



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

June 20, 1990

Admissions Office

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

Thank you for your letter of May 24, 1990 concerning the candidacy of Cadet Candidate Jesse Torres. General Palmer has asked me, as the Director of Admissions, to respond to your letter. The United States Military Academy Admissions Committee appreciated the enormous personal sacrifices that Cadet Candidate Torres made with his acceptance of admission to the United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS). His dedication and motivation were taken into consideration when USMA decided not to admit Cadet Candidate Torres.

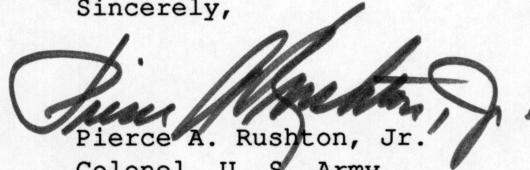
The committee did note Cadet Candidate Torres' improvement in some areas. However, his mathematics record remains substandard. His mathematics grades at United States Military Academy Preparatory School and his standardized test scores indicate that Cadet Candidate Torres would have extreme difficulty handling the demanding mathematics-oriented curriculum at West Point. Mr. Torres also failed to achieve the USMAPS Commandant's recommendation that was based on assessment of different factors including grade point average, standardized tests, and physical fitness testing. After careful consideration and multiple reviews of all factors, the Admissions Committee determined that Cadet Candidate Torres was not qualified for admission.

The following is provided in answer to some of your specific questions. There are currently 169 Hispanic cadets enrolled at United States Military Academy. We have accepted over 600 Hispanic candidates since 1979 and 380 of them have graduated. The Outreach program has two Hispanic officers on its staff of seven minority officers. The Admissions Office includes six Black officers and one Hispanic officer. The Admissions staff (who process all candidate records) include three other Black members and five Hispanic members. There are three officers currently serving on the Admissions Committee who are minority, all Black.

The United States Military Academy uses Department of the Army approved composition goals to enroll each class. The composition goals allow the Admissions Committee to give special consideration to minorities, scholars, leaders, athletes, and women in enrolling a diverse class reflecting the racial, ethnic, and gender make-up of the nation. The criteria used to evaluate all candidates is based upon long professional study and research. We are confident that our methods are valid and equitable within and across each composition group.

Thank you again for writing on behalf of this fine young man.

Sincerely,


Pierce A. Rushton, Jr.
Colonel, U. S. Army
Director of Admissions

P.S. I have also enclosed a copy of a newsletter just distributed to minority graduates and friends. We work very hard in the area of minority enrollment and feel keenly that this is one of our most important national initiatives in education.