

Office of V.I. Delegate to Congress Donna M. Christensen

**Military Academy Fair – 6:00 to 9:30
September 28, UVI ACC Building, St. Thomas
September 29, UVI Great Hall, St. Croix**

The event, to be held in both districts, will begin with an opening ceremony at 6 p.m. Set-up time for the recruiters is 5:30 p.m.

JROTC Color Guard will post the colors, followed by the National Anthem, VI March and Pledge of Allegiance.

The Congresswoman will give welcoming remarks, followed by the guest speakers and presentations from the Service Academy representatives.

After the ceremony, the academy fair will commence with representatives manning respective information booths. The fair will continue until 9:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Attire is business formal.

BACKGROUND

U.S. Military Academy Fair/Service Academy Nomination Procedure

In addition to being a legislator and advocate for constituents and public policy, one of Congresswoman Christensen's many roles is to make recommendations or appointments to the United States Service Academies -- U.S. Military Academy (West Point), U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, or U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. (Appointments are not required for the US Coast Guard Academy). An appointment to a Service Academy is a distinct and rare honor. Acceptance of an academy appointment is very competitive and requires at least a nine-year service obligation, including four years at an academy and five years of active duty service.

Now in her eighth term as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Christensen has appointed dozens of Virgin Islands students to the Service Academies. Our students have been very successful in completing their education and moving on to become officers in the military. To date, we have the following currently enrolled in the academies:

US Naval Academy

Noah Tobias
Class of 2013

Eric Wilson
Class of 2015

US Military Academy

Matthew Car
Class of 2015

US Coast Guard Academy

Rebekah Seifer
Class of 2012

Ronaqua Russell
Class of 2012

Rian Bareuther
Class of 2013

Dale Carty III
Class of 2014

Jamen Descartes
Class of 2014

Despite the success, too few of your high school and college students are not aware of these opportunities or the appointment process. In order to increase awareness, the Congresswoman is hosting her first Military Academy Fair, in conjunction with the College Access Challenge Grant Program. We have invited representatives of the five service academies to come to the events in both island districts and provide an overview of the process. We are encouraging candidates and interested persons to attend and hear firsthand from the recruiters and cadets what it takes to be successful in receiving an appointment to a Service Academy.

More about the U.S. Service Academies

For students who would like to experience a military environment while getting a first-class education, the four Service academies – the U.S. Military Academy (Army)

in West Point, N.Y.; the U.S. Naval Academy (Navy/Marine Corps) in Annapolis, Md.; the U.S. Air Force Academy (Air Force) in Colorado Springs, Colo.; and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (Coast Guard) in New London, Conn. – offer an outstanding education and full four-year scholarships. Tuition, books, board and medical and dental care are all fully paid for all four years. The competition to get in is fierce. Admissions criteria include:

- High school academic performance
- Standardized test scores (SAT or ACT)
- Athletics and extracurricular activities
- Leadership experience and community involvement
- A congressional letter of recommendation (not required by the Coast Guard Academy)

Graduates of all four academies receive a Bachelor of Science degree and are commissioned as officers in their respective Service branch. In all cases, there is a service obligation of a minimum of five years.

Compare Service Academies

Similarly, the Senior Military Colleges (SMCs) offer a combination of higher education with military instruction. SMCs include Texas A&M University, Norwich University, The Virginia Military Institute, The Citadel, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), North Georgia College & State University and the Mary Baldwin Women’s Institute for Leadership. SMCs are among the most prestigious and famous education institutions in the world and they offer financial aid packages for eligible students. Every cadet must participate in the [Reserve Officer Training Corps](#) (ROTC) program, but only those cadets who receive an ROTC scholarship are required to enter military service following graduation. For example, about half of Virginia Military Institute’s cadets earn commissions as second lieutenants (Army, Marine Corps, Air Force) or ensigns (Navy).

Compare Senior Military Colleges

An additional option for students is U.S. Merchant Marine academies. The United States Merchant Marine is the fleet of civilian-owned merchant ships that transport cargo and passengers on behalf of the United States. In times of war, the Merchant Marine is an auxiliary to the Navy and can be called upon to deliver service members and supplies for the Military. Midshipmen at the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y., receive full scholarships in exchange for a service obligation in the Merchant Marine Reserve or Navy Reserve. The other Merchant Marine academies also produce shipboard officers for vessels integral to shipping and transportation needs, but a service commitment is not always required.