

two distinct paths TO JOINING THE MILITARY:

COMMISSIONING AS AN OFFICER AND ENLISTING

Officers are the managers of the Military, acting in roles that include planning, directing operations and making critical decisions. Positions require a college degree or equivalent. An individual can become an officer by earning a commission through enlisted service, completing Officer Candidate School (OCS), attending one of the highly competitive service academies or participating in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program at more than 1,700 colleges and universities across the U.S.

OFFICER

CAPT.
DAVID PEREZ
MARINE CORPS

SERVICE ACADEMIES

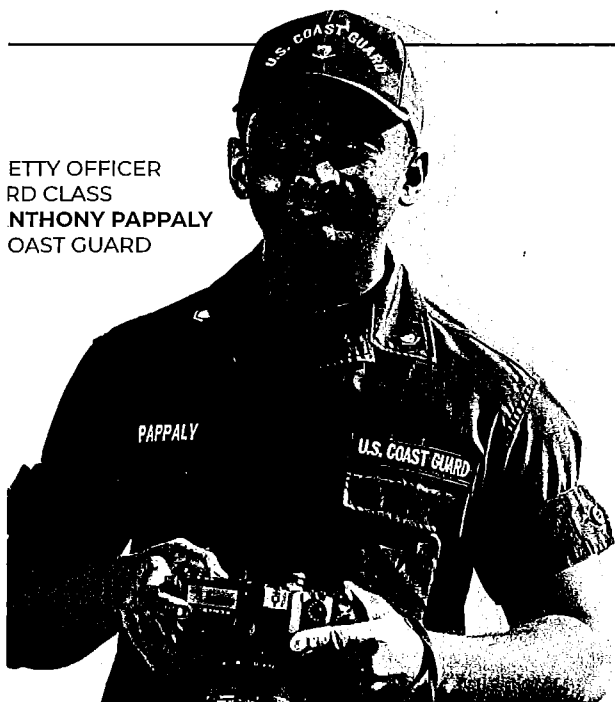
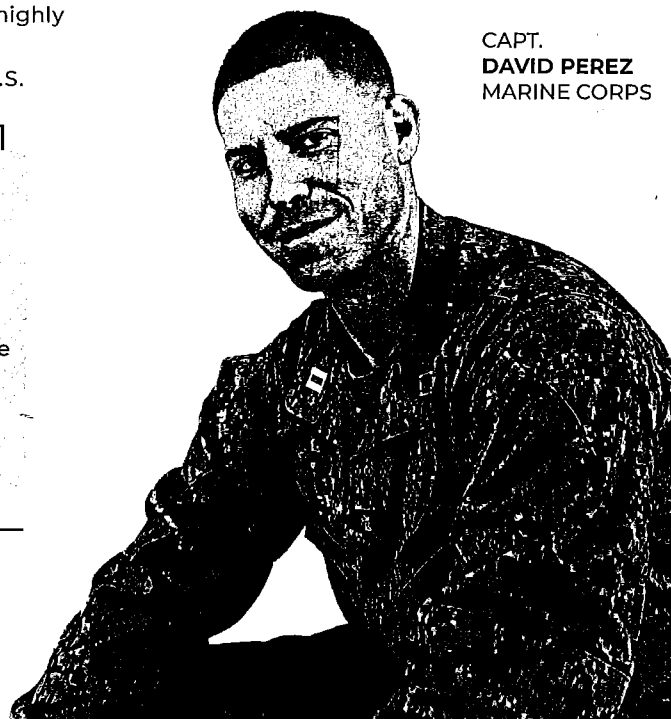
offer a world-class education with fully funded tuition that includes room and board. Graduates receive a Bachelor of Science degree and are commissioned in their respective Service branches.

ROTC PROGRAMS

provide officer training for students during college in exchange for a paid college education. In return, students commit to serve either on active duty or part time in the Guard or Reserve for a set period after graduation, usually five years.



"I've always wanted to help others, so I talked to a recruiter in college. I eventually commissioned as an officer after completing my degree."



PETTY OFFICER
1ST CLASS
ANTHONY PAPPALY
U.S. COAST GUARD

ENLISTED

Enlisted roles require a high school education. There are a variety of enlisted careers, including infantry roles, most of which involve hands-on training that transfers well to the civilian world.

BASIC TRAINING,

often known as boot camp, prepares recruits for major elements of service: physical, mental and emotional. It gives service members the basic tools necessary and has the goal of preparing new recruits for success.



"Everyone warns you about boot camp, but you're going through it with people who are experiencing the same thing and you're in it together!"