



Congressman Bill Thomas 22nd Congressional District, California

Service Academy Nomination Application Packet

Attached are:

- U.S. Service Academy Guidelines
- Nomination and Appointment Process Information
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Application for Nomination



Congressman Bill Thomas

22nd Congressional District, California

U.S. Service Academy Guidelines

(**Note:** The following information is general in nature. For more specific information you are advised to visit each academy's website as well as the catalogs for each academy.)

The U.S. Service Academies are among the most highly respected, quality educational programs in the nation. To be admitted to an academy you must meet stringent academic, physical and medical requirements specified by public law. As a cadet/plebe at the academy you will be provided a fully funded four-year college education. By law, graduates of service academies appointed as commissioned officers in their respective service are required to serve at least five years active duty.

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

Each candidate must:

- ❖ be at least 17 years old, but have not passed their 23rd birthday (25 years for U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.)
- ❖ be a citizen of the United States.
- ❖ be unmarried, not pregnant or have any legal obligation to support children or dependents.
- ❖ be a legal resident of the 22nd Congressional District.

II. ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Members of Congress, as well as the President, Vice President and U.S. Senators, follow the academic requirements set forth by the academies when making a nomination. Certain requirements are specified by current public law. However, the academies look at the "whole person" when considering admission. Character, leadership, physical aptitude, medical fitness, goals and motivation are key components of a favorable evaluation for admission.

The following are recommended areas of preparation and academic requirements:

College Preparatory Studies

Four Years: English, Mathematics (includes: Algebra, Trigonometry, and Geometry)

Three Years: Social Science (includes: History, Economics and Government)

Two Years: Laboratory Science (includes: Biology, Physics and Chemistry)

Two Years: Foreign Language

Class Rank

Nominees must be in the top 40% of their class. However, the most successful candidates are in the top 10-20% of their class.

Standardized Testing

Although the academies do not establish minimums, candidates who score below the following will normally not be competitive:

Military, Naval and Air Force

SAT 560 Verbal, 600 Math

Merchant Marine

SAT 500 Verbal, 550 Math

III. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, LEADERSHIP AND MEDICAL FITNESS

Participation and achievement in organized athletics, student body and class government, clubs and class extra-curricular activities, scouting, ROTC, boys/girls state, church or other community related activities demonstrate evidence of leadership potential. The greater the level of involvement/leadership the more points are awarded in your overall admissions evaluation with the academy.

The service academies consider it more valuable to achieve distinction in a specific activity, rather than participation in a number of activities without any evidence of leadership.

If you have a part-time job that affects your level of involvement in school activities, the academies view your working experience as a demonstration of your leadership potential.

You must also be in good physical and mental health and pass a Department of Defense medical examination and have an adequate performance on the Physical Aptitude Exam (PAE). Only one medical exam is needed to meet the requirements of all service academies. You will be scheduled to take this examination at a military or civilian contract facility near your home. Nominees are strongly encouraged to begin this process early, especially if consultation, retesting or corrective action is required. This process may take from six weeks to four months.

If you are a competitive candidate, you will receive instructions for taking the qualifying medical examination directly from:

The Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB)
8304 Edgerton Drive, Suite 132
U.S.A.F. Academy, CO 80840-2200
(800) 841-2706 (scheduling)
(719) 333-3562 (status)

IV. COMMUNICATION WITH THE ACADEMIES

The admissions offices will start your candidate file when you complete the Pre-Candidate Questionnaire. This can be done by writing the academies at the addresses listed below. The questionnaire can also be completed electronically and can be found at the websites of each academy. This ideally should be done the **SPRING** of your **junior year** in high school. After you complete the questionnaire, and are considered a competitive candidate, you will receive additional forms to complete from the academy in the mail.

The admissions office of each academy also coordinates a nationwide network of trained Academy Liaison Officers. Once you have made initial contact with the academies, you will be able to receive assistance and guidance throughout your admissions process.

U.S. Naval Academy
117 Decatur Road
Annapolis, MD 21402-5017
Phone: (410) 293-4361
Website: www.usna.edu

U.S. Air Force Academy
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, CO 80840
Phone: (800) 443-9266
Website: www.usafa.edu

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, NY 11024
(800) 732-6267
Website: www.usmma.edu

U.S. Military Academy
299 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332-0413
Phone: (800) 822-2769
Website: www.usma.edu



Nomination and Appointment Process

CONGRESSMAN BILL THOMAS, 22nd Congressional District, California

Academy Night

In **October**, Congressman Thomas hosts An "Academy Night" in Bakersfield for students of the 22nd District who are interested in attending one of the U.S. Service Academies. Students are introduced to the nomination and appointment process, as well as have an opportunity to listen to presentations by Academy Liaison Officers who represent the U.S. Air Force, Merchant Marine, Military and Naval academies. There is also an opportunity to meet one on one with the liaison officers to ask questions and learn more about each academy.

Nomination Procedures

Each applicant must meet the eligibility requirements highlighted in the Academy Requirements section of this packet, as well as complete a nomination file with Congressman Thomas' office by **November 30th**.

A nomination file consists of the following items:

- ✓ A letter requesting a nomination from Congressman Thomas
- ✓ A completed Application for Nomination
- ✓ Three to five Letters of Recommendation from non-relatives (See Frequently Asked Questions section included in this packet for suggested individuals to provide letters of recommendation)
- ✓ SAT/ACT scores: Test results for one or both can be sent directly to Congressman Thomas from the testing service (Use SAT Code 4815 and ACT Code 7260)
- ✓ High school and/ or college transcripts
- ✓ A recent wallet-size photo

Selection Process

Applicants who have completed their file with Congressman Thomas' office by the deadline and have been screened for meeting the minimum academy requirements will have an interview with the Congressman's Academy Selection Board in December. The board, consisting of former/current military, community/ business leaders and educators in the 22nd Congressional District, will interview each candidate and make recommendations.

Students will be notified of their nomination status at the end of December and nominations will be submitted to each academy by January 31st.

Nomination Method

Members of Congress are able to have a maximum of **five** cadets/plebes at each service academy at one time. Each year, Congressman Thomas nominates one principal nominee and no more than nine unranked competing alternate nominees to each academy.

All information for your file is to be sent to the **Bakersfield office:**

4100 Empire Drive, Suite 150
Bakersfield, California 93309

Questions should be directed to Kati McKeown, Academy Coordinator, who can be reached at (661) 327-3611.

Please notify the Academy Coordinator of all significant developments in your academy admissions process that may affect your potential to be given a nomination from Congressman Thomas.

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.

If not, what is your visual acuity uncorrected? Left Eye: _____ / Right Eye: _____

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

7. Currently Attending: _____ High School _____ Junior College _____ 4-yr. College

Name of Current School: _____

Date Graduated or Expected to Graduate: _____

GPA: _____ SAT: _____ / _____ ACT: _____
Verbal Math

Are you planning on taking the SAT or ACT again before November 30th? Yes No

Class Rank: _____ out of _____

Grade Point Averages in Recommended Courses:

Chemistry: _____ Trigonometry: _____ Algebra: _____

Geometry: _____ Physics: _____ English: _____

Expected Career Path: _____

8. Current Employment: _____

Responsibilities: _____

Summer Employment: _____

Responsibilities: _____

9. I am also seeking a nomination through _____

I have previously sought a nomination through _____
(Complete if applicable)

Results _____ Year _____

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

10. ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION:

(Please mark an "X" to indicate involvement)

<u>HIGH SCHOOL:</u>	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Baseball	___	___	___	___
Basketball	___	___	___	___
Cheerleading	___	___	___	___
Cross Country	___	___	___	___
Football	___	___	___	___
Golf	___	___	___	___
Soccer	___	___	___	___
Swimming/Diving	___	___	___	___
Tennis	___	___	___	___
Track/Field	___	___	___	___
Water Polo	___	___	___	___
Wrestling	___	___	___	___
Softball	___	___	___	___

NON-SCHOOL ATHLETICS:

List all activities in the space provided:

11. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:

(Please mark and "X" to indicate involvement)

Band/Orchestra	_____
Boys/Girls State	_____
Choir	_____
Class Office Holder	_____
Church Group/Club	_____
Drama	_____
Drill Team	_____
Editor, Newspaper	_____
Editor/Yearbook	_____
Forensics	_____
Key Club	_____
Language Club	_____
National Honors Society	_____
Science Club	_____
ROTC	_____
Scouting	_____

Please list all awards in the space provided:

Current Rank: _____
 Current Rank: _____

Others:

ESSAY

On a separate page, provide a written or typed essay (250 words or 1-2 pages) answering the following questions:
(*The essay must be submitted with this application*)

- Why are you seeking a nomination?
 - Why do you feel you are qualified?
 - Why do you want to be commissioned?
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I affirm that the foregoing statements made in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and I understand that if I have not submitted all necessary data by the November 30th deadline, I may not be considered for a nomination.

Signed _____ Date _____