

# Air Force

## Cross Into the Blue

<http://www.airforce.com>

You might be surprised to learn that there's more to the Air Force than pilots and aircraft. In fact, the Air Force offers more than 150 different careers, many of them like the ones you'd find in your own home town: construction trades, shipping and warehouse management, telephone and cable repairers and installers, firefighters and law enforcement, jet, auto and diesel mechanics, medical technicians and air traffic controllers.

When you enter the Air Force, you're automatically enrolled in the Community College of the Air Force, where you can work toward your associate degree in five career areas: aircraft and missile maintenance, electronics and telecommunications, allied health, logistics and resources, and public and support services. While you're earning your degree, you'll also be gaining experience to help get your career off the ground. The classes, which are a combination of on-duty and voluntary off-duty courses, are free to all enlisted members of the Air Force.

**Signing bonus:** up to \$18,000, depending on length of enlistment and job category

**Number of career fields:** 150+

**Money for education:** Up to \$28,800 through the Montgomery G.I. Bill; tuition assistance is also available, which pays 100% (up to \$250 per semester hour) of the cost of college courses.

**Basic training:** Six weeks

**Academy:** The Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado

**The Elite:** Para-rescue, combat control



U.S. Air Force photo

U.S. Marines photo



# Marines

## The Few, The Proud

<http://www.marines.com>

There's a reason the Marine motto is "The Few, The Proud." It is a challenging and demanding branch of the armed services known for mentally and physically rigorous requirements.

Not everyone is cut out to be a Marine, but those who do make it are considered part of an elite group.

As a Marine, you'll work in one of more than 35 career fields, which offer a choice of more than 300 jobs. Jobs range from computer programming and network engineering to aviation technology, communications, and crime prevention and investigation.

**Signing bonus:** Varies

**Number of career fields:** 35+

**Money for education:** Up to \$28,800 is available through the Montgomery G.I. Bill with additional money available through the Marine Corps College Fund.

**Basic training:** 13 weeks

**Academy:** United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland

**The Elite:** Force Recon