



# FAQS

F R E Q U E N T L Y   A S K E D   Q U E S T I O N S

## CRITERIA

### Is it difficult to join the Coast Guard?

Our qualification criteria is similar to other military branches. You must meet this criteria, as well as undergo a “whole person” evaluation. Your recruiter will work with you to complete a variety of forms to validate your eligibility.

#### Qualification Criteria:

- Be a U.S. citizen or a resident alien
- Be between the ages of 17-31  
(if no prior military service)
- Have a high school diploma
- Pass the ASVAB with a minimum score of 36
- Meet height/weight and medical standards
- Have no more than three dependents  
(spouse and children)
- Pass a military entrance medical exam
- Pass a background check
- Pass a credit check
- Think of your meeting with your recruiter as a job interview.
- The evaluation may include but is not limited to your attitude, professionalism, honesty, respect, communication ability, work ethic and volunteer spirit.

### Where do I get more information?

Visit [GoCoastGuard.com](http://GoCoastGuard.com) for more general information about us.

To contact a recruiter:

- Call your nearest recruiting office.
- Email your nearest recruiting office.  
To protect your privacy, do not send Personally Identifiable Information (PII) or health related issues or concerns through email!
- “Chat Now” with a Coast Guard chat recruiter.
- “Apply Now” to begin the screening and application process.

## TRAINING

### How long is basic training?

Basic training is eight weeks and is located at Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May, NJ.

### What are the minimum physical fitness requirements to graduate?

You must be able to perform the following to graduate from recruit training:

- **PUSH-UPS:** (in 1 minute)  
Male: 29 | Female: 15
- **SIT-UPS:** (in 1 minute)  
Male: 38 | Female: 32
- **1.5 MILE RUN:** (minutes)  
Male: 12:51 | Female: 15:26
- **COMPLETE SWIM CIRCUIT:** Jump off a five-foot platform, swim 100 meters and tread water for 5 minutes.

### Do I have to know how to swim?

**YES.** It is important to note that if you are afraid of being in, on, or near the water, you are not eligible to join.

### Should I do anything before I go to basic training?

**YES.** After you enlist and prior to going to Cape May, your recruiter will provide you with a copy of the Helmsman guidebook. Study it in its entirety; paying particular attention to the list of items you cannot bring with you. Memorize the General Orders and practice the Position of Attention. In addition, prepare yourself for physical fitness training. If you smoke cigarettes or chew tobacco, you should consider a tobacco cessation program, as you will not be able to do either during training.

## BENEFITS

### What are the benefits of joining?

#### Education Benefits

The Montgomery GI Bill will help you pay for college or technical training. You may also qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill (benefits have increased substantially). You can use it at colleges, universities, trade schools, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and flight schools. To see what programs are currently approved, go to [gibill.va.gov](http://gibill.va.gov).

#### Health Care

Free comprehensive medical, dental, and eye care for you and your family.

#### Life Insurance

You have the option of selecting up to \$400,000 in life insurance at a minimal cost. You can also purchase economical life insurance for your family.

#### Paid Vacation

You will receive 30 days of paid vacation per year.

#### Included Tax-Free Income

- Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)
- Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS)
- Uniform allowance (enlisted)



[GoCoastGuard.com](http://GoCoastGuard.com) 



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## WHO WE ARE

### What is the U.S. Coast Guard?

The U.S. Coast Guard is one of the five armed forces of the United States and the only military organization within the Department of Homeland Security. Since 1790, the Coast Guard has safeguarded our nation's maritime interests and environment around the world.

### What would I be doing?

There are many enlisted active-duty job fields you can choose from. Our 11 official missions include:

- Port & Waterway Security
- Drug Interdiction
- Aids to Navigation
- Search & Rescue
- Living Marine Resources
- Marine Safety
- Defense Readiness
- Migrant Interdiction
- Marine Environmental Protection
- Ice Operations
- Law Enforcement

### Does the Coast Guard have officer opportunities?

**YES.** Find out more about the Coast Guard Academy, Officer Candidate School (OCS), Direct Commissioning Programs, and the College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSP), by searching "active-duty" or "reserve officer" opportunities at [GoCoastGuard.com](http://GoCoastGuard.com).

## USCG RESERVE

### What opportunities are in the Coast Guard Reserve?

The Coast Guard Reserve is a force of nearly 8,100 specially trained people who serve the Coast Guard one weekend a month and two weeks a year. In the Coast Guard Reserve, you can continue both your civilian career and education while serving part-time. Reservists work alongside active-duty personnel, performing the same missions and jobs.

### What are the qualifications to join the Reserve?

Generally, qualifications are the same as active duty except you can be between 17 and 40 years old.

### What is a drill?

A drill is a period of inactive duty for training scheduled for the performance of personal training, military training or unit training. Most units schedule drills over one weekend each month, but you also have flexibility to spread drills throughout a month.

### How many different jobs are in the Coast Guard Reserve?

There are many different enlisted reserve ratings you can choose from. Find them by searching "reserve opportunities" at [GoCoastGuard.com](http://GoCoastGuard.com). Aviation ratings are not open to reservists.

### Does every Coast Guard unit offer part-time reserve opportunities?

**NO.** Some units only have billets for active-duty personnel. Reserve opportunities are available in many locations but are job and geography specific. Generally, the candidate should live within 100 miles of their unit.

## Question(s) Left Unanswered?

Chat or contact a recruiter at [GoCoastGuard.com](http://GoCoastGuard.com) to learn more.



[GoCoastGuard.com](http://GoCoastGuard.com) 

NAME RECRUITER NAME PHONE PHONE EMAIL EMAIL



# NOW OFFERING TWO-YEAR ENLISTMENT!

**Receive all of the  
perks of a four-year  
enlistment, including:**

- Great comprehensive military benefits
- Competitive salary
- Multiple enlistment options and bonuses available
- Post 9-11 GI Bill
- Veteran's benefits

## APPLY TODAY

Recruiter Name  
Email  
Phone Number

*\*Two-year enlistment combines with additional Reserve duty to complete service commitment.*

**GoCoastGuard.com** / 



# WHY JOIN?



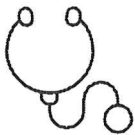
**Child care subsidy program**  
available for all active duty  
and reserve members



Access to worldwide  
**military flights** for travel



**Education assistance**  
Post 9/11 GI Bill and  
other tuition assistance



**Medical, dental,  
and eye care**



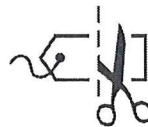
30 days **paid  
vacation** annually



Competitive  
**salary**



Low-cost  
**life insurance**



**Military discounts** at  
participating retailers



Money for **housing,  
dining, and clothing**



**Maternity/  
paternity leave**



World-class **training  
and experience**



Valuable **leadership  
and management skills**



**Job equality** for  
men and women



**Access to all military bases,  
commissaries, exchanges**



Excellent  
**retirement plan, TSP**

**GoCoastGuard.com**





# ON AN AVERAGE DAY, **THE COAST GUARD...**



Saves **12** lives



Saves over  
**\$1.2M** in property



Investigates **34**  
pollution incidents



Interdicts **7**  
undocumented migrants



Conducts **44**  
search and rescue cases



Assists **60**  
people in distress



Seizes **85**  
pounds of marijuana



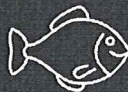
Conducts **107**  
marine inspections



Seizes **1,221**  
pounds of cocaine



Conducts **12**  
security boardings in  
and around U.S. ports



Conducts **15**  
fisheries conservation  
boardings



Completes **23**  
safety exams on  
foreign vessels



Investigates **50**  
marine casualties  
involving commercial  
vessels



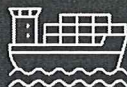
Serves **80**  
buoys and fixed  
aids to navigation



Escorts **9**  
high-capacity  
passenger vessels



Screens **329**  
merchant vessels  
for potential security  
threats prior to  
arrival in U.S. ports



Facilitates movement  
of **\$12.6B**  
of goods through  
the Nation's Maritime  
Transportation System



Conducts **48**  
waterborne patrols  
of critical maritime  
infrastructure

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



# ENLISTED JOB FIELDS

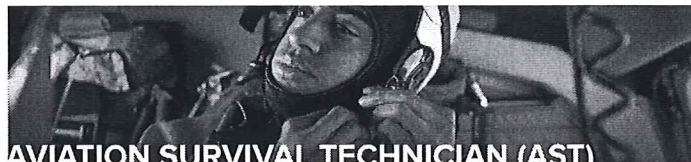
GoCoastGuard.com



## AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN (AMT)

AMTs inspect, service, maintain, and troubleshoot all aircraft systems. You must be able to qualify for a secret security clearance, have an aptitude for mechanics, and pass an air crew-candidate physical.

**Related jobs:** *flight engineer, airline maintenance supervisor, aviation mechanic, aircraft inspector, aviation-maintenance instructor, and aircraft ground handler.*



## AVIATION SURVIVAL TECHNICIAN (AST)

ASTs function as helicopter rescue swimmers and emergency medical technicians. They are also responsible for performing ground handling, servicing, and routine inspections on aircraft, as well as aviation administrative duties. You must be in superior physical shape with no chronic orthopedic problems such as trick knees, back or shoulder problems, and be able to obtain and hold a secret security clearance.

**Related jobs:** *land and water survival instructor, parachute rigging and repair technician, life support equipment technician, commercial aircraft life support technician, and paramedic.*



## AVIONICS ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN (AET)

AETs inspect, service, maintain, troubleshoot, and repair all avionics systems including: navigation, collision avoidance, target acquisition, and automatic flight-control functions. You should possess a high degree of electrical and mechanical aptitude, mathematical knowledge, as well as pass an air crew-candidate physical and qualify for a secret security clearance.

**Related jobs:** *aircraft electrician or ground handler, avionics technician or instructor, and general/commercial aircraft avionics inspector.*



## BOATSWAIN'S MATE (BM)

BMs perform almost any task in connection with boat maintenance, small boat operations, navigation, search and rescue, and law enforcement. You should have leadership ability, physical strength, mathematical knowledge, good hearing, normal color vision, and a high degree of manual dexterity.

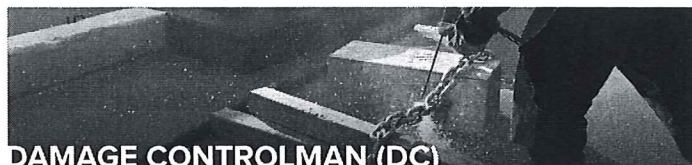
**Related jobs:** *pier superintendent, tugboat crewman, heavy equipment operator, marina supervisor, marina operator, commercial vessel operator, and ship pilot.*



## CULINARY SPECIALIST (CS)

CSs receive training in all facets of food preparation including culinary fundamentals, advanced culinary methods and techniques that include baking, sauces, seafood cookery, starch cookery, cake decorating and protein fabrication. Training also includes instruction in accounting and purchasing, inventory management, military leadership, nutrition and time management.

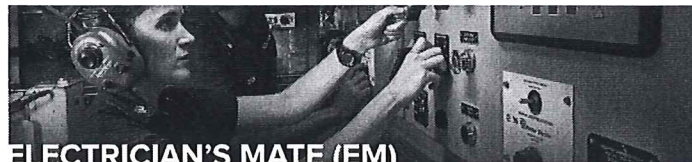
**Related jobs:** *executive chef, private chef, sous chef, restaurant manager, catering chef, baker, pastry chef*



## DAMAGE CONTROL MAN (DC)

DCs are responsible for ship hulls, emergency equipment; plumbing; welding; chemical, biological, and radiological warfare detection, building maintenance, and defense and decontamination. You should have an interest in welding, carpentry, plumbing, and fire fighting.

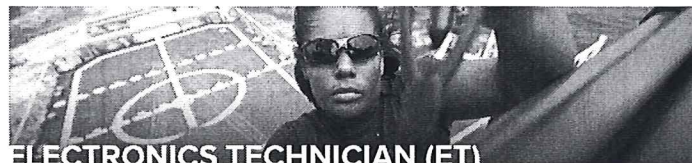
**Related jobs:** *welder, plumber, carpenter, pipe fitter, ship fitter, fire fighter, home/building inspector, trade school teacher, construction foreman and maintenance supervisor.*



## ELECTRICIAN'S MATE (EM)

EMs install, maintain, repair, and manage electrical equipment. You should have an aptitude for detailed work and mathematics and have normal color vision.

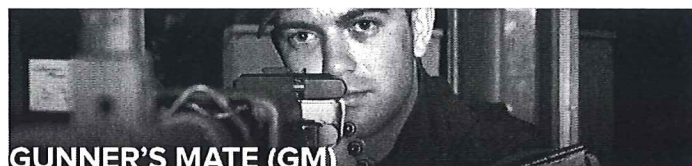
**Related jobs:** *industrial/generating plant technician, industrial/shipyard electrician, electrical field service/maintenance technician, power and instrumentation technician, and facilities engineering technician.*



## ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN (ET)

ETs install, maintain and manage communications systems, tactical electronic warfare systems, navigation systems, and other electronics. You should have an aptitude for detailed work, normal color vision and be above average at solving mathematical problems.

**Related jobs:** *electronics technician, guidance systems specialist, radio and radar repair, computer technician, and telephone repair.*



## GUNNER'S MATE (GM)

GMs use, maintain, and instruct personnel in everything having to do with weaponry, including pistols, rifles, machine guns, and other weapon systems. You should have an aptitude in mechanics, basic electrical theory, mathematics, and attention to detail.

**Related jobs:** *small arms trainer, electronics mechanic, gunsmith, ammunition foreman, hydraulic equipment operator, and mechanic.*



## HEALTH SERVICES TECHNICIAN (HS)

HSs provide routine and emergency health care services in large Coast Guard clinics or small sick bays, ashore or on cutters. Your qualities should include a meticulous attention to detail, good communication skills, and the ability to work closely with others.

**Related jobs:** *medical assistant, X-ray technician, and medical laboratory technician.*

NAME RECRUITER NAME PHONE PHONE EMAIL EMAIL



# ENLISTED JOB FIELDS

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## INFORMATION SYSTEM TECHNICIAN (IT)

ITs are computer and network technicians who also establish and maintain systems that collect, store, process and forward voice, data, and video information. You should have an aptitude for detailed work, normal color vision, and be above average at solving mathematical problems.

**Related jobs:** telephone/network/computer technician, voice and data technician, telecommunications technician, and central office technician.



## INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST (IS)

ISs collect, analyze, process, and disseminate intelligence. You must maintain a top secret (TS/SCI) clearance, and have normal color vision and hearing.

**Related jobs:** intelligence analyst/manager, intelligence collector, counterintelligence specialist, and counter-terrorism specialist.



## INVESTIGATOR (IV)\*

IVs conduct both criminal and personal background checks and investigations, collect and analyzing intelligence information, and provide personal protection services. You must be a graduate of a basic police or investigator academy and be currently serving as a law enforcement officer with a minimum of three years experience.

\*Reserve specific rating

**Related jobs:** criminal investigator, detective, and police officer.



## MACHINERY TECHNICIAN (MK)

MKs maintain all mechanical items on internal combustion engines, environmental support systems, hydraulics, and basic electricity and manage hazardous material recovery and control. You should have normal color vision and a mechanical aptitude with an average or better ability to solve mathematical problems.

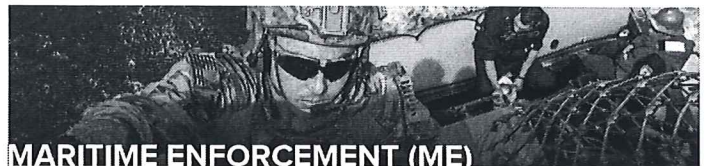
**Related jobs:** auto/truck mechanic, heavy-duty equipment repair technician, HVAC technician, and mechanical shipyard worker.



## MARINE SCIENCE TECHNICIAN (MST)

MSTs conduct commercial vessel boardings, waterfront facility inspections, pollution investigations, and other tasks to ensure compliance with applicable domestic laws and international treaties with a focus on environmental protection and safety of life at sea. You should be detailed oriented, highly flexible, and have good interpersonal skills.

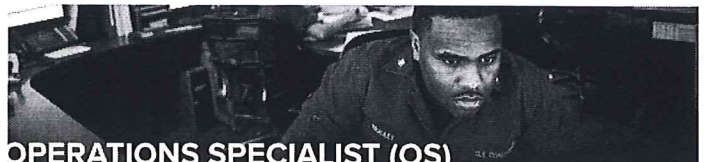
**Related jobs:** marine environmental specialist, marine safety specialist, hazardous materials specialist, oil and hazardous materials spill responder, facility supervisor, vessel inspector, and OSHA response trainer.



## MARITIME ENFORCEMENT (ME)

MEs duties are security, anti-terrorism force protection, and maritime law enforcement. You should have strong leadership and instructional ability, be physically fit, possess normal color vision, and have a strong interest in law enforcement and security.

**Related jobs:** police officer, security guard, personal security specialist, investigator, and small arms instructor.



## OPERATIONS SPECIALIST (OS)

OSs duties range from search and rescue and law enforcement case execution to combat information center and intelligence operations. You should have an interest in computers and communications, an aptitude for detailed work, mathematical aptitude, and normal color vision.

**Related jobs:** intelligence specialist, emergency operations coordinator, data base manager, and air/vessel traffic controller.



## PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST (PA)

PAs perform media relations, journalism, web design, photography, videography, public speaking and desktop publishing. You should possess the ability to communicate with clear, accurate speech and writing. You need an excellent command of the English language and the ability to work effectively in a variety of media.

**Related jobs:** public relations specialist, news reporter, web designer, writer, editor, videographer, photographer, and desktop publishing designer.



## STOREKEEPER (SK)

SKs provide and account for supplies and spare parts. They are also the Coast Guard's expert purchasing agents, accountants, and property managers. You should possess computer skills, organizational skills, and an aptitude for practical mathematics.

**Related jobs:** inventory manager, purchaser, accountant, bookkeeper, shipping and receiving clerk, and warehouse worker.



## YEOMAN (YN)

YNs solve issues, provide counsel and information to personnel on questions ranging from career moves, pay entitlements, and incentive programs, to retirement options and veteran's benefits. You should have excellent prioritization and organization skills along with good interpersonal skills.

**Related jobs:** human resources specialist, executive assistant, personnel manager and administrative assistant.



# JOIN THE RESERVE!

## HEALTH CARE

### Personal

As a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, you are eligible to receive medical care through the TRICARE Reserve Select program. This medical insurance is competitive at a low-cost rate of \$47.20/month.

### Family

You and your dependents are eligible for family healthcare coverage. After registering your dependents, you and your family are covered with TRICARE at the significantly reduced rate of \$238.99/month.

### Dental Plans

The TRICARE Dental program offers dental coverage to you and your family. Premiums are as low as \$11.60/month for members and approximately \$86.97/month for a family plan.

## EDUCATION

### Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB-SR) Selected Reserve

The MGIB-SR program provides service members up to 36 months of education and training benefits at \$384.00/month equaling up to \$13,824 of educational support. To be eligible, you must complete boot camp and "A" school, and stay in good standing while serving in an active Selected Reserve unit.

### Post 9/11 GI Bill

After successfully completing 90 aggregate days of active duty (not for training), service members become eligible for 40% of the Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, including a monthly Basic Allowance for Housing stipend, and financial support for tuition, books, and fees for up to 36 months.

### Incentives & Loans

Your service may make you eligible for scholarships, loans, and incentives. Some states even offer assistance with tuition costs for service members and veterans.



## PAY & INCENTIVES

### Reserve Pay

Starting out, you will earn approximately \$310.72/month for each drill weekend. For example, a petty officer second class (E-5), with over four years of service, will earn \$397.08/month. When you serve on active duty, you will receive full active-duty benefits, in addition to full-time pay and basic allowance for housing.

### Travel Opportunities

A career in the Coast Guard Reserve is exciting. You may receive orders to travel and serve in new and exotic areas. Being a service member means you are also eligible to use DoD and Coast Guard morale programs including "Space-Available" travel on military flights.

### Life Insurance

You will receive the Servicemember's Group Life Insurance plan, insuring you for \$400,000 at a cost of \$25.00/month. Dependents can receive coverage up to \$100,000 for an additional fee based on age.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Training

Receive top-notch training in a career field you choose. Upon successful completion of "A"-school, you will be eligible for additional training.

### Retirement

The Blended Retirement System is a 401-K based retirement through the Thrift Savings Plan. Your contributions will be matched up to 5%. Additionally, you may transfer this retirement benefit regardless if you reach 20 years of service.

### Veteran Preference Points

Many employers offer hiring incentive programs for veterans. Qualifying service also gives you a competitive edge when applying for federal service jobs.

### Security Clearance

Based on your assignment, you will receive either a Secret or Top Secret clearance, which helps you become more marketable for other professional opportunities.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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# CSPI:

## COLLEGE STUDENT PRE-COMMISSIONING INITIATIVE

Through the U.S. Coast Guard's College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI) scholarship sophomores and juniors can receive:

- Competitive salary
- Up to \$3600 monthly salary while in school
- Up to two years of tuition, fees, and books
- Paid medical and dental insurance
- 30 days annual paid vacation
- Summer leadership training

### CONTACT

NAME Recruiting Office Hartford

PHONE 860-533-9409

EMAIL HQS-SMB-CGRC-ROHARTFORD@uscg.mil



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To learn more, chat or contact a recruiter, visit **GoCoastGuard.com.**



**FY22**

Updated 09SEP2021



# Coast Guard Recruiting Command

## Enlisted Active Duty Bonus Job Aid

**ENLISTMENT BONUS (EB).** An EB is authorized for new recruits enlisting in the Coast Guard for the first time. All EBs are exclusive and cannot be combined with any other EB.

**Guaranteed A School Enlistment Bonus (GA-EB).** A GA-EB is authorized for new recruits, for their first career enlistment, that sign an agreement to attend a critical rating Class A School immediately upon graduation from boot camp. Prior service applicants are not authorized a GA-EB.

### Guaranteed "A" School Enlistment Bonuses.

#### NON-PRIOR SERVICE ONLY

CS	Associates or Bachelor's degree in culinary arts from an accredited academic or culinary Institution. NON-PRIOR SERVICE ONLY.	\$40,000
	Qualifying culinary certificate to enlist as E-3. NOTE: Must be approved by Accessions. NON-PRIOR SERVICE ONLY.	\$30,000
	A \$20,000 EB is authorized for CS applicants to enlist. NON-PRIOR SERVICE ONLY.	\$20,000
EM	A \$10,000 EB is authorized for EM applicants to enlist. NON-PRIOR SERVICE ONLY.	\$10,000
ET	A \$15,000 EB is authorized for ET applicants to enlist. NON-PRIOR SERVICE ONLY.	\$15,000
OS	A \$20,000 EB is authorized for OS applicants to enlist. NON-PRIOR SERVICE ONLY.	\$20,000

#### Non-Rate Enlisted Bonuses.

#### PRIOR AND/OR NON-PRIOR SERVICE

Non-Rate Enlistment Bonus (NR-EB)	A \$2,000 NR-EB is authorized to new recruits, for their first career enlistment, without a guaranteed affiliation with a Class A-school. NON-PRIOR SERVICE ONLY.	\$2,000
Prior Svc Enlistment Bonus (PS-EB)	A \$2,000 PS-EB is authorized to new recruits that completed a successful enlistment of at least 24 months in a DoD armed service. PRIOR SERVICE ONLY.	\$2,000
Quick-Ship Enlistment Bonus (QS-EB)	A \$5,000 or, as directed, a \$10,000 QS-EB is authorized, as needed, for all new recruits to fill any Recruit Training Company that is not scheduled to be at capacity. PRIOR AND NON-PRIOR SERVICE.	\$5,000 \$10,000
College Credits Enlistment Bonus (CC-EB)	A \$5,000 CC-EB is authorized for all new recruits who have received an Associate degree or higher, and who enlist without a guaranteed Class A-School. PRIOR AND NON-PRIOR SERVICE.	\$5,000

#### Critical Skills Training Bonus (CSTB)

#### PRIOR SERVICE ONLY

CS	A \$20,000 CSTB is authorized for CS Class A-School. PRIOR SERVICE ONLY.	\$20,000
EM	A \$10,000 CSTB is authorized for EM Class A-School. PRIOR SERVICE ONLY.	\$10,000
ET	A \$15,000 CSTB is authorized for ET Class A-School. PRIOR SERVICE ONLY.	\$15,000
OS	A \$15,000 CSTB is authorized for OS Class A-School. PRIOR SERVICE ONLY.	\$15,000

#### Guaranteed Class "A" Schools

AST (type II)	BM CS	EM	ET	GM	OS
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#### Open Rate List (ORL)

E-4 & E-5	AET	CS	GM	ME	PA
	AMT	DC	HS	MK	SK
	AST	EM	IS	MST	YN
	BM	ET	IT	OS	

E-6	IS				
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#### Temporarily Suspended Rates (All Paygrades)

IS	ME (unless DSF-TO competency)	MST	YN
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