



Admission testing held for National Military Academy

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KABUL, Afghanistan — Nearly 1,400 candidates gathered at the National Military Academy of Afghanistan Oct. 29 through Nov. 1 with hope of joining the third class to attend the Academy since it's re-opening in 2001.

Of the 1,400 candidates, only 350 will be selected for the class of 2011.

The young men, ages 18 to 22 years old, spent the first day being tested on their physical fitness abilities. The evaluation consisted of a one-minute push-up test, a one-minute sit-up test and a 300 meter run – which most did in bare feet.

“The running was the hardest part of today,” said Sheer Ahman, a 22-year-old student in the Kabul University literature department. “I think these tests are worth it to get into the military academy.”

When asked if he was nervous about taking the standard placement test the next day, Ahman replied,



Photo by Senior Airman Ashley DiFalco

Prospective cadets for the National Military Academy of Afghanistan do sit-ups as part of their physical fitness examination.

“Nay, as a student I feel I am well prepared for the test. Maybe the younger Afghans are nervous though.”

The Concord exam, similar to the U.S. version of the Scholastic Apti-

tude Test, counts for 80 percent of the candidates overall assessment, the physical performance counts for the other 20 percent.

The candidates had four hours to complete 210 questions, while sitting in desks placed outside on the parade ground of the NMAA. The exam, which was under lock and key until the day of the testing, is considered the hardest entrance exam in Afghanistan.

“I have my education still fresh in my memory, which is helpful,” said Sharifullah Nabil, a 19-year-old candidate. “As a Dari speaker, the hardest questions for me were the ones on the Pashtu language.”

Others felt the physical portion of the admissions test was more difficult.

“Running was the most difficult for me,” said Omar Wardak, the son of an Afghan National Army soldier. “This was my first time trying out for the NMAA. I want to be in the military, but if I don’t get it, then I will try to continue my education at Kabul University.”

The last day of admission testing was held as a make-up day for candidates who could not show for their physical fitness test.

“Overall I think I did well,” said Nabil. “I am excited to find out if I made it.”

Candidates will be notified in December if they were selected for admission, and will start field training in January. 



Photo by Navy Lt. J.G. Joe Nicolas

Candidates applying for the NMAA verify their personal information and receive identification cards for the Academy’s physical and educational application process Oct. 29 through Nov. 1.