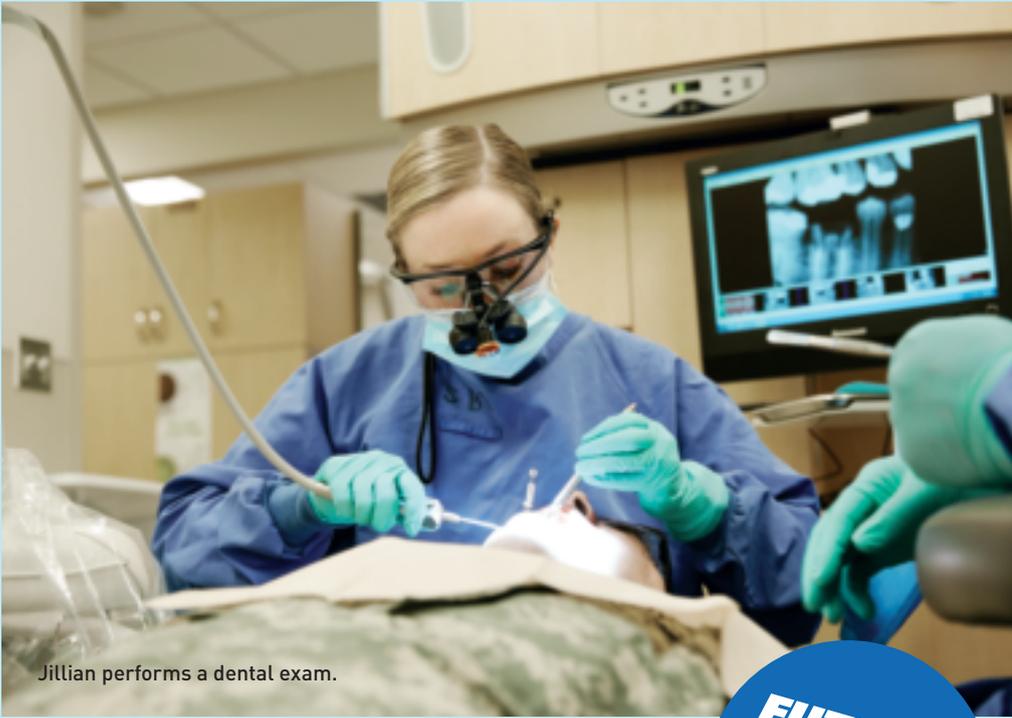
“
It’s rewarding to help my fellow service members regain their strength and get back to doing what they joined to do – what they love to do – defending our country.

— *Air Force Staff Sgt. Geoffrey Rigby*

”



Geoffrey monitors a fellow Airman as he runs on a zero-gravity treadmill.



Jillian performs a dental exam.



DEGREE IN DENTISTRY: PAID IN FULL

“A **NYTHING** but dentistry,” is how Army Capt. Jillian Seglem once thought about her future medical career. She knew she wanted to help people but wasn’t sure exactly how.

But after joining an undergraduate program to shadow doctors and nurses, Jillian realized that dentistry offered what she wanted.

“I wanted one-on-one time with my patients,” she says. “I didn’t want to just float in and out of the room in two seconds. Dentistry offers that dynamic, and each case is different, which I really like.”

With a path chosen, paying for dental school became the next challenge. A typical four-year dental program can leave graduates buried under hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt before they even begin to gain practical clinical experience.

“
Our Soldiers are so important, but there’s always a family behind them. It’s a privilege to serve the families of our service members and make sure they’re getting the best care possible.
”

— Army Capt. Jillian Seglem

”

“I never realized I could do both the Military and dental college. But as I investigated more, I discovered that not only could I get four years of college paid for, but I would also leave with my feet firmly on a career path. That’s a pretty good deal.”

Today, Jillian provides care to her fellow Soldiers and their families stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., one of the largest Army bases in the country. She has cared for U.S. and international troops overseas as well.

“In private practice, you are generally your own boss — you work by yourself or with maybe one other dentist. But here, you have many fellow dentists with varying experience levels and different specialties. It’s great mentorship.”

As Jillian continues to grow and learn — she is currently studying to be a pediatric dentist — one thing is certain: Her service in the Army opened up a world of possibilities for her.

DID YOU KNOW?

The average U.S. physician has

\$176,348

worth of medical school debt.

Through the Health Professions Scholarship Program, the Military covers the complete cost of medical school tuition and living expenses, as well as required books, equipment and supplies.



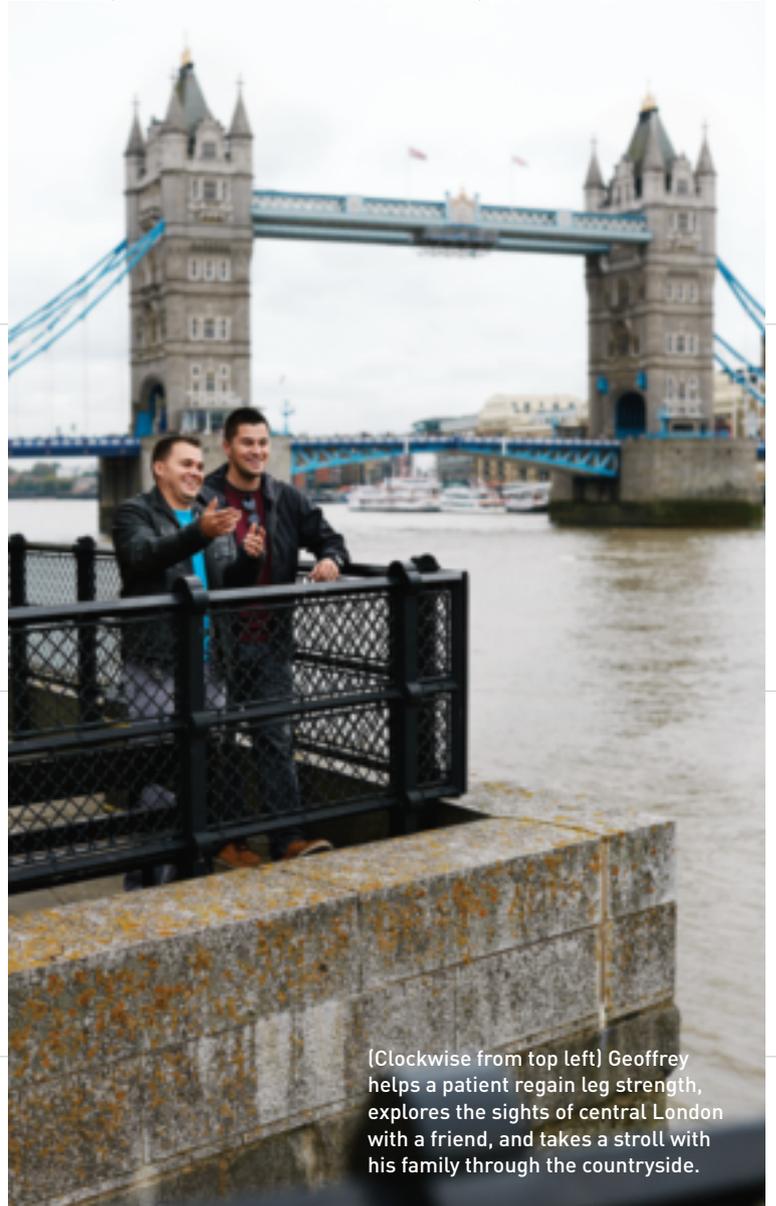
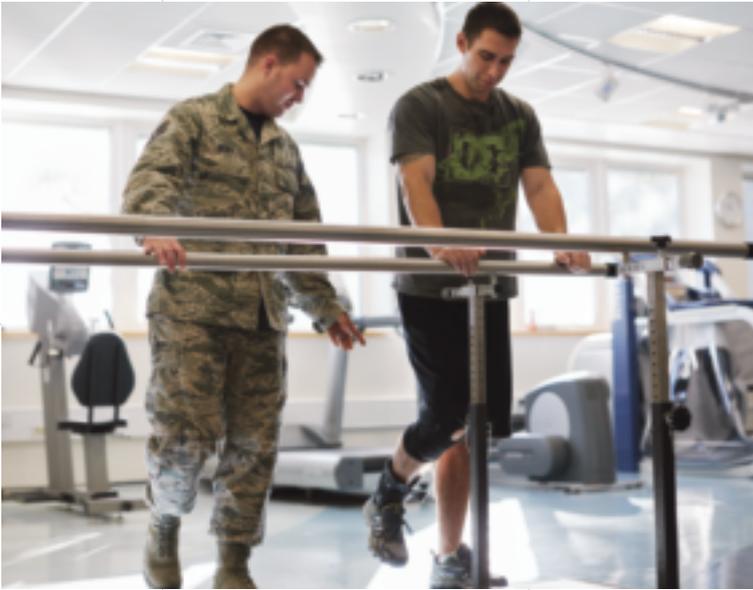
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Learn More: www.aamc.org/download/152968/data/debtfactcard.pdf • medicineandthemilitary.com/officer-and-medical-training/medical-school

A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

We all strive to do something we love. In the Military, that dream job could take you across the globe to places you never thought you'd get the chance to see.





(Clockwise from top left) Geoffrey helps a patient regain leg strength, explores the sights of central London with a friend, and takes a stroll with his family through the countryside.

PROVIDING CARE ABROAD



Name
Geoffrey Rigby

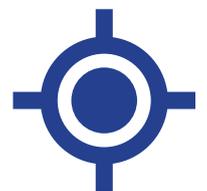
Location
Lakenheath, Suffolk, UK

Career
Air Force Physical Medicine Technician

WHEN HE HEARD he could pursue what he loves and do it overseas, Geoffrey Rigby jumped at the chance.

Geoffrey requested an assignment abroad, identifying several bases where he would like to be sent. Now stationed at Royal Air Force (RAF) Lakenheath in England, Geoffrey helps patients on the road to recovery like he did in the States, but he also gets to explore Europe.

“This is one of the central hubs of the world right now,” he says. “You can fly anywhere, anytime. It’s an amazing opportunity to travel.” Even exploring sites close to the base provides new experiences for Geoffrey and his family. “Knowing that the building down the street was built in 675 A.D., and that (it) was being renovated when the Constitution was being signed in the United States — that’s something.”



DIVING INTO THE ARMY



Name Andrew Miltenberger	Location Panama City Beach, Fla.
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Career Army Diver and Diving Instructor

IT WAS THE TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES and a strong community that first sparked Andrew Miltenberger's interest in the Army after high school. "That was one of the main reasons why I joined," he says. "And I just really wanted to be part of a community, a structure."

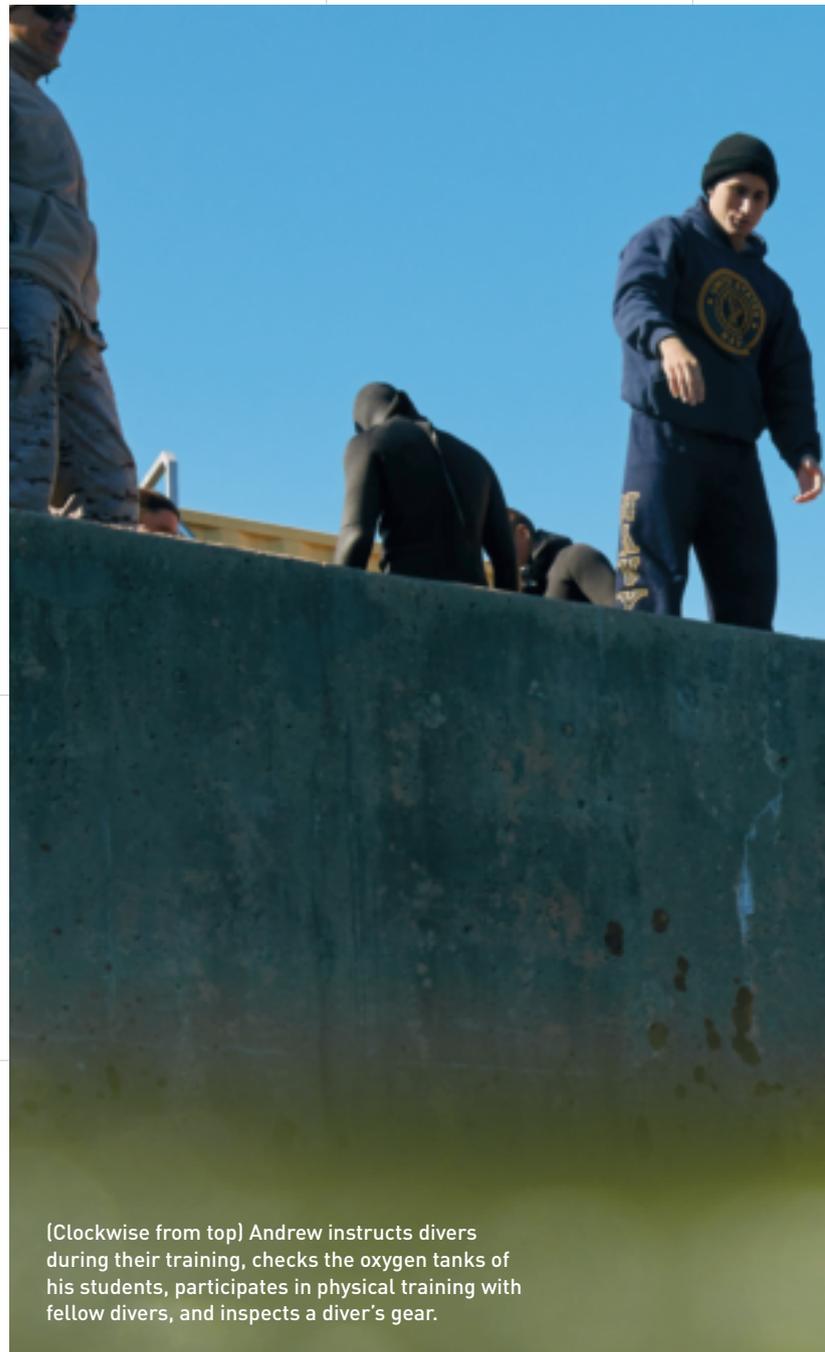
Today, Andrew takes full advantage of each of these through his career as an Army diver and diving instructor. As a first-class diver, he conducts small tasks and larger missions, ranging from salvage work to engineering projects. He even diagnoses and treats diving-related injuries. As an instructor, he's responsible for leading groups of Soldiers through a 26-week introductory diving school, both in the classroom and in the water.

Thanks to his Army diving missions, Andrew has had the opportunity to travel all over the world — from Germany to Bahrain to Haiti. And because he conducts his job in the water, he has been able to experience these different parts of the world in a unique way. He has explored everything from the deep blue of the Bahamas to the frigid waters of the Pacific Northwest.

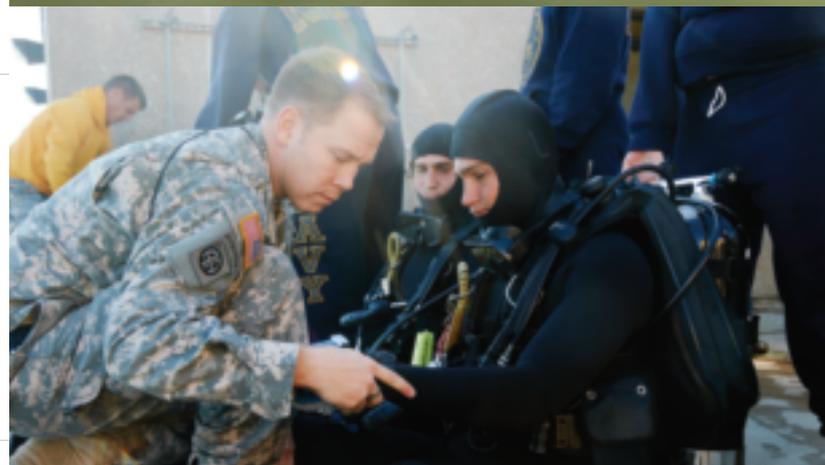
Whether instructing and mentoring new divers at his home base in Panama City Beach, Fla., or traveling the world with his team, Andrew loves being a part of the Army's tight-knit diving community — especially as a teacher and leader.

"Being in the classroom, you see how they develop," he says. "It's my job to give them all the information and tools to succeed."

Andrew says he couldn't be more thankful for all the Army has given him. "You're going to grow up. You're going to be able to travel. You're going to get some experience, and you're going to network. And if you don't know what to do, then the Military will give you time to figure it out."



(Clockwise from top) Andrew instructs divers during their training, checks the oxygen tanks of his students, participates in physical training with fellow divers, and inspects a diver's gear.





**“You’re going to grow up.
You’re going to be able to travel.
You’re going to get some experience,
and you’re going to network.”**

— Army Staff Sgt. Andrew Miltenberger



EXPLORING COAST TO COAST



Name Nathanael Kruse	Location San Juan, Puerto Rico
Career Coast Guard Maritime Enforcement Specialist	



Nathanael snorkels off the coast of San Juan (above) and instructs colleagues in proper law enforcement techniques (left).

NATHANAEL KRUSE'S DREAM JOB in law enforcement has taken him from Hawaii to Greece to his current duty station in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and has set him up for his future. "Ever since I was a little boy, I've enjoyed exploring and discovering things," Nathanael says. "Now, as an adult, being able to discover new cultures, environments and customs has allowed me to grow and mature as a person, and I have the Coast Guard to thank for that."

As a maritime enforcement specialist on the Coast Guard Cutter *Farallon*, Nathanael is in charge of maintaining the cutter's armory. He has also taken on a leadership role in his unit by becoming an instructor, providing weapons and law enforcement training for more junior members. "It's very rewarding," he says. "They get so excited, not just because they qualified, but because they can now contribute and be a part of our team."

"Being able to discover new cultures, environments and customs has allowed me to grow and mature as a person, and I have the Coast Guard to thank for that."

— *Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Nathanael Kruse*

Nathanael says the Coast Guard has armed him with the skills to be successful outside the Military, whether with a local police department or the FBI — two options he is considering. "And it's not just law enforcement," he says. "All the skills that I've been taught and the qualities, like dedication, character and determination — they are intangible, and the Military gave them to me."





Korey bowls on base with colleagues (above) and changes the hymnal display in the base chapel (right).



“This is a quiet place where they can come and take a break from their world. They thank us for providing this place where they can come to relax and think.”

— Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Korey Cunningham

EXPANDING WORLDVIEWS



Name
Korey Cunningham

Location
Newport, R.I.

Career
Navy Religious Program Specialist

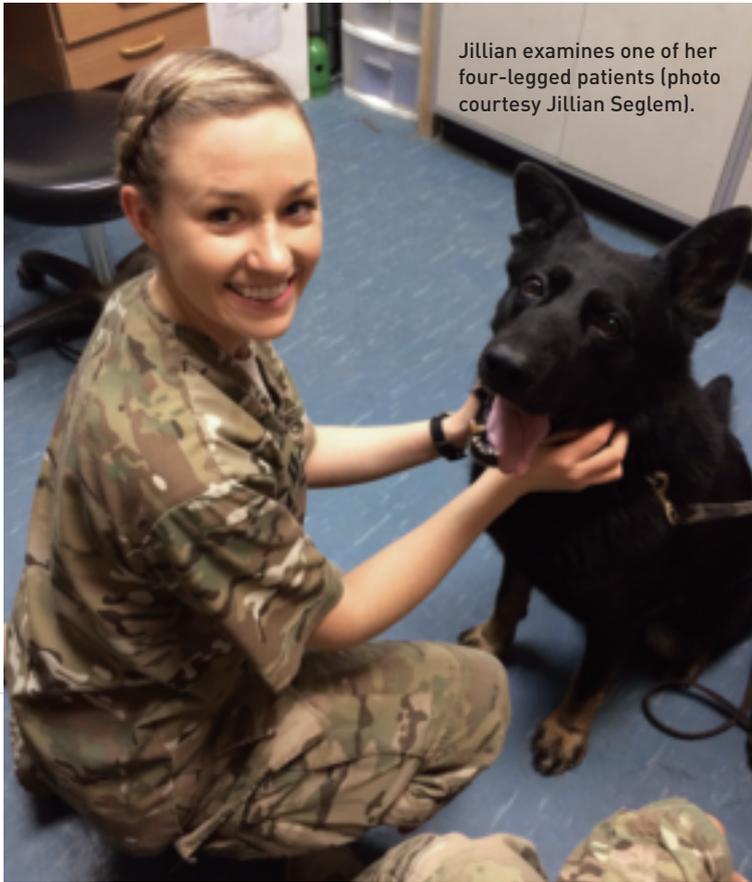
FOR KOREY CUNNINGHAM, expanding his worldview takes place right here in the U.S. As a religious program specialist stationed in Newport, R.I., Korey assists the Navy chaplain in taking care of fellow Seamen’s spiritual needs. This means learning the practices and traditions of religions he had previously known little about.

“I set up the space for the different (faith) services, so I’ve been introduced to the Jewish and the Muslim traditions,” Korey says. “I know where to set up prayer rugs and which direction Mecca is.” He also runs services for a variety of Christian denominations.

It was a job that sparked his interest as soon as he heard it existed. “I said, ‘What’s this?’” Korey says. “And I thought, ‘That’s what I want to do.’” In addition to organizing religious programs and events on base, he is responsible for the chapel’s finances and running food drives for the local community. He can even be called upon to protect the chaplain if needed.

Korey observes that students from the base’s Naval Academy Preparatory School visit the chapel, not necessarily for a religious service, but for some peaceful reflection. “This is a quiet place where they can come to take a break from their world,” Korey says. “They thank us for providing this place where they can come to relax and think.”





Jillian examines one of her four-legged patients (photo courtesy Jillian Seglem).



David is trained to work on helicopters, but when disaster struck in Japan, he sprang into action on a humanitarian mission.

CANINES AND K9s

	Name Jillian Seglem	Location Bagram, Afghanistan
	Career Army Dentist	

FOR JILLIAN SEGLEM, being deployed to Afghanistan meant providing dental care to her fellow service members from the U.S. and around the world, regardless of age, rank — or species.

“In addition to providing care for human service members, we provided care for the working dogs that play such an important part in the Military,” she says. “Service dogs actually have a rank, the same as their human counterparts. And they serve just as honorably. It was great to be able to give back to them and bring them comfort in such a faraway place.”



FINDING NEW WAYS TO HELP

	Name David DesLauries	Location Fukushima, Japan
	Career Marine Corps Helicopter Crew Chief	

TRAGEDY STRUCK JAPAN when David DesLauries was on leave in Malaysia with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. A massive earthquake and subsequent tsunami destroyed parts of the country and badly damaged the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. Within hours, David was on his way to Japan to provide humanitarian relief, deliver badly needed supplies and rescue victims from destroyed buildings.

“It was a very rewarding experience,” he says. “Knowing that we were able to help people and doing something that our unit was meant for. We weren’t just training. We were doing our jobs. The thing we all joined to do.”



UNEXPECTED ADVENTURES



Name
Amanda Lafky

Location
Mildenhall, Suffolk, UK

Career
Wisconsin Air National Guard Personnelist

THE PLANNED CLOSURE of the Royal Air Force Mildenhall in Suffolk, England, was Amanda Lafky's opportunity to travel. She volunteered to serve on an Air National Guard transition team that oversaw the base's day-to-day operations.

“At this point in my life, I don't think I would have had the opportunity to have that kind of travel experience without the Military.”

— Wisconsin Air National Guard Senior Airman Amanda Lafky

“From the crowds and shops of London to the White Cliffs of Dover, getting to experience serving overseas with some of my really great friends, who share my passion for the Military and travel, was really rewarding,” she says.



Amanda visits a classic phone booth with friends while deployed in London (above, photo courtesy Amanda Lafky), and counsels a fellow service member on her military benefits (right).



DID YOU KNOW?

You can do just about anything in the Military.



There are more than

4,100

different jobs in the Armed Forces,

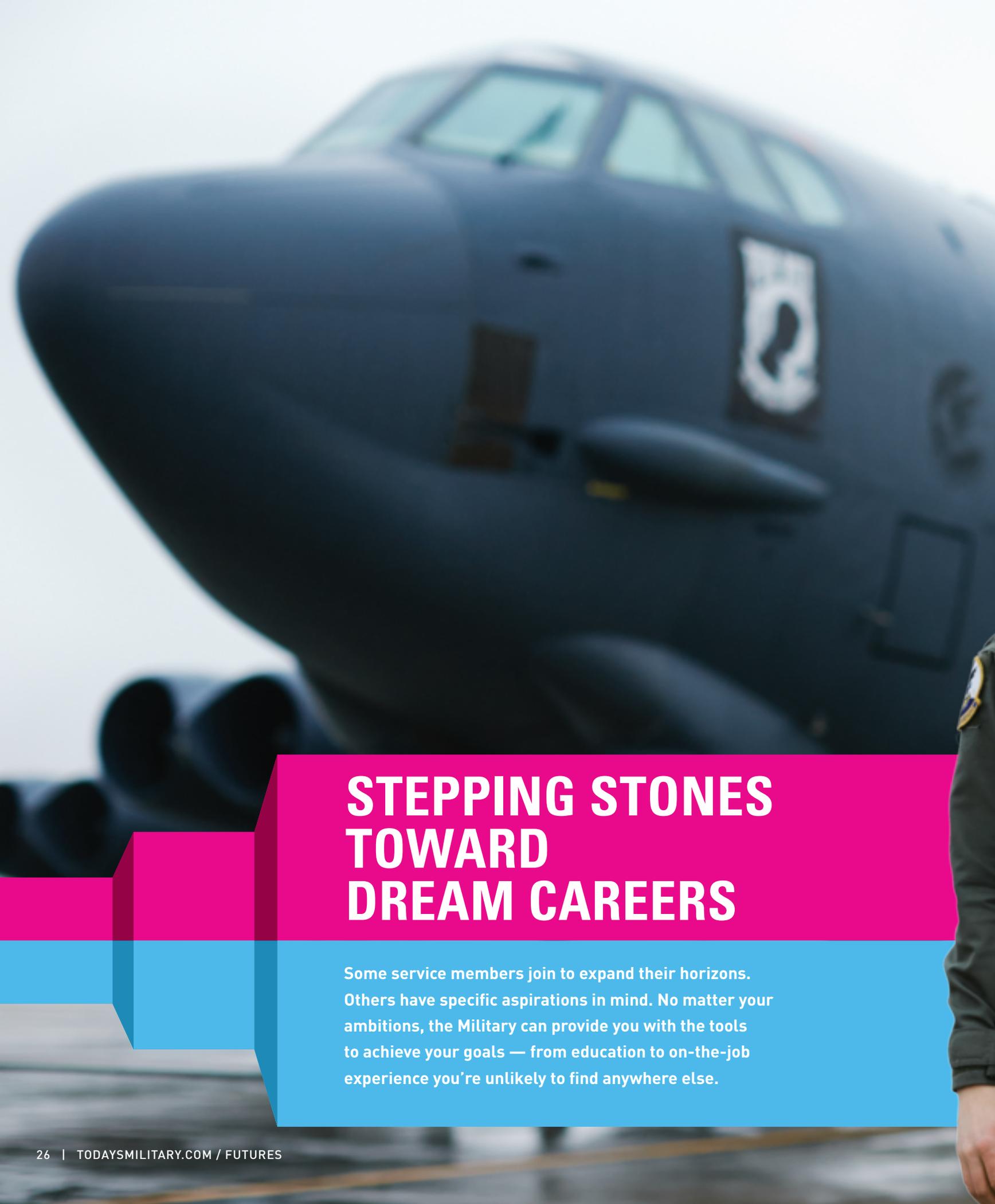
of which

95%

have a direct civilian equivalent.

FAST FACT

Learn More: www.militaryschools.com/military-career-statistics.html • todaysmilitary.com/jobs



STEPPING STONES TOWARD DREAM CAREERS

Some service members join to expand their horizons. Others have specific aspirations in mind. No matter your ambitions, the Military can provide you with the tools to achieve your goals — from education to on-the-job experience you're unlikely to find anywhere else.



Christin Mastracchio
Air Force Capt.

Aiming For The Stars

Ambition and a long-range bomber fuel this officer's dream to be an astronaut



Christin pilots the B-52 Stratofortress shown behind her.

CHRISTIN MASTRACCHIO first thought about traveling to space when she was just a toddler. Today, she pilots a B-52 bomber for the Air Force. “I’ve always wanted to be an astronaut,” Christin says. “When I was three, I had my astronaut doll and a little space shuttle tricycle. We grew up right by NASA in Houston. My friends’ parents in high school were astronauts, so it seemed like an attainable goal.”

It wasn’t until later in high school that Christin took the first big step toward her goal of one day flying for NASA. She decided to apply to the Air Force Academy, where she was accepted and eventually trained to be a pilot. “After high school, I wanted to get the best training and education possible,” Christin says. “And the only way you can do that is in the Military. I just think it’s the best education there is.”

“After high school, I wanted to get the best training and education possible, and the only way you can do that is in the Military. I just think it’s the best education there is.”

— Air Force Capt. Christin Mastracchio

But her training didn’t stop there. After graduation, Christin was able to continue her education at the school of her choice, learning alongside some of the best and brightest of the civilian world and having the Air Force cover her tuition and other expenses. “My first assignment as a new lieutenant in the Air Force was to go to MIT for grad school,” Christin says. “I took some really cool classes, like advanced astrodynamics. The professor had been teaching that class for over 50 years. He taught three of the men who walked on the moon.”

Now, Christin serves as a commander on board the Boeing B-52 Stratofortress, a long-range bomber for which she is one of five Airmen. They operate as a team but have individual roles — similar to the crew structure aboard a space shuttle.

Even with NASA’s iconic space shuttle now retired, Christin hasn’t given up hope. “We need to go to the moon again, and go to Mars, and keep doing more exploration further out,” she says. While she waits to achieve her ultimate goal of flying in space, Christin’s working toward the next and final step before interviewing with NASA: becoming an Air Force test pilot.

Building A Strong Future

Connections between his civilian and military careers create a blueprint for success for one Army Reserve Soldier



Jerome Johnson
Army Reserve 1st Lt.

WHILE IN PURSUIT of a career as an architect, Jerome Johnson wears many different hats. He serves part time as an engineer and first lieutenant in the Army Reserve while balancing civilian jobs as a computer-assisted design technician, for which he updates floor plans after construction changes, and as an assistant architect, for which he reformats building designs and creates client presentations. On top of all that, he frequently returns to the college he attended to mentor and motivate the next generation of ROTC cadets.

“One of the biggest benefits of part-time service is the flexibility,” Jerome says. “I’m used to a set schedule in the Military, which helps me manage my time in my personal life as well.”

“One of the biggest benefits of part-time service is the flexibility.”

— Army Reserve 1st Lt. Jerome Johnson

Jerome’s background in architecture has earned him more responsibility in the Military. “As a recent college graduate, other engineers ask for my opinion as an architect,” he says. “In design, you have to think of everything. I have to think as a project manager, an architect and an engineer. I’m charged with finding the right answer.”

In the Army Reserve, Jerome evaluates building sites and provides recommendations for constructing everything from medical facilities to obstacle courses. His military job is helping him get the necessary experience to become a registered architect faster than he would with only a civilian job, while also leaving enough free time for Jerome to complement his professional education with civilian experience.

“One day, I’d love to be a registered architect, but in order to do that I need professional experience,” Jerome says. “Being in the Army Reserve allows me enough time to also get the civilian experience necessary.”



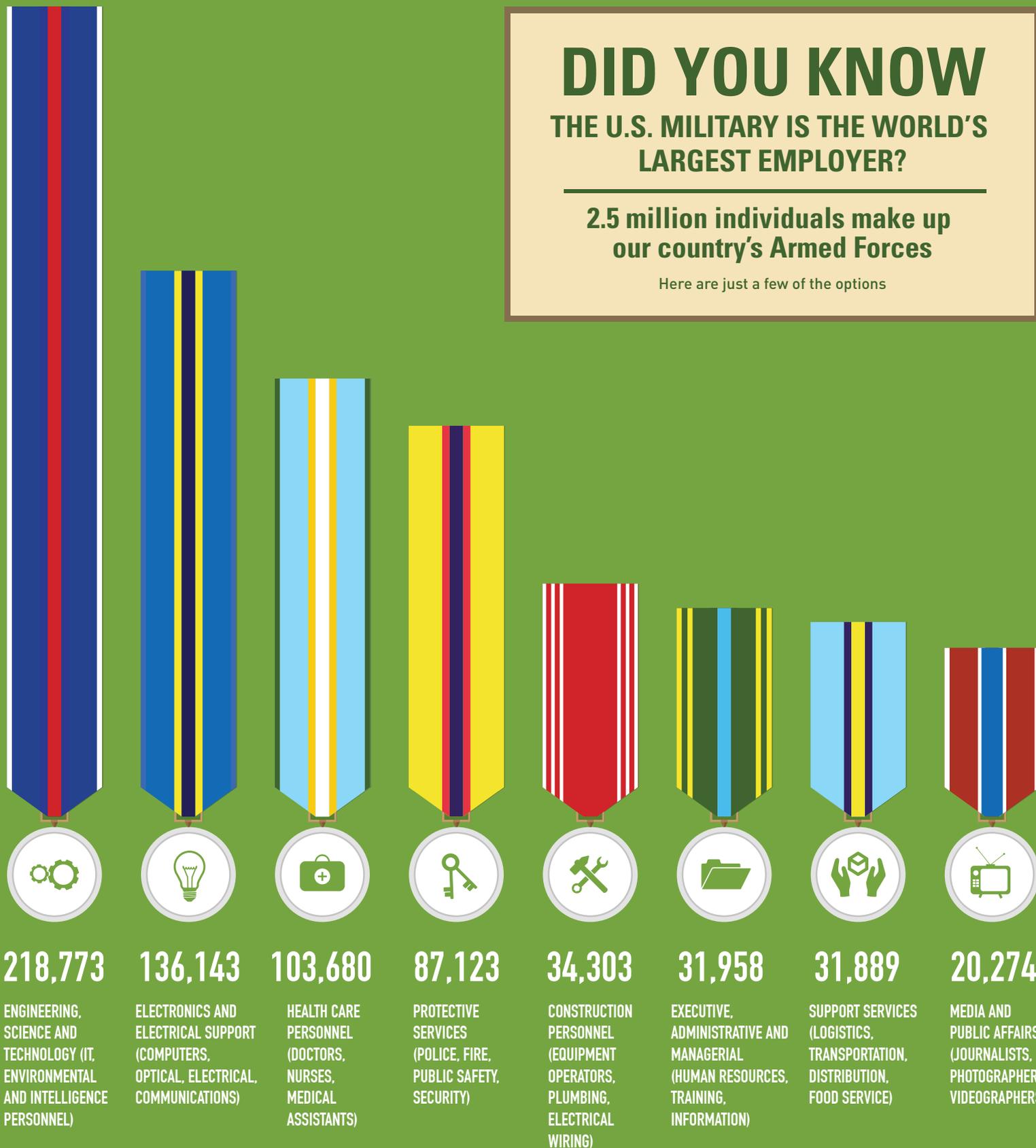
Jerome reviews architectural plans (inset), and assesses a building’s integrity using tablet software (above).

DID YOU KNOW

THE U.S. MILITARY IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST EMPLOYER?

2.5 million individuals make up our country's Armed Forces

Here are just a few of the options



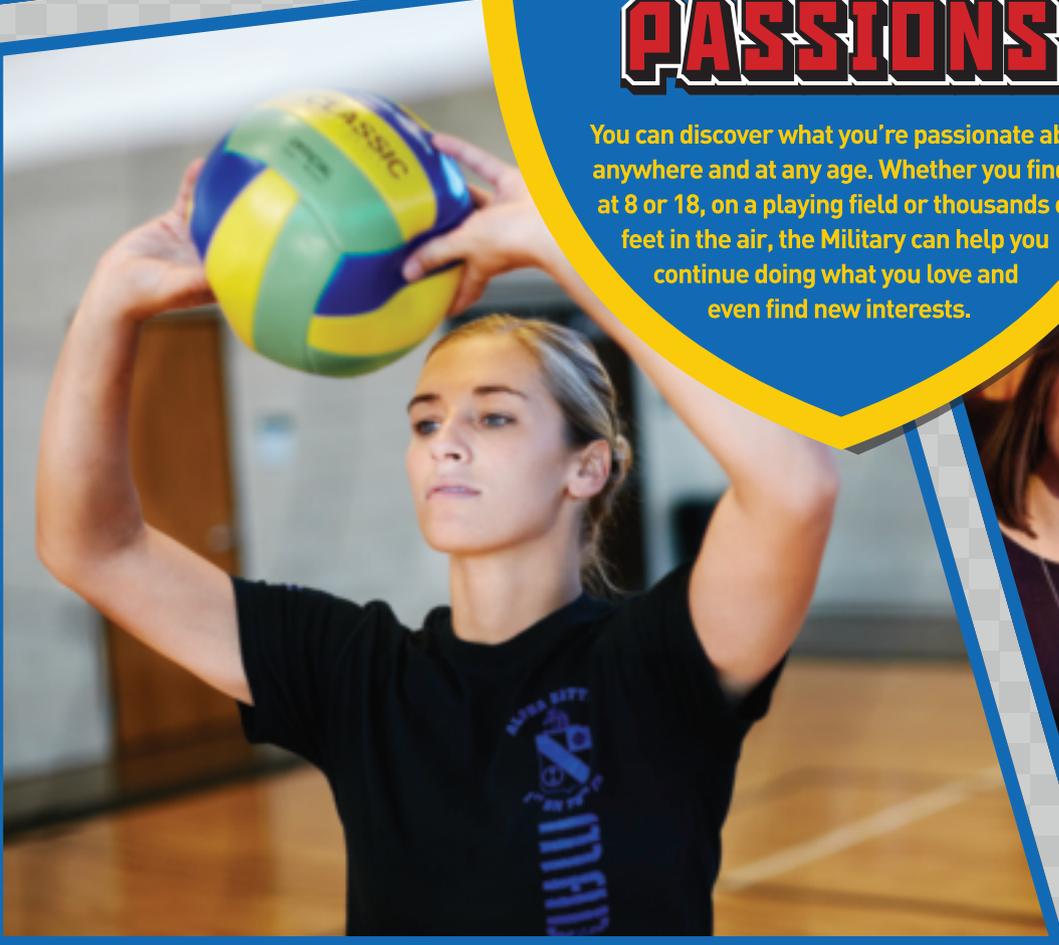
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014–15 Edition, Military Careers, on the Internet at www.bls.gov/ooh/military/military-careers.htm todaysmilitary.com/jobs



★ ★ ★

MAINTAINING LIFELONG PASSIONS

You can discover what you're passionate about anywhere and at any age. Whether you find it at 8 or 18, on a playing field or thousands of feet in the air, the Military can help you continue doing what you love and even find new interests.





FOCUS ON FULFILLMENT

★ ★ ★

Finding your true passion doesn't always follow a direct route.

Sometimes things just fall into place.

For Air Force Reserve Senior Airman Brian Kelly, an unexpected assignment stirred an undiscovered passion that turned into a true vocation.

"Coming out of basic training, I was hoping to be assigned as a boom operator doing in-flight refueling missions," Brian says. "When I was assigned to public affairs, I wasn't quite sure what to expect." What followed was a 10-month training assignment to become an Air Force still photographer and photojournalist.

"I had really never taken any photos before. I didn't know anything about cameras. But I fell in love with photography. Seeing the world through a camera lens gives you an entirely different viewpoint."

Today, the Air Force Reserve has fulfilled Brian's goal, and he now works the boom on aerial refueling missions. Flying in a KC-10 aircraft, Brian communicates both with his fellow aircrew members and the pilot of the refueling aircraft as he navigates the boom toward the receiving plane. But he brings his camera, and his photographer's eye, on every trip he takes.

"Sitting back there is the best view of the Air Force. Every mission brings something different because you never know what aircraft is going to pull up and get gas from you. With my photography training, I think I have an even greater appreciation for what I am lucky enough to see."



Brian captures a photograph of the sun setting near his home.



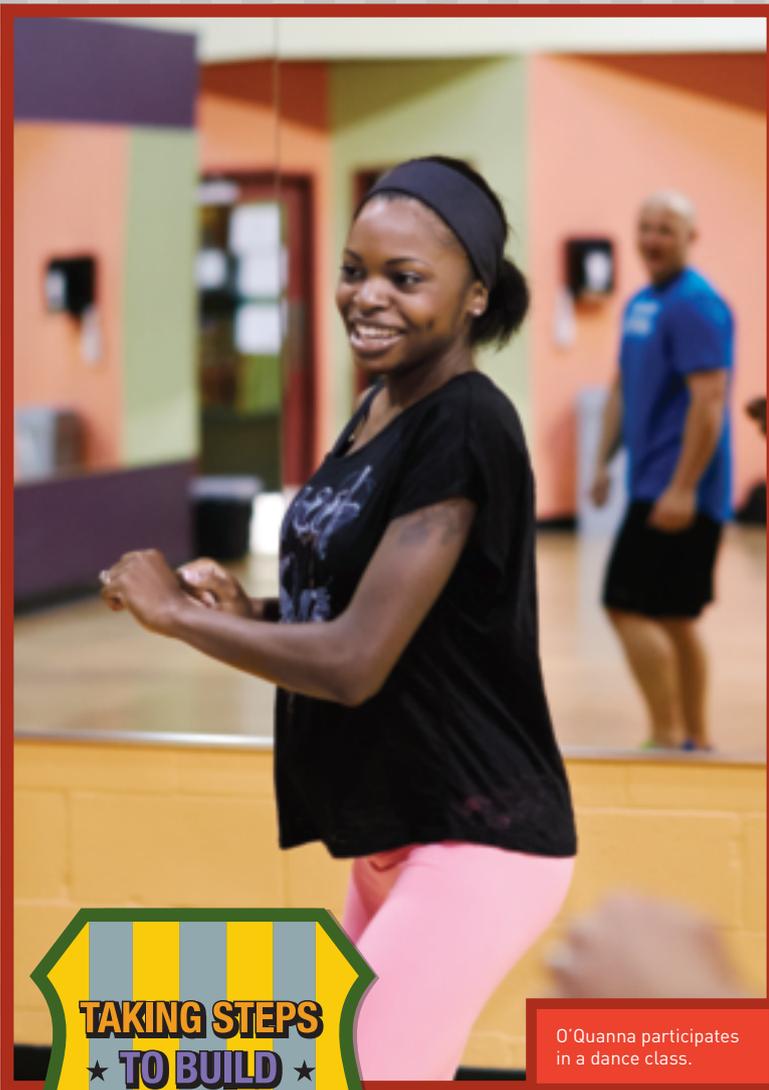
Brian took this picture of a fighter jet as it approached his KC-10 for refueling (photo courtesy Brian Kelly).

"Being able to visualize something and then create it through the lens is a great feeling. You see it first with your eye, then work the framing of the exposure to bring what you imagine to life."

— Air Force Reserve Senior Airman Brian Kelly



Brian navigates the boom toward a receiving aircraft in a simulator.



**TAKING STEPS
★ TO BUILD ★
CONFIDENCE**

O'Quanna participates in a dance class.

It may be hard to describe O'Quanna Wolfe's job as a Coast Guard yeoman, but it's not for lack of trying. "There's no real definition or job description," she says. "We do everything." That means helping her fellow Coast Guardsmen with everything from housing to awards, ID cards and pay. "If there's an issue that comes up and you just have no clue how to solve it, we are the go-to people that can take care of it," she says.

But while her days are spent helping others, she spends her free time doing something for herself: dancing. O'Quanna has been dancing since she was a child and has taken classes and competed in categories such as ballet, jazz, step and even belly dancing. She always finds a dance studio close to where she is stationed with the Coast Guard to keep up this lifelong hobby. "I like the fact that I can be myself," O'Quanna says. "I feel free and I feel confident."

"I would say volleyball is my 'happy place.'"
— Indiana Army National Guard Spc. Brooke Miller



**MAKING TIME FOR
FUN AND GAMES**

Brooke plays volleyball.

Brooke Miller started playing volleyball in seventh grade. The Indiana Army National Guard specialist continued this hobby through high school and recreational leagues, and still finds time for pickup games when she's not drilling with her unit or attending paramedic school. "Volleyball is all about teamwork," she says. "Three of you have to work together just to get the ball over the net." The sport is part of the balance she strikes between school, her military duties and life in general. "I'm pretty competitive, but it's nice to just have fun, too. I would say volleyball is my 'happy place.'"



Kevin sings karaoke while out with friends.

HITTING ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

“I got interested in music and singing when I was really young,” says Maryland Army National Guard Spc. Kevin Lim. One

of his earliest memories is of a karaoke machine his parents bought when he was just five years old. Karaoke was a favorite activity for Kevin and his relatives at family get-togethers. Kevin continued to develop his interest in music as he grew, singing in a band with his friends throughout elementary, middle and high school. Wanting to continue pursuing music once he arrived at college, Kevin auditioned for an a cappella group he saw perform at orientation. He remained an active member of the group for four years, singing in shows and competitions.

Today, when he’s not busy with his military career as a carpentry and masonry specialist and his civilian career as a police cadet, music lives at the center of Kevin’s down time. He built himself a small in-home studio where he likes to record original songs and covers on his computer. And, just like his family did when he was a kid, he loves to sing karaoke with friends on the weekends.

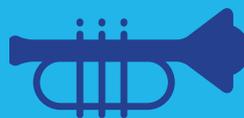
“What I love about music is that you can have music during any time in your life,” Kevin says, “whether you’re having good times or bad.”



Kevin shoots pool with a friend.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can serve your country as a musician.



In fact, the Military has more than

150

musical ensembles.

FAST FACT

Learn More:

- www.music.army.mil/organizations/
- www.1stmardiv.marines.mil/Units/1STDIVBAND/FAQ.aspx
- www.navyband.navy.mil/index.shtml
- www.bands.af.mil/bands/
- www.uscg.mil/band/

**SERVICE
CAN
TAKE**

**MANY
DIFFERENT**



**SHAPES
AND**



FORMS



Three service members found ways to give back. Their work benefits those who serve alongside them and those in their community who need it most.

CARING

FOR THE COMMUNITY

“**C**OMMUNITY service has always been important to me,” says Arizona Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Kristin Soto. “Helping people succeed in everything they want to do; showing them they can do it.”

A Tucson native, Kristin loves to help others, both in her free time and in her job as an Airman. Kristin is a contract specialist and is in a unique position of working for her unit full time. It’s her job to ensure that the Military is getting the best deal possible when negotiating everything from the price of office furniture to complex building renovations.

“I’ve been there. I’ve done this. You guys can do it, too.”

— *Arizona Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Kristin Soto*

Kristin’s experience in the Air National Guard has helped improve her organizational skills, attention to detail and work ethic, both at home with her family and when running Southwest Elite Athletic Training, the leadership and physical conditioning nonprofit she operates with her husband, Anthony, who also serves in the Arizona Air National Guard. “The Military has shown me that if you do things a certain way, it’ll be so much easier to accomplish any task,” Kristin says.

Kristin’s camps focus on teaching kids ages 5 to 15 speed and conditioning or agility and strength — and most



Kristin oversees kids at her Southwest Elite Athletic Training camp.

of all, encouraging them to spend time outside, socializing with other area youngsters. “Our goal is to get kids off their couches and away from video games to come out and have this positive experience where they can also get some exercise,” Kristin says.

“A lot of the athletics and training we got from our [military] basic training,” Kristin says. “The parents love it.” Since 2011, more than 600 kids have gone through the camps, which Kristin and her husband host twice a week for five

weeks at a time. Many return year after year — some of the older teenagers even return as assistants, learning leadership techniques and earning volunteer credit.

Kristin attributes much of her success to her service. “I think it’s such a great opportunity,” Kristin says. “The benefits that they give you, the confidence, the courage and the friends.” She says the Military provided the encouragement necessary to succeed. “I’ve been there. I’ve done this. You guys can do it, too,” Kristin says. “It’s possible.”

DID YOU KNOW?

In the 2014 Sochi Games,



5 of the 28 U.S. Olympic medals were earned by service members.



FAST FACT

Learn More:

www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=121798



LEADERSHIP

IN ACTION

MICHEAL DORSEY has played team sports since childhood. He played basketball and football in high school, and even earned a football scholarship to Portland State University. After college graduation, with job offers and a graduate school acceptance letter on the table, Micheal made the decision to join what he calls “the ultimate team”: the Military.

“I’ve always liked competing on a team. The Military is the ultimate team: a group of people working together toward a common goal.”

— Marine Corps Capt. Micheal Dorsey

“I realized the things I wanted out of a career, the Military provided: leadership opportunities, challenges, career growth,

job security, a positive work environment and the opportunity to work with people with the same goals,” he says.

Micheal is now an infantry officer who is presently serving at The Basic School at Quantico, Va., where newly commissioned Marine Corps officers learn how to lead and inspire enlisted Marines. There, he serves as coach, mentor and teacher to his unit of 40 Marine officers. “I was very used to a team mentality: This is the goal, and everybody has to do their part in order to achieve that goal. And then, coming into the Military, that’s exactly what we do,” he says. He coaches and teaches his Marines through classroom lessons, small group discussions and tactical exercises.

While Micheal is mentoring the next generation of leaders, he understands the importance of those lessons he’s imparting. “The biggest thing that the Military has done for me is give me the opportunity to lead at a very young age,” he says. “When I look at my peers I went to high school and college with, a lot of people are still just getting started.”



Micheal leads his Marines in a classroom discussion (top left) and plays basketball (above).

BUILDING

HIS COMMUNITY



Kevin works on a carpentry project during a drill weekend.

Kevin walks with a fellow police academy cadet.



MARYLAND native Kevin Lim chose the Army National Guard for the most selfless reason imaginable: He wanted to work to protect not only his country, but also his local community. “The cool thing about being in the Guard is that you’re not only serving the country, but you’re also serving your state,” Kevin says. “If there’s ever a natural disaster or a catastrophe that happens in the place where you grew up, you’re going to be called to serve there as well.”

Kevin serves as a carpentry and masonry specialist in the Maryland National Guard, where he works part time on projects for the Military and local residents. But his unit also spent several days improving facilities at a Baltimore high school. “We were able to use our carpentry skills that we learned through the Military to provide basic things that every kid in high school should have, like a gymnasium and new doors.”

“The Military has taught me to value others before myself.”

— *Maryland Army National Guard Spc. Kevin Lim*

His assistance made a positive impact on a public school that didn’t have the funding necessary to hire a contractor.

“The community was very grateful,” Kevin says. “I personally received thanks and gratitude from the students at the school on the days we conducted work.”

Kevin is currently working toward a career as a school resource police officer.

“As a police officer, you wear many different hats to support the community. You’re a part-time social worker, a part-time law enforcement officer and a part-time mediator,” Kevin says. “The Military gave me the skills I need to do the job well and to make taxpayers proud.”

DID YOU KNOW?

The National Guard assists during emergencies at home.



In 2015, nearly

500

Soldiers and Airmen of the Massachusetts National Guard cleared roads and rescued stranded motorists following a record snowfall in Boston.

FAST FACT

Learn More:

www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=128155 • www.nationalguard.com

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a black kayak paddle. The paddle is positioned diagonally across the frame, with the blade pointing towards the top left. Water is splashing off the blade, creating a spray of droplets that catch the light. The background is a soft, out-of-focus bokeh of green and brown, suggesting a natural outdoor setting. The entire image is framed by a thick yellow border, which is itself set against a green background with a subtle diagonal line pattern.

“Every time that you go into the water it’s a different experience, a different environment. No two days in the Military are ever the same. That’s one of my favorite things.”

— Army Staff Sgt. Andrew Miltenberger

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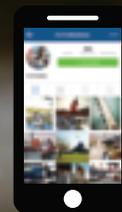
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