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🌟 AI Overview

The maximum service time in the U.S. military is generally 30 years for most active-duty personnel, though this can extend to age 64 or higher for general/flag officers and specialized roles. While 20–30 years is typical for a full career, some individuals can serve longer, with records exceeding 50 years in unique cases. 🗣️ Reddit +4

Key Service Limits and Considerations:

- **Enlisted (High Year Tenure - HYT):** Service members are generally required to promote or retire/separate by specific years based on rank. Examples include E-5 (16–20 years) and E-9 (30 years).
- **Commissioned Officers:** Officers must retire after 35 years of service or 5 years in grade (O-8 and above) or at age 64.
- **Maximum Age:** General and flag officers must retire at age 64, though this can be deferred to 66 or 68 by the Secretary of Defense or President.
- **Exceptions:** In rare, highly specialized, or senior roles, individuals can serve well beyond the 30-year mark, such as Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, who served 63 years. 🗣️

Enlisted Marines have specific, shorter limits (e.g., 22 years for Staff Sergeants). 🗣️ Marines.mil

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Retirement for Age and Years of Service | RAND

Federal law sets mandatory retirement requirements for officers. These requireme...

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Hyman G. Rickover - Wikipedia

Rickover's total of 63 years of active duty service makes hi...

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