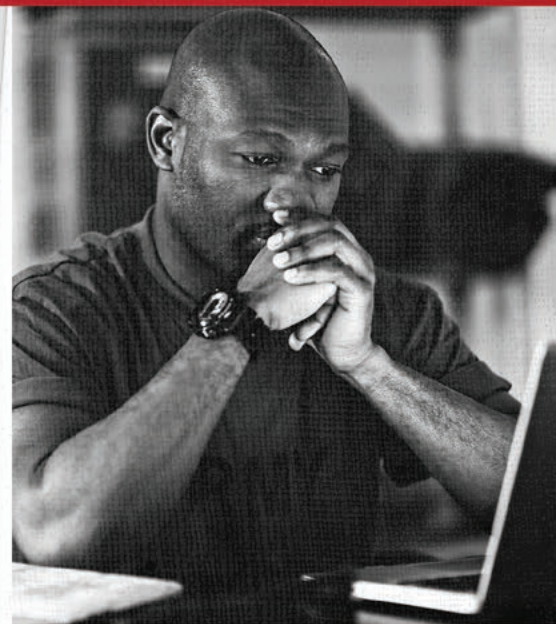
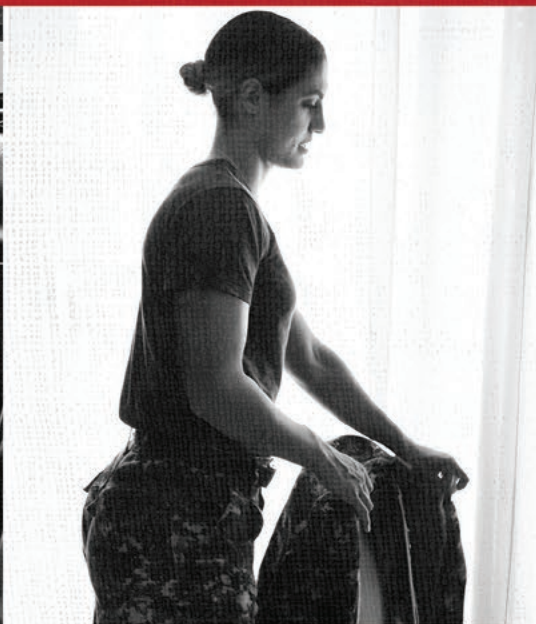




# YOUR CAREER, YOUR WAY.



**Options for Expanding Your Military Career**

## Your military career is about more than rising through the ranks.

It's about rising to meet new challenges. Finding new opportunities to serve your country. Building a military career that plays to your strengths, your interests, and your abilities.

What are your options? Well, they're more varied, and more fascinating, than you may know. A rewarding military career can take you far—around the globe and even beyond—and the work can also prepare you for civilian job opportunities once you leave the service.

Explore your military career options, starting with these examples. And if you'd like more information or personal advice, your MOAA membership can help you make the most of your military career.



### ASTRONAUT

All seven of NASA's original Project Mercury astronauts were military test pilots. While being a military officer is no longer a job requirement, neither is it unwelcome. The selection process is understandably stringent and the training rigorous, as befits the opportunity to take part in the next generation of crewed space missions.

**Learn more:** <https://astronauts.nasa.gov/content/mpoc.htm>

### DEFENSE ATTACHÉ

Retain your commission while being posted to a diplomatic mission, usually at an embassy in a world capital. The U.S. has deployed permanent military attachés to certain of its embassies since 1889. Today, defense attachés work under the auspices of the Defense Intelligence Agency, making them de facto intelligence officers, as well as global representatives of their branch of service. **Learn more:** <https://www.dia.mil/Careers/Military/>



**MEET COL. SHANE KIMBROUGH, ASTRONAUT**

Col. Shane Kimbrough, USA (Ret), has one of the most exciting jobs on the planet—and it takes him to outer space.

He's one of fewer than 50 astronauts for NASA, a highly competitive program that takes about two years to complete and includes rigorous survival training. The military gave him an edge and put him on a path to becoming an astronaut.

"In the military, the career you have, the training you get, the leadership experience, all just make you a really good candidate to be an astronaut," Kimbrough told MOAA. "I'm an Army officer, so just that background of being deployed and being in situations and conditions that aren't five-star, so to speak; you can survive in austere environments."

Kimbrough was selected by NASA in 2004 and completed his first spaceflight in 2008, when he spent almost 16 days on a mission to expand the crew living quarters on the STS-126 space shuttle. He was inspired to pursue a career at NASA when he was a child watching the television coverage of astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walking on the moon.

Kimbrough has logged 189 days in space. Currently, he's helping to develop the operational plan that will launch the next American crew to the moon.

He attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he studied Aerospace Engineering and earned a commission as a second lieutenant. Kimbrough served as a helicopter pilot in the Army, deploying to support Operation Desert Storm.

"What we're really good at is operations, high-stress situations, checklists and emergency procedures," Kimbrough said, describing how valuable military skills are to NASA. "I think that's what we really bring to the table as military because we've done that most of our career—if not all of our career—leading up to this."

After joining NASA, Kimbrough completed Astronaut Candidate Training, including T-38 flight training and water and wilderness survival training, which expands on basic survival training taught in the military.

"The basic Army values ... just having those and growing up with those in the back of my mind all the time helps you to be a loyal person, somebody who's honorable and has integrity, doing the right thing for our nation," Kimbrough said.

—Amanda Dolasinski, *MOAA Staff Reporter*

## FOREIGN AREA OFFICER

Officers with proficiency in a foreign language and regional expertise with a strategic focus can serve a crucial geopolitical role as a foreign area officer (FAO). Some FAOs serve as arms control specialists, while others act as political and cultural advisers to senior leaders of U.S. combat forces in the field. **Learn more:** <https://www.army.mil/standto/2019-07-12>



## TEST PILOT

While the term “test pilot” summons images of maverick hotshots, sophisticated modern aircraft systems demand the utmost in precise control and mature judgment. If you’re already an aviator, you can apply to be on a team responsible for assessing the performance of the aircraft of tomorrow—as a pilot, a navigator, or a flight-test engineer. **Learn more:** <https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2016/02/25/test-pilot-program-opens-for-experienced-army-aviators/>

## TRAINING WITH INDUSTRY (TWI)

The TWI program offers competitively selected officers hands-on exposure to the latest managerial techniques and industrial procedures of corporate America. As an applicant, your background will be matched with the skill-set requirements of participating companies, where you can gain invaluable insights to bring back to your regular, ongoing military duties. **Learn more:** <https://asc.army.mil/web/career-development/programs/aac-training-with-industry/>

## WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY

You could be a part of the team of professionals providing information services and communications support to the president, vice president, U.S. Secret Service, and White House senior staff. An assignment at WHCA requires specialized technical training, as well as the mental agility demanded by a fast-paced, high-pressure work environment. **Learn more:** <https://www.disa.mil/careers/WHCA-recruitment>

## MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MOAA MEMBERSHIP

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**Exclusive discounts** on products and travel, available only to members

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