

JuniorOfficer.Army.Mil (JO) Asks:

Are You Asking the Right Questions *Right Now*?

Successful Army junior officers told us what questions they asked as they made their branch choices. Not every question will work for you; consider them starting points for building your own list of questions.

Things They Asked Others:

- Why did you pick this branch?
- What is your regular day/week/month like?
- What are the hardest/most fun/most fulfilling parts of this branch?
- If you had the opportunity to pick your branch over again, what would you do differently?
- What units (e.g. airborne, heavy, light) are better for this branch?
- What developmental resources (schools, leader development options) are available for officers in this branch?
- What is the most important part of this job?
- What are the deployment opportunities in this branch?
- How do the branch's skills relate to post-Army life?



Things They Asked Themselves:

- *What attracted me to the Army in the first place?*
- *Am I willing to do the tasks my soldiers have to do within this branch?*
- *Do I understand and believe in the mission of this branch?*
- *Will this branch challenge me/fulfill me/make me better?*
- *Does this branch offer personal and professional options I want? Does it align with my personality and goals? Does it let me serve at my greatest capacity?*
- *What factors affect my success in this branch (schools, post, leadership)?*
- *Do I have any mentors in this branch?*
- *Where can I best utilize my talents to serve?*



Need more people for these questions?
Scan this QR code for JO's Branching Page.



Turn over to read the true stories of how three junior officers made their choices.

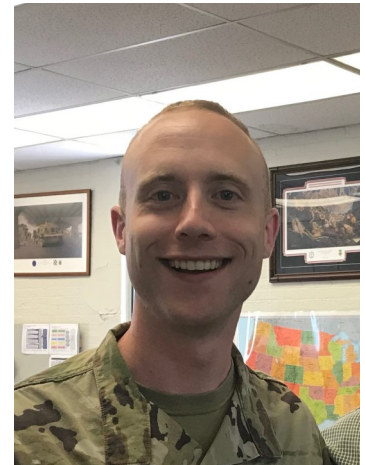


Three officers talk about how they picked their branch:



Jeff W: *When I was choosing my branch, my class rank had me high enough to be assured of my first choice. For me, it was between Engineers and Infantry. I would have considered Aviation, too, because whirly-birds are stinkin' cool, but I didn't have the eyes for it. Ultimately, I asked myself one question, "What attracted me to West Point in the first place?" For me, I started my military adventure for the service ethic and the quality of the people...*

Chad P: *As a cadet, I felt like I needed to find the branch that was the best fit for me. Looking back, I realize I put too much emphasis on finding "the" branch or branches that would fit best. Over the past 8 years, I have worked with officers from numerous branches. As I learned more about what each branch did, I realized I would have enjoyed many of them. Don't get me wrong; I love what I get to do in my current branch (Military Police). However, I don't see branching as a zero-sum decision. Just because you like one does not mean you could also not like another...*



Jalyssa W: *My branching story is a simple one. I come from an Army family and their career fields vary from field artillery, aviation, and transportation. My mother, a retired CSM, was in the transportation and supply field. My mother and I have a close-knit relationship. I look up to her and as I made the decision to join the military, I automatically was interested in the transportation branch...*

**Want to read the full stories?
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Junior Officer (JO) is the Army's oldest and leading space focused on the development of junior officers. JO empowers junior officers to develop themselves and their teams, improving their effectiveness and advancing the Profession, through cutting edge leader development and professional discussions.