

37 I can talk about the armed forces

A Organization

The US **military comprises** five **branches** in its field of **operations**: army, navy, air force, marine corps, and coast **guard**, all under **civilian authority**. More than 1.4 million people **serve** in the professional full-time military, with a further 1.2 million in **the reserve army** (**the draft** has not been enforced since 1986). The US military **distinguishes between enlisted** personnel, who **make up** 85 per cent of the armed forces and carry out **fundamental** operations such as **combat** and administration, and officers, who manage and supervise operations. The range of jobs is **vast**, and **encompasses** such **diverse** activities as running a hospital, **commanding** a **tank**, programming computers, operating a **nuclear reactor**, and maintaining **weapons** systems.



tank



helicopter



parachutes



missile

Glossary

the military	a country's army, navy, and air force. SYN the armed forces. military ADJ.
branch	a part of a large organization (branch of a bank).
operation	a planned military or police action (military operation).
guard	a person or group of people who protect sth/sb. guard sth/sb v.
civilian	not belonging to the armed forces. civilian N.
authority	the power to give orders to other people.
serve	do useful work (serve your country / in the army / etc.).
the reserve(s)	an extra force that performs part-time duties and is available if needed (we also talk about having people in reserve).
the draft	AME the practice of ordering people to serve in the armed forces (called military service in many countries). SYN conscription (BrE).
distinguish between people or things	recognize a difference between people or things. SYNS differentiate , make a distinction N.
enlisted	ESPECIALLY AME relating to members of the armed forces below officer rank (to enlist is to join the armed forces).
fundamental	central, and forming the necessary basis of sth.
combat	fighting between forces (armed/unarmed combat = fighting with/without guns, bombs, etc.).
vast	extremely large (vast majority/numbers/amount). SYN huge .
encompass sth	FML include sth within an area or area of activity.
diverse	different from each other and of various kinds. diversity N.
command sb/sth	(in the forces) be in charge of people (a person is in command).
nuclear reactor	a structure which produces nuclear energy (a country with nuclear weapons is said to have a nuclear capability).
weapon	an object such as a knife, gun, or bomb that is used for fighting (nuclear/chemical weapons ; a deadly/lethal weapon can kill sb).

spotlight **comprise, make up, consist of, compose**

These verbs describe the way in which something is formed:
*A group **comprises** / **is composed of** / **consists of** / **is made up of** 30 people.*
 When you mention the parts first, use **make up** or **comprise**:
*Men **make up** / **comprise** the majority of the group.*



1 Correct the spelling mistakes.

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 civilian _____ | 4 enlisted _____ | 7 distinguish _____ |
| 2 weapon _____ | 5 the draft _____ | 8 missile _____ |
| 3 nuclear _____ | 6 authority _____ | 9 conscription _____ |

2 Use each word/phrase in the box once to make eight compound words or phrases.

unarmed vast armed lethal military air forces combat majority
 weapon force make nuclear operation capability a distinction

3 Replace the underlined word(s) with a single word that has a similar meaning.

- To run an army requires a huge amount of money. v _____
- The decision will be taken by the armed forces. m _____
- A brigade is made up of approximately 5,500 men and women. c _____
- The right to self-defence is one of their central beliefs. f _____
- There was very little armed fighting. c _____
- The men are from very different backgrounds. d _____
- Six soldiers were on duty to protect the camp. g _____
- Single men make up the majority of the regiment. c _____
- This knife is a lethal weapon. d _____
- They don't recognize a difference between men and women. d _____
- The work includes many different tasks and responsibilities. e _____
- How many men work in the British army? s _____

4 Complete the text with suitable words.

The British armed (1) _____ (2) _____ of the army, the (3) _____, and the air (4) _____. As head of state, the Queen is theoretically in (5) _____ of the armed forces, but in practice they come under the (6) _____ of the British prime minister. There are just under 200,000 men and women (7) _____ in the professional armed forces (often referred to as 'the regulars'), but with even more than that in the (8) _____. The armed forces are also supported by a number of diverse agencies owned by the Ministry of Defence. The navy is the (9) _____ of the armed forces which is responsible for Britain's nuclear (10) _____, which (11) _____ four Trident missile submarines.

5 ABOUT YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY Write your answers or ask another student.

- Has your country got a professional and a reserve army? _____
- Does your country have military service? _____
- Does your country have a nuclear capability? _____
- Have you ever: stood next to a tank? _____ flown in a helicopter? _____
 been in a professional army? _____ dropped from a parachute? _____
 done military service? _____



B For or against the armed forces? 🎧

The armed forces provide protection from an invading enemy and from **internal** conflict; they are called upon to **assist** in international **peacekeeping** operations; and they are used in **civil** emergencies after a national disaster. However, a professional army requires **considerably** more **funding** than a reserve army. **The latter** is only **mobilized** when needed and is therefore much cheaper. The armed forces may also harm a society if they are involved in **counter-productive** (or **merely** unsuccessful) **warfare**.

spotlight interior and internal

Interior ADJ, N relates to the inside part of sth (e.g. ADJ *the interior walls of the house*; N *the interior of a car/building*). OPP **exterior** ADJ, N.

The interior is the central part of a country, a long way from the coast.

Internal ADJ relates to the inside of sth, including the body (e.g. **internal** doors/injuries; an **internal** enquiry/problem). OPP **external**.

Internal is commonly used in reference to things within a country (e.g. **internal** flights/affairs/markets). SYN **domestic**.

Glossary

assist (sb) in/with sth FML help sb to do sth.
peacekeeping intended to stop people fighting (a **peacekeeping force**).
civil connected with the people who live in a country (**civil unrest/war/rights/liberties**).
considerably much; a great deal.
considerable ADJ.
funding money provided for a special purpose (**government funding**).

the latter the second of two things that have just been mentioned (**the former** refers to the first of two things mentioned).
mobilize (sth) prepare (an army) to fight in a war.
counter-productive having the opposite effect to the one intended.
merely only; simply (used to emphasize what you are saying).
warfare the activity of fighting a war, often of a particular type (**guerrilla warfare** = fighting in small, unofficial military groups).

6 Circle the correct word(s). Sometimes both words are correct.

- We could have **civil** / **civic** war.
- He **simply** / **merely** wanted to help.
- They're **mobilating** / **mobilizing** the army.
- I like the **interior** / **internal** of the car.
- It cost **considerably** / **considerately** more.
- We took **a domestic** / **an internal** flight.
- She's got **interior** / **internal** injuries.
- I'm **assisting** / **helping** him in his enquiries.

7 Write a single word to complete each sentence.

- It had the opposite effect to the one we intended, so it was clearly counter-_____.
- Most of the time their forces are engaged in guerrilla _____.
- The army have been sent there merely as a peacekeeping _____.
- There were problems on the coast, but the main area of unrest was in the _____.
- People should be allowed to say what they want. It's one of our basic civil _____.
- If we want a large modern army, we will need more government _____.
- There were two plans mentioned. Was she referring to the former or the _____?
- How quickly can they mobilize the _____?
- Some flights were cancelled – both international and _____.
- The bomb exploded in a built-up area, so the damage was _____.

