# West Point Summer 2017

# Celebrating West Point Milestones

1817-2017: The Legacy of Sylvanus Thayer, "Father of the Academy"

1992-2017: 25 years of Sistinguished Graduate Awards

West Point Band Marks Bicentennial



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.

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#### ON THE COVER

One of two portraits of Sylvanus Thayer painted by Robert Weir while he was serving as Professor of Drawing at the Academy. This portrait is believed to be a study for Weir's larger, full length portrait of Thayer that currently hangs in the Cadet Mess Hall. Courtesy of the West Point Museum Collection, United States Military Academy.

#### Dear Fellow Graduates:

On May 27, the 936 newest members of the Long Gray Line exited the gates of West Point as newly commissioned second lieutenants. About a month later, on July 3, the incoming class reported to the Cadet in the Red Sash as new cadets in the Class of 2021. Once again, as sure as the sun rises over the east bank of the Hudson and sets over the mountains to the west, the excitement of Graduation had been replaced by the anxiety of R-Day.

This year marked the 215th year of these West Point rites of passage. Our alma mater, of course, has a rich history of traditions. Each year, in fact, seems to include milestones to observe. Three such anniversaries are covered in this issue of *West Point*. Our cover story profiles "The Father of West Point" Sylvanus Thayer. You will read about the challenges he faced upon his appointment as Superintendent, 200 years ago, and about the changes he implemented, which set the U.S. Military Academy on its path to becoming the premiere leader development institution in the world. This issue also celebrates the bicentennial of the West Point Band, which has been supporting and inspiring cadets and many other patriotic Americans since 1817. We also chronicle 25 years of the West Point Association of Graduates' Distinguished Graduate Award, first presented to General James A. Van Fleet, a member of the legendary Class of 1915 ("the class the stars fell on"). He received the Award on his 100th birthday, in 1992. Later that year, General Matthew Ridgeway April '17, General Andrew Goodpaster '39, and Dr. Thoralf Sundt Jr. '52 also received the Distinguished Graduate Award.

In addition to this preview of three of our featured articles, I would like to update you on our WPAOG initiatives for individual graduates. The *Rockbound Highland Home Program*, created exclusively for USMA graduates, is now operational. Graduates may now take advantage of special clearance procedures for obtaining badges to visit West Point. They may use select MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) facilities and services, and WPAOG is now able to offer "insider" tours for graduates and their personal guests.

In the months ahead, other services will complement the Rockbound Highland Home program. The West Point AOG Career Services Program and the West Point AOG Connect Program are well into their design phases. These initiatives, in addition to WPAOG's many other programs and services, are intended to support our vision for WPAOG-that the Long Gray Line be the most highly connected alumni body in the world.

In closing, and on behalf of all Old Grads, I would like to welcome the Class of 2017 to the Long Gray Line. Also, to parents new to the West Point family, as well as the Grads among us who have sons or daughters in the Class of 2021, the team at the Alumni Center look forward to supporting you and your cadets during the upcoming years.

Serving West Point and the Long Gray Line,

Todd

Todd A. Browne '85 President & CEO West Point Association of Graduates





# West Point



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#### The end of the academic year is always an exciting time at West Point, as it brings many of our alumni back to their "Rockbound Highland Home" for spring reunions and graduation week activities.



It was great seeing so many of you recently and hearing your positive comments about the Academy and, most importantly, our incredible cadets.

One of the highlights of graduation week is the annual Alumni Luncheon, where we recognize the new class of Distinguished Graduates. Congratulations to our Distinguished Grads for 2017: Mr. Marshall N. Carter '62,

BG (R) Dan Kaufman '68, GEN (R) Martin Dempsey '74, GEN (R) Lloyd Austin III '75; Hon. Bob McDonald '75 and GEN (R) Ray Odierno '76. Throughout their careers, they have selflessly served and given back to West Point, our Army, and our nation. They epitomize the ideal of selfless service and are exemplars of the values of Duty, Honor, Country.

In addition, we were honored to welcome back a distinguished graduate in his own right—LTG (R) William Ely from the Class of 1933. At 105 years young, he holds the distinction as the oldest living member of the Long Gray Line. He is an inspiration to not only our cadets, but also to everyone in the nation who understands the extent of his incredible service.

Capping everything off was the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2017, where we welcomed 936 new lieutenants to the world's greatest Army. I appreciate the Class of 1967, their 50-year affiliation class, for all of their support and mentorship of these newly-minted officers throughout the past four years.

As these new graduates tossed their hats into the air and then were later pinned as new second lieutenants, they took their place as the newest members of the Long Gray Line. As they did so, they joined a long lineage of graduates—fellow brothers and sisters in the Profession of Arms—who answered the call to duty when their country needed them the most.

The Long Gray Line is more than merely a roll of all West Point graduates. It is also the rich history, tradition and ideals that are unique to West Point, that forever connect us to this institution and to each other.

West Point has no shortage of traditions, as we all know. During Beast Barracks, we all learned The Days, the words to "The Corps," how many gallons of water there are in Lusk Reservoir, and how the cow was. Generations of football players laid hands on the Marshall plaque as the rest of the Corps ran spirit missions leading up to Army-Navy (undoubtedly, one of the most significant traditions of all). We learned the ring poop as plebes and then, a few years later, learned the significance of the ring as we received our own and did our best to avoid said plebes. Years later, many of those rings would become part of a relatively new tradition, the Ring "Melt" Memorial ceremony. We gazed upon Foundation Eagle at the beginning of the semester, spun the rowels on Sedgwick's spur before final exams, and ran through Central Area dressed as a Star Wars character 10 minutes before the deadline to deliver our SOSH thesis.

There's also no shortage of history here, as well; not only the history of the garrison and the Academy but also, and perhaps more important, the long list of West Point graduates who have made their mark on our nation's history over the years. As the popular saying around West Point goes, "Much of the history we teach was made by the people we taught." Many of these names are well known; others, less so. Whether or not you'll find their name in a history textbook, they all share the common experience that is West Point. While they did not know what history would demand of them, nor where history would take them, each of them rose to the challenge and answered their nation's call when their nation needed them most.

As these new officers from the Class of 2017 take their places on the Long Gray Line, they are forever connected to the countless thousands of graduates who have gone before them, bound by our common history and traditions, including the most important traditions of all: the traditions of excellence and selfless service as leaders of character for our Army and our nation, committed to the ideals of Duty, Honor, and Country. They also now join us as the caretakers of that history and tradition, dedicated to preserving them and passing them on to future generations of West Point graduates.

With the arrival of the Class of 2021 a few weeks ago, we continue the tradition and never-ending process of developing the leaders of character who will fight and win our nation's wars, as these new cadets become part of the fabric that is West Point.

Finally, I'd like to thank each of you for your continued support of your alma mater. Your generosity is vital to the funding of our many Margin of Excellence programs and projects—all of which allow us to maintain our status as one of the nation's top-tier colleges and as the world's preeminent leader development institution. Additionally, thank you for being role models for our cadets and ambassadors for this great institution.

As always, Beat Navy!

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

#### 1817 ~ 2017 | The Legacy of Sylvanus Thayer

# Character, Discipline & Scholarship:

Two Centuries of Thayer's Influence at West Point

By Keith J. Hamel, WPAOG staff

In March 2002, West Point and its graduates celebrated the 200-year Anniversary of the founding of the United States Military Academy with a gala reception at The Russian Tea Room in New York City, a concert at Carnegie Hall, a banquet in Washington Hall, and a ball at Eisenhower Hall complete with fireworks over the Hudson River. One could argue that an equally important bicentennial is taking place this summer. On July 28, 1817, Captain Sylvanus Thayer, Class of 1808, arrived at West Point and began his 16year tenure as the fifth Superintendent of the United States Military Academy. Thayer's vision and innovation led to his legacy as "Father of the Military Academy" and provided West Point with the character-based leadership education system that set the standards for the Academy's evolution into the world's premier leader development institution.

## President Monroe's Dilemma: Restoring Order at the Academy

According to William T. Morton '23, a former USMA librarian, West Point was in a "chaotic state" before Thayer, more of a "private school for boys" than an engineering school or academy for future U.S. Army officers. President James Monroe recognized that the Academy was in trouble when he stopped at West Point in June 1817 as part of his East Coast tour of the United States and found that nearly all the cadets had left the post on furlough. Also, the members of the Academic Board complained to him that the current Superintendent, Captain Alden Partridge, Class of 1806, had consistently sacrificed the Academy's academic curriculum for "drill and mechanical maneuvers." President Monroe instructed Brigadier General Joseph Swift, Class of 1802, the Army's Chief Engineer in charge of such matters (and the previous USMA Superintendent from 1812-1814), to dismiss Partridge as Superintendent. Monroe then began to mull over a successor to clean up the mess at West Point. He selected Thayer, whom President Monroe knew from his time as Secretary of War. In that role, Monroe had authorized Thayer's two-year mission to France to study the Napoleonic system. Thayer had learned about foreign military tactics and methods, visited France's famed École Polytechnique military school, and amassed a vast collection of military art books and instruments that he later gave to the USMA Library. President Monroe appointed Thayer, just 32 years old, as Superintendent with specific orders to impose order at the nation's military school. In his 16 years as Superintendent, Thayer did just that, and accomplished so much more.

"Nobody realized it at the moment, but when Sylvanus Thayer stepped across the parade ground and walked to the Superintendent's house on July 28, 1817, the modern West Point had arrived," wrote R. Ernest Dupuy, famed military historian and former USMA public relations officer, in a 1955 essay. "He made the place, presumably in his own image, and the image seems to have been a good one."

#### Thayer Sets New Standards for Academic Rigor, Military Discipline, and Character

The hallmark of Thayer's image was character. In a 1922 address delivered at West Point, Stacy B. Southworth, Headmaster of the Thayer Academy in South Braintree, Massachusetts, said that Thayer's character was formed early in his life by his parents, who were descendants of Puritan immigrants, and by his uncle Azariah Faxon, with whom Thayer lived during his preteen and teenage years. Faxon "impressed upon him that sturdy character can only be forged into final shape by the blows of obstacles, by sharp and persistent struggle."

Thayer's early days as Superintendent were marked with this struggle. He first had to recall the furloughed cadets, in some cases advertising in local newspapers for their return. Then, seeking a way to divide cadets into progressive classes for academic study, he consulted the faculty regarding the course of study each class should pursue, and gave each cadet a general examination to determine his place in the academic program. The testing found that 43 cadets, roughly 20 percent of the Corps, were deficient in their studies, and 22 of them had been at the Academy for more than three years! Thayer dismissed 21 of these cadets and ordered the faculty to prepare weekly progress reports on the cadets in their classes. Also, after convening the first formal meeting of the Academy's Academic Board on March 30, 1818, he took their suggestion and mandated that future cadets could only enter the Academy at a certain point each year, and that they needed to pass an examination to advance to the next class. Finally, he instituted a daily routine for the cadets: "principal studies" (mathematics, natural philosophy, engineering, and military tactics) in the morning and "subsidiary courses" (French and drawing) on alternating days in the afternoon. "I have thus given you the outlines of my hasty and desultory reflection on some of the means of better organizing the instruction of this institution," Thayer wrote in an early "Memorandum to the Academic Staff." And, according to Ed Cass's article, "Sylvanus Thayer 1817-1833: A Personal Glimpse," Professor Jared Mansfield of the Department of Natural and Experimental Philosophy wrote in early 1818 that "Thayer had accomplished more in his first six months at West Point than had been done in the previous five years."

Mansfield's remark was a direct critique of Partridge, the former Superintendent, who contributed to Thayer's struggles in his first year. In August 1817, Partridge returned to West Point and demanded his old quarters and position. Backing Partridge and cheering him on were the Corps of Cadets, many of whom loved "Old Pewt," Partridge's nickname among cadets. Rather than challenge the mutiny and risk a public scandal that could have destroyed the young military Academy, Thayer calmly wrote a letter to the Secretary of War apprising him of the situation. Thayer then reported to the Engineering Headquarters in New York City. Two days later, Swift's aide-de-camp arrived at West Point to arrest Partridge, who was later found guilty of disobeying orders and of assuming command without authority. Partridge would eventually resign his commission in exchange for clemency.

Partridge's influence at West Point remained, however, in the attitudes and behaviors of a clique of cadets who continued to support "Old Pewt." Most of the time they just complained about the discipline and examinations Thayer had instituted, but on November 24, 1818 they went too far. Five of them, led by Thomas Ragland (reportedly a favorite of Partridge's), threatened to lead a rebellion of the entire Corps if Thayer did not remove Captain John Bliss, Class of 1811. Bliss was the instructor of tactics and soldierly discipline (a position that Thayer had instituted in September 1817, which evolved by 1825 into the Commandant of Cadets). Two days earlier, Bliss had forcibly pulled a cadet out of formation by his cross belts for misbehaving while on parade. Thayer refused to accept their petition, which was reportedly signed by more than 150 cadets, and he sent them back to the barracks. When they returned the next morning, demanding charges against Bliss, Thayer ordered them off post. Eventually, a Court of Inquiry was convened and the matter settled when Attorney General William Wirt determined on August 21, 1819 that "the Corps at West Point form a part of the land forces of the United States and have been constitutionally subjected by Congress to the rules and articles of war." By standing firm against Partridge and his followers, Thayer ensured that the Academy under his leadership would be a place of order, discipline, and scholarship.

#### The Thayer System: 134 Regulations for Cadet Life

To foster his vision for the Academy, Thayer issued 134 regulations that dictated every aspect of cadet life. Among other things, the regulations stipulated how cadets should dress, what they could

Below, left: This full length portrait of Sylvanus Thayer by Robert Weir is considered haver's official portrait at the Academy. It was completed in 1844 and currently hangs in the Cadet Mess Hall. **Below, center:** Order by BG Joseph Swift, Class of 1802 and then the Army's Chief Engineer, condemning CPT Alden Partridge, Class of 1806, for his unauthorized action of assuming command of West Point and warning cadets that disobedience of orders from MAJ Sylvanus Thayer "will be punished by immediate dismission [sic]." Below, right: The medal presented for the Thayer Award own or use, how they were to conduct themselves in the barracks, and where they could go. Regarding this last point, one of Thayer's biggest problems as Superintendent was keeping cadets from visiting establishments that served alcohol. Cadets would typically frequent one of two places: "Old Grid's," operated by Oliver Gridley and located just beyond the post boundary at the rear of the cadet barracks, and Benny Havens, a tavern located in Highland Falls a mile or so from the barracks. Thayer convinced Gridley to close up shop and sell his property to the Academy in 1824 (in the same deal West Point gained Fort Putnam, which was also located on Gridley's farm), but Benny Havens remained a favorite cadet haunt for decades after Thaver left West Point (Thayer did, however, bar Havens and his wife from ever visiting West Point, making them the only American citizens to be banned from the Academy). If a cadet were caught at these establishments, he would receive a demerit, which would need to be "walked off" on guard duty in the company area. Although the demerit system was not formalized until around 1825, cadets would receive similar punishments for violating any of Thayer's regulations. Demerits were eventually used in computing a cadet's class standing, which ultimately determined into which branch a cadet would be



commissioned, and any cadet who accumulated more than 200 demerits in an academic year would be removed from the Academy. According to Theodore Crackel, author of *West Point: A Bicentennial History*, "[Cadets] complained incessantly about [Thayer's] discipline and challenged his system whenever the occasion allowed—but to no avail."

Despite cadets' complaints, West Point under Thayer was not a place of complete austerity, and many of his initiatives were welcomed by cadets and faculty alike. For one thing, Thayer installed running water in many of the buildings on post, upgraded the fare in the cadet mess, and encouraged recreational activities for the cadets (particularly dancing, sports, and outdoor activitiesand he invited cadets to his guarters to play chess). In 1824, he established the Dialectic Society, an extracurricular activity for cadets that offered debate and recitations for the entertainment of the audience at West Point. He introduced new courses and departments and hired new faculty to fill the small sections of 10 to 15 cadets that he had initiated. Finally, Thayer changed the face of West Point by building new quarters for Academy leadership and faculty department heads between 1819 and 1827, a hotel in 1829, and a new hospital in 1830. These last two items were recommended by the 1820 Board of Visitors, which wrote in its report to the Secretary of War: "The Board of Visitors would not fulfill their duty, did they not bear testimony to the improvement which has taken place and is still going on under the direction of the present Superintendent."

#### Thayer's Innovation Breeds Success and a Lasting Legacy for American Education

Two years later, the Board's report noted that the Academy was "steadily advancing toward that point of perfection, which every friend of his Country must wish to see it reach." In five years, nearly every phase of West Point operations had advanced, thanks to Thayer's leadership. In 1823, Thayer was promoted to Brevet Lieutenant Colonel by President Monroe "in recognition of Distinguished and Meritorious Service as Superintendent." And, showing that Thayer was making a name for West Point beyond just the United States, the Marquis de Lafayette and the Duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, both distinguished European soldiers, paid official visits to the Academy in 1825.

"Nobody realized it at the moment, but when Sylvanus Thayer stepped across the parade ground and walked to the Superintendent's house on July 28, 1817, the modern West Point had arrived."

-R. Ernest Dupuy, Military Historian, former USMA public relations officer

Thayer continued as Superintendent for the next eight years, but, as Crackel notes, "The years from 1826 to 1833 were marked by decreasing support and even active hostility in Washington." President Andrew Jackson, in particular, chided the Academy for being aristocratic and Thayer for being tyrannical. Compounding



Alumni and the Corps of Cadets form up in front of Thayer Monument circa 1944 for the annual wreath laying honoring the "Father of the Military Academy."

the matter, in March 1830, Partridge returned to playing the role of Thayer's nemesis with his pamphlet "The Military Academy at West Point Unmasked: or, Corruption and Military Despotism Exposed."

Despite these difficulties, which tangentially led to his resignation in 1833, Thayer's mark on West Point had been indelibly made, and the elements of the system he created (small classes, daily recitations, semiannual examinations, demerits) remained long after he left the post on July 1, 1834. He never returned to West Point during his lifetime.

In 1869, Thayer was appointed the first president of the newlyformed Association of Graduates (AOG), but he was never able to attend a meeting due to poor health. He died on September 2, 1872 at the age of 87. Five years later, following a request from the AOG to the federal government, Thayer's remains were removed from their Braintree, Massachusetts location and interred in the West Point Cemetery.

Almost a century after Thayer's death, AOG nominated him to the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, located at New York University, to which he received unanimous election in 1965 as the "Founder of Technical Education in the United States." As it turned out, his "sons," the cadets he led as Superintendent, went on to influence learning at other engineering schools. Quoting Morton, "With the exception of Rensselaer, all of the technical schools founded before the Civil War were children of West Point." So not only is Thayer the "Father of the Military Academy," he is, in a way, the "Grandfather" of the Virginia Military Institute (1839), the U.S. Naval Academy (1845), the Lawrence School of Engineering at Harvard University (1846), the Sheffield Engineering School at Yale University, and six more schools with direct West Point pedagogical affiliations. ★ "May this monument, reared in loving gratitude to the 'Father of the Military Academy,' on this historic Plain of West Point, ever stimulate the élèves here educated to win a like recognition for merit and patriotism."



C o spoke General George Cullum, Class of 1833, on June 11, 1883 at the Unveiling of the statue of Sylvanus Thayer at West Point.

Sculpted by Carl H. Conrads from "granite of Thayer's own New England," the monument includes a nine-foot base bearing the inscription: "Colonel Thayer, Father of the Military Academy," topped by an eight-foot tall likeness of Thayer himself in his military uniform of the War of 1812, complete with cape. A bicorne hat, sword, and scabbard rest at the base of the sculpture. In 1952, at an event marking the Academy's Sesquicentennial Anniversary, the Association of Graduates emplaced a bronze wreath on the back of the base.

Thayer's statue was originally located in the southwest corner of the Plain, but it has been moved twice: in 1965, it was moved to a small rise near Trophy Point, as it was decided that the larger Washington Monument was better suited for the massive size of the new Washington Hall-Barracks Complex; and, in 1973,

it was moved to the northeast corner of the Plain, nearly in front of the Superintendent's Quarters, where it remains today.

In his remarks at the monument's dedication, Cullum seemed to divine this eventual location when he said, "I feel assured that its present, and all of its future Superintendents will guard it with care; and I trust they may never look upon this statue, the counterpart presentiment of their distinguished predecessor, without a quickening impulse to follow in his footsteps."



Far right: Postcard of Thayer Monument showing its original location in front of the old gymnasium, which was demolished in 1924 to make room for what is now known as the old part of Washington Hall (built in 1926).

NOMINATED TO THE HALL BY THE ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES OF UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

WESTPOINT | SUMMER 2017

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#### 1992 ~ 2017 | WPAOG's Distinguished Graduate Awards

# A Quarter-Century of Character, Distinguished Service and Leadership

#### By Keith J. Hamel, WPAOG staff

Question: Which three West Point graduates have received the Sylvanus Thayer Award, historically believed to be West Point's most prestigious honor? Answer: President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Class of 1915, in 1961; General Douglas MacArthur, Class of 1903, in 1962; and General Omar N. Bradley, Class of 1915, in 1973. Most people get MacArthur; after all, his "Duty, Honor, Country" speech upon receiving the award is widely considered to be one of the best speeches of the 20th century. Following this, about half of the people asked get Eisenhower and Bradley, and the other half have no idea that a West Point graduate (beyond MacArthur) had ever received the Thayer Award. One can't fault this latter group given that, sometime after 1973, the West Point Association of Graduates Board of Trustees amended the criteria for the Thayer Award, adding the words "...other than a West Point graduate" to eligibility standards in order to avoid the appearance of being selfserving. About a decade or so later, several graduates, classes, and societies started petitioning WPAOG to reverse this policy and present the Thayer Award to one of West Point's own. In 1991,

The 2017 Distinguished Graduate Award recipients with the United States Corps of Cadets (USCC) Brigade Staff. Left to right: GEN (R) Raymond Odierno '76, GEN (R) Lloyd Austin III '75, Marshall N. Carter '62, USCC Brigade Staff, GEN (R) Martin Dempsey '74, BG (R) Daniel Kaufman '68 and Hon. Robert A. McDonald '75.

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following the recommendation of the Long Range Planning Conference of the previous year, which recognized that no means existed to honor graduates whose service and accomplishments in the national interest exemplified the Academy's ideals, WPAOG established the Distinguished Graduate Award (DGA). Today, more than 25 years later, the DGA has fittingly fulfilled the words of Denis F. Mullane '52, President of the Association of Graduates at the time and himself a DGA recipient in 2004, who said, "I am convinced that, as the years pass, the Distinguished Graduate Award will equal the Thayer Award in importance and stature." Bonus Question: How many West Point graduates have received a DGA? Answer: 127 in 26 years, which is more than double the number of Thayer Award recipients in 59 years.

The first DGA was presented to General James A. Van Fleet, Class of 1915, in Polk City, Florida, on March 19, 1992 during a two-hour ceremony marking his 100th birthday. According to Mullane, who was

on hand to bestow a DGA citation and medal to Van Fleet, "...the whole town turned out" (an estimated 1,500 people filled Polk City's Freedom Park). Notable guests included state congressmen, local officials, military attachés from Greece and the Republic of Korea, and active and reserve U.S. military officers, one of whom was General Edwin H. Burba Jr. '59, who received his own DGA 11 years later in 2003. A month or so later, Lieutenant General Howard D. Graves '61, the 54th Superintendent (and a 2001 DGA recipient), granted the Association of Graduates' request to present two more DGAs during the Alumni Review on May 26, 1992, paving the way for the tradition that endures today. On that day, General Andrew J. Goodpaster '39, West Point's 51st Superintendent (among many other roles during his nearly fourdecade military career), and Dr. Thoralf M. Sundt Jr. '52, a worldrenowned neurosurgeon, received citations and medals on the Plain. Afterwards, they both addressed the Corps of Cadets during the





WPAOG Chairman LTG (R) Larry R. Jordan '68 presents medals to the 2017 Distinguished Graduates.

Alumni Luncheon, each taking different approaches to the same theme: "the meaning of West Point." Finally, Colonel Seth Hudgins '64 (Retired), the Association of Graduates' Executive Vice President, travelled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to the home of General Matthew B. Ridgway, Class of April 1917, to present the former Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and 19th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army with the fourth DGA citation and medal.

"It is all about service; it is all about servant-leadership, and events such as the Distinguished Graduate Award are so moving to old grads, especially in front of cadets, because we are passing the baton of leadership to a new generation."

-GEN (R) Martin Dempsey '74

For the next quarter decade, WPAOG bestowed DGAs to a variety of graduates, in groups as few as two (1999) and as many as seven (2004 and 2006), whose "...character, distinguished service, and stature draw wholesome comparison to the qualities for which West Point stands, as epitomized by its motto: Duty, Honor, Country;" and whose selection underscores the broad national significance of West Point as one of America's cherished institutions. For example, WPAOG has recognized General Roscoe Robinson Jr. '51 (1993), the first four-star African-American general; General Alexander Haig Jr. '47 (1996), advisor to six U.S. presidents and the 59th U.S. Secretary of State; Fidel V. Ramos '50 (2001), 12th President of the Philippines; Major General Neal Creighton '53 (2005), commander of the 3rd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment during seven battles during the 1968 Tet Offensive in Vietnam and later lead fundraiser in a \$200 million campaign for the National Museum of the U.S. Army; the Honorable Thomas E. White Jr. '57 (2010), the 18th Secretary of the Army and then co-founder of DKRW Energy LLC, one of the country's leading alternative energy development companies; and Frederic V. Malek '59 (2014), past president of Marriott Hotels & Resorts, as well as Northwest Airlines, and notable philanthropist. A snapshot of WPAOG's DGA recipient list includes 44 generals, 25 lieutenant generals, 8 major generals, 7 brigadier generals, 10 non-flag officers, 8 USMA Superintendents, 8 Commandants of Cadets, 1 USMA Dean, 4 astronauts, 2 mayors, 2 Medal of Honor recipients, 1 Olympic Gold Medal winner, numerous military leaders (chiefs of staff, vice chiefs of staff, and branch chiefs) and leaders of industry. On the more esoteric side, the list also includes the former deputy chief of staff for personnel who "green-lighted" the Army's "Be All You Can Be" recruiting campaign (Lieutenant General Robert G. Yerks '51 [2013]), a former Ambassador to the Holy See (R. James Nicholson '61 [2005]), and the graduate who wrote the book that was made into The Long Gray Line (1955), arguably the most famous movie about West Point (Colonel Russell P. 'Red' Reeder Jr. '26 [1997]).

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leadership to a new generation." Commenting on the tradition that the DGA has become, Kaufman said, "This ceremony helps West Point convey to cadets that the virtues and values that the Academy teaches are timeless and that service to the country can take many forms." "We stress to cadets the importance of character, and character is based on one's values," Austin said, "and as you look at these people who have received this award—without fail-they are all leaders of character." Reflecting on the events surrounding the DGA, which includes a Pass in Review of the Corps of Cadets, Dempsey said, "You can't escape the historical significance and magical ties of the Long Gray Line: The quality of the graduates who in their time were given such momentous responsibility and handled it honorably is a testament to West Point and the values it instills." Happy 25th anniversary to the award presented to graduates "whose character, distinguished service, and stature draw wholesome comparison to...Duty, Honor, Country." ★

#### 1992 ~ 2017 | WPAOG's Distinguished Graduate Awards

#### 2017 Distinguished Graduate Award Recipients

#### Marshall N. Carter '62

Marshall N. Carter, a third-generation West Point graduate, was commissioned directly into the U.S. Marine Corps upon graduation. From his career of military service (retiring as a colonel) to heading a global securities exchange, he always emphasized leadership. Over the course of two tours in Vietnam, Carter received the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism on the battlefield as an infantry company commander, a Purple Heart, and a Bronze Star with V device. After leaving active duty in 1975, he entered the world of finance, taking the leadership skills he developed at West Point and honed in the Marine Corps to Chase Manhattan Bank, State Street Bank and Trust (which he grew sixfold as Chairman/CEO for 10 years), and ultimately to the New York Stock Exchange as its Chairman (leading it through the turmoil and eventual recovery following the 2008 recession). Through it all, Carter has been generous with time, talent, and treasure for his alma mater (sponsoring the annual Cadet Cyber Defense Exercise) and his community (chairing the Board of Trustees expanding the inner city hospital in Boston, counseling veterans and leading the Massachusetts Governor's Task Force investigating Boston airport after the events of 9/11/2001). His lifetime accomplishments are a testament to his class's motto: "Can Do '62."

#### Daniel Kaufman '68

Called "the absolute total package" by General (Retired) David Petraeus '74 and "one of the top five public servants" by General (Retired) Barry McCaffrey '64, Brigadier General (Retired) Daniel Kaufman has spent nearly five decades as both a soldier and a scholar, shaping generations of leaders for West Point, the U.S. Army, and the nation. After a tour in Vietnam with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, receiving a Bronze Star Medal and two Purple Hearts for wounds his sustained in combat. Kaufman earned a master's degree at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government (and later a doctorate at MIT) and began a highly respected career as an educator in uniform, culminating in serving as the 12th Dean of the Academic Board at the U.S. Military Academy. As Dean, Kaufman helped transform the Academy after 9/11, securing funds for Jefferson Library and Bartlett Hall, graduating 13 Rhodes and 12 Marshall Scholars during his tenure, and supporting numerous "Dean's Teams," whose success raised USMA's academic reputation to rank as the "#1 Public College in America" according to Forbes. Kaufman was also instrumental in establishing the Afghan Military Academy and was the founding President of Georgia Gwinnett College, the first four-year U.S. public college created in the 21st century.

#### Martin Dempsey'74

In his more than 40 years in uniform, General (Retired) Martin Dempsey went from wearing five stripes as a cadet battalion commander to donning four stars as a U.S. Army general, finding success in every position. Notably, from 2003-04, as a two-star general, he commanded the 1st Armored Division/Multi-National Division-Bagdad in Irag, during which time he recalled his division after it was relieved for rotation and led it against a Shia insurgent uprising, earning the 1st AD a Valorous Unit Award. "He was the best combat division commander to serve under my command in Iraq," said General (Retired) John Abizaid '73. After receiving his fourth star, Dempsey served as Commanding General of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, as the 37th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, and lastly as the 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, who recommended Dempsey to the President to serve as Chairman, called Dempsey "a superb Chairman during very trying times," and Chuck Hagel, who served as Secretary of Defense while Dempsey was Chief, called him "one of this country's most distinguished Americans." General Dempsey's wife, Deanie, has been at his side for 40 years and shares in each of his accomplishments. They have three children, each of whom served in the Army, and nine grandchildren.



2017 DGA recipients with USMA leadership team and WPAOG Chairman LTG (R) Larry R. Jordan '68.

#### Lloyd Austin III '75

Ask those who served with General (Retired) Lloyd J. Austin III, and they are all likely to echo the words of General Mark Milley, the 39th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army: "Lloyd Austin is a great officer and leader, but more importantly, he is a first-class person of humility and character." In his 41-year military career, Austin went from a rifle platoon leader in the 7th Infantry to the 33rd Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army and Commander of U.S. Central Command, overseeing the 20-country Central Region and the military campaign to defeat the terrorist organization ISIL in Iraq and Syria. He holds the unique distinction of having commanded in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan at the one-, two-, three- and four-star levels, and was the first African-American to command a division, corps, and field army in combat. He is the recipient of the Silver Star and five Defense Distinguished Service Medals. "Command, combat, and success are the hallmarks of his sterling career," said Admiral (Retired) Michael Mullen, the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, regarding Austin. Called a "warrior" and a "Soldier's Soldier" by many, Austin is also the pride of Thomasville, Georgia, his hometown, receiving the Pinnacle Award, Thomasville County Chamber of Commerce's highest award, and being inducted into the county's Sports Hall of Fame as a renowned scholar-athlete.

#### Robert A. McDonald '75

Even going back to his cadet days, the Honorable Robert McDonald was recognized as "distinguished" (Distinguished Cadet, Brigade Adjutant). As an Airborne Ranger Infantry Officer in the 82nd Airborne Division, he received an Outstanding Junior Officer commendation from the division commander and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. After resigning from the Army, he began a 33-year career with The Procter & Gamble Company, becoming its 12th Chairman of the Board, President, and Chief Executive Officer in 2009 and leading it to being distinguished as "Best Company for Leaders" by Chief Executive Magazine and The Hay Group. During his tenure as CEO the stock price increased 60 percent. McDonald then served with distinction as the eighth Secretary of Veterans Affairs, bringing positive transformation to the VA. President Barack Obama wrote, "Your service has helped us keep the faith with our veterans, and your dedication will leave a lasting and meaningful legacy. Thank you for your extraordinary service." "I am proud of Bob's incredible work to fulfill our nation's one truly sacred obligation," said Vice President Joseph Biden. Over the course of his service, McDonald has made time to give back to West Point and his community, endowing (with his wife Diane) the McDonald Conference for Leaders of Character, serving on the "For Us All" Fundraising Campaign Cabinet, sponsoring Greater Cincinnati's Leaders of Character program, and participating with distinction on numerous boards, councils, and committees.

#### Raymond Odierno '76

According to General (Retired) Richard Myers, the 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General (Retired) Raymond Odierno is the "consummate American Soldier." Throughout his career, he served in a variety of heavy and light units in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East, commanding at every level from Platoon to Theater, and served on the Army, Joint, and OSD staffs. In fact, he is one of the few generals in modern history to command at the Division, Corps, and Theater level during the same conflict. He was a major general by 9/11 and, during Operation Iragi Freedom, commanded the 4th Infantry Division in the most rapid deployment of heavy armored forces in history, with his troops capturing Saddam Hussein in December 2003. He returned to Irag in November 2006 as Commander of Multi-National Corps-Iraq, engineering the now-famous troop "surge," which significantly changed the dynamics and the outcome of the conflict. From 2008-10 he commanded Multi-National Force-Irag and was later selected to command U.S. Joint Forces Command. He culminated his career as the 38th Chief of Staff for the U.S. Army, "providing extraordinary leadership during difficult times, becoming the face of the Army when resources were rarely adequate to meet the expanding tasks required of them," said Condoleezza Rice, 66th U.S. Secretary of State. "He truly represents integrity, character, and sacrifice."

#### Recipients of the West Point Association of Graduates Distinguished Graduate Award\*

#### 2017

Mr. Marshall N. Carter '62 BG (R) Daniel Kaufman '68 GEN (R) Martin Dempsey '74 GEN (R) Lloyd Austin '75 Honorable Robert A. McDonald '75 GEN (R) Raymond Odierno '76

#### 2016

Mr. Louis Gross '54 BG (R) John C. Bahnsen Jr. '56 Mr. Joseph B. Anderson Jr. '65 Mr. William P. Foley II '67 GEN (R) Richard A. Cody '72 GEN (R) Keith B. Alexander '74

#### 2015

LTG (R) Max W. Noah '53 Mr. Roderic B. Vitty '55 LTG (R) John H. Moellering '59 Mr. William F. Murdy II '64 Mr. Jodie K. Glore '69 LTG (R) Thomas F. Metz '71

#### 2014

Lt Gen (R) Robert E. Pursley '49, USAF COL (R) William B. DeGraf '50 Mr. Frederic V. Malek '59 Mr. Paul W. Bucha '65 LTG (R) Franklin L. Hagenbeck '71

#### 2013

LTG (R) Robert G. Yerks '51 GEN (R) John W. Foss '56 Mr. Lee R. Anderson '61 LTG (R) Theodore G. Stroup Jr. '62 LTG (R) Joseph E. DeFrancisco '65 Gen (R) Boonsrang Niumpradit '71, Army of Thailand

#### 2012

LTG (R) Henry J. Hatch '57 GEN (R) Crosbie E. Saint '58 MAJ (R) William H. Willoughby Jr. '60 Gen (R) Narciso L. Abaya '71, Philippine Army LTG (R) William J. Lennox Jr. '71

#### 2011

GEN (R) William R. Richardson '51 MG (R) Carl H. McNair Jr. '55 Lewis "Bob" Sorley '56, Ph.D. GEN (R) Dennis J. Reimer '62 COL (R) William S. McArthur Jr. '73

#### 2010

LTG (R) Frederic J. Brown '56 GEN (R) Barry R. McCaffrey '64 LTG (R) Dan W. Christman '65 HON Thomas E. White Jr. '67 HON Robert Kimmitt '69

#### 2009

Lt Gen (R) James D. Hughes '46, USAF GEN (R) Donn A. Starry '48 LTG (R) Robert F. Foley '63 GEN (R) Eric K. Shinseki '65 GEN (R) Thomas A. Schwartz '67 GEN (R) John P. Abizaid '73

#### 2008

GEN (R) Wallace H. Nutting '50 LTG (R) Clarence E. McKnight Jr. '52 Gen (R) John A. Shaud '56, USAF Mr. James V. Kimsey '62 GEN (R) Dell L. Dailey '71

#### 2007

LTG (R) John MacNair Wright Jr. '40 BG (R) Amos A. "Joe" Jordan '46 COL (R) Joseph G. Clemons '51 MG (R) Joseph P. Franklin '55 MG (R) Bernard "Burn" Loeffke '57

#### 2006

LTG (R) Richard G Trefry '50 Mr. Herbert S. Lichtenberg '55 Mr. Arthur E. Dewey '56 MG (R) Nicholas S. Krawciw '59 GEN (R) Wayne A. Downing '62 BG (R) Howard T. Prince II '62 Mr. Thomas B. Dyer '67

#### 2005

LTG (R) Frank A. Camm '43JAN GEN (R) Sam S. Walker '46 GEN (R) John A. Wickham Jr. '50 MG (R) Neal Creighton '53 LTG (R) Dave R. Palmer '56 Mr. R. James Nicholson '61 Mr. Michael W. Krzyzewski '69

#### 2004

GEN (R) William A. Knowlton '43JAN GEN (R) Robert M. Shoemaker '46 COL (R) Ralph Puckett, Jr. '49 COL (R) David R. Hughes '50 Mr. Denis F. Mullane '52 GEN (R) Glenn K. Otis '53 COL (R) John A. Feagin Jr. '55

#### 2003

GEN (R) Walter T. "Dutch" Kerwin Jr. '39 LTG (R) Harold G. Moore Jr. '45 Mr. John A. Hammack '49 GEN (R) Carl E. Vuono '57 GEN (R) Edwin H. Burba '59

#### 2002

Mr. James R. Dempsey '43JAN GEN (R) Edward C. Meyer '51 LTG (R) Walter F. Ulmer Jr. '52 GEN (R) Arthur E. Brown Jr.'53 BG (R) Peter M. Dawkins '59 GEN (R) George A. Joulwan '61

#### 2001

Mr. Stanley C. Pace '43JUN GEN (R) George S. Blanchard '44 COL (R) James L. "Buster" Hayden '45 Gen (R) Charles A. Gabriel '50, USAF LTG (R) Howard D. Graves '61

#### 2000

President Fidel V. Ramos '50 Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin '51, Ph.D. GEN (R) Frederick M. Franks Jr. '59

#### 1999

Gen (R) Lew Allen Jr.'46, USAF Gen (R) Robert C. Mathis '48, USAF

#### 1998

MG (R) Adrian St. John II '43JAN LTG (R) John W. Morris '43JUN Mr. Bernard W. Abrams '47 Maj Gen (R) Michael Collins '52, USAF

#### 1997

COL (R) Russell P. Reeder Jr. '26 GEN (R) Michael S. Davison '39 David M. Abshire '51, Ph.D. GEN (R) John R. Galvin '54

#### 1996

MG (R) Kenneth D. Nichols '29 GEN (R) William C. Westmoreland '36 GEN (R) Alexander M. Haig Jr. '47 Col (R) Frank Borman '50, USAF

#### 1995

Gen (R) Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36, USAF GEN (R) Bernard W. Rogers '43JUN Lt Gen (R) Brent Scowcroft '47, USAF

#### 1994

BG (R) Paul W. Thompson '29 Mr. E. Douglas Kenna Jr. '45 GEN (R) H. Norman Schwarzkopf '56

#### 1993

LTG (R) Edward J. Rowny '41 Brig Gen (R) Robert F. McDermott '43JAN, USAF GEN (R) Roscoe Robinson Jr. '51

#### 1992

GEN (R) James A. Van Fleet 1915 GEN (R) Matthew B. Ridgway April 1917 GEN (R) Andrew J. Goodpaster '39 Dr. Thoralf M. Sundt Jr. '52

\*All military ranks are U.S. Army unless otherwise specified.

## LEADERS ARE SHAPED BY THE VALUES THEY EMBOD

EVER ARMED, WEST POINT, BY THEE! GUIDE US, THINE OWN, ARIGHT, TEACH L DAY, BY NIGHT, TO KEEP THINE HONOR BRIGHT, FOR THEE TO FIGHT. WHEN W PART FROM THEE, SERVING ON LAND OR SEA, MAY WE STILL LOYAL BE, WES INT, TO THEE! AND WHEN OUR WORK IS DONE, OUR COURSE ON EARTH IS RU INT BE SAID, "WELL DONE. BE THOU AT PEACE." E'ER MAY THAT LINE OF GRA

As future academy graduates prepare for their military careers and beyond, support and advocacy is essential for their long-term success. Boeing is proud to partner with the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis and the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs with the shared goals of leadership development and engineering excellence. Together, we're helping shape leaders of character to better serve our nation and the world.





# New Grad Insider Tours: A Trip Down Memory Lane By Lindsey Eisenlohr and WPAOG staff

West Point graduates share lifelong memories of their cadet experience at "our Rockbound Highland Home." And, along with their shared experiences, graduates also carry their own unique personal memories from their 47-month experience.

When graduates return home to West Point, they often want to share these special stories about cadet days with families and friends. WPAOG's *Grad Insider Tour*, offered through the Rockbound Highland Home Program, provides graduates a new and special way to show "your" West Point to family members and guests.

*Grad Insider Tours* offer exclusive, guided, behind-the-scenes access to locations not open to the general public. Locations where guests can experience an up-close perspective of West Point include:

Washington Hall (Cadet Mess): This six-wing dining hall seats 4,300. *Grad Insider Tour* guests hear legends and lore and view historic murals, flags, stained glass windows, and the famous "poop deck." **First Division Barracks:** Built in the 1850s, this is the last remaining portion of the old barracks. Today, it houses the Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic and four historical period cadet rooms from three distinct eras at West Point.

**Jefferson Hall:** The newest academic building at USMA and the third library to exist at the Academy. The Class of 1975 Library Terrace overlooks the "million dollar view."

**Thayer Award Room:** Portraits of past Thayer Award recipients line the walls of this historic room located in Taylor Hall, the tallest stone-supported building in the United States.

Arvin Physical Development Center: This 495,000 square-foot fitness facility includes three gymnasiums with nine basketball courts and eight volleyball courts, six racquetball courts, two swimming pools, a wrestling room, a rock climbing wall, a combat water-survival swim laboratory, and two boxing rooms. Tour guests might also see cadets practicing on the Indoor Obstacle Course Track (IOCT), which many graduates fondly remember.

"I was excited to return to USMA for the first time since graduating 19 years ago. The Rockbound Highland Home Program made it possible for me to share my experiences as a cadet with my family." –LTC Phillip Mazingo '98, Fairfax, VA

#### WPAOG ROCKBOUND HIGHLAND HOME PROGRAM



#### "I highly recommend this tour for every grad. The tailor shop (uniform factory) was amazing." – John Colacicco '70, Olney, MD

Kimsey Center: Houses state-of-the-art athletic training facilities for all sports teams. Connecting the Kimsey Center to the Holleder Center is the Class of '56 Walkway, displaying significant events from Cold War history, along with a piece of the Berlin Wall.

**Cadet Uniform Factory:** USMA is the only service academy that makes its uniforms on-site. The Uniform Factory produces 60 product lines for each class, using raw materials that are all made in the United States. It takes 53 miles of material to make the uniforms for one class, including 10,000 yards of gray wool.

*Grad Insider Tours* are offered Monday to Friday at 10am and 2pm and must be reserved in advance. For more information, please visit WestPointAOG.org/GradInsiderTour, contact WPAOG at RockboundHighlandHome@wpaog.org or call 845.446.1622. ★

Funding to support the Rockbound Highland Home Program comes from your generous donations to WPAOG and the Rockbound Highland Home Fund. "We've received so much positive feedback on the new Rockbound Highland Home Program, and especially on the *Grad Insider Tours*, which offer a unique way for graduates to maintain their connection with the Academy and enhance their experience when returning home to West Point." –Todd A. Browne '85, WPAOG President & CEO

#### Other New Rockbound Highland Home Program Benefits for Graduates

#### **Grad Pass:**

Assists visiting graduates and guests in navigating increased post security requirements. All graduates and guests who do not have a DoD identification card can apply for a West Point-issued identification pass in advance of their visit. West Point graduates can complete and submit a secure online form, allowing post security to conduct a mandatory background check and have passes available for pick-up upon arrival. Learn more at: WestPointAOG.org/GradPass

#### **Grad Perks:**

A Grad Pass or a DoD identification card provides alumni with privileged status through the new Grad Perks program, allowing access to many MWR recreational facilities and services at West Point. For a full list of available services, visit **WestPointAOG.org/GradPerks** 

"Thanks for a wonderful tour experience for me and my brother. The tour far exceeded my expectation. This was everything I wanted to see and more." –J.H. '61, Olympia, WA A focus on excellence has paid off over the years, and the Army West Point Lacrosse program is very proud of the service of its graduates. A recent ODIA study showed that of those former players who stay in the Army long enough, over 10 percent are selected for battalion command—a rate exceeding that of Academy graduates as a whole for the same time period. Team alumnus Adam Silva '93 says, "There is no greater leadership institution on the planet than West Point, and no greater leadership laboratory at West Point than Army Lacrosse."

In 2006, about half a century after F. Morris Touchstone—the winningest lacrosse coach in Army history—retired, Joe Alberici returned to West Point in his first Division I head coaching position. (He was an assistant for two years at West Point for his predecessor, Jack Emmer—the winningest lacrosse coach in NCAA history.) The 2017 season marked the hundredth year of the Army Lacrosse program. In all these years, Alberici is only the tenth head coach, and only the sixth since 1929. Four of those six are members of the National Lacrosse Foundation Hall of Fame.

While this could sound intimidating, Alberici seems very comfortable in his current role at the helm of the storied Army Lacrosse program. With the inspiration of eight national championships, over 300 All-American honors, scores of other awards, and eight National Lacrosse Foundation Hall of Fame members, Army finished the 2017 season with a 12 win-4 loss record. They closed out the season with an exciting 10-9 victory in overtime against fourth-ranked Notre Dame in front of a home crowd. Other season high points included a victory over sixthranked Syracuse and a streak of nine wins. Alberici reached his own first major milestone in March when he coached his hundredth Army win against Patriot League opponent Holy Cross.

When asked what is different about him now as a coach than when he first returned to the Academy, Alberici says he hopes "as a staff we're doing better." They are continually trying to learn, meeting with other staffs—here and in other programs—to build the ideal environment for success. He also laughs that he is more patient, or as he put it, less "combustible." Director of Lacrosse Operations Major Matt Luyster '06 was a team captain during Alberici's first season and said when Alberici was a new coach, everyone on the team knew it. But now that he's been here 10 years, the players buy in more quickly and Alberici has developed the kind of respect that can only be gained over time.



# **ARMY WEST POINT LACROSSE:**

20

The team mantra is "the West Point man." Alberici explains it as "100 percent, 100 percent of the time." Giving 100 percent. Being 100 percent. This doesn't only apply to training and competitions. It extends to academics, leadership, and character. Alberici admits, "It's kind of an elusive thing." The reality is that it's more about the journey of effort than the destination. And his job is to lead them on that journey.

Alberici has derived his coaching style from many role models who have influenced him. It started with his father, who was a high school football coach in a small town. He was so highly thought of, that the town named the school field after him. Alberici observed firsthand how positive relationships could have such a great impact in a community, and the enduring nature of these relationships drew him in. His coach at Alfred University, Al Brown, was a mentor who knew how to get the most out of players. Army Coach Jack Emmer emphasized family and professionalism. His boss at Duke, Mike Pressler, modeled intensity and desire to win.

And now, it is Alberici's time to set the example. Team captain Reaves Klipstein '17 says, "Coach A is an incredible role model for me, and I think for all of the lacrosse players. His professionalism is greater than that of anyone I have ever met. I think he truly uses lacrosse as a tool to teach and mentor us to be better men. He is so

humble that he would probably say that he has learned more from us than we have from him, but there is no way that is true. He preaches competiveness, selflessness, and toughness but the most impressive part of coach is that he embodies those aspects."

Alberici cites the foundations of his approach to coaching.



**Above:** During the May 6 final home game, Matt Bowman '17 dodges a Notre Dame defender en route to a 10-9 overtime victory for Army West Point over the #4 nationally ranked Fighting Irish. **Below:** Army West Point Men's Lacrosse takes the field at Michie Stadium on March 4. Army beat Lafayette 14-4 in the third of nine straight wins.

First, he needs to care about the players, or "love them enough" to be tough on them. So he accepts his players where they are at all times, while pushing them to improve in all ways. The second part is communicating high expectations in all that they do—not just how they perform on the field—and demonstrating that he cares about their performance. This is a lesson he learned as an elementary education major. Coach Alberici learned that to be an effective

# <image>

teacher, he had to show students he cared about more than just what they did in the classroom.

Each season, he focuses his team on a strong theme. For 2017 it is "12/0," adapted from a business concept of a number of things that require zero talent but have a large bearing on success. For Alberici's team, the 12 things are: work ethic, energy, attitude, coachability, preparation, persistence, investment in relationships, honesty, fun, respect, competitiveness, and pride. The coaching staff can focus on improving the game skills that do require talent when players maintain these attributes at the highest possible level.

Speaking of highest level, Army Lacrosse has made significant contributions to the fabric of the game. Two of the most prestigious awards in intercollegiate lacrosse are named for an Army coach and an Army player. The F. Morris Touchstone Award is presented to the nation's "Coach of the Year," and the nation's most outstanding player receives the Lieutenant Ray Enners Award.

Ray Enners is one of the three men of the Class of 1967, along with Bill Foley and Michael Nathe, honored in the naming of the newest Margin of Excellence athletic facility at West Point: the Foley, Enners, Nathe Lacrosse Center—the modern home of Army Lacrosse (both men's and women's teams—see page 48 for details on the ribbon cutting of the new facility). Alberici has taken great pride in seeing it come to fruition. Pointing to the initial artist rendering leaned against the wall in his office, he says, "This started in 2007." And now that it is complete, Alberici says, "It exudes excellence. It's the very finest in the lacrosse world, and speaks to future recruits of the genuine commitment of the institution, its alumni and supporters." One word comes to mind when Alberici is asked to describe his players: cohesiveness. He says it is, "such a wonderful thing for me to be coaching a group all pulling in the same direction." Smiling, he adds that they are "competitive as hell," and very consistent. Also, "We understand that all of us together are better than any single one of us." Proud of their resiliency and how they have handled adversity, he claims that no group under his watch has ever done more to elevate the program "off the field."

Coaches at the collegiate level are often in competition with other voices aimed at their student-athletes when talking about ideals. But the greatest messages Alberici can send are not unique at West Point. When talking about being part of something bigger than yourself, mental/physical toughness, attention to detail, character, etc., he says "I'm not the only one saying it." Cadets hear this message everywhere, every day. Instructors, tactical officers, and leadership reinforce this message. He says, "From a team-building standpoint that is awesome."

Like most teams at West Point, Alberici's team has developed bonds with each other and with former players that cross generations. Silva says words could not do justice to how he feels about his son Miles ('20) being a member of the Army Lacrosse brotherhood. "From the time he was old enough to understand, Miles was encouraged to refer to my Army Lacrosse teammates as "Uncle." Uncle Steve, Uncle Chad, Uncle Phil, etc. He now has his own relationships with many of the men I played with and looks to them as I do—as family." And along with that, they will also be joined in a tradition of leadership and service as "West Point men." ★

Coach Joe Alberici focuses on the game in the March 18 10-4 victory over opponent Holy Cross, the sixth of nine straight wins, and Alberici's 100th win as the Army West Point head coach.





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# YOUR WEST POINT Association of graduates

### Honoring the Past; Connecting the Future

#### By Samantha Soper, WPAOG staff

"The Long Gray Line of us stretches..." The unending line of West Point graduates, immortalized more than a century ago in "The Corps," by Bishop H.S. Shipman, represents a cadre of men and women bonded by a common history, who have all chosen to serve their nation and uphold the ethos of *Duty, Honor, Country*. For 148 years of the United States Military Academy's 215 year history, the West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG) has served as the organizational home for the Long Gray Line, ensuring that the "line" does more than just extend into the future, but also folds back onto itself to create a vital and complex network of lifelong bonds, connecting graduates across classes, locations, generations, interests, and activities.

WPAOG was founded in 1869, four years after the American Civil War, in which Academy graduates found themselves on opposing sides. Honoring those unique ties that bind every West Point graduate to all the others who have come before, and all those who will come after, remains at the heart of the alumni association. Its mission "to serve West Point and its graduates" is complemented by its vision: "to be the most highly connected alumni body in the world." To achieve this vision, graduates must not only be able to "grip hands" with their own classmates, but also with others in the more than 51,000 living graduates worldwide who socialize and interact via regional societies, professional networks and shared interest groups.

#### Engaging Every Heart in Gray and Supporting the Margin of Excellence

Through its programs and activities, the West Point Association of Graduates strengthens the bonds that connect graduates to their alma mater and makes sure they never lose touch with one another or the Academy. Facilitating reunions, recognizing Distinguished Graduates, offering career transition support, archiving graduate historical records, and holding fast to the West Point family by offering communications and memorial support are just a few of the many services offered to graduates.

One indication of a deeply connected alumni body and its relationship with its alma mater can be measured through its graduate giving. In the past two decades, graduate giving to USMA has grown in participation as well as dollars—raising the Academy's Margin of Excellence through





private funding. Margin of Excellence activities allow the Academy to remain competitive in attracting high-quality cadet candidates and enable cadets to achieve their highest potential. Programs include:

- hands-on and out-of-classroom leadership experiences
- cultural immersion opportunities
- club and athletic team endowments
- academic research centers of excellence for cadets, the U.S. Army, and the nation
- renovations and improvements to West Point, the landmark

Such opportunities make a West Point education like no other, and they are made possible through gifts from graduates, parents, corporations, foundations, and other friends of West Point.

But it isn't only through monetary donations that graduates can share their wealth with cadets. In addition to generously giving of their "treasure," West Point graduates are generous with their time and talents as well. For example, WPAOG's 50-Year Affiliation Program links each cadet class with its 50-year affiliate class, offering cadets a deeper appreciation for the lifelong journey and challenges of West Point and the professional military ethic.

#### "The Corps Has..."

West Point's demanding 47-month period of instruction and training has remained largely unchanged for generations. However, ask an Old Grad about cadets today and invariably you'll hear "the Corps has...." To be sure, the Academy has evolved and adapted to meet the needs of the Army and the nation, but it is also important to reflect on what went on before and learn from those who have lived it. The broad network of graduates with shared experiences serves as a great role model for current cadets, offering practical support and advice as they go through their cadet years and when they embark on their careers as Army officers. This connection fosters a spirit of loyalty to West Point and strengthens the ties throughout the Long Gray Line.

#### **50-Year Affiliation Program**

To this end, WPAOG launched the 50-Year Affiliation Program in the mid-1990s to link the graduates of yesterday and the cadets of today. Beginning on R-Day, the entering cadet class is paired with an alumni class that is 50 years its senior. Over the next four years, the graduates accompany and participate in significant Academy events with their affiliated cadets, such as A-Day, Class Crest Unveiling, Yearling Flag Ceremony, Affirmation Ceremony, Ring Weekend, Branch Night, and Graduation. As cadets "grip hands" with those who preceded them a half-century earlier, the 50-year Affiliation Program has matured to become an indispensable element in not only the development of cadets, but also in the strengthening of the Long Gray Line. ★



# 50-YEAR CONNECTIONS THE CLASS OF 1967 "GRIPS HANDS" WITH THE CLASS OF 2017

CASE STUDY:

"Our class is extremely close. Any one of us would step up at any time if a classmate needed us. Part of this, of course, is the West Point experience. We then had the common experience of going directly to Ranger School and then to Vietnam. We buried 30 of our classmates within five years of graduation. We also had a secret weapon. No other class has been blessed with Freed Lowrey, our Class Scribe." says Dr. Tom Parr, the Class of 1967 50-Year-Affiliation Class Coordinator. For more than 35 years, Lowrey has published a class newsletter, which he emails/mails to members of the class. And for the last four years, he has chronicled the activities surrounding the 50-Year Affiliation Program with this year's graduating Class of 2017. This May, as the Class of 1967 celebrated their 50th Reunion, classmates enjoyed receiving special reunion publications that Lowrey produced for the occasion: a 700-plus-page bound, full-color book profiling every member of the class, and a second 450-plus page hardbound color book of cadet reminiscences compiled by Lowrey's wife, Vicki. The reunion week of activities was capped off by the class's final 50-Year Affiliation duty, presenting the Class of 2017 with their first set of Second Lieutenant bars. "The 50-Year Affiliation Program is important to the grads, and I firmly feel that it benefits the current cadets. We thought that men who graduated just 30 years before us were old? Imagine our being able to visit with those who graduated in 1917, going to service in World War I and World War II! This cannot be done without the assistance and guidance of the AOG," says Parr. ★





#### 2013-14 PLEBE YEAR

March Back: "I tell any grad who thinks "The Corps has" that he or she needs to join the March Back. The Plebes are succeeding because their upperclassmen leaders have mentored them and shown them that they can accomplish the task at hand, and they are pushing themselves to meet the standard they expect for themselves," states Parr.



#### 2015-16 COW YEAR

**Affirmation Ceremony:** (top) Class of 1967 graduates with members of the Class of 2017 after the Affirmation Ceremony.

**Class Ring "Melt" Memorial Program:** (below) "This ring melt ceremony was an important step in our realization that we are becoming full-fledged members of the Long Gray Line," Cadet Taylor Endres '17 said. "When we don our rings, we will now do so fully aware that we have become part of a community of graduates united together by common bonds, values, and experiences that transcend space and time." Bill Freccia '67 and a cadet from the Class of 2017 (inset, right) with the gold ingot from donated graduate class rings that were melted in the ceremony.



**Inspiration to Serve Cemetery Tour:** (top) The Class of 1967 spoke to the Yearlings about five fallen classmates out of a total of 16 graduates profiled that day. Bob Lenz, Jr. talks to cadets about the service of his father, who was in the Class of 1967.

**Professional Military Ethics Training:** (inset) The essence of a Professional Military Ethics Training session is personally assisting cadets in small groups; leadership, character, ethics, making honorable decisions and being leaders of character are common topics of emphasis. Here, Lee Murfee '67 listens to a cadet share his perspective with other cadets in a small discussion group.

**Class Flag Presentation:** (bottom) Members of the Class of '67 with Class of 2017's class flag at the conclusion of Cadet Field Training at Camp Buckner.

"We will all benefit from the past experiences that many of the Class of '67 have experienced through keeping in touch and listening to the guidance that many of you have given the USMA Class of '17."

-Charles Howard Chandler III, Class of 2017



**Graduation:** Honorable Thomas White '67, former Secretary of the Army, presents second lieutenant bars to the newest members of the Long Gray Line at the Class of 2017 graduation.

**Branch Night:** Class Officers together at Branch Night for the Class of 2017, where Firsties receive their "first brass" branch insignia from their Affiliate Class.



# Celebrates 200 Years

# as the Soundtrack and Celebration of Duty, Honor, Country

By Anthony DiNoto, WPAOG staff



Large photo: The West Point marching Band performs in front of a crowd during a Retiree Review. Above: The USMA Band takes the field at the 2016 Army-Navy game.

marks the 200th anniversary of the formation of the United States Military Academy (USMA) Band. To celebrate this historic year, the festivities kicked off last November with the Band marching in the famous Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. The annual event, which received 24.6 million viewers last year, was the highest-rated television program in that timeslot. The Band is also appearing in the department store giant's 2017 4th of July Fireworks Show, with nearly 7 million viewers expected. In 2016 alone, with a total of 2600 performances, the USMA Band generated live audiences of more than 6 million, broadcast audiences of more than 95 million and social and traditional media impressions of more than 2 billion, more than any other military band. They've engaged with several notable organizations including the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the New York International Auto Show, the World Series, Department of Defense Warrior Games and the FOX News West Point Holiday Special. With numerous featured television appearances scheduled, the harmonic sounds of the oldest continuously serving U.S. Army music unit in America will reach a significant audience as they gear up for their Bicentennial Concert at Lincoln Center this October.

Although the USMA Band organization is turning 200, military music at West Point predates the Band's official formation. In 1778, when General George Washington staked his flag in West Point soil at the onset of the Revolutionary War, a group of fifers and drummers who were attached to Minutemen companies stationed on Constitution Island across the Hudson River were reassigned to the new fortification to signal troop movements around camp. (This unit of musicians would later become known as The Hellcats—the USMA Band's Field Music Detachment.) After the American Revolution, most military units were disbanded, but a small group from the 2nd Continental Artillery stayed at West Point to protect the strategic post, and with it remained one drummer and one fifer.

With the establishment of the United States Military Academy in 1802, there was an increased need for music at West Point to drill the cadets and provide audible order. By 1817, this group of fifers, drummers, and now buglers had expanded and became known as the West Point Band. Nearly fifty years later, in 1866, the West Point Band was officially retitled as The United States Military Academy Band, and has since maintained the unbroken tradition of military music at West Point for 239 years. Today, on the very





The USMA Marching Band at the 2016 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



Left: Rehearsal for the 2016 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade starts at 4am. Above: The Hellcats play during a Boy Scout Camporee at West Point.

same grounds, the Hellcats still signal cadet movement from reveille to lunch formation to retreat. For cadets, the sound of the bugle, fife, and drums is just "tradition as usual" (and to some, rather annoying at 5am), but at the nation's oldest continually occupied military installation, music still serves as a function of order much as it did more than two centuries ago. "It may be redundant for current cadets, but for Old Grads who come back to West Point, the sound of the Hellcats seems to stir up very fond memories," says Master Sergeant Denver Dill, who has been a bugler in the Hellcats for the past 13 years.

The Hellcats are one of the four sub-groups of the Band, known as "elements," and are the most visible and historic. In contrast, the Benny Havens Band (formerly the Jazz Knights) is the cool, casual, and modern element that includes talented vocalists, dynamic guitarists, and a groovy horn section. They perform a wide range of rock, pop, country, hip-hop, Motown, R&B, and disco hits, with charismatic Staff Sergeant Jeremy Gaynor on lead vocals. "We saw Gaynor on the 'Soldiers Show' and instantly noticed his charisma, talent, and all-American persona, and we felt he had the whole package to become part of the USMA band, so we reached out to him," says Dill. That same charisma led Gaynor to be a top contestant on NBC's "The Voice" in 2015. The Benny Havens Band performs at many cadet social functions throughout the year, such as Ring Hop, Plebe-Parent Weekend, the 100th Night Show, and Graduation Hop, and it is commonly known around post as "The Official Party Band of the United States Corps of Cadets."

The Concert Band is the largest component of the USMA Band and is a direct descendant of the musicians who arrived at West Point when Band membership started to expand. This element is best known for their Trophy Point Concert Series during the summer, and has performed at many prominent East Coast concert venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Central Park. They have also performed joint concerts with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

Marching Band \* Benny Havens 30 WestPointAOG.org



SSG Jeremy Gaynor and the Benny Havens Band perform live.

Photos: SSG Torin Olsen; SSG Christine Rivers

The Marching Band is a combination of all Band elements and performs at parades and other official military functions. Collectively, these highly trained and extremely talented multiinstrumentalists form the whole of the USMA Band. Nearly all the members of the Band have a college degree or higher from a renowned music school and rehearse several hours every week to reach the level of precision needed for performance. To become part of this world-class group of musicians, the Band holds both public and U.S. Army auditions. Candidates must first submit music packets of their recorded music before they are asked for an in-person interview. "Because we are an outward facing group that interacts with cadets, military officials, and the public, applicants must not only have musical expertise, but also the proper personality and reverence that reflects the ideals of the United States Military Academy," says Dill, who is Juilliard-trained.

Despite its age, the USMA Band has maintained the progressive and innovative ethos indicative of the United States Military Academy. In keeping up with the evolution of technology, the Band has played a significant role in both the academic and military development of each cadet's 47-month USMA experience. At the West Point Simulation Center, cadets experience an immersive augmented reality which simulates complicated auditory situations in battle. Members of the Band aided in creating this intense audio environment and served as leading authorities in helping sound architects understand the psychology behind music and auditory sensation.

"Just as fight songs pump up fans at Army games, music can have the reverse effect and incite fear or sadness," says Dill. The Band also works with Dr. Elizabeth Samet, Professor of English at USMA, who teaches a Civil War music history course. During the Civil War, certain songs were banned due to the emotional experience they created, and Army officials feared some soldiers would abandon camp. Samet relates this emotional effect to the music of today, and



The USMA Band at a performance in Ridgewood, NJ, led by LTC Todd Addison, Commander and Conductor.

how it can help people cope in difficult situations or serve as a medium for peace during times of war. Members of the Band work with Samet on the history and psychology of American music to help enrich cadets' learning and understanding of military music.

Band members are nested within other USMA departments as well, teaching courses in areas ranging from the Mathematics Department to the Department of Military Instruction. Relevant in both the classroom and in the digital space, the Band also connects with cadets on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. On YouTube, one can find various videos of performances, events, and interviews, including the popular "The Hellcats Read Cadet Tweets," a spinoff of the "Jimmy Kimmel Live" late-night bits. Grammy winner and Band member Brandie Lane, who oversees all recorded works alongside sound designers Staff Sergeant William Magno and Staff Sergeant Noah Taylor, is part of the team responsible for all the Band music heard in USMA productions, from Army-Navy spirit videos to then-Cadet Austin Lachance's '17 Long Gray Line Cinemas videos. Individual soldiers within the organization have also achieved recognition, publicly demonstrating excellence as stewards of the Army Profession and demonstrating the USMA strategic goal of sustaining professional excellence in a culture of winning.

From R-Day to Graduation, and at countless events in between, the Band is integral to the success and identity of USMA, and its permanence allows band members to form strong relationships with cadets, staff and faculty while pursuing its mission to provide world-class music to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets. For more than 200 years, this unit of dynamic, innovative and highly effective musicians have provided a continual musical presence at West Point, and this October, they will celebrate their catalog and historical significance in finest music form at one the most revered music halls in the country.  $\star$ 

Band \* Concert Band \* Hellcats



WEST PC

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Top of page: U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis addresses the graduating class. Above: Cadets wore white over gray for the Graduation Parade due to inclement weather.



Above: Congratulations to our newest "Old Grads!" **Right:** Cadets sing the *Alma Mater* after receiving their diplomas.



# *"So Others May Dream"* **Graduation Week** May 23-27, 2017

Members of the United States Military Academy Class of 2017 graduated and were commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army on May 27, 2017. Those graduating were 78 percent of the cadets who entered West Point almost four years ago.

#### **GRADUATION SPEAKER:**

ITI AND

Honorable James Mattis U.S. Secretary of Defense

#### **NUMBER OF GRADUATES: 936**

#### **INTERNATIONAL CADETS: 10**

(representing Afghanistan, Jordan, Latvia, Moldava, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, and Thailand)

#### FIRST CAPTAIN: Hugh P. McConnell, Newton, Kansas

**CLASS PRESIDENT:** Mario A. Contreras Jr., Southern Pines, North Carolina

**VALEDICTORIAN:** Samuel R. Ruppert, Fairfield, Pennsylvania



Above: USMA's oldest living graduate, LTG (R) William Ely '33 places the wreath at the base of Thayer Statue during the Alumni Exercises on May 23, 2017. Left: Tyler W. Herring, the "Goat" (last academically in the class), waves his diploma and his "award" (traditionally \$1.00 from each member of the class).

Photos: SSG Vito T. Bryant; Anthony DiNoto/WPAOG, Michele Eberhart; John Pellino/DPTMS VI

# Reflections on My Time as a Member of the West Point Leader Team



I would have returned to West Point in any capacity. To return as the Commandant of Cadets was completely unexpected and immensely humbling. I was fortunate to serve with a gifted and passionate set of senior military and civilian leaders: Lieutenant General Caslen, Command Sergeant Major Guden, Brigadier General Trainor, Brigadier General Jebb, Mr. Corrigan, and Command Sergeant Major Rippelmeyer. My husband Jim and I are grateful to have been a part of such a selfless team.

Throughout the last 18 months, I have engaged in hundreds of conversations about West Point

and the Corps. Whether delivering the "State of the Academy" presentation at Founders Day events, speaking with parents of candidates, serving on panels at conferences, or talking with Cadets, I found there were some common questions asked by the various audiences. As the end of this assignment approaches, I wanted to share my thoughts on those questions that seem to be of interest to so many people.

#### How has the Corps changed since you graduated?

Cadets today have a far more broadening and challenging experience than was true when I was a Cadet and even since I taught in the History Department. In another time, it was possible to outline exactly what every Cadet did each year and each summer. For example, all rising Yearlings went on leave after Graduation (if they did not have to attend summer school) and returned for seven weeks to Cadet Field Training (CFT) at Camp Buckner. Today, rising Yearlings might attend Air Assault School, Airborne School, or an Academic Individual Advanced Development (AIAD) program overseas and then four weeks of CFT. Additionally, with 28 Corps Squad Teams and 139 Cadet Clubs, there are many more possible experiences.

There are also more demands on Cadets' time, most noticeably in the area of leader development. Cadets do more planning, coordinating and synchronizing of events than in earlier eras. They conduct more training, teaching and coaching of subordinates throughout the week and on Commandant's Saturdays. By the end of four years, a graduating Cadet has had to truly master time management.

# What has surprised you the most about this assignment?

I am most surprised by what it takes to run the institution. As a Cadet or faculty member, I did not see the magnitude and complexity of West Point. The Academy might be small compared to large organizations and posts elsewhere in the Army, but I doubt it is any less complicated or intense. This is the most dynamic, fluid and intricate assignment of my 27 year career.

#### By BG Diana M. Holland '90, 76th Commandant of Cadets

I was also struck by how well the Academy's senior leaders have managed to balance two imperatives over many years: maintain West Point traditions yet remain on the leading edge of change and progress. Many of our Cadets come to West Point because of our unique traditions. Once here, Cadets learn to value those timeless practices as events that connect them to the Long Gray Line and something larger than themselves. At the same time, change is important if West Point is to remain relevant. We compete with other top-tier universities for the same pool of talented teenagers and must be innovative and adaptive. Furthermore, and perhaps most importantly, we must produce the officers that our Army needs. For those reasons, it is essential that we maintain tradition yet evolve with the times. West Point's leaders have clearly balanced those two requirements.

#### What have been your favorite moments?

There were so many special, rewarding, and memorable moments, and I cannot possibly reduce the list to one. Nonetheless, a few experiences stand out as particularly meaningful.

**Graduation Day:** It is profoundly rewarding to participate in the graduation ceremony when the Cadets receive their diplomas and take the Oath of Office.

**Integrated Boxing:** This past year, the Class of 2020 became the first class whose female Cadets took boxing alongside their male classmates. The nearly seamless integration process was possible because of a motivated Plebe class, a proactive Department of Physical Education, and the presence of Command Sergeant Major Rippelmeyer serving as an assistant boxing instructor.

**Branch Night, Class of 2017:** After more than three years at West Point, the Class of 2017 opened the envelopes that revealed their branches and reacted with unrestrained exuberance. It was rewarding to see our Firsties so excited about their future specialty and profession.

**Women's Lacrosse:** I played Lacrosse when it was in club status. It was a joy to be present at the Lacrosse team's first game in Corps Squad status in Michie Stadium! This venue was a significant upgrade from playing on the open field north of Gillis Field House.

Army-Navy, 2016: It was special to be on the sideline when the Army West Point Football Team BEAT NAVY on December 10th. Like the entire Corps and Army fans around the world, I was thrilled about the victory. I was equally proud of the Obstacle Course Team which swept the Patriot Games the day prior, the Marathon Team which ran the game ball from West Point to Baltimore, the near-perfect March-On by the Corps, the extraordinarily safe and (relatively) orderly way the Corps stormed the field, and, in the middle of the celebration in the stadium, the Corps demonstrating respect to the Brigade of Midshipmen as they sang the Navy Alma Mater. There were no injuries or damage to property on the field and no misconduct resulting from the
DIANA M. HOLLAND

celebrations later that night. It was a weekend of countless proud moments.

Sandhurst, 2017: The annual military skills and endurance competition has expanded tremendously and brings to West Point well-trained and motivated teams from around the United States and the world. The train-up impacts the Corps throughout the entire academic year because every Cadet company sends a team. This year, we added two additional all-star West Point teams, USMA Black and USMA Gold, and for only the second time since 1994, a West Point team (USMA Black) won the overall competition.

All of my assignments at West Point have been rewarding and unique. In each case, I learned more than I expected and departed a better leader. As before, Jim and I are tremendously grateful for the opportunity to work with Cadets and serve with the people of the United States Military Academy and West Point.

### Go Army! Beat Everyone! ★

BG Diana M. Holland '90 became the 76th Commandant of Cadets on January 5, 2016, and was the first woman to hold the position. Prior to serving as Commandant, Holland commanded at every level from platoon through brigade. Her assignments included Platoon Leader, 79th Engineer Battalion; Commander, Headquarters Company, 30th Engineer Battalion; Assistant Professor, Department of History, USMA; Commander, 92nd Engineer Battalion; Commander, 130th Engineer Brigade; Executive Officer for the Director of the Army Staff at the Pentagon; and Deputy Commanding General for Support, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, NY. She will serve next as Commanding General, South Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in Atlanta, GA.

Photos counter clockwise from below: Class of 2016 Graduation; Class of 2019, Cadet Field Training Run-Back; BG Holland and CSM Rippelmeyer in boxing class; Class of 2017 Branch Night, Palladino Brothers; Women's Lacrosse Team playing at Michie Stadium; Corps March-On, 10 Dec 2016, Army-Navy Game; the Hollands in front of Quarters 101.

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"Life stands before me like an eternal spring with new and brilliant clothes."

-Carl Friedrich Gauss





Morning light on lilacs blooming near the Dean's House in late April accentuates this classic Hudson Valley cottage built in 1857 with Gothic, Victorian and Tudor elements.

# **Emerging from Winter...**

As "gloom period" ended, *West Point* captured the cycle of cadets moving into spring "bloom period."

The GEN George S. Patton Jr. (Class of 1909) statue overlooks the Plain.

TPOINT | SUMMER 2017

Daffodils grace Kosciuszko's Garden, built in 1778 on a cliff overlooking the Hudson River by Tadeusz Kosciuszko.

Cannon on Trophy Point

# ...into Rites of Spring at West Point

Firsties return via Beat Navy Tunnel from Eisenhower Hall, where the Brigade Tactical Officer has just briefed them on Graduation Week.

T NAVY TUNNEL



A DPE lifetime sports class moves out to Trophy Point in spring to add golf to their repertoire of lifetime sports.

In spring, cadet physical training moves outdoors. At left, cadets in "Gym Alpha" do sit-ups on the grass in Clinton Field.

40



The sounding of retreat brings a varsity baseball game vs Albany to a respectful pause.

il

At right, MSG Robert Wiery, USCC Drill & Ceremony NCO, reviews cadet command staff movements while preparing for the Graduation Parade, as a cadet grader checks notes.



# **Acclaimed Author TA-NEHISI COATES**

# Delivers Second Annual Zengerle Family Lecture

n April 12, 2017, the Department of English and Philosophy and the West Point Humanities Center hosted journalist and author Ta-Nehisi Coates for the second annual Zengerle Family Lecture in the Arts and Humanities. Mr. Coates is the author of Between the World and Me, winner of the 2015 National Book Award for nonfiction. A national correspondent for The Atlantic, Mr. Coates' cover article "The Case for Reparations" won the George Polk Award. Mr. Coates has also won the National Magazine Award and the Hillman Prize for Opinion and Analysis, and was named a MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellow.



Ta-Nehisi Coates with Joseph and Lynda Zengerle in West Point's Special Collections Library viewing artifacts documenting race relations at the United States Military Academy.

During his visit to West Point, Mr. Coates presented the Zengerle Family Lecture to a packed audience of cadets and faculty in Robinson Auditorium, explored an exhibit curated by the Library Special Collections staff on West Point's history of race relations, and spoke with members of an interdisciplinary colloquium of cadets and faculty who had studied Mr. Coates' work throughout the semester.

Introducing Mr. Coates in Robinson Auditorium, Colonel Dave Harper, Head of the Department of English and Philosophy, emphasized that "future leaders cannot afford to ignore inconvenient facts or choose [their] own, and the nation cannot afford leaders who choose to remain oblivious to history." In line with Colonel Harper's exhortation, Mr. Coates and the cadets, faculty, and staff who attended the day's events engaged in open

and thoughtful discussions about the racial history of the nation and West Point. Explaining his decision to accept the invitation to speak at West Point, Mr. Coates said he had to come, because "those who are charged with defending the country have to know the country, above all."

By MAJ Josh Leone '06, Guest Writer

Speaking largely extemporaneously, Mr. Coates reflected on viewing "Reconciliation Plaza" and the Cadet Honor Code Plaza earlier in the day, using the cadet honor code as an entry point into his discussion about racism in America. Mr. Coates focused on the part of the code that says cadets will not "tolerate" those who lie, cheat, or steal to ask, "What if we, as citizens, actually took that to heart? Not just interrogating the kind of lies, the kind of deceptions you might see... on an exam, but those that the country tells itself?" Elevating the Honor Code from the local and individual, Mr. Coates made it national and universal, imploring cadets to confront or "be intolerant" of those who deny the uncomfortable truths about our national legacy of slavery, discrimination, and racism.

One of the leading national voices on the history and present state of race relations in America, Ta-Nehisi Coates embodies the enduring purpose of the Zengerle Family Lecture in the Arts and Humanities "to bring a leading figure in the arts and humanities to USMA each year in order to...reinforce the value of the humanities to the intellectual maturation of USMA cadets and the development of leaders of character, humility, and empathy." In a frank question and answer period following the lecture, Mr. Coates explained a controversial passage in Between the World and Me where his grief over a friend's death robbed him of his own ability "to perceive people as human beings," saying that the job of literature like his book is "more than anything, to capture the feeling."

Dr. Tony McGowan of the Department of English and Philosophy moderated a question and answer session in the Cullum Hall Memorial Room following the main lecture in Robinson Auditorium. The audience for this event included the Zengerle Family Lecture colloquium, an interdisciplinary group comprised of cadets, faculty, and staff who met in preparation for Mr. Coates' visit throughout the spring semester. The colloquium read several of his works, including Between the World and Me and his Atlantic article "The Case for Reparations" as well as literature by James Baldwin and others. There in Cullum Hall, a building dedicated to the West Point graduates who fought for the Union in the Civil War, Mr. Coates fielded questions by Professor McGowan and the colloquium group about the problem of balancing the collective memory of traumatic events with memorials dedicated to West Point graduates who willingly fought for the Confederacy.

"The code said 'A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal or tolerate those who do,' and I thought, what if more of us could take that to heart?"

—Ta-Nehisi Coates, Zengerle Lecture, April 12, 2017

Ta-Nehisi Coates addressing EN102 students in Robinson Auditorium during the Zengerle Family Lecture in the Arts and Humanities on April 12, 2017 Mr. Coates' talk and his colloquium session urged cadets and faculty to resist the erasure of uncomfortable narratives from West Point's and the nation's fraught racial history. Mr. Coates admitted he had no answers about what to do with some controversial monuments, but warned that they may be necessary as reminders that progress does not follow a straight line, that "there are moments in history where people actually go backwards" if citizens do not remain vigilant. The conversation also touched on the issues of teaching difficult texts in the classroom and on the importance of fostering open in-class discussions. The Zengerle Family Lecture Series in the Arts and Humanities is an annual lecture series endowed by Mr. Joseph Zengerle '64 in honor of his wife, Lynda, and their two sons, Tucker and Jason. The lecture brings a leading figure in the arts and humanities to West Point each year to enhance faculty and cadet intellectual development, facilitate interdisciplinary scholarship, and bridge the civil-military divide by inviting important and diverse voices in the arts and humanities to address a military audience. Last year's speaker was Harvard University President and Civil War historian Drew Gilpin Faust.

MAJ Joshua Leone '06 is an instructor in the Department of English oates and Philosophy, where he teaches core courses in composition and Point literature. He holds a Master of Arts in English Literature from the Pennsylvania State University.

After the question and answer session in Cullum Hall, Mr. Coates attended a dinner at the Thayer Hotel where he toasted West Point and said that truly patriotic people sometimes question their country's uncomfortable past to make for a better future. ★

Top left: COL David Harper, Head of the Department of English and Philosophy, introduces Ta-Nehisi Coates in Robinson Auditorium. Top right: Ta-Nehisi Coates visits with cadets and faculty over lunch in the Cadet Mess. Bottom: Ta-Nehisi Coates with cadets and faculty from the colloquium that met throughout the semester to discuss his work.









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# 2017 PROJECTS DAY

n May 4, thirteen Academic departments, Uthe Department of Physical Education and the Department of Military Instruction participated in Projects Day 2017. More than 370 posters, presentations, thesis defenses, theater performances, briefings, and question and answer sessions were on display during Projects Day 2017 to showcase cadets' talent and development as independent and critical thinkers. The day even featured a virtual reality demonstration and a mock trial. "Projects Day reflects the best of cadet intellect, creativity, and tenacity and is essential to getting cadets to think critically, internalize their professional identity, build their character, and employ their education for the Army and the nation's future," said BG Cindy Jebb '82, 14th Dean of the Academic Board.

The day is also celebrated as WPAOG Donor Tribute Day, when West Point graduates, Parents of cadets, and Friends of West Point have the opportunity to return to West Point to see cadet capstone projects and experience first-hand the impact of the Margin of Excellence programs made possible by their generous donations. ★

# **A POST-WIDE CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE**











# WPAOG News







## Foley, Enners, Nathe Lacrosse Center Dedicated

Through the generosity of donors, WPAOG is honored to construct and deliver gift-funded buildings to USMA. On May 22, the West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG), in partnership with Army West Point Athletics, dedicated the new Foley, Enners, Nathe Lacrosse Center. This Margin of Excellence state-of-the-art center will support both the men's and women's lacrosse programs. Located at the northeast corner of Michie Stadium, the 15,000-square-foot facility contains team locker rooms, equipment and athletic training rooms, and coaches' locker rooms. The Center is named for lead donor William P. Foley '67 and his classmates 1LT Raymond J. Enners '67 and 1LT Michael L. Nathe '67, who were killed in action serving in Vietnam. The event was held in conjunction with the Class of 1967's 50th reunion, and many members of the class were in attendance. A Superintendent's priority within WPAOG's recently completed *For Us All* Campaign, the Foley, Enners, Nathe Lacrosse Center was fully funded by West Point graduates and friends of the Academy. In addition to Mr. Foley, major donors Gary T. Giglio '89, Cornell "Buck" French '89, the late Jack Rust '49—all former Army lacrosse players—Will Weathersby '87, Randy Quirk, and the Class of 1996 were among the donors who made the center a reality. The design of the Center follows the aesthetics established by Kimsey Athletic Center and Randall Hall, two of Army West Point's marquee athletic facilities located on the opposite end of Michie Stadium.

## Calabro Night of the Arts Celebrates Cadet Creativity



The third annual John Calabro Night of the Arts was presented on March 24 by the Department of English and Philosophy and the Cadet Fine Arts Forum. Endowed by Fred Gretsch (a childhood friend of Calabro) and his wife Dinah, the event showcased cadet talent and achievement in the arts, including music, film, poetry, prose, photography, and studio arts. Among

the awards presented that evening, then-Cadet Austin Lachance '17 received the John Calabro Award for Excellence in Leadership in the Arts. The award and the Night of the Arts are named in memory of COL (R) John A. Calabro '68, a former professor in the department who was an exemplary Army officer as well as a skilled artist, musician, and writer. Calabro also served at WPAOG as Senior Vice President and COO from 1998 to 2013.



## Firsties Attend Traditional Social at WPAOG

More than 200 members of the Class of 2017 attended the annual First Class Social on April 24 and 25 at Herbert Hall. At this event, sponsored by the Class of 1996, Firsties were treated to great food, fun, and photo booths, and got to visit with members of the WPAOG staff.



Indian River Colony Club · 1936 Freedom Drive · Melbourne, FL 32940 · Corporate@ColonyClub.com

# WPAOG News (continued)



On May 3, the Directorate of Cadet Activities hosted the grand opening of the newly renovated First Class Club. Thanks in part to the generosity of the Class of 1958 and individual donors to Cadet Activities, the inside of the old Firstie Club of West Point tradition has been transformed into a welcoming, modern food and beverage service facility. In addition to structural repairs, the redesigned interior of the club includes an 80-foot bar, new furniture, an updated kitchen, and a modern television and sound system. The opening included remarks from the Superintendent and cadet leadership, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and food and drink specials. The event was open to First and Second Class Cadets, graduates, and West Point staff and faculty.







## **Goldstein Turf Field Dedicated**

On May 6, WPAOG, in partnership with Army West Point Athletics, dedicated the new Goldstein Field, named in memory of Carl Goldstein, a longtime West Point supporter and dedicated Army fan. The new Margin of Excellence artificial turf field adjacent to the practice football field and to the east of the Foley Athletic Center will provide additional practice space for Corps Squad teams and support the increased needs of existing athletics programs, as well as the new NCAA Women's Lacrosse team. Lead donors to the project are the Goldstein and Lichtenberg families, with additional gifts from Chris C. Casciato and Anthony Guzzi. Goldstein was the longtime business partner and friend of Herbert S. Lichtenberg '55 and his brother, Alan A. Lichtenberg '51, and was named an honorary member of the USMA Class of 1955. Along with the Lichtenberg family, he funded athletics and capital needs for the Jewish community at West Point. WPAOG is proud to construct and deliver these facilities to USMA through the generosity of donors.





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# USMA BLACK TEAM WINS SANDHURST COMPETITION 2017

**S** ince 1967, competitors from around the world have vied for the highly acclaimed Reginald E. Johnson Memorial Saber in West Point's annual Sandhurst Military Skills Competition. This year, West Point's Black Team won against a field of 62 teams representing 12 international military academies, 8 ROTC programs, and 4 U.S. service academies. On April 7-8, the teams competed in 11 events throughout a 23-mile course at West Point. In previous competitions, West Point has been represented by 36 teams, one for each cadet company. This year, USMA added two more teams: West Point's Black and Gold teams, combining the most skilled cadets into two teams to represent the entire Academy. In addition to Black Team's victory, USMA's Gold Team placed third. Black Team squad leader then-Cadet Daniel Gaynor '17 won the Tom Surdyke Leadership Award, named for a cadet who died last summer while saving the life of a person who was drowning. Surdyke was a member of the Company B-4 Sandhurst team, and his parents (pictured above) presented the award to Gaynor.

Recently, the Class of 1999 endowed an annual Sandhurst Conference as part of their 20th reunion gift. This all-day conference will bring together several hundred future officers from USMA, ROTC and international teams to provide an intellectual counterpart to the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition, testing mental agility as well as military skills.





# West Point Authors Bookshelf

### A West Point magazine supplement featuring books by West Point graduates and faculty.



### Benghazi and Beyond

Dennis Mansfield ex '78 and Ryan Pacheco

#### Fiction - Espionage - Military Intrigue

Major Isaac Jones is a West Point grad, assigned to a Ranger Battalion. He's approached from Washington DC with a simple question: 'If you could do something about the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi and the murder of four American citizens on Sept 11th, 2012, would you?" His answer takes him beyond Benghazi to a global shadow government — to a world of "responsible revenge."

> Available at Amazon and IsaacJones.com



### From Pigeons to Tweets: General Who Led Dramatic Changes in Military Communications

LTG Clarence E. McKnight, Jr. '52

This is the personal career story of an officer who served in Korea, commanded two Signal Battalions in Vietnam, and three in Europe. He served as commandant of the U.S. Army Signal Center and School, and commander, U.S. Army Signal Center and School, and commander, U.S. Army Communications Command, He commanded Ft. Gordon and Ft. Huachuca and rose to Director of Command, Control and Communications Systems for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Available at amazon.com



### Improvising a War

Benjamin L. Landis '46

The United States Army was ill prepared to undertake a war in Vietnam in 1965 because of the restraint placed upon it by President Johnson, namely, not to call to active duty the National Guard and Reservists. This is the story of how the Army General Staff met the challenge of the buildup, September 1965-August 1967. The author was the representative of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel on the Committee for Unit Deployments to Vietnam.

Available at Amazon and by special order from your favorite bookstore

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### Containing Russia's Nuclear Firebirds

Glenn Schweitzer '53

In 1994, the United States, European Community, Japan, and Russia established the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) in Moscow. For two decades, the ISTC provided more than \$1 billion in grants to facilitate redirection of weapons research by tens of thousands of Russian scientists to civilian purposes. The program prevented proliferation of dangerous technologies while supporting scientific breakthroughs in fields such as nuclear power, airline safety, space exploration, disease prevention, and renewable energy.

> Available through University of Georgia Press



*Kapiköy* Richard M. Bridges '71

Aram was eking out a living smuggling illicit goods across the Turkish border into Iran through the lightly used Kapiköy checkpoint under the cover of selling fresh vegetables.

When an American approached him and offered him money to do something extra, he jumped at the chance.

Aram was sure no one else knew what he was doing. But others did know what he was up to, and continuing his little enterprise with the Americans was about to get very complicated.

> Available at lulu.com search "Richard M. Bridges."



#### Arizona's War Town Flagstaff, Navajo Ordnance Depot, and World War II

John Westerlund '68

The Army forever changed Northern Arizona with the 1942 construction of a massive ordnance depot west of Flagstaff. Thousands of workers poured in, including Navajos and Hopis from nearby reservations. Then one thousand "V-12" sailors and Marines came to the teachers college and Austrian POWs arrived at the depot. In telling the story, Westerlund vividly portrays the war's impact on economic and community development in the West.

> Available at University of Arizona Press and USMA Bookstore



### Return To Your Core: Principles for a Purposeful and Respected Life

Jay C. Rifenbary '80

Wisdom, Character, Decency, Gratitude, Humility and Self-Discipline are just several of the topics included in this, Jay's third publication. *Return To Your Core* values and how they contribute to the development of personal character, and the skills necessary to be an effective servant leader. This will better equip you to accomplish your goals, overcome obstacles, and attain the success, balance and happiness you deserve. For more, visit rifenbary.com

> Available at amazon.com and rifenbary.com

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### Too Much Is Not Enough: How Digital Technology is Corrupting Society

LTG Clarence E. McKnight, Jr. '52

McKnight spent a lifetime in military communications, rising to Director of Command, Control and Communications Systems for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He guided military communications into the digital age and is fully aware of the powers and limitations of technology. In this work, McKnight expresses educated concern about the distressing misuse of digital technology in society that is eroding traditional human communications, distorting fundamental human values and undermining national defense.

Available at amazon.com



#### Commanding Excellence: Inspiring Purpose, Passion, and Ingenuity through Leadership that Matters

Gary Morton '84

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### The West Point Register of Graduates & Former Cadets

West Point Association of Graduates

A treasury of Academy history at your fingertips! The 75th Edition of the *Register of Graduates & Former Cadets*, the first and most historic publication of the West Point Association of Graduates, has been comprehensively updated in a new, limited edition. This ultimate West Point reference book is a wealth of information on all 72,413 West Point Graduates from 1802-2015, including 218 graduating class mottos and crests, West Point ancestry, USMA leadership, Medal of Honor Graduates and more! Deluxe clothbound edition with endpaper maps.

Available at WPAOGGiftShop.com



The Golden Fleece High-Risk Adventure at West Point

Tom Carhart '66

Rick Atkinson (Pulitzer): "A high-spirited, poignant story of brotherhood, sacrifice, and eternal youth." James McPherson (Pulitzer): "This lively account of the caper by six West Point cadets to nab the Naval Academy's goat mascot before the Army-Navy football game in 1965 is infused with humor as well as drama." GEN (R) Wesley Clark compares to Jason and Golden Fleece, "but this is a true story, and they succeeded against long odds and high risks ... through smart planning, risk-taking, and perseverance." Coming September 2017, Potomac Books.

Pre-order now on Amazon or nebraskapress.unl.edu/books/



### West Point magazine West Point Association of Graduates

West Point magazine is the official alumni magazine of the U.S. Military Academy. It is published quarterly and mailed free of charge to more than 55,000 readers, including all West Point graduates, cadet parents, widowed spouses of graduates, USMA faculty and friends of West Point.

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> WestPointAOG.org/ WestPointmagazine



Pushing Limits: From West Point to Berkeley and Beyond

Ted Hill '66

Packed with action and humor, this memoir chronicles the author's experiences in Beast Barracks, Ranger School, and Vietnam, and how they helped him survive the PhD gauntlet in radical 1970s Berkeley. He becomes a globetrotting mathematician, with riveting adventures from Russia to Africa, and his life comes full circle when Vietnamese universities invite him back as a scientist.

Available at bookstore.ams.org/mbk-103. For military discount use HILLMIL17.



### TAPS magazine

West Point Association of Graduates

TAPS is the official memorial magazine of the Long Gray Line, and contains the fascinating and inspiring life stories of West Point graduates. Every graduate's memorial article is personally written by family members, classmates or class presidents. Memorial articles are also posted online under "Be Thou At Peace" on the WPAOG website. A commemorative parchment copy of each memorial article is given to the next of kin in a keepsake folder. Families and friends may purchase additional parchment copies for a nominal fee.

To order TAPS or learn more, call 845.446.1545

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Mr. Marshall Carter '62 2017 Distinguished Graduate Award Recipient



On behalf of Charlie Company and the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, we congratulate you, Marsh, one of the finest combat leaders and recipient of the Navy Cross, on this well-deserved recognition.





# Congratulations from your Classmates, Family, and Friends!





BG (R) Daniel Kaufman '68 2017 Distinguished Graduate Award Recipient

- Star Man, Cadet Captain, Regimental Operations Officer, USCC
- Vietnam combat veteran (Bronze Star with V, Bronze Star, 2 Purple Hearts)
- National Security Council staff member
- Special Assistant to the Director, Planning Analysis Office, Office of the SECDEF
- Assistant G-3 for Force Development; Battalion Operations Officer, 82nd Airborne Division
- Professor, Deputy Head, and Department Head, DEPT Social Sciences, USMA
- Special Assistant to three Army Chiefs of Staff
- Dean of the Academic Board, USMA
- Engaged extensively in the development of the National Military Academy of Afghanistan
- Named Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for contributions to the security of NATO's member nations
- Distinguished Graduate, USMA
- ▶ Founding President, Georgia Gwinnett College

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# A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP



P&G congratulates Bob McDonald and all of the 2017 recipients of the Distinguished Graduate of the United States Military Academy Award. A graduate of the class of 1975, Bob epitomizes the values taught at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Through military, business and government service, he has perpetuated those values with lasting impact to hundreds of thousands of people around the world.



## The Class of '76 congratulates General Ray Odierno, 38th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, who epitomizes the qualities of the Distinguished Graduate Award!

The Distinguished Graduate Award is given to graduates of the United States Military Academy 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.'"



"Spirit of '76"



GEN (R) Ray Odierno '76 38th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army

# **CONGRATULATIONS!**

It is USA Football's great honor to congratulate General (R) Raymond T. Odierno, United States Army, Retired, for being named a 2017 West Point Distinguished Graduate Award recipient.

General Odierno honorably served his country for years at its highest levels with integrity, character and devotion, and he exemplifies West Point's esteemed motto: "Duty, Honor, Country." His pursuit of excellence is unparalleled, and today, he continues his commitment to service and leadership through several philanthropic endeavors by strategically advising, guiding and lending his unsurpassed insights on a wide range of issues – including football.

As a former football-playing student-athlete and the newly-appointed chairman of the USA Football's Board of Directors, we are grateful to have a man of his stature help our organization shape the future of our sport. Under his leadership, we will continue to advance and grow our game for the millions of young people who love to play it.

Congratulations, General Odierno, on this well-deserved and extraordinary honor from your alma mater.



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GEN (R) Raymond T. Odierno

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West Point ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES



# Gripping Hands

"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

## 1980 Locke Honored with Trailblazer Award

On April 20, The *Michigan Chronicle* presented Pat Locke '80, the first African American woman to graduate from West Point, with the Trailblazer Award, one of their three top honors, for her heroism and leadership. The Trailblazer honor followed Locke's March 22 induction to the Department of Defense's 20-member Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS).



# 1967

### Frank Receives Silver Star for Actions in Vietnam

On April 18, LTC (R) Robert Frank '67 (center)received a Silver Star for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam while serving with F Troop, 9th Cavalry. Arkansas Congressman French Hill presented the award at Trapnall Hall in Little Rock, Arkansas. Frank and three of his crew members were recognized for the rescue of



the crew of a downed C130 during the siege of An Loc on April 18, 1972.

### 1933 Ely Leads West Point Alumni Exercises and Wreath Laying

On May 23, West Point's oldest living graduate, LTG (R) William Ely, Class of 1933, led the alumni exercises and wreath laying ceremony. "This is a once-ina-lifetime event," the 105-year-old veteran told *Army Times*. LTG Ely also spoke with the West Point Center for Oral History, and his interview may be viewed at WestPointCOH.org.



### $\star \star \star \star$ Assignments/Promotions

The Chief of Staff of the Army announces the following officer assignments:

MG Willard M. Burleson III '88 to Commanding General, 7th Infantry Division, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA.

MG John S. Kem '85 to Commandant, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA.

### BG Christopher T. Donahue '92 to

Commandant, U.S. Army Infantry School, U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning, GA.

BG Robin L. Fontes '86 to Commander, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, United States Forces-Afghanistan, OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL.

BG David C. Hill '90 to Commanding General, Transatlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Winchester, VA.

BG Diana M. Holland '90 to Commanding General, South Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Atlanta, GA.

BG Robert F. Whittle, Jr. '90 to Commandant, U.S. Army Engineer School, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

The U.S. Senate has confirmed the following General Officer nominations for promotion to the rank of Major General:

BG Ronald P. Clark '88 BG Robin L. Fontes '86 BG Patrick E. Matlock '88 BG Brian J. Mennes '88 BG Christopher J. Sharpsten '88 BG Frank W. Tate '88 BG Daniel R. Walrath '88





# West Point Parents Corner

## WPPC of Maryland, Washington DC, and Virginia Gift to Class of 2017

On May 4, during WPAOG's Donor Tribute Day, the West Point Parents Club (WPPC) of Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia presented a generous gift of \$25,000 to the Class of 2017 Gift Fund, representing funds raised through the sale of afghans woven with the Class of 2017 crest. Each year, the Club's Afghan Project creates the class afghan and begins sales during Ring Weekend, with all money generated throughout the year donated to the graduating class's fund. The WPPC MD, DC & VA began this tradition with the Class of 2001, and with contributions raised through the Afghan Project along with other gifts, has donated a total of \$309,813 to support West Point. Thank you to these dedicated parents!

### WPPC of New Jersey Donates to Class of 2017

During the Firstie Send-Off Dinner on April 23, the West Point Parents Club of New Jersey presented a check for \$28,248.87 to the Class of 2017 Gift Fund. This generous gift was made possible through the sale of challenge coins with the Class of 2017 crest. Thank you to WPPC of NJ for its tremendous support—over the years the Club has donated a total of \$132,032.





## Parent Volunteers Treat Cadets to TEE Study Snacks!

From May 16-17, WPAOG helped distribute popsicles and other treats to cadets to offer support and encouragement as they undertook Term End Exams (TEEs). WPAOG staff and parent volunteers handed out sweet and healthy treats and urged cadets to BEAT THE DEAN! Thanks to the many Parents Clubs for their donations to purchase the snacks, and a special thanks goes to WPPC of Alabama President Jim Watkins P'19, who drove more than 1,000 miles to personally deliver 1,200 popsicles donated by his company, Steel City Pops. We congratulate all cadets on completing the academic year!





# West Point Parents Corner

### Welcome, Parents of the West Point Class of 2021!

West Point Association of Graduates offers a range of services for cadet parents. Beginning with the Class of 2016, we have mailed *West Point*, the Academy's quarterly official alumni magazine, to all cadet parents free of charge. We also send out the Parent Review monthly enewsletter, with a message from the Superintendent and Cadet and Academy news. On social media, you can follow West Point, West Point AOG and West Point Parent on Facebook and Twitter. You can also receive our daily newsfeeds of USMA and Cadet news by subscribing on the WPAOG website at WestPointAOG.org/usmacadetnews. Additional information on regional Parents Clubs and other resources may be found at WestPointAOG.org/ ParentResources.

## WPAOG publishes Parent Handbook for 2017-2018

For the second year in a row, WPAOG has published the West Point *Parent Handbook*. Filled with useful information and an academic year calendar, the *Parent Handbook* is available to all parents on R-Day and afterward. Please contact Shelisa Baskerville at Shelisa. Baskerville@wpaog.org to learn more.



# STARTtheDAYS!

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	
<b>11</b> August Graduation	<b>1</b> First Home Football Game	19 Thayer Award	
<b>13-14</b> Class of 2021 Grad Marchback	BEAT FORDHAM!	20-22 Family Weekend	
<b>16-19</b> West Point Alumni Leaders Conference		29 West Point Band Bicentennial Gala, David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center (NYC) Fall 2017 Class Reunions	
<b>19</b> Acceptance Day for the	24 Tunnel to Towers Run		
Class of 2021	28 Nininger Award	1972, 1987 Sep 28-30 1977 Oct 5-7	
First Day of Classes 25-27 Ring Weekend	29 Army Sports Hall of Fame Induction	1997, 2002 Oct 12-14   2007, 2012 (Homecoming Weekend)   1992 Oct 19-21	

For the entire calendar, go to WestPointAOG.org/calendar

# Be Thou at Peace Deaths reported from March 18-June 11, 2017.

Col George C. McDowell, USAF, Retired MG George Mayo Jr., USA, Retired COL John R. McLean, USA, Retired Maj Gen Edward A. McGough III, USAF, Retired 1943 JAN MG Darrie H. Richards, USA, Retired 1943 JAN Lt Col Roger C. Ball, USAF, Retired 1943 JUN LTC Herman T. Hunt Jr., USA, Retired 1943 JUN LTC John J. Kelly Jr., USA, Retired 1943 JUN LTC Henry G. Morgan Jr., USA, Retired 1943 JUN Col Charles Spieth Jr., USAF, Retired 1943 JUN Col James R. Cumberpatch, USAF, Retired COL Philip S. Grant, USA, Retired LTC Robert B. Robinson, USA, Retired COL Edward W. Samuell Jr., USA, Retired Honorable Ross W. Campbell Jr. LTC George A. Churchill, USA, Retired Col Robert A. Evans, USAF, Retired Mr. A. Theodore Flum Mr. John K. Houssels Jr. LTC Rupert W. Jernigan Jr., USA, Retired Mr. Robert E. Woods COL Ray L. Burnell Jr., USA, Retired COL Frank S. Caruso, USA, Retired Mr. John F. Donahue COL Leonard Edelstein, USA, Retired COL Joe B. Flores, USA, Retired Mr. Mose W. Gordon Jr. Maj Gen Guy E. Hairston Jr., USAF, Retired Col Senour Hunt, USAF, Retired Mr. Roscoe E. Patton COL Selwyn P. Rogers Jr., USA, Retired COL Harold J. Stirling, USA, Retired COL Elbert S. Throckmorton, USA, Retired LTC John Delistraty, USA, Retired Mr. Edwin B. Greene Lt Gen Andrew B. Anderson Jr., USAF, Retired Mr. John J. Buckley Jr. COL Wallace O. Enderle, USA, Retired LTC Ward C. Goessling Jr., USA, Retired Mr. Julian P. Hunnicutt Jr. MG Jerry B. Lauer, USA, Retired Lt Col John N. McCarthy, USAF, Retired COL Albert F. Turner, USA, Retired Mr. Paul S. Ache Jr. LTC Thomas M. Barry Jr., USA, Retired

1937	COL Edward P. Crockett, USA, Retired	1950
1940	Dr. Kenneth R. Ebner	1950
1940	COL Philo A. Hutcheson Jr., USA, Retired	1950
13 JAN	MAJ William R. Lamdin, USA, Retired	1950
13 JAN	BG Alfred L. Sanderson, USA, Retired	1950
13 JUN	COL Millard H. Singleton, USA, Retired	1950
13 JUN	Col Arnim L. Brantley, USAF, Retired	1951
13 JUN	Col Lou E. Bretzke, USAF, Retired	1951
13 JUN	COL George W. Orton, USA, Retired	1951
13 JUN	COL Robert P. Hand, USA, Retired	1952
1944	Lt Col Kenneth H. Kronlund, USAF, Retired	1952
1944	LTC James J. Turner, USA, Retired	1952
1944	Mr. Thomas E. Anderson	1953
1944	Mr. Robert L. Dean Jr.	1953
1945	LTC James H. Harris, USA, Retired	1953
1945	Mr. Frank A. lacobucci	1953
1945	LTC John P. Maher, USA, Retired	1953
1945	LTC Donald L. Meyer, USA, Retired	1953
1945	COL Roland R. Sullivan, USA, Retired	1953
1945	Mr. John D. Van Wyk	1953
1945	Dr. James P. Wade Jr.	1953
1946	COL Russell W. Parker, USA, Retired	1954
1946	Mr. James A. McIntosh	1955
1946	LTC Frank J. Schlotter, USA, Retired	1955
1946	Mr. Jack D. Trawick	1955
1946	COL Jarold L. Hutchison, USA, Retired	1956
1946	Mr. Nicholas A. Mavrotheris	1956
1946	Mr. Robert N. Richards	1956
1946	Mr. Charles F. Scott III	1956
1946	Mr. Patrick N. Uebel	1956
1946	Mr. Thomas S. Bainbridge	1957
1946	COL Richard C. Dean, USA, Retired	1957
1946	COL Joseph W. House, USA, Retired	1957
1947	LTC Arthur L. MacKusick Jr., USA, Retired	1957
1947	COL Robert E. Lindquist, USA, Retired	1958
1948	Mr. Billy F. Mathews	1958
1948	LTC Douglass A. Sedgwick, USA, Retired	1958
1948	LTC Carl W. Sullinger, USA, Retired	1958
1949	Mr. Robert W. Tallgren	1958
1949	Mr. Donald C. Coen	1959
1949	LTC Arthur R. Cyr Jr., USA, Retired	1959
1949	Lt Col Edward N. Laughlin, USAF, Retired	1959
1949	COL Thomas D. Roberts II, USA, Retired	1959
1950	Mr. Richard J. Campbell	1960
1950	Mr. Joal L. R. Davis	1960

	Mr. Charles Decko Jr.	1960
	COL Bartley W. Furey, USA, Retired	1960
	LTC Harry N. White, USA, Retired	1960
	Col Edward B. Mucho, USAF, Retired	1961
	Mr. Larry F. Smalley	1961
	LTC Benjamin L. Willis, USA, Retired	1961
	Mr. Winston B. Clark Jr.	1962
	Mr. Thomas J. Teuten	1962
	LTC Benjamin R. Wilkerson Jr., USA, Retired	1962
	Mr. John T. Goorley	1963
	LTC Richard J. Matteson, USA, Retired	1963
	MAJ Arthur J. Ryan III, USA, Retired	1963
	Dr. Tom J. Vaughn Jr.	1963
	Mr. James P. Ryan	1964
	Mr. Steven R. Leach	1965
	COL Donald E. Nowland, USA, Retired	1965
	LTC Timothy E. Daly, USA, Retired	1966
	MAJ Melvin O. Liss, USA, Retired	1966
	COL George A. Gardes Jr., AUS, Retired	1968
	Mr. Jack E. Gerke	1968
	LTC Kenneth R. Nicholson, USA, Retired	1968
	Maj Andrew M. Hatch, USAF, Retired	1969
	COL Michael P. Breithaupt, USA, Retired	1971
	MAJ Russell C. Wagnon, USA, Retired	1972
	LTC William A. Snow, USA, Retired	1973
	MAJ Thomas M. Pirog, USA, Retired	1975
	Mr. Randall C. Robertson	1975
	Mr. Charles E. Everett	1976
	Mr. James A. Hubbard	1977
	Mr. Earl W. Edwards	1978
	MAJ John A. Harrison, USA, Retired	1979
	MAJ Patrick W. O'Brien, USA, Retired	1979
	COL John C. Stratis, USA, Retired	1980
	Mr. Franklin D. Canterbury Jr.	1981
	Mr. James E. David Jr.	1981
	Mr. Gary W. Cumbey	1985
	Mr. Aaron N. Silver Jr.	1988
	Mr. Cary L. Blood	1989
	Mr. Bumjin Chang	1989
	LTC Jeb S. Downing, USA	1990
Y	Mr. Jeffrey C. Burg	1994
	LTC Susan M. Galich, USA	1999
	Mr. Timothy K. Randall	2001
1	CPT Matthew A. Heisey, USA	2005
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# Past in Review



## The Long (or Short) Road to Graduation

By Keith J. Hamel, WPAOG staff

(Inspired by an August 2008 "Gray Matter" Article by J. Phoenix, Esquire)

The Class of 2017 ended its 47-month West Point experience on May 27, and the Class of 2021 just started its own 47-month experience on July 3. Regular as clockwork, right? Well, it wasn't always this way. Nowadays, Academy Admissions brochures and literature tout West Point as a "47-month leader development program," but at various points in its history, West Point was graduating leaders in as little as 180 days or in as long as 9 years.

Before Sylvanus Thayer, Class of 1808, became Superintendent in 1817, no four-year plan existed at West Point, and the Academy admitted cadets from anywhere between 10 and 34 years of age. According to historian Stephen Ambrose, classes at the United States Military Academy commenced in April 1802. Nearly six months later, on October 12, West Point graduated its first cadets: Joseph Swift and Simon Levy. To be fair, Swift received orders to go to West Point in 1801, before it "constituted a military academy," and he studied mathematics at the garrison under Professor George Baron. A third cadet, Walker Armistead, passed his

examinations, along with Swift and Levy, but he chose to extend his West Point experience another five months and graduated on March 5, 1803. In the spring of 1812, President James Madison signed into law "An Act Making Further Provision for the Corps of Engineers," limiting the ages of West Point cadet admission to between 15 and 20 years old, establishing baseline admission standards (all candidates must be versed in reading, writing, and arithmetic) and stipulating that each cadet serve a minimum of four years "unless sooner discharged." However, this course of study for the Academy went unfulfilled because of the War of 1812 and the turmoil it caused over the next several years. Under Alden Partridge, Class of 1806, who was Superintendent from 1815 to 1817, graduation and commissioning for cadets was said to be more about "favor or friendship" than qualification.

When Thayer became Superintendent, he found that some cadets had remained at the Academy for years without being able to advance beyond the first year's course. He held classification examinations, divided cadets into four classes, and deferred to the "Academical Staff" (later known as the Academic Board) the responsibility to confer degrees upon cadets who had completed the required course of study, which was now as much about turning out engineers as it was about turning out soldiers. For all practical purposes, the traditional 47-month experience was born—that is until it became the 59-month experience.

As early as 1830, the West Point Board of Visitors had been reporting that the Academy was weak in military training and was sacrificing studies in the humanities for what would today be called STEM courses (science, technology, engineering, and math). To rectify this, the Academic Board proposed a five-year curriculum in 1846; however, given the recent outbreak of the Mexican War and subsequent need for officers, it did not get implemented until 1854, when a large enough class entered that could be split into two groups—one half following the four-year curriculum and the other half starting the new five-year program (so there would be no gap between graduating classes). Those in the extra year program took courses in Spanish, history, geography, and military law. They also saw an increase in military drill. Ironically, in 1856, the Board of Visitors reversed its earlier opinion and maintained that military training was now interfering with academic instruction. Cadets and professors also expressed grievances regarding the five-year program. In time, the Davis Commission (chaired by Senator Jefferson Davis, Class of 1828) investigated the matter for Congress, but before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs could debate the issue, Confederate forces shelled Fort Sumter, putting an end to the 59-month experiment (or experience) at West Point.

Only three classes (1859, 1860, and May 1861) completed the five-year program. The Class of June 1861, which entered West Point in 1857, became the first class to have its original curriculum cut short due to war and the need to send officers to battle, but it would not be the last. The Class of 1898 graduated with just a 45-month experience as a result of the Spanish-American War. It was

Photo: WPAOG archives

more chaotic for classes during World War I: the Class of August 1917 left after 38 months, the Class of June 1918 after 36 months, the Class of November 1918 after 28 months, and the class that became the Class of 1919 was graduated on November 1, 1918—just 16 months after arriving—but returned in December 1918 after the Armistice before graduating in June for a total experience of 22 months.

West Point's World War II classes

also graduated earlier than usual,



Allan R. Scullen '42, is shown at left in 1933, the year he first entered the Academy. Nine years and two false starts later, he graduated 342 out of a class of 374 in May, 1942. His *Howitzer* photo is above, right.

although not to the extremes seen during the "Great War." Instead, it produced some atypical individual cases in the opposite direction, with cadets staying at the Academy far longer than 47 months. Take Allan R. Scullen '42, for example. He entered the Academy in July 1933 but was discharged in January 1934 for failing Math and English. He was re-admitted in 1937 and survived two years before English got him again, in 1939. He was re-admitted in January 1940 and graduated 342 out of a class of 374 on May 29, 1942, nearly nine years after first coming to West Point. The Class of 1942 also had three graduates who completed an 83-month experience (seven years): Arthur R. King, David D. May, and Robert M. Blair.

Of course, "four-plus" year cadets are the exception and not the rule, and the Academy has not wavered from the 47-month program since 1948 (although half the members of that class entered in 1944 on a threeyear program before West Point returned to a four-year curriculum

in 1946). But there's no guarantee that the Academy won't plus or minus the 47 months in the future, and turn-back cadets can become great Army officers—just ask General George S. Patton, Class of 1909 (who repeated plebe year because of math), or Colonel Russell P. 'Red' Reeder '26 (a six-year cadet who was named a West Point Distinguished Graduate in 1997). ★

# MAILBOX

## Submit comments or questions to Editor@wpaog.org, or chat with us on one of our WPAOG social media channels!

### FROM: Bob Gregson '64

Nice work on these *West Point* magazines! Very professional, great look, and informative content that I like to pass on to my local candidates, whetting their appetites. One thing, though. The 2017 spring issue's Past in Review, "Flying Cadets, Flying Grads," notes that West Point grads from classes '47 through '58 made an impact in the Air Force. That program didn't end in 1958. It continued at least through my class of '64, when a certain quota from the top third, middle third, and bottom third (as I understood it) could commission in the Air Force. I'm curious when that option ended, since the U.S. Air Force Academy had been cranking out their graduates for five years by the time '64's commissioning rolled around.

### **RESPONSE:**

Thank you for the compliment, and we are happy to hear that the magazine is being shared with candidates. Part of West Point magazine's mission is "to tell the West Point story," and we are glad you are increasing our audience. The line to which you refer in the 2017 spring issue's Past in Review, states, "... approximately 1,600 USMA graduates from the Classes of 1947 through 1958 continued to make in impact in the U.S. Air Force ... until the founding of the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1955" (which, as you point out, graduated its first class in 1959). The dates come from a heading used in a

report by Col. Clarence C. Elebash '48 (USAF Ret.), titled "West Point and the Air Force." In that report, Elebash notes: "West Point graduates continued to be assigned to the Air Force after 1958 but in reduced numbers. The percent of each USMA class going to the USAF dropped from 25 percent in 1958 to about 10 percent in 1959 and the early 1960s. This percentage declined further in later years." According to the USMA Command Historian, the law stipulating how many West Point graduates were mandated for the U.S. Air Force service lapsed after USAFA was established, but a small number of graduates can still commission in the U.S. Air Force, even today. With three of its members in the USAF, the Class of 2017 was the latest class to have graduates do so. ★

#### **CORRECTIONS** West Point Spring 2017 issue

Poster quotation (p. 36) Thank you to the many readers who wrote to let us know that this quotation should read: "The peaceful transition of power is what will separate this country from every other country in the world." Although often attributed to Washington, the official source of this quotation remains unknown.

In "West Point Center for the Rule of Law" (p. 30) The class year of Mr. Michael Boulegeris '83, funder of the West Point Civil Rights Staff Ride, was incorrectly listed. *West Point* magazine regrets the error and it has been corrected in our online edition.



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