Lansing MEPS processes military recruits, supports local area businesses

By Teresa J. Frith

So you want to join the military. If you live in the mid-Michigan area, your first stop after your recruiter is the Lansing Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) at 120 East Jolly Road. The Lansing MEPS is one of a network of 65 military processing stations in the United States and Puerto Rico.

So, what’s the first thing to expect? You will most likely spend the night before your military processing in a hotel near the MEPS. Don’t worry; you won’t have to pay for it yourself. The cost for the room is covered, along with your meals. Early the next day you will be taken to the MEPS and undergo five steps: aptitude testing, a medical exam, choosing your job, a background check, and the final step, the oath of enlistment. After that, most of you will be given a future date when you will report for basic training and will be considered in the delayed entry program, or DEP. Some will actually enter the military and be sent to their prospective basic training the next day. It all depends on the branch of the military you join and when there is an opening for your particular vocation or school.

The Lansing MEPS doesn’t just process Michigan applicants into the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard, it also helps support the local area. They provide jobs, mentor area youth through volunteer services in neighborhood schools, coach youth sports teams, and hold School to Work Seminars at high schools in the area. There is also a Job Shadow day each year that pairs an area teen with a MEPS worker and takes them through a typical day in that person’s job.

All in all, the Lansing MEPS is the perfect blend of responsible area business and gateway to the armed services. So, if you are from the Michigan area and want to join the military, head on over to the Lansing MEPS and they will be happy to get you started in your new career.