Is the military worth it?
0 upvotes | 5 August, 2016 | by awayofthought

I know that the military is not for everyone, however I can't help but have a certain type of boyish fondness for the military/imagining myself joining the marines or navy seals.

While talking to people, the general positives of joining the military is: Learn how to lead, you get to see the world while you are still figuring out what you want to do with the rest of your life, and you get to build long-lasting relationships with your fellow comrades. You get to save a massive amount of money for college with the GI bill, leading to zero debt and can take more risks with investing your money later on in your life while your coworkers are struggling to pay off their student loans.

Military personal get certain discounts and the government gives many monetary incentives for joining i.e. free healthcare and guaranteed paychecks. Also, military guys are considered to be very hardworking and motivated for success i.e. many Wall Street bankers are ex-military.

But the negatives I have discussed with people are the wear and tear the military has on your body, incredible stress which could lead to PTSD and other long term problems, and the higher suicide rate. I have also talked with some veterans who have served and they told me to not join unless you absolutely know you want to do it. My friend's uncle served in the marines and he told me VA hospital horror stories and how long he had to wait for treatment for his fucked-up back (he can't leave the house without someone caring for him). Also, the idea that you basically become the government's property can have a negative affect on your mental psyche.

So looking at the general pros and cons from the perspective of an ignorant college student, what is /r/asktrp consensus on the military? Is the military worth it?

Archived from theredarchive.com
Been in for ~5yrs. My advice: finish college. Spend a year traveling / networking / meeting people. Find out what you are passionate about. If all else fails and you have your degree commission as an officer.

The military you see in the movies and on TV is nothing like the real experience. Yes, the benefits are nice. The pay is nothing special. You will work 2x - 3x the hours one would normally log as a civilian. When you are deployed, prepare yourself for 6 months - 1 yr of little to no contact with the outside world, no pussy, and shit food.

Think long and hard before you sign that dotted line.

Veteran here, I have been drinking, it depends on the type of personality you have, and the age you are. If you are still young, the military could be good. I joined at 27. If you are an INTELLIGENT person, the military will destroy you. The military is great for less educated people, and I mean that with the deepest respect. I really wish I could have turned off my brain and just embrace the military, but I was too old, after having my own business and house and wife and losing everything in 2008 and then deciding to join the military, it helped me in some ways, but ruined me in others. Some parts of me wishes I could be that 27 year old guy who takes things easy, but that man is dead. I walk into public spaces and check all of the exits. This sounds so simple, but you don't understand. My brain is on tilt all the time. I can't shut it off. My girlfriend goes to work before me. She wakes me up to say good bye. Usually I just wake up very very very abruptly. I have attacked her in the past. Nothing serious, in a couple seconds I realize where I am. If you are smart though, the military is not the place for you. You fill out your military supply list. 50 dollar hammers. That lubricant that you can get at home depot for 3 bucks. That's 20 dollars. It made me so angry. The military made me so angry at bureaucracy. Your brain will be changed FOREVER. Some of it will be good. You will be able to push yourself harder than you could imagine. Even 10 years after you leave the military. You might have gained your post military weight, and you will gain your post military weight, but you will still have this crazy inner strength. You will be calm as fuck when everyone is losing their shit because they can't rent some fucking stupid movie at the red box. You will lead. People will lean on you, but you will get so frustrated that civilians are so fucking lazy and weak and pathetic. Fireworks will suck. Your civilian friends will suck. They bitch about having to mow the lawn. You were fucking in the Middle East. It was 120 degrees and you were in full military gear, but, as I said, women that are cool with the military, they will suck your dick man. You will hate it though. You want to turn off your survival instincts, but you can't. You never will. You will size up every person you meet. Is that guys hand in his pocket? Why is his hand in his pocket? does he have a weapon? This goes through your head AT THE FUCKING MALL. If you are deployed in an area with IED's (I wasn't) you will never be able to go near any pile of junk on the road again. You might attack your girl, or your parents, or your friends. If you are a man child and not educated. Then fuck yes join the military. If you have education, the military will destroy your soul. If you already have the discipline, then you probably aren't asking about joining the military.
came in as an unmotivated 19 year old and turned into someone who gets shit done and wants a lot more out of life then I did initially

Went from being shy and having shitty social skills to enjoying socializing and being able to walk into a room of strangers and have a friendly conversation. Being forced to be around a mix of intelligent people and a bunch of testosterone fueled idiots 24/7 makes you learn to be outgoing quickly lol

I was skinny af 170 6'4 and turned into a muscular 210. Confidence through the roof. Access to free gyms which are amazing

Military pays for your living and meals. Almost all of your income will be disposable. I’d advise you to save it instead of buying a new car and having all the latest technology like I did lol

Cons:

You can deploy for 9 months at a time, obviously. Even when you aren't deployed, I was gone training at least 4 months out of every year with no cell phone or access to the outside world. And training is pretty miserable for combat arms. You will be out there freezing or sweating like you've never sweat before in 100 degree heat questioning why you joined.

Good luck getting laid. Girls aren't exactly entertained by the idea of coming back to your "barracks room". Especially when you have a roommate who you possibly share a room with. Weekends consisting of guys going downtown hoping to get laid and ending up just getting really drunk and coming back to the barracks. It was pretty depressing.

Like the other posters have said: the military is full of fucking idiots. You will have shitty leadership. You will hate your life at times.

Be prepared to work 60+ hour weeks every week for meager pay. Look up military pay scale. You will start as an E-1 and will make E-4 in about 2 years.

Do I regret my service? No Would I do it again? Absolutely not. I would really urge you not to go combat arms unless you really have the heart for it because chances are you wont deploy or do anything cool unless another war breaks out.

JG60 • 3 points • 5 August, 2016 06:47 AM

It worked out well for me.

Think about exactly what you want from the military before you join.
If your going to join and not planning on making it a career (20+) then DO NOT go any type of combat arms. If you are planning on making it a career then combat arms is probably exactly what you want (faster promotion).
If I were to advise someone recently out of highschool (18-21) who is smart and just kinda floating; I would say join.

Do not join the marines.
Think HEAVILY about the Air Force or Navy. Your going to see more of the world in the Navy than anything else. Air Force is def best for training and completing some college while in. I joined the Army for a big bonus, but they're gone now.

Think about what career you want AFTER the military, pick your MOS based on that. Security clearances are BANK. Pick a job that will get you a TS if possible. There are people making 100k as janitors in certain buildings because they got a TS.
You can PM me if you want some more specific advice to your situation.

RedSkeller • 1 point • 5 August, 2016 01:04 PM
I strongly considered the military for years. What got me over it was looking at the average american. Fat, broke, diseased, bitter, and complaining they deserve better. Well you're putting your life on the line for those people, everyday.

trpthrowaway2003 • 1 point • 5 August, 2016 06:49 AM*
[deleted]
What is this?

oldredder • 1 point • 5 August, 2016 10:12 AM
It's a paid gig to murder people for money mostly to steal oil.
If you're OK with the health risks and OK with that horrible moral situation, go for it.
Just know that to 90% of the Earth the US military is the same as ISIS.

[deleted] • -2 points • 5 August, 2016 06:33 AM
I say wait to see who your commander in chief is.
Under Obama they've purged all the warriors from command and left only the political ladder climbers. You'll be subject to sexual harassment training, possibly female or tranny comrades, and extremely disadvantageous rules of engagement. I really wanted to join the army until this guy became president. If i were you, I would only trust a Trump or another republican to command me.

mortalcoil1 • 2 points • 5 August, 2016 07:27 AM
The military started changing long before Obama took office.

oldredder • -1 points • 5 August, 2016 10:17 AM
if Trump is in charge he'll launch nuclear missiles immediately then everyone else will and there will be no world left to travel or work in ever.
Total nuclear apocalypse. Trump is dumber than GW Bush and he was a fucking moron.
He made - they both make - Dan Quayle look smart.
Think of just how low you gotta go to do that.

[deleted] • 2 points • 5 August, 2016 04:29 PM
Sure