

13 Organization: Arms & Services



Infantry troops leave their armored personnel carriers to take up combat positions



A field artillery unit fires a rocket



A Military Police sergeant at work with his K9 partner

Each **branch** (also called an **arm** or **service**) within an army has a specific purpose.

Combat arms units fight the enemy directly. The **infantry** (or **foot soldiers**) is the oldest of these. Infantry soldiers **engage the enemy** face-to-face, often with **small arms**.

Field artillery units control large-caliber guns. The artillery provides fire from long distances.

Armored divisions employ tanks for front-line combat.

There are also **combat support arms** such as the **Corps of Engineers** and **Military Police**. These units do not typically fight the enemy directly. Instead, they offer support to units that do.

1 According to the passage, what is the role of field artillery units?

- ☐ A to support foot soldiers from long distances
- ☐ B to provide the infantry with weapons
- ☐ C to perform maintenance and construction
- ☐ D to engage the enemy in face-to-face combat

2 Field artillery units use ... as their primary weapons.

- ☐ A rifles
- ☐ B large-caliber guns
- ☐ C armored vehicles
- ☐ D tanks

3 What can be inferred about the Corps of Engineers?

- ☐ A They are the oldest branch of the military.
- ☐ B They accompany armor into battle.
- ☐ C They aren't primarily trained for direct fighting.
- ☐ D They face the enemy frequently.

Vocabulary

2 Choose the word or phrase that is similar in meaning to each given word.

1 *branch*

- ☐ A infantry
- ☐ B combat arms
- ☐ C service

2 *infantry*

- ☐ A combat support arms
- ☐ B foot soldiers
- ☐ C armored units

Vocabulary

4 Put the words and phrases below in the correct category.

armored division

Military Police

infantry

Corps of Engineers

field artillery

Combat Arms

Combat Support Arms

Listening

5 A soldier is at a recruiting office to discuss careers in the army. Listen to the recruiting officer advising him, and complete the notes about the two careers she discusses.

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Infantry:	
Get (1)	training
Fight on the (2)	
Get fantastic (3)	training
Special Forces:	
(4)	soldiers
Carry out (5)	missions
(e.g. (6)	missions)

Speaking

6 Use the notes in Ex. 5 to talk about the advantages of each career. Use the words below to fill in the gaps.

missions infantry physical Special soldier carry training Forces line out

The advantages of a career in the are that you get weapons , you get to fight on the front and you also get fantastic training.

The advantages of a career in the are that you will be a highly trained and special missions, for example recon .