

I'm from Montana obviously lived in Hardin most my life, went to Hardin high school, and then I made the decision to go into the Marines. I wanted to go into the aviation for college when I was a senior in high school and at the time, I wanted to go into aeronautical science and I wanted to apply it to go to Rocky Mount college and do the aviation program, but it was very expensive and I really didn't have any scholarships or anything lined up for me, so my mom kind of guided me to the direction of looking into the military. We were looking actually at the Air Force. I was talking to the airforce recruiter for a little while and everything was good. He was about college, benefits, traveling, all the things I like to hear because I like to travel and I like to save money and the idea of going to college free sounded good to me. So, I was like, let's do the airforce. I don't know what happened, but there was just a gut feeling I had that made me want to go into the Marines and it just changed. Like, one morning I woke up and I was like I'm going to just talk to the Marine recruiter and hear what he has to say. I gave them like the easiest applicant that they're probably ever had. I just walked in and I was set up to go within the next month to boot camp because at that point in time, I was already graduated and I was out of school for about 3 or 5 months and then I told my mom I wanted to go into the marines because if I'm in the military I just want to do the most challenging branch there is, so I shipped out to boot camp in Jan. of 2018. So the recruiters wanted you to be as good to go as possible, but they want to just make sure you can get the MEPS. So MEPS is like this big thing where you're basically running through all of the medical things that you need to be prepared for. They take your blood, they run all these tests on you make sure that you're not faulty pretty much. Like, you can make it to boot camp and you're not going to get injured very easily or something like that. So the Marines is different than other branches because of how like in general they carry themselves. I will say that my opinion may be a bit biased because I'm obviously a Marine, so I will say that they are the, not necessarily the best, but they are the best at a few things. Probably the most professional, I'd say, and the standards are kind of high compared to other branches physically, probably more mentally demanding than the other branches as well. Especially going through boot camp. So I look at different options for other branches and they don't really come close to what you go through the Marines. In the Marine corps, we call them SMOS, your military occupational specialty. So mine is, I am a CBRN defense specialist so it's an acronym that stands for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear defense specials. I actually help train other marines to be ready and prepared for any kind of attack. So, we train marines by making sure that any equipment they're issued, that they know how to use. We also run them through IPCEs which is individual protection equipment confidence exercise. So we basically make sure that they know how to use the gear and then we gas them. It's like tear gas, so we put them in like this little chamber and then kick off a couple castles and then it just goes in the air and they get smoked out. I was thinking of college initially, and that's why I went into the military was to help pay for college. So now that I'm here I have the ability to do college and I have the GI bill which is a big chunk of money that can help pay for college and also I get tuition assistance while on active duty but yes, now I'm looking into still pursuing that aviation studies and I'm going to go through this college called Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and hopefully with their flying program, I'll become a pilot. Then I'll get my commercial license and then when I'm out I'm looking to be a pilot. I was gonna go into the airforce so that way I can help myself become a pilot faster because I just like the idea of planes and come to think of it, had I known better, I would've picked an MOS specifically around the aviation side. My jobs cool, but I wish I would have used that knowledge I have now, because now I have this experience that could help me if I decided to use something or get a job in a power plant, like the chemical side. But if I stay in, I'm going to try and lat move, which is just basically just switching jobs and I'll just do something

like that around the aviation side. For anyone that is willing to go into the military, I recommend doing your research as far as what brands want to join for what reasons and look into what job you want. So I decided to go into the military to help me pay for college most of all and also the experience that I could never ever get anywhere else.