

Meet the United States Military

The history of the military runs deep, and more than 41 million brave Americans have donned the uniform across generations. Use this sheet as a quick reference to kick off a better understanding of our military and to honor the veterans you know.

Air Force

- Established 1947, with a history dating back to 1907
- A major branch of the armed forces under the DoD
- Provides air services, including air warfare, air defense, and space research

Army

- Established 1775
- A major branch of the armed forces under the DoD
- Preserves peace, security, and defense mostly via ground combat

Coast Guard

- Established 1790
- A branch of the armed forces under the Department of Homeland Security
- Enforces maritime laws, especially along the U.S. coast

Department of Defense (DoD)

- Established 1949
- A federal department with three major components: the Army, Navy, and Air Force
- Integrates the policies and procedures for all agencies relating to defense

Marine Corps

- Established 1775
- A branch of the armed forces organized under the U.S. Department of the Navy
- Supports the other military branches, specializing in amphibious landings

National Guard

- Established 1636
- A reserve group organized by the Army and Air Force
- Stands ready to protect their home states from domestic disorder

Navy

- Established 1775
- A major branch of the armed forces under the DoD
- Defends the country and maintains security at sea

Space Force

- Established 2019
- A branch of the armed forces organized under the U.S. Air Force
- Guards our security in space, from overseeing GPS navigation to monitoring space debris



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