



— HAPPY NEW YEAR —

**Region 8**  
**Veterans Committee**  
**January 2020**  
**Newsletter**

## U.S. Military 101 - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines



### Army

The United States Army is the main ground-force of the United States.

**Active duty population:**  
471,000



### Air Force

The primary mission of the Air Force is to defend the United States through exploitation of air and space.

**Active duty population:**  
322,000



### Navy

The Navy's primary mission is to maintain the freedom of the seas.

**Active duty population:**  
324,000



### Marine Corps

Marines specialize in amphibious operations.

**Active duty population:**  
184,000



### Coast Guard

The Coast Guard consists of ships, boats, aircraft and shore stations that conduct a variety of missions.

**Active duty population:**  
36,000



## Department of Defense

The Department of Defense is headed by a civilian, the Secretary of Defense, who is appointed by the President of the United States and approved by the Senate. Under the Secretary of Defense, there are three military departments: The Department of the Army, the Department of the Air Force, and the Department of the Navy.

Each of these military departments is also headed up by a civilian service secretary, who are also appointed by the president.

There are five military branches: The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The Army is commanded by a four-star general, known as the Army Chief of Staff. The top military member in the Air Force is the Air Force Chief of Staff. The Navy is commanded by a four-star admiral, called the Chief of Naval Operations. The Marines are commanded by a 4-star general called the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

While the chiefs of staff of the Army and Air Force report to their respective cabinet secretaries for most matters, both the Chief of Naval Operations and the Marine Corps Commandant report (for most matters) to the Secretary of the Navy. So yes, the Marine Corps is technically part of the Navy.

## **Joint Chiefs of Staff**

These four flag officers also make up a group called the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), which also includes the Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Chairman is nominated by the President and approved by the Senate (as are other general and flag officer positions). For operational matters (such as war or conflict), the Joint Chiefs bypasses the individual service secretaries and report directly to the Secretary of Defense and the President.

## **Army: Main U.S. Ground Force**

The Army is the main ground-force of the United States. Its primary function is to protect and defend the country and its interests with ground troops, armor (such as tanks), artillery, attack helicopters, tactical nuclear weapons, and other weapons.

The Army is the oldest U.S. military service, officially established by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1775. It's also the largest of the military services. The Army is supported by two Reserve Forces which can be tapped for trained personnel and equipment during times of need: The Army Reserves, and the Army National Guard.

The primary difference between the two is that the Reserves are owned and managed by the federal government, and each state owns its own National Guard.

However, the president or the Secretary of Defense can activate state National Guard members into federal military service during times of need.

## **Air Force: Newest Branch**

The Air Force is the youngest military service. Prior to 1947, the Air Force was a separate Corps of the Army. The primary mission of the Army Air Corps was to support Army ground forces. However, World War II showed that air power had much more potential than simply supporting ground troops, so the Air Force was established as a separate service.

The primary mission of the Air Force is to defend the U.S. and its interests via air and space. It operates fighter aircraft, tanker aircraft, light and heavy bomber aircraft, transport aircraft, and helicopters. The Air Force is also responsible for all military satellites and controls strategic nuclear ballistic missiles. Like the Army, the active duty Air Force is supplemented by the Air Force Reserves and the Air National Guard.

## **Navy: Safety at Sea**

Like the Army, the Navy was officially established by the Continental Congress in 1775. The Navy's primary mission is to maintain and protect U.S. interests at sea.

In times of conflict, the Navy helps to supplement Air Force air power, since Navy aircraft carriers can often deploy to areas where fixed runways are impossible. An aircraft carrier usually carries about 80 aircraft, mostly fighters or fighter-bombers.

Navy ships can attack land targets from miles away with very heavy guns and cruise missiles. Navy submarines allow stealth attacks on our enemies from right off their shores.

The Navy is also primarily responsible for transporting Marines to areas of conflict. The Navy is supported in times of need by the Naval Reserves. However, unlike the Army and Air Force, there is no Naval National Guard (although a few states have established "Naval Militias.")

### **Marine Corps: Amphibious Operations**

Marines specialize in amphibious operations; their primary specialty is to assault, capture, and control beachheads, which then provide a route to attack the enemy from almost any direction.

The Marines were officially established on 10 November 1775 by the Continental Congress to act as a landing force for the United States Navy. In 1798, however, Congress established the Marine Corps as a separate service. While amphibious operations are their primary specialty, in recent years, the Marines have expanded other ground-combat operations, as well.

For combat operations, the Marine Corps likes to be self-sufficient, so it also has its own air power, consisting primarily of fighter and fighter/bomber aircraft and attack helicopters. But the Marines do use the Navy for logistical and administrative support; there are no doctors, nurses, or enlisted medics in the Marine Corps, for instance. Even medics that accompany the Marines into combat are specially-trained Navy medics.

### **Coast Guard: Smallest Branch**

The United States Coast Guard, the smallest of all the U.S. military branches, was originally established as the Revenue Cutter Service in 1790. In 1915, it was reformed as the United States Coast Guard, under the Treasury Department. In 1967, the Coast Guard was transferred to the Department of Transportation. Legislation passed in 2002 transferred the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security.

In peacetime, the Coast Guard is primarily concerned with law enforcement, boating safety, sea rescue, and illegal immigration control. However, the president can transfer part or all of the Coast Guard to the Department of the Navy in times of conflict.

The Coast Guard consists of ships, boats, aircraft and shore stations that conduct a variety of missions. It is also supported by the Coast Guard Reserves, and a volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliary in times of need.

The Coast Guard is commanded by a four-star admiral, known as the **Coast Guard Commandant**.

## Enlisted Personnel

Enlisted members perform the primary jobs that need to be done, trained to perform specific specialties in the military. As enlisted personnel progress up the nine ranks, they assume more responsibility and provide direct supervision to their subordinates.

Enlisted personnel in certain grades have special status. In the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps, this status is known as Non-Commissioned Officer status, or NCO. In the Navy and Coast Guard, such enlisted are known as Petty Officers. In the Marine Corps, NCO status begins at the grade of E-4 (Corporal).

In the Army and Air Force, enlisted personnel in the grades of E-5 through E-9 are NCOs. However, some Army E-4s are laterally promoted to corporal and are considered NCOs.

Also, in the Army and Air Force, personnel in the grades of E-7 to E-9 are known as senior NCOs.

In the Marine Corps, those in the grades of E-6 through E-9 are known as staff NCOs.

In the Navy/Coast Guard, petty officers are those in the grades of E-4 through E-9. Those in the grades of E-7 to E-9 are known as chief petty officers.

## Warrant Officers

Warrant Officers are highly-trained specialists. This is where they differ from commissioned officers. Unlike commissioned officers, warrant officers remain in their primary specialty to provide specialized knowledge, instruction, and leadership to enlisted members and commissioned officers alike.

With few exceptions, one must be an enlisted member with several years of experience, recommended by their commander, and pass a selection board to become a warrant officer. The Air Force is the only service which does not have warrant officers; it eliminated the role when Congress created the grades of E-8 and E-9 in the late 1960s. The other services elected to retain the warrant ranks and shifted the emphasis from a promotion process for E-7s to a highly selective system for highly-skilled technicians. There are five separate warrant ranks. Warrant Officers outrank all enlisted members.

## Commissioned Officers

Commissioned officers are the top brass. Their primary function is to provide overall management and leadership in their area of responsibility. Unlike enlisted members and warrant officers, commissioned officers do not specialize as much (with certain exceptions such as pilots, doctors, nurses, and lawyers).

Commissioned officers must have a minimum of a four-year bachelor's degree. As they move up the ranks, if they want to get promoted, they will have to earn a master's degree. Commissioned officers are commissioned through specific commissioning programs, such as one of the military academies (West Point, Naval Academy, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Academy), ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps, or OCS (Officer Candidate School), called OTS (Officer Training School) for the Air Force.

There are also two basic types of commissioned officers: Line and non-line. Non-line officers are non-combat specialists which include medical officers such as doctors and nurses, lawyers, and chaplains. Non-line officers cannot command combat troops as they are specialists and have different jobs and responsibilities.



**WE NEED EACH OTHER AS THE ROLES ARE  
SUPPORT OF EACH BRANCH.**

**TEAM WORK AT ITS BEST!**

# DID YOU KNOW

## **Morgan Freeman**

When Morgan Freeman was a youngster and far away from the shining lights of Hollywood, he served in the U.S. Air Force. While he now owns a private plane, he developed a love of flying from a young age.



## Jimi Hendrix

Before he came to be known as an incredibly skilled guitarist, Jimi Hendrix was a paratrooper in the 101st Division in the United States Army. He enlisted in 1961 and served only until 1962 when he subsequently began his music career.



## Johnny Carson

During the pinnacle of World War II in 1943, Johnny Carson signed up for the U.S. Navy. Carson felt that it was his duty to fight for freedom and his nation and he became a member of the USS Pennsylvania.

Thankfully, Carson returned home safely from the war and had a very successful career as the host of The Tonight Show starting in 1962 and ending in 1992. Carson had a distinguished career and received a number of honors and awards throughout his lifetime.



## Mr. T

It is not surprising that Mr. T was in the Military Police Corps. He was pretty much made for the job with his bulging muscles and super serious demeanor. He served during the 1970s and he rose up in the ranks and being the leader of his squad.

After his honorable discharge, Mr. T started his career as a movie star with his appearances in the notable films Rocky III and The A-Team.



## Mel Brooks

Mel Brooks is best known for being a comedic genius so it is a little hard to believe that he served in the U.S. military. However, Brooks was a corporal in a Combat Engineer Battalion. It was his task to defuse explosives and landmines in World War II.

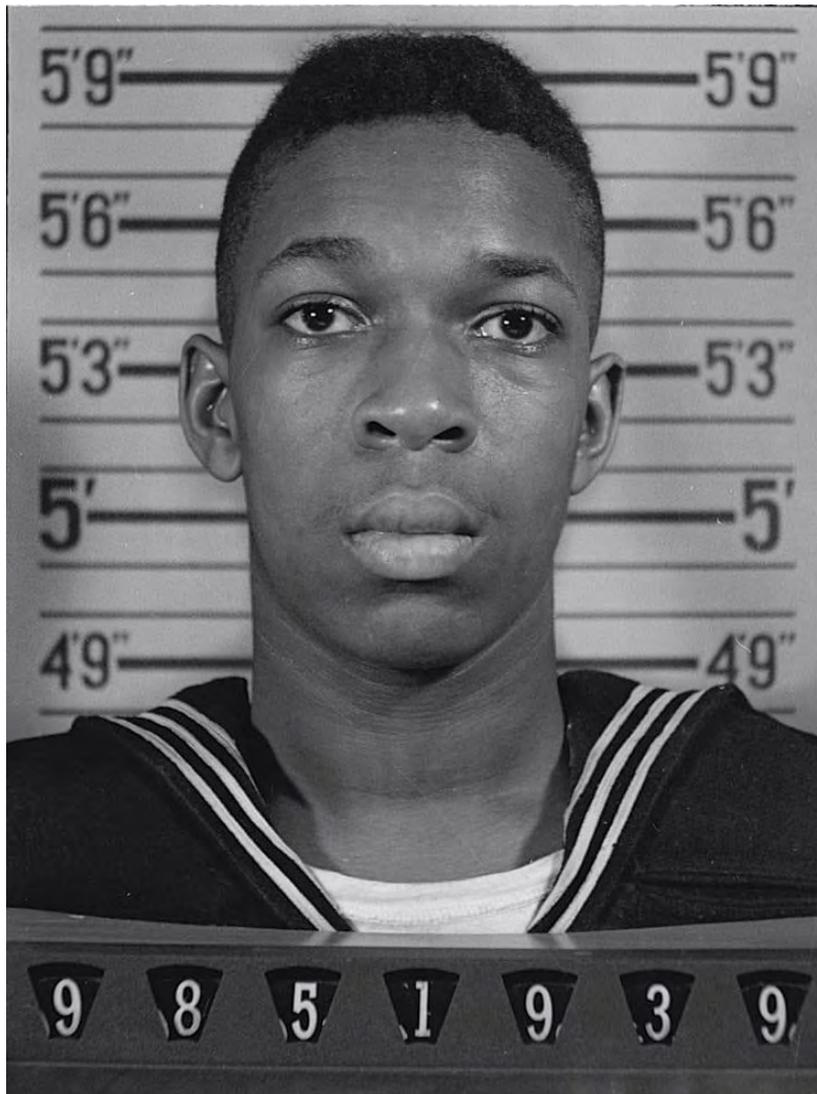
Brooks began his career as an actors, producer, and writer after his time in the military. Brooks has brought us such classic films as *The Producers*, *Spaceballs*, and *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*.



## John Coltrane

Another World War II veteran is John Coltrane who served in the Navy starting in 1945. Coltrane enlisted on the exact day that the bombs were dropped over Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

Soon after he joined, he got shipped out to Pearl Harbor where he was stationed at the Manana Barracks. It seems that Coltrane had time to work on his music skills in the Navy as he was a member of a swing band on base.



## **Bob Barker**

Bob Baker is a notable television game show host and is most famous for being the host of The Price is Right. But before Baker asked contestants to 'come on down', he was a fighter pilot in the U.S. Navy.

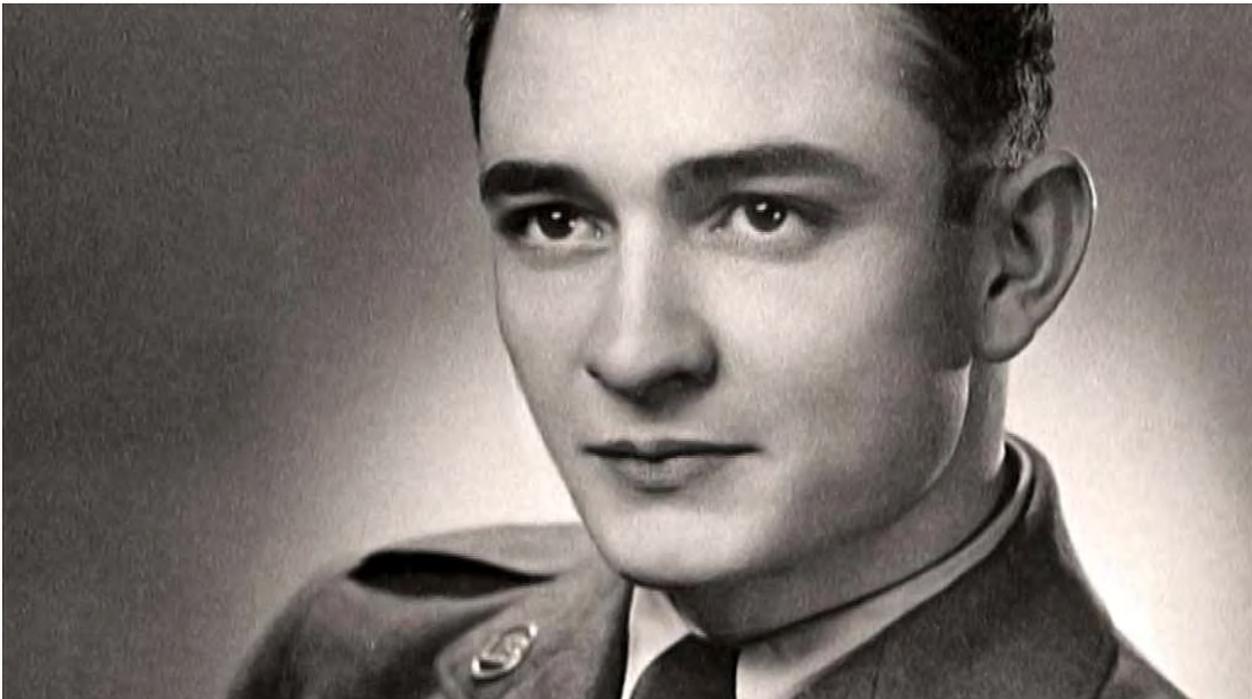
Lucky for Barker, by the time he was trained and prepared for combat, the war was already over. Barker has won the record for having hosted a television game show that is the longest-running in U.S. history as he hosted from 1972 all the way to 2007.



## Johnny Cash

The famous songwriter and singer were a member of the U.S. Air Force starting in 1950. He was a Morse Code operator in Germany as part of the Radio Squadron Mobile in the Air Force.

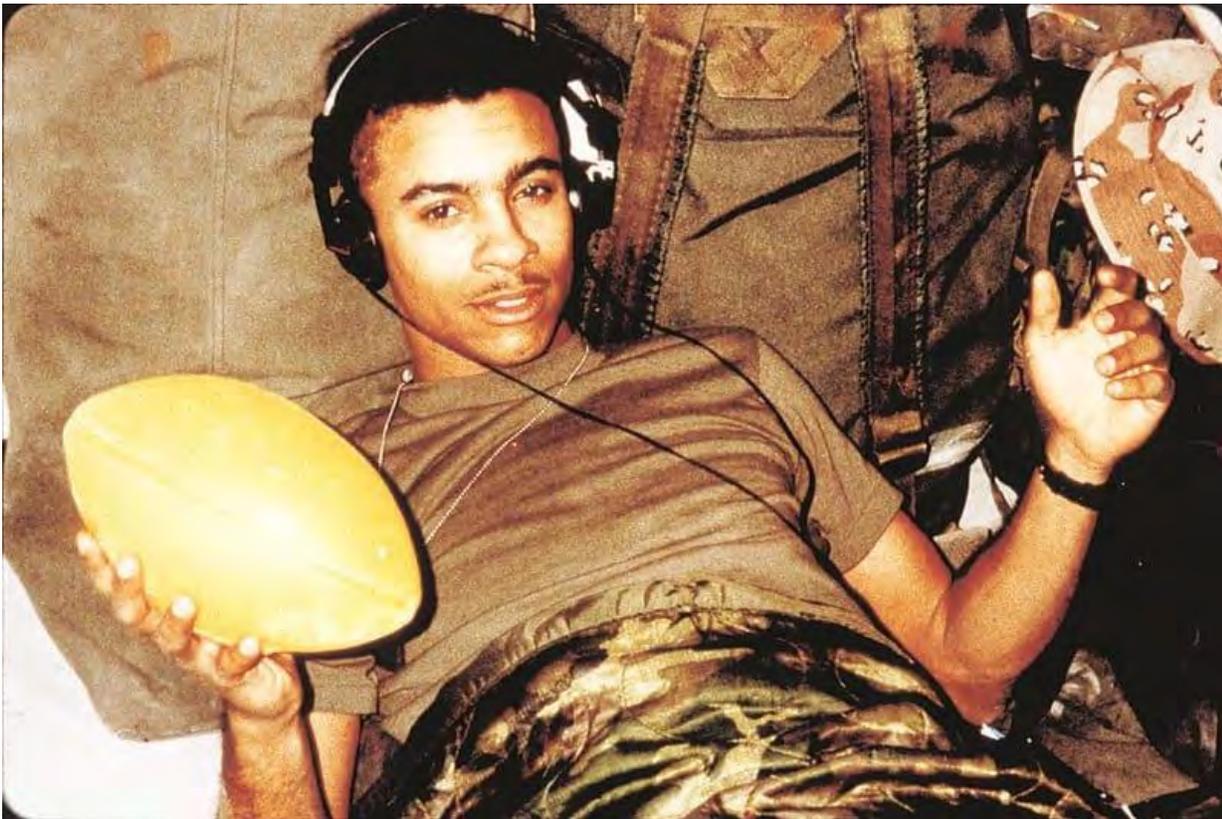
Cash had the task of intercepting messages from the Soviet Army until his honorable discharge in 1953. You know the rest of the story. Cash came back home and ultimately became a best-selling musician and sold over ninety million albums.



## Shaggy

Shaggy is best known for his reggae big hits such as Angel, Boombastic and It Wasn't Me. It may surprise you to know that the singer was actually a member of the Marine Corps.

He was a member of the 10th Marine Regiment during The Gulf War at the beginning of the 1990s. After he finished his service, Shaggy went on to have a successful music career into the early 2000s and he has been recently trying to make a comeback.



## Ice-T

Ice-T is known for many things including a career as both a rapper and actor. Although he now plays a detective on Law and Order, Ice-T was a soldier in real life. Ice-T was in the United States Army for a respectable four years in the 25th Infantry. He was honorably discharged and went on to have a successful career.



## Sammy Davis Jr.

Before his incredibly successful music career and becoming a member of the famous Rat Pack, Sammy Davis Jr. was in the Special Services during World War II. During his time in the Army, **Davis was subjected to racial prejudice.**

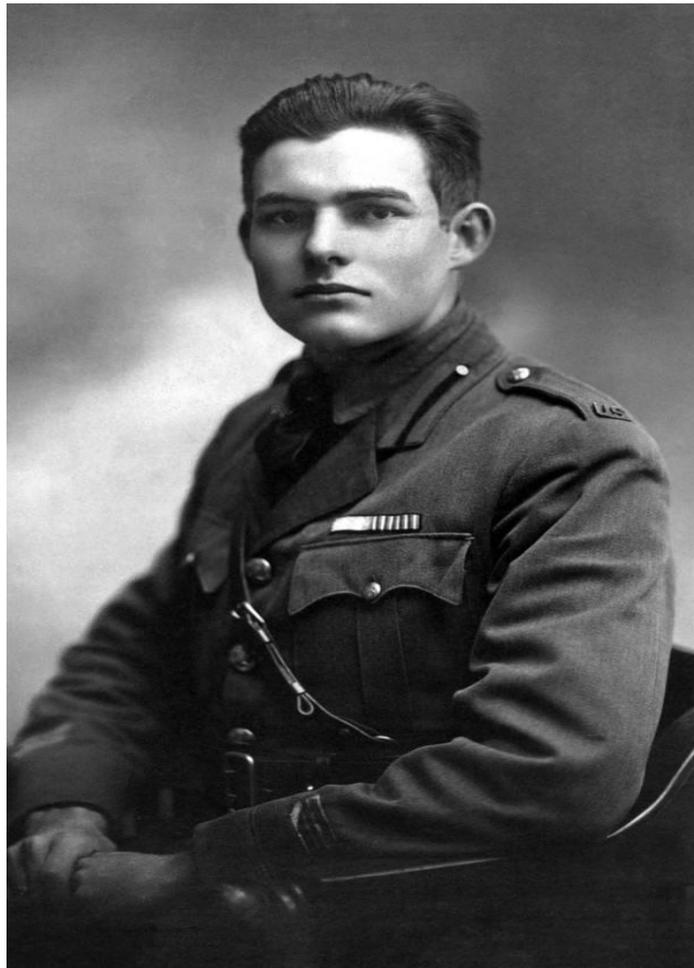
He said of his time in the Army, **“My talent was the weapon, the power, the way for me to fight. It was the one way I might hope to affect a man’s thinking.”**



## Ernest Hemingway

Before he became the most notable author of the 20th century, Ernest Hemingway served in World War I as an ambulance driver. Hemingway took his experience during the war into his writing.

On one occasion, Hemingway was responding to an explosion that occurred in a factory that made munitions. He and other recruits had that task of pulling out the bodies of the dead and injured from the building. He recalled in *Death in the Afternoon*, “I remember that after we searched quite thoroughly for the complete dead we collected fragments.”



I hope these interesting facts inspired you! You just don't now how life can impact a person and those around them. Now, its your turn to inspire those around you!

**You can now view any Veterans Newsletter at this hype link.**

**This is a great vice to use to share with others who do not know of the Newsletters. The highway of information is a great tool to inspire others within your locals as well as other Locals.**

<http://uawregion8.net/Departments/Veterans/veterans.html>

**REMEMBER THE DATES:**

**UAW Region 8 Standing  
Committees Conference  
May 18 – 22  
St. Pete Beach, FL**

**UAW Veterans Conference  
August 23 –28  
Black Lake**

# What's happening in your state and local?

Reminder: If you know of an event that is going to happen, please send me the information and if possible, a flyer in Word (doc).

Please all information on what happened with photos and quick informational or will be happening to:

[debbiabattipearson@yahoo.com](mailto:debbiabattipearson@yahoo.com)

