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Schools

The United States Military Academy Preparatory School

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SUMMARY of CHANGE

DA PAM 351-2

The United States Military Academy Preparatory School

This Revision--

- o Replaces Pam 351-2, issued March 1972.

- o



Schools

The United States Military Academy Preparatory School

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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History. This publication has been reorganized to make it compatible with the Army electronic publishing database. No content has been changed.

Summary. The road to becoming a career Army officer is a long and challenging one. Applicants to the United States Military Academy Preparatory School should recognize that the purpose of the school, in conjunction with the Military Academy, is to prepare its graduates for a career as Regular Army Officers. Individuals applying to the Preparatory School should be aware of the hardships that must be endured, the demands that will be made of them, and the rewards they will earn throughout their career in our country's oldest service, the United States Army.

Applicability. This pamphlet applies to enlisted men and women serving on active duty in the Army and to enlisted members of the Reserve components of the Army. It may apply under exceptional circumstances, to enlisted members of

other services who may be authorized to attend.

Proponent and exception authority. Not applicable.

Suggested Improvements. Not applicable.

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Chapter 1 Overview

1-1. USMAPS prepares soldiers for West Point.

The United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS) assists selected members of the Armed Forces to qualify for Military Academy at West Point, NY. The concept of assisting soldiers to gain admission to the Military Academy began after World War I and continues today as a means of providing upward mobility to the commissioned officer ranks. The school is open to enlisted men and women serving on active duty and to enlisted members of the Reserve components of the Army. Under exceptional circumstances, enlisted members of other services may be authorized to attend.

1-2. USMAPS location and facilities.

The Preparatory School currently is located at Fort Monmouth, NJ, about 50 miles south of New York City. The school complex includes classrooms, living quarters, dining facility, and athletic facilities. In addition, customary conveniences found on most Army posts are available to all USMAPS students.

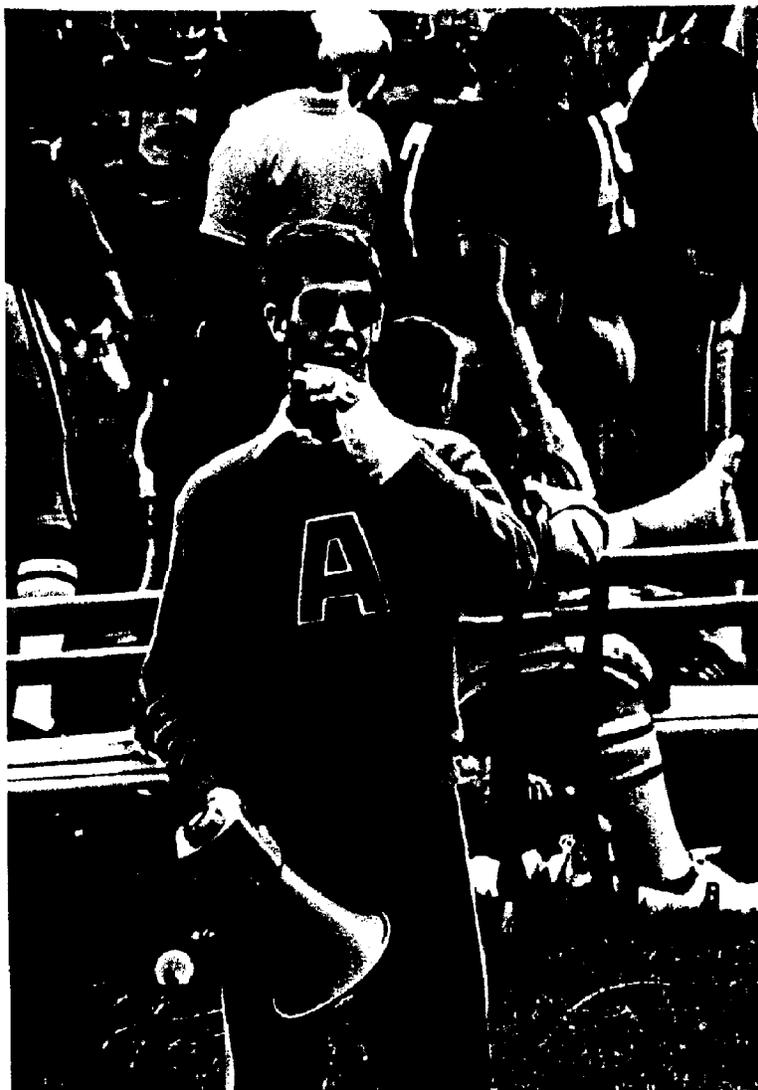


Figure 1-1. USMAPS student leads a cheer at the athletic facilities.

Chapter 2

Student Information

2-1. Status

a. Students are active members of the Armed Forces and are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. There is no tuition charge for attending USMAPS; however, candidates are required to purchase approximately \$100 worth of distinctive clothing and school supplies upon arrival at the school. Pay, meals, and living quarters are provided. In addition, students are eligible for promotion (with provision for waivers) in accordance with current Department of the Army policies.

b. Regardless of military rank, all students are designated "Cadet Candidate" and are addressed as "Mister" or "Miss." Normal military rank insignia are not worn by students while attending the school; instead, cadet candidate ranks are designated for all students and distinctive epaulet or collar insignia is worn.

2-2. Personal Clothing and Equipment

a. Uniforms required at the Preparatory School are the same as those issued to soldiers in the Army. Civilian clothes are authorized for wear during privilege periods. However, because of limited storage facilities only a minimum of extra clothing may be brought to the school. Likewise, personal gear must be limited to small items such as radios, typewriters, and musical instruments that may be stored in the student's personal wall locker. TV and large stereo sets are not permitted.

b. Candidates are authorized cars while at USMAPS, provided they are properly licensed and registered.

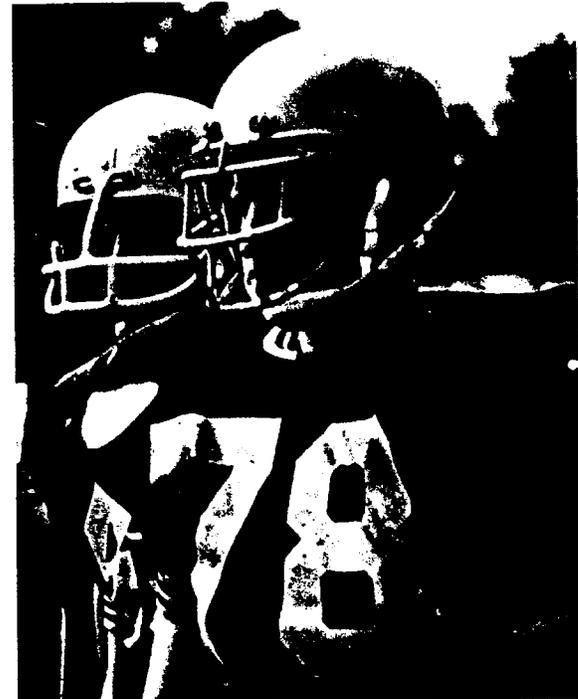
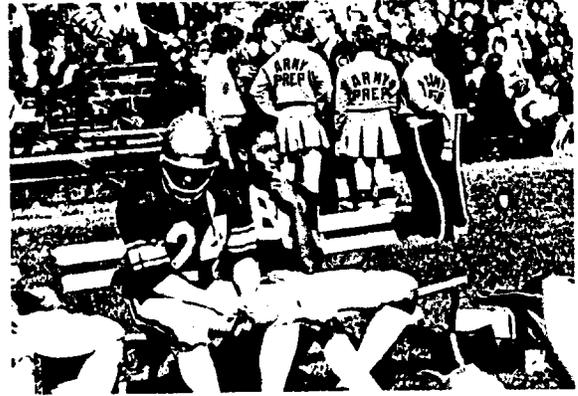


Figure 2-1. USMAPS students participating in athletic activities at the USMAPS athletic facilities.

Chapter 3 The Preparatory School Programs

3-1. Academics

a. Since academic ability is the most important factor in determining qualification for and appointment to the Military Academy, the academic program at USMAPS receives primary emphasis. The academic year is 10 months in length and is divided into two terms. The First Term, which extends from midAugust until late January, is designed to provide a solid foundation in English and mathematics prior to the January administration of the Scholastic Aptitude Tests and the February administration of the American College Test Program Assessment Tests.

b. The Second Term, which extends into early June, provides advanced instruction in the same subjects to assist students once they enter the Military Academy. Evaluation of individual student progress is accomplished through a combination of frequent testing, grading, and counseling.

c. The typical academic day consists of 2 sessions in English and 2 in mathematics, Monday through Friday. Classes are small, varying in size between 15 and 25 students. A study period is mandatory for most students 5 or 6 nights a week. Additional instruction is provided to students requesting it or as directed by the instructor.

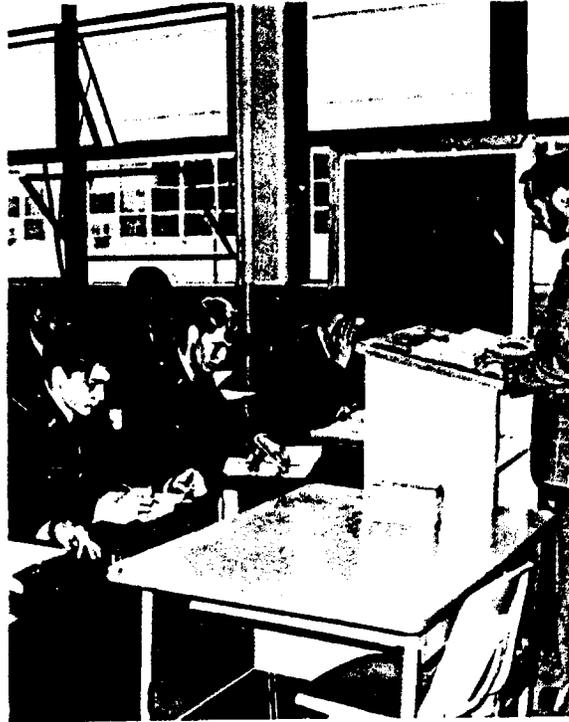


Figure 3-1. Classes are small, varying in size between 15 and 25 students.

d. The standard program in mathematics covers algebra, plane and solid geometry, plane and spherical trigonometry, and introductory work in analytic geometry and calculus. In English, a language course stresses grammar, sentence structure, usage, and rhetoric; a literature course covers reading comprehension, vocabulary development, and the basic types of literature; and a composition course features expository and argumentative writing. An advanced program is available to those students who demonstrate the ability to do work beyond that in the standard program.



Figure 3-2. USMAPS students in a mathematic class.



Figure 3-3. Group study is sometimes necessary.

3-2. Military Training

a. The Military Training Program encompasses all of the day-to-day activities of the candidates other than academic instruction, varsity athletics and extracurricular activities, and includes the military system under which the cadet candidates live. The student body is organized into a cadet candidate battalion which provides practical leadership at the battalion, company, and platoon levels. Under the supervision of the Preparatory School Commandant and his staff of officers and NCO's, students in the chain of command are responsible for the discipline, supervision, and welfare of their classmates. Students compete for the opportunity to perform in leadership positions, which are rotated periodically so that the maximum number of candidates receive leadership experience. The Military Academy motto, "Duty, Honor, Country." is emphasized through an environment in which self-discipline is further developed and enhanced in all candidates. This discipline is reinforced by the Preparatory School's code of ethics, which states that a cadet candidate will not lie, cheat, or steal. Only in an environment that fosters mutual trust and complete confidence in a classmate's written and spoken word can the education and training of future officers be successful.



Figure 3-4. Cadet candidates participate in varsity activities.

b. Cadet candidates receive a limited amount of instruction throughout the year in soldierly skills, such as military customs and courtesies, drill and ceremonies, and leadership techniques. Aside from the chain of command positions, candidates also experience leadership training through frequent inspections and counseling by USMAPS staff members. Military training is completed after graduation leave with an intensive physical conditioning program designed to prepare cadet candidates for the strenuous summer of basic cadet training at the Military Academy.



Figure 3-5. Cadet candidates receive a limited amount of instruction throughout the year in soldierly skills.



Figure 3-6. Cadet candidates experience leadership training through mentoring from USMAPS staff members.

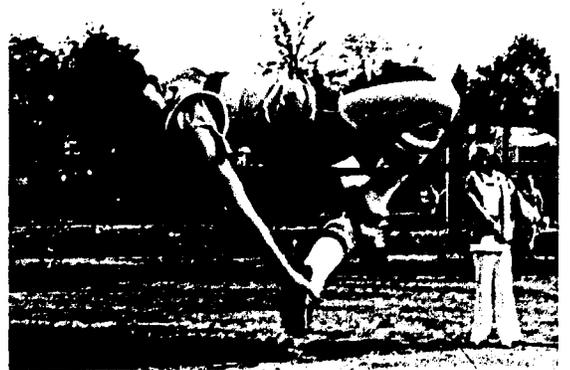


Figure 3-7. Military training is complete—including an intensive physical conditioning program.

Chapter 4 Extracurricular and Other Activities

4-1. Committees and Clubs

The candidates organize and operate various social committees and extracurricular clubs, such as the school yearbook and newspaper staffs, and the ski, rifle, Bible study, and glee clubs—to mention a few. These activities provide recreation and help the candidates develop varied interests, knowledge, and experience.

4-2. Physical Training and Athletics

a. The physical training and athletic programs at USMAPS are designed to prepare the candidate for the USMA Physical Aptitude Examination and the rigors of cadet life at the Military Academy by developing a high level of physical strength, stamina, and coordination.



Figure 4-1. Candidates may participate in a variety of varsity sports—such as lacrosse.

b. All candidates are offered the opportunity to receive the benefits of being a member of an athletic team. Candidates may participate in a variety of intramural and college freshman level varsity sports. USMAPS teams compete with local colleges, junior colleges, and preparatory schools in football, cross-country, soccer, basketball, wrestling, baseball, tennis, golf, swimming, track, and lacrosse.

c. Athletic competition is important in the physical and mental development of a cadet candidate. Every effort is made to provide facilities, equipment, and coaches.



Figure 4-2. Participants enjoy varied competitive challenges—such as soccer, golf and volleyball.

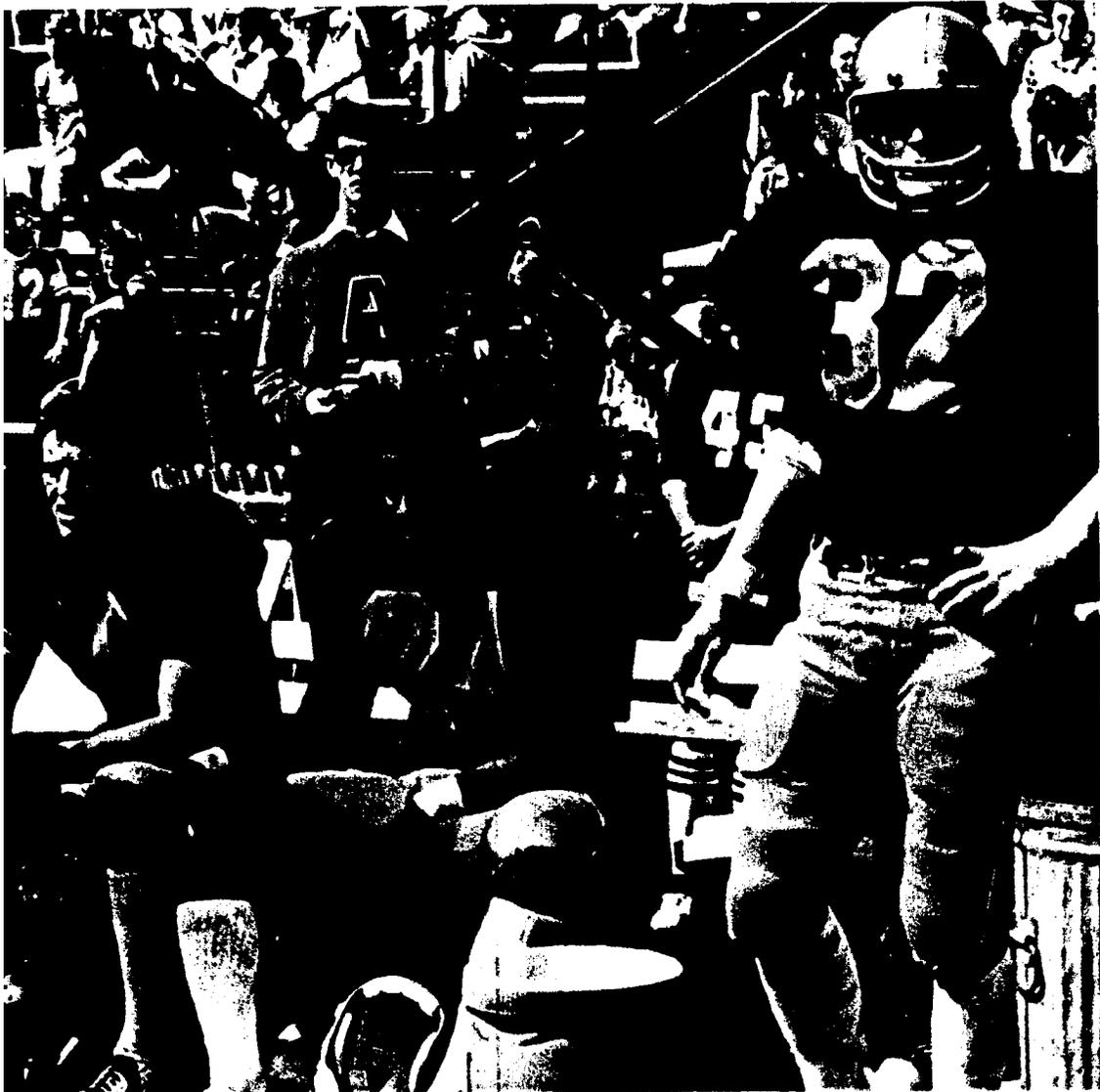
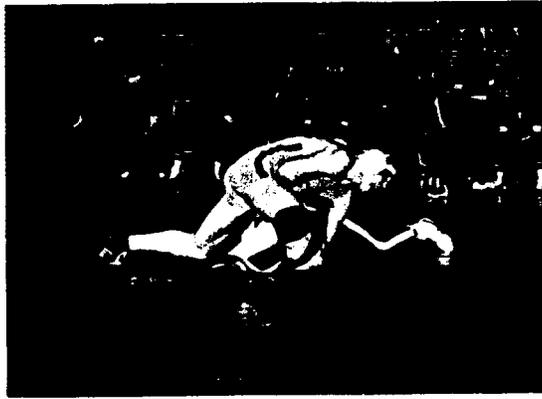


Figure 4-3. Athletic competition is important in the physical and mental development of a cadet candidate.



Figure 4-4. Spring picnic and the graduation ball are highlights during the second term.

4-3. Social Functions

Dances, picnics, and tours are conducted frequently in conjunction with local girls' schools and colleges. The little Army-Navy game, Homecoming Weekend, and Christmas dance are the highlights of social activities during the first term, as are a spring picnic and Graduation Ball during the second term. The proximity of the school to the New Jersey shore resort area and New York City provides candidates with ample opportunity for weekend recreation.

4-4. Religious Activities

Religious services are conducted regularly by chaplains of Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish faiths. A chaplain is available to the school to assist candidates with any personal or religious problems.



Figure 4-5. Dances, picnics, and tours are conducted frequently in conjunction with local girls schools and colleges.

Chapter 5 Admission Information

5-1. Eligibility Requirements

An applicant for USMAPS must be:

1. A citizen of the United States or must be able to become a citizen prior to entering the Military Academy.
2. At least 17 but not yet 21 years of age on 1 July of the year entering the Preparatory School.
3. Unmarried and have no legal obligation to support a child or children.
4. In good health and have no disqualifying physical defects. Pregnant applicants will not be admitted.
5. A high school graduate or the equivalent. High school courses should have been of a college preparatory nature. Those who graduated in the top portion of their high school class and attained good grades, especially in mathematics and English, should be able to qualify academically for admission to USMAPS.
6. Of high moral character and never have been convicted by a civilian or military court of a felony or have a history

of venereal infection, habitual intemperance, or drug or narcotic addictions.

5-2. Application

a. Regular Army Applicants: Applicants should follow the guidelines established in AR 351-12, which provide all necessary information and requirements for application. The local unit commander or West Point Candidate Advisory Officer can provide guidance and assistance to each applicant. Application files must be completed and submitted to USMAPS by 1 May in order to be considered for selection to the USMAPS class beginning in August. An application packet must include:

1. A formal letter of application.
2. A true and legible copy of the most recent Medical Examination (SF 88) and Medical History Statement (SF 93) with all items completed, and a medical officer's comments concerning any abnormalities.
3. A complete high school transcript or a copy of GED Certificate with test scores.
4. A college transcript, if available.
5. GT score.
6. ETS date.
7. Recent physical fitness (PCPT, BPFT, or APFT) score (within 1 year).
8. Results of Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) or American College Test Program Assessment Tests (ACT), if taken.
9. Verbal and mathematics scores on the School and College Ability Test (SCAT—Series II, Form 2A).
10. A recent photograph.
11. Statement of component—RA, USAR, NG, other (specify).
12. The immediate commanding officer's evaluation.



Figure 5-1. Eligibility requirements and application to USMAPS.

b. Army Reserve and National Guard Applicant: Application procedures for Reserve and National Guard soldiers on active duty are the same as those for Regular Army soldiers. Individuals not on active duty should apply by letter to the commandant, USMA Preparatory School, ATTN: Admissions, Fort Monmouth, NJ 07703, using the format shown in AR 351-12.

c. Other Applicants: Admission to USMAPS from civilian life is authorized for selected individuals who do not meet the standards for direct admission to the Military Academy. Civilians interested in joining the Reserves and attending the Preparatory School should write to the Superintendent, United States Military Academy, ATTN: MAAR, West Point, NY 10996 before 15 January of the year admission to USMAPS is desired.

5-3. Selection

Applicants who are members of the Regular Army, Army Reserve, or National Guard will be notified by the USMAPS Commandant of the status of their applications. Although this notification will be given within a few weeks after the application file is completed, selections frequently are not announced until after April of each year. Normally, applicants will be scheduled by DOD Medical Review Board for a complete US Military Academy standards medical examination (AR 40-501) prior to their attendance at examination USMAPS. Since the size of each class is limited, selection is made on a best-qualified basis in competition with all other applicants. Every effort is made to select those individuals who have the qualities and attitudes necessary to complete USMA program and who can benefit most from USMAPS program. The USMA Director of Admissions will reply to inquiries from interested civilians and will make selections from that category. No individual previously enrolled in another service Preparatory School will be selected to attend USMAPS for additional study.

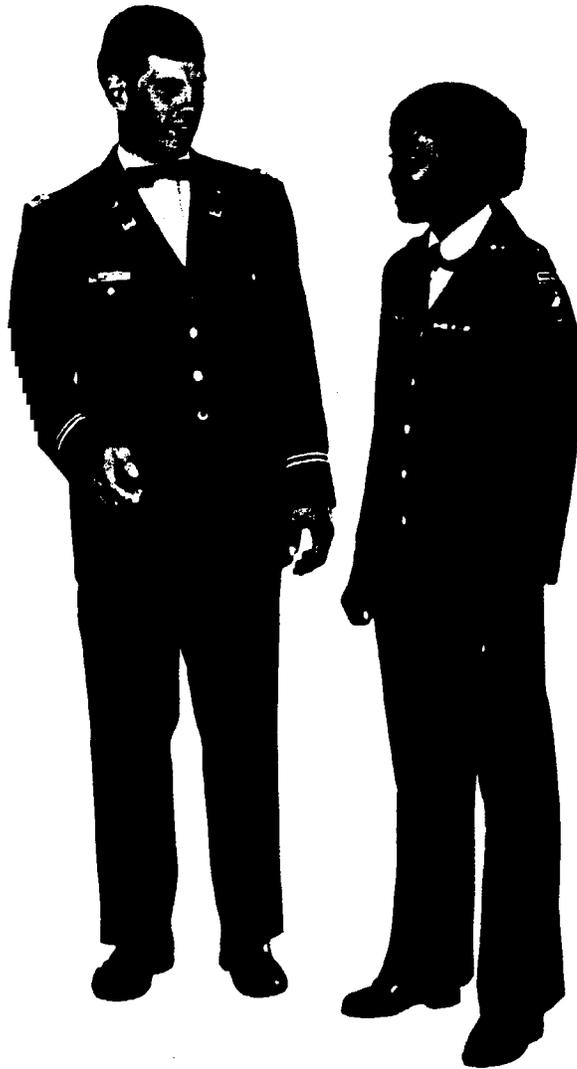


Figure 5-2. Candidates are selected on a “best qualified” basis.

Chapter 6 Assignment

6-1. Assignment Instruction

The Commandant, USMAPS, will notify soldier applicants of the decisions concerning their applications. Assignment instructions for those accepted will be issued by the Department of the Army and forwarded to the individual's organization specifying date and place to report. When a soldier receives official notification of acceptance to USMAPS, he or she will be stabilized in CONUS until reassigned to the Preparatory School. Enlisted members must have sufficient time in service remaining to assure active duty extending through 31 July of the year following enrollment at USMAPS. Should an extension be necessary to meet the requirement, it must be accomplished prior to reporting to the school. Candidates from civilian life will join the Army Reserves and be called to active duty to attend basic training immediately prior to the start of the Preparatory School's academic year.

6-2. Nominations and Appointment

The Secretary of the Army annually is allocated 85 cadetships at the Military Academy to be filled by Regular Army soldiers and 85 cadetships to be filled by Reserve Component candidates. Candidates enrolled in the Preparatory School automatically receive a nomination to compete for one of these cadetships. (A nomination is the legal authority

to consider a candidate for admission to the Military Academy.) However, Preparatory School graduates do not automatically qualify for admission to the Military Academy. Although approximately 95 percent of a graduating class is appointed to cadetships, these appointments are made by the Military Academy on a “best-qualified” basis.



Figure 6-1. New arrivals report for assignment.

6-3. Privileges and Visitors

Leaves are granted at Christmas and following graduation. Privileges may be granted over long and normal weekends, and some free time is available during the week. However, the student's weekday is tightly scheduled and those in academic or other difficulty may have certain privileges withheld so that they will have additional time to better prepare themselves. Consequently, it is recommended that friends and family not plan to visit during the week and that they check with the cadet candidate before traveling to Fort Monmouth. Students' visitors may stay in the Post Guest House or nearby motels.

6-4. Service Commitment

Students do not incur any additional service obligation as a result of attendance at USMAPS. Enlisted Reservists who

are separated from SMAPS, will be given the option of discharge from the USAR for the convenience of the Government or may request assignment to a unit vacancy if they wish to remain in the USAR.



Figure 6-2. Prep school can be a stepping stone to the Military Academy.

6-5. Typical Daily Schedule

The following table indicate the student's tight weekday schedule.

Table 6-5
Typical Daily Schedule

First Call	0545
Breakfast	0600-0715
Academics	0800-1150
Lunch	1200-1315
Academic Classes	1330-1440
Physical Training or intramurals or Varsity Sports	1530-1700
Supper	1745-1900
Study Hall	1915-2145
Lights Out	2300

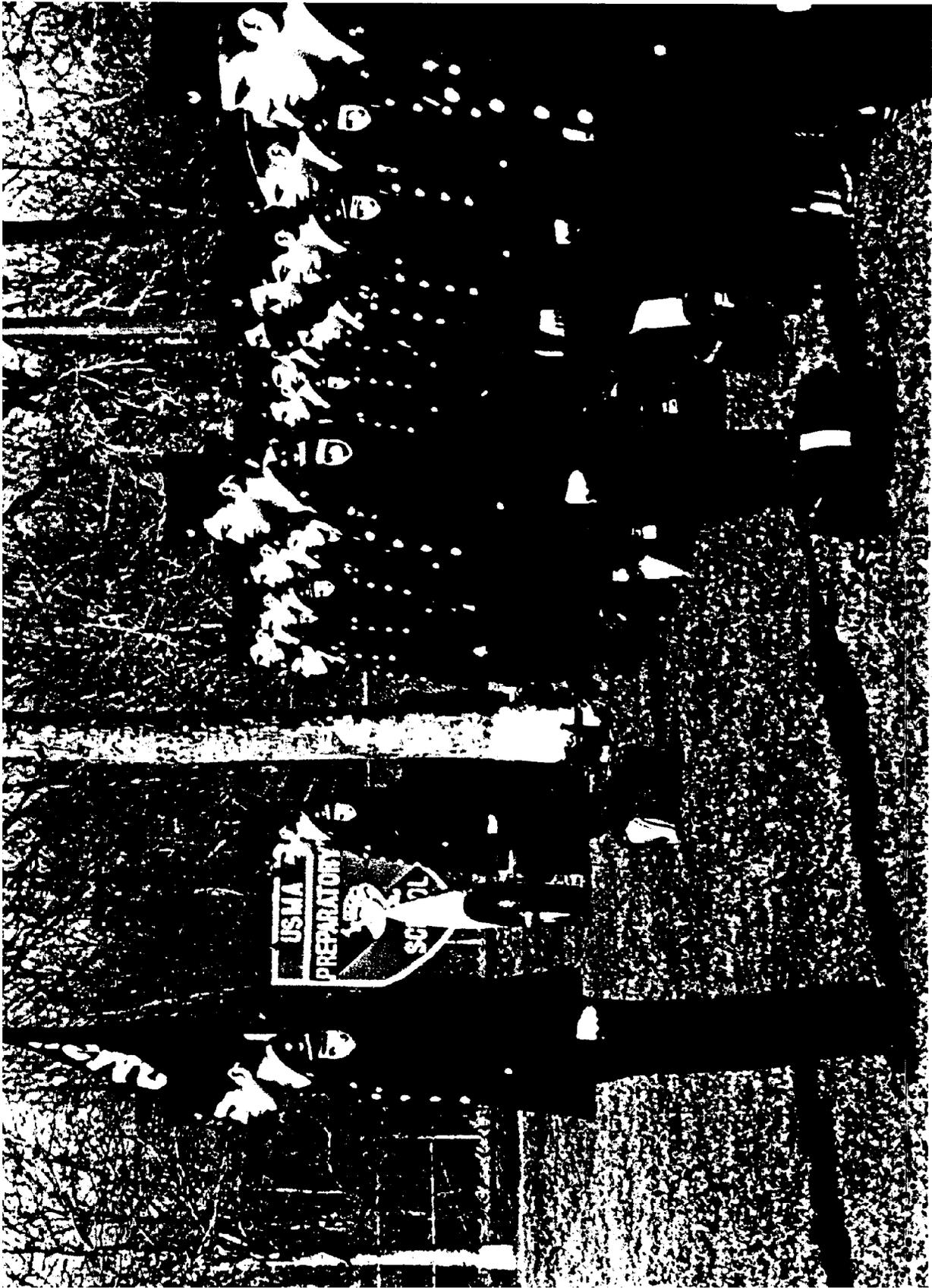


Figure 6-3. Soldierly skills are taught—military customs and courtesies, drill and ceremonies techniques.



Figure 6-4. Achievements are rewarded.

6-6. Annual Calendar

- a. August.* Students report, inprocessing and testing, medical examination, athletics, first term begins.
- b. September through December.* Academic classes, physical conditioning, sports participation, extracurricular activities, West Point visit, military training, Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.
- c. January.* First term ends, Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT's) and second term begins.
- d. February through April.* Academic classes, West Point Physical Aptitude Examination, military training, physical conditioning, sports participation, extracurricular activities, and spring recess.
- e. June.* Second term ends, graduation, leave pending entrance to USMA, or reassignment.

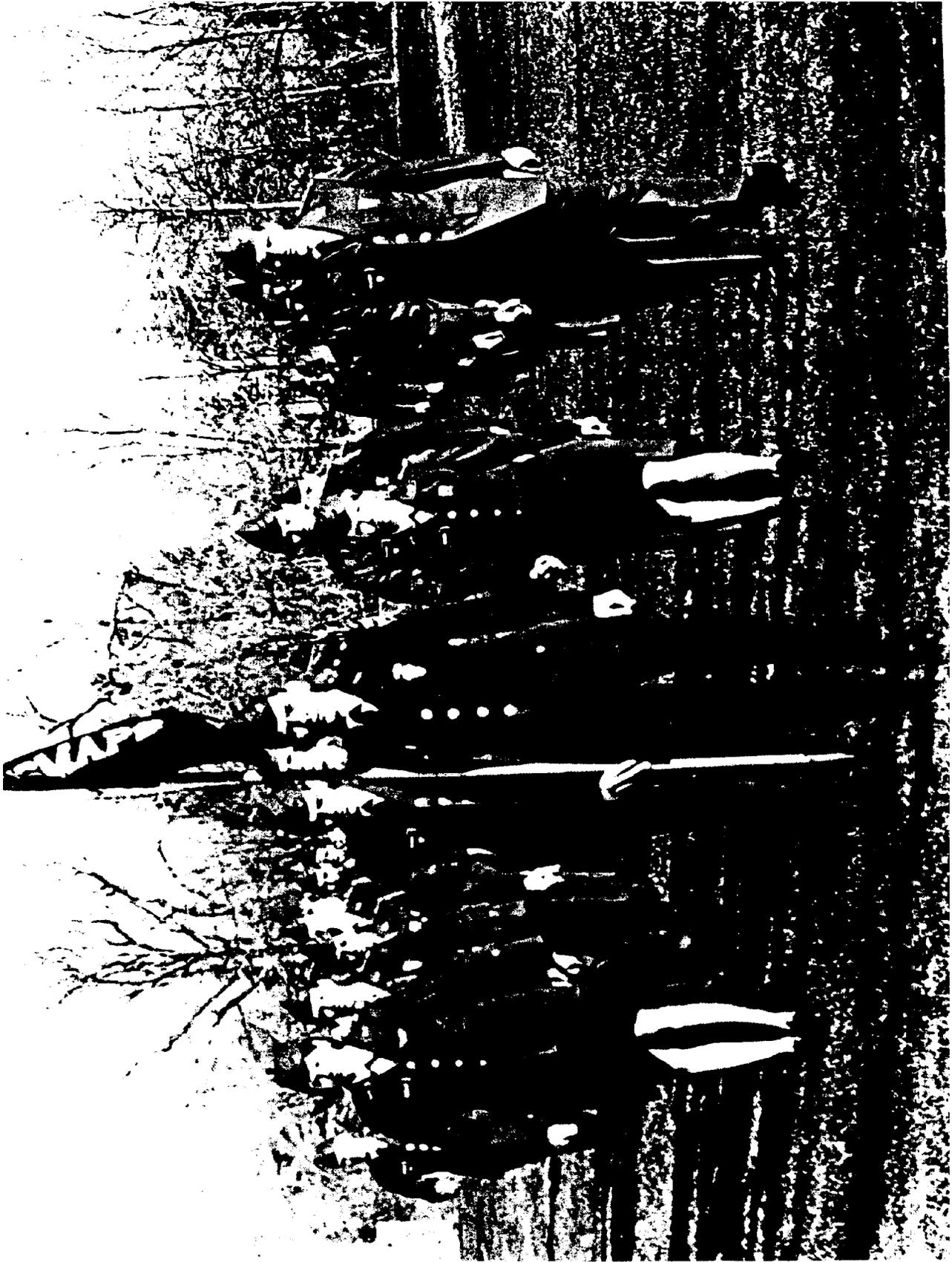


Figure 6-5. The US Military Academy Preparatory School provides a great opportunity for aspiring candidates.

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