

## ***Frequently Asked Questions***

### **1. Who do I ask to write a letter of recommendation?**

Due to the fact that the academies hold to the “whole” person concept, it is important to ask individuals who have watched you develop in all aspects of your life. Therefore, it would not be to your benefit to submit five letters from teachers and forget to include people whom you may have worked with you in your extracurricular activities.

Some suggestions are:

Teachers	Family Friends
Coaches	School Counselor
Pastor/Priest	School Administrators

The format and content should resemble a standard letter of recommendation.

### **2. I am taking the SAT/ACT test again after the file deadline? Will I still be able to submit the new scores?**

Yes, you are encouraged to take the SAT/ACT test(s) as many times as possible. Students frequently increase their score. The only requirement is that the new scores be available a week before the Academy Selection Board meets in December.

### **3. Does the information in my file at Congressman Thomas’ office get forwarded to the Service Academy of my choice?**

No. The nomination file at Congressman Thomas’ office is only used to make a congressional nomination. Your service academy(s) file is maintained separately, and it is the candidate’s responsibility to forward all necessary information and documentation upon request by the admissions office.

### **4. What is a competing alternate nomination?**

When a competing alternate nomination is submitted, the academy decides if that person will be admitted. In addition, in order to insure that the principal vacancy is filled, the alternates will compete for the principal nominee slot in the event the principal nominee becomes disqualified for admission.

If you have an excellent academic and extracurricular activity record, you have a good chance of gaining admission with a competing alternate nomination. Each year several hundred of the best-qualified competing alternates are offered admission at the academies.

### **5. Can I apply and receive a nomination to more than one academy?**

Yes. It strongly recommended that you apply to more than one academy. It is important to educate yourself on what all the academies have to offer in order to make the best decision for your career goals. It is not uncommon for a student to initially be interested in one academy and end up finding that another would better suit his/her goals.

Congressman Thomas can nominate a candidate to more than one academy. It is often the case that a candidate is given a principal nomination to one academy and a competing alternate nomination to another.