



## **Congressman Ralph Abraham, M.D. 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Louisiana**

### FAQs

#### **How many academies are there?**

There are five service academies:

- U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO
- U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY
- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY
- U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD
- U.S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, CT

#### **Who is eligible to apply to a Service Academy?**

Each candidate must meet the following requirements by July 1 the year of admission:

- Age: at least 17 years old, but not older than 23
- Citizenship: U.S. citizen
- Marital Status: unmarried, not pregnant, no legal obligation to support children
- Skill/Fitness: meet medical and physical requirements of the academy

#### **What is the military commitment of attending a U.S. Service Academy?**

The honor of attending a service academy includes an obligation to serve in the military for a minimum of five years after graduation.

#### **Are the admissions requirements the same for all of the service academies?**

Although many of the requirements are similar, each academy operates under its own guidelines. Visit the website for each academy to find more information on admissions standards. Candidates may also contact their assigned academy field representative to address more specific questions concerning the admissions process. The U.S. Coast Guard Academy accepts candidates based on their own criteria; therefore, they do not require a nomination.

#### **What is a nomination?**

Applying to an academy involves meeting the admission requirements of the academy, as well as receiving a nomination from an official nominating source. A nomination is a recommendation to the service academy. Congressman Abraham can nominate applicants who are legal residents of the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of the State of Louisiana or have a connection to the district approved in advance of the application. Candidates should pursue all available avenues of nomination including: Vice Presidential, Senatorial, and Congressional. Children of career and/or retired military personnel may also seek a Presidential nomination.

**When should I start applying for a nomination?**

You should begin communication with my academy nomination coordinator about a year before the desired date of entry or during the spring of your junior year of high school.

**What is the process of applying for Congressman Abraham's nomination?**

You may request the nomination application by contacting Jessica Sunderhaus by phone at 318.445.0818 or via email at [jessica.sunderhaus@mail.house.gov](mailto:jessica.sunderhaus@mail.house.gov). The application clearly outlines all procedures and documents necessary to submitting a complete application packet. The application submission period opens on **August 1, 2016** and the deadline for submitting the application packet to the Central Louisiana District Office is **October 31, 2016**. Candidates who submit a completed application will interview by early December with Congressman Abraham's Nomination Review Board. The interview becomes part of a candidate's consideration in the application process.

**Who should I ask to write a letter of recommendation on my behalf?**

Some of the people candidates typically seek recommendations from include:  
Teachers, Counselors, Employers, Coaches, Clergy, Scout Leaders

**What is Congressman Abraham's method of nomination?**

Congressman Abraham, like most Members of Congress, uses the competitive method, under which he submits to the respective academies an unranked slate of nominees for each vacancy. This insures that the academy selects the most qualified candidates and allows them to consider all nominees equally.

**How many nominations can Congressman Abraham submit?**

Congressman Abraham can have up to five cadets or midshipmen from each service academy under his charge at one time. Vacancies at each academy determine the number of possible nominations. The Congressman can nominate up to ten candidates for each vacancy. For example, if the Congressman has three cadets under his charge this year at the U.S. Naval Academy, this indicates two vacancies and he may submit up to twenty nominations. The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy operates differently and has a quota that allows ten nominations from each Senator and Congressman.

**If I apply to more than one academy, will I be limited to a single nomination?**

Depending on how well you compete among the other candidates, you are able to receive nominations to multiple academies. Candidates may obtain nominations by more than one nominating source. It is also possible to receive offers of appointment from multiple academies.

**When will Congressman Abraham notify candidates of their nomination status?**

Congressman Abraham notifies candidates before the nomination deadline on January 31.

**What happens if I receive a nomination?**

A nomination does not guarantee appointment to the academy. Academy officials make final selections concerning an offer of appointment. Academies notify candidates of their admission status from February through May.

**What happens if I do not receive a nomination or appointment?**

If the candidate chooses to reapply to the academy, they may also apply again for Congressman Abraham's nomination as long as they meet all eligibility requirements with the academy.