

**COUNSELING GUIDANCE FOR COMMANDING OFFICER'S
ENDORSEMENT FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED NOMINATIONS
TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
WHO INTERVIEW PROSPECTS**

The outline below is intended to assist commanders who interview applicants for the Military Academy and the USMAPS. It is helpful to all commanders, including graduates of the military training. Commanders should also benefit from random comments about recent experience in the enlisted program.

- a) *Personal interest.* Personal interest will pay dividends. It may be just as necessary to identify and encourage the likely prospect as it is to isolate and discourage the unlikely one.
- b) *Willingness to volunteer.* The prospect must volunteer freely if the program is to continue to produce supplicants who are to develop into good candidates and outstanding cadets.
- c) *Desire, enthusiasm, and scholarship.* Desire and enthusiasm are good assets, but here is no substitute for scholarship. Scholarship, however, will not assure success unless there is dedication.
- d) *Human element.* The human element cannot be discounted. While it may be normal for a senior teenage applicant to change his mind about a career, the oversea applicant who waits until he is enrolled in the USMAPS to make a decision risks –
 - 1) Unpopularity for his action, and.
 - 2) Embarrassment of being returned to his form organization.
- e) *Declining of training.* An applicant will not be denied the chance to decline the training.

Point to Remember and Emphasize

- Sincerity The applicant should be closely questioned on his sincerity to –
 - a. Pursue diligently the course at the USMAPS
 - b. Graduate from the Military Academy, and
 - c. Serve as an officer in the US Army
- Course Unlike other colleges, the Military Academy offers the Bachelor of Science degree (no specific field). It includes sciences, the humanities, and military and physical training which is basic for graduate education and further professional development.
- Difference from civilian . . . The life of a West Point cadet differs greatly in most respects from that of the civilian college student. The main differences are the disciplinary system and adjusting to the cadet Honor Code.

Competition and Nomination If the applicant is accepted as a nominee for admission to West Point, and for student training at the USMAPS, he must realize that he will be competing with other enlisted applicants. Also, he should know that he can get a West Point cadetship by being nominated by his Senator or Representative in congress. He must apply directly to him. A candidate may hold more than one nomination at the same time.

Branch and career Opportunities and Service The applicant may like to know that branch and career opportunities afforded the Regular Army officer. He may also want to know that graduation from the Military Academy obliges him to accept appointment in the Regular Army and to serve at least 5 years.

Prior academic record The applicant's prior academic record is important. To satisfy the academic requirements for admission to the Military Academy, secondary school class standing is weighed and used with College Board scores attained in the entrance examination. Below average performance in high school, or in college, could result in disqualification.

Final selection The applicant should be advised that, as a competitor, the Academic Board at West Point will make the final selection for cadetship. Selection will be based on all-around ability at the time of the entrance examinations for which he will be preparing at the USMAPS. Attendance at the USMAPS does not guarantee qualification for, or admission to, the Military Academy.

Review of DA Pam 351-2 The applicant should review the USMAPS catalog (DA PAM 351-2). It is available through normal AG publication supply channels. He should be aware of the general course of instruction at the USMAPS. All candidates must continue to show proficiency in high school and college mathematics and English subjects. Study hall is mandatory 5 evenings each week. Extra instruction or assistance is available for students who desire it.

Testing Candidates at the USMAPS are tested periodically in academic subjects and physical aptitude (strength and vigor). They are

evaluated constantly for military aptitude and degree of dedication for a service career.

Difference between The candidate should understand that although similar in spirit USMAPS and the and common purpose, the USMAPS differs in many ways from the Military Academy. For instance, because of the lack of an upper class, the same pressing tensions are not present as at the Military Academy. The USMAPS is really a transition to the life of a West Point cadet.

Disenrollment The applicant should know that, if disenrolled for any reason from the USMAPS, he loses his enlisted nomination to the Military Academy. He will be reassigned to duty elsewhere.

Pay and allowances Approved applicants transferred to the USMAPS are still and UCMJ members of the service, receive pay and allowance, and are subject to the UCMJ as they would be at any other duty station.