

Each year, the Secretary of the Army is allowed to nominate 85 enlisted personnel from the Reserve Components to attend the United States Military Academy (USMA / West Point). This is a fantastic opportunity for our outstanding enlisted personnel to obtain an top-rated degree from an elite educational institution, free of charge, while training to be leaders in the Army. It also represents an exceptional opportunity for the ARNG to enhance our standing and reputation in the Army at large by developing a cadre of high-quality young ARNG alumni among the ranks of the Active Army officer corps who can carry our message to that audience.

It is beyond doubt that more than enough high quality young men and women serve in the ranks of the ARNG and USAR to fill the 85 slots offered and then some, but every year our quota goes unfilled simply because not enough of our best and brightest apply for this tremendous opportunity. In addition to the attached letter from BG Kadavy from October 2009, the USMA admissions office has provided the attached a 2-page info paper that describes the program in detail. The bottom line is that if a Guard Soldier meets the Academy's minimum eligibility requirements (see below) and is academic/physically qualified they can get into West Point and receive a bachelors degree & commission. The Academy application process starts in JUN/JUL and runs through 28 February. Because the process proceeds on a rolling basis, qualified candidates will begin receive officers of admission as early as August or September, giving a significant advantage to those who apply early. The biggest challenge for Soldiers is meeting the Academy's academic qualifications. USMA is willing accept some risk in this area for the benefit of an otherwise well-qualified Soldier, and furthermore all applicants are automatically considered for admission to the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School for additional preparation in appropriate cases.

It certainly a sacrifice to lose our best and brightest Soldiers for any reason, but the long term payoff for the Soldier, for the ARNG, for the Army and the Nation makes the investment more than worthwhile.

Eligibility Requirements: Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve Soldiers may apply.

An enlisted applicant for USMA must:

1. Be a citizen of the United States at time of enrollment.

2. Be at least 17 but not older than 23 years of age on 1 July of the year admitted to USMA or not older than 22 if admitted to USMAPS.
3. Be unmarried and have no legal obligation to support a child/children or a dependent(s). Pregnant applicants will not be admitted.
4. Be medically qualified by DoDMERB.
5. Be a high school graduate or the equivalent.
6. Submit official scores on the standardized ACT exam or the SAT with Writing test.
7. Be of high moral character and never have been convicted by a civilian or military court of a felony.
8. Be nominated by the commander.
9. Be eligible for reenlistment.
10. Have completed Basic Training prior to admission. Completion of AIT is not a prerequisite

Please disseminate this information to your commands and encourage your qualified enlisted personnel to apply. For nomination packet requirements and additional information, Soldiers are encouraged to visit the USMA website and contact the USMA enlisted applicant POC.

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