

**Athletic Training in the Military setting: An FAQ for ATs**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Do I have to join / I am about to join / I am already a service member in the US Armed Forces, how can I become an athletic trainer in the military?**

You cannot enlist as a service member or commission as an officer and work as an athletic trainer as athletic training is not a job in the military. Those that work with military are civilians with government jobs or service contracts.

There are ATs on active duty, but they either hold another allied health professional credential that is a recognized job (billet or slot) in the military (i.e. PA-C, PT, or PTA), or they work in an area that is non-health care related.  In either case, any athletic training services they render are incidental or an additional duty (such as a Temporary Duty (TDY), All-Service, All-Armed Forces, Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM), Confederation of Interallied Reserve Officers (CIOR), or World Class Athlete Program (WCAP).

**How can I work as an athletic trainer in the military?**

Athletic trainers, working as service providers outside the sports environment, are relatively new and not prevalent throughout the armed forces.  You cannot enlist or be commissioned as an officer and work as an athletic trainer (see previous question).  Those that work with military are government civilians or have service contract positions.

To work for the military you typically will have to search for jobs through one of the civilian military job sites for a specific branch (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, etc) and it almost never will carry the title of "athletic trainer."  One such site is USAJOBS.  Jobs are occasionally also posted on the NATA Career Center, but not always. Check out the NATA members only career resource page to find more information.  Also, and perhaps most importantly, seeking a position with the military is a long lead-time effort and could require up to a year from the time you apply until you begin work.

**What kind of volunteer or internship opportunities are there in the military?**

There are occasional opportunities to go TDY with Army MWR sports – however, you need to be able to travel at various times throughout the year with a team; (<http://www.armymwr.com/portal/recreation/sportsandfitness/>).

Trial camps, Service Tournaments, and follow-on events can be for extended periods of time (a minimum of 2-3 weeks to a maximum of 2-3 months) so plan accordingly before volunteering.

**Can the Clinical and Emerging Athletic Trainers’ Committee (CEPAT) help me find a job or internship?**

CEPAT provides online advice and the NATA Career Center will often post job opportunities. We are not an all-knowing, all-inclusive job search engine. We do not search for jobs or internships for individuals. Our objectives revolve around unifying those athletic trainers who are working with and for the military, and seeking ways of promoting our knowledge, skills, and abilities in the athletic training profession. As this effort expands, opportunities will grow.

**More information:**

Armed Forces Athletic Trainers’ Society: <http://www.afats.org/>

NATA Military setting webpage: <http://www.nata.org/athletic-training/job-settings/military-setting>

**How to become a civilian in the How to Become a Civilian Employee of the U.S. Armed Forces**

<http://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/become-civilian-employee-us-armed-forces.pdf>

**Current Status of ATCs in the Military**

<http://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/Status-of-ATCs-in-the-Military.pdf>

**Mission Essential – Article from Athletic Business**

<http://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/Military-Athletic-Business.pdf>

**Internet job sites**

<http://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/InternetJobSites.pdf>