

## **Marshallese Eligibility for U.S. Military Academies**

Section 342 of the Compact of Free Association, as Amended between the United States of America and the Republic of the Marshall Islands enables qualified Marshallese citizens to enroll in the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

### **Section 342 PUBLIC LAW 108–188—DEC. 17, 2003**

The Government of the United States shall have enrolled, at any one time, at least one qualified student from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, as may be nominated by the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, in each of:

- (a) The United States Coast Guard Academy pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 195.
- (b) The United States Merchant Marine Academy pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 1295(b)(6), provided that the provisions of 46 U.S.C. 1295b(b)(6)(C) shall not apply to the enrollment of students pursuant to section 342(b) of this Compact, as amended.

Marshallese citizens between the ages of 18 and 25 may be accepted and enrolled if they meet all the requirements and qualifications and are nominated by the RMI government and approved by the U.S. Ambassador to the RMI.

At the other three military service academies, qualified Marshallese citizens are eligible to apply for a limited number of openings each year but on a competitive basis with international applicants from other nations

Marshallese citizens are eligible to apply to military service academies if they are not also U.S. citizens either by place of birth or by naturalization. Marshallese holding U.S. citizenship can apply as U.S. citizens.

As international students, Marshallese who graduate from a U.S. service academy are expected to return to the RMI for government service. They are not commissioned as U.S. officers and are not expected to serve in the U.S. military.

The first step in learning about military academy international admissions procedures is to visit their respective websites:

**U.S. Coast Guard Academy:** <http://www.cga.edu/admissions2.aspx?id=72>

**U.S. Merchant Marine Academy:**  
<http://www.usmma.edu/admissions/facts/foreignstudents.shtml>

**USMA at West Point (Army):**  
[http://www.westpoint.edu/admissions/SitePages/Pros\\_Cadets\\_International.aspx](http://www.westpoint.edu/admissions/SitePages/Pros_Cadets_International.aspx)

**U.S. Air Force Academy:** <http://www.academyadmissions.com/admissions/advice-to-applicants/international-students>

**U.S. Naval Academy:** <http://www.usna.edu/admissions/stintl.htm>

Information concerning application procedures for foreign nationals may be requested from the U.S. Embassy in your home country.