



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

**What you'll find inside:**

- Air Force starting pay and guaranteed raises/promotions
- Benefits and tax breaks
- An unparalleled retirement plan
- And lots more!!!



**Career Benefits Package**

A F R C B A N D

## What does a career in an Air Force Band have to offer you?

Get a secure job, a head start on a rewarding career, and a chance to take advantage of a number of opportunities that you just won't find anywhere else. Some of our featured benefits include:

- 30 days of vacation with pay each year
- Low-cost travel on available Air Force aircraft
- Free on-base housing or tax-free off-base housing allowances
- Tuition assistance
- Reduced rates on travel, shopping, entertainment and more
- Retirement with benefits after 20 years of service in the Air Force
- Comprehensive medical and dental coverage
- Low-cost life insurance for you and your family

Read on to find out more about what the Air Force can do for you!

## You want to gig? Well, have we got a job for you...

Come play your part as a member of one of America's finest musical organizations. Here's the deal: as a member of an Air Force band, you'll be a part of an elite group of performers that travels in excess of 100,000 miles per year, performing over 500 concerts all over the United States and internationally.

Think you'll be stuck marching around at ceremonies all the time? Think again! In addition to the traditional military and classical repertoire, Air Force musicians play a wide variety of music: jazz, country, rock, R&B, pop, funk, you name it! Every Air Force musician is encouraged to explore his or her musical creativity and talents to the fullest.

Got stars in your eyes? Air Force bands have performed at home and abroad with big-name artists from the commercial music industry, such as Lee Greenwood, Celine Dion, BeBe Winans, and Ernie Watts. Air Force bands also frequently record in state-of-the-art studio facilities and halls such as the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, TN.

Want to travel? In addition to your time on the road in the U.S., you may also have the opportunity to take in some international flavor. Russia, Italy, Turkey, Portugal, Australia, Japan, and the Caribbean are just some of the exotic places to which

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

Air Force bands have traveled. Our musicians entertain heads of state, other political and military leaders, and countless American and foreign citizens each year.

Buy your own instrument? Forget it! The musical supplies you use with us will be completely paid for by the Air Force. You will be provided with a professional quality instrument and receive lessons from nationally recognized instrumentalists and singers, completely free of charge to you.

Here's the best part: your primary duty in the Air Force will be as a musician. Our members all hold secondary administrative support positions within the band, but all of these jobs are in support of our own personnel, rehearsal and performance schedules. Because of our unique position as representatives of the U.S.

Air Force and musical ambassadors, we have the same mission in wartime and peacetime, and that's to make music. You even audition and sign a contract that holds your spot in an Air Force band before you enlist.

"A monthly **tax-free** Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) is provided for off-base residents based on rank and geographic location to help pay for those extra living expenses."

## Not only do you have a steady salary, but guaranteed promotions and pay raises!

As an enlisted member, your pay increases with rank, time-in-service and yearly cost-of-living increases. In addition to your basic military pay, you are eligible for housing and food allowances that are tax-free.

If you enter the Air Force with **90 or more hours of prior college credit**, you can begin your enlisted career as an E-3 making \$1,407.00 per month with a pay increase at the 2-year mark to \$1,495.50. Your guaranteed promotion to E-4 at 28 months gives you a base pay of \$1,638.30. Not only that, but basic pay rates for military members are raised by Congress every year to cover rising costs of living, meaning that these pay rates can only go up.

So, how does this translate to take-home pay? Depending upon your state of residency, your total paycheck (with tax-free food and housing allowances) **could start at around \$1000 every two weeks**. That's not counting the per diem you receive on the road, which covers all food, lodging and travel costs.

But that's not all! There are many additional benefits of being an Air Force member. America's Air Force is offering enlistment bonuses up to **\$18,000** depending on length of enlistment and job category. At times, newly enlisted band members have also been offered these bonuses.

## The Air Force Helps You Repay Your College Loans!

Are you looking to reduce or even eliminate your college loan debt? Good news! The Air Force is now offering newly enlisted members up to \$10,000 towards the repayment of your eligible student loan(s). This benefit and many others are offered to new recruits entering the Air Force on a four-or six-year enlistment.

For those of you who haven't finished college yet, the Air Force has several different options to help you pay for your education. The Montgomery G.I. Bill (MGIB) is an educational assistance program enacted by Congress to attract high-quality men and women to the Armed Forces. The MGIB program provides up to 36 months of benefits to eligible persons for education and training opportunities. These benefits may be used for degree and certificate pro-



grams, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training and correspondence courses. Generally, benefits are payable for 10 years following your release from active duty.

The Air Force Tuition Assistance (TA) program is designed to encourage and help active-duty personnel pursue voluntary, off-duty educational opportunities. TA is an important quality-of-life program that pays (per semester hour) the cost of college courses up to \$4,500 per fiscal year. Courses and degree programs may be academic or technical, and can be taken from two- or four-year institutions; on or off base; or by correspondence. And, the MGIB can cover any cost the TA doesn't, so your education is completely paid for!

So, how do you get the MGIB? When you enlist, you sign a form authorizing the Air Force to hold out \$100 a month from your paycheck for the first 12 months you're on active duty. This is your investment: \$1,200. This gives you a return of about \$32,400 for higher education funding. Not a bad investment when you do the math!

## Home, Sweet Home

Housing expenses, including utilities and maintenance, are covered for Air Force Band members who choose to live in on-base housing/apartments. A monthly **tax-free** Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) is provided for military members who are approved to live off-base. The amount of the allowance is based on rank and geographic location to help pay for those extra living expenses. For example, the housing allowance for a single E-3 stationed at Robins AFB, GA, without dependents is \$675 per month. With dependents (civilian spouse and/or children), the same E-3 receives \$793 per month for housing.



“You'll save money by shopping at the tax-free, on-base department and grocery stores.”

## Food Allowance

Enlisted personnel receive daily food allowances. The Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) is **tax-free**, and all enlisted members receive the same standard rate of \$242.81 per month. Military members are

offered the choice of reduced-cost meals at base dining facilities. These facilities provide a large selection of "home-cooked" meals along with a variety of fast-food options, too. In areas where a government dining facility is not available, enlisted members receive a BAS of \$262.50 per month.

You'll also save money by shopping at the tax-free, on-base department and grocery stores.

## Peace of Mind

The Air Force offers excellent benefits and competitive insurance rates. You'll receive comprehensive medical and dental care. In addition, you'll receive full pay and allowances for any sick days you may need to take. Plus we offer low-cost life insurance up to \$250,000 for only \$20 a month. Family members may receive medical care at military or civilian facilities through various options for little or no cost.

## Planning for Retirement

You will be able to retire with as little as 20 years of service with the Air Force. And guess what – the Air Force requires no payroll deductions for its retirement plan. This is one of the earliest and easiest retirements around.

There are two options for retirement pay:

● **Option 1** (High-3 Choice) guarantees you 50% of the average of your highest 3 years of basic pay. That's half of your active duty paycheck, and you'll still have enough time left to start a second career. And, if you serve over 20 years, the payments go up!

● **Option 2** (Redux/Career Status Bonus Choice) offers you the choice to receive a \$30,000 Career Status Bonus at 15 years of service and then retire under the Redux plan, which pays a smaller portion than the High-3 Choice plan. The Redux payment, like High-3 Choice, increases in proportion to your overall time-in-service. At age 62, you will receive a one-time adjustment for cost-of-living, which will then provide you with nearly the same retirement pay as High-3 Choice. Plus, you get to keep the \$30,000 bonus you got at 15 years of service.



## Contact Info

We're on the Web!  
[www.afrc.af.mil/hq/band](http://www.afrc.af.mil/hq/band)

AFRC Band  
 550 Allentown Road  
 Robins Air Force Base, GA 31098-2252  
 Phone: 478-327-0555  
 Fax: 478-327-0568  
 Email: [rs.band@afrc.af.mil](mailto:rs.band@afrc.af.mil)

*The choice is yours...your chair is waiting...  
 Come Play Your Part!!*