

**S/SGT James M. Ray SCHOLARSHIP**  
**AWARDS APPLICATION**  
**ESSAY TOPICS**

Please write an essay in response to **one** of the questions below. The essay must be at least 250 words. Please list any references used. **NOTE:** all applicants must include their thoughts on the “LASTLY”

- 1) In 1973, President Nixon abolished the military draft. Taking into consideration the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> and our nation’s commitment to the war on terrorism, and the fact that less than 1% of the population currently serves in the all volunteer military and are experiencing multiple deployments:
  - a. Should the U.S. reinstate the draft?
  - b. If the draft were to be reinstated, should it include both males and females? (Explain your position)
  - c. Discuss what your viewpoint would be on a National 2yr non-military service commitment for all.
  
- 2) Compare the post war treatment (social and medical) that the Vietnam Veterans received versus the current Iraq/Afghanistan veterans’ treatment:
  - a. Cite specific historical or news related references.
  - b. Explain why, if any, these differences exist and what you feel should be done.
  
- 3) Agent Orange was one of a class of color-coded herbicides that the U.S. forces sprayed over the rural landscape in Vietnam from 1961 to 1971 to defoliate trees and shrubs and kill food crops that were providing cover and food to opposition forces. The actual herbicides degraded in days or weeks, but the included chemical dioxin did not. This chemical is responsible for significant health issue both to the Vietnamese people still exposed, and the Vietnam veterans that were exposed during their deployments and now confirmed in their offspring.

Today’s veterans returning from the middle-east have a history of exposure to unknown chemicals and poisons due to the oppositions known use of chemical warfare against their own people. And our own resulting exposure caused by the use of ‘burn pits’ to destroy these chemical supplies and weapons.

  - a. Considering the health problems affecting all our veterans, distinguish the present care being given to both Vietnam era and post 9/11 veterans.
  - b. Provide insights as to whether the Government is taking proper care of our veterans considering their exposures to poisons as part of their military responsibilities

LASTLY ... (required minimum, 25 words) from ALL applicants  
Describe what the ‘Pledge of Allegiance’ means to you.