



The Five Branches of the U.S. Military

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What are the five branches of the U.S. Military?

The five branches of the U.S. military are:

1. Army
2. Marine Corps
3. Navy
4. Air Force
5. Coast Guard



Army

Oldest branch of the military

Established in 1775

Purpose: the “ground” force of the military

Although the Army does have aviation units

Largest branch of the military

Two Reserve Components

Army Reserves

The Army National Guard



Marine Corps

Second smallest branch

Established in 1775 as the ground force of the Navy

Became an independent branch in 1798

Purpose: ground force operations

Reserve Component:

Marine Corps Reserve, but no Marine Corps National Guard



Navy

Established in 1775 (same year as the Army)

Defender of the Seas

Navy also operates on land

Main supporter of the Air Force

Provides carriers for transporting aircraft

Contributes a runway at sea for aircraft

One Reserve component:

Navy Reserve



Air Force

Most recently established branch of the military

Established in 1947

Purpose

To support the security of the United States through air and space exploitation

Two Reserve components:

Air National Guard

The Air Force Reserves



Coast Guard

The most forgotten branch

The smallest branch

Originally established in 1790

In 2002, moved to the Department of
Homeland Security

Purpose: to control illegal immigration by sea
and conduct sea rescues

Reserve component: The Coast Guard
Reserve



Resources

All flags and pictures were retrieved from Yahoo/military flags

Data retrieved from:

<http://www.militaryspot.com/enlist/understanding-the-five-branches-of-the-military>

