

Recruits

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uncle served in the Navy during the Vietnam War.

Like Barton, Voss will serve in the infantry. He enlisted in early January and will report to basic training on Aug. 19 at Fort Benning, Ga. He also wants to volunteer for the Army Rangers special forces unit. He believes that serving in the Army gives him an opportunity to give something back to his country.

Cousins Nic and Dan Franz enlisted at the end of December, and both will report to basic training on July 24 at Fort Jackson, S.C.

Nic, of Whitelaw, will work as a diesel mechanic, while Dan, of Cato, will work on Humvees as a light wheel vehicle mechanic. A war with Iraq wouldn't bother them.

Nic said enlisting in the Army was a logical choice.

"I didn't know what to do, and I figured this would help me get experience," he said.

Dan believes the Army will provide him with opportunities.

"There's no jobs around here, and I'll get out and see the world," he said.

Erik Christman of Valders is working toward getting enlisted soon.

He believes it's important to carry on his family's tradition of military service, as his father, John, served in the Army for 17 years, and his uncle, Bill, for about 20 years. Christman's father served during the 1996 peace mission in Bosnia.

He said the possibility of war remains in the back of his mind, but that won't prevent him from enlisting and possibly working as a clerk in the Army.

"If we want to keep having the freedoms the way we have them now, then we have to continue keeping the freedoms, and if that means going to war, I think that's what we have to do," Christman said.

Nusbaum is pleased with the number of students from Valders enlisted in the Army.

"I really like the kids from Valders. Their parents are very supportive as well," he said.

But he can't figure out why more people who say they support their country aren't standing up for their freedom by enlisting in the military.

"I think a lot of people are scared of the fact of being deployed, and possibly with something going on in Iraq," Nusbaum said.