

# ASVAB Scores Explained

AFQT, Line Scores, & Military Jobs

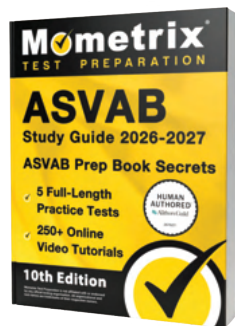


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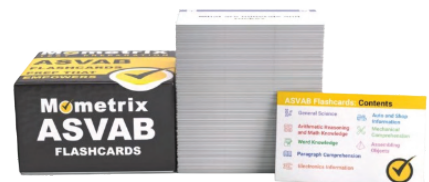
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ASVAB Study Guide



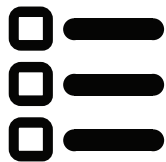
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# ASVAB Scoring Guide

Regardless of which branch of the US military you wish to enlist in, you will be required to achieve a minimum **Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT)** score. Your AFQT score is determined by combining your scores from four sections of the ASVAB:

- Arithmetic Reasoning (AR)
- Mathematics Knowledge (MK)
- Paragraph Comprehension (PC)
- Word Knowledge (WK)

Specifically, AFQT is calculated as **2VE + AR + MK**, where VE (Verbal Expression) is derived from your PC and WK scores. The resulting raw score is then converted to a percentile.

So, what's the point of the rest of the ASVAB sections? The AFQT score determines your eligibility to enlist in the military at all. Once you've qualified to enlist by achieving a qualifying AFQT score, your performance on the other ASVAB sections determines which specific jobs you can be assigned to. Each branch combines subtest scores into its own set of composite (or "line") scores.

The AFQT is reported as a percentile between 1 and 99. The reference group is a nationally representative sample of 18- to 23-year-olds who took the ASVAB as part of a 1997 Department of Defense study (the "Profile of American Youth"). This means that if your AFQT score is, say, 77, you scored as well as or better than 77% of that 1997 sample group.

## AFQT Categories

Category	Percentile
I	93–99
II	65–92
IIIA	50–64
IIIB	31–49
IVA	21–30
IVB	16–20
IVC	10–15
V	1–9

By law and DoD policy, no one with an AFQT score below the 10th percentile, Category V, may enlist or be inducted.

Category IV accessions are capped at 4% of each service's active-duty accessions by default, though the Secretary of Defense may authorize an increase up to 20%.

## ASVAB Subtests

Section	Description
General Science (GS)	Physical and biological sciences
Arithmetic Reasoning (AR)	Solving arithmetic word problems
Word Knowledge (WK)	Word meanings and best synonyms
Paragraph Comprehension (PC)	Obtaining information from text
Mathematics Knowledge (MK)	Principles of high school math
Electronics Information (EI)	Electricity and electronics
Auto Information (AI)*	Automobile technology
Shop Information (SI)*	Shop terminology and practices
Mechanical Comprehension (MC)	Mechanical and physical principles
Assembling Objects (AO)	Finding the final look of an object

\*The AI and SI sections are administered as separate sections on the CAT-ASVAB, while the P&P-ASVAB combines the AI and SI into one section. In both cases, their scores are combined into a single "AS" score.

# Army Jobs (MOS)

The US Army's enlisted job system uses Military Occupational Specialties (MOS). Which MOS you can be assigned to depends on how your ASVAB subtest scores combine into the Army's ten composite scores, called line scores.

## How MOS Codes Work

Every Army MOS is identified by a three-character code: two digits followed by a letter. The two digits identify the Career Management Field (CMF), which is a broad job family, and the letter identifies the specific role within that family. For example, CMF 11 covers Infantry, so MOS 11B is "Infantryman" and 11C is "Indirect Fire Infantryman." These are just a few CMF examples:

CMF	Job Family	CMF	Job Family
11	Infantry	68	Medical
13	Field Artillery	88	Transportation
17	Cyber Operations	92	Quartermaster/Supply
35	Military Intelligence	94	Electronic Maintenance

## Army Line Scores

The Army combines specific ASVAB subtests into ten composite "line scores," each suited to a different category of work. Different MOS codes require different minimum line scores.

Line Score	Description
Clerical (CL)	Administrative, paralegal, finance, supply
Combat (CO)	Infantry, armor, cavalry, combat engineer
Electronics (EL)	Electronics, communications, and avionics maintenance
Field Artillery (FA)	Field artillery operations and fire control
General Maintenance (GM)	Construction trades, utilities, plumbing, firefighting
General Technical (GT)	Intelligence, public affairs, civil affairs, special ops
Mechanical Maintenance (MM)	Aircraft, vehicle, and equipment mechanics
Operators and Food (OF)	Air defense, motor transport, culinary specialties
Surveillance and Communications (SC)	Radar, signal systems, unmanned aircraft operation
Skilled Technical (ST)	Medical, intelligence analysis, cyber, CBRN

The Army uses the English Comprehension Level Test (**ECLT**) as an additional gate for the Interpreter/Translator MOS (09L). It measures English-language comprehension specifically because translators need to clearly understand and convey concepts from one language to another.

# Navy Jobs (Ratings)

The US Navy's enlisted job system uses ratings, which are broad job specialties identified by two- or three-letter abbreviations. Which ratings you can be assigned to depends on how your ASVAB subtest scores combine into rating-specific composite formulas.

## How Navy Ratings Work

Every enlisted Sailor is assigned a rating, the Navy's term for a broad job specialty. Ratings are identified by two- or three-letter abbreviations: BM is Boatswain's Mate, HM is Hospital Corpsman, IT is Information Systems Technician, and so on.

Don't confuse ratings with NECs. Navy Enlisted Classifications (NECs) are four-character codes that identify additional skills layered on top of a rating. A Hospital Corpsman might earn an NEC for a specific medical specialty, but their rating remains HM.

Rating	Description
BM	Boatswain's Mate
HM	Hospital Corpsman
IS	Intelligence Specialist
YN	Yeoman

*These are just a few rating examples*

## Navy Rating Communities

The Navy combines specific ASVAB subtests into rating-specific composite formulas. Different ratings and programs require different minimum composite scores.

Community	Description
Aviation	Aircraft maintenance, ordnance, and flight operations
Surface/Deck	Ship handling, navigation, weapons, topside operations
Engineering	Propulsion, electrical systems, damage control
Combat Systems	Weapons, fire control, missiles, mine warfare
Cryptologic/Intelligence	Signals intelligence, network warfare, intel analysis
Construction (Seabees)	Combat construction, engineering, utilities
Medical	Hospital Corpsman healthcare duties
Administrative/Support	Personnel, logistics, communications, culinary
Special Operations and Diving	SEALs, SWCC, EOD, Navy Divers
Nuclear and Advanced Programs	Nuclear-trained engineering and advanced electronics

The Navy uses the **NAPT**, a separate aptitude test in math and physical sciences, as an additional gate for the Nuclear Field program. Some Nuclear Field candidates must pass the NAPT, depending on their ASVAB composite scores and the Navy's current Nuclear Field qualification criteria.

# Marine Corps Jobs (MOS)

The US Marine Corps' enlisted job system uses Military Occupational Specialties (MOS). Which MOS you can be assigned to depends on how your ASVAB subtest scores combine into four composite line scores.

## How MOS Codes Work

Every Marine MOS is identified by a four-digit code. The first two digits identify the Occupational Field (OccFld), and the last two digits identify the specific role within that field. OccFld 03 covers Infantry, so MOS 0311 is "Rifleman" and 0331 is "Machine Gunner." The Marine Corps uses dozens of OccFlds covering every career field.

OccFld	Job Family
03	Infantry
06	Communications
17	Cyberspace
27	Linguist
35	Motor Transport

*These are just a few OccFld examples*

## Types of MOS Designations

A Marine can hold multiple MOS designations. Each type serves a different career-management purpose:

Type	Description
Primary MOS (PMOS)	The Marine's main job they were trained for and are assigned to
Necessary MOS (NMOS)	An additional skill required for a specific billet or assignment
Additional MOS (AMOS)	A secondary MOS the Marine has been trained and qualified in
Free MOS (FMOS)	A non-PMOS that can be filled by any Marine regardless of PMOS

## Marine Corps Line Scores

The Marine Corps combines specific ASVAB subtests into four composite "line scores," each suited to a different category of work. Different MOS codes require different minimum line scores.

Line Score	Description
Clerical (CL)	Administrative, supply, finance, food service
Electronics (EL)	Electronics, communications, and avionics equipment
General Technical (GT)	Infantry, intelligence, military police, combat support
Mechanical Maintenance (MM)	Vehicle, aircraft, and engineer equipment mechanics

Among the Marine Corps' four line scores, General Technical (GT) has unusual reach. It gates infantry plus reconnaissance, special operations, intelligence, and military police. If you're preparing for the ASVAB with the Marines in mind, the subtests that build GT deserve extra attention.

# Air Force Jobs (AFSC)

The US Air Force's enlisted job system uses Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSCs). Each AFSC gates on minimum scores in one or two of four aptitude areas.

## How AFSC Codes Work

An enlisted AFSC is a five-character code like 1A1X2 or 3E8X1. The fourth character is shown as "X" when referring to the AFSC generically. In practice, it's filled in as 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9 based on the Airman's skill level (Helper, Apprentice, Journeyman, Craftsman, or Superintendent). The other four positions each have a specific meaning. Here's a breakdown of 1A1X2 (Mobility Force Aviator) as an example:

Position	Character	Meaning
1st	1	Career Group
2nd	A	Career Field
3rd	1	Career Field Subdivision
4th	X	Skill Level placeholder
5th	2	Specific AFSC

## AFSC Career Groups (First Digit)

Code	Career Group
1	Operations (flight operations, intelligence, command and control)
2	Logistics and Maintenance (aircraft, vehicle, equipment maintenance; supply)
3	Support (security forces, communications, engineering, services)
4	Medical and Dental (clinical and support healthcare roles)
5	Professional (chaplaincy, legal, paralegal)
6	Acquisition (contracting, financial management)
7	Special Investigations (Office of Special Investigations [OSI])
8	Special Duty Identifiers (recruiting, military training, etc.)
9	Reporting Identifiers (specialized administrative codes)

The Air Force gates each AFSC by minimum scores in four aptitude areas, collectively known as MAGE:

**M**

**Mechanical**

Aircraft, vehicle,  
equipment maintenance

**A**

**Administrative**

Personnel, clerical,  
finance

**G**

**General**

Intelligence, command  
and control

**E**

**Electronics**

Communications,  
avionics, cyber

AFSC listings show requirements as a single score like G55, or two combined like E70 and M60.

# Coast Guard Jobs (Ratings)

The US Coast Guard's enlisted job system uses ratings, the same term the Navy uses. The Coast Guard is one of the smallest branches of the US military, with around two dozen active enlisted ratings, each gated by its own ASVAB composite score requirements.

## How Coast Guard Ratings Work

Coast Guard ratings are identified by two- or three-letter abbreviations: BM is Boatswain's Mate, MK is Machinery Technician, AET is Avionics Electrical Technician, and so on. Most ratings are awarded only after a Coastie completes a formal training program called an A-school, which is rating-specific.

Rating	Description
BM	Boatswain's Mate
MK	Machinery Technician
HS	Health Services Technician
AET	Avionics Electrical Technician
CMS	Cyber Mission Specialist
AST	Aviation Survival Technician

*These are just a few rating examples*

## Coast Guard Rating Categories

Coast Guard ratings can be loosely grouped by the type of work each rating does. Knowing which category a rating belongs to can help you understand where your interests and aptitudes might fit.

Category	Description
Operations and Deck	Ship handling, navigation, search and rescue, law enforcement
Aviation	Aircraft operations, maintenance, and aviation rescue
Engineering	Ship machinery, electrical systems, damage control, IT
Cyber and Communications	Cybersecurity, information warfare
Medical	Healthcare for service members
Administrative and Support	Personnel, supply, culinary, public affairs
Specialized	Diver, Musician, Investigator, Marine Science Technician

The Coast Guard's day-to-day work spans 11 statutory mission areas, split between Homeland Security and non-Homeland Security missions:

### Non-Homeland Security

- Marine Safety
- Search and Rescue
- Aids to Navigation
- Living Marine Resources
- Marine Environmental Protection
- Ice Operations

### Homeland Security

- Ports, Waterways, and Coastal Security
- Drug Interdiction
- Migrant Interdiction
- Defense Readiness
- Other Law Enforcement

# Space Force Jobs (SFSC)

The US Space Force is the newest branch of the US military, established on December 20, 2019. Its enlisted members are called Guardians, with ranks of Specialist 1 through Specialist 4 (E-1 to E-4) and Sergeant (E-5 and above). The Space Force uses Space Force Specialty Codes (SFSCs) to classify enlisted jobs.

## Built on the Air Force System

Because the Space Force grew out of the Air Force, its enlisted classification system was initially built on the Air Force AFSC model. The same two foundational pieces apply:

- **SFSC code structure:** Five-character codes in the same format as Air Force AFSCs
- **MAGE composite scoring:** The same MAGE aptitude areas gate SFSC requirements

## Space Force Career Fields

The Space Force has roughly a dozen enlisted career fields, concentrated in space operations, intelligence, cyber, and acquisitions. Some SFSCs use new 5XXX-series codes; others retain their original Air Force AFSC numbers.

Space Force career fields continue to be developed and renumbered as the service builds out its enlisted force structure.

There are a few things that set the Space Force apart from other branches of the US military:

- **Smallest military branch:** The Space Force is much smaller than the older military services, with more than 14,000 military and civilian Guardians.
- **Distinct mission focus:** Satellite operations, space domain awareness, missile warning, GPS systems, orbital warfare, and space-based intelligence.
- **Newest service:** Most early Guardians joined by transferring from the Air Force; the enlisted force structure is still developing.

## Space Force ASVAB Strategy

If you are aiming for the Space Force, pay close attention to the ASVAB sections that build General and Electronics scores. Many Space Force enlisted careers are concentrated in space operations, cyber, intelligence, and technical mission support.

- **General score:** Important for intelligence, operations, cyber, and analytical roles
- **Electronics score:** Important for space systems, cyber, communications, and technical roles