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Uniformed Services Terminology

There are **eight** federally established **uniformed services**. They may fall under one of four departments: Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and Department of Commerce (DOC). Six of the eight (those under DoD and DHS) are considered the armed forces within the uniformed services. Here is a brief overview of each uniformed services, as well as some basic terminology that can help you get started:

Name	Description
Coast Guard (armed force)	A federal law enforcement agency under DHS, unless activated to serve as a combatant uniformed service under DoD (under the Navy) during wartime and in military operations. *Term for Member:* Coast Guardsman *Description of Duties:* Protect and secure US ports and harbors; protect the environment, enforce Federal laws on the high seas, nation's coastal waters, and national inland waterways. There is also a Coast Guard Reserve.
Marine Corps (armed force)	A combatant uniformed service under DoD. The second smallest branch of the military. Marines conduct operations autonomously, but administratively are under the Navy. *Term for Member:* Marine *Description of Duties:* Conduct amphibious operations and develop amphibious doctrine. Also protect vital naval shore facilities and US government property, including Camp David and US embassies. There is also a Marine Corps Reserve. *Key values or motto:* Improvise, adapt, overcome.
Navy (armed force)	A combatant uniformed service under DoD. The second largest branch of the military. *Term for Member:* Sailor

	Description of Duties: Prepare and equip naval forces to ensure freedom of the seas. Also augment air power and transport Marines to areas of conflict, and provide logistics, medical services, and chaplains to Marine Corps. There is also a Navy Reserve. *Key values or motto:* It's not just a job. It's an adventure.
Army (armed force)	The oldest and largest branch of the military. *Term for Member:* Soldier *Description of Duties:* Function as the military's ground force to engage and destroy enemy land forces. There is also an Army National Guard and Army Reserve. *Key values or motto:* Army Strong.
Air Force (armed force)	The second-youngest branch of the military. *Term for Member:* Airman *Description of Duties:* Aerial warfare; defend country from air, space, or cyberspace threats. Provide support specialties (such as medical, legal, etc.) to the Space Force. There is also an Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. *Key values or motto:* AIM HIGH!
Space Force (armed force)	A combatant uniformed service under DoD. Newest and smallest branch of the military, formed in 2019, and organized as a military branch within the Air Force. *Term for Member:* Guardian *Description of Duties:* Develop military space professionals, acquire military space systems, mature the military doctrine for space power, and organize space forces. *Other:* Space Force culture and duties continue to evolve.
US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (PHSCC)	A noncombatant uniformed service under DHHS, lead by the Assistant Secretary of Health and the U.S. Surgeon General. *Members:* Physicians, nurses, dentists, veterinarians, scientists, engineers and other professionals. *Description of Duties:* Committed to the service and advancement of public

	health. Members work across U.S. federal agencies both domestically and overseas.
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Corps (NOAA Corps)	A noncombatant uniformed service under DOC. *Members:* Commissioned service members with scientific expertise, embedded within broader NOAA activities. *Description of Duties:* Work on sea, on land, and in the air to advance environmental science and stewardship missions. Considered the agency where "service meets science."