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MILITARY FACTS

For Non-Military Social Workers

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Introduction

The Social Work Staffing and Clinical Practice Committee has developed this handbook to assist social workers in understanding the intricacies of the armed forces. The hope is that this information will be helpful in addressing the Seamless Transition goals for VHA, and to meet the educational needs of a large group of social workers who frequently have not had personal experience with the military.

Today, the combined United States armed forces consists of 1.4 million active duty personnel along with several hundred thousand each in the United States Army Reserve and United States National Guard. There is currently no conscription. The United States Armed Forces is the most powerful military in the world and their force projection capabilities are unrivaled by any other singular nation or organization (e.g. the European Union). The United States Department of Defense is the controlling organization for the U.S. military and is headquartered at The Pentagon. The Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. military is the President of the United States.

The United States military is a hierarchical military organization, with a system of military ranks to denote levels of authority within the organization. The military service is divided into a professional officer corps along with a greater number of enlisted personnel who perform day to day military operations. Unlike certain other countries, the United States officer corps is not restricted by society class, education, or nobility. United States military officers are appointed from a variety of sources, including the service academies, ROTC and direct appointment from both civilian status and the enlisted ranks. Some interesting facts:

- The U.S. military also maintains a number of military awards and badges to denote the qualifications and accomplishments of military personnel. (See Medals chapter).
- On July 26, 1948 U.S. President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981 which racially desegregated the military of the United States.
- The structure of U.S. ranks has its roots in British military traditions. At the start of the Revolutionary War, uniforms, let alone insignia, were barely affordable and recognition of ranks in the field was problematic.

A General Overview: An Explanation of Military Ranks and Types of Organizations

What is a battalion or a brigade, a squadron or a wing, a flotilla or a fleet? Obviously they are the parts of a whole. They are the various subordinate parts into which an army, a navy or an air force must be subdivided in order to solve the problem of command. First of all, examine the following table of comparative ranks:

ARMY, AIR FORCE & MARINES	NAVY
2nd lieutenant	ensign
1st lieutenant	lieutenant junior grade (jg)
captain	lieutenant
major	lieutenant commander
lieutenant colonel	commander
colonel	captain
brigadier general	rear admiral
major general	rear admiral
lieutenant general	vice admiral
general	admiral
general of the army (only in wartime)	fleet admiral (only in wartime)

Note that a Navy captain is a much higher rank than an Army captain. Also, the commanding officer of any vessel is always referred to as "the captain," regardless of his actual rank. For example, one could say: "The captain of that destroyer is Commander Jones." Note further that the Navy rank of rear admiral covers two grades of Army general, both brigadier and major general.

The *division* is the key Army unit, probably because it is the smallest unit in modern warfare combining all arms: infantry, artillery, armor and engineers, together with the service and supply units like transport, quartermaster, medicine and intelligence. A division is usually organized as follows:

DESIGNATION	SIZE	COMMANDED BY
squad	12 or 14 men	sergeant
platoon	40 or more men	lieutenant
company	150 or more men	captain
battalion	800-1000 men	major or lieutenant colonel
regiment	3,000 or more men	colonel
division	15,500 +	major general

In the Army, the key fighting force of a division is the battalion, usually a force of from 800 to 1000 soldiers. A battalion is generally composed of three companies, plus a headquarters company; and three battalions form an infantry regiment, while three infantry regiments, together with a regiment of artillery and attached engineers, tanks and service and supply troops and other specialists, combine to make a U.S. Army division. But these numbers are provisional because the Army is always experimenting in making them bigger or smaller for one reason or another. In World War I the U.S. divisions were huge, 28,000 soldiers, about twice the size of all other armies. In World War II they were approximately 15,000 soldiers.

In very large operations, units larger than a division are required. Thus, two or more divisions make a corps, which, with its own special troops such as heavy artillery and headquarters, usually numbers 40,000 or more soldiers and is commanded by a major general. Two or more corps form an army of about 100,000 soldiers and is commanded by a lieutenant general; and two or more armies make an army group customarily commanded by a full general. An expeditionary force like the one commanded by Pershing in World War I or Eisenhower in World War II rates a five-star General of the Army.

Within the Navy, the largest ship is commanded only by a captain, never an admiral. Admirals command only units comprising more than one ship. So an admiral, who happens to be aboard a particular ship, doesn't actually command that ship; that is left to the captain of the ship. Also, it is important to remember that the Air Force or Marine unit formations change according to mission.

Source: <http://www.profrose.com/explanations.html>

ORGANIZATIONAL

CHART

CHAPTER 1

With the exception of the Coast Guard, the military services are within the Department of Defense and report to the Secretary of Defense. During times of peace, the Coast Guard is organizationally within the Department of Homeland Security and reports to the Secretary of Homeland Security. During wartime or when directed by the President, the Coast Guard is a specialized service within the Department of the Navy. Below is an organizational chart for the Department of Defense.

Source: <http://www.defenselink.mil/odam/omp/pubs/GuideBook/Pdf/DoD.PDF>

ARMY

CHAPTER 2

HISTORY

The U.S. Army was founded on June 14, 1775, when the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year.

In the modern age, the Army is divided into the Regular Army and the Army Reserve. The United States National Guard is an armed force under the command of state governments. Prior to the 21st century, members of the National Guard were considered state employees *only* unless federalized by the Army, in which case National Guard members become members of the Army Reserve. In the modern age, all National Guard members hold dual status: as Guardsmen (and -women) under the authority of the State Adjutant General, and as Army Reservists under the authority of the Army Human Resources Command.

By design, the use of the Army Reserve and National Guard has increased since the Vietnam War. Reserve and Guard units took part in the Gulf War, peacekeeping in Kosovo, and the invasion of Iraq.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Army, as one of the three military departments (Army, Navy and Air Force) reporting to the Department of Defense, is composed of two distinct and equally important components: the active component and the reserve components. The reserve components are the United States Army Reserve and the Army National Guard.

Regardless of component, The Army conducts both operational and institutional missions. The operational Army consists of numbered armies, corps, divisions, brigades, and battalions that conduct full spectrum operations around the world. (Operational Unit Diagram and descriptions) The institutional Army supports the operational Army. Institutional organizations provide the infrastructure necessary to raise, train, equip, deploy, and ensure the readiness of all Army forces. The training base provides military skills and professional education to every Soldier—as well as members of sister services and allied forces. It also allows The Army to expand rapidly in time of war. The industrial base provides world-class equipment and logistics for The Army. Army installations provide the power-projection platforms required to deploy land forces promptly to support combatant commanders. Once those forces are deployed, the institutional Army provides the logistics needed to support them.

Without the institutional Army, the operational Army cannot function. Without the operational

Army, the institutional Army has no purpose.

Depicted below is a top-level look at how The Army is organized. All units, installations and facilities within The Army either report to one of the Army Major Commands or directly to the Headquarters Department of the Army (HQDA) Staff.

- **Secretary of the Army:** The Secretary is the civilian head of the United States Army and reports to the Secretary of Defense for operational authority. Responsible for organizing, training and equipping strategic land combat forces, s/he is named by the President and approved by the Senate.

- **Secretary of Staff of the Army:** The link between the civilian Secretary and Army components, s/he serves as an adviser to the Secretary and implements his/her directions. The chief of staff is appointed by the President for a term of four years.

BRANCHES

- **Infantry:** These ground troops engage the enemy with small arms and other light weapon systems.
- **Armor/Cavalry:** This branch includes soldiers in tanks or in reconnaissance wheeled vehicles.
- **Field Artillery:** These soldiers take out the enemy from miles away with cannon, rocket and missile fire.
- **Aviation:** Using helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, these troops fly combat missions and provide combat service support.
- **Military Intelligence:** These soldiers gather important data about the enemy for use in the field.

ARMY FORMATIONS

- **Squad:** The smallest groupings in the army structure, squads are made up of 8 to 11 soldiers and are normally led by a sergeant.
- **Platoon:** Usually consisting of two to four squads, platoons are typically led by a lieutenant, with a senior sergeant second in command.
- **Company** (in the infantry), battery (in the artillery) or troop (in the cavalry): The company, battery or troop is made up of three to five platoons and is typically commanded by a captain. It usually has a first lieutenant as the second in command and a first sergeant as the senior non-commissioned officer.
- **Battalion:** The primary combat maneuver element of the Army, the battalion or squadron is composed of four to six companies and is commanded by a lieutenant colonel with a sergeant major as the senior non-commissioned adviser. Major acts as the executive officer and second in command. The battalion is tactically and administratively self-sufficient and can conduct independent operations of a limited scope. An armored or air cavalry unit of similar size to a battalion is called a squadron.
- **Brigade:** The brigade or regiment is made up of two to five battalions under the command of a colonel with a sergeant major as the senior non-commissioned officer. Armored cavalry and ranger units of similar size to a brigade are called regiments, while Special Forces units are known as groups.
- **Division:** Typically made up of three maneuver brigades, as well combat support brigades, they are commanded by a major general. The division performs major tactical operations for the corps and is capable of sustained operations.

- **Corps:** A corps is made of two or more divisions commanded by a lieutenant general. At this level, national intelligence assets are analyzed and command and control of the whole theater operations are coordinated.
- **Army:** Armies can be identified as theater armies, field armies, or army groups.
- **Department:** The Union divided responsibility geographically into Departments. The Commander was responsible for all troops and supplies within the Department, in addition to leading those troops against the enemy
- **Military Division:** In 1864, Lincoln consolidated the command of all Union Armies under Lt. General U.S. Grant. The Western armies went into the Military Division of the Mississippi under Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman. The Military Division of the Mississippi consisted of the Armies of the Cumberland, Ohio, and Tennessee. Today, this would be considered an Army Group.
- **District:** A subdivision of a military Department
- **Fire team:** Usually consists of four soldiers: a fire team leader, a grenadier, and two riflemen. Fire team leaders are often Corporal/E-4 (CPL).

RANK

Officers:

- General
- Lieutenant General
- Major General
- Brigadier General
- Colonel
- Lieutenant Colonel
- Major
- Captain
- 1st Lieutenant
- 2nd Lieutenant

Enlisted:

- Sergeant Major
- First Sergeant
- Sergeant First Class
- Staff Sergeant
- Sergeant
- Corporal
- Specialist 4th Class
- Private First Class
- Private

- Command Sergeant Major (CSM; pay grade E-9) (three stripes up and three down with a wreathed star in the center)
- Sergeant Major (SGM; pay grade E-9) (three stripes up and three down with a star in the center),
- First Sergeant (1SG; pay grade E-8) (which holds the same enlisted pay grade as Master Sergeant, but which carries extra administrative duties - three stripes up and three down with a lozenge in the center),
- Master Sergeant (MSG; pay grade E-8) (three stripes up and three down),
- Sergeant First Class (SFC; pay grade E-7)(three stripes up and two down),
- Staff Sergeant (SSG; pay grade E-6)(three stripes up and one down),
- Sergeant (SGT; pay grade E-5)(three stripes up),
- Corporal (CPL; pay grade E-4) (two stripes up),
- Specialist (SPC; pay grade E-4) (which is the same Enlisted Grade as Corporal, but which requires technical leadership skills, as opposed to the combat leadership skills required of corporal -a dark green patch with an eagle centered). A Specialist ranks below a corporal in terms of chain of command.
- Private First Class (PFC; pay grade E-3) (one stripe up and a curved stripe
- Private Enlisted Grade 2 (PV2; pay grade E-2) (one chevron pointing up),
- Private (PV1; pay grade E-1) (no rank insignia),

The highest Army rank, known as General of the Armies, is traditionally considered the equivalent of a six star general. No insignia has ever been authorized for the rank, and it has only been held by two people in history: John J. Pershing and George Washington (posthumously).

WARRANT OFFICER

Warrant officers are highly specialized, single-track specialty officers appointed by the Secretary of the Army, based upon a sound level of technical and tactical competence.

The Army Warrant Officer Corps consists of 25,000 men and women of both the active Army and the Reserves. There are five grades within the Corps, stretching from Warrant Officer through Chief Warrant Officer Five.

Sources: <http://usmilitary.about.com>

<http://www.military.com>

AIR FORCE

CHAPTER 3

HISTORY

The United States Air Force (USAF) is the aviation branch of the United States armed forces. The mission of the USAF is "to defend the United States and protect its interests through air and space power." It was created as a separate branch on September 18, 1947.

OVERVIEW

- The U.S. Air Force is composed in its entirety of the regular Air Force, the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve. The Air Force currently includes eight major commands.
- The Air Force boasts an enlisted force of 288,720 under the command of 69,466 officers.

LEADERSHIP

- **Secretary of the Air Force:** The civilian head of the Air Force is appointed by the President with Senate approval. The Secretary is responsible for the formulation and implementation of Air Force policies consistent with the national security plan. The Secretary reports to the Secretary of Defense, but has no command authority.

Chief of Staff of the Air Force: The top uniformed position in the Air Force, the chief of staff is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and is responsible for the general readiness of the US Air Force. The chief of staff has no direct command authority.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- **Airman:** (single Air Force member)
- **Section:** Two or more airmen can form a "section." Generally, the section is the place (duty section) where the person works. For example, the Administrative Section, or the Life Support Section. It's not absolutely necessary to have a "section." For example, many aircrew members and Security Forces (Air Force "cops") don't have a "section." Instead, they belong (as a group) to a "flight." In Air Force Basic Training, it's called an "Element." Each basic training "flight" is divided into four "elements," each with an assigned "element leader."
- **Flight:** A flight consists of two or more airplanes. In combat, this formation usually consists of four or more planes that fly in pairs, trios, or fours. One

plane, the flight leader, contains the flight commander who directs flight operations.

Two or more airmen can form a flight. Two or more sections can also form a flight. It depends upon how the squadron is organized. There are three types of flights: *Numbered*, *Alpha*, and *Functional*. Numbered flights incorporate small mission elements into an organized unit. For example, flights in basic training are numbered flights. While in basic, you could be assigned to "Flight 421," for instance.

Alpha flights are components of a squadron and consist of elements with identical missions. Flights A, B, and C, of a Security Forces Squadron would be an example, or A, B, C of an F-16 Fighter Squadron.

Functional flights consist of elements with specific missions. The "Military Personnel Flight (MPF)" and the "Social Actions Flight" are two examples of functional flights.

- **Squadron:** Squadrons are not designed to conduct independent operations; they work in coordination with other units to conduct operations. A squadron usually consists of two or more flights.

The squadron is the lowest level of command with a headquarters element (example, a Squadron Commander, or Squadron First Sergeant). In the Air Force, a squadron commander is generally in the rank of Lt Col (O-5), although smaller squadrons may be commanded by majors, captains, and sometimes even lieutenants. Squadrons are usually identified both numerically, and by function. An example would be the 49th Security Forces Squadron, or the 501st Maintenance Squadron.

- **Group:** This formation usually consists of two to four squadrons and a group headquarters. All squadrons in a particular group fly the same type of plane, and they are referred to by type of plane (heavy bomber group, fighter group, etc.).

Groups are usually based upon assignment of squadrons with similar functions. For example, the Supply Squadron, Transportation, and Aircraft Maintenance Squadron would be assigned to the Logistics Group. The flying squadrons would be assigned to the Operations Group. The Dental Squadron and the Medical Squadron would be assigned to the Medical Group, etc. Usually, Groups take on the number of the Wing they are assigned to. The 49th Logistics Group, for example is assigned to the 49th Fighter Wing, at Holloman AFB in New Mexico. The group commander is usually a colonel (O-6).

- **Wing:** The basic unit for generating and employing combat capability. Wings normally operate the same type of aircraft, although composite wings do exist. This formation is the prime war-fighting instrument.

Two or more groups compose a Wing. There is only one Wing on an Air Force base, and the Wing Commander is quite often considered to be the "Installation Commander." There are two types of Wings: *Composite* and *Objective*.

Composite Wings operate more than one kind of aircraft. Individual composite wings can have different missions.

Objective Wings streamline and consolidate responsibilities and clarify lines of command. They may have operational missions, such as air combat, flying training, or airlift, and they may provide support to a MAJCOM or a geographically separated unit (GSU). Wings may also have a specialized mission (e.g., an "Intelligence Wing").

Whatever the wing's mission, every wing conforms to the overall concept of "one base, one wing, and one boss." Wing commanders most often hold the rank of O-7 (Brigadier General).

- **Numbered Air Force:** These formations include two or more wings and are usually grouped with auxiliary units. Numbered air forces conduct operations with assigned and attached forces under a command

A numbered air force (Example, 7th Air Force) is usually assigned for geographical purposes, and primarily used only during wartime. In peacetime, they generally only consist of a limited number of headquarters staff whose job it is to prepare and maintain wartime plans.

- **Major Command (MAJCOM):** The top level and largest combat organization of the Air Force is the command, which is usually made up of three or more numbered air forces.

Air Force MAJCOMs within the Continental United States are primarily organized by mission. For example, Wings whose primary mission is to fly combat missions (fighters and bombers) would likely be assigned to the Air Combat Command. Wings whose primary mission is training would likely be assigned to the Air Force Education & Training Command (AETC). Overseas, MAJCOMs are generally organized by regional area. Examples would be PACAF (Pacific Air Forces). Wings located in the Pacific Region (Hawaii, Japan, Korea, etc.) would usually be assigned to PACAF. Another example would be USAFE (United States Air Forces Europe), which control most wings assigned to Europe.

Special Note: Air Force Wings usually report directly to MAJCOMS. MAJCOMS report directly to Headquarters, Air Force. There is no set size (number of personnel) assigned to any specific element. The size of an element of command depends primarily upon the type of unit and mission. For example, an aircraft maintenance squadron would have a different number of airmen assigned than a medical squadron because it has a different mission, different equipment, and therefore different requirements.

Source: <http://usmilitary.about.com/cs/airforce/a/aforganization.htm>

RANK

The Air Force consists of enlisted and commissioned officers only. There are no warrant officers in the Air Force.

Enlisted

Within the enlisted, the first three ranks are generally for those in training (i.e. basic training). E4 and above are considered non-commissioned officer ranks. Once at E5, leadership responsibility significantly increases.

E1	Airman Basic
E2	Airman
E3	Airman First Class
E4	Senior Airman
E5	Staff Sergeant
E6	Technical Sergeant
E7	Master Sergeant/First Sergeant
E8	Senior Master Sergeant/First Sergeant (dependent on the job)
E9	Chief Master Sergeant/First Sergeant/Command Chief Master Sergeant (dependent on the job)

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

- The senior enlisted person within the Air Force, spokesperson of the enlisted force

Officer

The commissioned officer is the highest rank in the military. A commissioned officer receives his commission through the President of the United States, and is confirmed by the Senate.

Company Grade Officers (O1-O3)

O1	Second Lieutenant
O2	First Lieutenant
O3	Captain

Field Grad Officers (O4-O6)

O4 Major

O5 Lieutenant Colonel

O6 Colonel

General Officers (O7 and higher)

O7 Brigadier General

O8 Major General

O9 Lieutenant General

O10 General of the Air Force

** Air Force Chief of Staff (reserved for wartime only)

Source: <http://usmilitary.about.com/od/airforce/l/blafrank4.htm>

NAVY

CHAPTER 4

HISTORY

The Navy was founded on October 13, 1775. They were initially established by the Continental Congress to search for munitions ships providing supplies to the British Army. It was disbanded after the Revolutionary War, and then re-established according to constitutional mandate on April 30, 1798. Additional historical information is available at <http://www.history.navy.mil/>.

Currently, the US Navy consists of over 300 ships, and 4000 aircraft. There are more than 500,000 men and women serving in active or ready reserve duty.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Navy is primarily divided into the Shore Establishment and the Operating Forces or "Fleet". Both report to the Chief of the Navy, who is the highest-ranking officer within the Navy. The Chief of the Navy reports to the Secretary of the Navy.

Shore Establishment consists of support services to the Operating Forces. Some of the support services within the Shore Establishment are personnel, medical, intelligence, repair and maintenance, and air facilities.

The Operating Forces report to the Chief of the Navy for administrative purposes. Additionally, the Pacific and Atlantic fleets, as well as the Naval Warfare Command report to the Fleet Forces Command. The Fleet Forces Commander also serves as the Commander for the Atlantic Fleet. Also within the Operating Forces are Naval Reserves, Operational Test and Evaluation Forces and the Naval Special Warfare Command (SEAL teams and support).

See link below for a copy of the US Navy Organizational Chart.

Source: http://www.tpub.com/content/advancement/14325/css/14325_163.htm

NAVAL SHIPS

- **Battleship/battle cruiser:** In naval history, battleships were the most heavily armed and armored warships afloat. They were designed to engage enemy warships with direct and indirect fire from an arsenal of main guns; as a secondary role, they were capable of bombarding targets on and near an enemy coast. In the mid-20th century they were made obsolete by the greater range and striking power of the aircraft carrier. Although some continued to be used for shore bombardment and as missile platforms, the last battleships were decommissioned in the late 1990s.
- **Cruiser:** Guided missile cruisers can conduct air warfare, surface warfare and undersea warfare.
- **Aircraft Carrier** (originally a cruiser derivative): Aircraft carriers are the major strategic arm of the Navy. They put U.S. air power within reach of most land-based military power. The US Navy's carriers are much larger and more powerful than those of the rest of the world.
- **Destroyer:** There are currently two classes of destroyers. The *Arleigh Burke* class of guided missile destroyers are built around the Aegis combat system and the SPY-1D multi-function phased array radar. The *Arleigh Burke* class are

among the largest destroyers ever built, and certainly among the most powerful. According to Bath Iron Works promotional material, *Arleigh Burke* is ton for ton the most powerful warship ever built. The *Spruance*-class destroyer was developed as a replacement for a large number of World War II-built destroyers, and was the primary destroyer built for the U.S. Navy during the 1970s. The class was originally designed for anti-submarine warfare with only point defense missiles for the AAW role although subsequent upgrades have provided anti-ship and land attack capabilities. This class of destroyers is being phased out, and as of 2005, only two *Spruance*-class destroyers remain in service.

- **Frigate:** Modern frigates mainly perform anti-submarine warfare and escort other ships.
- **Amphibious ships:** The largest of all amphibious warfare ships, amphibious assault ships resemble small aircraft carriers; capable of V/STOL, STOVL (Short Take Off and Vertical Landing), VTOL (Vertical Take-Off and Landing) tilt rotor and rotary wing aircraft operations; contains a well deck to support use of Landing Craft Air Cushion and other watercraft. Amphibious transports are warships that embark, transport, and land elements of a landing force for a variety of expeditionary warfare missions.
- **Submarine:** There are two major types of submarines, ballistic and attack. Ballistic subs have a single, strategic mission: carrying nuclear SLBMs (Submarine-launched ballistic missiles). Attack submarines have several tactical missions, including sinking ships and subs, launching cruise missiles, and gathering intelligence.

Source: <http://www.navy.mil/swf/index.asp>

RANK

The Navy rank system is divided into 3 categories: Enlisted, Warrant Officer and Officer.

Enlisted

In the Navy, the term “rank” is not used for Enlisted. Instead, the term “rate” is used. As in other branches of the military, the E1 through E3 are primarily in training status. The equivalent of the non-commissioned officer in other branches of the Services is known as the Petty Officer in the Navy.

E1	Seaman Recruit
E2	Seaman Apprentice
E3	Seaman
E4	Petty Officer Third Class
E5	Petty Officer Second Class
E6	Petty Officer First Class
E7	Chief Petty Officer
E8	Senior Chief Petty Officer

- E9 Master Chief Petty Officer
Fleet/Command Master Chief Petty Officer
- E10 Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy and Coast Guard

Officer

The commissioned officer is the highest rank in the military. A commissioned officer receives his commission through the President of the United States, and is confirmed by the Senate.

Junior Grade Officers (O1-O3)

- O1 Ensign
- O2 Lieutenant Junior Grade
- O3 Lieutenant

Mid-Grade Officers (O4-O6)

- O4 Lieutenant Commander
- O5 Commander
- O6 Captain

Flag (O7 and higher)

- O7 Rear Admiral Lower Half
- O8 Rear Admiral Upper Half
- O9 Vice Admiral
- O10 Admiral
 - **Chief of Naval Operations
 - **Commandant of the Coast Guard

Fleet Admiral (reserved for wartime only)

Warrant Officer

A Warrant Officer is an officer who has specialized training in a specific area. The Secretary of the Navy gives the warrant. Once promoted to Warrant Officer 2, they receive a commission from the President of the United States.

- W1 USN Warrant Officer 1
- W2 USN Chief Warrant Officer 2
- W3 USN Chief Warrant Officer 3
- W4 USN Chief Warrant Officer 4
- W5 USN Chief Warrant Officer

MARINE CORPS

CHAPTER 5

HISTORY

The Marine Corps was first established on November 10, 1775, when the Continental Congress passed a resolution calling for two battalions of marines to serve on land and at sea. The Marines served through the Revolutionary War, and were then disbanded in 1783 after the Treaty of Paris. They were re-established on July 11, 1798. A brief history of the battles and key dates for the Marine Corps is available at the following website:

Source: <http://hqinet001.hqmc.usmc.mil/HD/>

One of the most famous Marine customs is the observance of the Marine Corps Birthday. Since 1921 the birthday of the Marine Corps has been officially celebrated each year on November 10. Over the years the Marine Corps Birthday has been celebrated in a wide variety of ways, depending on the location and circumstances of the Marine units. The celebration involves the reading of an excerpt from the Marine Corps Manual and a birthday message from the Commandant, the cutting of a birthday cake by the commanding officer; and the presentation of the first and second pieces of cake to the oldest and youngest Marines present. Recently, the ceremony for the observance of the Marine Corps Birthday by large posts and stations has been incorporated into written directives.

Source <http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/usmchist/lore63.txt>

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

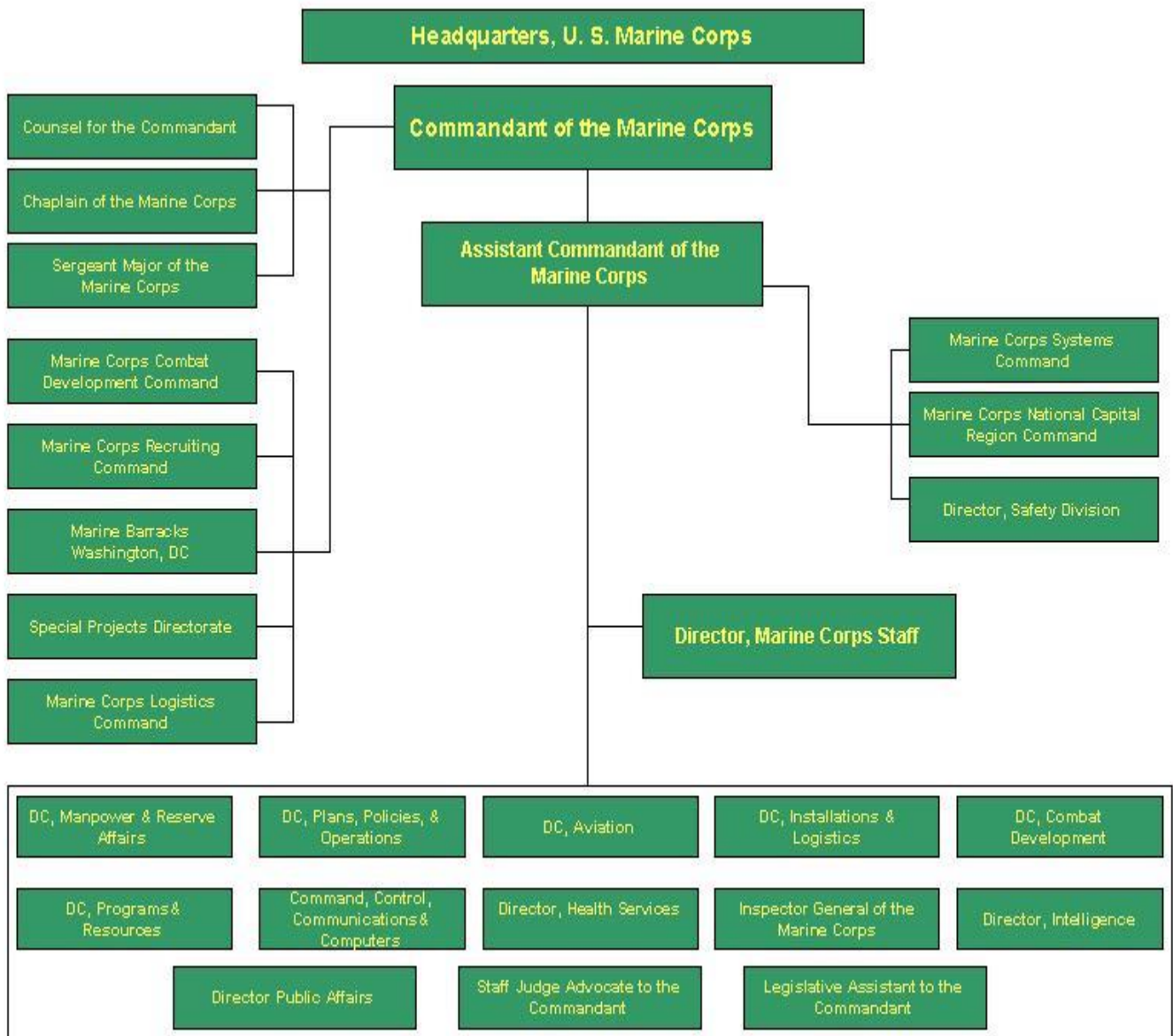
The Marine Corps is formally a division of the US Navy. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, the highest-ranking Marine, reports directly to the Secretary of the Navy. The Marine Corps is divided into four categories:

- Headquarters Marine Corps
 - Commandant of the Marine Corps and staff agencies
- Operating Forces
 - “The heart of the Marine Corps”
- Supporting Establishment

- Personnel supporting operating forces. Includes Recruiting Command, Combat Development Command, Logistics Command, training activities, formal schools, and civilian agencies supporting the Marine Corps.
- Reserves
 - Trained units/individuals available for active duty during times of war, national emergency

Source: <http://www.marines.mil/units/hqmc/Pages/default.aspx>

Below is an explanation of the organization of ground forces:



- **Fire team:** four Marines
- **Squad:** three fire teams and a corporal or sergeant as squad leader
- **Platoon:** three squads, a platoon sergeant, and a lieutenant as platoon commander
- **Company:** three platoons, a Navy corpsman, a company gunnery sergeant, first sergeant, a first lieutenant as executive officer, and captain as commander
- **Battalion:** three or four companies, commanded by a lieutenant colonel
- **Regiment:** three or four battalions, commanded by a colonel
- **Brigade:** uncommon in the Marine Corps, but typically made up of one or more regiments and commanded by a brigadier general
- **Division:** three or four regiments, officers and others, commanded by a major general

Battalions and larger units have a sergeant major, and an executive officer as second in command, plus officers and others for: Administration (S-1), Intelligence (S-2), Operations (S-3), Logistics (S-4), and Communications (S-6).

Source:

Air-ground task forces

The Marine Corps organization is flexible, and task forces can be formed of any size. Modern deployed Marine units are based upon the doctrine of the Marine air-ground task force, or MAGTF. A MAGTF can generally be of any of three sizes, based upon the amount of force required in the given situation; however, all MAGTFs have a similar organization.

A MAGTF is comprised of four elements: the command element (CE), the ground combat element (GCE), the air combat element (ACE) and the combat service support element (CSSE).

- **Command element** — A headquarters unit that directs the other elements
- **Ground combat element** — Usually infantry, supported by armor (tanks), and artillery, but including special units such as scouts or Force Reconnaissance, snipers and forward air controllers
- **Air combat element** — The total airpower strength of the MAGTF, the ACE includes all aerial vehicles (both fixed wing and helicopter), their pilots and maintenance personnel
- **Combat service support element** — This element includes all of the support units for the MAGTF: communications, combat engineers, motor transport, medical and supply units, and certain specialized groups such as air delivery and landing support teams

The smallest type of MAGTF is the Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). It is based upon a rifle battalion with usually an aircraft squadron (helicopters or both rotor- and fixed-wing) and an appropriately sized support unit attached. The specific makeup of the MEU can be customized based upon the task at hand—more artillery, armor, or air units can be attached, including squadrons of F/A-18 Hornet and Harrier jets.

There are usually three MEUs assigned to each of the U.S. Navy Atlantic and Pacific Fleets, with another MEU based on Okinawa. While one MEU is on deployment, one MEU is training to deploy and one is standing down, resting its Marines, and refitting. Each MEU is rated as capable of performing special operations.

A Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) is larger than a MEU, and is based upon a Marine regiment, with larger air and support contingents.

A Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), as deployed in Iraq in 2003, comprises a Marine division with an artillery regiment, several tank battalions, several LAV battalions, as well as an air wing. The [I Marine Expeditionary Force] as deployed in the Persian Gulf War ultimately consisted of the 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions as well as considerable Marine air and support units.

Source: <http://www.marines.mil/units/Pages/category.aspx>

RANK

The Marine Corps rank system is divided into 3 categories: Enlisted, Warrant Officer and Officer.

Enlisted

Within the enlisted, the first three ranks are generally for those in training (i.e. basic training). E4 and above are considered non-commissioned officer ranks. Once at E5, leadership responsibility significantly increases.

- E1 Private
- E2 Private First Class
- E3 Lance Corporal
- E4 Corporal
- E5 Sergeant
- E6 Staff Sergeant
- E7 Gunnery Sergeant
- E8 Master Sergeant/First Sergeant (dependent on the job)
- E9 Sergeant Major/Master Gunnery Sergeant (dependent on the job)
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps
 - The senior enlisted person within the Marine Corp, spokesperson of the enlisted force

Officer

The commissioned officer is the highest rank in the military. A commissioned officer receives his commission through the President of the United States, and is confirmed by the Senate.

Company Grade Officers (O1-O3)

- O1 Second Lieutenant
- O2 First Lieutenant

O3 Captain

Field Grad Officers (O4-O6)

O4 Major

O5 Lieutenant Colonel

O6 Colonel

General Officers (O7 and higher)

O7 Brigadier General

O8 Major General

O9 Lieutenant General

O10 General

** Commandant of the Marine Corps

Warrant Officer

A Warrant Officer is an officer who has specialized training in a specific area. The Secretary of the Navy gives the warrant. Once promoted to Warrant Officer 2, they receive a commission from the President of the United States.

W1 Warrant Officer 1

W2 Chief Warrant Officer 2

W3 Chief Warrant Officer 3

W4 Chief Warrant Officer 4

W5 Chief Warrant Officer 5

MARINE CORPS MOTTO

The Marine Corps Motto "Semper Fidelis" was established in 1883. Semper Fidelis is a Latin term that means "always faithful." The United States Marine Corps History and Museums Division indicates on their website, "That Marines have lived up to this motto is proved by the fact that there has never been a mutiny or even the thought of one, among U.S. Marines". The Marine Corps recruiting website indicates the following: "It's the official Marine Corps motto because it reflects how we feel about our country and about each other".

COAST GUARD

CHAPTER 6

OVERVIEW

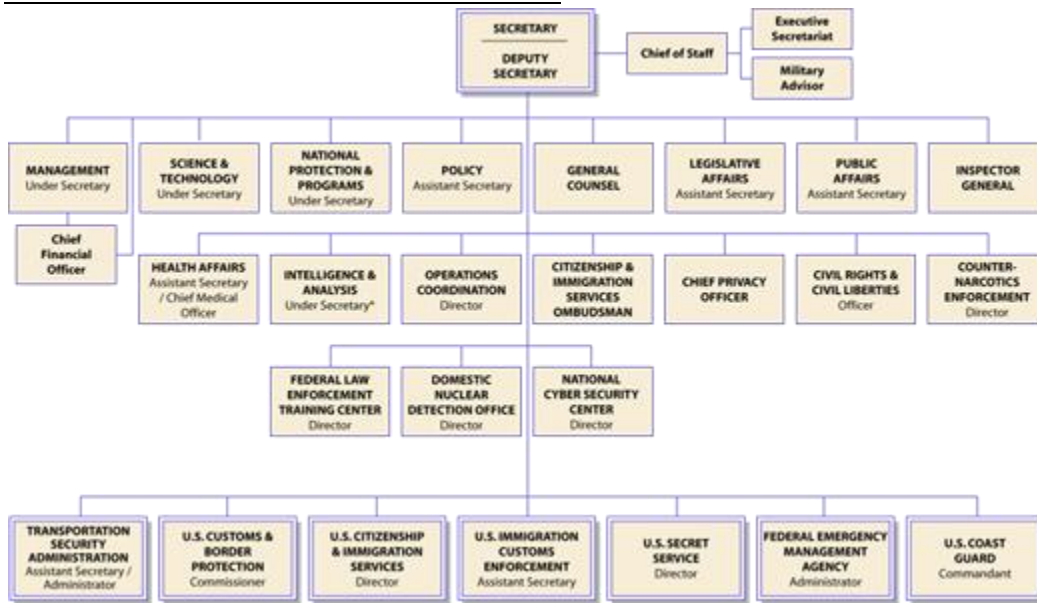
“The United States Coast Guard is a military, multi-mission, maritime service and one of the nation’s five Armed Services. Its mission is to protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic interests – in the nation’s ports and waterways, along the coast, on international waters, or in any maritime region as required to support national security.”

Source: <http://www.uscg.mil/overview/>

HISTORY

The history of the Coast Guard is complex, as it is the combined services of what were originally the Revenue Cutter Service, the Lighthouse Service, the Steamboat Inspection Service, the Bureau of Navigation, and the Lifesaving Service. The Coast Guard defines its founding as August 4, 1790, or the founding of the Revenue Cutter Service. Originally, this was organizationally under the Department of Treasury. During WWI, the Revenue Cutter Service and Life-Saving service combined under the name of the Coast Guard. In 1932 the Bureau of Navigation and the Steamboat Inspection Service combined into the Bureau of Marine Inspection. In 1939, the Lighthouse Service was added to the Coast Guard. During WWII, the Bureau of Marine Inspection transferred into the Coast Guard.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Source: <http://www.dhs.gov>

RANK

The Coast Guard rank system uses the same terminology and organization as the Navy. Below are the Enlisted, Warrant Officer and Officer designations for the Coast Guard:

Enlisted

As in the Navy, the term “rank” is not used for Enlisted. Instead, the term “rate” is used. As in other branches of the military, the E1 through E3 are primarily in training status. The equivalent of the Non Commissioned Officer in other branches of the Services is known as the Petty Officer in the Coast Guard.

- E1 Seaman Recruit
- E2 Seaman Apprentice
- E3 Seaman
- E4 Petty Officer Third Class
- E5 Petty Officer Second Class
- E6 Petty Officer First Class
- E7 Chief Petty Officer
- E8 Senior Chief Petty Officer
- E9 Master Chief Petty Officer
- Fleet/Command Master Chief Petty Officer
- E10 Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy and Coast Guard

Officer

The commissioned officer is the highest rank in the military. A commissioned officer receives his commission through the President of the United States, and is confirmed by the Senate.

Junior Grade Officers (O1-O3)

- O1 Ensign
- O2 Lieutenant Junior Grade
- O3 Lieutenant

Mid-Grade Officers (O4-O6)

- O4 Lieutenant Commander
- O5 Commander
- O6 Captain

Flag (O7 and higher)

- O7 Rear Admiral Lower Half
- O8 Rear Admiral Upper Half
- O9 Vice Admiral
- O10 Admiral
 - **Chief of Naval Operations
 - **Commandant of the Coast Guard

Warrant Officer

A Warrant Officer is an officer who has specialized training in a specific area. Once promoted to Warrant Officer 2, they receive a commission from the President of the United States.

- W1 USN Warrant Officer 1
- W2 USN Chief Warrant Officer 2
- W3 USN Chief Warrant Officer 3
- W4 USN Chief Warrant Officer 4
- W5 USN Chief Warrant Officer

UNITS

Atlantic Area

- Maintenance and Logistics Command
- 1st District - Boston, Massachusetts
- 5th District - Portsmouth, Virginia
- 7th District - Miami, Florida
- 8th District - New Orleans, Louisiana
- 9th District - Cleveland, Ohio

Pacific Area

- Maintenance and Logistics Command
- 11th District - Alameda, California
- 13th District - Seattle, Washington
- 14th District - Honolulu, Hawaii
- 17th District - Juneau, Alaska

Coast Guard Headquarters

Headquarters Units

CG HQ Organization

Headquarters units report directly to Headquarters, although they may be geographically distant.

Source: <http://www.gocoastguard.com/>

MEDALS

CHAPTER 8

World War II



Silver Star Medal



Legion of Merit Medal



Distinguished Flying Cross Medal



Bronze Star Medal



Purple Heart Medal



Air Medal



Army Commendation Medal



Prisoner of War Medal



American Defense Service Medal WWII

Korean



Air Force Cross Medal



**Department of Defense
Distinguished Service
Medal**



**Air Force Distinguished
Service Medal**



Silver Star Medal



Legion of Merit Medal



**Distinguished Flying Cross
Medal**



**Airman's Medal for
Heroism**



Bronze Star Medal



Purple Heart Medal



**HONORABLE SERVICE
COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL**



**National Guard and Reserve Commemorative
Medal With Ribbon**

Vietnam



Air Force Cross Medal



Silver Star Medal



Legion of Merit Medal



**Distinguished Flying Cross
Medal**



Bronze Star Medal



Purple Heart Medal



Air Medal



**Army Commendation
Medal**



Prisoner of War Medal

Iraq, Afghanistan and Bosnia



**OPERATION IRAQI
FREEDOM COMMEMORATIVE
MEDAL**



**OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM
COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL**



Iraq Campaign Medal



**LIBERATION OF
AFGHANISTAN
COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL**



**LIBERATION OF AFGHANISTAN
COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL**



**Afghanistan Campaign
Medal**



NATO Bosnia Medal
Source: <http://militarybest.com/index.html>

APPENDIX I

Helpful Websites

<http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/insignias/officers.html>

Department of Defense, Officer Insignias

<http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/insignias/enlisted.html>

Department of Defense, Enlisted Insignias

<http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/documents/rc101/rc101.pdf>

Department of Defense, Power Point regarding Military Reserves

<http://www.defenselink.mil/sites/g.html>

Department of Defense, Introductory Overview of DOD

<http://www.defenselink.mil/odam/omp/pubs/GuideBook/Pdf/MilDeps.PDF>

Department of Defense Organizational Chart

<http://www.milterms.com/>

Resource to reference military terms

http://www.military.cz/usa/navy/ship_accessories/glossary.html

Naval terminology

<http://www.libsci.sc.edu/bob/class/clis734/webguides/milbase.htm>

Military Bases Worldwide

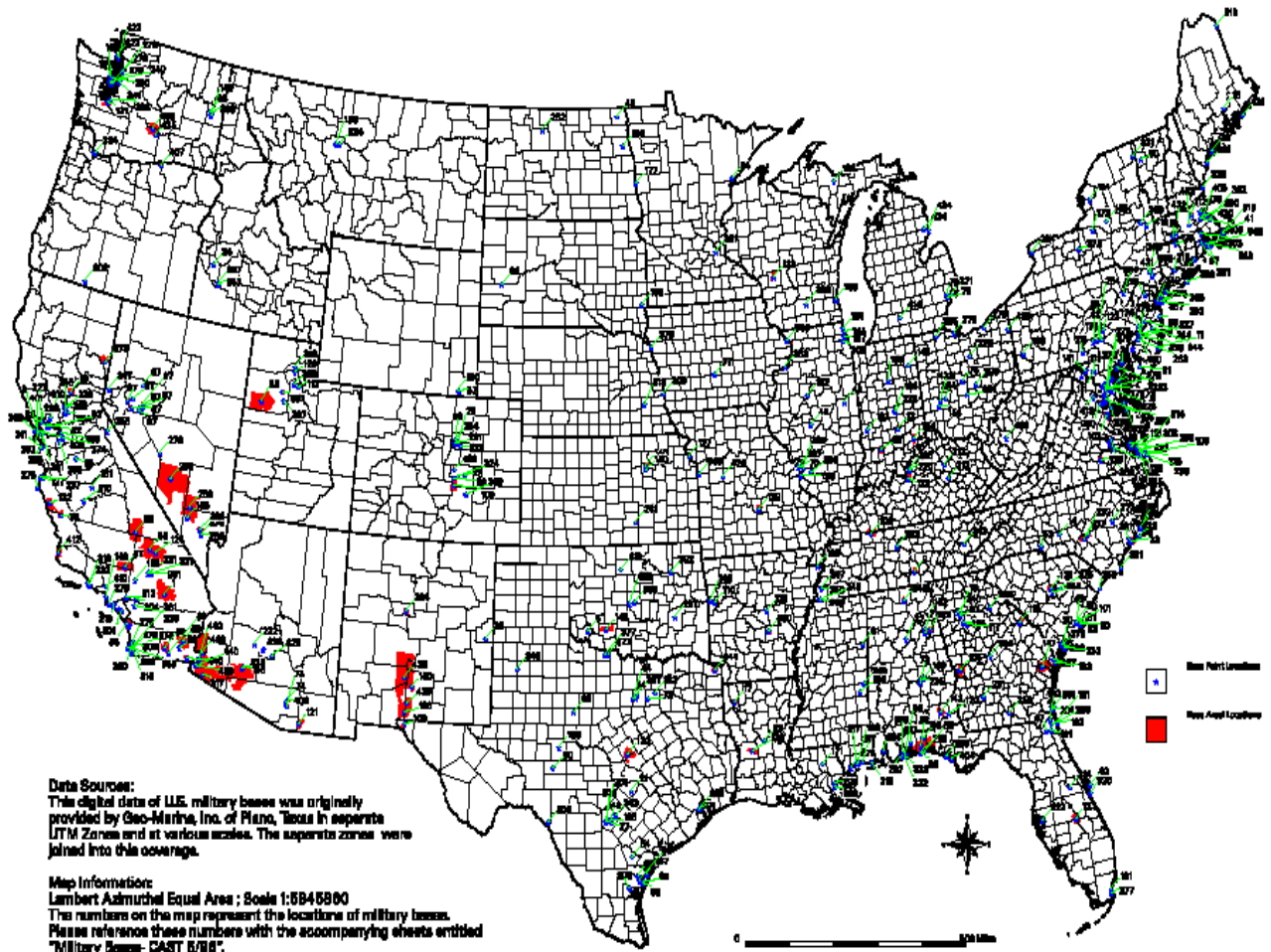
<http://militarybest.com/index.html>

Military Metals and Ribbons

APPENDIX II

Map of US Military Bases

Military Bases in the Continental United States



Source: <http://www.libsci.sc.edu/bob/class/clis734/webguides/milbase.htm>

Military Bases World Wide

Army

- P. Hill Army Airfield, Fort A. P. Hill (Fredericksburg), VA, USA
- Aberdeen Proving Ground (AAF Phillips), Aberdeen, MD, USA
- Aberdeen Proving Ground (AASF Weide), Edgewood Arsenal, MD, USA
Akron-Canton Regional Airport, Akron, OH, USA
- Allen Army Airfield, Fort Greely (Delta Junction), AK, USA
- Allen C. Perkinson Airport (AAF Blackstone), Blackstone, VA, USA
- Amedee Army Airfield, Herlong, CA, USA
- Arlington Heights Army Heliport,
• Arlington Heights, IL, USA
- Armstrong Army Heliport, Buedingen, Hessen, Germany
- Bates Field (Mobile Regional Airport), Mobile, AL, USA
- Bicycle Lake Army Airfield, Fort Irwin (Barstow), CA, USA
- Biggs Army Airfield, Fort Bliss (El Paso), TX, USA
- Bismarck Army Airfield, Bismarck (MAP), ND, USA
- Blackstone Army Airfield, Fort Pickett (Blackstone), VA, USA
- Blue Grass Station Army Heliport, Blue Grass St., KY, USA
- Bradshaw Army Airfield, Camp Pohakuloa, HI, USA
- Brasschaat Army Airfield, Brasschaat, Belgium
- Bryant Army Airfield, Fort Richardson (Anchorage), AK, USA
- Bucholz Army Airfield, Kwajalein Atoll, Kiribati, Marshall Islands
- Butts Army Airfield, Fort Carson (Colorado Springs), CO, USA
- Cairns Army Airfield, Fort Rucker (Ozark), AL, USA
- Camp Able-Sentry, Macedonia, Kosovo, Skopje
- Camp Blanding Army Airfield, Camp Blanding (Starke), FL, USA
- Camp Bondsteel (Army), Macedonia, Kosovo, Urosevac
- Camp Comanche, Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Camp Doha, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- Camp Eagle (Army), Wonju, Korea
- Camp Gary Owen (Army), Munsan, Korea
- Camp Henry (Army), Taegu, Korea
- Camp McCoy Army Airfield, Sparta, WI, USA
- Camp Monteith, Macedonia, Kosovo, Gnjilane
- Camp Page (Army), Chunchon, Korea
- Camp Udairi, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- Camp Walker (Army), Taegu, Korea
- Campbell Army Airfield, Fort Campbell (Hopkinsville), KY, USA
- Castle Dome Army Heliport, Yuma Proving Ground (Yuma), AZ, USA
- Charles L. Kelly Army Heliport, Fort Sam Houston, TX, USA
- Cochran Army Airfield, Camp Stanley (Uijongbu), Korea
- Coleman Army Airfield, Mannheim, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany
- Combat Maneuver Training Center (CMTC) - Hohenfels AAF, Regensburg, Bayern, Germany
- Condron Army Airfield, White Sands, NM, USA
- Conn Barracks (AHP Schweinfurt), Schweinfurt, Bayern, Germany
- Davison Army Airfield, Fort Belvoir (Alexandria), Virginia, USA
- Desiderio Army Airfield, Camp
- Humphreys (Pyongtaek), Korea

- Dugway Proving Ground (AAF Michael), UT, USA
- Dyess Army Airfield, Roi-Naumur,
- Kiribati, Marshall Islands
- Felker Army Airfield, Fort Eustis (Yorktown), VA, USA
- Fliegerhorst Kaserne (AAF Hanau), Hanau, Hessen, Germany
- Forney Army Airfield, Fort Leonard Wood (Waynesville), MO, USA
- Fort Gordon HQ Helipad, Fort Gordon (Augusta), GA, USA
- Fort Harrison Army Airfield, Helena, MT, USA
- Fort Kobbe (Army), Colon, Panama
- Fort Lee Army Helipoint, Fort Lee (Petersburg), VA, USA
- Fort Wolter Army Airfield, Mineral Wells, TX, USA
- Fritzsche Army Airfield (Marina MAP), Fort Ord (Marina), CA, USA
- Giebelstadt Army Airfield, Giebelstadt (Wuerzburg), Bayern, Germany
- Godman Army Airfield, Fort Knox (Louisville), KY, USA
- Grafenwoehr Army Airfield,
- Grafenwoehr, Bayern, Germany
- Gray Army Airfield, Fort Lewis (Tacoma), WA, USA
- Hagler Army Airfield, Camp Shelby, MS, USA
- Haley Army Airfield, Fort Sheridan, IL, USA
- Hanau Army Airfield, Hanau, Hessen, Germany
- Hanchey Army Airfield, Fort Rucker (Ozark), AL, USA
- Hawkins Field (Jackson Army Air Support Facility), Jackson, MS, USA
Heidelberg Army Airfield, Heidelberg, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany
- Helena Army Airfield, Helena (RAP), MT, USA
- Henry Post Army Airfield, Fort Sill (Lawton), OK, USA
- Hohenfels Army Airfield, Hohenfels (Regensburg), Bayern, Germany
- Hood Army Airfield, Fort Hood (Killeen), TX, USA
- Hunter Army Airfield, Fort Stewart (Savannah), GA, USA
- Indian Springs Army Airfield, Indian Springs, NV, USA
- Iowa Army NG Helipoint, Waterloo, IA, USA
- Jackson Army Air Support Facility (Hawkins Field), Jackson, MS, USA
- Kastner Army Airfield, Camp Zama, Japan
- Katterbach Barracks Army Airfield, Ansbach, Bayern, Germany
- Knox Army Helipoint, Fort Rucker (Ozark), AL, USA
- Laguna Army Airfield, Yuma Proving Ground (Yuma), AZ, USA
- Lawson Army Airfield, Fort Benning (Columbus), GA, USA
- Libby Army Airfield, Fort Huachuca (Sierra Vista), AZ, USA
- Los Alamitos Army Airfield, Los Alamitos, CA, USA
- Lowe Army Airfield, Fort Rucker (Ozark), AL, USA
- Mabry Army Helipoint, Austin, TX, USA
- Mackall Army Airfield, Camp Mackall (Hoffman), NC, USA
- Marshall Army Airfield, Fort Riley (Manhattan), KS, USA
- Martindale Army Airfield, Fort Houston (San Antonio), TX, USA
- Mather Army Air Support Facility, Sacramento, CA, USA
- Mayaguana Army Airfield, Mayaguana, Bahamas

- McKenna Army Airfield, Columbus, GA, USA
- Michael Army Airfield, Dugway Proving Ground, UT, USA
- Mobile Regional Airport (AAF), Mobile, AL, USA
- Montgomery County Airport, Conroe, TX, USA
- Moore Army Airfield, Fort Devens (Leominster), MA, USA
- Morris Army Airfield, Forest Park, GA, USA
- Muir Army Airfield, Fort Indiantown (Harrisburg), PA, USA
- Oakdale Army Heliport, Oakdale, PA, USA
- O'Sullivan Army Heliport, Camp San Luis Obispo, CA, USA
- Papago Army Airfield, Phoenix, AZ, USA
Patton Barracks (AAF Heidelberg),
- Heidelberg, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany
- Pentagon Army Heliport, Washington, DC, USA
- Phillips Army Airfield, Aberdeen Proving Ground (Aberdeen), MD, USA
- Polk Army Airfield, Fort Polk (Leesville), LA, USA
- Quonset State Airport (AAF), North Kingston, RI, USA
- Raleigh-Durham International Airport (AAF), Morrisville, NC, USA
- Ray S. Miller Army Airfield, Camp Ripley (Little Falls), MN, USA
- Red River Army Heliport, Texarkana, TX, USA
- Redstone Army Airfield, Huntsville, AL, USA
- Robert Gray Army Airfield, Fort Hood (Killeen), TX, USA
- Roberts Army Airfield, Camp Roberts (San Miguel), CA, USA
- Robinson Army Airfield, Camp Robinson (Little Rock), AR, USA
- Sabre Army Heliport, Fort Campbell (Clarksville), TN, USA
- Sacramento Army Air Support Facility, Sacramento, CA, USA
Schweinfurt Army Heliport, Schweinfurt, Bayern, Germany
Shell Army Heliport, Fort Rucker (Enterprise), AL, USA
- Sherman Army Airfield, Fort Leavenworth, KS, USA
- Sierra Vista Municipal Airport (AAF Libby), Sierra Vista, AZ, USA
- Simmons Army Airfield, Fort Bragg (Fayetteville), NC, USA
- Smyrna Army Airfield, Smyrna, TN, USA
- South Carolina Army Air Support Facility, Eastover, SC, USA
- Stallion Army Airfield, Socorro, NM, USA
- Stockton Army Airfield, Stockton (Metro AP), CA, USA
- Storck Barracks Army Airfield, Illesheim, Bayern, Germany
- Stuttgart Army Airfield, Stuttgart-Echterdingen, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany
- Tipton (AP) Army Airfield, Fort George G. Meade (Odenton), MD, USA
- Truax Field, Corpus Christi (NAS), TX, USA
- Tupelo Army Air Support Facility, Tupelo, MS, USA
- Tusi Army Heliport, Fort Hunter (Jolon), CA, USA
- Vagabond Army Airfield, Yakima, WA, USA
- Wainwright Army Airfield, Fort Wainwright (Fairbanks), AK, USA
- Wake Island Army Airfield, Wake Island, USA
- Waynesville RAP (AAF Forney), Fort Leonard Wood, MO, USA
- Weide Army Air Support Facility, Edgewood Arsenal, MD, USA

- Wheeler Army Airfield, Wahiawa (Oahu), HI, USA
- Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield, Fort Drum (Watertown), NY, USA
- Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Wiesbaden-Erbenheim, Hessen, Germany
- Wright Army Airfield, Fort Stewart (Hinesville), GA, USA
- Yuma Proving Ground (AAF Laguna), Yuma, AZ, USA
- Yuma Proving Ground (AHP Castle Dome), Yuma, AZ, USA

Air Force Bases

- Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait
- Akrotiri Royal Air Force Base, Akrotiri, Cyprus
- Al Dhafra Air Base, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- Al Udeid Air Base, Al Udeid, Qatar
- Alconbury Royal Air Force Base, Huntingdon (Cambridgeshire), UK
- Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait
- Andersen Air Base, Yigo, Guam
- Aviano Air Base, Aviano, Pordenone, Italy
- Bagram Air Base, Parvan, Charikar, Afghanistan
- Bitburg Air Base, Bitburg, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany
- Cha Shan Air Base, Hualien, Taiwan
- Cheong Ju Air Base, Cheong Ju, Korea
- Clark Air Base, Balibago (Luzon), Philippines
- Croughton Royal Air Force Base, UK
- Diego Garcia (Air Force), Diego Garcia, BIOT
- Einsiedlerhof Air Station, Kaiserslautern, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany
- Eloy Alfaro Air Base, Manta, Ecuador
- Eskan Village Air Base, Saudi Arabia
- Fairford Royal Air Force Base, Fairford (Gloucestershire), UK
- Feltwell Royal Air Force Base, Thetford (Norfolk), UK
- Ganci Air Base (Manas Intl. Airport), Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- Geilenkirchen Air Base (NATO), Geilenkirchen, NRW, Germany
- Ghedi Air Base, Vicenza, Italy
- Greenham Common Royal Air Force Base, Greenham (Newbury), UK
- Hahn Air Base, Hahn, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany
- Howard Air Base, Panama City, Panama
- Hualien Air Base (Cha Shan), Hualien, Taiwan
- Incirlik Air Base, Adana, Turkey
- Istres Air Base, Istres, France
- Izmir Air Base, Izmir, Turkey
- Kadena Air Base, Kadena, Okinawa, Japan
- Kandahar Air Base, Kandahar, Afghanistan
- Kapaun Air Station (KNCOA), Kaiserslautern, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany
- Khanabad Air Base, Khanabad, Uzbekistan
- Khost Airbase, Paktia, Khost, Afghanistan
- Kimhae Air Base, Pusan, Korea
- King Abdul Aziz Air Base, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
- King Fahd Air Base, Taif, Saudi Arabia
- King Khalid Air Base, Khamis Mushayt, Saudi Arabia
- Kunsan Air Base, Kunsan City, Korea
- Lajes Field Air Base, Terceira Island, Azores, Portugal
- Lakenheath Royal Air Force Base, Lakenheath (Suffolk), UK
- Mazar-e-Sharif Airbase, Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan
- Mildenhall Royal Air Force Base, Mildenhall (Suffolk), UK
- Misawa Air Base, Misawa, Honshu, Japan
- Molesworth Royal Air Force Base, Huntingdon (Cambridgeshire), UK
- Moron Air Base, Sevilla, Spain
- Osan Air Base, Osan, Korea

- Paya Lebar Air Base, Sembawang, Singapore
- Ramstein Air Base, Ramstein, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany
- Rhein-Main Air Base, Frankfurt/Main, Hesse, Germany
- Richmond Royal Australian Air Force Base, Australia
- Riyadh Air Base, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
San Vito dei Normanni Air Station, Brindisi, Italy
- Sembach Air Base, Kaiserslautern, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany
- Seoul Air Base (K-16), Seoul, Korea
Soesterberg Air Base, Soesterberg, Netherlands
- Sola Sea Air Base, Norway
- Soto Cano Air Base (Camp Picket), Comayagua, Honduras
- Spangdahlem Air Base, Spangdahlem, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany
- Stavanger Air Base, Stavanger, Norway
- Suwon Air Base, Seoul, Korea
- Taegu Air Base (K-2), Taegu, Korea
- Tallil Air Base, Tallil, Iraq
Taszar Air Base, Pecs, Hungary
- Thule Air Base, Thule, Greenland, Denmark
- Torrejon Air Base, Torrejon, Spain
- Upwood Royal Air Force Base, Ramsey (Cambridgeshire), UK
Woomera Air Station, Woomera, Australia
- Yokota Air Base, Tokyo, Honshu, Japan
- Zweibruecken Air Base, Zweibruecken, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany
- Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO, USA
- Air University (Maxwell Air Force Base), Montgomery, AL, USA
- Altus Air Force Base, Altus, OK, USA
Andrews Air Force Base, Camp Springs, MD, USA
- Arnold Air Force Base, Manchester, TN, USA
- Avon Park Air Force Station, Avon Park, FL, USA
- Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier City, LA, USA
- Beale Air Force Base, Marysville, CA, USA
- Bellows Air Force Station, Kaneohe (Oahu), HI, USA
- Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC, USA
- Brooks Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX, USA
- Cannon Air Force Base, Clovis, NM, USA
- Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Cape Canaveral, FL, USA
- Cape Cod Air Force Station, Bourne, MA, USA
- Cape Lisburne Air Force Station, Cape Lisburne, AK, USA
- Cape Newenham Air Force Station, Cape Newenham, AK, USA
- Cape Romanzof Air Force Station, Cape Romanzof, AK, USA
- Carswell Air Force Base, Fort Worth, TX, USA
- Carswell Field (NAS Ft. Worth, JRB), Fort Worth, TX, USA
- Castle Air Force Base, Merced, CA, USA
- Cavalier Air Force Station, Fordville, ND, USA
- Charleston Air Force Base, North Charleston, SC, USA
- Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colorado Springs, CO, USA
- Clear Air Force Station, Clear, AK, USA
Columbus Air Force Base, Columbus, MS, USA
- Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, AZ, USA

- Dover Air Force Base, Dover, DE, USA
Duke Field Air Force Station, Crestview, FL, USA
- Dyess Air Force Base, Abilene, TX, USA
- Eareckson Air Station, Shemya Island, AK, USA
- Edwards Air Force Base, Rosamond, CA, USA
- Eglin Air Force Auxiliary Field (AFS Duke Field), Crestview, FL, USA
- Eglin Air Force Base, Valparaiso, FL, USA
- Eielson Air Force Base, North Pole, AK, USA
- Eldorado Air Force Station, TX, USA
- Ellsworth Air Force Base, Rapid City, SD, USA
- Elmendorf Air Force Base, Anchorage, AK, USA
- England Air Force Base, Alexandria, Louisiana, USA
- Fairchild Air Force Base, Airway Heights, WA, USA
- Falcon Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, CO, USA
- Francis E. Warren Air Force Base, Cheyenne, WY, USA
- George Air Force Base, Victorville, CA, USA
- Gila Bend Auxiliary Field, Gila Bend, AZ, USA
- Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo, TX, USA
- Grand Forks Air Force Base, Emerado, ND, USA
- Griffiss Air Force Base, Rome, NY, USA
- Hanscom Air Force Base, Bedford, MA, USA
- Hickam Air Force Base, Honolulu, HI, USA
- Hill Air Force Base, Ogden, UT, USA
- Holloman Air Force Base, Alamogordo, NM, USA
- Hurlburt Field, Mary Esther, FL, USA
Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field, Indian Springs, NV, USA
- K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Gwinn, MI, USA
- Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, MS, USA
Kelly Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX, USA
- King Salmon Air Force Base, King Salmon, AK, USA
Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, NM, USA
- Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX, USA
- Langley Air Force Base, Hampton, VA, USA
- Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio, TX, USA
- Little Rock Air Force Base, Jacksonville, AR, USA
- Loring Air Force Base, Caribou, ME, USA
- Los Angeles Air Force Base, El Segundo, CA, USA
- Lowry Air Force Base, Denver, CO, USA
Luke Air Force Base, Litchfield Park, AZ, USA
- MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa Bay, FL, USA
- Malmstrom Air Force Base, Great Falls, MT, USA
- Maxwell - Gunter Annex Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL, USA
- McChord Air Force Base, Tacoma, WA, USA
- McClellan Air Force Base, Sacramento, CA, USA
- McConnell Air Force Base, Wichita, KS, USA
- McGuire Air Force Base, Wrightstown, NJ, USA
- Minot Air Force Base, Minot, ND, USA
Moody Air Force Base, Valdosta, GA, USA
- Mountain Home Air Force Base,

- Mountain Home, ID, USA
Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, NV, USA
- New Boston Air Force Station, New Boston, NH, USA
- Newark Air Force Station, Heath, OH, USA
- North Auxiliary Airfield, North, SC, USA
- Norton Air Force Base, San Bernadino, CA, USA
- Offutt Air Force Base, Bellevue, NE, USA
- Onizuka Air Force Station, Sunnyvale, CA, USA
- Patrick Air Force Base, Cocoa Beach, FL, USA
- Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, CO, USA
- Pope Air Force Base, Fayetteville, NC, USA
- Randolph Air Force Base, Universal City, TX, USA
- Reese Air Force Base, Lubbock, TX, USA
- Robins Air Force Base, Macon, GA, USA
- Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, CO, USA
- Scott Air Force Base, Belleville, IL, USA
- Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Goldsboro, NC, USA
- Shaw Air Force Base, Sumter, SC, USA
- Shemya Air Force Base, Shemya Island, AK, USA
- Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, TX, USA
- Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City, OK, USA
- Tonopah Test Range (TTR) Airfield,
Tonopah, NV, USA
- Travis Air Force Base, Fairfield, CA, USA
- Tyndall Air Force Base, Panama City, FL, USA
- Vance Air Force Base, Enid, OK, USA
- Vandenberg Air Force Base, Lompoc, CA, USA
- Whiteman Air Force Base, Knob Noster, MO, USA
- Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Fairborn, OH, USA
- Bergstrom Air Reserve Station, Austin, TX, USA
- Carswell Air Reserve Station, Fort Worth, TX, USA
- Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Marietta, GA, USA
- General Billy Mitchell Air Reserve Station, Milwaukee, WI, USA
- Grissom Air Reserve Base, Bunker Hill, IN, USA
- Homestead Air Reserve Base, Homestead, FL, USA
- March Air Reserve Base, Sunny Mead, CA, USA
- Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minneapolis (IAP), MN, USA
- Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (IAP), Niagara Falls, NY, USA
- Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station (IAP), Coraopolis, PA, USA
- Richards-Gebaur Air Force Reserve Station, Kansas City, MO, USA
- Westover Air Reserve Base, Chicopee, MA, USA
- Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Hatboro, PA, USA
- Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Vienna, OH, USA

- **Marine Corps**
- Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, SC, USA
- Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base, Jacksonville, NC, USA
- Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Air Station, Oceanside, CA, USA
- Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, Havelock, NC, USA
- El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, Irvine, CA, USA
- Futenma Marine Corps Air Station, Okinawa, Japan
- Hawaii Marine Corps Base, Kailua, HI, USA
- Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Honshu, Japan
- Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Air Facility (MCBH), Kailua, HI, USA
- Miramar Marine Corps Air Station, San Diego, CA, USA
- New River Marine Corps Air Station, Jacksonville, NC, USA
- Tustin Marine Corps Air Station, Tustin, CA, USA
- Twentynine Palms MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, CA, USA
- Yuma Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, AZ, USA

- **Naval**

- Adak Naval Air Station, Adak, AK, USA
- Agana Naval Air Station, Guam
- Alameda Naval Air Station, Alameda, CA, USA
- Andreos Island Naval Air Station, Bahamas
- Atlanta Naval Air Station, Marietta, GA, USA
- Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Sagamino, Honshu, Japan
- Barbers Point Naval Air Station, Ewa/Oahu, HI, USA
- Bremerton Naval Station, Bremerton, WA, USA
- Brunswick Naval Air Station, Brunswick, ME, USA
- Camp Smith Naval Air Station, Honolulu, HI, USA
- Cecil Field Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, FL, USA
- Chambers Field (NS Norfolk), Norfolk, VA, USA
- Chicago Naval Air Reserve Center, Great Lakes, IL, USA
- China Lake Naval Air Station, China Lake, CA, USA
- Columbus Naval Air Reserve Center, Columbus, OH, USA
- Corpus Christi Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, TX, USA
- Cubi Point Naval Air Station (Subic Bay), Olongapo City, Philippines
- David L. Macdonald Field (NS Mayport), Mayport, FL, USA
Denver Naval Air Reserve Center, Aurora, CO, USA
- Diego Garcia Naval Support Facility, Diego Garcia, BIOT
- El Centro Naval Air Facility, El Centro, CA, USA
- Everett Naval Station, Everett, WA, USA
- Fallon Naval Air Station, Fallon, NV, USA
- Federal Airfield (NAS Moffett Field), Mountain View, CA, USA
- Fort Worth Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Ft. Worth, TX, USA
- Glenview Naval Air Station, Glenview, IL, USA
- Guantanamo Bay Naval Air Station, Cuba
- Halsey Field (NAS North Island), San Diego (Coronado, North Island), CA, USA
- Jacksonville Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, FL, USA
- Keflavik Naval Air Station, Reykjanes, Iceland
- Key West Naval Air Station, Key West, FL, USA
- Kingsville Naval Air Station, Kingsville, TX, USA
- La Maddalena Naval Support Activity, Sardinia, La Maddalena, Italy
- Lajes Field Naval Air Station, Terceira Island, Azores, Portugal
- Lakehurst Naval Air Station, Manchester, NJ, USA
- Lemoore Naval Air Reserve Center, Lemoore, CA, USA
- Lemoore Naval Air Station, Lemoore, CA, USA
- Mayport Naval Station, Mayport, FL, USA
- Memphis Naval Air Station, Millington, TN, USA
- Meridian Naval Air Station, Meridian, MS, USA
- Minneapolis Naval Air Reserve Center, Minneapolis, MN, USA
- Miramar Naval Air Station, San Diego, CA, USA
- Misawa Naval Air Facility, Misawa, Honshu, Japan

- Moffett Field Naval Air Station, Mountain View, CA, USA
- Naples Naval Support Activity, Naples, Italy
- New Orleans Naval Air Station (JRB), Belle Chasse, LA, USA
- Newport Naval Station, Newport, RI, USA
- Norfolk Naval Air Station, Norfolk, VA, USA
- Norfolk Naval Station, Norfolk, VA, USA
- North Island Naval Air Station, San Diego (Coronado, North Island), CA, USA
- Oceana Naval Air Station, Virginia Beach, VA, USA
- Patuxent River Naval Air Station,
- Patuxent River, MD, USA
- Pensacola Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL, USA
- Point Mugu Naval Air Station, Oxnard, CA, USA
- Port Hueneme, Port Hueneme, CA, USA
- Roosevelt Roads Naval Air Station, Caguas, Puerto Rico
- Rota Naval Air Station, Rota, Spain
- San Diego Naval Station, San Diego, CA, USA
- San Jose Naval Air Reserve Center, San Jose, CA, USA
- Santa Clara Naval Air Station, Mountain View, CA, USA
- Seattle Naval Air Station, Seattle, WA, USA
- Selfridge Naval Air Reserve Center, Mount Clemens (ANGB Selfridge), MI, USA
- Sigonella Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Sicily, Italy
- Souda Bay Naval Support Activity,
- Chania (Crete), Greece
- South Weymouth Naval Air Station,
- South Weymouth, MA, USA
- Subic Bay Naval Base, Olongapo City (Luzon), Philippines
- Towers Field (NAS Jacksonville), Jacksonville, FL, USA
- Washington Naval Air Facility (AFB Andrews), Camp Springs, MD, USA
- Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, Oak Harbor, WA, USA
- Whiting Field Naval Air Station, Milton, FL, USA
- Willow Grove Naval Air Station (JRB), Willow Grove, PA, USA
- Yokosuka Naval Station, Yokohama, Honshu, Japan

APPENDIX III

VHA DIRECTIVE 2008-054
Veterans Health Administration
Washington, DC 20420
September 9, 2008

COMBAT VETERAN HEALTH CARE BENEFITS AND COPAY EXEMPTION POST-DISCHARGE FROM MILITARY SERVICE

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes the policy and procedures for determining eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care benefits and copayment exemption for recently discharged veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998.

2. BACKGROUND

a. Title 38, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 1710(e)(1)(D) states that a veteran who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations (as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense) during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War, or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, is eligible for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for any illness, even if there is insufficient medical evidence to conclude that such condition is attributable to such service. For purposes of this policy, such veterans are considered to qualify as “combat veterans.” Treatment provided under this authority is not subject to copayment requirements.

b. Combat veterans who are treated for a condition that the VA provider finds resulted from a cause other than combat service may, however, be subject to copayments (see subpar. 4c(5), for conditions that the Under Secretary for Health has determined are not related to combat service).

c. On January 28, 2008, President George W. Bush signed into law the “National Defense Authorization Act of 2008”(NDAA), Public Law 110-181. This law, among other things, amended Title 38, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 1710(e)(3), extending the period in which a combat-theater veteran may enroll for VA health care and receive the care and services described in preceding paragraph 2a. The law now provides that:

- (1) Combat veterans who were discharged or released from active service on or after January 28, 2003, are eligible to enroll for VA health care for 5 years from the date of discharge or release and are to be placed in Priority

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- (2) Group (PG) 6 (unless eligible for a higher PG placement). This means that combat-theater
- (3) veterans who were originally enrolled in PG 6 based on their combat service, but later moved to a lower priority category (due to the law's former 2-year eligibility limitation) are to be placed back in PG 6 for 5 years beginning on the date of their discharge or release from active service. New combat-theater veterans have 5 years from the date of their discharge or release to enroll for VA health care.

NOTE: *The 5-year enrollment period applicable to these veterans begins on the discharge or separation date of the service member from active duty military service, or in the case of multiple call-ups, the most recent discharge date.*

(2) Combat veterans who were discharged from active duty before January 28, 2003, but did not enroll in VA's health care system have 3 years under this authority to enroll in VA's health care system. This 3-year period of enhanced eligibility begins on January 28, 2008, and expires after January 27, 2011, during which time the combat veteran will be placed in PG 6 (unless eligible for higher PG placement).

d. National Guard and Reserve members who were activated to serve in the Armed Forces and served in a combat theater of operations are eligible to receive health care benefits under 38 U.S.C. 1710(e)(1)(D) if they meet the title 38 definition of "veteran," as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(2), and meet the "minimum active duty" service requirement, set forth in 38 U.S.C. 5303A (or are exempt from that statutory requirement).

3. POLICY: It is VHA policy that combat-theater veterans who meet the eligibility criteria of 38 U.S.C Section 1710(e)(1)(D) and who apply for VA health care within the applicable timeframe are to be enrolled in PG 6 (unless eligible for a higher PG placement) and are to receive care and services at no cost for any illness or condition possibly related to their combat service. Combat-theater veterans who were moved from PG 6 to a lower priority PG (based on the law's former 2-year limitation for eligibility in this category) must be placed back in PG 6 (unless eligible for a higher PG placement) for 5 years beginning from the date of their discharge or release.

NOTE: *VA regulations exempt combat-theater veterans from copayment requirements that apply to the receipt of medications if the medications were furnished for conditions covered under this special treatment and enrollment authority.*

4. ACTION

a. **Under Secretary for Health.** The Under Secretary for Health has designated the Chief Business Officer (CBO), as the lead VHA officer for establishing policy in determining veterans' eligibility for health benefits.

b. **CBO**

(1) The CBO, or designee, in consultation with the Chief Public Health and Environmental Hazards Officer (13) and the Chief Readjustment Counseling Service Officer (15) is responsible for providing guidance concerning locations, dates of service, and other criteria that are used to identify service in theaters of combat operations or subject to hostilities.

(2) The CBO is responsible for providing guidance relating to the evidence or documentation needed to determine a veteran's eligibility for these combat-related health benefits. ***NOTE: Specific locations that have been designated as theaters of combat or areas subject to hostilities qualifying for combat veteran status are provided in Attachment A and will be updated as changes in combat designations occur.***

c. **Facility Director.** Each facility Director is responsible for ensuring that:

(1) Facility staff involved in the eligibility process and staff involved in the provision of health care services are provided guidance on verifying a combat veteran's eligibility and providing appropriate services, respectively.

(2) Combat-theater veterans who enroll within the applicable enrollment timeframe are placed in PG 6 (unless eligible for higher PG placement) and receive free VA care and services for any condition that may be related to their combat service, consistent with law.

(3) While combat-theater veterans enrolled in PG 6 are not required to disclose income information, intake staff are trained to clearly articulate the benefits of providing this income information. These benefits may include a higher enrollment PG assignment, exemption from copayments for care and medication provided for treatment of non-combat related conditions, or eligibility for beneficiary travel benefits. If the combat veteran declines to provide income information, the combat veteran must agree to pay any applicable copayments for care that is found by VHA not to be related to combat service.

(4) VHA clinicians have wide latitude in determining if a veteran's condition may be possibly related to the veteran's combat service. This clinical determination does not require the same rigor or standards used for adjudication of a service-connected claim. It is a determination solely within the medical judgment of the treating clinician. In general, VHA clinicians need to conclude that illnesses and conditions requiring treatment or monitoring during the combat veteran's

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enhanced enrollment period (i.e., 5 or 3 year-period post-discharge or release, as applicable) are possibly related to combat service. Physical or mental health evaluations needed to rule out combat-related health concerns are to be provided at no cost to the enrolled combat veterans and deemed to be a health care service covered under 38 U.S.C. 1710(e)(1)(D). However, the Under Secretary for Health has determined that certain conditions will invariably be deemed to be due to causes other than combat service. These include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Congenital or developmental conditions, e.g., scoliosis.
- (b) Conditions which are known to have existed before military service unless there is an indication that the condition has been aggravated or exacerbated by combat service.
- (c) Conditions having a specific and well-established etiology and that began after military combat service, e.g., bone fractures occurring after separation from military service, a common cold, etc.

(5) If the condition is clearly found to have resulted from a cause other than the veteran's combat service, the clinician must change the Combat Veteran treatment factor value in the Computer Patient Record System (CPRS) to "No" for that encounter and copayment charges may apply.

(6) Appropriate staff are furnished Attachment A, which contains the locations and periods of service that qualify as theaters of combat operations.

NOTE: *These criteria are updated as necessary.*

(7) Appropriate staff are aware of evidence or documentation that may be accepted as an individual veteran's proof of combat service, these include:

NOTE: *Only one is required.*

- (a) Notations on the DD 214 of service in a designated theater of combat operations;
- (b) Receipt of the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Kosovo Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (does not include Global War on Terrorism Service Medal); Southwest Asia Campaign Medal; Air Force Combat Action Medal (AFCAM) or other DoD authorized combat related medal; and

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(c) Proof of receipt of Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay (commonly referred to as “combat pay”) or combat tax exemption after November 11, 1998.

NOTE: *Other evidence may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.*

(8) Continuous enrollment for veterans who are enrolled in PG 6.

(a) Veterans will continue to be enrolled in VA’s health care system after their enhanced enrollment period ends. At that time, VA reassesses the veteran’s information (including all applicable eligibility factors) and makes a new enrollment priority determination.

(b) If the veteran was in PG 6 and no other eligibility factors apply, then the veteran is moved to either PG 7 or PG 8 depending on the income level. As a result of the expiration of the enhanced enrollment period, the veteran may be required to make applicable copayments.

(9) Combat-theater veterans who do not enroll within the applicable enrollment period are still eligible to enroll for VA health care, unless they are subject to the administrative ban on enrolling new veterans in PG 8. Their enrollment must be based on factors other than combat service, such as: a compensable service-connected disability, VA pension status, catastrophic disability determination, or the veteran’s financial circumstances. Even if they have no current need for medical care or services they should be strongly encouraged to apply for enrollment within the applicable timeframe to preserve their eligibility for enrollment.

(10) Combat-theater veterans who are ineligible to enroll for VA care are referred to a Vet Center for readjustment counseling services, if appropriate, or to a community provider to obtain services at the veteran’s expense.

(11) If a health care emergency exists for an ineligible veteran, treatment is provided under VA’s humanitarian treatment authority.

(12) Combat veterans who believe they incurred disabilities during service are encouraged to apply for service-connection.

NOTE: *Veterans Service Organizations can be of great value in assisting veterans with this process.*

NOTE: *VA Environmental Health programs (formerly designated as Registry programs) may provide Gulf War Registry examinations to eligible veterans who request the examination and who served on active military duty in Southwest*

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Asia during the Gulf War which began in 1990 and continues to the present including Operation Iraqi Freedom. The GW Environmental Health program is described in VHA Handbook 1303.02, accessible on Web site <http://www1.va.gov/GulfWar/>.

5. REFERENCES

- a. VHA Handbook 1303.5.
- b. Title 38 U.S.C. Sections 101(2) and (21), 1710, 1712A, and 5303A.
- c. Public Law 110-181, National Defense Authorization Act of 2008.

6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: The Chief Business Officer (16) and the Chief Public Health and Environmental Hazards Officer (13) are jointly responsible for the content of this Directive. Questions about combat veteran's eligibility may be addressed to Business Policy at (202) 254-0406. Questions about veterans seeking treatment for health conditions claimed to be related to combat operations may be addressed to the Environmental Agents Service (131) at (202) 273-8597.

7. RESCISSIONS: VHA Directive 2005-020, and VHA Directive 2002-049 are rescinded. This VHA Directive September 30, 2012.

Michael J. Kussman, MD, MS, MACP
Under Secretary for Health

VHA DIRECTIVE 2004-017 April 21, 2004

AREA INCLUDES	EFFECTIVE	TERMINATED
• Adriatic Sea area and airspace	Apr 12, 1999	Sep 15, 1999
• Afghanistan Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
• Albania Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	Mar 31, 2002
• Algeria Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
• Angola Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
• Arabian Peninsula * Locations and airspace above: Persian Gulf and land area of Saudi Arabia	Nov 11, 1998	
• Arabian Peninsula * Surface area of the following sea boundaries:		
• Red Sea, Gulf of Aden,		
• Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea	Sep 19, 2001	
• Azerbaijan Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
• Bahrain Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
• Bosnia-Herzegovina Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
• Burundi Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
• Cambodia Land area	Nov 11, 1998	Oct 31, 2001
• Colombia Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
• Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) Land area	Feb 27, 2003	
• Croatia Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
• Djibouti Land area	July 31, 2002	
• East Timor Land area	Sept 30, 1999	Oct 28, 1999
• Land area and airspace Nov 1, 2001	Oct 29, 1999	Oct 31, 2001 Land area
• Egypt Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
• El Salvador Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
• Eritrea Land	July 31, 2002	
• Ethiopia Land area	Sep 13, 1999	
• Georgia, Republic of Land area	July 31, 2002	
• Greece ** Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
• Haiti Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
• Hungary ** Land area	May 31, 1999	
• Indonesia Land area	Oct 31, 2001	
• Ionian Sea ** Sea area and airspace	Apr 12, 1999	Sep 15, 1999
• Iran Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
• Iraq Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
• Israel Land area	Jan 31, 2002	
• Italy ** Land area	May 31, 1999	Sep 15, 1999
• Jordan Land area	Nov 11, 1998	

**Arabian Peninsula and adjacent sea areas that include Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.*

***For detailed specific information regarding designated hostile fire or imminent danger pay areas for these countries, refer to the website citation.*

AREA INCLUDES EFFECTIVE TERMINATED

Kenya Land area July 31, 2002	Saudi Arabia Land area and airspace Nov 11, 1998
Kuwait Land area and airspace Nov 11, 1998	Serbia Land area and airspace Nov 11, 1998
Kyrgyzstan Land area Sep 19, 2001	Sierra Leone Land area Nov 11, 1998
Lebanon Land area Nov 11, 1998	Somalia Land area and airspace Nov 11, 1998
Liberia Land area Nov 11, 1998	Sudan Land area and airspace Nov 11, 1998
Macedonia Land area and airspace Nov 11, 1998	Syria Land area July 31, 2003
Malaysia Land area Oct 31, 2001	Tajikistan Land area Nov 11, 1998
Mediterranean Sea area Apr 11, 2003 July 31, 2003	Turkey ** Land area and airspace Nov 11, 1998
Montenegro Land area and airspace Nov 11, 1998	Uganda Land area Jan 19, 2000
Oman Land area Sep 19, 2001	United Arab Emirates
Pakistan Land area Nov 11, 1998	Land area Sep 19, 2001
Peru Land area Nov 11, 1998 Dec 31, 2001	Uzbekistan Land area Sep 19, 2001
Philippines Land area Oct 31, 2001	Yemen Land area May 25, 1999
Qatar Land area and airspace Nov 11, 1998	Yugoslavia Land area and airspace Nov 11, 1998
Rwanda Land area Nov 11, 1998	Zaire Land area Nov 11, 1998

**Arabian Peninsula and adjacent sea areas that include Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.*

***For detailed specific information regarding designated hostile fire or imminent danger pay areas for these countries, refer to the website citation.*

APPENDIX IV

Wartime Service

Certain VA benefits require wartime service. Under the law, VA recognizes these war periods:

Mexican Border Period: May 9, 1916, through April 5, 1917, for veterans who served in Mexico, on its borders or in adjacent waters.

World War I: April 6, 1917, through Nov. 11, 1918; for veterans who served in Russia, April 6, 1917, through April 1, 1920; extended through July 1, 1921, for veterans who had at least one day of service between April 6, 1917, and Nov. 11, 1918.

World War II: Dec. 7, 1941, through Dec. 31, 1946.

Korean War: June 27, 1950, through Jan. 31, 1955.

Vietnam War: Aug. 5, 1964 (Feb. 28, 1961, for veterans who served “in country” before Aug. 5, 1964), through May 7, 1975.

Gulf War: Aug. 2, 1990, through a date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation.

Source: <http://www1.va.gov/opa/IS1/index.htm>

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