



OFFICE, CHIEF OF
LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310-1600

May 15, 1990



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Honorable Solomon P. Ortiz
Representative in Congress
3649 Leopard, #510
Corpus Christi, Texas 78408

Dear Congressman Ortiz:

This replies to your inquiry on behalf of Cadet Candidate Jesse Torres, concerning his belief that the evaluation of his application by the United States Military Academy (USMA) was unfair or less than thorough.

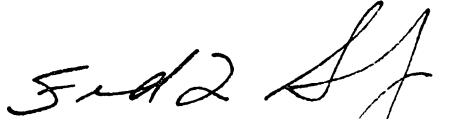
Officials at the USMA advise that the committee evaluated Mr. Torres' performance at Mary Carroll High School in Corpus Christi, Texas; Kemper Military School in Boonville, Missouri; and the United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS) at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. He showed improvement in some areas at USMAPS. However, his mathematics record remains substandard. With a poor high school record and three years of post high school work, Mr. Torres has not demonstrated that he is capable of handling the demanding academic curriculum at West Point. His military development and demonstrated leadership, while satisfactory, were judged average.

Mr. Torres also failed to achieve the Commandant's recommendation that was based on assessment of different factors including grade point average, standardized tests, and physical fitness testing. He achieved the standards for some factors and fell short in others. After careful consideration and multiple reviews of all factors, the Admissions Committee determined that Mr. Torres was not qualified for admission. Thirty-eight USMAPS cadet candidates, including sponsored athletes and minorities, were determined to be disqualified for admission this year. Beyond this evaluation, his file was reviewed several more times for equity. The criteria used to evaluate all candidates for admission to West Point have been prescribed by the Academic Board after long professional study and research. The USMA is confident that their methods are both valid and equitable within each applicant group.

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I hope you will encourage him to continue seeking a military career through Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps or another commissioning program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fred L. Serene, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fred L. Serene, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army
Congressional Coordinator



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June 4, 1990



Honorable Solomon P. Ortiz
Representative in Congress
3649 Leopard, Suite 510
Corpus Christi, Texas 78408

Dear Congressman Ortiz:

This replies to your inquiry in behalf of Mr. Jesse Joseph Torres, concerning his nonselection for attendance to the U. S. Military Academy.

In our letter of May 15, 1990, we explained the Military Academy's rationale for not selecting Mr. Torres. There is no further investigation warranted by Army officials.

Sincerely,

Fred L. Serene, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army
Congressional Coordinator