



**YOU RAISED THEM.
WE'LL RAISE THEIR
OPPORTUNITIES.**



U.S. ARMY

ARMY STRONG.

By joining the U.S. Army or Army Reserve, your loved one will open the door to a world full of opportunities designed to build a strong, successful future. They will gain valuable career training, learn leadership skills that will last a lifetime and even be eligible for enlistment bonuses and money for college.

But with all the Army has to offer, we understand that you have questions and concerns that need to be answered. After all, joining isn't a decision to be taken lightly. This brochure was created to answer some of the more frequently asked questions and help you discover why service in the Army or Army Reserve is the right decision for many young men and women. Because before they can be Army Strong, they need to have the strength and support of friends and family around them.

You made them strong. We'll make them Army Strong.

Q: HOW CAN THE ARMY HELP MY SON'S OR DAUGHTER'S FUTURE?

A: For starters, the Army gives your son or daughter the job skills, knowledge, experience and career opportunities to build a future that will make you proud. There are more than 150 career opportunities in the active Army and more than 120 careers in the Army Reserve. The U.S Army will also provide them with numerous other benefits like comprehensive health care, generous vacation time and cash allowances to cover the cost of living.

Q: IF MY SON OR DAUGHTER JOINS THE ARMY, DOES HE/SHE HAVE THE OPTION TO GO TO COLLEGE?

A: The Army and education are not mutually exclusive. The Army offers several opportunities to attend classes while serving as an active duty or Army Reserve Soldier. Whether it's in accredited four-year universities across the nation, through an online university (goarmy.com) where they earn college credits, or in high-tech learning facilities on Army posts, the Army enables Soldiers to continue their educational goals.

The Education Career Stabilization (ECS) program allows deferment from mobilization and deployment, providing an uninterrupted path to a college degree. This allows qualifying Army Reserve Soldiers to attend college and earn a degree without the risk of interruption due to deployment.

The Army also provides tuition assistance to Soldiers who wish to further their education. Those enlisted in the active Army can earn up to \$65,000 to repay qualifying student loans, up to \$4,500 per year in tuition assistance while serving, and up to \$83,448 for education with the Montgomery GI Bill and Army College Fund. In addition to the ECS program, those enlisted in the Army Reserve can also earn up to \$20,000 to repay qualifying student loans and up to \$4,500 a year in tuition assistance while serving. The Post-9/11 GI Bill is another way for eligible Soldiers to receive paid tuition, a monthly housing stipend, and a yearly stipend for books.

Q: WHAT KIND OF JOB WILL MY SON OR DAUGHTER GET?

A: It depends on his or her qualifications and may be affected by such factors as job selection, enlistment bonuses, educational incentives, unit of choice, needs of the Army, etc.

Q: IS THE JOB MY SON OR DAUGHTER ENLISTS FOR THE ACTUAL JOB HE OR SHE WILL DO AND CAN HE OR SHE CHANGE IT?

A: In most cases, as long as a Soldier successfully completes training in the Military Occupational Specialty they've enlisted for, they will receive assignments in that job. Throughout a military career, Soldiers may request to change jobs and be trained in a new one. Requests are granted based on the needs of the service and qualifications of the Soldier.

Q: HOW LONG MUST MY SON OR DAUGHTER SERVE IN THE ARMY?

A: Currently, there are 15-month plus training, 2-year plus training, 3-, 4-, 5- or 6-year enlistments for the active Army. These tours are based on availability and the needs of the Army. All jobs have minimum enlistment periods. In some cases, you can actually choose the number of years you want to serve. We analyze the jobs and qualifications to determine the enlistment options that best suit each prospect's needs.

Q: ARE AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND HISPANICS OVERREPRESENTED IN THE ARMY? DO YOU SPECIFICALLY TARGET THEM IN YOUR RECRUITING EFFORTS?

A: Compared to their representation in American youth, African-Americans are slightly overrepresented in the Army. In fiscal year 2008, African-American youth represented about 14.7 percent of the Qualified Military Available (QMA), and 16.9 percent of active Army and Army Reserve enlistments. Compared to their representation in American youth, Hispanics are slightly underrepresented in the Army. In fiscal year 2008, Hispanic youth represented about 13 percent of the QMA, and 12.8 percent of active Army and Army Reserve enlistments. Although the Army does develop advertising tailored for the general market, African-American market and Hispanic market, recruiters do not target any specific racial or ethnic group over any other. All qualified applicants are actively recruited and encouraged to join the Army, regardless of race or ethnicity.

These are just a few answers to some of the questions you might have. For more detailed answers, contact an Army Recruiter at 1-800-USA-ARMY or visit the "FOR PARENTS" section at goarmy.com/life/basic

