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UNUSUAL JOBS



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CHAPTER 1

RISKY BUSINESS

A patient holds his stomach. He groans with pain. Blood flows between his fingers. A young woman helps him. She remembers her training. *Apply pressure.* It is hard to think. Bullets are flying by.

They are not at a hospital. This is a battlefield. The woman is a combat medic. Her patient is a soldier. He has been pulled behind a building. She has a plan to save his life.



Many people do unusual jobs like this. Some study volcanoes. Burns and toxic gas are huge risks. Pyrotechnicians make fireworks shows. They work with dangerous explosives. Astronauts are launched into space. One small **malfunction** and they could die.

People with unusual jobs have unique lives. They might travel to strange places. For some, injuries are common. There is always a chance of death. Passion and a love of adventure keep these workers going.





UNUSUAL JOB TRAINING

Job training can start in high school. Those who want to work with animals need science classes. People who dream of studying the earth do too. Future soldiers and firefighters can get stronger in gym class.

Training happens outside school too. Weekend hiking readies students for outdoor jobs. Trail experience is important. Mountain guides and loggers use these skills.

College offers more learning opportunities. Certain jobs require degrees. Others do not. Many unusual jobs offer to train workers.

Internships and apprenticeships allow people to work closely with experts. They are a way to see if a job is a good fit.

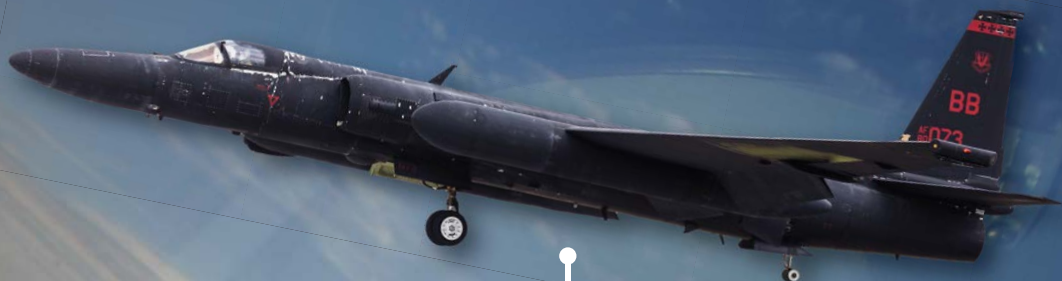
CHAPTER 2

MILITARY

After years of training, today is the day. A military pilot will fly his first mission. It is in a U-2 spy plane. Only 60 to 70 people have this job at any given time.

The flight will be twice as high as passenger flights. This can be dangerous. Pilots can get sick. A sick pilot may feel itchy. He could have a headache. Death is possible.

There are ways to prevent this. Safety steps are followed before takeoff. The pilot breathes oxygen for an hour. This pushes nitrogen out of the blood. Nitrogen in the bloodstream causes bubbles to form. These bubbles can cause pain and death.



U-2 SPY PLANE



U-2 pilots spy on other countries. They take pictures. These photos show where enemies are. The locations of important buildings are noted.

In the military, special operations forces take on the toughest jobs. The Navy has the SEALs. Rangers are in the Army.





SEAL stands for “sea, air, and land.” Navy SEALs are ready to go anywhere. They do underwater missions. These soldiers jump from planes too.

Army members can go to Ranger School. There, they become special ops soldiers. One of their jobs is to conduct raids. They spy for information. This lets them plan ways to take enemy bases. The job is dangerous. Rangers learn to work in **hostile** territory.



Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) is another military job. EOD workers go ahead of troops. They clear bombs from roads. Bravery and a calm approach are needed.

EOD specialists wear safety suits. Some also use robots. In some ways, it is like playing a video game. Operators guide the robot. Then the robot disarms bombs.

EXTREME WORK UNIFORMS

Certain jobs require uniforms. Explosive Ordnance Disposal team members train in bomb suits. Each suit weighs about 75 pounds. It has its own cooling system. The suit protects its wearer. Bulkiness makes the suit awkward. Moving carefully is key.

U-2 pilots also wear a suit. The helmet is shaded to protect against the sun. Astronaut suits are similar. They are pressurized. An oxygen hose in the suit helps astronauts breathe.

