

To All Prospective Service Academy Candidates:

I am pleased to have the privilege of nominating outstanding young residents of Pennsylvania's 19th Congressional District to the United States Service Academies. Each member of Congress, either in the House of Representatives or in the Senate, as well as the Vice President, is allowed five appointees in each U.S. Service Academy per year. For each of those five vacancies, I am permitted to nominate no more than ten young men or women.

All of the U.S. Service Academies, except the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, require a Congressional Nomination for admission. If you would like to be considered for a Nomination, please complete this application packet. Due to the large number of applicants, it is required that all necessary application materials be submitted to my office by **October 1, 2012**.

Throughout the fall, I will interview top candidates as part of the Nomination selection process. Understand that an application for a Nomination and an application for an Appointment are two different processes that are required for admission to a Service Academy. Visit each Academy's website to start your Appointment application.

Remember, the application process to a Service Academy is lengthy, so do not delay! Also, receiving a Congressional Nomination does not guarantee your acceptance to an Academy. The final decision for Appointments are made by the individual Academies.

If you have questions throughout the Nomination process, please feel free to contact my York office at (717) 600-1919 for assistance. Thank you for your interest and I wish you well in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

TODD RUSSELL PLATTS  
Member of Congress  
19th District, Pennsylvania

# Tips for Success

## Congressman Todd R. Platts (PA-19)

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### Contact Each Academy Early

It is important to contact each Academy you have chosen through their websites as soon as possible to complete the pre-candidate questionnaire. Before your interview, you must have already applied to each Academy you wish to be considered for. If you initially qualify for eligibility, the Academy or Academies will send you application materials. Each Service Academy begins to evaluate applications in early September of the senior year of high school.

### Know the Academies

Spend some time getting to know the Academies' history, lifestyles, opportunities, purpose, and Honor Code by researching each Academies' website. If possible, set up a personal tour of an Academy by contacting the admissions office or by taking a virtual tour on each Academy's website. Academy summer programs are another opportunity available to high school students. Once again, more information can be found at each individual Academy's website.

### Take SAT/ACT Tests Early

You are strongly encouraged to start taking these tests in the spring of your junior year. Because the Academies use test scores as a primary method of evaluating candidates, it is highly suggested that you retake these tests several times to raise your scores. For more information concerning SAT/ACT tests and test schedules, visit their websites:

SAT: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

ACT: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

The website [www.March2Success.com](http://www.March2Success.com) is a free ACT/SAT prep tool provided by the Army and available to all students regardless of whether or not they are interested in the military.

### Meet All Application Deadlines

Due to the large number of applicants, it is important to ensure your applications are completed by the due dates. Deadlines for Nomination applications, Academy applications and ROTC applications are earlier than most other college admission programs so start the process early.

### Seek Nominations from More Than One Source

Due to the competitive nature of the Nomination and appointment process, you should seek as many Nominations as possible. Be sure to contact both Pennsylvania Senators and the Vice President of the United States. Presidential and ROTC Nominations have special application requirements and restrictions, visit each Academy's website for details.

#### **Senator Robert Casey**

22 S. Third Street, Suite 6A  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717) 231-7540

#### **Senator Patrick Toomey**

1150 S. Cedar Crest Blvd  
Suite 101  
Allentown, PA 18103  
610) 434-1444

#### **Vice President Joseph Biden**

The White House  
Washington, DC 20501

# **Tips for Success**

## **Congressman Todd R. Platts (PA-19)**

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### **Practice Your Interview Skills**

Most applicants have had little to no practice in interviewing for a job or position. Take some time to sit down with a parent, teacher, employer or mentor and have them ask you questions and evaluate your demeanor during the interview. A few practice interviews will go along way in helping you feel more at ease and to communicate more clearly to the U.S. Service Academy Nomination Boards.

### **Request Letters of Recommendation/Observation**

A good letter of recommendation/observation should be from a person with whom you have a professional relationship. The person should be able to write about observed leadership skills, describe your adaptability to pressure situations, and discuss your ability to work with others in a team environment. Remember, it is more important that the person you choose to write your letter understands your abilities, strengths, and potential to succeed rather than choosing a person solely based on their social standing, position, and/or title. Bottom line: the writer should be someone who is familiar with you and can cite specific examples of your abilities.

### **Join Me at 'Academy Night'**

Each year I host a 19th Congressional District United States Service Academy Night. I invite representatives from each of the Academies and ROTC programs to meet with interested candidates from across the district. My next Academy Night will be Monday, April 23, 2012 from 7 to 9 PM at Dallastown Area High School.

**Dallastown Area High School**  
700 New School Lane  
Dallastown, PA 1717313-9242

### **Don't Give Up!**

If your goal is to become an officer in the United States Armed Service, then don't give up if you are not selected for an Appointment. Approximately 25% of the people who enter each Academy class did not get in after their first attempt. You can improve your chances by continuing to improve your SAT and ACT test scores, prepare yourself physically for the Candidate Fitness Assessment and take advantage of any leadership opportunities.

Also, if your goal is to become an officer in either the Air Force, Army, Navy or Marine Corp, take a look at the ROTC scholarship programs for each of these services. Links to each of these programs can be found below:

#### **U.S. Air Force ROTC**

(866) 4-AFROTC

[www.afrotc.com](http://www.afrotc.com)

#### **U.S. Army ROTC**

(888) 944-ARMY

[www.goarmy.com/rotc/](http://www.goarmy.com/rotc/)

#### **U.S. Naval ROTC**

(800) NAV-ROTC

[www.nrotc.navy.mil](http://www.nrotc.navy.mil)

# Instructions for U.S. Service Academy Nominations

## Congressman Todd R. Platts (PA-19)

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In order for your nomination application to be complete, you must send items 1 - 5 to the York County District Office (see box below for address) by October 1, 2012:

1) Complete **Application for U.S. Service Academy Nomination**

Type or neatly print your answers on the downloadable application. You will not be able to save your work unless you have Adobe Acrobat. For the essay questions, please limit your responses to 400 words per question.

2) A recent wallet-size photograph of yourself

3) Three letters of recommendation/observation

You may select either a teacher, principal, employer, member of clergy, coach or scout leader to write a letter of recommendation/observation. Choosing someone who knows you well and has observed you succeed in a leadership position, classroom setting, character building situation or work environment is critical. Therefore, do not ask someone to write a letter of recommendation based upon their accomplishments, but rather, someone who can attest to yours. Attached to this application are three U.S. Service Academy Recommendation Letter forms for you to give out.

4) Official copy of high school transcript

Your high school transcripts must show your class rank at the end of your junior year.

5) Official SAT and/or ACT scores

If your SAT or ACT report is not included in your official transcript, you must include an official copy of your SAT or ACT report with your application. If you wish to designate for my office to receive your scores directly, please enter the following reporting codes on your test forms:

SAT 2492

ACT 7653

6) Complete the **Update for U.S. Service Academy Nomination form**

Please complete this form with your updated information and bring it with you to my office for your Nomination Interview. This form does not need to be updated by the October 1st deadline.

In mid-October, we will call those candidates with fully-completed nomination applications to schedule a 30 minute interview with my U.S. Service Academy Nomination Board. Remember, only those candidates with completed nomination applications will be called for an interview.

Please call the York County District Office at (717) 600-1919 if you have questions about your nomination application.

### **Application Deadline**

# **October 1, 2012**

To be considered for nominations for the class entering 2013, your complete application must be received at the following address or postmarked by October 1, 2012.

**Mail application material to:**

Congressman Todd R. Platts  
Attn: U.S. Service Academy Nominations  
York County District Office  
2209 East Market Street  
York, PA 17402

# Application for U.S. Service Academy Nominations

*Congressman Todd R. Platts (PA-19)*

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Legal Name (First Middle Last)

Nickname

Social Security Number

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email Address

Birthday (mm/dd/yy)      Age      Height      Weight

Mailing Address

City      State      Zip Code

## EDUCATION

List high schools, prep schools and colleges you have attended or are now attending.

Name of School Currently Attending

Graduation Date      Telephone Number

Class Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_      GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School (if currently attending prep/college)

Graduation Date      Telephone Number

Class Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_      GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

## LEGAL RESIDENCE or HOME OF RECORD

If your address listed above is not your Legal Residence/Home of Record, please provide it below:

Street Address

City      State      Zip Code

## COLLEGE BOARD ADMISSIONS TESTS

Please provide the highest score you received in each of the individual sections of the tests (individual section scores can come from multiple tests).

### Highest Individual SAT Scores

Verbal	Math	Written

### Highest ACT Score

Composite

How many times have you taken the SAT? \_\_\_\_\_

How many times have you taken the ACT? \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes    No**

       Are you scheduled to retake either the SAT or ACT again?

       Do you plan to retake the SAT or ACT again?

# Application for U.S. Service Academy Nominations

Congressman Todd R. Platts (PA-19)

FATHER/LEGAL GUARDIAN INFORMATION		
Father's Name		
Address (or write 'same as mine')		
City	State	Zip Code
Occupation		
Employer		
Military Service History		
Branch of Service	Years of Service	
Highest Rank Achieved	Current Status	

MOTHER/LEGAL GUARDIAN INFORMATION		
Mother's Name		
Address (or write 'same as mine')		
City	State	Zip Code
Occupation		
Employer		
Military Service History		
Branch of Service	Years of Service	
Highest Rank Achieved	Current Status	

ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER MILITARY SERVICE HISTORY			
Do you have any other family members currently serving in the military or are veterans of the armed services?			
Name	Relation	Service Branch	Years of Service

ACADEMY PREFERENCE
Indicate your preference in numerical order. <b>Please only designate the Academy or Academies where you intend to seek an appointment.</b> Due to the competitive nature of the nomination process, you may receive a nomination to the Academy of your second, third, or fourth choice.
<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force Academy <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Merchant Marine Academy <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Military Academy <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Naval Academy <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard Academy*
<p><i>* The U.S. Coast Guard Academy does NOT require a nomination for entry. However, please include the USCGA in your rankings if you are interested in an appointment there.</i></p>

NOMINATION SOURCES
Please indicate the following additional nomination sources to which you have applied or are applying for. It is highly suggested that you apply for all nomination sources that you are eligible for.
<input type="checkbox"/> Senator Robert Casey <input type="checkbox"/> Senator Patrick Toomey <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President Joseph Biden <input type="checkbox"/> President Barack Obama* <input type="checkbox"/> JROTC*
<p><i>* Please visit the Academy's website for information and restrictions concerning Presidential and JROTC nominations.</i></p>

# Application for U.S. Service Academy Nominations

## Congressman Todd R. Platts (PA-19)

### NOMINATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Yes No

- Are you a Citizen of the United States?
- Are you a legal resident of the 19th Congressional District of Pennsylvania?
- Is one of your parents a legal resident of the 19th Congressional District of Pennsylvania?
- Have you applied for a U.S. Service Academy Nomination before?
- Are any of your parents or siblings a Disabled Veteran, Missing in Action (MIA) or Killed in Action (KIA)?
- Did one of your parents or siblings attend a Service Academy? If so, which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_
- Have you talked to anyone who has attended a Service Academy?
- Are you a recruited athlete at a U.S. Service Academy?
- Have you ever been cited, arrested, convicted or fined for any violation of any law or ordinance? If so please provide details to include date of offense on a separate sheet of paper.
- Are you a member of either ROTC or JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps)?
- Did you attend a summer program at a Service Academy? If so, which one? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you a member of the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts?
- Are you a member of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corp?
- Are you a member of Civil Air Patrol?
- Do you have a Pilot's License or have you received any flight instruction?
- Did you attend Congressman Platt's Academy Night? If so, how did you hear about it? \_\_\_\_\_

### ESSAY QUESTIONS

On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following essay questions in 400 words or less. Please format your responses by using Arial font size 12.

- 1. Why are you applying to the U.S. Service Academies?**
- 2. If you receive an appointment to your first choice, what do you believe will be your biggest challenge at that Academy?**
- 3. Describe an example that demonstrates your leadership ability.**
- 4. After graduation from your preferred Service Academy, what career fields interest you based upon your research?**

# Application for U.S. Service Academy Nominations

*Congressman Todd R. Platts (PA-19)*

## INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS & MARCHING BAND

If you were a team captain or expect to be a team captain, indicate so with the number of years (1, 2, etc.). If needed, additional interscholastic sports, marching band & awards information can be included on a separate sheet of paper.

Sport/Band	Participating Years				# of Varsity Letters	Captain	Awards
	Fr.	So.	Jr.	Sr.			

## RECREATIONAL SPORTS

If you were a team captain, indicate so with the number of years (1, 2, etc.). If needed, additional sports and awards information can be included on a separate sheet of paper.

Sport	Participating Years				Captain	Awards
	Fr.	So.	Jr.	Sr.		

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

If your hours/week vary between the summer and school year, please list the job twice and show the hours/week for each of them. If needed, additional employment information can be included on a separate sheet of paper.

Employer	From (MM/YY)	To (MM/YY)	Hours/Week	Responsibilities





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**Air Force Academy**

**Merchant Marine Academy**

**Military Academy**

**Naval Academy**

**Coast Guard Academy**

**SAT**

**ACT**

CR

Comp

Math

Writing

Comp

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GPA

/

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GPA

/

**Please include this page in your initial application.**

**This page draws information from your application if you fill it out on a computer.**

**If you complete your application by hand, please keep this page blank.**

# U.S. Service Academy Letter of Recommendation/Observation

## Congressman Todd R. Platts (PA-19)

*\*\*To be given to a teacher, principal, employer, minister, priest, scout leader or coach.\*\**

Name of Applicant (First Middle Last)

The above named person is applying for a nomination from Congressman Todd Platts to one or more of the U.S. Service Academies. As a requirement for the nomination process, he or she has asked you to write a Letter of Recommendation/Observation.

The U.S. Service Academies provide a college education leading to a career as an officer in the Armed Forces of the United States. While at an Academy, the applicant will accomplish a highly demanding academic, athletic and military curriculum that provides little opportunity for free time. Cadets and Midshipmen are required to live under an Honor Code that does not tolerate lying, stealing or cheating. Those individuals who violate the Honor Code are very often dismissed from the Academies. An appointment to an U.S. Service Academy is equivalent to a 4-year scholarship worth approximately \$425,000.

We are looking for candidates of the highest moral character, who have demonstrated strong leadership ability and who readily accept and embrace challenges both academically and physically. As you write your letter, remember the purpose of U.S. Service Academies is to develop future leaders for the U.S. Military. We have reviewed the applicant's academic and athletic achievements and are looking for specific examples of when the applicant has displayed leadership and moral character traits you would expect of a U.S. Military Officer.

Please describe one or two specific examples of when the applicant demonstrated leadership skills or faced a challenging situation that allowed the applicant's character to show. To assist you in identifying examples of leadership and character, we have listed some attributes below:

- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Adaptability
- Teamwork
- Competitive nature
- Initiative
- Respectfulness of authority and difference of opinion
- Helpfulness to others
- Ability to accept criticism

Also, please provide include the following information in your letter:

- Address the letter to "Congressman Platts"
- Your name, address and contact phone number
- State your relationship to the applicant
- When and where you have observed the applicant
- How long you have known the applicant

### **Recommendation Deadline**

# **October 1, 2012**

To be considered for a nomination for the class entering 2013, your letter of recommendation must be received at the following address or postmarked by October 1, 2012.

#### **Mail letter of recommendation to:**

Congressman Todd R. Platts  
Attn: U.S. Service Academy Nominations  
York County District Office  
2209 East Market Street  
York, PA 17402

The recommendation you make will help us select the best possible candidates from the 19th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. By law, all admissions materials must be shown to a student on request. Please know that your help is greatly appreciated!

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- How long you have known the applicant

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# Application for U.S. Service Academy Nominations

## Congressman Todd R. Platts (PA-19)

# STOP!

**Complete this page immediately prior to your scheduled interview with the most up-to-date information that you have.**

**Bring this page along with any additional material and supporting documentation to the interview.**

**Additional information/changes not specifically requested below may be annotated on the back of this page.**

PERSONAL INFORMATION
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">                     Full Legal Name (First Middle Last)                 </div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">                     Nickname                 </div>

COLLEGE BOARD TESTS UPDATE				
Provide the date and scores you received in each of the individual sections of the tests.				
Individual SAT Tests				
Date	Verbal	Math	Written	Composite
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I am scheduled to take the SAT again. <input type="checkbox"/> No, I am not taking the SAT again.				
Individual ACT Tests				
Date	Composite			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I am scheduled to take the ACT again. <input type="checkbox"/> No, I am not taking the ACT again.				

NOMINATION APPLICATION STATUS	
Under <b>Status of Application</b> , annotate as 'Did Not Apply', 'Incomplete', or 'Complete'.	
Name	Status of Application
Senator Robert Casey	
Senator Patrick Toomey	
Vice President Joseph Biden	
President Barack Obama*	
JROTC*	
* Application restrictions apply to Presidential and JROTC	

ACADEMY APPLICATION STATUS		
Rank order only those Academies that you would accept an appointment to. Under <b>Status of Application</b> , annotate as 'Not Interested', 'Not Started', 'Incomplete', or 'Complete'.		
Name	Rank Order	Status of Application
U.S. Air Force Academy		
U.S. Military Academy		
U.S. Naval Academy		
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy		
U.S. Coast Guard Academy		

ROTC APPLICATION STATUS		
Rank order only those ROTC programs you are interested in. Under <b>Status of Application</b> , annotate as 'Not Interested', 'Not Started', 'Incomplete', or 'Complete'.		
Name	Rank Order	Status of Application
U.S. Air Force ROTC		
U.S. Army ROTC		
U.S. Naval ROTC		
U.S. Naval ROTC (Marine option)		