West Point

FALL 2017

West Point Dedicates Newest Cadet Barracks

Named for General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36 (USAF)

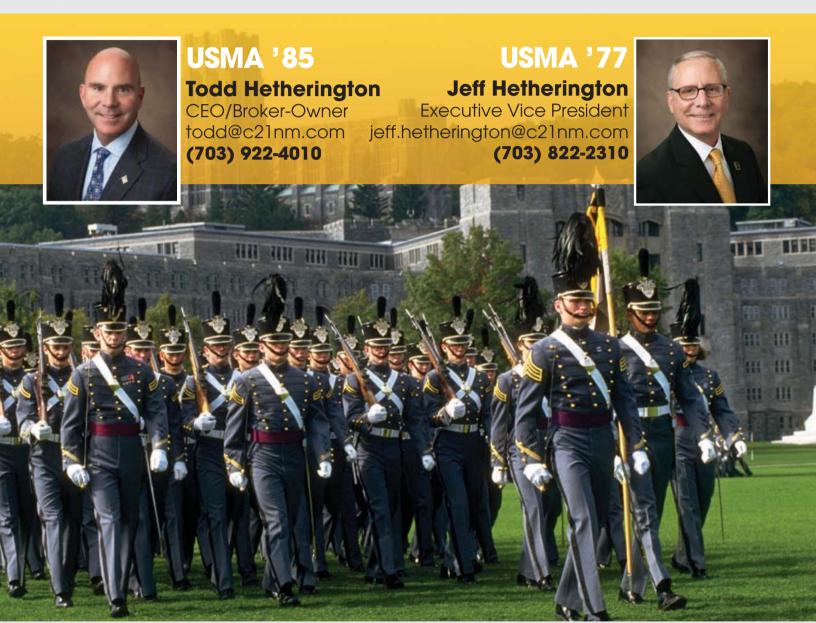




FRIENDS AND **FAMILY PROGRAM**

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE MOVING?

Across Town... Across Country... Anywhere Around the World...



CENTURY 21° Firm In The World. **4 Years Running**

www.C21NM.com

20 Locations in the D.C. Metro Area We know the experts in the market.





We are veteran-owned and veteran-focused.

Email veteransforhire@apigroupinc.us and ask about our Veteran's

Rotational Program and our highly selective Leader Development Program.



APIGROUPINC.COM

BUILDING GREAT LEADERS"

West Point

VOLUME 7. ISSUE 4 • FALL 2017

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

PUBLISHER

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

EDITOR IN CHIEF Elizabeth A. Barrett editor@wpaog.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Keith J. Hamel

EDITORIAL ADVISORY GROUP

Darwin Haines '86 Richard Huh '94 Jim Johnston '73 Kim McDermott '87 Samantha Soper

ADVERTISING

Jess Scheuler 845.446.1577 | ads@wpaog.org

ADDRESS UPDATES

Tammy Talmadge West Point Association of Graduates 698 Mills Road, West Point, NY 10996-1607

845.446.1642 | address@wpaog.org

MEMORIAL ARTICLE MANAGER Marilee Meyer

845.446.1545 | memorials@wpaog.org

CONTENT

Anthony DiNoto Kim McDermott '87
Keith Hamel Guest Contributors

DESIGN

Marguerite Smith

Opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions, policy, or attitude of the U.S. Army, United States Military Academy, West Point Association of Graduates, its officers, or the editorial staff. The appearance of advertisements in this publication does not necessarily constitute an endorsement by the U.S. Army, United States Military Academy, West Point Association of Graduates, its officers, or the editorial staff for the products or services advertised.

POSTMASTER

West Point is published quarterly in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall by the West Point Association of Graduates, 698 Mills Road, West Point, NY 10996-1607.

West Point is printed by Dartmouth Printing Company.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions may be ordered for \$35 (domestic mail) online at WestPointAOG.org; by calling 800.BE.A.GRAD; or by sending a check to WPAOG, *West Point* magazine, 698 Mills Road, West Point, NY 10996-1607. (International shipping incurs additional fees: please inquire.)

ON THE COVER: Then Army Air Corps COL Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36 in flying gear in front of a Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, circa 1944—Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum (NASM 2004-55822). Upper right: Night image of Davis Barracks—Ty Cole Studios, Inc., Photographer and Clark Nexsen Inc., Architect/Engineer of Record.

Dear Fellow Graduates:

This issue marks my one-year anniversary as publisher of *West Point* magazine, and what a year it has been! We were able to celebrate Army West Point's first victory over Navy in 14 years on the cover of the 2017 winter issue. We published our largest issue ever in the spring (72 pages), a feat we repeated with the summer issue. And we have increased our coverage of what is happening at WPAOG, including stories on our exciting new initiative for graduates, the Rockbound Highland Home Program. Part "Grad Pass" (easier access to post), part "Grad Perks" (privileged service and access to West Point recreational facilities and services), and part "Grad Insider Tour" (a behind-the-scenes, historical look at the Academy), the Rockbound Highland Home Program has been a tremendous success. The response has been overwhelmingly positive since we launched the program in March, and my hope is that all graduates and their families will take advantage of these opportunities as we seek to make the Long Gray Line the most connected alumni body in the world.

It has also been a stellar year for USMA: we defeated Navy in football; a USCC team won the annual Sandhurst Competition for the first time since 2011; PE116: Plebe Boxing was open to women starting with the Class of 2020; 27 cadets were awarded prestigious postgraduate scholarships, and the Academy continued its run of consistently high rankings. A special welcome to the approximately 1,200 members of the Class of 2021 and their families. We look forward to strengthening your grip with the Long Gray Line over the next four years, particularly through the events of the 50-Year Affiliation Program, which family members first experienced on R-Day thanks to the efforts of the Class of 1971.

But perhaps the most notable event that occurred in the last year is that USMA completed and dedicated Davis Barracks—named after General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36, USAF Retired—the first new barracks built at the Academy since Bradley Barracks in 1972, and the first named after an African American graduate. This issue of *West Point* magazine features several articles on this historic event, and what it means to the West Point community.

This issue also covers some annual WPAOG signature events, including the WPAOG Alumni Leaders Conference, sponsored by the Class of 1967, and the Alexander R. Nininger Award, presented this year to Captain Nick Dockery '11. With Army West Point home football games, multiple class reunions, and the Thayer Award ceremony, fall is a very busy time around West Point. If you will be around West Point this fall, I hope you will take a moment to stop into Herbert Alumni Center. We would love to see you and tell you more about all the great things happening at West Point and WPAOG.

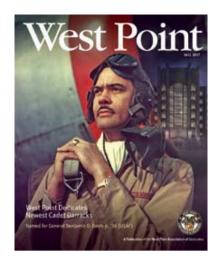
Serving West Point and the Long Gray Line,

Todd

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







ADVERTISERS

Academy Commemoratives	61
API Group, Inc.	1
Army Residence Community	45
Balfour	45
Battle Monument Partners	53
Boeing	17
Century 21	C2
The Daughters of the Cincinnati	53
Eisenhower Hall	61
First Command	25
Herff Jones	51
Indian River Colony Club	51
The Ohio State University	45
SACC	61
SACC Central	59
University of Virginia	53
IISAA	21 C3

IN THIS ISSUE | DAVIS BARRACKS DEDICATION

6 COVER STORY | West Point Dedicates Newest Cadet Barracks: Legacy of General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36 in Granite and Action

DEPARTMENTS

28 By the Numbers

46 WPAOG News54 Parents Corner

56 Gripping Hands

57 Cadet Column

60 Start the Days!

63 Past in Review

62 Be Thou at Peace

60 Mailbox

2 From the President & CEO

4 From the Superintendent

32 Poster: Davis Barracks

On August 18, USMA honored Air Force General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36 by naming its newest barracks after the four-star general and commander of the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

- 12 Today's Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives at West Point
- 14 General Benjamin Oliver Davis Jr. '36 (1912-2002)
 The contributions, service, and accomplishments of
 General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36 are distinguished
 and legendary, and he was truly a pioneer in many ways.
- 18 What's in a Name? The Selection Process to Name Davis Barracks
- From Raw Rock to State-of-the-Art Gemstone: Building Davis Barracks
- Meet the 77th Commandant of the United States Corps of Cadets: Brigadier General Steve Gilland '90
- 34 2017 Nininger Award for Valor at Arms: Captain Nick Dockery '11
- 36 Summer Training 2017
- 38 USMA 2021 Joins the Corps
- 40 Ring Memorial Program/Ring Weekend
- 42 A True Behind-the-Scenes Look: The Rockbound Highland Home Grad Insider Tour
- 48 No Distance Too Great: The West Point Marathon Team
- 58 Affirmation Ceremony for the Class of 2019

Acknowledgements

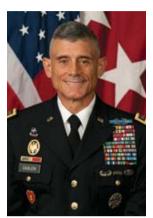
West Point magazine gratefully acknowledges the assistance received for this issue from:

 $Lou Ann \ Fornataro, AIA, Senior \ Project \ Manager, \ Clark \ Nexsen, \ Inc., \ Architects/Engineers \ of \ Record, \ Davis \ Barracks \ Ty \ Cole \ Studios, \ Inc., \ Photography$

Shiroy Ranji, AIA, Senior Associate, STV/URS, Design Architects/Engineers, Davis Barracks CPT A. Edward Major III '07, Deputy Area Engineer, West Point Area Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers USMA Public Affairs Office

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

The Corps of Cadets recently wrapped up another great summer of training, both here and around the globe, developing and honing their military skills and proficiency as they continue along their journey toward becoming commissioned leaders of character.



One of the highlights that marks the end of the summer training season is the March Back, the crucible event of Cadet Basic Training. It was great to see so many of you out marching with the new cadets of the Class of 2021 as they completed Beast Barracks and were accepted into the Corps of Cadets. I truly appreciate all of you for supporting and taking part in the many events that took place here over the last few months.

Over the summer, I had the

opportunity to travel to Afghanistan with some of our staff members and athletic coaches to meet and talk with several of our grads, from some of our brand-new second lieutenants to General John Nicholson '82, the commander of all coalition forces in Afghanistan. Each of the leaders I spoke with said how impressed they are with the caliber of our graduates, and our recent grads currently serving in theater emphasized how much their West Point education and training prepared them for the rigors of leading in austere environments and in the crucible of ground combat. That's not only a testament to the great work and dedication of our staff and faculty but also to the example and support from each of you—our graduates—who are the role models for our future leaders of character.

The Long Gray Line has no shortage of shoulders upon which our cadets stand, inspiring and setting the example for the next generation of Army leaders. We recently had the opportunity to honor one of the giants from the Long Gray Line—General Benjamin O. Davis Jr., Class of 1936—by dedicating the new cadet barracks bearing his name.

The dedication ceremony for Davis Barracks was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the life and legacy of General Davis, bringing together many notable guests to include members of the Davis family and several members of the original Tuskegee Airmen.

One of the guest speakers for the ceremony was Cadet Netteange Monaus, Class of 2018, a member of our Excel Scholars Club. She delivered a powerful message about General Davis and what he means to the Corps of Cadets. I'd like to share an excerpt from her speech:

Every day, General Davis put on the uniform, he showed his love for his country. He chose to fight for a country where not everyone respected him. He chose to love a country, which still needed to learn to love and value all its citizens. Ultimately, he chose to commit his life to the country that fights for freedom and as evident in its history, constantly strives to grow and become better.

I imagine General Davis walked the paths of West Point, to and from his class and room, not thinking that one day he will become a general. However, every time he drove on, staying true to forging his own destiny (and not what others expected him to do) he set himself apart. He did not let his circumstances poison his view on the human race but rather, with every action chose to rise above his circumstances. He led a life of service, seeking out the inherent goodness of man and not losing faith because of their blemishes. That is the making of our great heroes, and this is why he is honored at West Point today.

What made General Davis a leader was his ability to be different and to succeed in stressful and trying times. Those of stronger nature, like General Davis, take the insults and the snubs and the disbelief, and turn them into fuel that drives them forward, shaping a leader who is not afraid to stand independently. By daring to live dangerously, he brought about the positive change he believed in and left a message for all to have the courage to do the same.

In the midst of recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia, this ceremony brought many groups together in the spirit of unity and solidarity, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion and reminding us to continually seek ways to find common ground and move forward together to create a more inclusive environment.

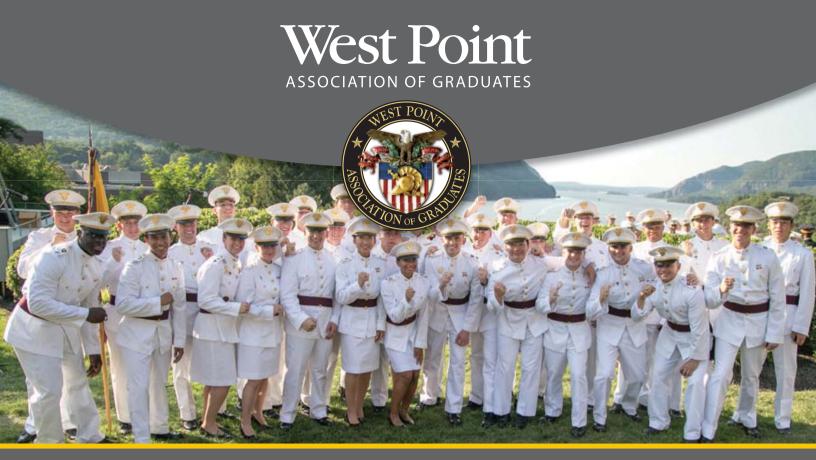
General Davis exemplifies the West Point values of Duty, Honor and Country, as well as what it means to be a leader of character. Now, this magnificent new building that graces our skyline will serve as a reminder of his incredible legacy and example of courage, humility and selfless service that will inspire all future leaders of character that pass through West Point's gates.

I look forward to seeing many of you this fall at your class reunions or home football games.

As always, thank you for all you do in supporting the Corps of Cadets and West Point.

Beat Navy!

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



Connecting Every Heart in Gray

The **Long Gray Line Fund** supports WPAOG programs and services, including this magazine, that keep all hearts in gray connected to the Academy, the Corps of Cadets, and each other. With your help, we can achieve our vision for the Long Gray Line to be the most highly connected alumni body in the world. **Grip Hands** with fellow graduates and friends and support the **Long Gray Line today**.

For more information, visit us online or call: westpointagg.org/longgraylinefund 845.446.1650

As of September 26, 2017, Long Gray Line Fund support has provided:

275
Memorials in TAPS

139
Societies
Worldwide

80 Living USMA Classes Rockbound Highland Home Tours

23 Class, Sport, and Club Reunions 41

RINGS DONATED TO THE RING MEMORIAL PROGRAM FOR THE CLASS OF 2018

Awards and Scholarships

Trips offered through the Alumni Travel Program

123 Events in the Great Hall

FOUR ANNUAL SERVICE ACADEMY CARFER CONFERENCES IN THE U.S.

115

Memorial Support for Graduates & Widows







West Point Dedicates Newest Cadet Barracks: Legacy of General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36 in Granite and Action

By Tom Stoelker, Guest Writer

On August 18, the United States Military Academy honored the late Air Force General Benjamin O. Davis Jr., Class of 1936, by naming its newest barracks after the four-star general and commander of the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

"His name, etched here in stone, is a perpetual reminder of his incredible legacy and example that will inspire all future leaders of character that pass through West Point's gates," Lieutenant General Robert L. Caslen Jr. '75, 59th USMA Superintendent, said at the barracks dedication before an audience that included alumni, faculty, cadets, members of Davis's family, and Tuskegee Airmen who served under his command.

Above: Family members of GEN (R) Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36 (USAF) Judge L. Scott Melville and Doug Melville cut the ribbon to officially open Davis Barracks, assisted by (L to R) former USMA Superintendent LTG (R) David Huntoon '73, current USMA Superintendent LTG Robert L. Caslen Jr. '75, and First Captain Simone Askew '18.

West Point committee was formed in 2014 to recommend a name for the barracks and thoughtful deliberations ensued (see "What's in an Name?" on page 18). The committee considered recommendations from cadets, alumni, and historians. The result was that the Superintendent chose to recommend that the Department of the Army choose Davis as the building's namesake, selecting him from a field of several worthy nominees.

Major General Fred A. Gorden '62 (Retired), the 61st Commandant of Cadets (1987-89) and the first African American to hold that position, met Davis on several occasions. Gorden served as Davis's escort for the 1998 White House ceremony in which Davis was promoted to four-star general by President Bill Clinton. Gorden said that the choice of Davis for the barracks name resonates well beyond the walls of West Point.

"While the scope of his wartime leadership and generalship may not rival that of Grant, Pershing, MacArthur, Eisenhower, or even a more contemporary Schwarzkopf, General Davis's stature as an American fighting man of indomitable allegiance, courage, and resolute spirit is second to none," said Gorden.

Caslen later emphasized that one of Davis's greatest qualities was that he always persevered and stuck with the team, no matter what the challenge, eventually earning the trust necessary to lead.

"If a leader is to be effective and inspire and motivate people to work toward a common goal, then the team has to trust that leader," he said. "Trust is earned, and is a combination of competence and character. General Davis certainly possessed both—his life and his service attest to that."

A First Among Equals

Davis was not the first African American to graduate from the Academy; he was the fourth. Before him came Henry O. Flipper, Class of 1877; John Hanks Alexander, Class of 1887; and Charles Young, Class of 1889, the first African American to achieve the rank of colonel. Young mentored Davis's father, Benjamin O. Davis Sr., who went on to become a brigadier general—the first black general officer in the U.S. Army—in 1940. The senior Davis then groomed his son to succeed at West Point.



Right: U.S. Army Surgeon General LTG Nadja West '82 and First Captain Simone Askew '18 take a "selfie" at the barracks dedication.

Davis also had the support of Chicago Congressman Oscar Stanton De Priest, the NAACP, and the black press. Other black cadets had tried and failed to graduate in the time between Young's tenure and Davis's, but they did not have a comparable support system outside the Academy.

This didn't mean that Davis's experience at West Point passed without serious tribulations, quite the opposite. In fact, he was "silenced" during his four years at the Academy and endured sustained harassment because he was black. As time passed, however, he never turned his back on the institution or on his duty as a soldier.

"He was not bitter, he was not resentful, and it did not deter him from his ultimate goal," said his nephew Judge L. Scott Melville. "There's a saying about goals, 'Keep your eye on the prize.' Well Ben's prize was to graduate from this institution and he did that."

Herman E. Bulls '78, Board Member of West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG), said Davis's experience was indicative of his times.

"He tended to represent so much about our country, including where our country was in the 1930s," said Bulls. "He was the first black cadet to graduate in 47 years [after Young], and in that time we had Plessy v. Ferguson [the 1896 Supreme Court decision upholding 'separate but equal' treatment of blacks] and the Jim Crow era, so you naturally don't have another graduate until Davis—and not that many afterward. I'm only number 59."

Dedication Day Amidst Debate

The new Davis Barracks rises high above post, taking its place within the profile of the iconic West Point skyline, tucked into the landscape below the Cadet Chapel.

On the warm sunny morning of the building's dedication, most of the participants chose to climb the 71 steps of the steep grand staircase to reach the barracks formation area which skirts the building, providing spectacular views of the Hudson Valley. One after another, they reached the top of the steps to the plaza and marveled at the building's impressive central tower. Among the guests were a civilian who had named his son for Davis, the

highest-ranking woman to graduate from West Point, and a mom who came to see her son officially become a plebe the following day at Acceptance Day (A-Day).

As Lieutenant General Nadja Y. West '82 stepped onto the apron, she fixed her eyes on the tower. West didn't notice Captain Sara Schubert '13 mouth the word "Wow!" at her arrival. As she looked for her seat at the back of the dignitaries' section, an official informed her that she, the U.S. Army Surgeon General, would be seated in the front row. It was an unconsciously humble gesture, echoing the character of the day's honoree. Schubert watched the scene play out with appreciation.

"I'm in medical services, so she's our leader," Shubert said of her boss, before gesturing to the tower, adding, "I think we're really setting the example that this is West Point and we're moving forward."



Davis family members unveil the "Davis" name at the barracks dedication.

West called the journey up the stairs "amazing."

"I never thought, 35 years ago when I was graduating, that I would ever see a barracks dedicated to such a great African American leader," she said. "I mean we've really come a long way and in this environment that we're in now, I think it's also a very timely way to honor a real patriot, a real leader."

West gave voice to what was on the mind of nearly everyone: the riots in Charlottesville, Virginia had occurred a mere six days before. The crowd was filled with many African American men and women who had graduated from the Academy and had served in the military. Many said that the dedication reassured their faith in the nation.

"From the Revolutionary War forward you've had African American patriots, not a lot documented in history or through historical monuments, so I think this is just an opportunity to show the contribution and dedication of all of our soldiers," said West. "I think naming the barracks for Davis shows that diversity makes our nation what it is today."

Nearby, Patrice Allen took in the scene. Allen, a member of the West Point Parents Club of Western New York, came down from Buffalo to West Point to see her son Terrence (TJ) transition from new cadet to plebe on A-Day the following day, just like his father, Lieutenant Colonel W. Tyrone Allen '83 (Retired), once did.

"I'm proud of what my family has done for our country, what my husband has done, and what my son is planning to do," she said. "It warms my heart to see what the leadership is doing here by standing up and publicly acknowledging Davis and the sacrifices that so many other people have made."

Before being called away by her husband to have their photo taken with West, Allen added that she was also thrilled to see so many African American women participating in the ceremony, especially Simone Askew '18, the newly appointed First Captain, the first African American woman to hold the post. Moments later, Askew could be seen taking a selfie with General West as Cadet Netteange Monaus '18 waited to speak on behalf of the Corps of Cadets at the dedication ceremony.

"We've really come full circle. Now you're seeing a barracks in honor of another great man in history, and then seeing the whole community coming together to support it," said Monaus. "America's history has had its past and there are still issues, but this shows there's still a greater community that sees the good in everyone."



Making of a Monument

West Point is a campus of monuments. It could easily be argued that barracks are the Academy's most vital monuments, since each day the cadet barracks swirl with the activity of a bustling campus. The significance of the buildings' names cannot be overstated, nor can the process of how they come into being.

"We have barracks named for MacArthur, Bradley, and Eisenhower," said Colonel Ty Seidule, Ph.D., Professor and Head of the USMA Department of History. "The barracks represent a pantheon of American military heroes."

Archie Elam '76, WPAOG Board Member, said that while Davis may be universally admired, the choice of using his name for the barracks did "reset the relationship with our diverse graduates."

"But, no one started out with some idea about the barracks with the name of a person of color," he said. "They voted for General Davis because of his character, not his color."

In many ways, the process of naming Davis Barracks stands as one of his greatest legacies. During the symposium following the dedication ceremony, Seidule tipped his hat to cadets who had lobbied for the barracks to be named for Davis, which, he

Photos: Anthony DiNoto/WPAOG

emphasized, was done within the Academy's system. Mary L. Tobin '03, agreed.

"Cadets are taught if you want to make a change, you'd better make a case for it, bring your facts, and your data, and that's what those cadets did," said Tobin. "Plus, the leadership listened to them, and it has not always been that way. They gave the cadets a forum. Even if they decided to turn the cadets down, they allowed their suggestions to be presented."

As a cadet, now-Second Lieutenant Michael Barlow '16 initiated the petition to name the new barracks for Davis. Second Lieutenant Terry Lee '17 was his roommate at the time. Lee said Barlow focused on getting his fellow black cadets on board at a town hall meeting where they launched "Operation Tuskegee," which set out to gather signatures to support the naming. But not everyone was convinced.

"Some people didn't feel like they experienced the same discrimination that Davis did; they were satisfied here," said Lee. "Going from door-to-door came with its own set of problems. Some needed persuading. But those that put down their signature are glad they did."

"I was afraid that some might see it the wrong way. They might not understand that we chose Davis because he personified *Duty*, *Honor, Country*," he said, adding that any candidate for a barracks name commemoration at West Point also had to be a general. "We were worried a little bit that there was going to be some blowback, and what I was most heartened by was that there was none. So many people told me how proud they were of West Point, of the Army, and of the nation to have recognized someone as important to all of us as Benjamin O. Davis Jr."

Granite Versus Action

Yet, no matter how impressive the monument, building, or ceremony, it might all ring hollow if there weren't active policies in place to back up the gesture, showing how the Academy has evolved since Davis's days as a cadet.

"The thing you have to continue to ask is, 'What can we do to make it better?,'" said Bulls. Bulls recalled how he participated in Project Outreach when he was a recent graduate in the late seventies. For a year he worked in the USMA Admissions Office, where he and other grads went into underserved communities and









Speakers at the Davis Barracks dedication ceremony included (opposite page) CDT Netteange Monaus '18, (this page, L to R) 59th USMA Superintendent LTG Robert L. Caslen Jr.'75, USACE Commanding General and 54th U.S. Army Chief of Engineers LTG Todd Semonite '79, and Davis family members Judge L. Scott Melville and his son Doug Melville.

Barlow pressed on in consultation with Seidule and Lieutenant Colonel Donald Outing, Ph.D., who was at the time an Academy professor in Mathematics and Director of USMA's Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Equal Opportunity. Both faculty members mentored the cadet on the finer points of drafting the necessary memos to the administration and on Davis's history.

"At the time it was very inspiring how Barlow, at 21 years old, was spearheading a project that would impact West Point and the Army," said Lee.

Elam said that resistance is an innate part of working within the system, which he recalled was also "an underground wrestle with our diverse grads and with each other."

"Change like that is uneven and slow, it's a reflection of the process anytime you want to change the future against the status quo," he said. "But with faith, the future always wins."

Once the name was approved, however, the resistance, such as it was, dissipated, said Seidule. As a historian, he knew that Davis qualified for the honor well beyond reasons of race.

visited junior high school students to expose them to West Point and the military.

"I've got to tell you there were ups and downs for African American cadet enrollment. We went from 50 to 100, but this year we're well over 200, and that didn't happen overnight," he said.

Today, there is a Diversity & Inclusion Endowment which helps fund multiple Leadership, Ethics, and Diversity in STEM workshops each year aimed at middle and high school aged youth in underserved areas and cities.

African Americans now make up 15 percent of the Class of 2021. Director of Admissions Colonel Deborah McDonald '85 credits the growth to WPAOG outreach efforts initiated in the early 1990s. The push led to the formation of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee that encourages graduates of color to keep in touch with their alma mater.

"Once people understand the impact that they have as role models for all cadets, black, white, or whatever, they start to come back," said Lieutenant General Larry R. Jordan '68 (Retired), Chairman





After the dedication, cadets gave visitors guided tours of the new Davis Barracks.

of the WPAOG Board, who taught on the USMA History faculty in the mid-1970s. "For cadets, they think, 'Here's someone who is a success and enjoying what they do.' That can't help but shape their perceptions and their understanding of people from different backgrounds."

Jordan said that not only do the cadets benefit, but so do the alumni, who gain a better appreciation of what they gained at the Academy.

Those early efforts at building diversity and inclusion at West Point have blossomed into an array of programming (see pp. 12-13), ranging from the Diversity Leadership Conference to the EXCEL Scholars Program and the West Point Center for Leadership and Diversity in STEM. The programming has grown to encourage understanding beyond the African American community at West Point. There are more than 15 cadet cultural clubs, including: the Asian-Pacific Forum, the Gospel Choir, the Society of Women Engineers, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, the Corbin Forum, the Native American Heritage Forum, and National Society of Black Engineers.

Living History

Back in 1977, merely celebrating Black History week (it was only a week back then) was a significant advance for the Academy, said Bulls. That year also happened to be the centennial of the graduation of Henry O. Flipper, allowing Jordan and his history colleagues to celebrate a century of black history at the Academy. Up to that point, a bust of Flipper in the library was the only significant monument to a black graduate, making it a touchstone for many black cadets, quite literally for some.

"Every day I would pass Flipper's bust in the library, and I would touch it every time I went by; it is what kept me going," said Priscilla "Pat" Locke '80, West Point's first black female graduate, who continues to work to recruit diverse applicants for West Point. "We didn't have any African American monuments back then, and there wasn't a lot of visibility of what African Americans have done at the Academy, and so I just didn't have a good sense of what I was getting myself into."

Locke said that the Davis Barracks is much more significant than a bust, particularly when the nation is in the midst of a national conversation about monuments. It's a conversation that, not surprisingly, has been going on for years at West Point as well.

Brigadier General Andre H. Sayles '73 (Retired), Ph.D., who served eight years as Professor and Head of the USMA Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, was well aware of the Flipper bust and the need for more tributes to African Americans at West Point. He and his colleagues had successfully lobbied to have South Auditorium renamed in 2000 for General Roscoe Robinson '51, the first African American 4-star Army general, and the first to command the 82nd Airborne Division. "We successfully argued that, even though there was no precedent, the purpose for that name was for cadets to see the name above the stage and ask 'Who is this guy?'" he said. "We realized that a lot of cadets don't believe that they can do something unless someone who looks like them has done it," said Sayles.

But in addition to bronze, bricks and mortar, today there's coursework and research that allows cadets to engage with the Academy's past. After the Davis Barracks dedication, a symposium was held examining the life of General Davis. And while the speakers were exhaustive in their accounts of Davis and the Tuskegee Airmen, there remains much research to be done, said Seidule.

"Here at West Point, we need to take the 20th century and just look at the African American experience," he said. "Quite a bit has been written about African Americans at West Point in the 19th century, but we only had a handful of African Americans in every class up until 1973, and I think that is a great period that's open for research."

"Like General Benjamin O. Davis Jr., a pioneer who, despite tremendous adversity, thrived rather than buckled, this building before you will not buckle, because it is resilient, sustainable and strong! These barracks are more than a mere building—they are symbolic of what a noble Army leader should be."

—LTG Todd Semonite '79, 54th Chief of Engineers, Commanding General, USACE

Daniel Haulman, Ph.D., Chief of the Organizational History Division at the Air Force Research Agency, and a panelist at the symposium, said that history students might look beyond what the Tuskegee Airmen did during World War II, and examine what they did after the war, or what they did in Korea, in Vietnam, or in civilian life.

"Many of them became activists in the Civil Rights Movement and many of them became very important political leaders and educational leaders," he said. "I don't think there's been a lot of research on that."

The Davis Legacy

As the new Davis Barracks has shown, studying history can change history. It certainly influenced one of Seidule's students. Michael Barlow would occasionally pop in to his professor's office to talk sociology, history, and justice. He held strong opinions that he didn't hide. But as a student of history, he said he recognized that conditions at the Academy had changed dramatically, allowing him to give voice to his ideas, due in no small part to Davis's efforts.

"I'm opinionated and I study the things I want to study because of the sacrifices Davis made," said Barlow.

It could be argued that Davis's "silenced" voice has found a voice in a new generation. But General Gorden said that portraying Davis as an activist would be a misleading.

"He was almost the inverse of an activist. I cannot get the word 'activism' to fit him," he said. "But I can very certainly say that, by his example, anyone who wanted to know what it meant to live, breathe, eat, and sleep the values and ideals of being American, they would find that in him—and, by the way, wasn't he a great military leader!"

Gorden added that he believed that Davis "would be greatly surprised" to see his legacy in stone, and he added that the young cadets who worked to see him nominated represent an evolution at the Academy that led to a desire "to see things that reflect greater diversity."

For his part, Barlow said that he was "just an organizer," and rattled off the names of several cadets who also went door-to-door for signatures from fellow black cadets in support of naming the barracks for Davis.



COL (R) Kermit C. Jones '82, Tuskegee Airman Wilfred DeFour, and Arthur G. Almore Sr., Esq. '82 tour Davis Barracks on dedication day.

"There were fights between us, we had disagreements, there were some late nights, stress, and I was ridiculed, but I can't compare what I went through with what Davis endured," he said. He credits General Caslen for taking the cadets' suggestion. "All we did was lobby the committee; he deserves credit for making that recommendation and taking it to the higher generals of the Army," he said.

But Barlow added that he doesn't expect the naming of Davis Barracks to fix the subtle aspects of racism. That requires exposure and education, he said. But for new black plebes, it will show them that they're welcome.

What did he learn in the process?

"Don't be afraid to be bold, be brave, and stand for what is right, even when it gets tough. Because right is right."

General Davis would have likely agreed. *



Tom Stoelker writes about art, architecture and academia. He lives in New York City.

If you are interested in supporting programs and activities that support diversity and inclusion at West Point, please contact Lisa Benitez '88 at 845.446.1546 or lisa.benitez@wpaog.org

Members of the Tuskegee Airmen who attended the dedication ceremony and toured the new barracks included National President BG (R) Leon Johnson and six documented original Tuskegee Airmen, five of whom are pictured: William Johnson, Herbert Thorpe, Enoch Woodhouse, Eugene Richardson, and Wilfred DeFour, as well as "Coach" Roscoe Draper, Civilian Flight Instructor (not pictured). After the dedication, the group made LTG Caslen an honorary member, bestowing their distinctive red jacket upon him.



During a recent on-camera interview with a reporter from *Forbes* magazine, Colonel Deborah McDonald '85, Director of Admissions at the United States Military Academy, was asked about the historic highs set by the Class of 2021 for the number of African Americans and women in its ranks. "One of the things the Academy has worked on diligently over the last five years is to increase our diversity," she said. "About seven years ago, if we brought in 130 African Americans, we were calling it successful: today we are over 200, fifteen percent of the class, so we've increased quite significantly over the past several years, and it is mostly due to our marketing and outreach efforts." Most of those outreach efforts have been funded by graduates and friends and facilitated by the West Point Association of Graduates.

On April 15, 1994, H. Minton Francis '44, the eighth African American to graduate from West Point, convened an ad hoc committee of distinguished graduates to consider ways to promote minority graduates' participation in the affairs of WPAOG. The Board of Trustees approved the recommendation to make this a 25-member standing committee, known as the Minority Outreach Committee, in October that same year. From its inception, the goal of the Minority Outreach Committee, now known as the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, has been the promotion of minority graduate involvement in the affairs of the Association and the enhancement of minority graduate support of West Point. One of the first vehicles to advance this involvement and support was the Minority Outreach Conference, which later became known as the West Point Diversity Leadership Conference. Inaugurated in

November 1996, the conference has been intermittently convened to identify critical issues related to minority cadet recruitment, WPAOG support of minority graduates, minority graduate support of cadets, and minority-related fundraising.

Diversity and inclusion initiatives at West Point took a significant leap forward when Lieutenant General Robert L. Caslen Jr. '75 assumed command of West Point in July 2013 as its 59th Superintendent. Caslen, tasked to do so by then Army Chief of Staff General Ray Odierno '76, made Diversity & Inclusion one of his top 10 priorities, and so it is also a priority for WPAOG fundraising efforts. Caslen also established the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Equal Opportunity (ODIEO) in May 2014. A year later, he refocused the USMA Strategic Plan with the goal to develop and leverage a diverse USMA team (cadets, staff, and faculty) to provide

leaders of character capable of effective leadership in a multicultural Army. "The Army must be representative of the nation it defends; otherwise, it runs the risk of becoming illegitimate in the eyes of some people," Caslen says. Among others, some objectives of USMA's Diversity Strategic Goal are to recruit and admit a talented and diverse Corps of Cadets, retain and graduate the same, and recruit and retain a highly qualified and diverse faculty and staff.

Private funding is necessary to help the Academy achieve its strategic diversity objectives. Today WPAOG raises Margin of Excellence funds to support key diversity and inclusion initiatives (see below). West Point intends to keep up the momentum it has started in diversity and inclusion by employing a number of steps in the future. First, it seeks to maintain its partnership with the Congressional Black Caucus. Next, the Academy has increased the number of Diversity Clubs available to cadets. The Latin Dance Club, the Vietnamese-American Cadet Association, and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers have recently been approved. The Academy has also hired a Title 10 associate professor to make improvements in minority retention efforts and work with academic departments to establish diversity goals.

"Leaders at all levels at West Point are fully committed to diversity and inclusion principles, practices, and outcomes," wrote Dr. Donald A. Outing, former Chief Diversity Officer, in a recent Diversity & Inclusion Update brief. "Among academic, military, and federal institutions, West Point is a recognized leader in maintaining a diverse and inclusive environment."

Thanks to the efforts of West Point's diversity and inclusion initiatives, the number of African American cadets reporting to the Academy this past R-Day has increased more than 50 percent since 2012. This progress coincided with the official opening of the Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36 cadet barracks.

"General Davis epitomizes the essence of character and honorable living we strive to inspire in every cadet at West Point," said Caslen. The Academy that once "silenced" Davis for all four of his cadet years because of the color of his skin now recognizes his achievements by naming the new cadet barracks after him due to the content of his character. Through all of its diversity and inclusion initiatives, West Point is committed to graduating and commissioning leaders of character from diverse backgrounds who are ready to lead a diverse and multicultural 21st century Army. **

Today, WPAOG raises Margin of Excellence dollars to support key Diversity and Inclusion initiatives:

Diversity & Inclusion Endowment/Fund

The purpose of both the endowment and the operating fund is to support a diverse and inclusive environment within the Corps of Cadets and across the Academy. Funds may be used to support, but are not limited to, programs such as the Academy's minority recruitment and retention programs for cadets; the Excel Scholars Program; Leadership, Ethics, and Diversity in STEM (LEADS); cadet clubs; the Civil Rights Staff Ride; and related Academy Scholars opportunities.

Excel Scholars Program

An initiative that is aimed at enhancing the diversity of the cadet leadership participant pool by identifying promising cadets from historically underrepresented groups and encouraging ongoing excellence from them in the academic, military, physical, and character dimensions of the West Point Leadership Development System. The most recent Rhodes Scholar from USMA, Christian Nattiel '17, and the First Captain for academic year 2017-18, Simone Askew '18, are Excel Scholars.

West Point Diversity Leadership Conference

Critical to ensuring a commitment to diversity and inclusion throughout West Point and the Army, this conference advances the collective knowledge of diversity and inclusion principles and practices among staff, faculty, cadets, and alumni in support of the larger strategic goal.

West Point Admissions

In an effort to ensure that West Point cadets reflect the nation for which they will serve, the Admissions Office offers three programs to aid in the recruitment and mentoring of prospective cadets from all backgrounds: a) the Minority Visitation Program (MVP), which pays for a number of competitive candidates and an accompanying parent or influencer (150 total last year) to travel to West Point and experience cadet life up close (150 received offers of admission to USMA or the Prep School and 120 accepted the appointment offered, demonstrating the impact of the MVP); b) the Summer Leaders Experience, which immerses approximately 1,000 high school juniors in the "West Point experience" for one week; and c) Cadet Public Relations Council (CPRC) Special Trips, which allow potential candidates to meet West Point cadets in their own congressional offices or at community events and ask them questions about cadet life, academics, and student activities.

West Point Center for Leadership & Diversity in STEM

This West Point Center aims to increase the representation and improve the academic performance of underrepresented minority cadets in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). It also participates in faculty recruitment and curriculum development.

Thank you to the many graduates and friends who have generously supported these important initiatives.

If you are interested in learning more about the programs and activities that enhance diversity and inclusion at West Point, please contact Lisa Benitez '88 at 845.446.1546 or lisa.benitez@wpaog.org



MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE

The contributions, service, and accomplishments of General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36 are distinguished and legendary, and he was truly a pioneer in many ways. His father, Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis Sr., was also a pioneer, being the first African American U.S. Army officer to attain the rank of general officer, retiring after 50 years of active service.

B orn in Washington, DC, Davis lived in many locations in the United States with his military family. He entered the United States Military Academy in 1932 with a nomination from Representative Oscar De Priest of Chicago, the only African American member in Congress at that time. He graduated in the Class of 1936, ranking 35th of 276 cadets. Among his classmates were Generals Creighton Abrams and William Westmoreland. Cadet Davis experienced "silencing" during his four years at West Point, which means that no cadet, faculty or staff member spoke to him except on an official basis, and no one befriended him at all. He was the fourth African American to graduate from West Point and the first to do so in the 20th century. When he commissioned in the Infantry as a second lieutenant on June 12, 1936, the Army had only two African American officers: Davis and his father.

Ever since he was 13 years old and had paid five dollars to go on a barnstorming flight with a pilot at Bolling Air Field in Washington, DC, Davis had wanted to fly. He completed three weeks at Mitchell Field in Michigan as a cadet in 1935 and applied for entry in the Army Air Corps, but his lifelong dream was denied due to racial policies in the U.S. Army. Six years later, in 1941, Davis was selected to be one of the first Tuskegee Airmen, after the War Department created this historic, all-black flying unit in



New Tuskegee pilots. The U.S. War Department created this historic, all-black flying unit in anticipation of the U.S. entry into World War II. Davis is pictured third from left.

anticipation of the U.S. entry into World War II. In March 1942, Davis was the first African American to receive military aviation wings.

First, Davis commanded the all-black 99th Pursuit Squadron flying P-40s. He and his squadron served in North Africa and conducted hundreds of combat missions. Later in Sicily and Italy, Davis assumed command of the 332nd Fighter Group, the famous "Red Tails," flying P-51s and P-47s. The group shot down 112 planes and destroyed or damaged 150 more or so on the ground.

All through the war, Davis fought against military and institutional racism. In September 1943, he held a press conference at the Pentagon informing the American public and Army officials about a report that was critical of African Americans as pilots and their ability to fly. A top-level inquiry, ordered by General George Marshall, the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, rated units under Davis's command comparable to other air units in the Mediterranean theater, which proved that the black pilots were no better nor worse than their peers. The matter was put to rest after his pilots shot down 12 German planes in a little over 24 hours. For his meritorious service and gallantry, Davis was awarded the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal.

In 1947, Davis transferred to the U.S. Air Force when the new service was established, and he helped draft the USAF policy for racial integration in 1948, after President Harry Truman signed an executive order requiring the integration of all the armed services. With segregation restrictions lifted, Davis attended the Air War College in 1949, the first African American officer to do so, although he still faced racism due to the institution's location in Montgomery, Alabama.

Davis was the first black to command an integrated unit, the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing, at the brigade level in Korea flying F-86s. He held various USAF command and staff positions, culminating as the first African American to command a "numbered" Air Force in 1967, the 13th Air Force at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. In 1954, Davis became the first black Air Force general officer with his promotion to brigadier general. He was promoted to major general in 1959 and lieutenant general in 1965.

After his retirement from military service in 1970, Davis was later appointed deputy secretary of the Department of Transportation and was heavily involved in the adoption of the 55 mph speed limit change in the United States in 1974. Davis also headed the federal sky marshal program and served on the Battlefield Monument Commission board. In 1987, the Office of Air Force History named Davis one of 12 "Makers of the United States Air Force," stating, "Benjamin O. Davis Jr. can claim a larger measure of credit for inaugurating this critical reform—integration—of the Air Force than any other person." That same year, Davis returned to





General Benjamin Oliver Davis Jr. '36 (1912-2002)

By LTC (R) Sherman L. Fleek, USMA Command Historian, Guest Writer



Davis held various USAF command and staff positions.

West Point to research his cadet years, and saw an exhibition in the Visitors Center titled "The Great Train of Tradition," which showed pictures of notable graduates from 1819 to 1950. His photograph was on display, and under it were the words: "World War Hero, Helped Integrate Air Force." In 1995, Davis was a recipient of WPAOG's Distinguished Graduate Award. In 1998 President Bill Clinton advanced Davis to the rank of general, USAF, saying during the promotion ceremony, "General Davis is here today as living proof that a person can overcome adversity and discrimination, achieve great things, turn skeptics into believers; and through example and perseverance, one person can bring truly extraordinary change." Davis died at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 2002, at the age of 89.

Sherman L. Fleek is the U.S. Military Academy's Command Historian. Retired from active duty as a lieutenant colonel in 2002, Fleek served 25 years in the Army as an enlisted tanker, aviator and finally chief historian of the National Guard Bureau. Prior to serving in his present position, he also served as command historian of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 2007-09, and published five history books.

"...The courage, tenacity, and intelligence with which he conquered a problem incomparably more difficult than Plebe year won for him the sincere admiration of his classmates, and his single-minded determination to continue in his chosen career cannot fail to inspire respect wherever fortune may lead him..."

—Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36 Howitzer entry



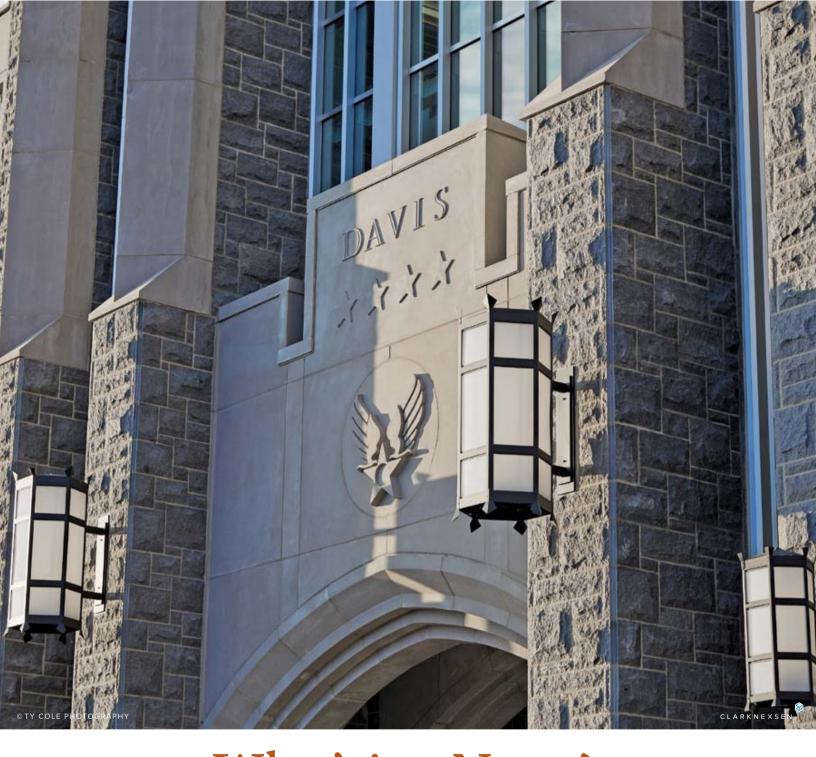
Davis and fellow pilots celebrate the 200 Mission Milestone for the 332nd Fighter Group.



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.







What's in a Name? The Selection Process to Name Davis Barracks

By LTC (R) Sherman L. Fleek, USMA Command Historian, Guest Writer

Recently, a relative of General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36 was asked, "What would the general think of a new barracks being named after him at the U.S. Military Academy?" The relative said that General Davis would be "shocked" and "absolutely amazed" that West Point would name a building after him.

As the many staff, project managers, construction workers, planners, architects, and government players involved can attest, being part of the process for the new barracks at West Point was a remarkable experience at times. One such occasion was on August 18, 2017, when history was made in dedicating the new cadet barracks in memory of General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36 (U.S.Air Force, Retired). The notion of perhaps the very last barracks that may be constructed at the Academy being named after Davis, a graduate with an inspiring life of service and an equally inspiring life story, is extraordinary.

Memorialization at West Point

For those involved in memorialization here at the Academy, it was a distinct privilege to be a part of the process. Honoring, remembering, and memorialization is a serious and significant feature of any community or segment of any society. From Greek temples to modern highways, and from battlefields to junior high auditoriums, historic sites, buildings, statues and monuments all fall under some type of memorialization process, hopefully governed by rules and regulations. In government memorialization, such as the case at West Point, senior leadership officials are responsible for approval and decisions regarding official memorialization, but they do not do so without a process and without consulting related parties and experienced experts. The stewards of memory—historians, archivists, public and sometimes private entities and institutions—also participate in the process, which at times is a daunting responsibility. Fundamentally, memorialization is what a community, a people, a town, or some institution chooses to honor or remember as a means to inspire other members of the community.

The history of memorialization at West Point, especially when it involves buildings, is an interesting story. In the early days of the Academy, cadets, faculty and staff occupied and used structures that were built during the American Revolution. The first cadet barracks or Long Barracks, for example, was erected originally for Continental Line soldiers. As West Point grew and developed, buildings were constructed specifically for Academy use, such as South Barracks (1815) and North Barracks (1817), named so because of their proximity on the Plain. Other buildings at this time, such as the Mess Hall and the first Academic Building, were referred to simply by their functions (there is no specific record that these structures were officially designated with these titles). As more buildings were built, this process continued: the Riding Hall, Library, Hospital, and Mess Hall. The 1841 library started out being known merely as "the Library," but became known as Delafield Library thanks to the domed observatory that Major Richard Delafield, Class of 1818 and the 7th Superintendent of the Academy, had built on the library's roof.

The first building designated after a person in the true spirit of memorialization, however, was Grant Hall in 1887, the Cadet Mess Hall at West Point, which was built in 1852 and eventually demolished in 1930 to make space for the present Grant Hall. The process for naming and memorializing was simple and direct back then. The matter was discussed and then approved by the Superintendent and the Academic Board, the two major USMA governing entities through the early 1900s.

During the major building program at the Academy in the 1960s, when several new barracks were built and the Cadet Mess Hall expanded, a more deliberate and methodical process for memorialization was established. With this came a new naming and review process, and, for the first time, a naming theme was employed: "Great American Strategic Commanders." This led to barracks being named after Omar Bradley, Class of 1915, Dwight Eisenhower, Class of 1915, Robert E. Lee, Class of 1829, Douglas MacArthur, Class of 1903, and William Tecumseh Sherman, Class of 1840. But this theme, and surrounding criteria, was changed several times during the final years of this period of expansion at the Academy, which ended in 1972, and the names of new buildings were now officially reviewed and approved at the Department of the Army level, such as Mahan Hall, named after Dennis Hart Mahan, Class of 1824, legendary professor of military science at West Point from 1824-71.

The U.S. Military Academy, being a government entity, follows the directives and statutes of Army Regulations. In the case of naming and memorialization, the Academy adheres to AR 1-33, The Army Memorial Program, dated June 30, 2006. The regulation states that the Superintendent serves as "the approval authority for naming the facilities, buildings, groups of buildings, rooms, streets or areas on or part of the USMA installation," with two exceptions: 1) Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) has authority for names of deceased U.S. Presidents, Army Chiefs of Staff, and a few other extremely rare cases; and 2) Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC) is the approval authority for any memorialization dealing with a deceased Medal of Honor recipient and also a deceased member of another armed service. In the naming and memorialization process of Davis Barracks, the Academy had to forward a request through HRC for approval to name a structure after a deceased member of another service, because Davis had retired from the U.S. Air Force. The key word from AR 1-33 is "deceased." To memorialize anyone in the Army, that individual is be to deceased, usually (a directive from the Secretary of the Army in 2008 allowed for the Secretary to approve memorialization of living persons in very rare instances).

Then, locally, the Academy operates under the USMA Regulation 1-4, "Administration Memorialization and Recognition Program," dated July 6, 2004. This regulation provides for the governance of



the Museum, Historical and Memorialization (MHM) Committee, which has existed since 1951 under various forms and titles. This advisory group to the Superintendent and staff evaluates all proposals and actions pertaining to historical sites, monuments, and memorialization at the Academy and the installation. The committee considers specific standards, language, propriety, suitability, and artistic merit; but, most important, historical significance and accuracy. In the case of Davis Barracks, the structure is a government and military construction, so Army and USMA regulations apply without any outside process.

To simplify and expedite the process of naming a building, the MHM committee often delegates authority to sub-committees, each chartered with a specific task and mission. In the case of the new cadet barracks, a memorandum dated September 3, 2014 from

the serving MHM chair directed that the USMA Command Historian form a history sub-committee in order to identify an individual and make a recommendation for the naming of the new cadet barracks. This history sub-committee was comprised of three historians, two of which were faculty members, as well as an architect serving as a historical resource manager, a public affairs officer, the chief of the diversity office, and other key staff members. The sub-committee's main tasks were to develop the criteria used to select a naming candidate and then forward that recommendation to the MHM Committee for review and action. The MHM Committee would then forward its recommendation to the Superintendent, who reviewed the candidate and process with Army leaders and gave final approval.

The history sub-committee also developed a theme to consider, one that echoed concerns by many people involved, that the Civil War and World War II were sufficiently represented by memorials at West Point. The sub-committee selected the theme "The Cold War and Beyond" which reflected the need to select a candidate that served during post-World War II conflicts. Many well-intentioned individuals wanted representation from the Cold War or the current conflicts in the War on Terrorism. This became a challenge because the very senior leaders were still alive, and those graduates who were deceased were rather young and did not affect the larger, strategic course of these conflicts.

Many possible candidates had been proposed by staff, faculty and even cadets. Many past graduates also forwarded the names of individuals and their accolades to staff and faculty members. The history sub-committee considered many names during formal and informal discussions and eventually forwarded the candidate it believed best represented several notable factors, including distinguished service and contributions at the highest level of the military profession and service to the nation; irreproachably honorable life and character; awards and decorations; and also diversity, representing the fabric of modern America.

Eventually, Benjamin O. Davis Jr. rose above other candidates. When one considers the handicaps and disadvantages he faced as a cadet and the fact that he was "silenced" during his four years at the Academy, then also his struggle against racial policies and segregation in the armed forces during much of his career, the choice almost seemed obvious. Davis was a pioneer at West Point and also during his service in the U.S. Army Air Forces and, later, the U.S. Air Force (see Biography, pp.14-16). In fact, the two committees explicitly considered how naming the new cadet barracks after Davis would magnify the significant and relatively untold story of West Point's contribution to military aviation.

In September 2014, the sub-committee forwarded the name of General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36 (USAF Retired), as the candidate for the new cadet barracks already under construction. In early 2015, the selection of the new Davis Barracks name was officially announced, and the Barracks was dedicated in August 2017. ★

Sherman L. Fleek is the U.S. Military Academy's Command Historian. Retired from active duty as a lieutenant colonel in 2002, Fleek served 25 years in the Army as an enlisted tanker, aviator and finally chief historian of the National Guard Bureau. Prior to serving in his present position, he also served as command historian of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 2007-09, and published five history books.



USAA members can save when they bundle USAA home and auto insurance! Find out how to get your savings.

Get a quote.

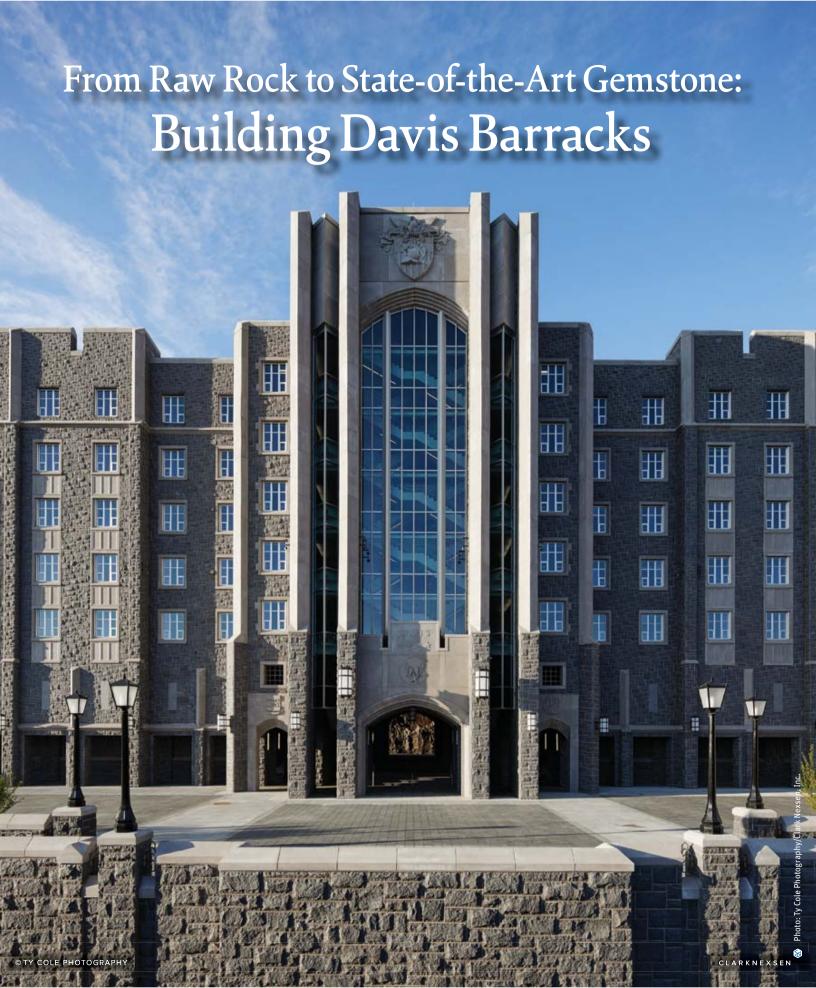
usaa.com/wpaog • 877-584-9724





¹Multiple product savings do not apply in all states or to all situations. Savings subject to change. Restrictions apply.

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO QUOTE ANY INDIVIDUAL A PREMIUM RATE FOR THE INSURANCE ADVERTISED HEREIN. Use of the term "member" or "membership" refers to membership in USAA Membership Services and does not convey any legal or ownership rights in USAA. Restrictions apply and are subject to change. Membership legibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change. Property and casualty insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, and Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and USAA Ltd. (Europe), and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. West Point Association of Graduates receives financial support for their sponsorship. © 2017 USAA. 235708-0617



The traditional formula at West Point states that it takes some 47 months to transform a young man or woman from an untested civilian into an experienced leader of character. Similarly, it took approximately four years to transform the rocky hillside leading up from Central Area into Davis Barracks, the first new housing built for cadets in more than four decades.

Like its crown-jewel cousin, the Cadet Chapel, with which it shares the hillside and which sets the architectural mood of the Academy—Military Gothic Revival style—Davis Barracks seems to naturally rise from the cliffs high above the Plain, and should go far in helping West Point retain its National Historic Landmark status at its next review. And like the cadets it houses, who receive a world-class education and superior military training at the Academy to become soldier-scholars, the construction of Davis Barracks was designed from day one to be both smart and strong.

The Academy broke ground on Davis Barracks in September 2013. But, before the actual construction of the building could begin, the New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE-NYD) and its prime contractor, Walsh Construction (and the Designer of Record, Clark Nexsen, Inc.), had to prepare the site for the barracks footprint. According to JoAnne Castagna, EdD., in an article for USACE-NYD, this meant blasting and removing 60 feet of rock from the top of the hill, enough to fill Blaik Field at Michie Stadium to a level of 71 feet high. It took nearly two years and roughly 25,000 truckloads to complete this portion of the project. Even more impressive, the blasting and hauling was all done as unobtrusively as possible from a confined, restricted site surrounded by nearby historic structures with fragile design features (e.g., the Cadet Chapel's stained-glass windows) while more than 4,000 cadets attended classes and performed their USCC duties. The location of Davis Barracks was selected in keeping with West Point's goal to ensure that all cadet residential facilities stay within a 15-minute walk of any academic site.

Once the hillside was cleared, the construction of the seven-floor, 287,000-square-foot building began. The façade of Davis Barracks was constructed using 140,000 square feet of granite (weighing 121 million pounds) from Cold Spring, Minnesota, making Davis Barracks the largest granite project in North America during its construction. Each of the 167,901 bricks of the exterior wall was individually cut, numbered for its precise position on the new barracks, and shipped on a pallet to West Point. Should a piece of granite ever need replacement, Davis Barracks has a reference document that tells the building's maintenance team what type of piece is needed so that it can be properly replaced and reset.

Opposite: Front entrance and formation area of Davis Barracks. **Right:** The textured granite facade was selected to harmonize with the existing buildings in Central Area and is enchanced with special details in the Military Gothic Revival style.









CLARKNEXSEN

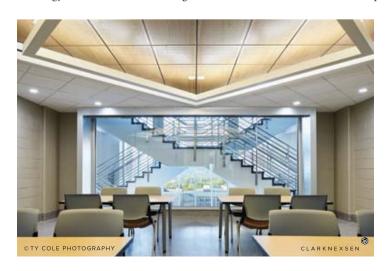
Top and left: The five-story central light well allows natural light into the main entry foyer flanked by two sally ports. The floor features an inlaid USMA crest. **Below:** A meeting room inside the barracks looks through to the main stairwell.

The exterior of the building, which was designed to blend in with the other barracks at the Academy, also features secured entryways and sally ports, and in keeping with the style of Military Gothic Revival architecture, its design incorporates parapets (complete with concrete crenels, open space, and cast stone lintels) and gothic arches.

While the exterior look of Davis Barracks is historic, its interior features are both contemporary and high-tech. One of its innovative design features is a 100-foot-plus-high, 17-foot-square light well going through the center tower, which is designed to naturally illuminate the common areas of the floors below. Smaller skylights are also located above each of the two main staircases at either end of the building to provide similar lighting. The central staircase, encased in glass, features a "scissor" design so that the cadets can see outdoors from the stairwell. Davis Barracks is also energy efficient, designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification and to help

"What we were trying to do was create a building that looks like it belongs there—a 21st century building that looks like it's been there for a hundred years."

—Shiroy Ranji, STV/URS JV, Design Architects/Engineers, Davis Barracks





Ready for your next leadership challenge?

Almost 70 percent of First Command's nearly 500 Financial Advisors served in the military. Twenty-nine are West Point graduates. They accepted the challenge of building their own business because they relished the idea of making a lasting difference in the lives of military families.

Learn more and get your next career squared away by visiting www.wehireleaders.com.

















Top to bottom: 60 feet of rock had to be blasted and removed to prepare the site, requiring nearly 2 years and 25,000 truckloads of rock removal. Construction of the 287,000 sq. ft. building began once the site was prepared. The granite facade of 167, 901 bricks was installed by masons on site.

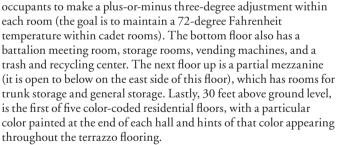


Cadets enrolled in the Summer Term Academic Program were the first members of the Corps to reside in the new Davis Barracks. Dressed in "as for class" they presented themselves for Thursday morning uniform and haircut inspection on the Davis apron. Leaders from the Summer Garrison staff, dressed in ACUs, supervised the formation.

West Point move towards becoming Net Zero Energy compliant (that is, producing as much renewable energy on site as it uses over the course of a year). It has a solar hot water system on its roof that handles 30 percent of the building's hot water. It also uses a novel tubing system running through its concrete floors to provide radiant heat during the winter as well as radiant cooling during the summer. The radiant heating also travels beneath the barracks' exterior granite apron, making snow shoveling a thing of the past, as any snow will now just melt right off, preserving the beautiful stone from salt and snow plows. The heating and cooling system has been exposed in certain areas so that USMA engineering students have a chance to study it and do some modeling or analysis of its benefits. The energy-saving features of Davis Barracks should save U.S. taxpayers approximately \$44,000 annually. Finally, Davis Barracks was built in accordance with the Department of Defense Antiterrorism Force Protection standards, which include triple-glazed, low-emissive, blast resistant windows with operable awnings.

The first floor of Davis Barracks consists of mechanical rooms and a chiller plant. This latter feature is designed to eventually provide airconditioning to the nine barracks in Central Area. For Davis Barracks, the building is set to have 60 cubic feet of air per minute in controlled circulation. Automated controls manage the entire building while cadet rooms will have controls that will allow





Each residential floor will house cadets in First Regiment (companies A through F—companies G, H, and I will be housed in Grant, Sherman, and Lee Barracks), with 104 male cadets and 26 female cadets per floor, for a total of 64 cadet rooms per floor. Overall, Davis Barracks was designed to accommodate 650 cadets, but, as the Cadet Barracks Upgrade Program continues at the Academy, all of its cadet rooms can provide living space for three cadets. Based on the initial occupancy, capacity was expanded to 777 cadets by making a third of all rooms three-cadet rooms. Each approximately 300-square-foot cadet room comes with the following items for each occupant: bed, desk, chair, and chest of drawers. As in previous barracks, cadets will share wardrobes, weapons racks, sink cabinets, and laundry bins. Each cadet room also has three sets of jacks for data and voice connection. Finally, each residential floor has a CCQ station, a study room, a collaboration room, a company meeting room, a TAC officer's office, a TAC NCO's office, and a laundry room (with hookup for seven washers and dryers per floor). *









Top to bottom: A cadet room in Davis Barracks set up as a triple. A rooftop solar hot water system handles 30% of the building's hot water. Automated heating and cooling controls occupy the first floor mechanical rooms and chiller plant.



110 feet tall

SEVEN *floors*: ONE utility floor

ONE trunkroom floor
FIVE cadet floors

287,000 total square feet

167,901

PIECES OF GRANITE (totaling over 140,000 square feet)

4,367

feet of fiberoptic cable



10 TAC/TAC NCO offices

NEARLY 300,000 CUBIC YARDS

of fill material removed from site

320 CADET ROOMS 186,000 ft. of radiant heating and cooling lines

pairs of washers and dryers — 7 pairs per cadet floor

Photos: James D' Ambrosio/USACE ; Michelle Eberhart/USMA PAO

solar collector tubes on the roof provide solar heat for water

2117

year the Davis Barracks Time Capsule will be opened





Forty-eight months

from Ground Breaking (September 2013) to Ribbon Cutting (August 2017)

777 CADETS Initial occupancy capacity

3,000 TONS

of rebar used

25K cubic yards of concrete poured

1,174
WORKERS

Over

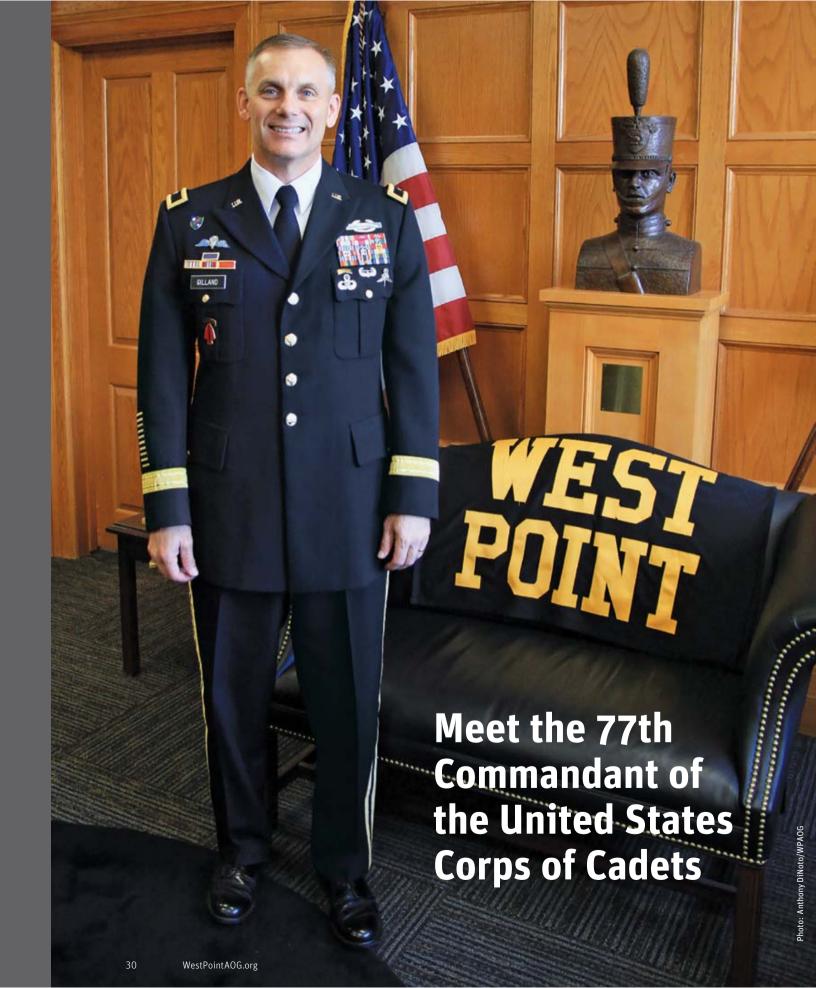
200

wireless
routers

COST OF PROJECT \$170 MILLION

major subcontractors and major vendors participated





Brigadier General Steve Gilland '90

By Kim McDermott '87, WPAOG staff

Brigadier General Steve Gilland assumed command of the United States Corps of Cadets on June 23, 2017. With Cadet Summer Training already underway, he hit the ground running and hasn't stopped yet. In fact, he recently competed head to head with the Superintendent on the Indoor Obstacle Course Test! (Has that ever happened before?) No stranger to West Point, his wife, Betsy (Block), is a classmate, and their son, Alex, is a member of the Class of 2019. The Gillands also have two daughters, Chloe and Grace. Please join *West Point* magazine in welcoming Brigadier General Gilland and his family back to our Rockbound Highland Home.

WP: You referred in your Change of Command remarks to receiving "that call" from the Superintendent. Did you have any idea what he was calling you about? What went through your mind, and what were your first thoughts upon learning you would be coming back to West Point as the Commandant?

CMDT: I made an assumption that Lieutenant General Caslen was calling about the position of Commandant. I did some quick research online with respect to the Superintendent's philosophy, vision, and priorities, just to make sure I had a start point for the conversation. Our first thoughts were a combination of being humbled, honored, and fortunate, followed by how could we have this incredible opportunity, knowing that there are many others who are more than deserving of the opportunity also.

WP: Also in your remarks—did we catch you maybe choking up for a second when you got around to acknowledging your classmates? It obviously meant a lot to you for them to be present. Describe why it was so significant.

CMDT: Friends traveled from around the country to attend. I learned a great deal that day from a friend and classmate who traveled to USMA to "be there." He stole Woody Allen's quote about "80 percent of success in life is showing up." He and others showed up for us and that is significant to Betsy and me. We appreciate what they did for us out of friendship and bonds as classmates. We can't repay anyone for it, but we can certainly be there for them in the future.

WP: Every Commandant is remembered for something. What do you predict your something will be?

CMDT: It's too early to predict what I will be remembered for. I haven't had the opportunity to mess up something important, yet.

WP: It is rare for senior leaders to have their sons/daughters under their military command. How does Alex feel about his dad being the Commandant? Why is (or isn't) this an issue for you? How does being a cadet parent inform the way you interact with cadets?

CMDT: You will have to ask Alex how he feels about us being here. I know he enjoys raiding our refrigerator and having laundry readily available. He understands my expectations. I don't have any issues with my son being a cadet; we aren't the first parent/cadet combination in this position. I believe it gives me an additional perspective to consider as a parent.

WP: What are your first three priorities?

CMDT: My priority is the implementation and execution of the Superintendent's priorities. I don't need to add more priorities to the list.

WP: What would it surprise people to know about you that may run contrary to the stereotype or other assumptions of what a Commandant should be-know-do?

CMDT: I am fairly transparent. I don't believe I surprise anyone.

WP: All great leaders have one or more special gifts which set them apart. Describe your superpowers.

CMDT: My special gift is my great family. I wouldn't say it sets me apart, but it helps keep me grounded. ★



BG Gilland greets members of the Class of 2020 at the end of the Run Back from Camp Buckner.







Then Captain Nick Dockery '11, the 2017 recipient of the Alexander R. Nininger Award for Valor at Arms, was a Second Class cadet, he sat at E-4's table in Washington Hall and listened intently as then First Lieutenant Nicholas Eslinger '07, the 2009 Nininger Award recipient, addressed the Corps of Cadets. "I vividly remember Lieutenant Eslinger telling us about a grenade landing near his platoon's position in Iraq and how he instinctively moved before it hit the ground to stop its advance toward his platoon," Dockery says. As the account goes, on October 1, 2008, as a platoon leader in Company C, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), Eslinger was on a dismounted patrol after sunset in Samarra, Iraq, when a terrorist behind a courtyard wall threw a hand grenade among his men. Before the grenade could explode, he threw it back towards its source and yelled for his men to take cover. It detonated in midair. By his quick and selfless action, Eslinger saved at least six of his soldiers from possible serious injury or death. "It was just a remarkable story that made an impact on me," Dockery recalls.

Nearly four years later to the day, on October 2, 2012, Dockery was serving as platoon leader in Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry (4th Brigade Combat Team), 4th Infantry Division as part of Task Force War Eagle in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan, leading eight U.S. troops and a handful of Afghan soldiers and police forces. During a patrol to secure the Tagab District Center,

a well-armed Taliban force ambushed Dockery's unit. At one point during the four-hour engagement, after Dockery and his soldiers had pursued the enemy into a fortified compound, a Taliban fighter lobbed a grenade from 15 feet away which landed right in front of Dockery's squad leader. Without hesitation, Dockery jumped onto the sergeant, shielding him from the blast with his own body. Much like Eslinger, who said in his Nininger acceptance speech, "...there was no single training event at Camp Buckner, or DMI leadership conference, of motivational speech in Rob-Aud [Robinson Auditorium] that made me decide to move toward the grenade...it was pure instinct," Dockery says, "I can't explain what phenomenon happens to the mind, I just saw the plume of smoke and, out of pure reaction, was on top of him."

Just as he remembered Eslinger's act of valor years later, it's quite likely that Dockery's own act will be remembered by all the cadets assembled in Washington Hall for his Nininger Award acceptance speech, especially because he brought Staff Sergeant Eric Mitchell, the squad leader he saved from the grenade, to the September 28 Nininger Award ceremony as his guest. As Dockery imparted lessons to the cadets on the importance of relationships in the Army ("the Army runs off relationships, especially in combat") and trusting in one's NCO counterpart ("they will do their job and allow you to lead when you need to lead"), two more valorous actions from the engagement of October 2 stood out: First,

Dockery took on two enemy fighters to keep a member of his platoon who was severely injured in an RPG attack from being captured and performed CPR on him after pulling him to safety. Second, realizing that his unit was sustaining too many casualties and running out of time, he climbed to the roof of the enemy compound and exposed himself to heavy machine gun fire in order to throw smoke grenades on the enemy's position to direct a Kiowa attack.

Dockery is the first Nininger recipient to have been present at prior Nininger Award ceremonies all four years as a cadet, and each time he listened to the extraordinary acts of valor for which the recipient was being recognized, he never thought he would be back to give the address himself as a recipient of the Award. But every cadet should. "West Point produces leaders capable of handling and performing exceptionally well in situations requiring valor," Dockery says, "The entire 47-month West Point experience, from Beast Barracks through MS100 and CTLT, is one collective lesson designed for such a purpose, and I am beyond humbled to receive the 2017 Nininger Award and to come back to my alma mater to speak to cadets and share my experience."

"Having speakers like Captain Dockery come to West Point is definitely inspirational to me and to the rest of the Corps," said Cadet Ethan Porter '20 after the event. "He reinforced that every cadet at West Point has the potential to face adversity during those opportunities that test their worth."

Presented by the West Point Association of Graduates and endowed by E. Douglas Kenna '45 and his wife Jean, the Nininger Award is named for Second Lieutenant Alexander R. Nininger '41, who fought the enemy to his death during the Battle of Bataan in January 1942 and posthumously received World War II's first Medal of Honor. In addition to recognizing the recipient for his or her bravery as an individual, WPAOG regards the recipient as a given year's representative for all West Point-commissioned officers who have heroically led soldiers in combat. **







"Having speakers like Captain Dockery come to West Point is definitely inspirational to me and to the rest of the Corps. He reinforced that every cadet at West Point has the potential to face adversity during those opportunities that test their worth."

-CDT Ethan Porter '20

Previous page: Todd Browne '85, WPAOG President and CEO, and LTG Robert L. Caslen Jr. '75, USMA Superintendent, congratulate CPT Nick Dockery '11, the recipient of the 2017 Nininger Award. Above, top: Then-2LT Nick Dockery '11 (L) with SSG Eric Mitchell in Afghanistan in 2012. Above: First Captain CDT Simone Askew '18 presents a gift to CPT Nick Dockery '11 on behalf of the Corps of Cadets. Left: CPT Nick Dockery '11, recipient of the 2017 Nininger Award, addresses the Corps of Cadets during the Award Ceremony in the Mess Hall.







R-Day, Marchback and A-Day

On July 3, nearly 1,250 members of the Class of 2021 entered West Point on R-Day. After undergoing administrative processing, medical and physical evaluations, uniform issue, and haircuts, they began their first lessons in marching, military courtesy, and discipline and stepped up to—not over, not behind—the line of the Cadet in the Red Sash. At the end of their first day, the new cadets marched onto the Plain and took the Oath of Allegiance. Six weeks later, after completing all the rigors of Cadet Basic Training and now with a class motto, "Until the Battle is Won," the members of the Class of 2021 marched again, this time in the annual 12.2-mile March Back from Camp Buckner. Some 270 members of the Long Gray Line, including 67 from the Class of 1971, the Class of 2021's 50-Year Affiliation Class, accompanied the new cadets. Finally, 1,217 new cadets stood on the Plain facing the Corps of Cadets on August 19, during the traditional A-Day (Acceptance Day) Parade. On the command of "open ranks," they marched in formation into their new companies, becoming formally accepted into the Corps as plebes—don't call them "new cadets" any longer! ★





On August 25, the Class of 2018 received their "bold mold of rolled gold" at the annual Ring Ceremony at Trophy Point. While the total price tag of all the rings was reported in the million dollar range, the real value of the gold has more to do with the sacredness of tradition than the preciousness of metal. This is because for the seventeenth year in a row, a portion of the gold in the rings comes from West Point class rings donated through WPAOG's Class Ring Memorial Program (also known as "the Ring Melt"). Since the inauguration of the Ring Melt, 451 rings have been donated, including 41 last February for the Class of 2018. The total includes rings from 10 four-star generals, one Medal of Honor recipient, one U.S. Congressman, one member of the National Basketball Hall of Fame, and one ring that has been in space aboard the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. The oldest ring donated thus far belonged to Colonel Percy Myers Kessler, Class of 1896, who fought in the Philippines Insurrection, and the newest ring, from the Class of 1997, came from an anonymous donor. The rings have been worn in battles during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Speaking in front of donors at this year's Ring Melt, Cadet Marcos Arroyo '18, Class President, stated: "This tradition blazes our connection to the Long Gray Line and eternity. The meaning of these rings reaches far beyond any material value. They represent the value of each ring donor. They represent a unique and eternal bond to those who have gone before us. When we don our rings in August, and later in May, when we graduate and begin our careers as official members of the Long Gray Line and commissioned officers in the U.S. Army, we'll strive for greatness and know that we are always supported by generations of West Pointers who have gone before us. We will gladly bear the weight of Duty, Honor, and Country that these rings represent."

To learn more about WPAOG's Class Ring Memorial Program, please visit our website at WestPointAOG.org/RingMemorialProgram.

Above: USMA SUPT LTG Robert L. Caslen '75, CMDT BG Steve Gilland '90, Dean BG Cindy Jebb '82, and WPAOG President and CEO Todd Browne '85 show off their class rings with USMA 2018 Brigade Command Staff on Ring Weekend.







Cadets from the Class of 2018 receive their class rings at the annual Ring Ceremony at Trophy Point.

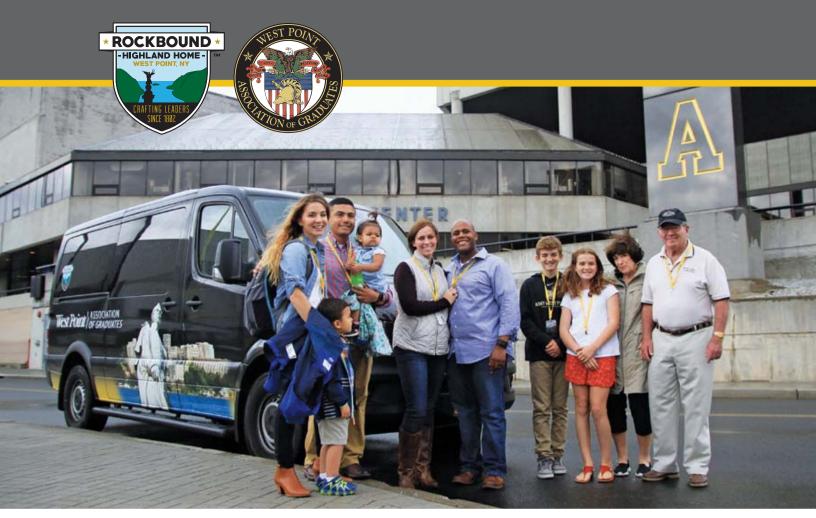






Above: Class Rings donated to the 2017 Ring Melt wait in the crucible to be melted. Left: In February 2017, USMA 2018 Class Officers participated in WPAOG's Ring Melt, where 41 rings donated from Old Grads were melted into an ingot to be blended with the gold for the new class rings.





A True Behind-the-Scenes Look: The Rockbound Highland Home Grad Insider Tour By Anthony DiNoto, WPAOG staff

The United States Military Academy is located on an active-duty Army post, so gaining access and touring West Point has always presented unique challenges—even for Academy alumni. Now, however, thanks to WPAOG's Rockbound Highland Home (RBHH) Program, graduates can pull up to West Point's Thayer Gate, present their official GradPass, and gain expedited access to post. It's an ideal situation for those who wish to return to their Rockbound Highland Home, and our new grad-focused program enhances graduates' experience at West Point while helping them maintain their connection to the Academy. The RBHH program consists of three unique components: Grad Pass, Grad Perks, and the Grad Insider Tour—an exclusive insider access tour that has impressed many returning alumni.

WPAOG worked with USMA and Garrison staff to create a tour itinerary that accesses areas of West Point usually only open to cadets and staff. Each Grad Insider Tour offers a unique experience sure to please the most discerning grads and their special guests. We offer this customized tour with dedicated guides and a comfortable small-group tour van to further enhance the Grad Insider Tour experience.

The feedback received on the tour has been overwhelmingly positive. For Terry McMahan '67, who prefers to call it the "Old Grad Tour," the Grad Insider Tour was "extremely informative and meaningful." McMahan returned to West Point for two previous class reunions, but had never been inside the renovated and expanded Arvin gym or the (now much larger) Washington

"I was truly thrilled that my family was able to get this inside glimpse of key spots at West Point. Bravo to WPAOG for recognizing the void and doing such a great job of putting together the current process!"

—Kurt Filosa '92

WPAOG ROCKBOUND HIGHLAND HOME PROGRAM

Hall until he took the tour this past May. Both renovations were completed after he graduated in 1967. While touring the Cadet Uniform Factory, he and his wife especially enjoyed observing "all the intricate details" involved in producing just one piece of cadet clothing. Special access inside the buildings on the tour brought back many fond memories for McMahan, fostering a deeper insight into the expanded programs and facilities enjoyed by today's cadets. "The most special experience of the tour was entering the 1st Division Barracks and reminiscing about West Point while standing in my plebe year 'dorm' room," says McMahan. Today, the 1st Division Barracks houses the Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic and historical "period" cadet rooms from distinct eras in West Point history.

Rand Shotwell '67 also took advantage of the RBHH program in May, and thought the "behind-the-scenes" tour was a great idea for returning graduates. He experienced first-hand the impact of the programs and facilities made possible by WPAOG funding efforts. "After my wife and I took the tour, I was very impressed by what the Margin of Excellence and other alumni funding programs have added to the educational experience for the cadets—so much so that I was compelled to contribute to WPAOG for the first time," says Shotwell.

Jordan Hoffmann '04 took the tour in June, and shared similar sentiments, noting that the tour exceeded his expectations. "Our tour guide was very interactive and knowledgeable, and the



Grad Insider Tours offer exclusive, guided, behind-thescenes access to locations not open to the general public, including:

Washington Hall: This six-wing dining hall seats 4,400. 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 historical cadet rooms

Jefferson Hall: The newest academic building at USMA and its third library.

Thayer Award Room: Portraits of 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 squarefoot fitness facility is where cadets focus on physical development, using athletic courts, swimming pools, the Class of 1979 rock climbing wall, boxing rooms, and Hayes Gym for their Indoor Obstacle Course Test (IOCT).

Kimsey Center: Houses state-of-the-art athletic training facilities for all sports teams and the Kenna Hall of Army Sports. The Class of '56 Walkway connects the Kimsey Center to the Holleder Center, and displays events from Cold War history, including a piece of the Berlin Wall.

Cadet Uniform Factory: USMA is the only U.S. federal service academy that makes its cadet uniforms on-site. The Uniform Factory produces 60 product lines for each class, using materials that are all made in the United States.

Grad Insider Tours are offered Monday to Friday at 10am and 2pm and must be reserved three days in advance. For more information on tours and the Rockbound Highland Home program, visit: **WestPointAOG.org/RockboundHighlandHome**

For expedited post access, visit the **Rockbound Highland Home web page** and be sure to get your GradPass in advance of your tour.

Funding to support the Rockbound Highland Home Program comes from your generous donations to the Rockbound Highland Home Fund.

Opposite: A group of grads and family members pose with the WPAOG Rockbound Highland Home Grad Insider Tour van in front of the Holleder Center. **Left, top:** Tour participants take time for a "selfie" in the Kenna Hall of Army Sports in the Kimsey Center. **Left, bottom:** COL Kevin Brown '93 was honored as the 100th Old Grad to participate in the Rockbound Highland Home Grad Insider Tour.

WPAOG ROCKBOUND HIGHLAND HOME PROGRAM



Grads and family members enjoy various stops on the Rockbound Highland Home Grad Insider Tour. Clockwise from bottom left: Grads revisit Hayes Gym where cadets perform the Indoor Obstacle Course Test (IOCT). There are plenty of great photo opportunities throughout the tour. An exhibit of football uniforms fascinates a young tour participant in the Kimsey Center. The Cadet Uniform Factory makes cadet uniforms on site and is unique to West Point.

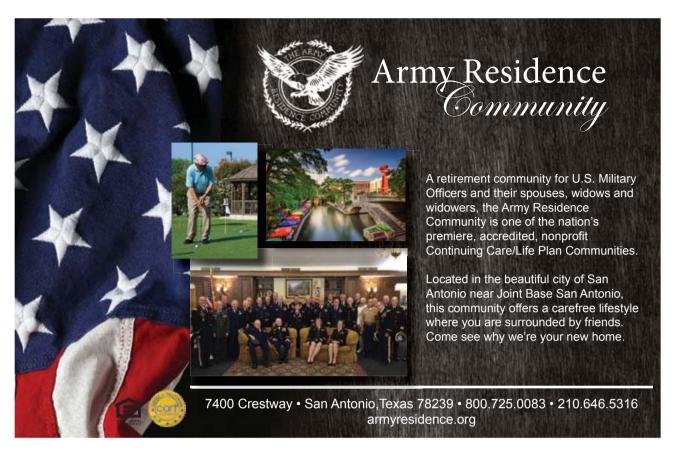
locations we visited were excellent—although I wasn't sure at first about the cadet uniform factory—but it ended up being one of our favorite stops," says Hoffmann. Dave Nicholson '72 thought the Grad Insider Tour was "awesome." "The guide was extremely professional and knowledgeable, and she encouraged grads to share stories that made the tour more insightful for all—it was a true behind-the-scenes look," says Nicholson.

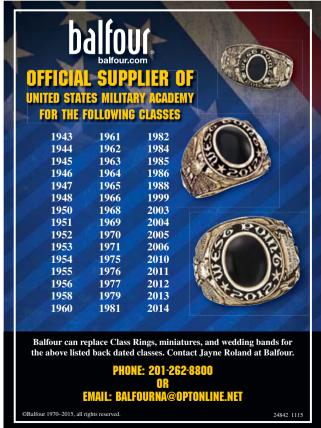
On August 25, 2017, the 100th USMA graduate since the April launch took the tour. Colonel Kevin Brown '93 returned to West Point with his wife, Jennifer, for the 9th Annual Sprint Football Reunion, but made sure he took full advantage of the RBHH program by booking a Grad Insider Tour. When asked about his favorite memory during his cadet years, Brown reflected upon his platoon leader experience with the 5th Battalion 14th Infantry in Hawaii during the summer of 1992—an experience which solidified his decision to be an engineer officer. "The longer you are away from West Point, the more it calls you back!" says Brown.

As of September 29, 146 alumni and 561 guests have taken the Grad Insider Tour—WPAOG's unique program that evokes feelings of gratitude, enlightenment, and nostalgia for grads and families who come back to their Rockbound Highland Home.

"Keep up the great work! This new benefit is so very welcomed as it now gives me a chance to provide a first class experience when escorting friends and family on a tour of the Academy."

—Paul Angresano '84, New Milford, NJ







WPAOG News



Daly Field Rededicated

On August 17, USMA and WPAOG leadership joined relatives of Charles Daly, Class of 1905, to rededicate Daly Field, a project funded with unrestricted gift money from the Superintendent's Endowment. It is named in honor of the former quarterback, team captain, and two-time coach of the Army Football Team (1913-16; 1919-22). The legacy of the Daly family, which has produced over a dozen members of the Long Gray Line, was also recognized. In addition to company athletics, Daly Field will be used to support cadet physical fitness training, DPE classes, cadet Brigade Open competitions, USMA fitness outreach events, MWR youth league sports, and more.



West Point Cemetery Eligibility Restrictions Lifted

On June 28, LTG Robert L. Caslen Jr. '75, Superintendent, sent a letter to the Long Gray Line notifying graduates that the current interment restrictions for the West Point Cemetery would be lifted on August 9, 2017, and that the criteria for interment would return to what is noted in Army Regulation (AR) 210-26, United States Military Academy, and AR 290-5 Army Cemeteries. Thanks to the Molly Corbin Enhancement Project ("Section XI"), the cemetery has 311 new "first interment" sites, or an estimated seven years (through 2024) of casketed capacity.



Class of '70 Grips Hands with USMA 2020 at CFT Flag Presentation

July 29 was the Cadet Field Training II Promotion ceremony for the Class of 2020. Members from the Class of 1970, their 50-Year Affiliate class, were on hand to present USMA 2020 with their class flag, which displays the class crest and motto: "With Vision We Lead."



WPAOG Hosts Annual Cadet Class Officers Luncheon

On September 18, WPAOG hosted a working lunch for Cadet Class Officers, Company representatives, Class Advisors and OICs at the First Class Club. At the luncheon, cadets from the classes of 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 had the opportunity to meet WPAOG staff and to discuss the ways in which WPAOG serves them, as well as how they as officers can best serve their classmates during cadet years and after graduation.

WPAOG News



Malek Soccer Stadium Dedicated

On September 26, Malek Soccer Stadium, the new home for USMA men's and women's soccer, was dedicated.

Improvements to the stadium at Clinton Field include new press facilities for broadcast and photography, and enhanced facilities and seating for spectators. The stadium's appearance was also improved to better integrate with the architecture of the area.

The stadium project was fully funded by Frederic V. Malek '59, Co-Chair of the For Us All Campaign, a 2014 recipient of the WPAOG Distinguished Graduate Award, and former chair of the West Point Board of Visitors. Long a champion of Army West Point Athletics and a multi-sport athlete and soccer player as a cadet, Malek has also supported the Malek Tennis Center and the O'Meara, Malek, Dawkins, Class of 1959 Strength Development Center in the Kimsey Complex.

WPAOG is honored to construct and deliver top-quality giftfunded buildings and facilities to the U.S. Military Academy. With the completion of Malek Soccer Stadium, the number of brick-and-mortar projects delivered by the Association now exceeds 30.







2017 WPAOG Alumni Leaders Conference

In August, more than 175 class, society, regional admissions officers, and parents club leaders attended the 2017 West Point Alumni Leaders Conference, sponsored by the Class of 1967. Over three days, representatives received briefings by Academy leadership, networked, participated in breakout discussions on best practices, and heard from keynote speaker Brigadier General Jennifer Grzbek Buckner '90, Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force-ARES at U.S. Cyber Command.

"The information we learn at the Leaders Conference is crucially important to the classes and societies we represent and allows us to make the graduates we represent fully aware of all the changes happening at the Academy," said Sally Lewis '90. "Not only that, but it is so inspiring to have the conference where we all went to school—we feel a part of the Academy, and it reminds me of why I'm involved with WPAOG and my local West Point Society."

West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG) Annual Meeting and Election

All USMA graduates are encouraged to vote in the WPAOG 2017 Annual Election. Not later than October 22, 2017, proxies will be emailed or mailed to each graduate. Graduates whose email address is on file at WPAOG will receive an email that contains a link to a personalized, confidential online voting site maintained by Amplitude Research, Inc. Other graduates will receive paper proxies via the U.S. Postal Service. Voting closes at 5:00pm on November 20, 2017, the evening before the WPAOG Annual Meeting and Election, which will take place at 5:00pm Eastern Time on November 21, 2017 in the Herbert Alumni Center, West Point, New York.





By Keith J. Hamel, WPAOG staff

The sun is coming up somewhere along Route 202 in New Jersey. Being December, this puts the time at slightly past 7:00am. Also, being December, it is a frigid morning, with temps in the mid-30s; however, no one would know just how cold it is by looking at the cadet-athlete running down the road in shorts, wearing a neon-yellow shirt, a "singlet" in runner's parlance, carrying a football. The runner is one of 16 cadets (and several Army officers) participating in the annual Army-Navy Ball Run, running in shifts with the game ball from West Point, New York, to Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As he runs, the words emblazoned across his chest rhythmically rise and fall each time he takes a breath in stride, consistently and proudly announcing this runner's affiliation: The West Point Marathon Team.

Above: Members of the 2016-17 West Point Marathon Team deliver the game ball to then-CMDT BG Diana Holland '90 and then-CSM Dawn Ripplemeyer at the conclusion of the 252-mile 2016 Army-Navy Ball Run from West Point to Baltimore.

The Marathon Team, a competitive sports club within the Directorate of Cadet Activities (DCA), has been participating in the Army-Navy Ball Run since 1994, but its own history goes back to 1973, a time when running long distances was considered a novelty. Now, in addition to the Ball Run, the Marathon Team participates in six significant races each year, including the Canada-Army Run, the Army Ten-Miler, the National Intercollegiate Running Club Association's (NIRCA) national championship race, and the Boston Marathon, which the team has run annually since 1974. But the Marathon Team is about a lot more than running. The team brands itself as being a group of hard workers and quiet professionals—it ranks second academically, third militarily, and second physically among all DCA competitive sports clubs—and, as such, it prides itself on representing West Point and the Army to the public and developing the leadership skills of its members through events such as the Ball Run, which is the pinnacle of the team's schedule in terms of distance, planning, and significance. "I can't think of a better teambuilding experience," says Cadet Jason Black '18, Cadet in Charge (CIC) of the Marathon Team.

The Miles

The members of the Marathon Team are well prepared for the miles of the Army-Navy Ball Run. Just to get on this team, cadets need to complete a 10K race, which occurs right after Reorgy Week, as part of the tryouts. But just having a fast time in the 10K doesn't guarantee a spot on the team. Looking for sharp leaders as well as speedy runners, the team also conducts interviews to fill four-to-eight open slots every year (seven team members graduated in 2017). Most of the runners come from a cross-country background and have never run a marathon before joining the team. This even applied to Colonel Matt Klimow '74 (Retired), a founding member of the team. "I was an exile from the Corps Squad Track and Cross-Country teams when my Phys Ed instructor, Major Dennis Leach '63, struck up a conversation about forming a Marathon Team," Klimow says. "He had signed up for the 1972 New York City Marathon and asked me if I wanted to come along—I had no idea how far a marathon was." After Klimow recovered from his first marathon (he lost all 10 of his toenails from not having proper running shoes), he set out to form the Marathon Team, getting it approved as an official club in early 1973. Setting its sights on the 1973 Earth Day Marathon as its inaugural event, the team took to the roads and trails on and around West Point and, in no time, was averaging between 70 to 120 miles per week.

The same holds true today. Monday through Thursday, the team practices for 2 hours and 15 minutes, running everywhere around post, from the grass loops at Target Hill Field to the well-worn Route 9W path to the Bear Mountain Bridge and back. It also holds an informal practice on Friday and goes on a long run sometime over the weekend. After each practice, team members perform calisthenics, and some participate in a twice-a-week voluntary lifting program designed for injury prevention. "It takes 8 to 12 weeks to train our new team members to our team standard for pacing," says Black (the team follows the Boston Marathon qualifying times as standard, which is 3h5m for men and 3h35m for women). "We use personalized training plans for each new team member so that we can prepare runners safely and without injury to run a quick time during our fall marathon," he says. Looking at the results some recent team members have achieved shows that their training plan is working. Cadet Aaqib Syed '18 came in fourth in the 2016 Canada Army Run, Danny Schlich '15 placed 12th (out of more than 10,000 finishers) at the

2014 Philadelphia Marathon, and two of the three 4-member Marathon Team squads finished first and second among service academies and ROTC teams at the 2016 Army Ten-Miler. "These are world-class, extremely competitive races," says Second Lieutenant Chris Boyle '17, a former member of the Marathon Team. "Furthermore, they feature professional runners in their 30s, which is the peak age for a marathoner; so, to have members from our team finish in the top-50 overall is quite impressive." In college competition the team has placed second two years in a row at the National Intercollegiate Running Club Association's (NIRCA) national championship.

The Logistics

But the Army-Navy Ball Run is about more than just being able to run a considerable distance in a short amount of time. Logistics play a vital role, and all the planning is done by the cadets on the team. "A year out, we start booking hotels and telling running groups and clubs that we're coming," says Joseph Anchondo '17, former Marathon Team CIC, in a 2015 article appearing in Runner's World. "Come August, we start making individual phone calls to Team RWB, the Warriors' Watch Motorcycle Club, and specific fire departments along the route to provide support." The Marathon Team also arranges a constant escort of state and local police to shield the runners from traffic. Having such responsibilities is nothing new to the members of the Marathon Team. Each one of them has been a CIC or assistant CIC who, with the help of the team Officer Representative (OR), plans every aspect—travel, lodging, meals, etc.—of each trip section to a race, briefs the team on the plan, and executes the plan. Furthermore, as Major Kelly Calway, the Marathon Team's Officer in Charge (OIC) and coach notes, the team is run like the Army, complete with S1, S3, and S4 "shops." "Even the stockroom is supplied and run in accordance to Army doctrine," says Calway. Chris Boyle '17 runs with the 2016 Army-Navy Game Ball. WEST POINT | FALL 2017

These leadership skills pay off when planning the Ball Run, which is pulling off a huge operation without many resources. "Just what it's like being a second lieutenant in the Army," she says.

The Ball Run begins when the Marathon Team CIC receives the Army-Navy game ball at the bonfire pep rally for the Army West Point Football Team before the big game. After this, the Marathon Team conducts what Major ML Cavanaugh '02, former team OR, calls a 179-mile "mechanized infantry movement" (or 252-mile when the game is played in Baltimore, Maryland, or 282-mile when played in Washington, DC) composed of "coordinated foot and vehicle movement, checkpoints, mission analysis and objective, variable terrain, and likely poor weather." To make this happen, the Marathon Team breaks up into three squads, each responsible for a third of the course, or approximately 60 miles. Each squad has a van, and each runner in the van aims for 13 to 30 miles during that squad's 10-hour leg of the Ball Run (some team members run multiple times during their leg). All day and all night, a runner carries the ball, or, more specifically, cradles the ball, since tradition states that the ball must never hit the ground lest Army lose the game!

The Meaning

The constitution and character of the Marathon Team would never allow it to drop the game ball. The team's members possess the moral strength, integrity, and determination that eliminate failure as an option. "Running conditions you to work every day," says Cadet Tyler Reece '19, the team's head S3. "It is not a sport for

which you can train three or four days a week and still be successful; you have to train consistently." This constant training—team members even fit daily runs into their busy summer training schedule—has instilled a certain discipline and mentality among the members of the Marathon Team. "I might just be indoctrinated, but I liken it to the Warrior Ethos," says Black, "especially the 'I will never quit; I will never accept defeat' part." As everyone who has run a marathon knows, there are moments during the race when quitting seems the best option, but this part of the Warrior Ethos mantra keeps many of the members of the Marathon Team going. "This happened to me at mile 23 during the 2017 Boston Marathon," says Cadet Ryan French '20. "I had to stop every 200 to 300 feet because of cramping in my legs, but I kept saying 'I'm finishing' to all the medical workers who came over to help because of the Warrior Ethos and not wanting to let my teammates down." Syed also thinks about his teammates while running a race, likening their collective suffering to soldiering. "When you fight in a battle, we often say it is for the soldier to your left and to your right," he says. "Running is less in magnitude when compared to war, but the emphasis on team is really no different."

One can see this emphasis on team in the Fallen Comrades Run, a 750-runner half-marathon that the Marathon Team organizes, plans, supplies, and executes annually at West Point. "As race directors, the members of the Marathon Team mark the course, put up barriers, supply water stations, coordinate volunteers, run the registration process, and more," says Calway. "It's a huge responsibility." More than all this, the team selects and contacts the

The Corps and the crowd at the 2016 Army-Navy Game cheer on the West Point Marathon Team as it runs a lap around the field carrying the game ball.





HERFF JONES, LLC

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY **BACK-DATED RINGS & JEWELRY**

If you didn't purchase a Miniature ring or Class Jewelry for graduation, or if your class ring has been lost or damaged, or if you're looking for a special gift . . .



HERFF JONES can provide you with a new ring and class jewelry for the following graduation classes:

CLASS RINGS
Male Ring,
Female Ring,
Miniature Ring
& Wedding Bands

1954	1974	1987	1994
1957	1978	1990	1998
1959	1980	1991	2001
1967	1983	1992	2002
		1993	2008



CLASS JEWELRY

Pendants. Tie Tacs, Ring Base Charms & Cuff Links



We are your Official Supplier!

Contact Ryan Tanner 800-451-3304, ext. 401238 rptanner@herffjones.com



molian-River Colony Club

55+ Military Community

"The Place Patriots Call Home"



After moving 25 times in our military life, IRCC is the best place we have ever lived!" Al & Yvonne Laferte

- FLORIDA Country Club Living • 2-4 BR Individually Owned Homes
- priced from the mid \$100's to low \$300's
- Amazing Maintenance Program
- Private Golf Course
- Over 40 Groups & Activities

Ask about our Military Discount!!



New Homes on Freedom Drive



Visit our website and find out why ... Better yet - try our GetAway! See for yourself!

> Visit: www.ColonyClub.com/US-Military or call 877-891-8252 1936 Freedom Drive · Viera (Melbourne) FL 32940 · Corporate@ColonyClub.com



families of 13 West Point graduates who have fallen in the line of service to request their permission to use their loved one's likeness on 1 of the 13 mile markers on the course. "We honor them as individuals and celebrate their memory as we build camaraderie through friendly competition," says Second Lieutenant Travis Chewning-Kulick '17, who was the CIC for the 2017 Fallen Comrades Run. In doing so, the Marathon Team is supporting the larger Army team that its members will soon join.

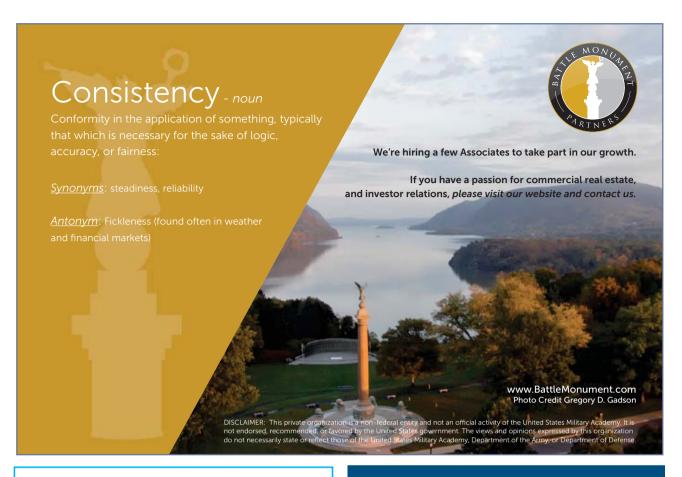
The same holds true for the Army-Navy Ball Run. Ask any member of the Marathon Team about it, and he or she will say that the mission is not just to carry a ball from West Point to Philadelphia (or Baltimore or DC) but to raise awareness for those who serve this county. And those along the route get it. Whether carrying the Army-Navy game ball on the backroads of Morris County, New Jersey, or Bucks County, Pennsylvania, the runners of the West Point Marathon Team experience spontaneous horn honking and shouts of "Go Army!" from legions of Americans who recognize that the cadets' efforts are for more than just the game played on the second Saturday in December. Since 2005, Reagent Chemical in Ringoes, New Jersey, has provided refreshments to the Marathon Team and even once welcomed the runners with music by a 100piece high school band. Every pit stop at a firehouse or convenience store is a chance for team members to represent the Academy and the Army, and they are happy to pose for pictures. "There are crowds of people supporting us," says Syed, "and random ones will

come up to hug you, take pictures with you, or touch the game ball." This has been the true mission of the Ball Run since 1994, when the Marathon Team resurrected the mid-1980s practice of one cadet from each company taking turns running the Army-Navy game ball.

It is now dusk, which in December places the time around 4:30pm, but flashing lights from two firetrucks and two police cars brightly illuminate Philadelphia's Logan Square, where the remaining members of the Marathon Team have gathered to wait for the current ball runners. The sirens from the emergency vehicles get louder and louder suggesting that their appearance is imminent. As the vehicles go by, five runners, the entire squad from the third van (dubbed the "Glory Van"), wearing their unmistakable neon singlets, seem to glow from all the lights. Motorcycles bearing huge American flags on their back fenders encircle the runners. Then, the rest of the Marathon Team joins the run, and the ball is carried down Benjamin Franklin Parkway and then Broad Street to Lincoln Financial Field. Hundreds of people line the streets, cheering on the Marathon Team. "It is just an awesome experience," says Black. And they get to repeat it on game day, running a lap around the field with the game ball in hand as the entire Corps of Cadet cheers them on for the distance they have run, for the feat they have executed, for the manner in which they have represented West Point and the Army, and for the great tradition they have continued: "Run Army! Beat Navy." *

The West Point Marathon Team came in second place in its 2016 NIRCA national debut, a feat it repeated in 2017.





The Daughters of the Cincinnati proudly award

College Scholarships to Officers' Daughters Apply for the \$20,000 awards before March 15

- Scholarships are spread over four years and paid to the college or university of the applicant's choice
- Selection is based on both merit and financial need
- Applicants must be daughters of career commissioned officers in the United States armed services
- Application and instructions can be found at www.daughters1894.org





Founded in 1894 by descendants of George Washington's officers, the Daughters of the Cincinnati has helped to fund the undergraduate educations of outstanding young women for over one hundred years.

A 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization

Systems Engineering for Working Professionals

ONE-YEAR DEGREE. UNLIMITED CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.

"I highly recommend AMP to anyone looking to advance their **technical and analytical skill sets** and build their **professional network**. I'm excited about the opportunities to come."



-David J. Little, USMA 2002

Alternate weekend format | Face-to-face interactions

ENROLL IN YOUR FUTURE TODAY! http://amp.sys.virginia.edu

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA
Accelerated Masters Program
in Systems Engineering



West Point Parents Corner

WPPC of Long Island Gift Honors Local Grads

In honor of the 11 Class of 2017 graduates from Long Island, the West Point Parents Club of Long Island made a gift of \$2,500 to the West Point Parents Fund. Proud to support cadets in their journey to join the Long Gray Line, the club's goal is to make this an annual tradition in honor of their firsties.



What is the West Point **Parents Fund?**

While the Academy receives federal funding to support its core programs, which provide the basic requirements to earn a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission in the United States Army, many cadet projects and activities that are of great value but outside the "core" designation receive minimal to no funding from the government. West Point needs these programs to



recruit and educate the very best candidates in a highly competitive environment. This is why private funding from our alumni, parents and friends is so important—it supports unique experiences and extraordinary developmental programs for cadets that go above and beyond the Academy's core programming to create the Margin of Excellence, making a West Point education like no other.

WPPC of Maryland, Washington DC, and Virginia **Fundraises with Army-Navy Raffle**

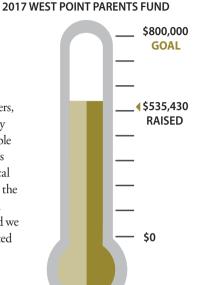
For the past few months, the West Point Parents Club of MD, DC, and VA has been selling raffle tickets to raise money for the West Point Parents Fund. The Grand Prize included four club-level tickets and hotel rooms for the 2017 Army-Navy game. The Club raised \$14,200 from the raffle and presented a check for that amount at WPAOG's Ice Cream Social on July 2. Special thanks also go to the WPPC of Central VA; WPPC of NC; and various West Point Societies in MD, VA, and NC that helped spread the word about the raffle among their members and/or allowed raffle tickets to be sold at their events—a great example of parent clubs and West Point Societies working together for a common goal!



West Point Parents Corner

Parents Participate in 2017 West Point Leaders Conference

A total of 30 parent leaders attended the WPAOG Leaders Conference in August and participated in sessions on topics including WPAOG parent services, engagement opportunities for parents and cadets, how parents can help their cadets become Army officers, fundraising to support the Academy, and best practices by West Point Parents Clubs. As key volunteers and influencers in the extended West Point family, parent leaders brought valuable perspectives to these discussions, and left willing to share knowledge and recommendations with the wider parent community throughout the year. West Point parents also play a critical role in raising funds for the Academy's Margin of Excellence programs that directly benefit the Corps of Cadets, such as cadet clubs and activities, travel abroad, internships, athletics, and much more. So far this year, \$535,430 has been raised for the West Point Parents Fund, and we continue to work toward our goal of raising \$800,000 in 2017. With the support of dedicated West Point parents, we can make this happen!



WPAOG Helps You Keep in Touch with West Point and Cadet News

In addition to our free quarterly *West Point* magazine, and monthly *Parent Review* enewsletter, WPAOG offers families many ways to connect with each other and to stay in touch with news from West Point. You can find many resources on

our website Parent Portal. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter, and sign up for our newsfeed of USMA and Cadet News delivered right to your email box.

Second Annual WPAOG Ring Run 5K Raises Nearly \$5K

As part of Ring Weekend at West Point, 670 parents and cadets participated in the 2nd Annual Ring Run, co-sponsored by WPAOG and FMWR. After completing a 5K Fun Run, participants were treated to a celebratory breakfast at the West Point Club. Prizes for the run included 1st Parent/Cadet Combo, 18th Firstie, most Creative Dress, and Goat of the Race. Participants also had the opportunity to make a donation in conjunction with the event, and a check was presented to WPAOG in the amount of \$4,965.80 for the West Point Parents Fund.



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

1986 Fontes Highest-Ranking Woman in Afghanistan

In July, Major General Robin Fontes '86 assumed the highest position of any female service member in Afghanistan since the war began, taking over command of Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan. She has spent 12 years in the region, serving in Afghanistan multiple times, as well as in India, Pakistan and Tajikistan.



2007

West Point Grads in Olmsted **Scholar Class of 2018**

2009

Captain Jeffrey W. Wismann '07 and Captain Richard M. Pazdzierski '09 were selected as members of the Olmsted Scholar Class of 2018. The program was established in 1960 by Major General George Olmsted '22 with the Department of Defense to foster relationships between nations. The Olmsted

Foundation selects 15-20 active duty military scholars each year for two years of study at a foreign university in a non-English speaking country. Wismann plans to study in Rabat, Morocco; Pazdzierski in Osaka, Japan. More than 135 West Point graduates have been named Olmsted Scholars since the program began.

2013

Rowley Pitching for Toronto Blue Jays



Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher Chris Rowley '13, is the first graduate of the United States Military Academy to play major league baseball. Rowley started the season with the Double-A New Hampshire Fisher Cats, then the Triple-A Buffalo Bisons prior to his call up to the Blue Jays.



Assignments/Promotions

The U.S. Senate has confirmed the following General Officer nominations for promotion:

To the rank of Lieutenant General:

MG Richard D. Clarke '84

MG Edward M. Daly '87

MG Charles W. Hooper '79

To the rank of MG:

BG Miyako N. Schanely '86 (USAR)

To the rank of Brigadier General:

COL John C. Andonie '89 (ARNG)

COL Kris A. Belanger '91 (USAR)

COL Herbert J. Brock IV '95 (ARNG)

COL Robert S. Cooley Jr. '89 (USAR)

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

MG Wilson A. Shoffner Jr. '88 to Commanding General, U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill, Fort Sill, OK.

MG Miyako N. Schanely '86 to Commander (Troop Program Unit), 416th Engineer Command, Darien, IL.

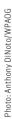
BG Kris A. Belanger '91 to Commander (Troop Program Unit), 85th USAR Support Command West, Arlington Heights, IL.

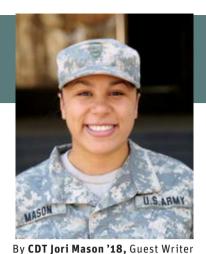
BG Robert S. Cooley Jr. '89 to Commander (Troop Program Unit), 353 Civil Affairs Command, Staten Island, NY.

COL(P) Joseph B. Berger III '92 to Commander, U.S. Army Legal Services Agency/Chief Judge, U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeal, Fort Belvoir, VA.

COL(P) Robert P. Huston '90 to Commanding General/Commandant, U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, Charlottesville, VA.







RD=FC*

The new Davis Barracks sits high on a hill, higher than any other barracks at the Academy. Where cadets might see an inconvenient, long flight of stairs leading to its front doors, the author of this issue's cadet column observes a striking parallel between the construction process of the new barracks and the multitude of unfair burdens that General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36 experienced as a cadet.

Aura and Architecture: How Davis Barracks Symbolizes Benjamin Davis's Life

Art is often a representation of the artist. Architecture is no different, except instead of it representing the construction workers who helped physically shape it, the finished building illuminates the aura of the architects themselves or perhaps the person after whom the building is named. In the case of Davis Barracks, the architecture of the building can be viewed as an unintended metaphor for Benjamin O. Davis Jr.'s cadet life at West Point.

When the construction of Davis Barracks began in 2013, there was only solid rock face at its eventual site. Through months of work, construction personnel blasted away the rock to make room for a building. The construction was endless and loud, causing more-than-normal disruption in the daily life of cadets. This discomfort, while dim in comparison, represents the discomfort the Corps of Cadets felt towards Benjamin Davis when he was a cadet. Instead of complaining about him, however, they ignored and ostracized him. The construction of Davis Barracks was noisy and refused to be ignored and could not be forgotten. Davis himself remained quiet and tried to stay under the radar during his time here, but just the mere presence of someone of his race was something that could not be ignored or forgotten.

Since it is built high on a hillside, Davis Barracks has a base level that is much higher than that of any barracks previously constructed at West Point. Its floor level is basically equivalent to the third floor of every other cadet barracks. When this news came out, cadets viewed it as an inconvenience or another nuisance that those higher up would say was a form of "development" to shape cadets into adaptable leaders. The task of walking up three flights of stairs just to enter Davis Barracks, while those in other barracks have no such obstacle, is a representation of what Davis faced during his time at the Academy. Because of the color of his skin, he had to work three times as hard to achieve the same base level as everyone else.

The most iconic feature of the new barracks that unintentionally represents Davis's cadet experience is the three

flights of external stairs that lead up to the base level. Cadets regularly complain how unfair it is for cadets living in Davis Barracks to have the same amount of time in between classes while still having to walk up so many flights of stairs. While this complaint has some validity to it, the unfairness that cadets living in Davis Barracks perceive is akin to the unfairness that Benjamin Davis faced every day. The treatment he faced socially was extremely unfair, but he still had to adhere to, and ultimately exceed, the standard just to avoid scrutiny. The stairs of Davis Barracks represent the inequality Davis faced and the hard work it took him to achieve the same level of recognition of that of his peers.

The construction process, height, and iconic features of Davis Barracks all coincide with the progression of its namesake's career. Davis Barracks began where a rock face once stood. After months and years of laborious blasting, the rock face was removed to make room for a beautiful building that now stands above the other barracks, with one of the most amazing views of West Point. Similarly, Davis spent his time at the Academy alone, being broken down by his classmates, but their attempt to bring him down turned him into a stronger leader. He had to work three times as hard as his classmates, but his hard work shaped him and allowed for his great success. Art manifests itself into portraying its artist, and Davis Barracks manifested itself into representing Benjamin O. Davis Jr.'s life. Cadets living in Davis Barracks who walk up those three extra flights of stairs should take a moment to reflect on the meaning of them. Those stairs represent the hard work and obstacles that Davis and all other initial minorities faced while being at West Point. Instead of considering those steps as a mere inconvenience, cadets should see them as a chance to reflect and humble themselves. Their current inconvenience represents a giant obstacle Benjamin Davis overcame. Everyone should be proud of his accomplishments while recognizing just how far the Academy and this country have come since Davis's cadet days at West Point. ★

*According to Bugle Notes: "RD=FC 'Rough Draft Equals Final Copy.' The art of completing a paper or project in one sitting."



Members of the Class of 2019 with members of the Class of 1969, their 50-Year Affiliate Class, at their Affirmation Ceremony.

ack on June 29, 2015, the new cadets of the Class of 2019 took the Cadet Oath of Allegiance on the Plain during their R-Day Parade, pledging to support the Constitution and to bear "true allegiance" to the national government. Two years later, as they began their cow year as Second Class cadets, the members of the Class of 2019 renewed that oath during the traditional Affirmation Ceremony held in Robinson Auditorium on August 20. As part of the oath this time, the cadets "acknowledged [their] five-year active duty commitment to the United States Army," legally binding them to honor their service obligations and committing themselves to graduating and becoming commissioned officers. After taking their oath, the members of the Class of 2019 were given a coin by members of the Class of 1969, their 50-Year Affiliation Class, symbolizing the commitment of both classes to the Profession of Arms. Forty-two members of the Class of 1969 attended the ceremony. General William S. "Scott" Wallace '69, a member of the 50-Year Affiliation Class and former commander of V Corps during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and former commander of TRADOC, addressed the members of the Class

Affirmation Ceremony for the Class of 2019

Right: GEN (R) William S. "Scott" Wallace '64, a member of the Class of 2019's 50-Year Affiliate Class of 1969, addressed cadets at the ceremony.

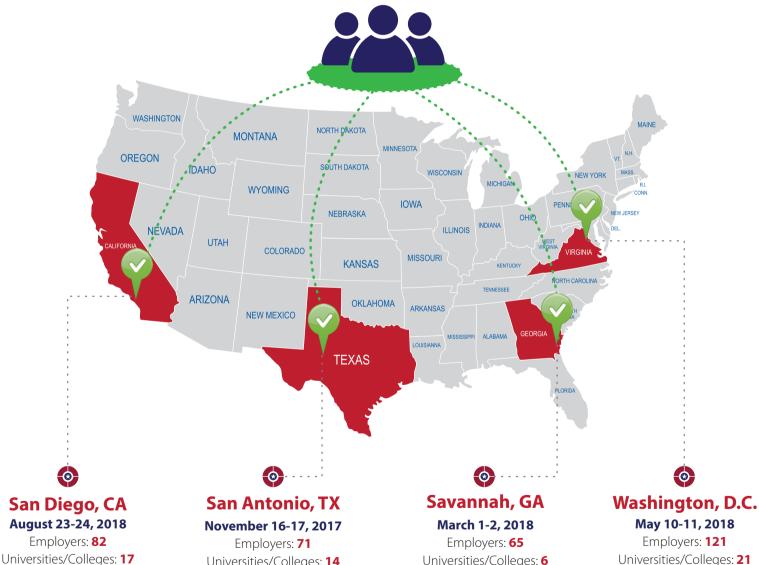
of 2019 before their big moment. "The oath that you take implies that you do so with the utmost of care for the unwavering and solemn obligation is to win," Wallace said. "It is this which guarantees that for many generations of soldiers to come—for many more affirmation ceremonies—there will be a nation to serve and a Constitution to support and defend."



Making a Career Transition? We Can Help.

Which Service Academy Career Conference (SACC) is best for you?

Employers hire Academy graduates for jobs nationwide and all seniority levels at each event, so attend the SACC that fits your transition!



San Diego, CA August 23-24, 2018 Employers: 82

Universities/Colleges: 14

Universities/Colleges: 6

Universities/Colleges: 21

*Data represents projections based on 2016-17 statistics; Actual numbers may vary.

REGISTER TODAY AT SACC-JOBFAIR.COM



We regret that because of limited space, we cannot publish all letters received. Letters may be edited and shortened for space. Submit comments or questions to Editor@wpaog.org, or chat with us on one of our WPAOG social media channels!



FROM: COL (R) Richard Morton '57

I was distressed and disappointed to read on page 6 of your most recent issue of *West Point* magazine an incorrect reference to my father Colonel William J. Morton Jr., Retired, as "William T. Morton '23." A cursory check of WPAOG's own *Register of Graduates and Former Cadets* would have revealed his correct name and title. I look forward to seeing a correction in your next issue and avoidance in the future of such errors.

RESPONSE:

Please accept our apologies for the error. Historical records and accuracy of our graduate information are very important to us, and although we endeavor to carefully fact check our articles, mistakes sometimes occur despite our best efforts. We mistakenly used Colonel William J. Morton Jr.'s name as it (incorrectly) appeared in his article "Sylvanus Thayer-Neglected American" in the April 1944 issue of ASSEMBLY. We have double-checked our WPAOG database to ensure that we don't make this mistake in the future. Thank you for calling the error to our attention.

FROM: Robert M. Springer Jr. '49

As the USMA 1949 class association president, I would like to bring to your attention for correction what we of the class consider a serious error or omission in the 2017 summer issue of West Point magazine. On page 26, it states that the 50-Year Affiliation Program "launched in the mid-1990s." The truth is that George Summers '49 conceived of a 50-year affiliation project sometime in 1998 during a meeting of the '49er Lodge Committee. Our class was thus the first to establish a continuing cooperative and social relationship between half-century separated classes by the "adoption" of the Class of 1999, which was symbolized at their graduation when we gave their graduates gold second lieutenant bars engraved with "49-99."

RESPONSE:

Thank you for this clarification. West Point magazine has since reached out to Dr. Bob Kemble '49, who is compiling a full story of this and the many other accomplishments of the class for its upcoming 70th Reunion in 2019. WPAOG will be pleased to have these documents in our archives so that the rich history of the 50-Year Affiliation Program is preserved. ★

STARTtheDAYS!

NOVEMBER

4 Beat Air Force!

15 Branch Night



DECEMBER

Army-Navy Bonfire, Goat-Engineer Game

> 9 BEAT NAVY!

14 Corps Holiday Dinner

> 16-22 Term End Exams Beat the Dean!

Upcoming events submitted by West Point staff & faculty.

Events for Nov 2017—Jan 2018 should be sent to editor@wpaog.org by Nov 15, 2017.

JANUARY

8 Second Term Begins

500th Night for the Class of 2019



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

SACC Service Academy Career Conference











Your Successful Career Transition Starts at SACC.

San Antonio, TX Savannah, GA Washington, DC San Diego, CA Nov 16 – 17, 2017 Mar 1 – 2, 2018

May 10 – 11, 2018

Aug 23 - 24, 2018

To register for any SACC as an attendee or exhibitor, go to **sacc-jobfair.com**.

If you would like more information about WPAOG Career Services visit **WestPointAOG.org/Careers**

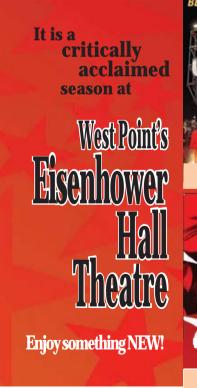




WPAOG Career Services

WestPointAOG.org | 845.446.1618 Email: careers@wpaog.org







Be Thou at Peace Deaths reported from June 12—September 20, 2017.

LTG William J. Ely, USA, Retired	1933	COL John D. Pelton, USA, Retired	1952	COL Anthony G. Pokorny Jr., USA, Retired	1959
COL Robert E. Baden, USA, Retired	1943 JAN	Mr. Donald L. Richardson	1952	Dr. Donald T. Simpson	1959
MAJ Robert L. Bullard III, USA, Retired	1943 JAN	Capt David S. Smith, USAF, Retired	1952	LTC Richard S. Sundt, USA, Retired	1959
COL Edmond L. Faust Jr., USA, Retired	1943 JAN	Col Sam B. Barrett, USAF, Retired	1953	COL Jack W. Dice, USA, Retired	1960
Lt Col Leslie H. Hendrickson Jr., USAF, Retired	1944	BG Jeremiah J. Brophy, USA, Retired	1953	Mr. Mark P. Lowrey	1960
LTC Robert E. Stetekluh, USA, Retired	1945	Dr. Charles M. Butler	1953	Mr. Robert H. Mills	1960
COL George L. Withey, USA, Retired	1945	Mr. Ollin K. Dozier	1953	Mr. Grant A. Schaefer	1960
BG Frank E. Blazey, USA, Retired	1946	Mr. Elden Q. Faust Jr.	1953	Mr. Dean S. Frazier	1961
Mr. Jerome F. Butler	1946	Lt Col Alvin L. Hayes, USAF, Retired	1953	Mr. Richard E. McNear	1961
COL Samuel R. Martin, USA, Retired	1946	Mr. James G. Hove	1953	LTC Charles S. Merriam II, USA, Retired	1962
Mr. Leon B. Musser Jr.	1946	Mr. John E. Johnson	1953	Mr. Ralph M. Drewfs	1963
GEN Robert M. Shoemaker, USA, Retired	1946	Brig Gen Sheldon J. Lustig, USAF, Retired	1953	COL Charles V. Nahlik, USA, Retired	1963
COL Norman T. Stanfield, USA, Retired	1946	Mr. Donald R. Schmidt	1953	Mr. DeWitt C. Seward III	1963
COL Harlan W. Tucker, USA, Retired	1946	Mr. Wendell F. Grant	1954	LTC James W. Stryker, USA, Retired	1963
COL Harry P. Ball, USA, Retired	1947	Col Thomas P. Martin, USAF, Retired	1954	LTC Edward C. Schillo Jr.	1964
Mr. Thomas F. Hayes	1947	Maj Gen Walter C. Schrupp, USAF, Retired	1954	LTC Glade M. Bishop, USA, Retired	1965
Mr. John W. McCullough Jr.	1947	COL John R. Westervelt Jr., USA, Retired	1954	Mr. Bruce F. Erion	1968
BG Norman J. Salisbury, USA, Retired	1947	LTC Thomas W. Herren Jr., USA, Retired	1955	COL Charles A. Vehlow, USA, Retired	1968
Mr. William I. West	1947	Maj John S. Lapham, USAF, Retired	1955	Dr. Richard R. Garay	1969
LTC Eugene C. Fleming, USA, Retired	1948	LTC William S. May, USA, Retired	1955	Mr. Harold L. Maxson	1969
Mr. Charles P. Skouras Jr.	1948	Col Lester S. McChristian Jr., USAF, Retired	1956	Mr. Thomas H. McCord	1969
COL Lyle E. Walter, USA, Retired	1948	COL Heath Twichell Jr., USA, Retired	1956	Mr. Ralph J. Moeller	1969
COL Kenneth E. Webber Jr., USA, Retired	1948	Mr. Martin B. Zimmerman	1956	COL John C. Yeisley, USA, Retired	1969
COL Charles M. Adams, USA, Retired	1949	Mr. Robert W. Buckner	1957	LTC David W. Cortese, USA, Retired	1970
BG Frank P. Clarke, USA, Retired	1949	COL William F. Carroll, USA, Retired	1957	Dr. Robert F. Driscoll	1970
Mr. John G. Hayes	1949	Lt Col Donald H. Davis, USAF, Retired	1957	Mr. Gerald C. Minor	1970
COL Edward B. Howard, USA, Retired	1949	Mr. Robert B. Davis	1957	Mr. Brian M. Smith	1970
COL Charles B. Lee, USA, Retired	1949	Mr. John R. De Sola	1957	Mr. John A. Dole III	1971
Maj Gen George M. Wentsch, USAF, Retired	1949	Col Gerald L. Jagrowski, USAF, Retired	1957	LTC Elary Gromoff Jr., USA, Retired	1972
Mr. James A. Whitmarsh Jr.	1949	LTC Jacob E. Lustig, USA, Retired	1957	MAJ James A. Baugh, USA, Retired	1973
COL Dwight L. Adams, USA, Retired	1950	Mr. Robert L. Merrick	1957	Mr. Richard J. Dameron	1974
Mr. Charles H. Bell	1950	Col Walter J. Rabe, USAF, Retired	1957	LTC James S. Hoffman, ARNG, Retired	1975
Mr. Egbert L. Brady Jr.	1950	BG Clarke M. Brintnall, USA, Retired	1958	Dr. David L. Dickey	1976
LTG James M. Lee, USA, Retired	1950	Mr. Daniel E. Carter	1958	LTC Gerald R. Harrington Jr., USA, Retired	1976
COL Bernard P. Matthey Jr., USA, Retired	1950	Mr. Theodore E. Childress	1958	MAJ Michael W. Metcalf, USA, Retired	1976
Mr. David D. Ray	1950	LTC Ashton M. Haynes Jr., USA, Retired	1958	Mr. Kevin G. Kelly	1977
MG Jere W. Sharp, USA, Retired	1950	Mr. Joseph D. Keyes	1958	LTC Thomas M. Hagen, USA, Retired	1979
COL Sidney R. Steele, USA, Retired	1950	Lt Col Robert W. Meals Jr., USAF, Retired	1958	Mr. Mark E. Lee	1979
Mr. Joseph W. Hutchinson Jr.	1951	COL Albert F. Dorris, USA, Retired	1959	Mr. Jeffrey W. Scott	1980
Mr. Leonard P. Shapiro	1951	LTC Michael J. Fletcher, USA, Retired	1959	Mr. Alex G. Sung	1982
Mr. Robert J. Craig	1952	LTC David E. Fried, USA, Retired	1959	COL James R. Meisinger, USA, Retired	1987
Mr. Gordon M. Hahn	1952	LTC Leonard G. Katsarsky, USA, Retired	1959	Mr. Berkeley J. Wood	1993
Mil. Gordon M. Haili	1932	Lie Zeonara G. Naciarsky, OSA, netrica	1737	in series strong	1775

Past in Review



In honor of the 2001 bicentennial of both USMA and St. Cyr, 168 West Point Cadets led the Bastille Day Parade, the first Americans to march on the Champs-Elysées, since the end of WWII.

"Duty, Honor, Country" Meets "Ils S'instruisent pour Vaincre"

By Dr. Iulia Praud and CPT Daniel Hall '10. Guest Writers

This fall marks the 25th anniversary of West Point's Semester Abroad Exchange Program with l'École Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr, the French Military Academy. Started in 1992, this was West Point's first and, for over 10 years, only study abroad program. Grace Park and Mark Battistoni, both from the Class of 1994, were the first West Point cadets to participate in this highly selective program. They reported to France in July 1992 for intensive French language training and then moved on to Saint-Cyr in August. They took courses corresponding to those they would have taken at West Point as Second Class cadets, including international relations, military history, and mechanics. In addition, they studied French language and civilization. They also took part in an eightweek military instruction program that emphasized various mechanized unit missions and held leadership positions ranging from team leader to platoon sergeant. Finally, they participated in all aspects of

daily life at Saint-Cyr, from inspections and guard duty to athletics and social events. "I consider the exchange among my most rewarding experiences ever," Battistoni said in a report upon his return. "While other cadets participate in exchanges with U.S. academies and members of the Active Army may work closely with allied units, few assignments are as wholly foreign as that of this exchange."

According to Battistoni, one of the most successful elements of the exchange program with Saint-Cyr was the camaraderie. Colonel Devon Blake (née Morris) '95, who was in the second cohort to study at Saint-Cyr in the fall of 1993, would agree. An avid equestrian, Blake convinced the commandant of Saint-Cyr to allow her to try out for the all-male equestrian team. She made the team and competed with them throughout the semester. Over the years, she has kept in contact with her Saint-Cyr classmates, encountering them around the globe in such

places as Afghanistan, Djibouti, Chad, Niger, Germany, France, and even in the United States. "With each new meeting, it is as if time stood still, and the bonds are even stronger than the time before," Blake reported. Fluent in French, she recently became the first American, and only the fifth woman, to complete studies at the Centre des Hautes Études Militaire (CHEM) in Paris, a joint education program for senior leaders, citing the Saint-Cyr exchange program and the developmental opportunities it provided as a factor in the progression of her career. Likewise, Captain Matthew Kalin '09, who spent the fall of 2007 at Saint-Cyr explains, "From the beginning, I was included in all of the promo's [class's] activities. The French cadets taught me about their school's history and traditions, and I was invited to nearly every activity of the promo, since I was officially a part of it." In addition, Kalin's time at the French military academy has heavily influenced his decision to pursue a master's



degree in international affairs at Columbia University and accept a position in the Department of Foreign Languages as a French Instructor starting in 2019 (with follow-on assignments as a North African Foreign Area Officer).

After a decade of existence, a unique opportunity arose that would serve to strengthen cooperation between the two schools and ultimately lead to the growth of the program, thanks to the level of coordination needed to execute events on both sides of the Atlantic. Each founded in 1802, both West Point and Saint-Cyr held bicentennial celebrations in the spring and summer of 2002 to mark their 200 years of existence. At the end of May that year, la Promotion du Bicentenaire, the graduating class from Saint-Cyr (about 120 students), traveled to the United States. During their stay, the French cadets marched in the Graduation Parade to honor West Point's birth and the Class of 2002. This was the first and only time that a foreign unit has paraded on the Plain, indicating the special bond between the two countries. A little more than one month later, on July 8, 2002, West Point sent 168 cadets from the Classes of 2003-05 to France to participate in ceremonies celebrating the bicentennial of Saint-Cyr. In addition to visiting the D-Day beaches in Normandy and taking part in le Triomphe, Saint-Cyr's graduation ceremony, these cadets made history when they led the Bastille Day

Parade, becoming the first Americans to march on the Champs-Elysées in Paris since the end of World War II. "It was very special to see the National colors and those of the Army and West Point at the beginning of the ceremony," said Brigadier General Daniel Kaufman '68, the Dean of the Academic Board at the time. "The cadets' performance was superb, and I received nothing but accolades from the French Minister of Defense."

Beginning in the fall of 2004, the number of West Point cadets studying at Saint-Cyr increased from two to four. That same year, West Point added more exchange programs: two students studied at L'École Polytechnique in Paris (where Sylvanus Thayer, Class of 1808 and the "Father of West Point," studied from 1815 to 1817), and two students attended the Spanish Military Academy in Zaragoza, bringing the total number of cadets participating in an exchange program to eight, in two countries and three locations. Since 2004, West Point has sent as many as nine cadets in one semester to Saint-Cyr, and, to date, 100 cadets have completed a semester of study at the French military academy.

Over the past 25 years, West Point has also hosted more than 75 second lieutenants from Saint-Cyr in the fall of their third, or final year, of study. While not enrolled in classes, these *sous-lieutenants* conduct research for their theses and work with USMA faculty

mentors during their stay. Captain Gaëtan Simon, Saint-Cyr '10, spent his research semester at West Point in the fall of 2009. His topic was the outsourcing of services to contractors in deployed theaters, which became critical to his experience as an Engineer officer in the French Army. "The months I spent at West Point gave me a culture and a vision of what the U.S. Army is in general and how it works... for outsourcing, it's an important lesson [for the French] to consider," Simon said. Yet, as it was for West Point cadets who went to Saint-Cyr, "The most important aspect to my exchange at West Point was the possibility to strengthen the friendship we built with some cadets the year before at Saint-Cyr... I am still in contact with three West Pointers of the Class of 2010: this friendship is precious," he said.

This fall, seven West Point cadets are currently on semester abroad in France at Saint-Cyr, and eight Saint-Cyriens are conducting research at West Point. Given France's rejoining of the military command structure of the North American Treaty Organization (NATO) in 2009, and their contributions to coalition efforts against terrorist entities in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Sub-Saharan Africa, it is more important than ever for West Point to produce strategically-minded officers who are able to communicate effectively with allies and advise senior commanders on matters of culture and integration. "When West Point sends a cadet to a foreign academy or university, the dividends on that investment have been almost incalculable," said Colonel Greg Ebner '88, the head of the Department of Foreign Languages. "They are placed well outside their comfort zone, challenged to survive in a new environment, and learn that different peoples often approach the same situations from wildly different directions, resulting in different perceptions and, possibly, new solutions, which ultimately creates an empathy that has made them stronger leaders." West Point's exchange program has also, from its humble beginning 25 years ago, created deep and lasting camaraderie with allied officers. With semester abroad programs in 17 countries at 26 different military academies and civilian universities last year, West Point is continuing to graduate officers who have the flexibility necessary to be effective in an ever-changing operational environment. *



USE THE CREDIT CARD THAT SUPPORTS WPAOG.



USAA Bank is proud to offer members ways to support organizations like the West Point Association of Graduates. You can also benefit from great rewards, competitive rates, and USAA's legendary customer service. Plus, now you can extend your support by redeeming your rewards points for a donation to the West Point Association of Graduates.

* APPLY TODAY.

usaa.com/wpaogvisa or 877-584-9724

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.

Use of the term "member" or "membership" refers to membership in USAA Membership Services and does not convey any legal or ownership rights in USAA. Restrictions apply and are subject to change. WPAOG receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship.

This credit card program is issued by USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. © 2017 USAA. 234742-0617



West Point Association of Graduates 698 Mills Road West Point, NY 10996-1607 WestPointAOG.org 845.446.1500



Update your contact information at WestPointAOG.org/profile to ensure you continue to receive West Point magazine and other WPAOG information.

Questions? 1.800.BE.A.GRAD or RedSash@wpaog.org

FIND WPAOG 24/7 ON:











