



## DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

THE DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONAUTICS

USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO



30 July 2012

### MEMORANDUM FOR AIR FORCE RECORDS REVIEW PANEL

FROM: MARTIN E.B. FRANCE, Colonel, USAF  
HQ USAFA/DFAS  
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1. I am currently serving as an active duty Air Force officer with over 31 years of commissioned service, as the Permanent Professor and Head of the Department of Astronautics at the United States Air Force Academy.
2. Adam DeRito was a student of mine in Astronautics 310 (Introduction to Astronautics) during the Spring Semester of 2010. During that time, I saw Adam almost daily, from January through May.
3. Throughout the semester, Adam impressed me with his professionalism, work ethic, and desire to pass Astro 310 on the way to earning a commission in the United States Marine Corps. He sat in the front row, actively participated in class, and had a very positive attitude about the course.
4. Adam told me on many occasions how much he wants to serve in the Marine Corps. As the father of a Marine who served on the Presidential Security Detail and as an infantryman, I know the kind of commitment such service entails. Talking with Adam, I'm convinced he'd be a great Marine officer. He's physically fit, serious, understands the importance of hard work and discipline, and, in my humble opinion, has what it takes to lead Marines into battle. He is driven to accomplish the mission. He accomplished a very challenging mission by passing Astro 310 while facing the very difficult personal challenge of disenrollment from the USAF Academy. That he maintained his focus and completed all of his assignments during that period speaks very well of him.
5. Since leaving the Air Force Academy, I've stayed in touch with Adam and been extremely impressed with his continued commitment to improve himself and reach his goal of serving as a Marine Corps officer. He's stayed fit, contributed to his community, and continued his education. While I recognize that he made mistakes a few years ago—and he readily admits those mistakes—he's learned from them, become an even better citizen, and is now even more prepared to lead Marines. .
6. I am completely convinced that Adam C. DeRito will be an asset to our Armed Forces and leader upon whom our Marines fighting in current conflicts can depend.

MARTIN E.B. FRANCE, Col, USAF  
Permanent Professor and Head