



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY  
West Point, New York 10996

MAAR-ER-PREP

18 June 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Frequently Asked Questions on the USMA Admissions Process for Cadet Candidates Attending the United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS)

1. Congratulations on your selection to attend the USMAPS Class of 2010! There are a several items that you **must** ensure you complete and/or submit to West Point **BEFORE** you report to **USMAPS R-Day, 17 July 2009**. You must complete these items if you have not already done so. These forms, cards, and web response requirements are found in your "Instructions for Cadet Candidates Offered Admission" to Prep School and your Candidate Portal at <https://candidate.usma.edu/>. You should also refer to the checklist on the last page of the Instruction Booklet. These are mandatory items. Additionally, ensure that you adhere to the packing list on page 18 of your Instruction Booklet and that you have purchased all packing list items and wear or bring them with you when you report to USMAPS on R-Day. You should also come to USMAPS physically prepared and ready to take the CFA. Below are Frequently Asked Questions and respective answers that you should review.

2. *Do Cadet Candidates, already accepted to USMAPS, have to apply to West Point again?* The answer is a resounding yes. In order for an applicant to be considered for USMAPS the candidate must be academically *disqualified* for admissions to the United States Military Academy (USMA). The official USMA agency responsible for qualifying and disqualifying candidates is the Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee reviewed each of the files for the Cadet Candidates now enrolled at USMAPS and "disqualified" their files after an in-depth review of the academic qualifications of each candidate. The Cadet Candidates at USMAPS must complete the USMA application process again for review by the Admissions Committee for qualification and admission to West Point. It is important to note that enrollment at USMAPS does not guarantee that a Cadet Candidate will receive an appointment to West Point. In order to receive an appointment to West Point, Cadet Candidates must complete their electronic Candidate Forms, receive a nomination, and be academically qualified, medically qualified by DODMERB, and physically qualified as measured by the Candidate Fitness Test.

***Bottom Line: each Cadet Candidate must be qualified by the Admissions Committee in order to be accepted to West Point.***

2. *When do the Cadet Candidates initiate the application for West Point?* The Soldier Admissions Office will initiate each Cadet Candidates reapplication on their behalf which means that there is no need for a Cadet Candidate to complete another Candidate Questionnaire online.

3. *Do the Cadet Candidates have to complete the entire application again?* Yes. However, a small portion of last year's application will roll over. I will speak to the USMAPS class during CCBT to discuss the reapplication process, answer any questions, clarify any issues the Cadet Candidates may have about completing their application, and provide detailed guidance to the Cadet Candidates on completing the application for this year to include a time line for projected file completion. The Candidate Portal provides the candidate the capability to complete, sign, and submit forms electronically to USMA Admissions as well as to respective evaluators from the USMAPS Faculty and Staff who must complete some of the electronic evaluation forms. The candidate is responsible to track his or her own file

## MAAR-SOLDIER

### SUBJECT: Frequently Asked Questions for Cadet Candidates Attending the United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS)

information and status using the red/amber/green light system in the Candidate Portal. The Candidate Portal is found online at <https://candidate.usma.edu>. Instructions for completing the application can be found at the Candidate Portal or at the Admissions home page, [http://admissions.usma.edu/prospectus/step\\_01.cfm](http://admissions.usma.edu/prospectus/step_01.cfm).

4. *Do Cadet Candidates still need to apply for a Nomination?* Yes. West Point is the nation's military academy. Each and every American taxpayer helps to fund a Cadet's education. In order to ensure an equal and fair distribution of cadetships throughout the United States, the Vice President, the 100 Senators, and the 435 U.S. Representatives have nominating authority for five cadetships. Each Member of Congress may nominate up to ten candidates for a cadetship. Once a cadetship is filled, no further nominations are permitted for that cadetship until the Cadet graduates from West Point or resigns.

We recommend that all applicants applying to West Point apply to all of the nominating sources for which they are eligible. Each additional nomination provides one more separate "route" in which a candidate may win an appointment to West Point. When a Cadet Candidate has more than one nomination this allows the Admissions Committee more flexibility in filling the different vacancies that are available under Congressional and Service-Connected Nomination categories. A Cadet Candidate who has more than one nomination has a better chance of gaining admission to USMA.

a. *Do Cadet Candidates still have to request a Congressional Nomination?* Yes. Congressional Nominations if granted to the candidate last year do not carry over to the current admission cycle. Therefore, Cadet Candidates must reapply for their Congressional Nominations.

b. *Do Presidential Nominations carry over to next year?* Yes, if the Cadet Candidate still qualifies. The Presidential Nomination is reserved for the sons and daughters of career military personnel. The category "career military personnel" refers to members of an armed force (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard) who are:

- 1) on active duty and who have served continuously on active duty for at least eight years,
- 2) retired with pay, granted retired retainer pay, or who died while receiving retirement pay,
- 3) serving as members of the Reserve Component and are credited with at least eight years of continuous of service,
- 4) or entitled to retirement pay in the Reserves except for not having attained 60 years of age.

c. *Do Service-Connected Nominations for Sons and Daughters of Deceased and Disabled Veterans carry over?* Yes, if the Cadet Candidate qualifies, it will be carried over. This nomination category is for sons and daughters of veterans whose death or 100% disability was service connected.

d. *Are the Cadet Candidates eligible for a Service-Connected Nomination?* Yes, Cadet Candidates enrolled at USMAPS are required to be enlisted in the United States Army (Regular Army Soldier), Army Reserves, National Guard, or as an Invitational Reservist (if entering USMAPS from civilian status) of the Army Reserves assigned to active duty training. As such, Cadet Candidates are eligible for a Service-Connected Nomination designated for Regular Army and Reserve Components if endorsed by the Commandant, USMAPS.

However, Cadet Candidates who are enlisted as Invitational Reservists should not misunderstand the importance of applying for their Congressional Nominations. Only 85 Army Reservists may be charged accordingly under these vacancies. West Point annually directly admits many Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers who do not attend USMAPS. Thus, annually there are not as many Army Reserve vacancies as there are Invitational Reservists attending USMAPS. Again, Invitational

MAAR-SOLDIER

SUBJECT: Frequently Asked Questions for Cadet Candidates Attending the United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS)

Reservists must apply for Congressional Nominations when reapplying to West Point as Cadet Candidates.

e. *Do previous Service-Connected Nominations for Regular Army and Army Reserve Soldiers who were admitted to USMAPS carry over? Yes.*

5. *Do letters of recommendation carry over to next year as well?* Letters of recommendation for the purpose of applying to West Point do carry over. However, letters of recommendation for seeking a Congressional Nomination may or may not carry over. I highly recommend that you direct all questions to your respective Congressman's office for clarification.

6. If you have questions specific to your West Point re-application, then please contact the Soldier Admissions Office at the Directorate of Admissions; please contact Ms. Reeva Johnson, Candidate Technician, at (845) 938-5725 or [reeva.johnson@usma.edu](mailto:reeva.johnson@usma.edu) or Ms. Brenda Conklin at (845) 938-6506 [brenda.conklin@usma.edu](mailto:brenda.conklin@usma.edu). For questions specific to Prep School, please call (732) 532-0585.

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