

FUTURES

M A G A Z I N E

FIND YOUR PASSION

★ **FIND YOUR PATH** ★



• **IN THE ONE PLACE** •
YOU NEVER THOUGHT TO LOOK

FROM FORENSICS TO PHOTOGRAPHY,

THE MILITARY OFFERS MORE THAN

YOU EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE

• SEE FOR YOURSELF •



WELCOME TO
FUTURES
MAGAZINE

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CHALLENGE

EVERYTHING YOU KNOW

.....

Every day the Military helps more than a million people move closer to achieving their goals. Meet 18 young people across all five Services who are discovering new skills and strengths they never thought they would, or could, possess.

.....

YOUR FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

.....



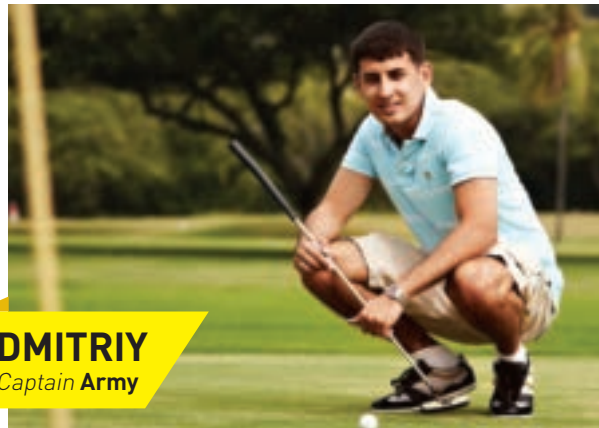
DESI
Specialist Army Reserve



COURTNEY
Sergeant Army National Guard



TIFFANY
Specialist Army



DMITRIY
Captain Army



SHANYSE
Specialist Army Reserve



RYAN
ROTC Cadet Army National Guard



ARMY

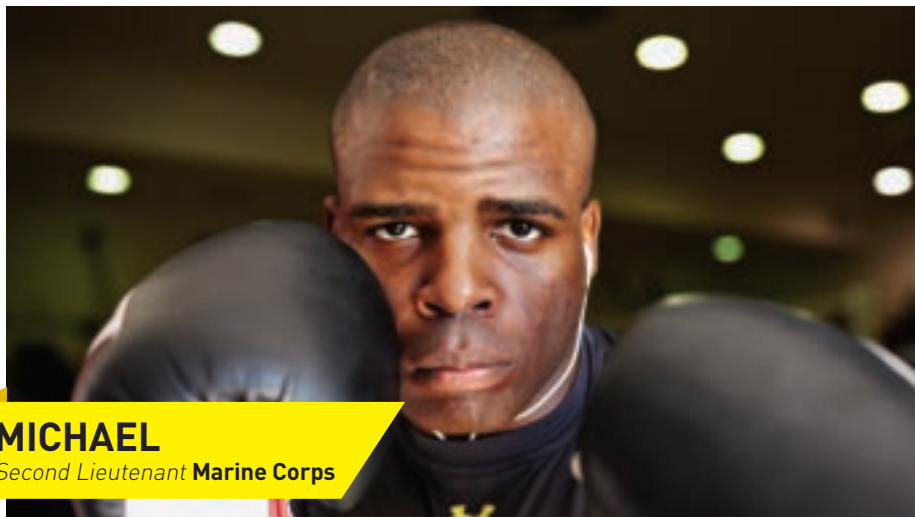
*HAEC PROTEGIMUS
LATIN FOR "THIS WE'LL DEFEND"*



Or visit www.goarmy.com



DARRYN
Corporal Marine Corps



MICHAEL
Second Lieutenant Marine Corps



MARINE CORPS

SEMPER FIDELIS
LATIN FOR "ALWAYS FAITHFUL"



Or visit bit.ly/marinecorpsfutures



MAYA
Petty Officer Second Class Navy



RAFAEL
Petty Officer Second Class Navy



NAVY
PARATUS ET POTENS
LATIN FOR "READY AND ABLE"



Or visit www.navy.com



KELLY
Staff Sergeant Air Force



CLINTON
Senior Airman Air Force



SAUL
Staff Sergeant Air National Guard



ALEX
Senior Airman Air Force Reserve



TARA
Staff Sergeant Air Force Reserve



JONATHAN
Senior Airman Air National Guard



AIR FORCE
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SANDRA

Petty Officer Second Class **Coast Guard**



VANESSA

Petty Officer Second Class **Coast Guard Reserve**



COAST GUARD

SEMPER PARATUS
LATIN FOR "ALWAYS READY"



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FIND YOUR PATH

ONE MILITARY, MANY WAYS TO SERVE

ACTIVE DUTY

Each Military Service has full-time members. They're referred to as Active Duty.

RESERVE

Each Service has members who, in most cases, have a civilian career or are pursuing their education in addition to their part-time military service. These members comprise the Reserve component. They train regularly and can be called to Active Duty to support military objectives when needed.

NATIONAL GUARD

The Army National Guard and Air National Guard are controlled by state governments unless called to serve during U.S. and international emergencies or to support military objectives overseas. Like reservists, members of the National Guard are both civilians and servicemembers.

NOW IT'S TIME TO FIND WHERE YOUR TRUE PASSION LIVES

VISIT [TODAYSMILITARY.COM/CAREERS](https://www.todaymilitary.com/careers) TO LEARN MORE

REASONS TO JOIN

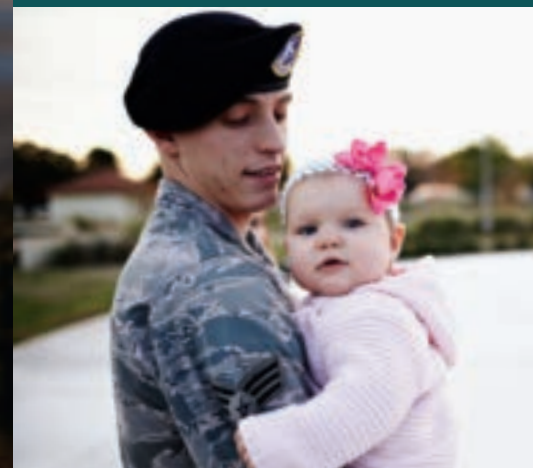
“ I JOINED BECAUSE I THOUGHT THE MILITARY WOULD GIVE ME MORE OPTIONS AND LATER I MADE A CAREER OUT OF IT. IT TURNED OUT TO BE A LIFE-CHANGING ENVIRONMENT AND THE BEST DECISION I EVER MADE. ”

— Air National Guard Senior Airman Jonathan Massey



“I didn’t know what I wanted to do exactly. I’ve just always wanted to do something important. I signed up and loved it from the beginning. I just didn’t feel a connection to my future until I joined the Military.”

— Army Reserve
Spc. Shanyse Lingham



“I was 18 years old when I enlisted, and even then I knew I wanted to have a family someday. It’s always been important to me, and after I met with a few recruiters, I realized a military career would let me achieve my own dreams while supporting the people I care about most.”

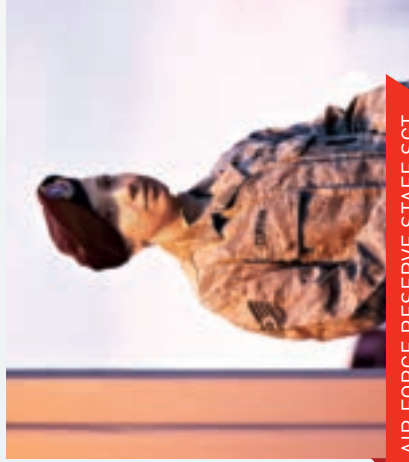
— Air Force
Senior Airman Clinton Patton



.....
A UNIVERSAL
UNDERTAKING
.....

.....
AN INDIVIDUAL
EXPERIENCE
.....

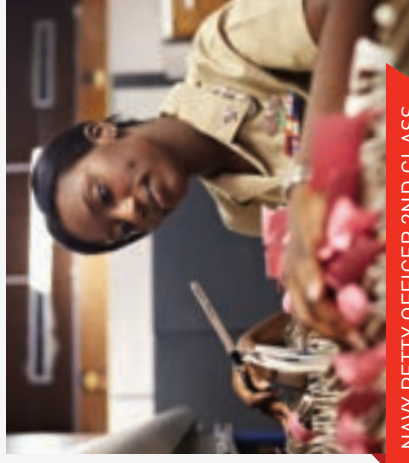
BASIC TRAINING, also known as boot camp or recruit training, is the first step to prepare all recruits — Active, Guard and Reserve — for life in the Military. Each Service has its own tailored training program, but all challenge the mind and body. While Basic Training is something every recruit must complete, servicemembers' experiences are anything but uniform.



AIR FORCE RESERVE STAFF SGT.
TARA CURRAH



AIR NATIONAL GUARD STAFF SGT.
SAUL MENDOZA



NAVY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS
MAYA DOVER



NAVY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS
RAFAEL WHITSON

YOU WILL ALL BE ON THE SAME LEVEL

"Basic Training is tough for everyone. There is no such thing as a 'girl pushup' in the Military," says Air Force Reserve Staff Sgt. Tara Currah.

YOU WILL TRANSFORM

"I showed up at Basic Training at 120 lbs., I could only do six pushups, and that was giving it everything I had," says Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Saul Mendoza. "I was so light the wind would push me around. But I worked hard, and when I left boot camp, I weighed 145 lbs. and I could do 37 pushups."

YOU WILL BE SURPRISED

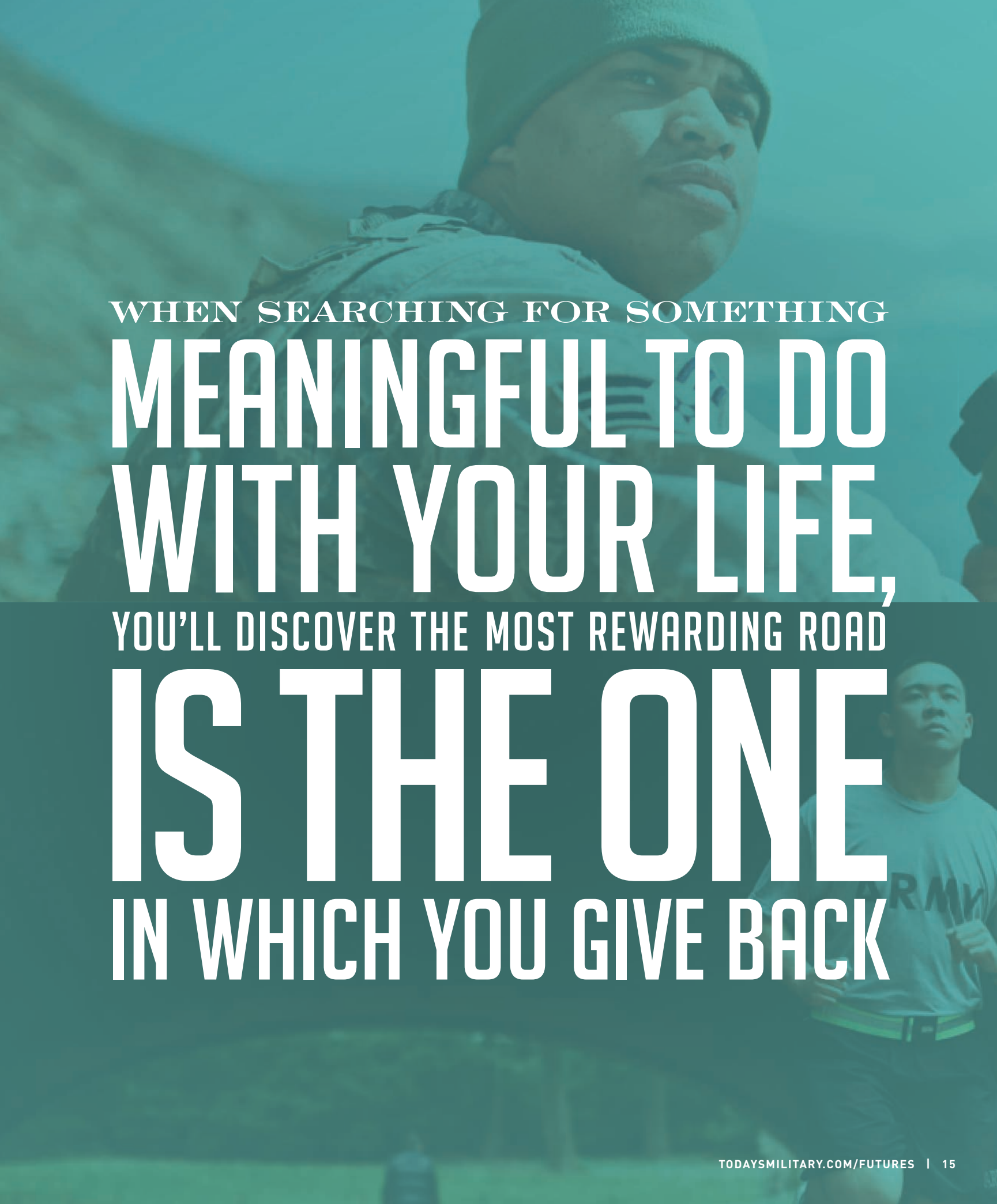
"I really didn't know what to expect," says Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Maya Dover. "I figured lots of yelling, working out, zero sleep. Our commanders actually allowed us to make mistakes, but they would quickly correct us, because whether or not people realize it, boot camp is all about attention to detail."

YOU WILL BE PROUD

"At the end, once you've passed, that's the greatest feeling in the world," says Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Rafael Whitson. "You go to a ceremony where they replace your recruit ball cap with a real U.S. Navy ball cap, and that was the proudest I'd ever felt up to that point in my life. I could say, 'I am a U.S. Navy Sailor.'"



HAVE PURPOSE



WHEN SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING
**MEANINGFUL TO DO
WITH YOUR LIFE,**
YOU'LL DISCOVER THE MOST REWARDING ROAD
IS THE ONE
IN WHICH YOU GIVE BACK



RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

For Marine Corps 2nd Lt. Michael Steadman, boxing is a metaphor for life. “When you’re challenged and get knocked to the mat, you need to pick yourself up,” he says. Michael has picked himself up off “the mat” throughout his time in the Military and has worked to achieve his goal of leading Marines.

“When I found out I was going to be a platoon commander, it served as both the beginning and the end of a six-year journey.

No amount of words can describe how I felt when I first found out I was getting a platoon. That night I literally fell to my knees and had a moment of silence reflecting on the journey I’d taken to get to this point.”

Michael’s journey in the Military began at the Naval Academy after high school. There, he looked up to a group of upper-classmen, some of whom he knew from the academy’s boxing team. Those cadets joined the Marine Corps, and Michael did the same.

His platoon was deployed in the winter of 2011. “I felt honored to lead my guys in Afghanistan. The fact that I was given 44 Marines to lead, that I was trusted with these young men, I still feel so honored.”

Michael worked hard to become a leader but hasn’t allowed his position to go to his head. “My Marines mean everything to me,” he says. “They’re the ones out there doing the hard work. I’m just their supervisor. I get to know them, their families, and help them develop into leaders themselves.”

Even as a platoon commander, Michael isn’t above asking for help. “Being a leader, you don’t know if you’re doing everything right. But you always have to be at the top of your game,” he says. “I don’t feel bad asking a squad leader their thoughts on something. I think that shows my Marines the importance of humility, and I’m not afraid to ask the right questions to do the job right.”

“ MY MARINES MEAN EVERYTHING TO ME. THEY’RE THE ONES OUT THERE DOING THE HARD WORK. I’M JUST THEIR SUPERVISOR. I GET TO KNOW THEM, THEIR FAMILIES, AND HELP THEM DEVELOP INTO LEADERS THEMSELVES. ”

— Marine Corps 2nd Lt. Michael Steadman

Michael leads his platoon through a training exercise.

RAISE THE BAR

A rmy National Guardsman and ROTC Cadet Ryan Cho contemplated joining the Military in high school. “My parents weren’t so hot on the idea of me serving,” he says. It wasn’t until after his freshman year at Columbia University that he chose to join, a decision he didn’t take lightly.

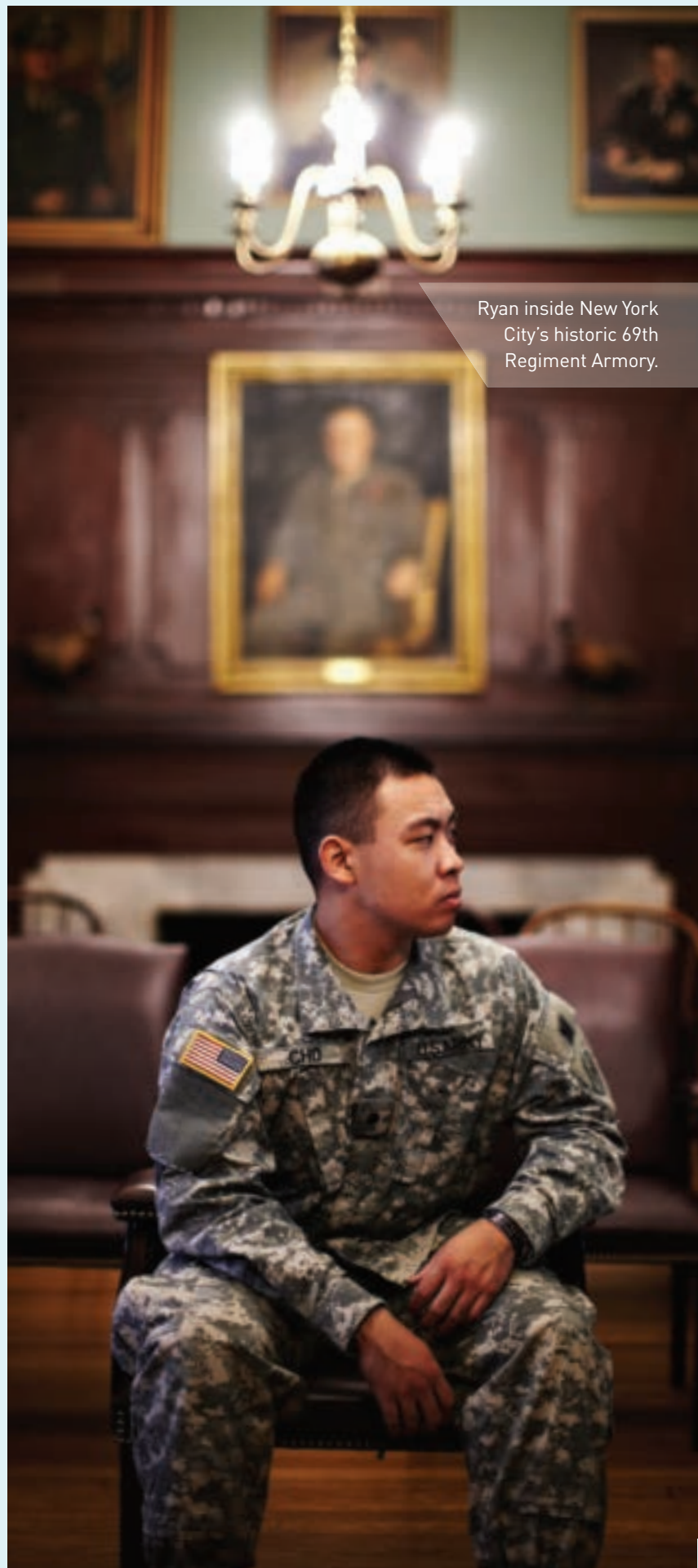
“I couldn’t decide for the longest time, not because I didn’t know if I wanted to serve, but because serving is a big commitment,” Ryan says. After realizing the passion he had for his major, political science, Ryan developed a greater appreciation for the opportunities the Military could offer. “I did a ton of research on all the different branches and all of the benefits. The Army National Guard fit my lifestyle.” Ryan also joined Columbia University’s ROTC program and will commission as an officer in the Army National Guard when he graduates.

When Hurricane Irene hit the East Coast in August 2011, Ryan’s entire unit was activated. While many New Yorkers evacuated the city, Ryan and his fellow guardsmen stayed to protect the bridges and set up shelters. Some are called to serve their country; Ryan was called to serve his city. “People think that everyone in the Military is on the front lines in combat. The Military isn’t set up like that,”

Ryan says. “Combat is one aspect of the Military, but at the same time there are so many support jobs and opportunities, from linguistics to intelligence. There are a lot of cool jobs you can have.”

In the Army National Guard, Ryan has learned how to balance his responsibilities not only as a servicemember, but as a full-time student who’s actively involved in his campus community. “I’m student government vice president, an RA [resident advisor] for my dorm and a soccer referee. The structure of the Military complements my political science studies, and the organizational skills I learned have really helped me,” he says.

While Ryan has always set the bar high for himself, he acknowledges the Military helps him reach his goals. He plans to be an aviator in the Army National Guard and then hopes to return to school as a civilian and become a lawyer. Ryan knows how much hard work lies ahead, but he also recognizes the Military has and will continue to prepare him for whatever life throws his way. “College is a period of change, and the Military was the foundation that built me up. A lot of people say college offers this, and it does, but the Military is such a complement; the Army National Guard has been such an amazing experience for me overall.”



Ryan inside New York City’s historic 69th Regiment Armory.

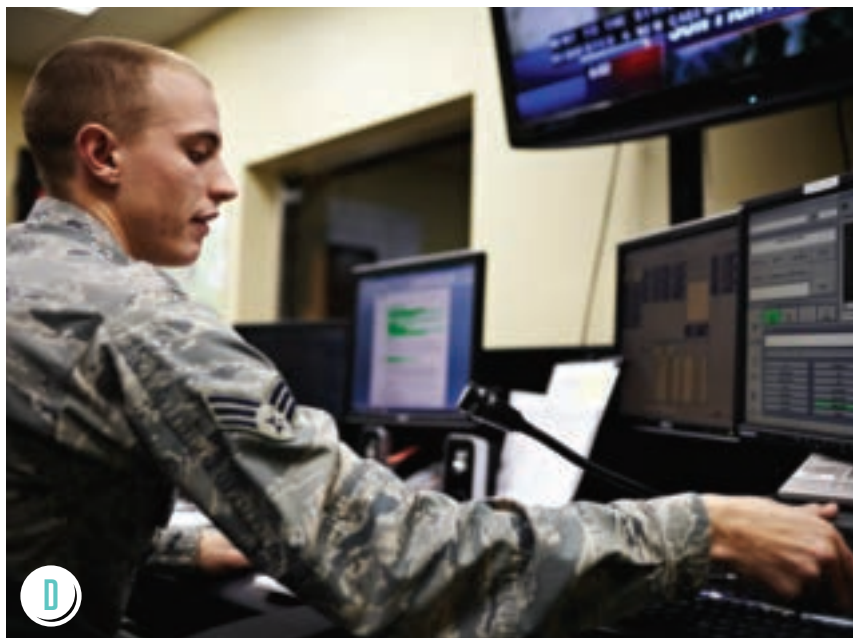
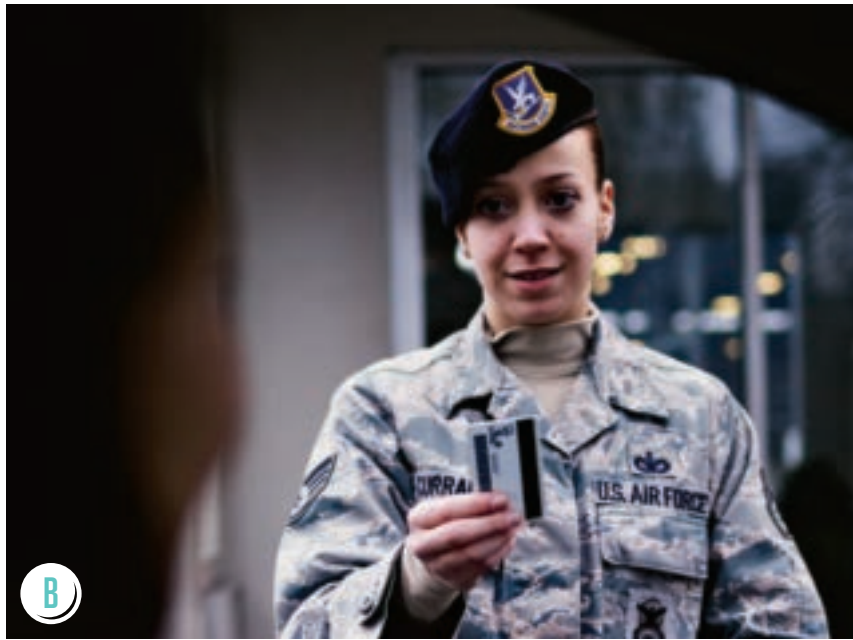
“ THE MILITARY OFFERS ME THE CHANCE TO BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN MYSELF. I MAY BE ABLE TO HELP ONE PERSON ON MY OWN, BUT BEING ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE ON A GREATER SCALE IS WHAT DREW ME TO THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD. ”

— Army National Guardsman and ROTC Cadet Ryan Cho



Ryan strolls though campus with a friend (above), and studies at Columbia University (right).





A HIGHER PURPOSE

SEE HOW THESE SERVICEMEMBERS FOUND DIRECTION WHILE PROTECTING AND DEFENDING OUR NATION AT HOME AND ABROAD

A Air National Guard Senior Airman Jonathan Massey hasn't been sleeping at night. He was recently assigned to the Sierra Joint Service Board Security team to keep an eye on the border. Using night-vision scopes and other technology, he's on the lookout for illegal activity including the transportation of drugs across the border.


B "I'm in security forces, which means I'm a member of the military police," says Air Force Reserve Staff Sgt. Tara Currah. When Tara deployed, she participated in air-based defense missions. "We searched personnel and vehicles that came on the base. We also did security for detainee releases." At her home base, Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington, she helps ensure the base is secure.

C As an intelligence specialist at U.S. Southern Command, Coast Guard Reserve Petty Officer 2nd Class Vanessa Valdes uses different tools and methods to analyze intelligence. Her job is very technical, and she says every day is an adventure. "You never know what you're going to get into when you get up in the morning. It's amazing. It's not like a 9 to 5 job; it's different."

D Air Force Senior Airman Clinton Patton is currently stationed at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas and recently graduated from the Military Working Dog Apprenticeship Course — dogs have been a passion of his since childhood. Clinton has lived in Texas his entire life; the first time he stepped on a plane was his deployment to Afghanistan. "I served as a computer systems administrator in my unit, alongside people from Croatia, France and Korea. You learn a lot about the cultures of the people you're serving with and a lot about the country you're serving in, too."

CROSS BOUNDARIES

MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY SERVE AND PROTECT OUR NATION IN A VARIETY OF WAYS, BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD. FOR FOREIGN-BORN SERVICEMEMBERS, THE IDEA OF “HOME” TAKES ON SPECIAL MEANING.

A soldier in camouflage uniform stands next to a large, tan-colored military vehicle. The soldier is wearing a camouflage cap and a jacket with "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and "DUNFORD" visible on the chest. He is holding a piece of equipment in his hands. The vehicle has large, treaded tires and a door that is open. The background is a clear blue sky.

Darryn works on a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle.



Marine Corps Cpl. Darryn Unterhorst wanted to be a Marine since he was a child growing up in South Africa. “The Marine Corps had a great reputation, even over there. They’re so distinct: how they look, how they act, how professional they are,” he says.

When Darryn was 13, he moved to Florida with his family. When he became a U.S. citizen a few years later, he was really excited. “I was so happy because I knew it would be easier for me to become a Marine.”

He enlisted in the Marine Corps after completing three years of college. “I joined the Military so I could establish a defined structure in my life and allow myself to unlock my true potential,” says Darryn. Now as a communications organizational repairman, he maintains and repairs communication equipment in military vehicles and aircraft. “I love the hands-on nature of my job, and it also gives me the opportunity to use my brain to try and troubleshoot problems,” he says.

Like Darryn, Army Capt. Dmitry Sheykman was born abroad, and he too knew he wanted to join the Military from a young age. “As an immigrant from Russia, this nation offered a lot to my family, and now as an American I want to give back,” Dmitry says.

After high school Dmitry attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Now an officer, he’s stationed at Fort Shafter in Hawaii and helps maintain the flow of information of the senior leadership at U.S. Army Pacific Command.

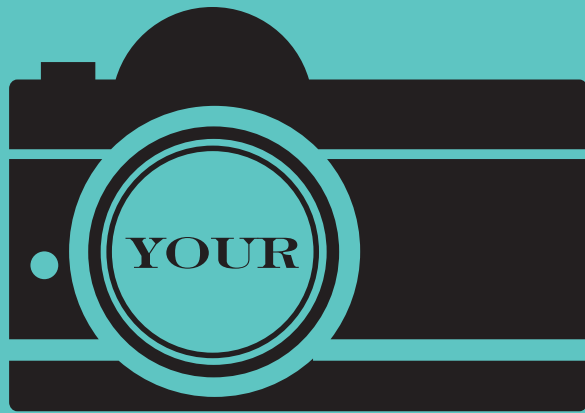
**“ MILITARY TRAINING WILL SET YOU UP FOR SUCCESS
NO MATTER WHAT PROFESSION YOU DECIDE ON. ”**

— Army Capt. Dmitry Sheykman



Dmitry reviews documents with a fellow Soldier (above) and brainstorms a communications strategy in his office (right).





FUTURE IN FOCUS

CREATIVITY AND CAREERS
CAN GO HAND IN HAND

Whether you're choosing to support a cause or deciding to follow a dream, harnessing your talents is the first step toward making a difference while doing something you love





Army Spc. Tiffany Dusterhoft documents a military training exercise (above), and Air Force Reserve Senior Airman Alex Brown captures photos for a story he's writing (right).





MAKE PROGRESS: HUMAN TO HUMANITARIAN

Do you know what you want to do after high school? Army Spc. Tiffany Dusterhoft, a combat photographer, didn't, but she knew she wasn't ready to go straight to college. Tiffany was shy in high school, but with a camera in hand as part of her role on the yearbook staff, she came out of her shell. When a recruiter said there was one spot left in the Combat Documentary Production Unit, Tiffany jumped at the opportunity. "The Army had everything I was looking for in terms of travel and opportunities for the future," she says.

After Basic Training Tiffany studied photography for nine months at the Military's Defense Information School and took a yearlong special training course at Syracuse University, one of the top communications schools in the country, to further develop her photography and documentary skills. "I got to live as your average college student for a year," she says. "I went to a very advanced civilian school that I wouldn't have been able to get into without the Military."

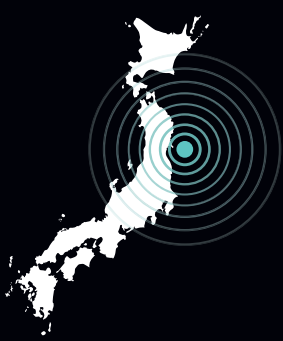
Those skills served her well when she was deployed to Japan after an 8.9 magnitude earthquake struck in March 2011. There she captured images of the devastation and how the U.S. Military assisted the Japanese Self-Defense Forces. What she saw inspired her to sketch out a documentary video. Her supervisor loved the idea, and she went to work. "I was given so much freedom to be creative. It was one of the most difficult stories I've ever told, but it was an incredible experience."

And it's that experience Tiffany will take with her even after her time in the Military. "The Military has opened so many doors for me," Tiffany says. "I have so many choices: I can be a freelance photographer; I can be a camera operator for film and television. The Military has prepared me for whatever is next in my life."



**“ I LOVE MY JOB.
I HAVE THE BEST JOB
IN THE ARMY. ”**

— Army Spc. Tiffany Dusterhoft



CAPTURING HISTORY:

Tiffany was deployed to Japan shortly after a devastating 8.9 magnitude earthquake struck the country in 2011. With her camera she captured images (including those above) of devastation, but also the triumph of the human spirit.



BE PROGRESSIVE: FIND YOURSELF

For Air Force Reserve Senior Airman Alex Brown, it was his creativity that drove him to explore a career as a military photojournalist.

“Since I picked up my first camera in the sixth grade, I’ve always been able to express myself through photography,” Alex says. “It’s always been a staple in my life, but I was scared I’d never be able to actually do anything with it.”

“My life was going nowhere. I wasn’t inspired, and I wasn’t doing anything,” Alex says. But when he saw a commercial for

the Air Force, everything clicked and, “Everything that I ever wanted has come to fruition.”

When he’s not drilling as an Air Force reservist at Westover Air Base in Chicopee, Mass., Alex is focused on getting his bachelor’s degree from The New England Institute of Art in Boston.

“The Military is giving me opportunities to go out and interview people and really explore,” Alex says. “It’s an unusual combination, but, luckily, I was able to follow my passion in my military career.”





Alex presents his portfolio to classmates at The New England Institute of Art (left), interviews a fellow Air Force reservist (below left) and takes pictures on the flight line (below).

To learn about how the Military can help you pay for your education, head to www.todaysmilitary.com/education.



“ I WANT TO BE THE FIRST OF SOMETHING. TOO MANY TIMES PEOPLE SETTLE FOR MEDIOCRITY. I WANT TO BE REMEMBERED, UNIQUE AND DIFFERENT. ”

– Air Force Reserve Senior Airman Alex Brown

STEP AHEAD



.....
SEE HOW THESE SERVICEMEMBERS ARE
MOVING FORWARD FASTER
THAN THEY EVER IMAGINED
.....



A STEP AHEAD: TO THE COURT

Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Sandra Derk is getting unique work experience through the Military that she wouldn't be able to get otherwise. Sandra is working toward her bachelor's degree and is a pre-law major. She works in the legal offices at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. There she assists lawyers in processing cases and notarizes official documents for government employees.

Many lawyers hope they'll one day have a job that brings them to the iconic marble steps of the Supreme Court of the United States. Sandra already does. As part of her job, she serves as liaison between the Coast Guard and the Supreme Court and facilitates Coast Guard lawyers' admittance to the Supreme Court Bar, a prerequisite for arguing a case before the High Court. "I am getting the type of experience even people in law school don't get," Sandra says. "It's basically an amazing internship that's full time, plus I get paid."

Sandra stops to speak with a Coast Guard officer before heading into the Supreme Court.

A STEP AHEAD: TO THE CRIME SCENE

Air Force Staff Sgt. Kelly Clevenger, a Security Forces Investigator, has more job experience than most people her age could hope for. "As a civilian police officer my age, you'd probably still be riding on the streets as a regular patrolman — pulling people over for speeding and things like that," Kelly says.

As an investigator, Kelly gets to wear civilian clothing to work and spends her days interviewing people, examining crime scenes and analyzing evidence. And if she has free time at the

office, Kelly's supervisors encourage her to spend it on her school work to complete her degree in social and criminal justice, which she's pursuing online.

"Coming out of high school I wanted to go to college, but paying tuition was a challenge," Kelly says. With financial assistance from the Military, however, she's hoping to finish her degree by the end of the year and get even further ahead in her career path. "Being in the Military, you get job experience that no one else can."

“YOU’RE GOING TO HAVE WAY MORE ON YOUR RESUME THAN ANYBODY COMING STRAIGHT OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE COULD COUNT ON.”

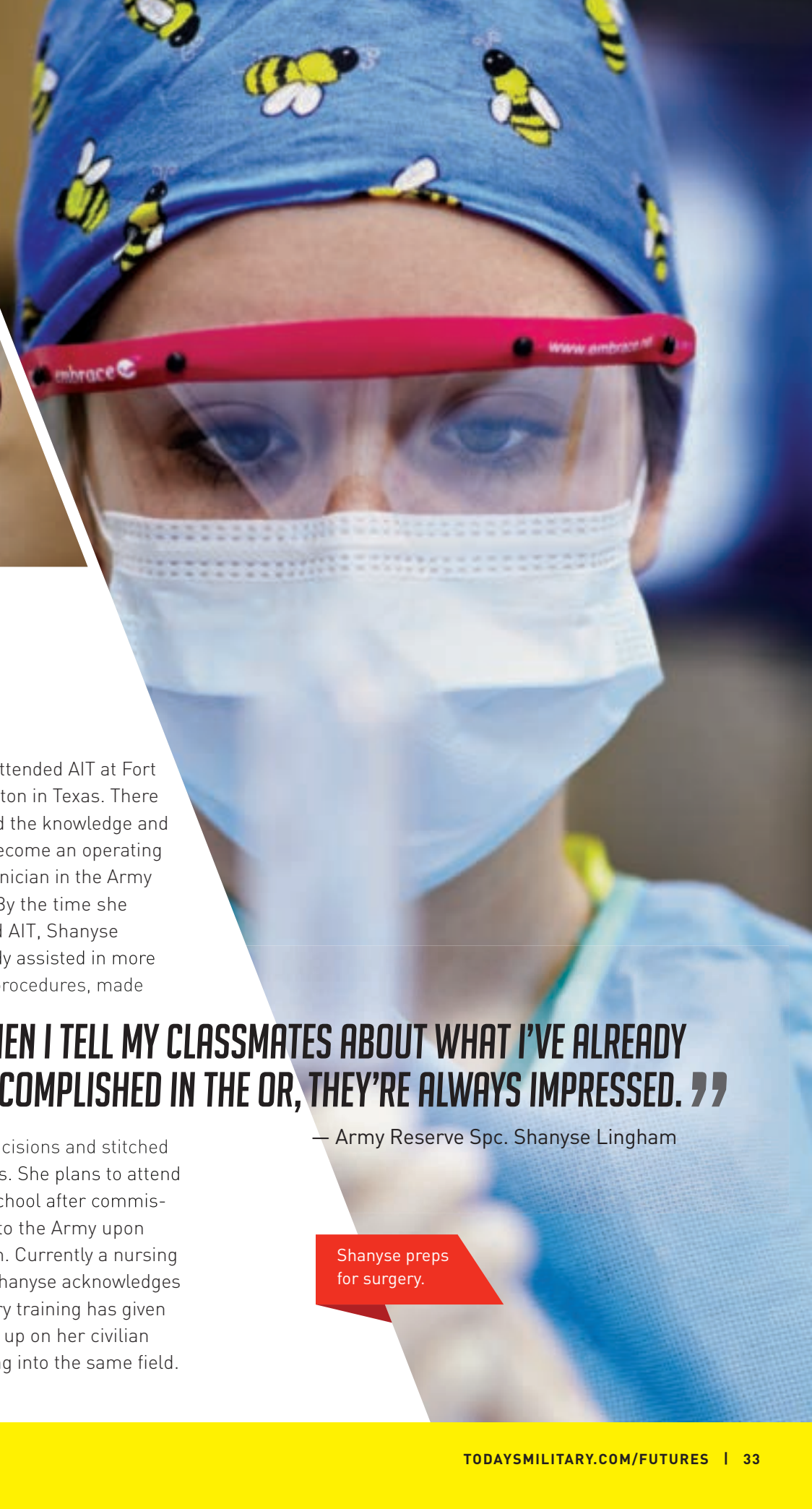
— Air Force Staff Sgt. Kelly Clevenger



Kelly examines a piece of evidence in the lab.



Shanyse examines a fellow student in one of her nursing classes.



A STEP AHEAD: TO THE OR

Army Reserve Spc. Shanyse Lingham has had a lifelong dream of going to medical school. She was accepted to 12 colleges, and even put a deposit down at one, but, she says, "After I graduated from high school, I couldn't get excited to go to college. It didn't feel right for me then." Instead, Shanyse joined the Army Reserve.

After Basic Training, Shanyse attended 19 weeks of Advanced Individual Training (AIT). She is now a full-time college student at Norwich University in Vermont and is in the Army Reserve part time. For Shanyse, the Military is doing more than helping pay for her education; it's providing hands-on experience most college sophomores would never receive.

Shanyse attended AIT at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. There she gained the knowledge and skills to become an operating room technician in the Army Reserve. By the time she completed AIT, Shanyse had already assisted in more than 100 procedures, made

“ WHEN I TELL MY CLASSMATES ABOUT WHAT I’VE ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED IN THE OR, THEY’RE ALWAYS IMPRESSED. ”

— Army Reserve Spc. Shanyse Lingham

surgical incisions and stitched up patients. She plans to attend medical school after commissioning into the Army upon graduation. Currently a nursing student, Shanyse acknowledges her military training has given her a step up on her civilian peers going into the same field.

Shanyse preps for surgery.



ON THEIR OWN TIME

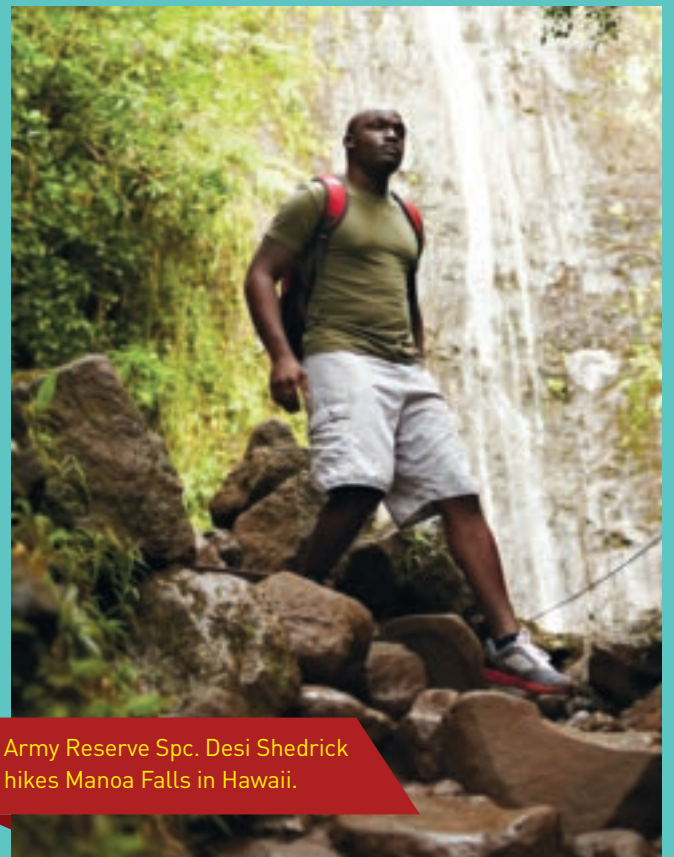
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WHILE OFF DUTY, SERVICEMEMBERS ENJOY HOBBIES
THEY'VE HAD SINCE CHILDHOOD AND DISCOVER
THEIR PASSION FOR NEW ACTIVITIES

Air Force Reserve Staff Sgt. Tara Currah snowboards at Crystal Mountain in Washington.



Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Saul Mendoza plays paintball on base in Port Hueneme, Calif.



Army Reserve Spc. Desi Shedrick hikes Manoa Falls in Hawaii.



“ THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
ISN'T A LAST RESORT; IT'S MY
FIRST CHOICE.”

— Army National Guard Sgt. Courtney Webb

RUNNING FAST. RUNNING SMOOTH.

Most mornings, rather than sleeping, Army National Guard Sgt. Courtney Webb can be found running. She's on the National Guard Marathon Team and trains almost every day, often with fellow guardsmen. Courtney opted to work full time for her unit — she's responsible for ensuring Soldiers receive their benefits and their paychecks on time. She's very proud of what she does. “What I love the most about

my job is that I get to know all of my Soldiers on a personal level,” Courtney says. “I love knowing they rely on me and can trust that I'll do my best to ensure they get what they need.”

“The Army National Guard isn't a last resort; it's my first choice,” she says. “Going to work every day with a smile on your face, that's priceless.”

In her free time, Courtney enjoys running (left) and kayaking (below) in Jacksonville, Fla.



Marine Corps Cpl. Darryn Unterhorst fishes on base at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C.



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Rafael Whitson skateboards at a skate park on base in Hawaii.



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DYN MIC

.....

DUOS

.....

THE MILITARY CAN SPARK CONNECTIONS, CULTIVATE FRIENDSHIPS AND CREATE UNEXPECTED BONDS

.....



Desi warms up with students (right) and inspects military vehicles (below).



ATHLETE AND COACH

Army Reserve Spc. Desi Shedrick started running track in middle school. He credits sports as well as his time in the Military — both Active Duty in the Marine Corps and now in the Army Reserve — with developing his work ethic and dedication.

When he's not on duty as a transportation coordinator for the Army Reserve, working or going to school full time, he volunteers as a track coach at

a local high school. In between drills and sprints, Desi mentors these teens by sharing his experiences with them. "Even though we're talking about track, I do share stories of my military experience as an example of how I became a better, stronger person," says Desi. "Many of the things I've learned in the Military can help them as students and athletes: dedication, hard work and follow-through."





“HE PUSHES ME TO ACHIEVE MORE AND TO BECOME BETTER.”

— Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Maya Dover

Maya shares a laugh with her mentor, Petty Officer 1st Class Darko Opoku, at the Naval Health Clinic where they both work (above), and performs a dental exam (below).

FRIEND AND MENTOR

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In addition to her job of scheduling appointments and performing dental exams on fellow Sailors and Marines, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Maya Dover is working toward a degree in medical studies and a certification in personal training. When she's looking for career advice, Maya walks down the hall to speak with her mentor, Petty

Officer 1st Class Darko Opoku, who works in the same building.

“I ask him for his thoughts when opportunities present themselves for additional training or classes,” Maya says. “He always offers good advice and supports me. It's nice to have someone with more experience offer his perspective when I need it.”



FRIENDS ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Football and fun. In addition to their service, that's what Air National Guardsmen Senior Airman Jonathan Massey and Staff Sgt. Saul Mendoza have in common. The two met while assigned to the Channel Islands Air National Guard Station in Port Hueneme, Calif., and immediately hit it off. "We have similar interests," says Jonathan. "We like to work out, have a good time and share some laughs."

Saul and Jonathan both play on the base's touch football team and, along with their other teammates, hang out and watch football after their games are over. Even when their schedules conflict — Jonathan often works nights on border security, and Saul spends his days on the flight line repairing planes — the friends stay in touch. "We always text each other to check in and see how the other is doing," says Jonathan.

For Saul, the friends he's made in the Military, including Jonathan, transcend typical barriers. "My friends and I are completely different," says Saul. "Whether they're white, black, a different religion, whatever. It just doesn't matter, because we're all here for the same reason."



Saul (left) and Jonathan (right) play football on base in Port Hueneme, Calif.

A young man in a military uniform is saluting. He is wearing a camouflage uniform with a name tag that says "BROWN" and a "U.S. AIR FORCE" patch. He is wearing a camouflage cap and sunglasses. The background is a clear blue sky with a portion of an American flag visible on the right side. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**“MY EXPECTATIONS HAVE BEEN EXCEEDED.
HONESTLY, BEING IN THE MILITARY HAS
HELPED MAKE ME THE PERSON I AM TODAY.”**

— Air Force Reserve Senior Airman Alex Brown

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