

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE RUBÉN HINOJOSA
Fact Sheet for 2004-2005
UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATION

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Because of the extremely keen competition for nominations, you are urged to apply to every nominating authority which your eligibility allows, (i.e. Congressman Hinojosa, your Senators, President, Vice President, Children of Deceased or Disabled Veterans, etc.). However, if you received a nomination from another source, I will not be able to duplicate that nomination. Since the academies are able to award more appointments than are provided by Congressional vacancies and other categories, no candidate who is highly qualified needs more than one nomination -- whether Principal, Alternate or Competitive -- to obtain an appointment. By the same token, no candidate who fails to meet academy standards will be benefitted by having multiple nominations. In order that more applicants will have an opportunity to be reviewed by the academies, please let me know immediately if you are nominated by another authority.

Each Congressional Office uses a selection process which is designed to meet its own needs and standards. The different procedures are often confusing to applicants who apply to more than one office. Last minute misunderstandings can be avoided by carefully studying and following the instructions of each office.

Certain information is required as outlined below in order for you to be considered as an applicant. It is your responsibility to submit this information and to keep it updated. The deadline for receipt of information is **December 3rd** because there must be adequate time to assess each candidate's qualifications. Although information received after the deadline is acceptable until the selection of nominees is complete, candidates whose files are incomplete when nominations are made cannot be given consideration.

Careful thought should be given to your first choice of an academy. Second choices can be considered only in the event that there are not sufficient number of qualified candidates in an academy category to fill a slate of nominees. This rarely happens. (First choice designations may be

changed at any time before nominations are made.)

II. REQUIREMENTS

A. Residency - Applicants must be a legal resident of the 15th Congressional District.

B. Application Form - The enclosed Application must be completed and returned promptly. Formal candidacy is established in my office upon receipt of the Application. It is not necessary for you to send all required information at once, and you should not wait to file your application if transcripts or test scores are not immediately available. If your Application is not received within a reasonable time after your initial inquiry, it will be presumed that you are no longer interested in pursuing a nomination.

C. Recommendation Form - Three letters of Recommendation must be submitted. They may be completed by your school Guidance Counselor or Principal and must be returned to my office.

D. Transcript - An official transcript of your high school record and class rank must be submitted. This transcript must show your final junior grades and numerical class rank (percentile ranks are not acceptable). If you apply before this information is available, it is your responsibility to request you guidance counselor to send an up-to-date transcript and to keep your records current.

E. College Boards - The SAT or Act are required entrance examinations by the Service Academies for Candidates admitted to one of the Service Academies. Applicants are responsible for registration for tests and for requesting scores to be sent to the academy/academies and to my office. You must be tested before December for purposes of my office. Direct SAT scores to my office by indicating 6175 as the code and Representative Hinojosa as score recipient on the CEEB form. If you are unable to include my office in your original choices for test reports, send my office a copy of the report you receive in order to save time and the additional report fee. If you submit more than one set of scores, the higher scores will be counted.

F. Qualifying Medical Examination - the individual academies will recommend the

scheduling of medical examinations to the Department of Defense Medical Examinations Review Board after receipt of the pre-candidate questionnaire which is used to open a pre-admission file at the academy. There is no cost to the candidate for this examination. Be sure to mail the appropriate yellow, blue or green cards as soon as possible to the appropriate academy/academies.

G. Leadership - Leadership potential and physical fitness are judged from the information provided on your Application Form. This information should be kept up to date. Unlike civilian colleges, the Service Academies place strong emphasis on physical training. In addition, the academies like civilian colleges and universities, place a high premium on leadership and extra-curricular activities. Therefore, consideration must be given to each candidate's proven ability in these areas.

III. TYPE OF NOMINATION - COMPETITIVE

For 2004, there will be vacancies at the United States Air Force, the Merchant Marine, the Military, and the Naval Academy. A principal candidate with numbered alternates will be selected for nomination to each vacancy, with the exception of the Merchant Marine Academy. At the Merchant Marine Academy, candidates will be selected for nomination to compete for vacancies allocated to the state. Under the PRINCIPAL with Numbered alternates method, which I use, the principal nominee is designated and alternate nominees are ranked in order of preference by the Member of Congress. If fully qualified, the principal nominee receives the appointment to fill the vacancy. NOTE: there are no Congressional nominations to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

IV. BASIS FOR SELECTION

Selections are made competitively on the basis of a composite of academic factors and leadership potential, extra-curricular activities, physical fitness, and recommendations. The following are included:

- ☞ School records, class rank and grade point average.
- ☞ Extra-curricular activities.
- ☞ College Board Scores. Normally, a competitive candidate will have SAT scores above 560 on verbal and math, or ACT scores

above 23 on English and 24 on math and will stand in the upper fifth of their class. The higher your scores and class standing, the greater will be your chances for nomination assuming qualification in the remaining areas of consideration.

- ☞ Motivation. One of the most important considerations in the selection of nominees is motivation -- the candidate's desire to attend an academy. It is also the most difficult to measure. To an extent, motivation can be judged by a candidate's diligence in completing his file, which is one reason those with incomplete files are not considered for nomination. In addition, candidates are invited to write an essay on their reasons for wanting to attend an academy. The essay is optional, but it could be most helpful to your candidacy.

GOOD LUCK!

**ALL CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING
THE SERVICE ACADEMIES SHOULD BE
SENT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:**

Congressman Rubén Hinojosa
RE: U.S. Service Academies
311 North 15th Street
McAllen, TX 78501
Telephone inquires may be directed to:
956-682-5545, M-F, 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM