United States Service Academy Opportunities
Lisa Hillhouse
US Armed Forces

• 1, 458,000 active duty personnel serve in our military (<1% of Americans)
• There are 857,000 reserve and guardsman currently serving
• Women and minorities comprise 14-19% and 24-30% of the armed forces (active duty/reserve)
• Department of Defense responsible for the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps
• Coast Guard falls under the purview of the Department of Homeland Defense
Officers

- Leaders and managers
- 10-20% of service personnel
- Must have a minimum of a BA/BS degree and have completed a commissioning program
- Usually a generalist but some are specialists
- Career examples: pilot, nurse, lawyer, civil engineer, accountant, logistician, infantry, etc.
- Ranks include LT or Ensign, Captain, Colonel, etc.
Career Paths

Every Job in the Civilian World Has a Military Equivalent

- Medical
- Administrative
- Scientific/Technical
- Etc.

Career field based on major, academic/athletic/leadership performance, medical requirements and service needs

- Emphasis on Technology, Leadership, Global Operations, and Humanitarian Missions
Officer Commissioning Sources
Army/Navy/Air Force
What is a Service Academy?

• Federally funded military college designed to prepare leaders of character for a lifetime of service
• Graduates enter the armed forces as an officer, serving 5 years (active duty)
• Fully funded education, valued between $220,000-$425,000
• Highly competitive to enter (average 10% admit)
5 US Service Academies

- United States Military Academy (Army – West Point), West Point NY – 4,000 cadets
- United States Air Force Academy (Colorado Springs CO) – 4,000 cadets
- United States Naval Academy (Annapolis – Annapolis MD) – 4,000 midshipmen
- United States Coast Guard Academy (New London CT) – 1,000 cadets
- United States Merchant Marine Academy (Kings Point NY) --1,000 midshipmen
Class Profile (2014 Cycle)

Unweighted CGPA, ACT Composite, SAT CR/M, Acceptance Rate

• Air Force 3.89, 30, 670, 670, 10%
™• Navy 3.89, 31, 625, 655, 13%
• Army 3.7, 29, 634, 652, 11%
™• Coast Guard 3.7, 27-28, 620, 657, 16%
• Merchant Marine 3.6, 28, 600, 626, 18%

(Rates comparable to Penn, Duke, Pomona, Johns Hopkins, Rice...
How is Life Different at a Service Academy?

Education and Training

• All students earn BS degrees
  – STEM emphasis
• Challenging course loads (ex. 18-19 credits each semester)
• Every student is a scholar athlete
• Train most of the year (including two-thirds of the summer)
• Military discipline and structure and leadership development
Athletics

• Air Force, Army, Navy Division 1 sports
• Merchant Marine and Coast Guard Division III athletics
• Club and Intramural sports (everyone participates)
  – Wide range of options on land, sea and in the air
Summer Career Orientation

Air Force/Army Aviation

- Tactical training in a field environment

Navy/CG/MMA Life at Sea

ALL: Overseas travel/language and humanitarian projects
Cadet Basic Orientation

Training begins in late June (“Beast, Plebe or Swab Summer”)
- Lasts until late summer
- Transition from individuals into a team
- Physical, mental, emotional challenges
- Survival and small arms training
- Leadership and teamwork emphasis
- Recognition as a cadet
Application Process

• Lengthy—students MUST be organized and proactive
• Lots of room for error/missed deadlines
• Easy to lose focus or motivation – complex for a reason

These apps cannot be completed in 45 mins or even a weekend
Application Timeline

• Students can begin their applications junior year. Ideally they have already demonstrated interest and participated in summer programs and outreach events.

• Each academy has different application start dates and deadlines. Typically students can begin submitting documents in late summer. Files generally must be complete by late Dec/early Jan.

• Some academies have rolling admissions, others board candidates throughout the year. Some publish notification dates, others don’t. Some offer EA.
Common Problems

• Fitness Assessments - candidates delay, get injured and run out of time to test

• Medically Disqualified – braces, acne medication, vision, multiple concussions, medication for attention deficit, depression/anxiety

• Fail to receive a nomination – some areas are extremely competitive

The solutions? Start early and have back-up plans!
Application Steps

- Research your options
- Begin a pre-candidate questionnaire (preliminary application)
- Start the nomination applications to every source
- Complete the physical fitness exam (CFA)
- Submit teacher and counselor LOR’s
- Complete personal data form
- Construct essays (and resume), finish application components
- Forward transcripts and test scores
- Complete medical evaluation
- Reach out to local and regional admissions officers and prepare for interviews
Preparatory Schools

**Academies Sponsor**

- May be on campus or elsewhere
- Review of HS English, Math, and Science
- Military training, athletics, time management and study skills

**Private Prep Schools**

- Student may have Academy financial support or go on their own
- Choose from several military schools or PG programs
- Academics, athletics, military discipline, test taking skills and career mentors
Academy Summer Opportunities

• Summer Seminar: HS Juniors apply in early winter. 1 week orientation to engineering and cadet life. Highly competitive

• Athletic Camps: Available to HS students (numerous sports). Open to the public

• SAME Engineering Camps: Career exposure to military opportunities. Competitive
Academy Admissions Tips

- Admissions is a lengthy process – start preparing early! Sophomore or junior year is ideal
- Candidates evaluated on the “whole person” concept
- Integrity, character, moral background important (drugs, arrests a problem)
- Candidates need have a solid CGPA and strong test scores (SAT or ACT) for direct admission. Writing portion not required
- Every student is a scholar athlete. No sports = no admission
- You must be medically and physically qualified (tests for both)
- Unusual experiences, language/travel, hardships, diversity all are important
- Most academies require a liaison officer interview(s)
- You must have a congressional nomination (exception: Coast Guard)
Final Points

• DEMONSTRATING INTEREST is HUGE
• Every interaction with your liaison, academy, or congressional office is an interview
• Apply to EVERY nominating source
• Again, start preparing early (summer programs, learn about the military, prepare academically, build your resume, etc.)
• Mock interviews are helpful
• Plan ahead to finish ahead of deadlines—there may be complications with medical exams or injuries that prevent students from meeting entrance requirements
• Each school has its own level of competitiveness
  • CG is extremely difficult, Navy and AF very challenging, MMA and Army are slightly easier

And lastly, HAVE ALTERNATIVE PLANS (ROTC, PREP SCHOOL, REAPPLY)
Who Thrives as an Officer?

*Highly motivated*  *leader of character*

*gives 110%*  *adventurous*  *selfless*

*hard working*  *academically talented*  *proactive*

*physically and mentally strong*  *desire to be your best*
Why the Academies?

• Some of our nation’s best and brightest young leaders

• Unparalleled opportunities for learning, research, career exploration, and cultural immersion

• For those students who want to serve and are ready for a challenge—not your ordinary college experience!
For More Information

Lisa Hillhouse, USAFR, and Independent Adviser 925-788-9663

HillhouseCollegeAdvising.Com

Academy websites

Individual military service websites
Introduction

• 2d LT Amina Lynch
• 4 year ROTC Graduate
  – Tuskegee University
  – English Major
• Hometown: Norfolk, Virginia
• Future Personnel Officer
• Gold Bar Recruiter
  – CSUS Yosemite Hall
Overview

- What is AFROTC?
- National Perspective
- AFROTC Scholarships
- Military Careers
- Summary
- Contact Information

“We will design and implement a system of learning that honors individual student goals and dreams, while fostering college and career readiness in an environment that supports social, emotional, and physical well-being.”

- San Juan USD Strategic Vision (2015-2020)
What is ROTC?

- A 4 year program for college students to become Military Officers
- 3 Primary aspects of ROTC
  - Military Academic Course
  - Physical Training (PT)
  - Leadership Laboratory (LLAB)
- High School and In College Scholarships
- #1 Priority is Academics
- Get the ‘College Experience’
- Not joining the Military right out of High School
Over 1100 AF Host Schools in the United States
Scholarship Tips

• Apply Early
• Take the ACT and/or SAT early and often to raise test scores
  – Deadlines and minimum scores vary per branch
• Prepare for the interview
  – Practice with your friends, parents or teachers
• Make copies of everything
• The boards, based on officer potential and the “whole person” concept, rate on the following criteria:
  – Leadership and work experience
  – Extracurricular activities
  – Results from your personal interview
  – Questionnaire results
  – Academic scores
Air Force Scholarship

- **HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (HSSP)**
  - **Type 1**
    - Pays Full Tuition (uncapped)
    - $600 for books + Monthly Stipend
    - Approx 5%, Mostly Tech Fields
  - **Type 2**
    - Pays Full Tuition (up to $18,000)
    - $600 for books + Monthly Stipend
    - Approx 25%, Mostly Tech Fields
  - **Type 7**
    - Pays up to in-State Tuition Rate
    - $600 for books + Monthly Stipend
    - Approx 70%, all Fields of Study
Careers

• **The Next 4 years...**
  – So what happens after ROTC?
  – What’s life like with a military Commission?

• Possible Careers – Options – Travel – Benefits
  Experiences – Friends – Discipline - Fun
  Guaranteed Job and Paycheck!
Army

- UC Davis 530-754-6707
- CSUS 916-278-7682
  - http://milsci.ucdavis.edu/
  - http://www.csus.edu/armyrotc/
Navy/ Marines

- UC Berkeley
- Head Navy Recruiting Officer  901-874-9280
- Head Marine Admissions Officer  916-928-2602/2605
  - http://navyrotc.berkeley.edu/
  - http://www.marines.com/becoming-a-marine/commissioning-programs/four-year-colleges/platoon-leaders-class?nav=LP1
Summary

• Options and Opportunities
• Educated Decision Making
• AFROTC general info
• Scholarship Opportunities
Contact Information

LT AMINA LYNCH
GOLDBAR088@AFROTCADMISSIONS.COM
PHONE: (916) 278-7412
CELL: (336) 312-6264

Contact me with Questions or visit me at my office:
Yosemite Hall # C-130
Sacramento State University
6000 J Street, Sacramento CA

www.afrotc.com