



Congressman Frank A. LoBiondo

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U.S. SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS INFORMATION SHEET

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 Frank LoBiondo, Senators Robert Menendez and Cory Booker, Vice President Joseph Biden, etc.) However, **if you receive a nomination from another source, I will likely not 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 to obtain an appointment. By the same token, no candidate who fails to meet academy standards will be benefited 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 **November 1.** Around this time, we will begin scheduling interviews with the Academy Screening Board for all candidates with completed files. **Interviews with the Academy Screening Board are scheduled for a weekend in December.**

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 a sufficient number of qualified candidates in an academy category to fill a slate of nominees (first choice designations may be changed at any time before nominations are submitted).

II. REQUIREMENTS:

a. Residency - Applicant must be a legal resident of New Jersey's Second Congressional District.

b. Application Form - The enclosed application must be completed and returned promptly to my office. 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 - The enclosed Recommendation Form must be completed by your high school guidance counselor or principal and 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 that your guidance counselor send me an up-to-date transcript and to keep your records current.

e. College Boards - The SAT or ACT are required entrance examinations 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 **#2305** as the code and Congressman Frank LoBiondo as score recipient on the CEEB form when you sign up for the tests. If you are unable to include my office in your original choices for test reports, send me 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 highest scores in the verbal and math sections will be counted.

f. Qualifying Medical Examination - The individual academies will recommend the scheduling of medical examinations to the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board ("DODMERB") after receipt of the pre-candidate questionnaire which is used to open a pre-admission file at each academy. There is no cost to the candidate for this examination. Be sure to mail the appropriate cards as soon as possible to the 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 will be given to each candidate's proven ability in these areas.

III. TYPE OF NOMINATION - COMPETITIVE:

It is anticipated that there will be one vacancy at each of the United States Air Force, Military and Naval Academies. Ten (10) candidates will be selected for nomination to compete for each vacancy, with the exception of the Merchant Marine Academy. For the Merchant Marine Academy, I can nominate up to ten (10) candidates for a state-wide admissions competition. Under the COMPETITIVE nomination method, which I use, the candidates selected will be evaluated by the respective academies, which will make the final appointments.

NOTE: There are no Congressional nominations to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Appointments to the Coast Guard Academy are made through a nationwide competition. If you are interested in an appointment, you should contact the Academy directly. Inquiries should be directed to: Superintendent, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut 06320 or <http://www.uscga.edu/opportunity>.

IV. BASIS FOR SELECTION:

Selections for nominations are made competitively on the basis of a composite of academic factors (60%) and leadership potential, extra-curricular activities, physical fitness, and recommendations (40%). The following are included:

- a. School records, class rank, and grade point average.
- b. Extra-curricular activities.
- c. College Board Scores. Normally, a competitive candidate will have SAT scores above 550 on verbal and 550 on math, or ACT scores above 24 on English and 25 on math and will stand in the upper fifth of their class. The higher your scores and class stand, the greater will be your chances for a nomination, assuming qualification in the remaining areas of consideration.
- d. 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/her file, which is one reason those with incomplete files are not considered for nominations. In addition, candidates are required to write an **essay** on their reasons for wanting to attend an academy.

GOOD LUCK!