

# **A Guide for Students Interested in the Military Academies**

## **BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR ....**

The primary mission of all service academies is to produce high quality, career oriented officers for the military. High school students will sometimes pursue a military academy because they are interested in:

- a high quality education with all costs covered by the government.
- prestige, glamour, and recognition for “getting accepted”
- pleasing the wishes of parents and others

Most students will drop out within weeks if these are their motivations. Those who succeed have a burning desire to become strong leaders in the military. They accept and embrace the fact that they will be living a military lifestyle during their four years at an academy and for a minimum of 6-8 years following graduation.

Gaining acceptance to a military academy will require considerable work for the student and his/her:

- parents
- school officials
- liaison officers
- state political leaders
- academy officials

Therefore, it is wise for a student to thoroughly research this postsecondary option as early as possible. Students are advised to read the following materials, written by William L. Smallwood and published by Beacon Books, c/o Schabot and Deagle Co., 1020 Main St., Buhl, Idaho 83316 (208) 543-6491. These books describe in detail “how to prepare, how to get in, and how to survive.”

- The Air Force Academy Candidate Handbook
- The Naval Academy Candidate Handbook
- The West Point Academy Candidate Handbook.

Students are also urged to learn more about academy and military life by:

- Studying the web pages for each academy (see next page for these.)
- Requesting and reading each academy’s literature & course catalogs.
- Talking with military officers, active or retired, about their lifestyles.
- Visiting at least one academy to get a sense of the lifestyle and expectations.

Contact a high school counselor for help in tracking down these resources or making these contacts.

**TO LEARN MORE, YOU CAN CONTACT THE ACADEMIES AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES.**

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY**

Director of Admissions 800-443-9266  
HQ USAFA / RRS 719-333-2520  
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 200  
USAF Academy, CO 80840 <http://www.academyadmissions.com>

**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY**

Director of Admissions 800-883-8724  
USCG Academy 860-444-8500  
31 Mohegan Avenue  
New London, CT 06320-8103 <http://www.cga.edu>

**UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY**

USMAA Admissions 866-546-4778  
300 Steamboat Road (866-KINGSPT)  
Kings Point, NY 11024 <http://www.usmma.edu>

**UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT**

Director of Admissions 845-938-4041  
Building 606  
West Point, NY 10996 <http://usma.edu>

**UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY**

Candidate Guidance Office 410-293-4361  
117 Decatur Road  
Annapolis, MD 21402-5018 <http://usna.edu>