The United States Military

Enlisting in the military of the United States is a worthy path and will benefit all Americans by protecting our freedom. We applaud past and present Lighthouse Christian Academy (LCA) students who choose to serve our country and thank them for their dedication.

Prior to Enlistment

- Pursue a strong high school academic program.
- Participate in extracurricular activities (for example, community/church involvement, skill-building opportunities, overseas/cross-cultural experiences, Civil Air Patrol, Young Marines, JROTC, and athletics/sports).
- Become an independent learner.
- Develop motivational skills, accept responsibility, cultivate respect for authority, and demonstrate perseverance.

Guidance for Enlistees

1. If your state law requires you to file some type of notice with the state or local school district, you will need to show that documentation (and any response you received from the school district) to the recruiter. If you live in a state that doesn’t require you to file a notice of intent to homeschool with the school district, the recruiter will ask you to supply some additional documentation to verify that you are indeed an LCA graduate or a currently enrolled student. This additional documentation may vary depending on the branch of the military and the state in which you live. You can request documentation through your academic advisor.

2. If you live in a state where homeschooling is legally considered to be a form of private education, for the purposes of military enlistment, you will want to tell the recruiter that you are enrolled in a distance learning academy, LCA.

3. The recruiter will request an official transcript from Lighthouse Christian Academy. This request should be made through your academic advisor.

4. LCA students who have not yet graduated from high school may be eligible to enlist under the Delayed Entry Program if they are otherwise qualified, and if they have provided the required documentation/proof of homeschool enrollment and pending graduation. Contact your recruiter for more details.

5. It must be clear to the recruiter that you, the parent, together with Lighthouse Christian Academy directed the education of your child. The military understands and accepts co-op programs.
6. All students will be required to take the military’s enlistment test, the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery). In the past, homeschool students needed to score at or above the 50th percentile on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) portion of the ASVAB, while public and private school graduates were required to score in the 30s. This discrepancy has been changed so that all students, including homeschoolers, simply need to receive a passing score. The passing score is determined by each service branch and the needs of the military, but falls generally around the 35th percentile.

The education questions are only the beginning. The military has high moral, medical, and overall standards. It receives numerous applicants; therefore, the enlistment process is designed to weed out applicants in favor of those who the military believes will be the best fit. We recommend that you pursue strong academics alongside participating in extracurricular activities or volunteer in community programs to help develop your leadership skills and academic knowledge.

The military is significantly downsizing, and it is becoming much more difficult to enlist in all branches. There are many people seeking enlistment and few positions open. The bottom line is the military understands that homeschoolers are legally guaranteed an equal opportunity to enlist, just like graduates of other schools.

If you have questions or encounter any problems, you might want to consider contacting HSLDA at (540) 338-5600.

Note: Information for this article was gathered from the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) and military recruiters.