

# It could be YOU

*The true story of how Affirmative Action policies are destroying the dreams of a real, 2nd-year Tech student*

Since 7th grade I have had an overwhelming desire to serve in the U.S. Military as a pilot. I also have a passion for Search and Rescue and volunteered in US Air Force Auxiliary/Civil Air Patrol from my freshman to senior year in High School. This volunteer search and rescue organization lead me to decide to pursue a flight career in the US Coast Guard.

My application process for the officer programs was supposed to begin this year. The requirement was that I have an engineering related degree, a Private Pilot License(or higher), and attend a college with higher than 25% minority enrollment. As of September 4th of this year, I had all of the requirements (and was \$4500 poorer, having gotten my pilot's license). I went in to my recruiter with all of the paperwork filled out to apply for the officer program in which I was interested, the College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative. However, my recruiter informed me that as of this year, the Coast Guard was only accepting students who attended Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges for the program.

This is a blatant violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, in that it discriminates based on race and ethnic background in a Federal Program. All I want to do is serve my country, and I am currently being excluded from doing so due to my choice of institution. My recruiter informed me that I could "switch to an HBCU like Albany State". However, I do not believe it is

reasonable for the Coast Guard to demand a degradation in education simply so I can serve. Not to mention the fact that GT is the number one college in the country and arguably the world for my major, and Albany State is in the bottom 250 colleges in the nation. It doesn't make any sense...

I know that if I were drowning, I would not care about the color of the skin of the pilot who was coming to my rescue. Furthermore, I would want the best pilot the Coast Guard could get, not just the best minority pilot they could recruit. This is not the dream Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had of a nation that judges by the content of one's character rather than the color of one's skin. This is a sign of the times, and a scary truth.

**“I have a dream, that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character”**  
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

## What We Believe

- “All men were created equal” ~ Declaration of Independence
- Affirmative Action is discriminatory and unequal towards *minorities*
- While racism still exists today, it does so on an individual -- not systemic -- level; Affirmative Action, therefore, is no longer applicable
- **President Obama is a shining and powerful example against the need for Affirmative Action**
- Affirmative Action degrades the wonderful diversity of race and gender into simple statistics and quotas
- Saying that some groups need special race- or gender-based assistance implies that they aren't capable of achieving success by their own merits; the intrinsic equality of all human beings, therefore, negates the central argument for Affirmative Action

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