



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

111 SOUTH GEORGE MASON DRIVE
ARLINGTON VA 22204-1382

ARNG-HRR

25 August 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR NG J1 RRF (All-Entire RRF)

SUBJECT: SMOM 17-054, "Operation Opportunity" - United States Military Academy (West Point) Class of 2022 Application Instructions for Army National Guard Soldiers

1. Title 10 USC 4342 (b)(3), allows for 85 enlisted members of the Army National Guard (ARNG) or Army Reserve to be appointed to West Point annually. Applicants appointed to West Point and who graduate will receive their undergraduate degree and a commission as a second lieutenant in the US Army.
2. "Operation Opportunity" recognizes outstanding junior enlisted Soldiers who demonstrate the ideals and values of the Corps of Cadets - Duty, Honor, and Country. States/Territories and District of Columbia are encouraged to recognize Soldiers by nominating them for potential admission into West Point.
3. Soldiers that are offered and accepted to the West Point Class of 2022 will have an approximate report date of 1 July 2018. Soldiers offered and accepted to West Point Prep School will start and report to West Point Prep School on or about 17 July 2018. The Army National Guard will receive 40 seats directly but will share an additional 45 seats (Prep School) with the U. S. Army Reserve.
4. Eligibility requirements for Soldiers looking to submit applications to West Point are:
 - a. Be a US citizen.
 - b. Be at least 17, but not 23 or older on 1 July 2018.
 - c. Be unmarried.
 - d. Have no legal obligation to support a child or dependents.
 - e. Be a high school graduate or have a GED.
 - f. Be eligible for re-enlistment.
 - g. Have completed Basic Combat Training.
 - h. Be nominated by the candidate's Company Commander (Electronic nomination form completed through the candidate's online portal - form is sent directly to the commander).

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5. States/Territories/DC are highly encouraged to seek out and nominate Soldiers that meet the above eligibility requirements and the following minimum academic qualifications: SAT scores in the mid 500's or higher in each category of Reading and Math or ACT scores of mid 20's or higher in each category of English, Math, Reading, Science and Writing. Each test must have the writing portion taken and attain a score of 7. Candidates should also possess a strong history of extracurricular activity and athletic participation.

6. Soldiers who meet the criteria above can start an initial application online at www.usma.edu/applynow. There is no limit to how many Soldiers can apply. However, applicants must meet the eligibility/academic qualifications in paragraph 4 and 5. Soldiers can start an initial application anytime through 15 January 2018. Soldiers must complete the entire application no later than the application deadline of 28 February 2018.

a. Soldiers must have high school transcripts and ACT w/writing OR SAT/w writing scores at the time of the initial application. If Soldiers have not taken their ACT w/writing or SAT, it is encouraged that they seek out their state Army National Guard Education Office to find the nearest testing center prior to applying.

b. Soldiers are encouraged to apply only if they have their high school transcripts and SAT or ACT w/writing scores available. Not having them at the time of the initial application will delay their application as scores are required for evaluation.

7. Soldiers meeting qualifications in paragraph 4 and 5 will be considered for West Point or West Point Prep School. It is helpful that Soldiers complete their applications prior to 1 December 2016 in order to compete for limited class seats.

8. Soldiers currently deployed overseas are highly encouraged to apply and should be provided the same opportunity as Soldiers stateside. The entire application can be completed online with the Soldier's leadership and command support.

9. Soldiers are also encouraged to seek congressional nomination in addition to the endorsement provide by their commanders.

10. Soldiers not meeting the academic criteria can improve their ACT or SAT scores by logging onto www.March2Success.com to take practice tests and work through practice questions. Soldiers are encouraged to meet with their state Army National Guard Education Office to learn more about where they can take the ACT or SAT test free of charge.

11. Additional information about the application process can be found at www.usma.edu/applynow. For questions concerning this operational message please

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contact CPT Tandra Beasley at 703-601-6793 or email tandra.s.beasley.mil@mail.mil or Captain David Mason 845-938-5780 or email david.mason@usma.edu (Supports both USAR and ARNG).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert E. Kuster II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ROBERT E. KUSTER II
COL, AG
Chief, Strength Maintenance Division
Army National Guard