

Hello All,

Today, April 16, our guest speaker, Staff Sergeant, J. Williams from the Army came to discuss the benefits and opportunities within the army as well as how to enter into the branch.

*****The United States Military: Army*****

Mini-Bio

Our speaker graduated from Lowndes High School here in Valdosta. He was motivated to join the Army when his mother made it clear to him that he needed a plan to stand on his own two feet. He knew he was not ready for college yet and he did not want to burden his family with funds. He decided against the navy for their distasteful uniforms (at the time). He wanted more of a challenge than the Air Force but felt the Marines was too hardcore for him. He spoke to an Army recruiter, passed the ASVAB and chose a job with his counselor. He chose Audio-Visual production specialist because the title intrigued him and has stuck with the Army since. In August, he will have been with it for 20years- no regrets. The highlight of his career was documenting the first inauguration of President Obama which also gave him an opportunity to meet him.

Requirements across the board

You must be a United States Citizen. You must have an acceptable score on the ASVAB: To enlist (31) To become an officer (50) both with a technical score of 110. There are height and weight standards in the military. Each height has a weight range from which no deviation can occur. A probation is put on an individual who cannot meet these requirements. Some medical hurdles will disqualify you including:

- asthma (if you are on or need meds or need an inhaler)
- ADHD (if you are on or need meds)
- Heart Problems (further evaluation, but temporarily disqualified)

Some legal matters will disqualify you as well, including:

- Any felony
- Drug Possession Charge
- 6th misdemeanor (3-5 misdemeanors will be reviewed for severity)

The Officer Route

An officer exceeds expectations from the beginning. They create a packet (portfolio) which include the following.

- A bachelor's degree
- Transcripts from secondary schools
- An acceptable GPA
- 3 reference letters from influential people in the community
- Dress in business attire (for a photo)
- Resume
- Typed and Handwritten essay on why you want to be an officer

Three to Five Officers review the packet and set a date for you to be viewed by the board.

Outside of the packet, you are expected to fulfill the minimum requirement for the physical exam and physical fitness exams. **The Physical fitness test**

-Requires 2 push-ups- 60-65 for him, 25-30 for her

-Requires 2 sit-ups- 55-60

-Requires 2 mile run, 14 min. or under for him, 16 min. or under for her

During the board meet, you will explain to them how you will make a good leader. If they recommend you, you go through the enlistment process. You pick three occupations off of the Army's needs. For men, one of those choices must be combat arms. After that you receive the date of basic training.

Basic training lasts 10 weeks, but the 9 are weeks of training you from being a civilian to being a soldier. If you graduate basic training, you go to officer candidate school. It is believed that the top 1-2% of the officer candidate school will get to pick where their career is. The rest of the 98-99% will be matched with the army's needs and their interests. The army's needs will come first. The entry rank for an officer is Second Lieutenant- which a promotion scheduled.

By then, you will be a soldier, assisting the platoon sergeant, planning the training of the troops under the commander's expectations.

Throughout this process your advisor will be your senior enlistment person. They have 10-15 years experience and will allow you to lean heavily on their expertise.

[The Enlistment Route](#)

The basic standards must be met. A job list will be generated for you to pick based on the Army's current needs. By your choice, the enlistment advisor can tell you the length of your first contract, the length of basic training, the school you will go to and give you a copy of the reservation. You will see guidance counselors and must do well at the physical fitness exam and the physical.

1 minutes push-ups – 3 male styled for her, 16 male style for him

1 minutes sit-ups – 19 for both

1 miles 10 min 30sec or less for her, 8min 30 for him

You will be sworn in at this point. Then basic training program begins. The Future Soldiers Program assists in the transition.

What is Basic Training Like?

Basic training will teach you to pass the physical fitness training at the officer's level. You will wake up at 0400 and be given 30 minutes to get ready for breakfast. Meal times are usually 15-20 minutes. You will get in your uniform for training and train until 1600 to 1630. A lunch break will have been given at 1130- 1200. Drill sergeants give tasks to clean barracks and maintain settings. 2000 to 2100 is shut down for sleep. Between 1600 to 2100 is personal time, for letter writing and dinner.

If you graduate basic training, you will go to the technical school that benefits your career. You must still participate in physical fitness training all of your career- sometimes in the afternoon but typically in the morning. Report to work at 0900 and et off around 1630 with a lunch break at 1300. From 6:30pm to 9:00am, you are free to do as you please so long as you are punctual and ready for work the next day.

If you were training to be an officer and got sidetracked from the many requirements, you will enter as a E4. Normal enlistment beginner title is E1 in the Army. Remember, housing, medical, and food are all covered by the Army, so the \$1500 to \$1900 are all your money.

Contracts and Re-entry

Contracts for the Army are 2-3yrs as a time. At the end of the contract's period you are given choices to exit or re-enlist. Sometimes incentives are given to keep people in the Army such as a \$5,000 bonus per year if they re-enlist. If you truly hate your job and make it to the end of your contract, you will be allowed to switch careers.

If you are absent for 5-6years after having been a soldier, you will go through a 2week course to reintegrate you. In rare occasions, basic training may be repeated. Some programs provide incentives to help with college loans in the present instead of waiting until the end of the three year contract for the GI bill.

What is the GI bill?

You give \$100 of your paycheck monthly to the government to save up for the GI bill. Uncle Sam pitches the rest of the \$53,034. After 9-11, The GI-bill was made in such a way as to be passed on to the spouse and off-spring. You can use it, but whatever you do not use can be given to them for their secondary education.

The Army can give you accreditation for all the hours relevant to the field and in the technical schools, but if you exit the Army, be very careful which schools will accept your accreditation as some will take no more than one credit- P.E.

If you fail the ASVAB, there is still hope. You will be set up to take the AIMS test which is similar to a personality test. You may only take it twice and you should answer according to your best possible self.

Upcoming Events

Thursday Relay for life Decorations!! 2:30 room 1302 in the Psych Building

Friday **Relay for Life**