

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the ANG entrance requirements?

If you are interested in joining the Air National Guard having never served before, you must be between the ages of 17 and 34. You will be required to pass a written examination called the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) as well as an Entrance Physical Examination. Additionally, you can only have limited law violations and must pass a background check. All of this is performed as part of the screening process before you can actually join the Air Guard.

Once you complete the screening process and are determined eligible to join, you begin the job selection process, in which you and your recruiter will begin to discuss your areas of interest. Using the results from the ASVAB test and physical, the local recruiter reviews positions available within the local unit to match your areas of interest with what is currently available at the unit you're looking to join. Once a job is selected, you will be scheduled to enlist. This is the point where your membership in the Air Guard begins; everything prior to swearing in is just preliminary processing and does not obligate you to join.

What commitment is expected from Air Guard members?

For new Air Guard members, the commitment involves working one weekend a month and a few weeks a year at a minimum for a period of either 3 or 6 years. You must attend Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB in Texas for approximately 7 weeks, followed by Technical School for the career field you have chosen. Tech schools range in length from six to over 50 weeks, depending on the job.

Where will I work?

One of the primary benefits of joining the Air Guard is being part of your Hometown Air Force. Ordinarily, you would join the unit closest to where you live, and after the initial training you would return to begin working one weekend a month and a few weeks a year from that location. On occasion - typically during the annual training periods (two to three weeks a year) - units try to travel to varied locations to complete a more comprehensive training program. When this occurs, all of our members are provided transportation to and from that location as well as room and board.

Will I be deployed?

There is always the possibility of being tasked for deployment. The current posture for the Air Guard is to support the needs of the Air Force on an as-needed basis. It is almost impossible to predict or determine whether, when or for how long you could be deployed. Every effort is made to use volunteers first, and in some cases you may be tasked to deploy when volunteers are not available to meet the mission's requirements.

What is the Air Guard?

The Air National Guard is a Reserve component of the United States Air Force, and serves alongside active duty Air Force members in times of national crisis. In addition, the Air Guard serves the state and

local community in a wide range of capacities i.e.; hurricane disaster relief and support, as part of your state's National Guard, alongside the Army National Guard.

How many years do you enlist for?

If you are Non-Prior Service, the typical enlistment is for 6 years with 2 years in the Inactive Ready Reserve (non-drill status, but subject to call up). If you are Prior Service, enlistment options vary from a 1-year for some (known as a "try-1") to a 6 year enlistment, depending on your particular circumstances.

What is basic training like?

Basic training is 8 1/2 weeks of rigorous training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas. While there, you will make the transition from civilian life to military life. In addition to various types of military training, you will also learn Air Force history, customs and courtesies, as well as proper wear of the uniform. Visit this [Lackland Air Force Base link](#) for more details.

How much money can I make? (Weekend, Annual Training [AFT])

Your base pay is determined by your rank and years of service. [Click here to refer to Military Pay tables.](#) Scroll down the document to Drill Pay for weekend training with each month's drill being 4 periods. Refer to Basic Pay for annual training amounts, noting that this amount listed is for an entire month – divide the number of days in the month for the daily pay.

What about a military retirement?

Members who accumulate a minimum of 20 years creditable service are entitled to receive a military retirement at age 60. Your retirement pay is based on your rank, years of service, and total retirement points accumulated.

Do I have to buy my own uniforms and shoes?

No enlisted members are provided uniforms free of charge.