

# Health Career Observer



Official Newsletter of WNY R-AHEC

June, 2026

## Army Medic

**An Army Medic** (officially known as a Combat Medic Specialist or MOS 68W) is a vital frontline responder. They provide immediate trauma and emergency medical care on the battlefield, manage sick call in field environments, and often assist doctors and nurses in military hospitals or clinics. Combat Medic Specialists deliver emergency medical care in high-pressure situations, from accidents and natural disasters to military training and operations. They assess injuries, stabilize patients, and make critical medical decisions under extreme conditions. They also train other soldiers in first aid and provide ongoing medical support on base.

**Average Annual Pay: \$55,000**



*"It is rewarding being able to help people on what could possibly be the worst day of their lives."*

**-SFC Thomas E Kressin, 68W Combat Medic, US Army**

## How Do I Become an Army Medic?

**PROJECTED JOB  
GROWTH RATE IS  
6% BY 2036**

**Recruit into the army.** Requirements may include: Being a U.S. citizen or permanent resident with a valid Green Card and age 17 to 42 years old with a High School Diploma or GED.

**Meet qualifications to work in a medical setting,** with no major law violations. To qualify, you must achieve specific line scores on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB):

- Skilled Technical (ST): 101 or higher
- General Technical (GT): 107 or higher

If requirements met, training consists of two primary phases located at Fort Sam Houston, TX

- **Basic Combat Training (BCT):** 10 weeks of fundamental soldiering skills.
- **Advanced Individual Training (AIT):** 16 weeks of intensive medical training. This includes civilian EMT certification, emergency trauma, and Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC).

## What Does an Army Medic Do?

### On Deployment / In the Field

- ✓ **Point of Injury Care:** Provide immediate, frontline trauma care (e.g., stopping bleeding, opening airways, treating burns) while under fire.
- ✓ **Evacuation:** Stabilize casualties and safely evacuate them to higher levels of care.
- ✓ **Field Health:** Manage disease prevention, maintain hygiene standards, and dispense over-the-counter medication for common ailments.
- ✓ **Combat Lifesaver Training:** Teach non-medical soldiers basic first aid and battlefield life-saving skills.

### In Garrison (On Base)

- ✓ **Clinical Assistance:** Prepare patients for examinations, check vital signs, and prepare equipment for minor procedures.
- ✓ **Routine Sick Call:** Perform initial medical screenings and assist doctors or Physician Assistants (PAs) in diagnosing illnesses.
- ✓ **Medical Readiness:** Track soldiers' health records, administer vaccinations, draw blood for laboratory analysis, and maintain inventory on vital medical supplies.



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<https://www.r-ahec.org/>

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## A Professional Account

SFC Thomas E Kressin Jr., 68W-Combat Medic, US Army shares his insight on a career as an Army Medic.

### What is the most rewarding part of your job?

*"Being able to help people on what could possibly be the worst day of their lives. Even if its just giving them a small amount of comfort and reassurance."*

### What is the most challenging?

*"Understanding that there is an Art as well as a Science to this job and using both to develop an appropriate treatment plan for my patients."*

### What advice would you give to someone starting out in this field?

*"As a Combat Medic, you need to be smart and be able to think critically. But you also need to be physically fit and healthy yourself. So be fit, be healthy, set the example, and practice what you preach."*

### Anything else you want to share?

*"You need to understand that medicine, especially in the Army, is always evolving. Stay on top of your Continuing Education and up-to-date Clinical Practice Guidelines. And be smart enough to know you're too dumb to remember everything. Cheat Sheets are your friend."*

**If interested in more information about Army Medical Opportunities** please reach out to SFC Thomas E Kressin Jr.

US Army Recruiting Station – Webster, NY  
Recruiting NCO  
68W – Combat Medic  
Gov: 5852590986  
IG: sfckressin\_usarec  
FB: sfckressin.usarec



Click on the image for information on a Combat Medic (68W)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZT\\_4FfA\\_gY&t=29s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZT_4FfA_gY&t=29s)



Click on the image for a day in the life of an Army Medic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZxpnijDpSE>



**For more information visit**

<https://www.goarmy.com/careers-and-jobs/science-medicine/intensive-care/68w-combat-medic-specialist>

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## ST. BONAVENTURE HEALTH CAREERS CAMP



### Explore Your Future in Healthcare!

Discover what a future in healthcare can look like at this one-day camp! Connect with students and professionals, gain hands-on experience, and explore a wide range of healthcare careers.



#### CAMP INFO:

- 📅 July 30, 2026
- 🕒 9 AM - 3 PM
- 📍 261 W State St, Saint Bonaventure, NY 14778

Apply Now!



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SBHealthCareerScamp26>

Deadline to Apply: June 15, 2026



Questions? Contact WNY R-AHEC (585) 786-6275 info@r-ahec.org

## Join Yes & Know: A Virtual Health and Wellness Study

**The Yes & Know study is a nationwide virtual education program for 14- to 19-year-olds, combining live group-based education with an interactive website.**

**Earn up to \$300 in gift cards and learn about life skills while supporting research to improve health education.**

**Includes topics such as:**

- Sexual Health Education
- Building Healthy Relationships
- Nutrition and Healthy Eating Tips
- Reaching Your Education and Career Goals

**The study is entirely online.**

Attend 10 Zoom sessions, take 4 short surveys, and complete activities on a website to earn gift cards!

**Is this you, or do you work with youth who meet these criteria?**

- Age 14-19
- Can participate in English
- Live anywhere in the U.S. or U.S. territories

**Questions?**  
Email [yesandknow@etr.org](mailto:yesandknow@etr.org)  
Phone 510-379-5399

**Interested?**

Scan the QR code with your phone to answer a few screening questions.

**yes & know**  
a project of ETR

**HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS**  
A Complete Guide to Careers in Health

## EMS CAMP

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Experience the Thrill of Saving Lives!

Step into the shoes of a first responder and learn about different EMS healthcare careers and the requirements, skills, and job duties. Experience hands-on training, real-life emergency simulations and guidance from certified EMS professionals.

**CAMP INFO:**

- 📅 July 22, 2026
- 🕒 9 AM - 3 PM
- 📍 Wyoming County Training Grounds 3651 Wethersfield Road Warsaw, NY 14569

**Apply Now!**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EMSCamp26>

**Deadline to Apply:** June 15, 2026

**Free Camp!**  
For Students in 9-12<sup>th</sup> Grade.  
Spots Limited!

Questions? Contact WNY R-AHEC (585) 786-6275 info@r-ahec.org

**Career Resource Guide**

## 2026 BEA SUMMER CAREER EXPLORATION CAMPS

### Camp BOCES

July 6 - July 10



### Tech Camp

July 13 - July 17



### Medical Camp

July 20 - July 22



### Camp Hard Hat

July 27 - July 31



REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 31 AT 9 AM  
VISIT [WWW.BEAGENESSEE.COM](http://WWW.BEAGENESSEE.COM)