



Top 10 Things to Consider Before Joining the Military

Military service can bring growth, education, and purpose, but also challenges and sacrifices. This guide shares ten things to consider so you can decide with confidence.

- 1. Why Are You Joining:** Be clear on your personal motivation: patriotism, education, career, or family tradition. This is essential to your success.
- 2. Physical and Mental Readiness:** Military service requires strong physical fitness and mental resilience; preparation in both areas is crucial.
- 3. Commitment Length:** Contracts often range from 4 to 8 years. Understand what you're signing and the obligations that come with it.
- 4. Career Opportunities:** Explore jobs across combat, technical, medical, and admin roles. Choose the career that aligns with long-term career goals.
- 5. Education and Training Benefits:** Programs such as tuition assistance and the GI Bill provide valuable opportunities. Understand how this aligns with your plans.
- 6. Deployment and Relocation:** Military life often involves frequent moves and potential overseas deployments. Be prepared for relocation and time away from family and friends.
- 7. Impact on Family and Relationships:** Service can strain personal relationships due to long hours, deployments, and relocations. Talk openly about expectations.
- 8. Financial Considerations:** The military offers steady pay, housing, healthcare, and retirement; compare these with civilian opportunities and long-term financial goals.
- 9. Risks and Sacrifices:** Military service carries inherent risks, including combat exposure and physical danger. It's important to understand the sacrifices.
- 10. Life After Service:** Plan how your skills and experience will transfer to civilian life.

Joining the military takes careful thought. Weighing these factors ensures your choice fits your values and goals. Learn more at a *Strong Start* workshop: www.brvhzns.com/events