

## Military Academies

### Applying to U.S. Military Academies

When considering what path to take after high school, many young people overlook the opportunity of attending one of the five U.S. Military Academies. Located in New York, Maryland, Colorado and Connecticut, these highly competitive institutions provide a top-notch education. In addition to teaching the leadership, discipline and communication skills necessary to be an officer in our nation's military, these institutions teach skills that are invaluable in today's job market.

Graduation from the U.S. Military, Air Force, Naval, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine Academies ensures a successful future for today's young men and women, both for those who pursue a career in the military and for those who enter the job market after fulfilling their obligations. As a Marine Corps combat Veteran of the Vietnam War, I can tell you that military service requires great discipline and sacrifice, but service to our great nation is extremely rewarding and honorable.

Technology is key to our nation's military strength. The academies offer the hands-on technical training that is vital for our defense -- and an outstanding credential for any job-seeker. The training accompanies an intense academic curriculum. In addition, there is opportunity for participation in varsity and intramural sports, music groups and various clubs and activities.

Acceptance to the Military, Naval, Air Force or Merchant Marine Academy requires a political nomination for appointment; application to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy does not require a political nomination.

Nomination sources include:

- Congressional (Representatives and Senators)
- The President (Makes direct appointments in several affiliated categories - sons and daughters of career military personnel, sons and daughters of medal of honor awardees, sons and daughters of deceased or disabled veterans, and ROTC programs)
- The Vice President (Does not nominate to the Merchant Marine Academy)
- The Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force
- The Superintendents of each academy

Approximately 45-50 students from the 12th Congressional District are currently enrolled in the Military, Naval, Air Force or Merchant Marine Academies, this figure is higher than the national average.

mature and grow. The academies provide a tremendous opportunity for a free education, but they also mold people into leaders. It's amazing to see how they grow in confidence from one year to the next as they prepare to become the next generation of military and later civilian leaders.

Upon graduation from a service academy, young men and women receive a college degree as well as military experience. Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Air Force Academy serve at least six years of active duty starting as second lieutenants. The U.S. Naval Academy commissions its graduates as ensigns in the U.S. Navy or as second lieutenants in the U.S. Marine Corps for five years. Graduates of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy are licensed as Merchant Marines by the U.S. Coast Guard. They are stationed either in the U.S. or abroad to complete their service. Coast Guard Academy graduates are commissioned as ensigns for five years in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Appointment to a service academy is extremely competitive. Interested students must be in good academic standing. All academies require applicants to take either the SAT or ACT college entrance examinations. It is recommended that these exams be completed early. Applicants must also be in good physical condition. Many cadets were involved in varsity sports during high school, as well as other extra-curricular activities or employment. Admissions officers also look for students who have been successful in their high school's most advanced courses, and have exemplified leadership skills and commitment to community service.

#### Academy Web Sites

- \* U.S. Air Force Academy
- \* U.S. Military Academy
- \* U.S. Naval Academy
- \* U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
- \* U.S. Coast Guard Academy

#### When to Apply

Interested candidates should begin the application process in the Spring of their Junior year. Juniors should wait until after January 1 of their Junior year to request a nomination. I accept requests for nominations between January 1 and September 15. No request will be accepted after September 15 as the decision-making process is time consuming. Candidates will be formally notified of my decision by mid-December.

#### What's Required

Please refer to each Academy's individual website in order to find the requirements needed in order to qualify for your academy of choice.

#### How to Start the Process

You may use the Format Letter here to request a nomination from Congressman Murtha.