

DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM



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1. Upon graduation from high school, would you consider joining a branch of the United States military? Why or why not?
2. What personal characteristics and attributes does a soldier in the United States military need to have in order to be effective?



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The United States Military is comprised of the following branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and US Coast Guard as well as the National Guard and US Reserves.

Currently there are approximately 1.4 million active service members and over 850,000 Reserve and National Guard soldiers serving in over 150 countries. It is estimated that approximately 57 million Americans have served in the US military throughout our nation's history.



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Please watch the oral history video featuring the stories of a family, The Boyle Brothers, who proudly served in the military and answer the following questions:

1. What influence did Mrs. Boyle have on her son's lives?
2. What were the "three F's" in the Boyle family?
3. Why did the three Boyle Brothers decide to enter the US military?
4. What did Chuck Boyle experience in fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan?
5. What did Dan and Ish Boyle experience fighting in Iraq?

A SOLDIER'S STORY

Serving in the military takes courage, dedication, and commitment. Each soldier has a unique story of his or her experience. Many of these experiences have been detailed in various primary source documents such as letters, diary entries, and other shared accounts. Please read the following account and determine what the soldier's story "says" about their experience serving our nation.

A SOLDIER'S STORY

There are many soldier stories that have not been recorded or told. This is your opportunity to find a veteran or active service member and allow him or her to tell their story. You will be conducting and recording an oral history interview. Please use the project instruction handout for guidance.

MESSAGE TO A SOLDIER

Assignment: Write a thank you letter to a member of the United States military currently serving overseas. What message do you want that soldier to have?

Follow Up: Mail your letter to a soldier by using the following website: http://amillionthanks.org/send_a_letter.php