

West Point

SPRING 2015



In This Issue:
West Point 24/7

A Publication of the West Point
Association of Graduates



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West Point

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The mission of *West Point* magazine is to tell the West Point story and strengthen the grip of the Long Gray Line.

PUBLISHER

West Point Association of Graduates
Robert L. McClure '76, President & CEO

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Kim McDermott '87
editor@wpaog.org

EDITORIAL ADVISORY GROUP

Elizabeth A. Barrett
Jim Johnston '73
Samantha Soper

ADVERTISING

Lindsey Meyer
845.446.1577
ads@wpaog.org

ADDRESS UPDATES

Tammy Flint
West Point Association of Graduates
698 Mills Road, West Point, NY 10996-1607
845.446.1642
address@wpaog.org

MEMORIAL ARTICLE MANAGER

Marilee Meyer
845.446.1545
memorials@wpaog.org

CONTENT

Anthony DiNoto
Keith Hamel
Kim McDermott '87

DESIGN

Marguerite Smith

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ON THE COVER

The Hellcats play as cadets march into Washington Hall.

LETTERS

Dear Fellow Graduates:

This spring more than 50,000 living graduates commemorated the 213th anniversary of President Thomas Jefferson signing legislation that created the U.S. Military Academy at West Point on March 16, 1802. Founders Day celebrations will occur across the country and around the world, in venues ranging from country clubs and city restaurants to dining facilities and outposts in remote deployed locations, wherever graduates are serving our Nation. The USMA leader team, members of WPAOG's Board of Directors, senior staff and I fanned out to be with many of you and to make manifest what I call "The Grip" of being a member of the Long Gray Line. It was fantastic to see so many enthusiastic grads, parents and candidates and to share your celebrations.

It is this special bond, "The Grip" of shared experiences as West Point cadets and later as officers in service to the Nation, that sparked the idea of an alumni association in 1869. On May 22 of that year the Association of Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy was formed, later to be called the West Point Association of Graduates. This year WPAOG will celebrate its 146th anniversary as an organization dedicated to serving the Military Academy and fellow graduates, and your staff at Herbert Hall looks forward to continuing that legacy of service well into the future.

Today there are many more ways for graduates to serve West Point and each other than there were in the 1800s. One of the best ways is to volunteer to become a leader on the Board of Directors or Advisory Council. Another is to nominate worthy candidates for WPAOG's highest awards: the Thayer Award and the Distinguished Graduate Award.

In order for someone to be named a Distinguished Graduate, nominations must come from graduated classes or local societies only and should be received at WPAOG by November 3 each year. A selection committee chooses five graduates whose character, distinguished service and stature draw wholesome comparison to the qualities for which West Point strives, in keeping with its motto: "Duty, Honor, Country," and WPAOG's Chairman presents each with the Distinguished Graduate Award the following May at a luncheon in the Cadet Mess during the spring reunions. (In a rare exception to policy, the committee selected six recipients this year. You can read their biographies on page 48.) I'm asking each society and all class leaders to make it tough on this committee in its deliberations by nominating the best among us for consideration.

Established in 1958, the Thayer Award has been presented annually by WPAOG to a citizen of the United States, other than a West Point graduate, whose outstanding character, accomplishments and stature in the civilian community draw wholesome comparison to the qualities for which West Point strives, in keeping with its motto: "Duty, Honor, Country." Nominations for this award may come from any graduate, class or West Point Society. The deadline for nominations is the same as that for the Distinguished Graduate Award: November 3.

Finally, I urge every grad with any passion for West Point and the Long Gray Line to consider becoming a member of our Board of Directors or Advisory Council. Both of these governing bodies, from which all committees are named, do so much for both the Academy and its graduates. Information about the selection process is posted on our website under the "Connections/Volunteer Opportunities" heading. I am also available should you have questions.

West Point, for Thee!

Robert L. McClure '76
Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)
President & CEO, WPAOG





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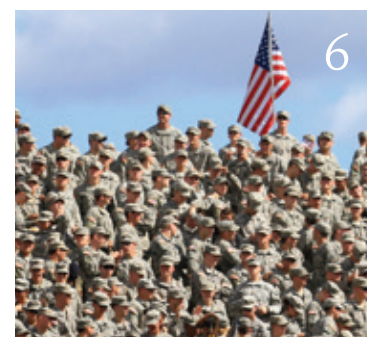
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Watch the Army Sailing Team in action!



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From Your West Point
Association of Graduates

Send your thoughts about *West Point* magazine to editor@wpaog.org or @WPAOG on Twitter. View the online version of this magazine at WestPointAOG.org/wpmag

Starting from the moment they enter West Point, cadets begin the transformation toward West Point and Army values.



Since members of the profession of arms work 24 hours a day, seven days a week (24/7), it is imperative they live private lives that are not separate from their public lives. Said another way, can a leader, leading America's sons and daughters in the harshest of conditions and with the trust and confidence of the American people on the line, have a value set in

their private lives that is contrary or different from the values they live in their public lives?

The obvious answer is "no." Living a private life with values contrary to the values of our institution breaks the trust leaders have with subordinates and ultimately with the American people. Once broken, that breach of trust is unforgiving and very difficult, if not impossible to repair. On the contrary, when trust exists between leaders and the men and women they're leading, it forms the basis of strength which you'll find in the strongest of organizations and units.

This makes the case why the development of one's character is one of the most important things we do here at West Point. Leader development at West Point focuses on the growth of our cadets' intellect, military competence, physical advancement and character. We have academic, military and physical programs that enable this development, but (other than our Honor Code) we did not have a systematic character development strategy—until now.

Our new character development strategy, *Live Honorably and Build Trust*, is a critical component of West Point's mission. This strategy provides a common framework that inspires, empowers and holds everyone accountable for their individual actions and of those in their charge. It applies not only to the Corps of Cadets, but to the USMA Staff and Faculty and all of us who interact with and serve as role models for cadets throughout their 47-month developmental experience.

One of my top priorities is to "Live Honorably." Over the last 13 years, many commanders down range have struggled with soldier misconduct, ranging from hostile command climates to sexual assaults, to lying, cheating and stealing. It was even more disappointing and disruptive when these offenses occurred with our senior leaders because of the mistrust it created and the disruption of good order and discipline within their organizations it caused. Living honorably is the internalization of the values of Duty, Honor, Country as well

as the Army's values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. When we have internalized these values, they become part of our very essence, so that when faced with a potential compromising situation, we don't even have to think about what is right or wrong. Rather our natural reaction, which is the manifestation of what our character really looks like, is one of honor and integrity.

The development of this ethos does not happen overnight. When cadets enter West Point, they enter with their own set of values shaped by their family, friends, communities and experiences, and these values may or may not be aligned with Duty, Honor, Country. Starting from the moment they enter West Point, cadets begin the transformation toward West Point and Army values, first through education taught by our cadet cadre and by staff and faculty as role models, and then through internalizing our values. But teaching only informs them of what is right and wrong. Through reflection and introspection, principally through open and honest dialogue using peer-led small group forums, cadets aspire to live according to the Army's ethic, which is a set of principles that inspires them to internalize the values of Duty, Honor, Country as well as our Army's values. It is this internalization that inspires them toward honorable living.

Our character development strategy is considered by some as the most important document we will publish during my tenure as Superintendent. By design, it will provide the ways and means to enable this value set transition and to live honorably. Recently, I charged all of the Department Heads and Directors to highlight the concepts of honorable living and building trust in their departments and to incorporate these concepts into their classroom discussions and in their own Staff and Faculty professional development programs.

I encourage all of you to read the West Point Character Development Strategy on our website. Whether you realize it or not, and whether you are still in uniform or not, you continue to serve as role models for our cadets. You provide an inspirational example by continuing to honorably serve your communities, and you continue to invest time in the hard work of shaping your fellow colleagues' and their families' character, and by so doing, you continue to uphold the values of our Academy and the Army. Yours are the shoulders on which today's cadets now stand. Thank you for investing in the future of West Point and the Army by joining me in this effort.

Go Army! Beat Navy!

Robert L. Caslen Jr. '75
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
59th Superintendent, U.S. Military Academy

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West Point: 24/7

West Point Never Stops

By Keith J. Hamel, WPAOG staff



Readers might have reached the final page of last quarter's issue of *West Point* magazine pondering the following question: among the striking stone structures, beautiful buildings, stately statues and patriotic points of interest, where the heck are all the people at West Point?

It's true, the 2015 winter issue, themed "West Point: The Landmark," seems to portray the United States Military Academy at West Point as a picture-perfect landmark existing first and foremost for tourists. But the roughly 9,500 Soldiers, family members, civilians and cadets who live here, work here, train here and study here know differently. West Point is in perpetual motion with dozens, if not hundreds, of things happening every hour of every day. Whether it is cadets running on post before breakfast, mid-morning work crews leaf blowing parts of West Point's Cantonment area, West Point Middle School students playing air hockey after school at the Teen Center, or Army fans packing Christl Arena for an evening basketball game, West Point never stops.

This issue of *West Point* magazine, themed "West Point 24/7," examines daily life at the world's premier leader development institution from various viewpoints. The first article, for example, delves into the workings of the U.S. Army Garrison West Point, the oldest continuously operating Army post in the United States. Colonel Landy Dunham '93, the Garrison Commander, explains how the Garrison's 17 organizations and agencies work tirelessly around the clock to ensure that West Point is 100 percent safe, secure and operational at all times. "In the winter issue article, 'The Post in the Postcard'—it's the West Point Garrison that makes all that possible," Dunham says. Other articles in this issue detail specific parts of the Garrison. Check out the article on West Point schools, which for nearly 200 years have been educating the children of Soldiers stationed at West Point. Another article highlights the work of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, which provides numerous services and programs to the West Point community, everything from dog parks to Soldier family readiness. Two more articles concerning partner agencies round out the Garrison's role in West Point's 24/7 existence: one on the Keller Army Community Hospital (under the U.S. Army Medical Department) and one on the West Point Commissary (part of the Defense Commissary Agency).

Looking at the Academy in light of this theme, this issue details the battle rhythm of barracks life, particularly as it relates to cadet laundry, the Central Guard Room and daily formation. It also covers the USMA Library and looks at the way it organizes its operations according to the cadet schedule. Finally, as it relates to the academics and the Academy, this issue examines the increasing role that research plays in a cadet's daily life and previews Projects Day 2015, USMA's annual showcase of cadet research.

The issue wraps up its look into West Point's 24/7 routine with a series of articles related to the various visitors West Point welcomes each day. For example, one article details the way West Point's Public Affairs Office offers assistance to media outlets who come on post to report on Academy events. Another lists the various dignitaries who

have visited West Point recently. Lastly, a third article highlights the West Point Association of Graduates' Dettre Memorial Assistance Program, which serves friends and family members who come to West Point to pay their final respects as a graduate is laid to rest at the West Point Cemetery.

In between the articles previewed above, this issue features five "timeline" pages. These pages suggest events that potentially could be happening at West Point during that time period. The timelines don't follow a single day, but offer events that normally could take place during any day at West Point. This brings the concepts of annual events and seasons into play. As anyone who spent a year at West Point would testify, time here is definitely cyclical or seasonal: summer training, Ring Weekend, football and reunion season, Gloom Period, Founders Day, graduation week, etc. Through this combination of daily and seasonal events, West Point habitually instills its values and its way of life into all who call this place their school, their employer, their home or their alma mater (much like daily oral recitations back in the day or the ever-present drill taught academic and military lessons). "Even after all these years, I still fold my underwear according to the USMA standard," says Colonel (Retired) Bob McClure '76, President and CEO of the West Point Associations of Graduates. But it's more than just putting one's drawers in drawers: day in and day out, year after year, West Point's routine inspires Duty, Honor, Country so that this cherished motto becomes part of one's daily existence, just as much as the buildings, monuments and statues are a part of West Point, the landmark. And it has been doing this 24/7 for 213 years and counting!

It is now 00:01. A new day at West Point begins. ★



West Point: 24/7

MORNING



- 5:00am** New Barracks construction crew arrives
- 6:00am** Hellcat Reveille
- 9:25am** Band starts rehearsal for upcoming concert
- 10:00am** WPAOG Gift Shop opens for business



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West Point Garrison: Supporting “Educate, Train, Inspire” 24/7

Day or night, academic year or summer training, there is always activity surrounding the 17 organizations and agencies of the West Point Garrison, the oldest continually occupied post in the U.S. Army.



COL Landy Dunham '93 is Garrison Commander of West Point.



Previous page and above, left to right: Some of the many responsibilities of the agencies and organizations of the Garrison Command include Summer training, construction projects, police, fire, ambulance and security services and running the yearly USMA graduation ceremony.

“Rather than list all the activities here with which the West Point Garrison is involved, it is probably easier to list what we are not involved with,” says Colonel Landy Dunham ’93, Garrison Commander. “The only thing we don’t do is academics, but we are responsible for keeping the academic buildings clean, safe and working.” Dunham’s latter point is, in fact, one of the many tasks of the Directorate of Public Works (DPW), which provides services and support to just about every organization, building and individual at West Point (i.e., power, water, heat, snow removal, roads and grounds maintenance, etc.). “When it comes to West Point 24/7, nothing fits that description better than DPW,” he says. Other Garrison agencies that fit this category are the Residential Community Initiative, which does work similar to DPW for West Point’s 800-plus housing units; the Directorate of Emergency Services, which provides world class police, fire, and security service to West Point; and, of course, the Garrison Headquarters. “After being in this position for five months now and having to make my share of 4:00am weather calls, I certainly know that Headquarters is 24/7,” quips Dunham. As Garrison Commander, Dunham wears multiple uniforms, serving as the de facto mayor and city manager for West Point. While wearing his Dress Blues, Dunham acts as the face of the post, appearing at the various ceremonies held constantly at West Point (e.g. promotion, retirement, award, seasonal or holiday, etc.) and meeting with the local, state and national public figures who visit the post. As a city manager in his ACUs, Dunham holds meetings, gives briefings, conducts inspections and manages the nearly \$84 million operating budget of West Point, and he oversees the roughly \$500 million in construction projects presently underway on post. Furthermore, with some 1,300 personnel working under him, one of Dunham’s most challenging managerial tasks is negotiating the present Army-wide drawdown. “I need to ensure that the Garrison is always doing things smartly and approaching cuts in a way that minimizes any impact on our overall mission,” he says. To truly appreciate the role of the Garrison, consider one of West Point’s most visible events—graduation. “The Garrison runs graduation,” Dunham says. “We build the stages, engineer the sound system,

manage traffic flow, coordinate security, staff emergency posts and more.” The Garrison is also heavily involved with summer training. One of its agencies, the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, is responsible for the 15,000 acres of land used during summer training, including the live ranges. “This is just one of the many ways the Garrison supports the Academy’s mission to educate, train and inspire the Corps of Cadets,” says Dunham. The Garrison is even involved across the Hudson River with the Constitution Island Association, having recently signed a memorandum of understanding with this organization to improve access to the island and to restore the historic Warner House. Quoting Dunham: “Basically, anything having to do with West Point involves the Garrison.” ★



Garrison Headquarters functions 24/7 to keep West Point running smoothly.

West Point: 24/7

BARRACKS



Battle Rhythms of Barracks Life

The life of a cadet is a hectic one. Academics, athletics, military instruction, duties, cadet clubs and individual social interests pull members of the Corps of Cadets (USCC) in hundreds of different directions. Despite these many paths, each cadet at West Point is well versed in the 24/7 battle rhythm that comes from living in barracks. This rhythm includes knowing the details of laundry service, understanding the workings of the Central Guard Room and performing personal accountability before formation.

In the chain of command, USCC Standing Operating Procedure deems Cadet Supply Officers, Company Supply Sergeants and Squad Leaders responsible for laundry operations; however, ultimate responsibility for laundry rests with the individual cadet. To ensure smooth laundry operations, each cadet must discreetly mark his or her clothing with indelible ink, properly fill out his or her laundry slip, and place his or her individual laundry items in the appropriately colored and sized mesh laundry bag

(four bag options per cadet). The cadets then must properly secure their bags and leave items to be washed at their regiment's designated pickup point no later than 7:15am on the scheduled pick up days. Laundry is returned to the regiment two days later, and plebes pick it up and distribute it to members of their company. "If no one is in the room to receive it, plebes just throw it in," says Cadet Sam Speer '16. While storing their freshly washed clothes in the proper places, cadets are responsible for inspecting their laundry for lost or damaged property and promptly reporting such items to their laundry call offices.

When it comes to barracks life, nothing is more 24/7 than the Central Guard Room (CGR), the tactical operation center for USCC. Located on the first floor of Eisenhower Barracks, the CGR is the heart of the Cadet Guard and serves as a repository for all that is happening within USCC on a given day. The CGR is staffed by a First Class Senior Officer of the Day (SOD), a First Class Junior Officer of the Day (JOD), a First Class Officer of

the Guard, a Second Class Sergeant of the Guard, a Second Class Assistant Sergeant of the Guard and a Second Class Duty Driver. In this unit, the SOD sets the example and is responsible for all duties required in the unit's 24-hour tour of duty. The SOD reports to the CGR at 6:30am and receives a changeover brief from the outgoing SOD before starting his or her duty day at 7:00am. During the day, the SOD briefs the mission for yearlings who are doing guard shift. The SOD also comprehensively records and reports incidents that occur during his or her tour of duty to the proper authorities or agencies. At 7:00pm, the JOD reports to the CGR and takes over duties for the SOD, although the SOD remains on an immediate recall status within the cadet area and maintains communication with the CGR at all times. After the SOD and JOD, the Officer of the Guard (OG) is the third-ranking member of the Cadet Guard. Among other duties, the OG monitors weather conditions and assists USCC Brigade Staff with making appropriate uniform announcements. Looking at the senior noncommissioned officers in the CGR, the Sergeant of the Guard (SOG) and the Assistant Sergeant of the Guard (A/SOG) perform much of the "heavy lifting." The SOG (during day hours) and A/SOG (during night hours) monitor telephones, receive and sort packages, track trip section departures and arrivals, make announcements over the public address system and more. Finally, the Duty Driver's primary mission is to transport cadets to and from Keller Army Community Hospital in non-emergency situations when bus transportation is unavailable. Executing their

duties and responsibilities in a professional manner and with attention to detail, all members of the CGR play a vital role in keeping the Corps informed and on task at all times.

While the CGR fosters general accountability among members of USCC, it is the duty of each individual cadet to meet certain personal standards. One way they learn to do this is through daily formation at 6:50am. "Attending formation should make every cadet feel that he or she is personally accountable with some degree of responsibility every day," says Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Ruth, 1st Regiment Tactical Officer. "If you have to check yourself every day to make sure that you are squared away—have the proper uniform and are wearing it correctly, that your hair is right, that your buckle is shining, that your shoes are polished, etc.—and if upperclassmen have to inspect their subordinates to make sure they are squared away, you realize that the concept of formation teaches accountability, responsibility and, ultimately, leadership in a daily, rhythmic way." Ruth sees formation as USCC's way of getting to a commitment to excellence. Once cadets begin to do this on a regular basis, it becomes ingrained in them, and Ruth believes that a continuous commitment to excellence is what is needed to sustain a winning culture. He says, "By internalizing this, cadets will make a difference in the lives of hundreds and thousands of Soldiers once they take up their leadership role in the Army, and best represent the Academy as a member of the Long Gray Line after graduation." The battle rhythm of barracks life marches on. ★



Previous Page: Cadets released from lunch formation head to the Mess Hall. **Above:** Cadets in the Central Guard Room enjoy a light moment during a package delivery.

West Point: 24/7

MEMORIALS



“Be Thou at Peace” WPAOG Memorial Support

Each year, thousands of friends and family members come to West Point to pay their final respects as a graduate is laid to rest at the West Point Cemetery. Since 2013, more than half of the funerals at West Point have been supported by WPAOG’s MG Rexford H. Dettre, Jr. Memorial Service Assistance Program. The program was established by Mrs. Betty Dettre in memory of her late husband, Class of 1943 January. In 2014 Shelisa Baskerville, WPAOG’s Memorial Support Coordinator (pictured above left), assisted 90 percent of the families holding memorial services at West Point. This included those for Ambassador John Sheldon Eisenhower ’44, former WPAOG President Colonel Seth Hudgins ’64 (Retired) and Captain Jason Jones ’07, who was killed in action while serving in Afghanistan. The many aspects of WPAOG’s memorial support include planning itineraries, coordinating lodging, arranging receptions, ordering floral arrangements,

supplying information regarding musical and visual services, and communicating West Point Cemetery details with family members and classmates as needed. Dozens of loved ones have contacted Baskerville weeks after the service to thank her for making a difficult time as peaceful as possible. “The support you gave our family took so much off our minds and let us concentrate on saying goodbye at the service” says Scott Peters, son of Colonel John Peters ’58 (Retired). “WPAOG was such an integral part of honoring [our father] as he took his eternal place in the Long Gray Line.” Phil Keuhlen, son-in-law to Colonel Clyde Snodgrass ’52 (Retired), remarks that WPAOG shepherded his family through the entire arrangements process and finally through the ceremony. “They truly made our family members feel like they were bringing home a brother to his extended family.” ★

“WPAOG was such an integral part of honoring [our father] as he took his eternal place in the Long Gray Line.”

—Scott Peters, son of LTC John Peters ’58

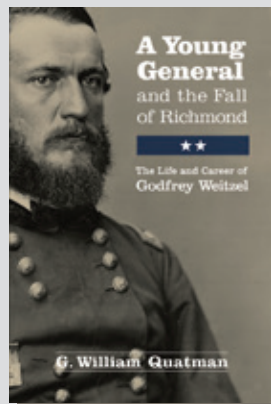
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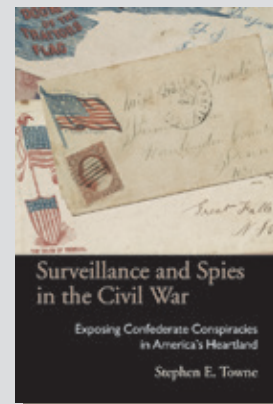


A Young General and the Fall of Richmond

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By G. William Quatman

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and dedication.*



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The Academy's Day Schools

“Education is valued, supported and modeled daily in this community.”

—David Rudy, WPMS Principal

For nearly two hundred years, the United States Military Academy at West Point has shared its post with two other schools: the West Point Elementary School (WPES) and the West Point Middle Schools (WPMS). Both schools trace their roots to the early 19th century, when Congress authorized them to serve the children of USMA personnel. Over time, they have grown to include the children of all military and civilian personnel (professors, coaches, etc.) living on post, whose primary responsibility is to work with the cadets attending USMA. Together, WPES and WPMS are the oldest continually run schools in the Department of Defense Educational Activity (DoDEA) program.

Today, approximately 730 students, grades pre-K through 8, attend these schools. At WPES students learn the traditional reading, writing and mathematics, as well as social studies, science, foreign language and health and physical education. WPMS offers a similar curriculum but also offers electives in music, visual arts, journalism and applied technology. "Our LEGO Mindstorms robotics program is very popular," says David Rudy, WPMS Principal. Test scores show that WPES and WPMS students are learning their lessons well. WPMS consistently ranks as the highest-performing DoDEA middle school on the annual TerraNova Multiple Assessment tests, and the school is a two-time recipient of the U.S. Department of Education's "National Blue Ribbon of Excellence" (1998 and 2011)—"One of just 33 middle schools in the Nation to be so honored in 2011," says Rudy.



There are several reasons for the students' cumulative success. The schools employ roughly 90 teachers and paraprofessionals who bring a caring and compassionate approach to the classroom. At WPES, more than half of the faculty have master's degrees and three hold a doctorate in education. WPMS also regularly invites USMA cadets and professors to its classrooms. For example, members of USMA's Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Program share their knowledge with WPMS students in the robotics program. Strong partnerships with the West Point community also factor into student performance. West Point's Child, Youth & School Service, for example, provides logistical support for WPMS athletics and intramural programs. Members of the USMA Band also work with students in instrument groups and volunteer their time at WPMS' band retreat at Lake Frederick, helping the budding musicians compose and practice a musical piece that will be performed at the school's spring concert. Yet West Point residents themselves are perhaps the most important reason for student success at WPES and WPMS. "Our schools serve a very intelligent population," says Rudy. "Education is valued, supported and modeled daily in this community." The high daily attendance rate at WPES is a testament to the support given to the schools from parents in the West Point community. With all these factors contributing to their success, is it any wonder that hundreds of WPES and WPMS alumni have gone on to become cadets at USMA? ★



POP OFF!



The WPAOG Class Ring Memorial Program links members of the Long Gray Line in a tangible and meaningful way. Each year since 2001, gold from donated class rings has been melted and mixed with new gold, becoming a part of the rings for the classes of 2002–2016. Additionally, this year, shavings of steel from the World Trade Center were incorporated into the metal of all class rings for the USMA Class of 2016 and beyond.



Tom O'Neil Honored to be a part of such a special event. I have total trust and confidence in the Class of 2016 and all of their future endeavors. Semper Fidelis.



JD Franz

As a cadet that lost his way and got an involuntary separation, I hope those of the class of 2016 don't take those rings for granted, hearts across this nation would do almost anything to be where they are. My best wishes to each of them as they embark on this life's journey. As much as I hope they value the ring, may they never see it as their crowning achievement, but rather a stepping stone to get to whatever greatness comes after they commission.



John Polanowicz Honored to be there today and place a '47 grad's ring in the crucible and also put in a piece of my '84 ring to be part of my son's '16 class ring. Powerful day with Dan Polanowicz.



John Law That is so special, to know that the gold in each ring connects each graduate to an amazing past. If the gold were to speak the stories would be great testimonies to the character of the men and women who wore the rings with honor and became the leaders of the free world.



Lori Stueck Morsch This is an amazing tradition. Gold from old grad rings plus shavings of steel from the World Trade Center. Truly meaningful.



Scott Beaty I love this tradition!



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Dennis Maginn Tradition taken to an impressive level.



Ken Thomas This is something I'd never heard of... what a great tradition!



Christine Keating Jay–Daniel and I got to go to this and present two of the rings.



Bob Johnson What an incredible tradition!!!



Tish Fagan That's terrific tradition! Glad to know info!



Rosalind Savoca Pretty incredible—such an honor!

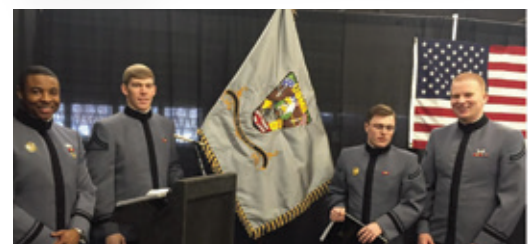


Kathy Starks That is so amazing.



Justin_Schmitt@Justin_Schmitt

Hard earned RT @WestPoint_USMA: #USMA2016 class officers accept donated rings from #LongGrayLine @WPAOG #RingMelt





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1956	1977	2012
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1960	1981	



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entrance to West Point

Free Admission

West Point: 24/7

MID-DAY



- 11:30am** Lunch served at The West Point Club
- 12:15pm** Lunch meetings at Grant Hall
- 12:50pm** Cadets experience enhanced educational opportunities during the Dean's Hour
- 1:45pm** West Point Auto Shop performs state inspection

In the Know: West Point PAO

There is always something going on at West Point, the world's premiere leader development institution. Sharing the Academy's news and happenings with the American public (and sometimes a world audience) is the responsibility of West Point's Public Affairs Office (PAO). The divisions of PAO—media relations, community relations, command information and social media—work tirelessly to inform the public about West Point and its value to the Nation. They do this for two reasons: to ensure adequate public support for USMA and to attract quality candidates as potential leaders of character for the Army and the Nation.

A staff of public affairs specialists engages, supports and fields a host of inquiries from the local, national and international media and the general public every day. In 2014, PAO's media relations division received more than 1,200 inquiries, supported roughly 500 media requests for information and coordinated 56 events involving media crews documenting happenings at USMA (e.g., the more than 260 media outlets that covered the President's commencement address at Graduation for the Class of 2014 or the *None More American: Army Football in Post 9/11 America* documentary film crew). Furthermore, a team of journalists distributed West Point news via a weekly

newspaper, *The Pointer View* (published 48 weeks out of the year), and through various social media outlets (PAO promotes West Point and monitors content about USMA on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr). Finally, PAO's community relations team worked closely with local and regional community leaders, managed the West Point Speakers Bureau (which handles requests from community, government and private organizations for Academy staff and faculty volunteers who can speak to groups and answer questions about West Point), organized annual ceremonies (e.g. those for the Buffalo Soldier, Kosciuszko, Corbin, etc.), and welcomed nearly 200,000 guests this year to the West Point Visitors Center. ★

“If there’s something going on at West Point, PAO is in the know—or it should be!”

—Theresa Brinkerhoff, Media Relations Chief, PAO



Then Cadet Jonathan Hatch '13 is interviewed by Al Leiter of the YES Network prior to the exhibition baseball game between the New York Yankees and the Army Black Knights at Johnson Stadium on March 30, 2013.

2015 ARMY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09.04 vs. **FORDHAM**
SALUTE TO HEROES

09.12 at Connecticut

09.19 vs. **WAKE FOREST**
HALL OF FAME | ARMY STRONG DAY

09.26 at Eastern Michigan

10.03 at Penn State

10.10 vs. **DUKE**
BAND DAY | SCOUT DAY

10.17 vs. **BUCKNELL**
HOMECOMING

10.24 at Rice

11.07 at Air Force

11.14 vs. **TULANE**
MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY
SCOUT DAY

11.21 vs. **RUTGERS**

12.12 vs. Navy
(Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia, PA)

Home games in **BOLD CAPS**. All home games played at Michie Stadium, West Point, NY. Schedule subject to change.

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Chris Carnegie
Army Football
Class of 2016

A day in the life...

From Reveille to Lights Out, a cadet's day is full of activity.

Academy Weekday Schedule

0600	Reveille
0650	Accountability Formation
0700-0715	Breakfast
0730-0825	A/G Hour Class Period
0840-0935	B/H Hour Class Period
0950-1045	C/I Hour Class Period
1100-1155	D/J Hour Class Period
1210	Lunch Formation
1215-1235	Lunch
1250-1345	Commandant's/Dean's Hour
1355-1450	E/K Hour Class Period
1505-1600	F/L Hour Class Period
1500-1830	Corps Squad Athletics, Club Athletics, Intramurals, Drill & Ceremony, Military and Physical Training
1800-1900	Optional Dinner (every weeknight except Thursday)
1845-1930	Mandatory Dinner (Thursday)
1930	Evening Study Period Begins
2330	TAPS
2400	Lights Out

Notes: The academic schedule rotates between a 1-Day and a 2-Day.
A-F Hours are on 1-Days, G-L Hours are on 2-Days.

West Point: 24/7

ACADEMICS



The Rise in Research at West Point

Academic research has grown dramatically at the United States Military Academy over the last two decades.

According to Colonel Michael Phillips, USMA's acting Associate Dean for Research, West Point has been on the leading edge of a national trend to integrate more research into the undergraduate curriculum. What separates USMA from other colleges and universities, however, is that it has a unique client and resources in place to support the research taking place here. The client, of course, is the U.S. Army. "Since we are a military academy, if we are going to conduct research on solving any problem, it seems that we should put a high priority on those facing the Army and the Nation," says Phillips. Part of the resources come from West Point's two dozen academic research centers, programs or offices, most of which are aligned with a particular USMA department. Phillips says the research centers provide a conduit for identifying problems on which USMA cadets and faculty will conduct their research, and they sponsor them during their course work on the problem. As noted on West Point's Research Operations web page, resources also come from partnerships the Academy has formed with forward deployed

units, Department of Defense research organizations, other academic institutions and corporations to conduct research on real-world problems affecting the Army and the Nation. One example highlights the partnership West Point and Raytheon formed to better understand the nature of inside threats within Army operational environments. Presently faculty and cadets within the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science are working with technology experts at Raytheon "in order to identify useful and technologically tractable application areas." Phillips says these partnerships are a win-win for both parties. "The sponsoring agencies benefit from timely, high-quality research produced by USMA personnel at a relatively low cost," he says, "while USMA gets financial support for research activities that would otherwise be unfunded, state-of-the art equipment and technologies for classrooms, and access to external labs in which cadets gain valuable research experience." These external sources fund approximately 90 percent of USMA's research program and allow cadets and faculty to

produce more than 800 works annually (papers, posters or presentations) based on their research, most of which are displayed on Projects Days (see sidebar). By becoming such a high-standard research institution, USMA has enhanced its reputation in national rankings of colleges and universities, which has allowed it to continually attract the “best and brightest” faculty and future leaders of character. Cadets now enter the Academy knowing the demands that will be placed on them in terms of research. “It starts when they are plebes,” says Phillips, “and day after day, week after week, cadets systematically progress through and become immersed in the research process over the course of four years.” Some might criticize a military academy for putting so much emphasis on research, but USMA’s research paradigm precisely matches what its graduates will be doing as second lieutenants upon graduation. Says Phillips, “There is a fundamental, one-to-one correspondence between working on an ill-defined problem in the classroom or lab as a cadet and being immersed in an unstructured environment with no one telling you what to do as an Army officer.” ★

“Since we are a military academy, if we are going to conduct research on solving any problem, it seems that we should put a high priority on those facing the Army and the Nation.”

—Colonel Michael Phillips,
Acting Associate Dean for Research, USMA

Previous page: A cadet conducts research in the Science Center lab. **Below left:** Cadets have the opportunity to present research to visitors on Projects Day. **Below right:** O’Neill High School students in the Sim Center.

THE RESULTS OF RESEARCH: PROJECTS DAY

Projects Day will be held on April 30, in conjunction with WPAOG’s Annual Donor Tribute Day.

West Point’s Projects Day, the Academy’s annual showcase of research projects and honors theses, began in 2000 when one academic department decided to invite external guests to see the applied research its cadets had done in support of the Army and the Department of Defense. From posters and interactive displays to film screenings and oral defenses, more than 250 presentations representing 15 academic departments and 23 West Point research centers will be on display this year. Many of these projects are sponsored by Army research centers and funded through private donations to the West Point Association of Graduates. At last year’s WPAOG-sponsored luncheon for donors, USMA Dean Brigadier General Tim Trainor ’83 said, “Everyone should be impressed by the depth and diversity of all the work being presented by our First Class cadets on Projects Day.” Major Riley Post ’01, Economics Instructor with the Department of Social Sciences, also told donors that Projects Day shows “a return on investment...three to four years coming to academic fruition.” In addition to being the culminating event for firsties in their academic development, Projects Day gives Second Class cadets an opportunity to develop ideas for their own integrating research experiences (many capstone projects are multi-year endeavors), and yearlings and plebes participate in scheduled events to learn what’s expected of them in the future. In recent years, local area high school and West Point Middle School students have also visited Projects Day to learn about the research being done by USMA cadets. But cadets seem to appreciate visits from the donors most. “We love it when the donors stop by,” said then-Cadet Fritz Stepat ’14 at last year’s Projects Day. “We get to show them the value of their Margin of Excellence dollars and how we can apply them to solving real-world problems.” ★



A BENEFIT OF RESEARCH: AIDING SOLDIERS

West Point cadets, faculty and staff recently received a visit from some special guests. Wounded Warriors who participated in the 2014 Warrior Games or the first ever Invictus Games came to the Academy to see how cadets and faculty are working on research to benefit Soldiers in the field. Colonel Leon Robert, Ph.D. and Lieutenant Colonel Luis M. Alvarez, Ph.D. from the Chemistry and Life Sciences (CLS) Department gave the Warriors an overview of projects, including neurological and bone regeneration and bio-materials research that are currently funded through the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) and the Joint Warfighter Medical Research Program. The group also learned about research that the CLS Center for Molecular Science is conducting in the area of neuroprosthetics. A group discussion followed about the future direction of DoD regenerative medical research and development. The Warriors shared their experiences about the current state of the art in medical technology and how much improvement is needed.

Faculty and cadets from the Civil and Mechanical Engineering Department also gave a presentation regarding their innovative research to help Soldiers operate more efficiently in combat environments. The Warriors also had an opportunity to hear from Lieutenant General Robert L. Caslen, Superintendent, who congratulated the members of the Army team for winning the Chairman's Cup at the 2014 Warrior Games, breaking the Marine Corps four-year championship streak. ★

Top Right: Dr. Becky Avrin Zifchock, Assistant Professor, Civil and Mechanical Engineering (CME) Department, describes a product designed last year by Mechanical Engineering firsties to assist with walking efficiency. **Middle, right:** Dr. Gary Washington from the Chemistry Life Sciences (CLS) Department gives the Warriors an overview of projects. **Bottom, right:** Firstie Mechanical Engineering students demonstrate their capstone design project featuring body armor design. **Below:** LTG Robert L. Caslen '75, Superintendent (center), poses with Wounded Warriors during their visit to West Point.



*View more photos from 2014 Warrior Games
Chairman's Cup Champions' Visit.*



West Point: 24/7

AFTERNOON



- 3:30pm** Practice starts for Army softball
- 4:10pm** Visitors come to the West Point Cemetery to pay respects
- 5:25pm** Cadets get ready for annual Sandhurst Competition
- 6:00pm** Cadet picks up food at Grant turnaround



*“Ritual is important to us as human beings.
It ties us to our traditions and our histories.”*

—Miller Williams



Beating Navy at Their Own Game: Army Sailing

By Anthony DiNoto, WPAOG staff

Bright blue skies. A low-lying October sun. A crisp wind at 10 knots. The conditions were ripe for an Army Sailing team that has struggled for recognition in the competitive sports circuit for the past three years. But on this day last fall, the team shifted focus from achieving recognition to acquiring a resource, as they navigated the Hudson River on the 44-foot long Mach 1 racing sailboat *Invincible*—once owned, believe it or not, by the United States Naval Academy.

Navy? Yes, Navy. The rival that Army tries to beat in every competition joined in a concerted effort to equip the Army Sailing team with a racing sailboat to use as its flagship training vessel. But while their cooperation is appreciated, beating Navy is still the foremost goal for the Army Sailing team and its Captain, Cadet Blair Stewart '15. "In an attempt to maintain the competitive level at which we perform, we felt it was necessary to acquire a proper boat to practice on so we can beat Navy and win the national championship," she says. Previously, the team had to travel to Annapolis for limited off-shore sailing practice on an unfamiliar boat. But with the help of some Old Grads and other USMA sailing supporters, the team secured a boat of their own, allowing the Army Sailing team to chart a course towards a national championship.

More than two years ago, Major General James Harding '64 (Retired), Darcy Anderson '78, Jack Biddle III (father of current Army Sailing team member Cadet Jackson Biddle IV '17 and son of Jack Biddle Jr. '52) and Dr. Lee Harrell from USMA's Department of Physics and Nuclear Engineering formed a crew that worked to procure a Navy boat sitting in dry dock. They made arrangements with the Naval Academy to donate the boat, and USMA donor gift funds helped repair and update it for competition training. Mr. Biddle's brother-in-law Brian McCauley joined the effort as the boat's surveyor. Then, on October 20, 2014, the crew including Major General Harding boarded *Invincible* in Annapolis and set out on a seven-day journey to West Point. Under treacherous

weather conditions, they made haste through the Chesapeake Bay and sailed to calmer waters, eventually meeting the Army Sailing team in Stony Point, NY for the last leg of the 410-mile trip. It was here that cadets and grads gripped hands to hoist the canvas. Speaking of Major General Harding, Stewart said "He took charge immediately and displayed so much enthusiasm for Army Sailing, and to see how truly invested he was in the process really inspired me." Once settled, the crew listened intently to the former Army Sailing team member talk about sailing, his experience as a cadet and preparing for the 2015 National Sailing Championship. Harding stressed that the team "must now train, train and train to

"You must now train, train and train to make the competition easier than the practice."

—MG (R) James Harding '64

make the competition easier than the practice." The seafaring general went on to emphasize that a team must be built, leadership must prevail and repetitive training must be conducted in order to beat Navy, Coast Guard, Harvard and any other team blocking Army Sailing from a championship. Teamwork and leadership were present from fore to aft among the cadet crew sailing *Invincible*. As if in a choreographed dance, crew members worked together seamlessly as a facade of gothic architecture inched its way above



First in fleet: *Invincible* arrives home at West Point's South Dock.

Meet the Crew!



➤ **BLAIR STEWART '15**
Captain/ Mainsail Trimmer
Makes adjustments to main sail based on course and wind conditions.

JACK PINNELL '15
Tactician

Negotiates turns and makes tactical decisions regarding surrounding boats; creates game plan or strategy for the race.



➤ **ZACK LEE '15**
Mastman

Helps raise sails and make small adjustments as needed; pulls all halyards at the mast to raise the sails; assists bowman with headsail changes, spinnaker sets, jibes and douses



JIM TROLLAN '16
Bowman

Controls the raising and lowering of sails, changing sails, and setting up the spinnaker; changes headsails; connects spinnaker; calls starting line; climbs rig for tuning and repairs



➤ **MATT SCHMITT '17**
Headsail Trimmer

Adjusts headsails for the best possible boat speed; communicates directly with helmsman about speed and height, the pressure in the sail and location of nearby marks and other boats



➤ **JACKSON BIDDLE '17**
Skipper or Driver
Drives the boat; helps Tactician make decisions; communicates essential needs to crew

the horizon. Once on shore at West Point's South Dock, the crew took down the Navy burgees and raised the Army flag to signal a new era of Army Sailing.

When Stewart came to West Point and joined the crew as a plebe in 2011, the Army Sailing team competed at the club level. Stewart started improving as a sailor and acquired the racing experience she once lacked. She learned the intricacies of sailing and developed a love for the sport. Unfortunately, the team was changed to hobby club status the following year, significantly reducing the time and resources allotted to it. Practice time became scarce. Equipment and boats were non-existent. For Stewart, the designation was a frustrating, albeit humbling experience: "Being demoted to a hobby club in some ways has allowed us to reevaluate our priorities as a team and redevelop a winning culture that may not have existed beforehand," she says. Stewart has since regrouped, earned the captain spot and leveraged her position to help mold the team into what they are today. Going forward, the skipper's focus is on *Invincible's* role in winning a national championship—an endeavor that will hopefully result in regaining competitive club status. She won't be here to see it as she graduates in May, but Stewart knows she is leaving the team in good hands on the deck of a resilient boat. In fact, the crew beat Navy last September in the Shield Trophy Regatta just a month before the acquisition of *Invincible*, showcasing the true potential of Army Sailing. "Beating Navy was a game changer—we received a letter from the Commandant noting how every other team in the competition had some sort of nautical title, yet we held our own," says Stewart. "We beat Navy at their own game. And for that, he was very proud." ★



CDT Blair Stewart '15 checks the main sail.

Watch the crew in action as they sail *Invincible* up the Hudson!





The Army Sailing team beat Navy last fall in the Shield Trophy Regatta. The crew plans to train on *Invincible* with hopes of winning the National Sailing Championship in November 2015.

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First Captain Austin Welch '15 presents a cadet saber to Condoleezza Rice.

Protocol: Making Events “Uneventful”

West Point receives nearly half a million visitors each year. Events such as reunions, Army athletic contests, shows at Eisenhower Hall and conferences all bring thousands of people to our national treasure. It should come as no surprise that presidents, legislators, foreign leaders, athletes and our Nation's most senior military leaders are among the multitudes of guests, and that these visits require extra coordination and attention from the Protocol Office.

The USMA Protocol Office coordinates more than 500 official visitors and events annually. With a staff of just ten (seven civilian and three military), Protocol goes above and beyond to create a distinguished visitors' first and last impression of the Academy by working behind the scenes to ensure everything is perfect. They pay attention to the smallest details—even making sure chairs aren't wobbly. Protocol works with every department on post when coordinating these visits.

West Point's Chief of Protocol Mr. Jeffery Reynolds says, “It's a challenging and high-paced office that is not meant for everyone, but the reward of showing visiting leaders from home and abroad that USMA is the premier institution for leadership development in the world far outweighs those demands.” ★

Who Was Here in 2014?

These are just some of the many distinguished visitors to West Point.

- President Barack Obama
- President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (Indonesia)
- President Atifete Jahjaga (Kosovo)
- First Lady Sara Netanyahu (Israel)
- Honorable Anders Rasmussen (NATO Secretary General)
- Honorable Condoleezza Rice
- Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey '74
- Chief of Staff of the Army General Ray Odierno '76
- USA Basketball Team (Coach Mike Krzyzewski '69)
- New York Knicks
- Florida Panthers (Vinnie Viola '77)
- Veterans Affairs Forum and Summit
- Chief of Staff of the Army 4-Star Command Conference
- Chief of Staff of the Army Symposium

The USA Mens National Basketball Team enjoyed lunch in the Cadet Mess Hall.



West Point: 24/7

EVENING



- 6:00pm** Cadets attend weekly mandatory dinner in the Mess Hall
- 7:20pm** Evening sports game at West Point
- 7:40pm** Firsties attend wine tasting class with Cadet Hostess
- 8:00pm** Cadets tutor fellow classmates

West Point: 24/7
COMMISSARY



The Community Store

Serving more than 4,500 customers a week and with annual sales topping \$15.6 million, the West Point Commissary is one of the busiest operations at West Point.



Located on the western side of Post, just inside of Stony Lonesome Gate, the Commissary has 95 employees working six days a week from 9am to 7pm to meet all the needs of these customers. Its customers include active duty Soldiers living on post as well as the following authorized shoppers living in the area: National Guard and Reserve members, military retirees, Medal of Honor recipients, 100 percent disabled veterans and

approved family members of these groups. Customers who shop at the Commissary must pay a Congress-mandated 5 percent surcharge on their purchases, which helps pay for maintenance and equipment at the Commissary. Yet, customers are also able to purchase products at cost, a perk commissaries have been offering to customers since 1825. This benefit helps customers save an average of 30 percent or more when compared to commercial prices at civilian grocery stores, meaning a family of four that shops the Commissary regularly can save more than \$4,500 on its annual grocery bill.

The Commissary receives deliveries of products every day, including a delivery of fresh meat on Monday, the day the Commissary is closed to shoppers. According to Carol Robertin, the West Point Commissary store director, each delivery is inspected for quality before being put into the Commissary's inventory system. Some products, such as the fruits and vegetables of the produce

department, are constantly monitored to ensure that customers get the freshest food available. “Putting fresh product out for our customers to purchase is just the start,” says Robertin. “Customer service is our primary concern, and the Commissary is always willing to do a special order to meet a customer’s needs.” For example, the deli and bakery departments, which are run by a well-known local family, cater to parties large and small. Meeting such social entertaining needs is especially valued by the West Point community, according to Robertin.

“We offer a service that positively impacts our customers and enhances their quality of life.”

—Carol Robertin, West Point Commissary Store Director

A high volume store, the West Point Commissary handles a steady stream of customers throughout the year and features new promotions every other week. Perhaps the biggest promotion of the year occurs during the second full week of September when the Commissary has its annual “Customer Appreciation Case Lot Sale,” a two-day event offering savings of 50 percent or more on bulk and full case items (condiments, canned tuna, pasta products, cleaning items, etc.). Speaking of savings, the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), which operates 245 commissaries worldwide and oversees the West Point Commissary, recently identified about 300 products in 33 categories and marked them as Commissary Value Brand items, meaning a savings of 25 to 40 percent when compared to store brands and market leader brands found in commercial retail stores.

According to Robertin, the Commissary has come a long way in keeping up with the evolving grocery industry standards and customer demands. “We offer a service that positively impacts our customers and enhances their quality of life,” she says. Or, as the DeCA motto says: “Your Commissary —It’s worth the trip!” ★



West Point Family and MWR

Whether it is lending a hand to those in need, supervising kids at play or in school, or filling one's leisure time with numerous indoor and outdoor activities, West Point Family and MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) is ready to serve West Point's Soldiers, families, retirees and civilians. With some 375 employees working within five divisions—Dining & Catering, Recreation & Leisure, Child, Youth & School Service (CYS), Army Community Service (ACS), and Resource Management—MWR has a program to fit all of the West Point community's needs. For example, its Recreation & Leisure division offers everything from skiing to bowling, fitness centers to travel services, and fishing and hunting on the West Point Military Reservation to painting and sewing at the Arts & Crafts Community Center. (And don't forget about the West Point Post Library and Morgan Farm Stable & Kennel!) MWR offers activities for every season. Among other activities, it hosts West



Point's Polar Fest in February, a fishing derby in May, a haunted house in October and a holiday tree lighting in December. In terms of usage, Maura DuMoulin, Family and MWR Director, says that CYS is MWR's most prevalent service. CYS offers full-day care for preschool children, after-school instructional classes for community youths (dance, art, music, martial arts, etc.) and social, cultural and athletic activities for teens. CYS also helps parents and children stationed at West Point make the transition to local schools through its liaison program. In addition, MWR's ACS offers a number of quality of life programs for Soldiers and their families, including financial readiness, family advocacy, volunteering, and sexual assault response and prevention. West Point's ACS is also responsible for providing survivor outreach services throughout the greater New York-New Jersey-Connecticut area to families dealing with the loss of a Soldier. Every day and in numerous ways, MWR is making significant impacts on the West Point community. ★



Clockwise from top left: The Shamrock 5K is just one of the races held by MWR throughout the year. Cardboard Box Derby participants enjoy winter fun at MWR's Polar Fest held at the Victor Constant Ski Slope. Fun with photos during a carnival celebrating the Month of the Military Child.

Learn more about West Point FMWR programs.





Clockwise from top left: A young volunteer helps two small anglers in the art of fishing at the annual MWR/Bass Fishing Club-sponsored West Point Fishing Derby at Round Pond. A group of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) members participate in the Tunnels to Towers Run in New York City. Many community members participate in the West Point 5K/10K run. Campers learn horse care and riding skills at Morgan Farm's Summer Camp. Community educational opportunities include an Earth Day Open House at the MWR Recycling Center.



At work...

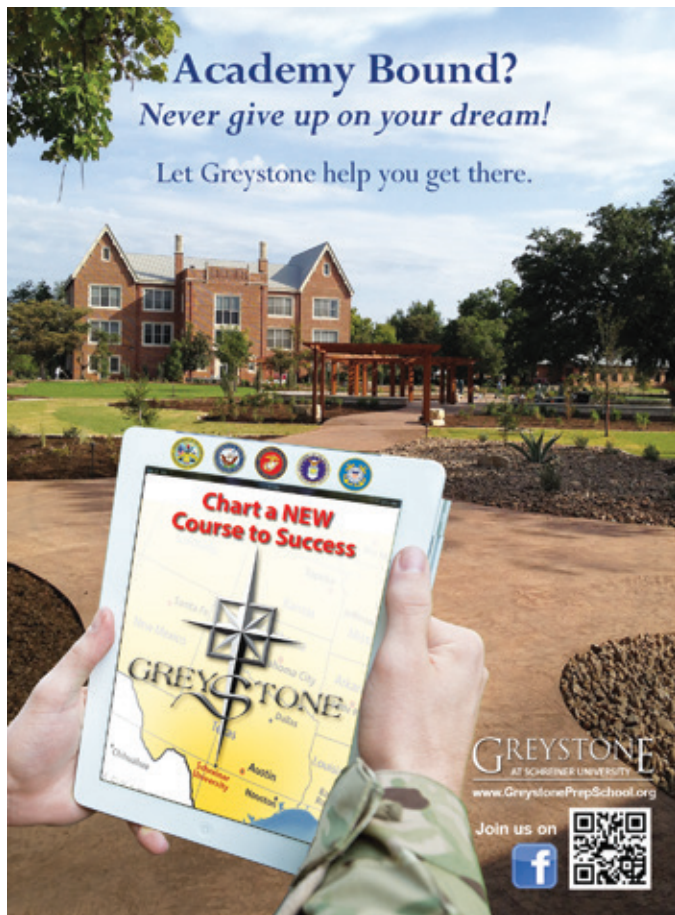


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West Point: 24/7

HOSPITAL



Catching Up With KACH

Offering world class military medical care to 4,400 cadets and nearly 34,000 active duty, Guard, Reserve and retired Soldiers (and their families), Keller Army Community Hospital (KACH) is West Point's most recognizable 24/7 organization.

Serving as Headquarters for the West Point Health Service Area (HSA), which includes regional Army occupational health clinics (e.g., Ainsworth Clinic at Fort Hamilton in New York City and that at Tobyhanna Army Depot in Pennsylvania) as well as satellite operations at West Point, KACH continues a tradition of health care at West Point that began in 1824 when Sylvanus Thayer, Class of 1808, the Superintendent at the time, helped establish a hospital for cadets in what was formerly Gridley's Tavern. In 1830, as stated in Theodore Crackel's *The Illustrated History of West Point*, "Thayer gained approval to construct a new [two-story] hospital...completed in 1834." The hospital was staffed by a surgeon, a steward, a matron and five attendants, and they served approximately 200 cadets. In 1851, West Point saw the construction of a Soldier's hospital, which was rebuilt in 1892 but eventually replaced in 1923 after a 1909 Board

of Visitors report faulted it for having only "24 beds when West Point's enlisted population was 700 men." Construction for KACH, which was designed to extend the finest comprehensive health care to the entire West Point community, began in 1974. In late 2011, KACH broke ground on a \$28.5 million, 50,000-square-foot addition that will allow the hospital to consolidate its primary care clinics, open clinical space for behavioral health outpatient services and provide much needed meeting space. Regarding the new addition, which is scheduled to open later this year, former KACH Commander Colonel Beverly C. Land said, "This project will significantly expand our capability to execute our mission of providing world-class healthcare."

A day in the life at KACH, with its staff of 576 total personnel (military, civilian and contract) and annual operating budget of nearly \$56 million, is akin to any hospital serving a similar-sized

population. Its emergency room sees an average of 20 visits per day, its pharmacy fills approximately 345 prescriptions, and it conducts hundreds of radiological and pathological procedures every day. KACH also has some 330 patients coming each day to see doctors and medical professionals in one of its 4 primary care, 4 behavioral health or 16 specialty services (which include dermatology, optometry, podiatry, urology and more). Its surgeons perform an average of 2.5 operations per day, and KACH admits about 3 patients each day (with an average stay of 2 days). What sets KACH apart as a hospital is the attention it devotes to cadets. One of its supplementary services is the Mologne Cadet Health Clinic (MCHC), which provides primary health care, prescription medicine and lab services near the barracks (it is located within Building 606), making it easy for cadets to be seen and sent back to class as soon as possible. The doctors, nurses and Soldier-medics at MCHC see almost four dozen cadets a day. KACH's physical therapy service also sees cadets at Arvin Gym. Going beyond the traditional day, KACH and West Point HSA also support cadets by performing medical reviews and waivers for cadet accessions, by providing medical

care during Cadet Summer Training and staffing West Point's intercollegiate athletics program with primary and alternate team physicians, orthopedic surgeons and primary care sports medicine professionals. Finally, KACH supports the West Point community through involvement with the West Point School System, the Community Action Council and annual post events (e.g., the Community Fair, the Hudson Valley Regional Special Olympics and Warrior Game trials).

For all that it offers to the West Point HSA, KACH ranked #1 in Northern Regional Medical Command for Overall Patient Satisfaction according to the most recent Army Provider Level Satisfaction Survey and is the leading medical treatment facility in the U.S. Army Medical Command for patient satisfaction. "We take tremendous pride in providing outstanding services and programs," says current KACH Commander Colonel Brian S. Burlingame '90, "and it is a privilege for us to serve our Nation's heroes, those who presently serve or have served our Nation and their family members, as well as our cadets, who are our Nation's heroes of tomorrow." ★

**"We take tremendous pride
in providing outstanding
services and programs"**

—KACH Commander Colonel Brian S. Burlingame '90

Previous page: Dr. (LTC) Troy Prarie '88 examines a young patient. **Right:** The Keller Army Community Hospital (KACH) addition is scheduled to open later this year. **Below:** KACH is the leading medical treatment facility in the U.S. Army Medical Command for patient satisfaction.





Marching to the Beat of Cadets

The United States Military Academy Library at Jefferson Hall knows the routine of its primary client; in fact, the library's schedule matches that of cadets. The library opens 30 minutes before their first class and closes 15 minutes before Taps, and there is always a handful of the library's 40 full-time employees available to assist cadets while it is open. And while the physical library is closed at night, USMA's online digital library is always available for cadets. According to Christopher Barth, Librarian and Associate Dean, each year the library becomes more and more digital. "We have a physical presence and collection, but, based on our user data and how we spend money on our resources, we really are a digital library," says Barth. For example, approximately 85 percent of new materials added to the library last year were digital (nearly 70,000 items). Furthermore, there were 235,107 visits to the library's website, roughly 30,000 more visitors than the number that walked through Jefferson Hall's doors last year. Still, the physical library remains quite active with an average of 4,000-plus patrons utilizing its services each week during the academic year. Visit the library any evening, Sunday through Thursday, and good luck finding an open seat at which to work. Its collaborative rooms will also likely be packed (there were 1,749 advance reservations for the facilities last year). Furthermore, the library's popularity goes beyond cadets: Jefferson Hall hosted 94 significant Academy events last year, many in the Alexander M. Haig Room on the sixth floor. Faculty also use the library, although in some cases the library comes to them. Barth says that the library now offers an "embedded librarianship"

"We have a physical presence and collection, but, based on our user data and how we spend money on our resources, we really are a digital library."

—Christopher Barth, Librarian and Associate Dean



West Point: 24/7

NIGHT



- 9:05pm** Women's Soccer Team celebrates a win
- 9:55pm** MPs patrol housing areas
- 11:15pm** Library closes
- 11:45pm** Car leaves West Point through Thayer Gate
- 12:00pm** "Lights Out" in cadet barracks



program, which encourages librarians to spend time outside of the library working with cadets and faculty remotely within USMA's academic departments. But in the end it is all about the cadets, and in its brief to members of the incoming class during Cadet Basic Training, the library proves once again that it knows its client. During the brief, the library's Special Collections & Archives

Division shows the new cadets letters 19th century cadets wrote during their tenure at the Academy. "Talking about drills, uniforms and other cadet concerns, these letters demonstrate that today's cadets are likely to face the same issues that cadets were experiencing some 100 years ago," says Barth. Not only is the rhythm at West Point 24/7, it seems as if it is 213 years and counting as well. ★

"Talking about drills, uniforms and other cadet concerns, these letters demonstrate that today's cadets are likely to face the same issues that cadets were experiencing some 100 years ago."

—Christopher Barth, Librarian and Associate Dean

Right: A letter written on Apr 13, 1861 by CDT Tully McCrea, Class of 1862 (who later became a Brigadier General) expresses the concerns of cadets waiting for news from the Battle of Fort Sumter. **Below:** CDT (and later General) George S. Patton Jr., Class of 1909 writes candidly of his frustrations during his plebe year at West Point in 1905.

V. S. Military Academy
West Point, N.Y.
April 13th 1861.

Dear Belle,

I received your letter yesterday, also one from
Cous. I was very sorry to hear that you were again suf-
fering from your own complaint. I do not know whether
or I can answer your letter properly or not for my
thoughts are with Major Anderson and his little band
who are fighting so bravely against such fearful
odds at Fort Sumter. There has been great excite-
ment and anxiety for fresh news here all day. And
every fresh arrival adds to the excitement. This
morning's papers state that war had actually begun
and this evening we hear that Fort Sumter and the
Harriet Lane are on fire and one of the vessels of
war sunk. This news is not believed, and I pray
that it may turn out to be false. It is dreadful
to be placed in suspense at such a critical time,
but as the telegraph wires are in the possession of
the secessionists and we have to endure it. I hope
that the Government will be successful in securing
the gallant Major Anderson, for he has done his
duty bravely and faithfully. But be his fate what
it will, he has an enviable position, and his name

place cinched I tripped and fell and came out last. For one hour I
could have gladly died, in fact I had hysteria in a mild form and
a first classman thought I was crazy and patted me on the back and
raised thunder over me. It was pretty hard for I hate to be beaten
and try so hard and fail. I missed the tackle in the football game
and I got turned out in French and unless I make 2.7 out of three
Monday I will have to take the math exam, too.

Pa, I am stupid. There is no use talking, I am stupid. It is
truly unfortunate that such earnestness and tenacity and so much am-
bition should have been put into a body incapable of doing anything
but wish. Don't bother about that math exam for it will be all over
if I take it, before you get this letter, however I will wire you
result of both as soon as I learn. Aside from my sprained ankle
gotten this afternoon I well and sad.



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Gripping Hands

2015 Distinguished Graduate Award Recipients



LTG (R) Max W. Noah '53

Commander of engineering troop units at all levels, key postings to the Army Staff and at TRADOC in the areas of operations research and financial management, and Comptroller of the U.S. Army, Lieutenant General Noah (Retired) accomplished much in his 35 years of active duty. Highlights of his career include conserving natural resources on the upper Mississippi River, developing cost effective procedures to help modernize the Army's major weapon systems, constructing airfields in Israel after the Camp David Accords and teaching cadets "juice" as an Assistant Professor in USMA's Department of Electricity. And his service didn't stop in retirement. He continued to impact the Nation's defense by working for Burdeshaw Associates and later his own defense consulting firm, and he volunteered his time with numerous non-profit organizations, including the Army Historical Foundation, Georgia Military College and WPAOG's Finance Committee.



Mr. Roderic B. Vitty '55

For six decades and counting, Mr. Rod Vitty has never missed an opportunity to serve as an ambassador for USMA and champion West Point's impact on the Nation and its national pastime. His company, Vermont Heritage Press, has both published original works and republished classics that tell the West Point story through autobiography and historical research. He also established and personally funded The Doubleday Society, which presents an annual award to the Most Valuable Player on the Army Baseball Team. One of three cadets in Academy history to pitch a no-hitter himself, Mr. Vitty has a special connection with Army Baseball and is credited with spearheading the "Save Doubleday Field" effort, which raised funds to help construct Johnson Stadium at Doubleday Field. He also served as a West Point Regional Representative, the President of the West Point Society of Philadelphia and as an energetic and dedicated member of WPAOG's Board of Trustees.



LTG (R) John H. Moellering '59

Name an international challenge in the last two decades of the twentieth century—the Achille Lauro hijacking, US hostages in Lebanon, the nuclear arms control negotiations at Reykjavik, etc.—and chances are that Lieutenant General John Moellering (Retired) was involved representing the Nation in some capacity. He also had an impact at home serving as Commandant at West Point, where he stressed that the concepts of duty and honor were intertwined, and insisted on cadets focusing on Army service, not just graduation. After retiring with 28 years of service, he led Lear Siegler Services as its CEO, growing the company four-fold in 12 years. Later, under his Chairmanship of USAA, the Association was singled out as the only financial services company to maintain a AAA financial rating and be named by JD Power as the number one customer service company in the US. He remains active today teaching and mentoring MBA students at UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School, and giving presentations to civic, professional and academic groups on topics ranging from business ethics to national security.



Mr. William F. Murdy II '64

Looking over Mr. William Murdy's career, three topics immediately come to the fore: success in business, veterans support and leadership of West Point Society and WPAOG endeavors. After serving three tours in combat theaters, including two in Vietnam, Mr. Murdy had a highly successful 40-year civilian career as the CEO for six corporate entities, both public and private. He serves today as Chairman of the Hotel Thayer and the Thayer Leader Development Group, and remains on four large public company Boards. He also dedicated himself to advancing veterans affairs in unpaid capacities. Speaking for the board of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Major General and Ambassador Robert Kimmitt '69 (Retired) said, "Bill has brought infectious enthusiasm and unparalleled business acumen to our efforts, which will succeed in large measure because of the contribution of his unique combination of skills." He also brought these qualities as a leader to three West Point Societies and served on numerous WPAOG committees, including one for which he advanced the construction of the Herbert Alumni Center, West Point's home for its graduates.



Mr. Jodie K. Glore '69

"Jodie Glore has done more for our Academy than any graduate I know," says Lieutenant General Franklin L. Hagenbeck '71 (Retired), USMA's 57th Superintendent. What has Mr. Glore done? His march to success includes commanding a rifle company with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam, growing several industrial companies over the course of two-plus decades and championing West Point in several volunteer capacities, especially while serving on WPAOG's Board of Directors, most recently as its Chairman. With WPAOG, Mr. Glore established the Communications & Marketing Department, revitalized the Development Office and launched For Us All: The Campaign for West Point, the most successful fundraising campaign in Academy history. Brigadier General Tim Trainor '83, USMA's Dean of the Academic Board, says, "[Mr. Glore's] positive impact on the Academy will endure for decades through the graduates, staff and faculty that benefited from his efforts."



LTG (R) Thomas F. Metz '71

From a lieutenant with the 1/509, 8th Infantry Division to the commanding general with III Corps, Lieutenant General Thomas Metz (Retired), has commanded at every level in the U.S. Army. He also served as commander of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, successfully leading Coalition Forces against the insurgency, and helped lead the fight against IEDs as the second Director of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO). After retirement, he continued to have an impact as a seminar leader in the Chief of Staff of the Army's Strategic Leader Development program for three Chiefs. In a handwritten endorsement, General Martin Dempsey '74, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wrote, "Tom Metz is an officer every West Point graduate should emulate."

“Grip hands—though it be from the shadows—while we swear as you did of yore, or living or dying, to honor the Corps, and the Corps, and the Corps.” —Bishop Shipman 1902

2004 Captain William N. Eberle receives Distinguished Service Cross

For his courage and gallantry while in close combat with insurgent forces during an attack at Jalalabad Airfield in the Nangarhar province of Afghanistan, Captain William N. Eberle '04, a commander with 3rd Special Forces Group, received the Distinguished Service Cross on February 10, 2015 at a ceremony held at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Eberle, General Joseph Votel '80, commanding general of U.S. Special Operations Command, said, “His actions that day epitomize determination to defeat an overwhelming enemy force, compassion for his teammates in harm’s way and valor for his courage to act in the face of danger.”

First awarded during World War I, the Distinguished Service Cross is second only to the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force.

Upon receiving the impressive honor, Eberle downplayed the attention saying, “This medal belongs to my team, and the honor for me is to represent the 3rd Forces Special Group.”



Be Thou at Peace Deaths reported from December 1, 2014–February 28, 2015.

BG Robert C. Tripp, USA (R)	1933	LTC Arthur J. Lochrie Jr., USA (R)	1946	MG Joseph N. Jagers Jr., USA (R)	1952	COL Francis J. Collins, USA (R)	1964
COL George A. Aubrey, USA (R)	1940	Col Charles H. Parsons II, USAF (R)	1946	Mr. Joseph L. Jordan	1952	Mr. Peter J. Meyer	1964
LTG Raymond L. Shoemaker Jr., USA (R)	1940	COL William T. Seeber, USA (R)	1946	Mr. Robert L. Morgan	1952	COL Malcolm S. Gilchrist, USA (R)	1965
Col John E. Atkinson, USAF (R)	1941	Dr. Robert G. Williamson	1946	LTC Everett D. Richards, USA (R)	1952	Mr. John K. Terry	1965
COL Paul G. Skowronek, USA (R)	1941	LTG Henry E. Emerson, USA (R)	1947	LTC William R. Bell, USA (R)	1953	Mr. Richard A. Eklund	1966
Mr. Olmedo Alfaro	1942	Mr. Richard H. Sforzini	1947	Col Jack W. Myers, USAF (R)	1953	LTC John A. Bornmann Jr., USA (R)	1967
COL Roy S. Geiger Jr., USA (R)	1942	COL John H. Chitty Jr., USA (R)	1948	COL Ennis A. Viereck Jr., USA (R)	1953	Mr. Gordon A. Socher	1967
COL Lawrence W. Vogel, USA (R)	1942	LTC Edwin B. Nelson, USA (R)	1948	LTC Bruce W. Bidwell, USA (R)	1954	Dr. Charles F. Besanceney	1968
Brig Gen John W. Baer, USAF (R)	1943	Lt Col Ivan M. Selig, USAF (R)	1948	Mr. Jerry J. Curtis	1954	Mr. Jerry L. Buckley	1968
COL Frank W. Rhea, USA (R)	1943	CPT Harry J. Sternburg, USA (R)	1948	Lt Col William P. Emley Jr., USAF (R)	1954	MAJ Howard F. Harper, USA (R)	1968
Col Richard C. Snyder, USAF (R)	1943	Mr. John E. Ike	1949	LTC Richard D. Kavanaugh, USA (R)	1954	Col George K. Williams, USAF (R)	1968
Lt Gen Carlos M. Talbott, USAF (R)	1943	Col William B. Liddicoet, USAF (R)	1949	COL Carl R. Steimle, USA (R)	1954	COL Albert F. Leister Jr., USA (R)	1969
COL Jonathan S. Vordermark, USA (R)	1943	BG Ernst E. Roberts, USA (R)	1949	Mr. George H. Storck	1954	Mr. Robert C. Riddell II	1969
LTC George H. Watson, USA (R)	1943	Maj John M. Saylor, USAFR (R)	1949	Mr. Thomas J. Auger	1955	COL Arthur R. Marshall Jr., USA (R)	1970
CPT Wendell G. Allison, USA (R)	1944	Mr. Stephen J. White	1949	Mr. James J. Pirtle Jr.	1955	MAJ James N. Hickok II, USA (R)	1971
COL Arthur R. Marshall Sr., USA (R)	1944	LTC Phillip H. Donahue, USA (R)	1950	Mr. James J. Pirtle Jr.	1955	LTC Dan R. Howard, USA (R)	1971
COL Ralph A. Sciolla, USA (R)	1944	BG John G. Jones, USA (R)	1950	COL Joseph F. Vincent, USA (R)	1955	Dr. Bernard L. Crosby	1974
LTC Walter H. Snelling, USA (R)	1944	Lt Col Albert V. Kinner, USAF (R)	1950	COL William P. Farmer, USA (R)	1956	Lt Col George D. Hulsey, USAF (R)	1974
Mr. Howard R. Bealmear Jr.	1945	Lt Col Samuel W. Lockerman, USAF (R)	1950	Lt Col Rand E. Rensvold, USAF (R)	1956	MAJ Marvin S. Searle II, USA	1974
COL William F. Boiler Jr., USA (R)	1945	COL Clark C. Martin, USA (R)	1950	Mr. Dexter H. Shaler	1956	Mr. David T. DiGiacinto	1975
LTC Earl C. Hardy, USA (R)	1945	LTC Albert M. Paulger, USA (R)	1950	COL Michael G. Zeigler, USA (R)	1956	LTC Jack W. Myers Jr., USA (R)	1976
LTC Fred E. Jones, USA (R)	1945	Mr. Thomas H. Tullidge	1950	COL John E. Bloomfield, USA (R)	1957	Mr. Charles Ravenscroft	1976
Mr. Stephen Pace Jr.	1945	COL Francis W. Craig, USA (R)	1951	Honorable Donald K. Fitzpatrick	1957	LTC Douglas S. Rogers, USA (R)	1976
Mr. John H. Wirries Jr.	1945	COL Michael M. Davis, USA (R)	1951	LTC Jesse H. James, USA (R)	1957	Mr. Timothy J. Sweeney	1978
LTC William H. Bamber, USA (R)	1946	COL George H. Gardes, USA (R)	1951	Col Glenn K. Phillips, USAF (R)	1958	Mr. Perry A. Toscano	1980
COL Truman E. Boudinot Jr., USA (R)	1946	COL John P. Hill, USA (R)	1951	LTC Joseph C. Tirre Jr., USA (R)	1958	Mr. Willard G. Fallon	1984
COL John W. Callaghan, USA (R)	1946	BG William L. Lemnitzer, USA (R)	1951	LTC William L. Schwartz, USA (R)	1959	Mr. George G. Plitt Jr.	2000
COL Thomas M. Constant, USA (R)	1946	COL Robert J. Pazderka, USA (R)	1951	Mr. Julian E. Weisler II	1959	MAJ Joseph L. Warner, USA	2000
LTC Harry A. Davis Jr., USA (R)	1946	Maj Frank E. Sisson II, USAF (R)	1951	LTC Richard A. Daniel, USA (R)	1960	MAJ Christopher D. Thomas, USA	2001
Mr. Louis O. Elsaesser	1946	LTC Manuel J. Asensio Jr., USA (R)	1952	Honorable Andrew F. Bennett Jr.	1961	MAJ Victor T. Gronenthal, USA	2005

EISENHOWER HALL

By the Numbers



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EVENTS
YEARLY

9/14/74

Cost of renovations
(2011-15)

\$24^M

twelve

Major productions in
the theatre per year

one

TIME CAPSULE
LOCATED BEHIND
CORNERSTONE

1971

36 CHANDELIERS
IN BALLROOM



685 LBS: WEIGHT OF LARGE
CHANDELIER IN BALLROOM

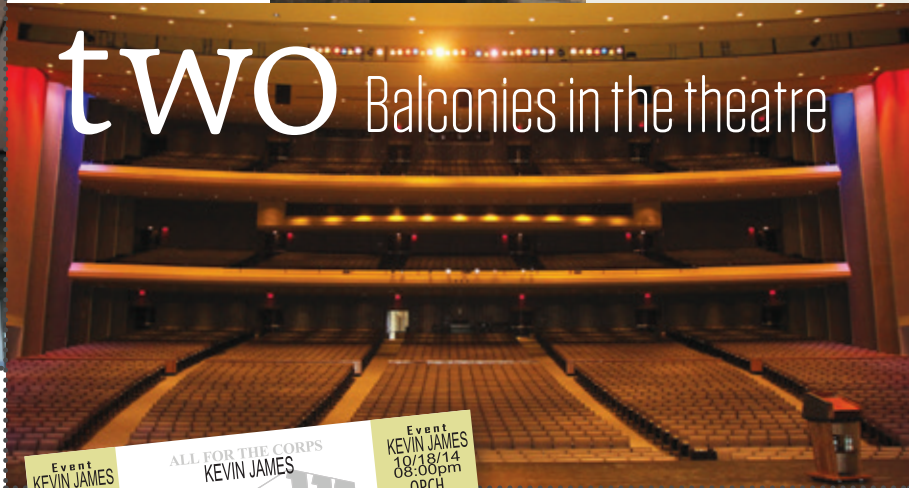
8 Blood
drives
per year



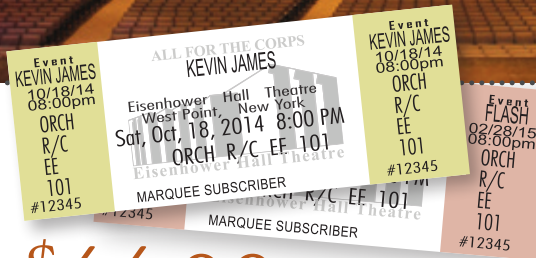
Permanent
seats in the
theatre

4,324

two Balconies in the theatre



3,500 ft²
Square footage
of stage



700plus
SEASON TICKET
HOLDERS

\$44.00

Average ticket price for
shows in Eisenhower Hall

25



Class Crests displayed in Crest Hall

Performer Darlene Love with CDT Deon Wells.



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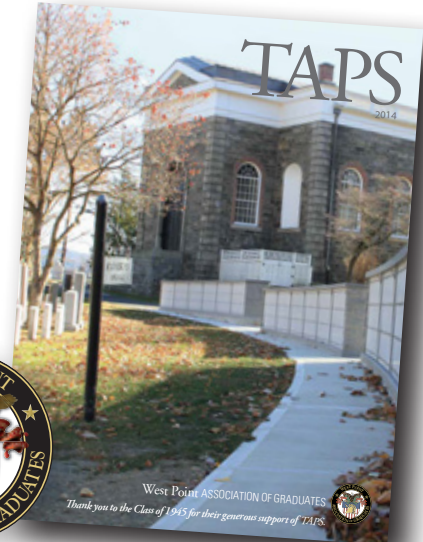
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welcomes
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'40, '45, 50, '55, '60, '65 & '70

START^{the}DAYS!

MAY	JUNE	JULY
5-7 West Point Diversity Leadership Conference	6-12 Summer Leader Experience <i>Session 2</i>	19 CBT Visitation Day aka "Ice Cream Social"
 23 Graduation for the Class of 2015	11-13 22nd Annual Alumni Golf Outing	
May 30-June 5 Summer Leader Experience <i>Session 1</i>	29 R-Day for the Class of 2019	20 USMAPS R-Day
		

Upcoming events suggested by West Point staff & faculty.

Events for Aug 2015—Oct 2015 should be sent to editor@wpaog.org by May 15, 2015.

For the entire calendar, go to

WestPointAOG.org/calendar

WEST POINT'S EISENHOWER HALL THEATRE



SISTER ACT
AMERICA'S NEW MUSICAL-COMEDY CLASSIC

**Sunday
March 8th
3:00 p.m.**



Celtic Woman
LIVE IN CONCERT

**Sunday
March 29th
5:00 p.m.**



PETER AND THE STAR CATCHER
WINNER! 5 TONY AWARDS
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NEW YORK TIMES

**Sunday
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MAILBOX



If you would like to submit a comment or question, send it to Editor@wpaog.org. You are always welcome to chat with us on one of our social media channels!

WOW!!! The praise *West Point* magazine received from graduates concerning the 2015 winter issue was simply astonishing. The magazine's staff is absolutely thrilled that graduates had such a positive response to the "West Point: The Landmark" issue. James S. Day '79, Professor of History at the University of Montevallo in Alabama, says, "I thoroughly enjoyed reading the winter issue, finally realizing that the beauty and appeal of West Point for every class across the decades is *the place*—it's the essence of what makes West Point truly special, so thanks for rekindling that connection." Here are some more comments that will keep the staff's spirits flying high until fall (at least):

"What a treasure! WPAOG really hit a home run with the latest edition." —Colonel Bill DeGraf '50 (Retired)

"...a wonderful issue of West Point. I was fascinated and read it cover to cover in one sitting." —Ed Osborne '60

"The pictures and descriptions of all the landmarks are great. I haven't been able to make it back for a while so it's helped me to remember what an awesome place [West Point] really is."
—Bruce Baugh '78

"...the winter 2015 issue is something I will keep and treasure for many years." —Walt Sears '79

"GREAT issue! It is a keeper!" —Dean Chang '84

Grads especially pointed out how they learned facts about the Academy in the winter issue that they never knew before, despite many of them having spent years associated with West Point. While it was a thoroughly researched issue, there are a couple of details that need to be corrected: Ladycliff College was mistakenly spelled as "Ladycliffe;" the MacArthur Monument was sculpted by Walker Hancock, not "Walter" Hancock (he also sculpted the Flight Memorial); and Major General Clair F. Gill '65 (Retired) submitted a "Letter to the Editor," not "Charles" Gill. Furthermore, *West Point* magazine would like to expand upon a point made in the "Worship at West Point: Four Landmark Chapels" article concerning the West Point Jewish Chapel. It was built in 1984 under the supervision of Mr. Herbert Ames and deeded to the Academy in 1986. The Jewish Chapel Fund, a private, non-profit organization, raised \$7.5 million for the chapel's construction.

Still, despite these corrections, the *West Point* magazine staff hopes that readers ultimately side with Carl 'Rollie' Stichweh '65, who said the 2015 winter issue was "...one the best issues of any AOG publication ever!" And this is coming from a graduate who has been covered in one or two publications himself!

Feel free to write to the Editor with your thoughts, positive or negative (hopefully positive), about this current issue of *West Point* magazine. You just might see your letter in print in the 2015 summer issue.

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Past in Review



West Point, the Gate

By **Ted Spiegel**, Guest Writer

When entering modern day West Point through any of its three gates, one is prompted to think of historic figures. Thayer Gate honors the “Father of the Academy.” Washington Gate draws its name from the “Father of His Country.” Stony Lonesome Gate evokes the image of a sentry at a remote Revolutionary War redoubt. For returning graduates who haven’t been to the Academy since September 11, 2001 the presence of Department of the Army Security Guards performing security checks is new: that fateful morning’s Code Red closed a previously open post and initiated another chapter in the history of controlled access at the geographical “West Point” of the Hudson River, some 50 miles north of New York City.

By definition, a gate is “an opening in a wall capable of being closed by a barrier or by a framework on hinges.” The establishment of West Point, the U.S. Army’s oldest post, was a direct response to General Washington’s 1777 observation to General Putnam that defending

the Hudson denied the enemy passage to Canada and assured vital supplies of flour to the patriots. Washington’s command to Putnam made clear the urgency of this objective. It states: “Seize the present opportunity and employ your whole force and all the means in your power for erecting and completing, as far as it shall be possible, such works and obstructions as may be necessary to defend and secure the river against any further attempts of the enemy.”

The fortified Hudson Highlands surrounding West Point thus became “the wall,” and West Point’s legendary chain became “the gate.” The task was completed by April 1, ahead of schedule and under budget. That retractable gate across the Hudson eventually gave birth to a gatehouse, the United States Military Academy.

The oldest gate at USMA is presently found at the entrance to the West Point Cemetery. Before 1897, this hinge-supported, cast iron

barrier was attached to the South Gatehouse, located then on Thayer Road about 200 yards south of where Mahan Hall stands today. A clue to the foundry that produced these gates can be found at Washington’s Headquarters State Historic Site in Newburgh, New York. There, a virtually identical ironwork, funded by a gift from the Noble and Patriotic Ladies of Newburgh in honor of the Nation’s Independence Centennial in 1876, bears the casting mark of Robert Wood & Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. One can surmise that the ladies had on many an occasion visited West Point, passed through the barriers installed at both the North and South Gates to what had once been General Washington’s stronghold, and felt they would be an appropriate adornment enshrining the Newburgh headquarters from which he had commanded the Continental Army.

Interestingly, cadets have never had to stand guard duty on the perimeter of the post. As

Past in Review

various historical photographs housed at the West Point Museum depict, Regular Army Soldiers fulfilled the role of guards at the old North and South Gates. Even after September 11th, cadets did not draw that duty. Faculty, on the other hand, were immediately drafted to supplement West Point's Military Police detachment on gate guard duty, although they were eventually replaced by approximately 400 Soldiers from three National Guard companies who were activated and assigned to support West Point. Today, a civilian guard force of the Garrison Commander's Operations Directorate now performs these duties.

While cadets have never had to pull perimeter guard duty, they have always had sentinel duties within the post, especially during summer encampment on the Plain. Ex-cadet and future notable artist James Abbott MacNeil Whistler ex-1855 once drew four sketches progressively documenting the tedious two-hour pathway to exhaustion associated with being "On Post in Camp." Today, cadets serve non-ceremonial guard tours at five access points around Central Area. With hand-held radios linked to the Cadet Central Guard Room, they support recently tightened regulations that have evolved since September 11. Only visitors with the proper West Point identification credentials, or those escorted by the same, can now enter the inner perimeter.

Incidentally, when not serving as sentries, cadets have been known to dodge those acting in this role. An interesting anecdote in *To the Point*, written by George Pappas '44, describes how one cadet, who was denied permission to accept a dinner invitation in Cold Spring, New York by Superintendent Sylvanus Thayer, Class of 1808, eluded cadet guards and rowed across the Hudson River only to find himself sitting across the dining table from the Superintendent, who engaged the cadet in polite small talk. After dinner, the cadet excused himself, rowed back to West Point, again eluded his comrades on guard duty and returned to his tent. Pappas writes that the cadet "expected to hear his name in orders the next day, but he was not reported then or later for breaking limits



Ex-cadet and future notable artist James Abbott MacNeil Whistler ex-1855 drew four sketches progressively documenting the tedious two-hour pathway to exhaustion associated with being "On Post in Camp." (Ink and graphite on paper, c. 1853)

[and], years later, learned that Thayer had severely reprimanded the Commandant and the tactical officer on duty for permitting cadets to leave the limits of the post so easily." Controlled access at West Point is still a two way function, thus the need to sign out when leaving and sign in upon returning.

As new property was acquired over the years, gate placement matched the outer perimeters used by the Academy. The present locations of Thayer and Washington Gates, for example, were established by 1920, and the one for Stoney Lonesome was erected by 1970. Over time, these gates have been embraced as an important part of the Academy they protect. The West Point Class of 1943 June, for

example, raised \$833,000 as part of their 50th Class Reunion gift to adorn Thayer Gate with crowning granite battlements, Gothic arched windows with stained glass West Point blazons, vertical limestone fleches and a limestone crest. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, three-hundred and sixty-five days a year, anyone seeking access to West Point needs to first stop at one of the gates that have become as historical as the personages or scenes for which they are named. ★

Ted Spiegel is a long-time contributing writer for various WPAOG publications and formerly worked for West Point Admissions.



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