

# West Point

WINTER 2018

West Point's New Front Door

The Frederic V. Malek West Point Visitors Center

Army Beats Navy 14-13



A Publication of the West Point Association of Graduates





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# West Point

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

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**ON THE COVER:** The Class of 1974 Atrium in the new Frederic V. Malek West Point Visitors Center features a structural space frame that supports 1,300 feet of glass windows, and a marble floor with a nine-foot inlaid and carved granite medallion of the West Point crest. Cover image: Jim Smith Photography.

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

### Dear Fellow Graduates:

It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to serve as Chairman of your Association of Graduates for the last four years. I am also immensely proud of the progress and many accomplishments made by WPAOG. However, as I have often said, the West Point Association of Graduates is not just the dedicated people working in Herbert Alumni Center. Neither is it the Board of Directors, the 54-member Advisory Council (comprised of Class, Society and At-Large Advisors), nor the Class Officers—all of whom freely volunteer their time, talent, and energy. Rather, WPAOG is you, the Long Gray Line, individually and collectively. Without your participation and support, there would be no Association and none of the accomplishments of which I am so proud. Those of us privileged to be temporary caretakers of your Association must always remember that.

In keeping with its mission, WPAOG continues to be the single most effective and prolific supporter of West Point and its graduates. The past four years alone have seen numerous construction projects completed, including, most recently, the Foley Enners Nathe Lacrosse Center, Malek Soccer Stadium, Daly and Goldstein Fields, and Malek West Point Visitors Center. Likewise, WPAOG has annually provided support for over 1,000 cadet internships and cultural immersion trips, 140 co-curricular teams and clubs, 24 graduate scholarships, and approximately 160 semester abroad experiences for cadets. Those programs, made possible through your generous support, have contributed to the distinguished national rankings among institutions of higher education that West Point enjoys.

Equally significant, we have also enhanced the services provided to alumni. One example is the Rockbound Highland Home Program, which includes Grad Pass to allow expedited entry through West Point's security screening; Grad Perks, which offers access to West Point recreational facilities; and Grad Insider Tours, which allows graduates to escort family and friends to tour places closed to the general public. WPAOG is also working to enhance Career Services with new programs and to fulfill its vision of the Long Gray Line being the most connected alumni body in the world.

Despite its record of accomplishments, WPAOG continues to evolve and expand the type of support it provides West Point and its graduates. This is necessary as the Academy's needs change in order to produce the agile leaders to confront the challenges of today and tomorrow. The same applies to support for alumni, as the Long Gray Line grows in number, becomes more diverse, and has expanded needs and interests. This is part of the combination of change and continuity that has marked the histories of West Point and WPAOG. Both have embraced change to meet new conditions while maintaining the continuity of values, traditions, and core missions.

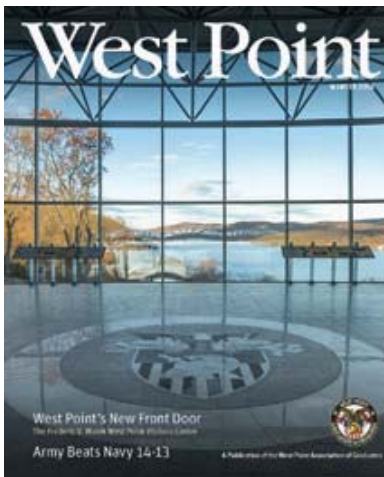
Change continues. As the West Point Association of Graduates approaches its Sesquicentennial, the 150th Anniversary of its founding in 1869, we are planning for the beginning of the next century and a half. I am certain that under the leadership of Joe De Francisco '65, WPAOG will excel in its journey of change, continuity, and progress.

Go Army! Beat Navy; beat 'em all!

Larry R. Jordan '68  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army (Retired)  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
West Point Association of Graduates







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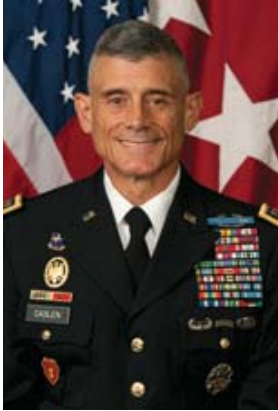
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## Thank you to the entire Long Gray Line for your support throughout 2017, a year marked by numerous achievements and examples of excellence throughout the Corps of Cadets, staff and faculty.



As you know, this year of excellence was capped off by an incredible, last-second, edge-of-your-seat victory over Navy for the second straight year, a win that brought the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy back to West Point for the first time since 1996. We are all extremely proud of the football team, as well as the entire Corps. They showed tremendous character and grit—exactly what we want our leaders to do leading in the crucible of ground combat.

Throughout our installation, statues and monuments honor the lives and accomplishments of notable figures from our nation's history, as do many of the buildings and facilities that dot our landscape. Names like Washington, Thayer, Grant, Pershing, MacArthur and Eisenhower, as well as the legacies they represent, inspire us. Many of these names are well known, but there are just as many names that you might not find in a history textbook, but yet, their legacy, devotion to duty, and commitment to selfless service is just as great, as is their ability to inspire.

As you know, this past year, we added a few new buildings to the West Point landscape and, with that, new names to inspire us. Our newest cadet barracks honors our fourth African-American graduate and leader of the Tuskegee Airmen, General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. '36. [Editor's note: See the fall 2017 issue of *West Point* magazine for more on General Davis.]

We also completed and dedicated a new soccer stadium and, more recently, a newly designed West Point Visitors Center, honoring Distinguished Graduate Fred Malek '59. Since graduating from West Point, Fred has selflessly served our Army and our nation in many different ways, whether as an Airborne Ranger in Vietnam, or as an advisor to four U.S. Presidents. Additionally, he has selflessly given back to West Point over the years in many ways, through his own generous philanthropic support, serving as chair of the West Point Board of Visitors and co-chairing WPAOG's successful *For Us All* Campaign. Additionally, he's introduced and connected prominent non-grads to West Point, bringing them in as speakers and supporters.

Last year, we also dedicated our new lacrosse center, which bears the name of another Distinguished Graduate, Bill Foley '67, as well as two of his classmates, Raymond Enners and Michael Nathe. Like Fred Malek, Bill Foley has generously

supported this institution and our leader development programs over the years; but, notably, he uses these opportunities to honor others for their service to the nation, as he did with Enners and Nathe, both of whom were killed in action in Vietnam while working to save others.

Grads like Davis, Malek, Foley, Enners, and Nathe epitomize the ideal of selfless service and exemplify our values of Duty, Honor, Country, but they are representative of the tens of thousands of men and women of the Long Gray Line who likewise have served selflessly with honor and distinction at some of our nation's most pivotal moments, and who carry our values into every endeavor.

I also want to thank you for the overwhelming responses from the Rapone-Heffington picture and letter. This is my fifth year as Superintendent, and there has never been a shortage of advice from graduates, but this set the record. Whether in support or in criticism, it shows me how much you care about your alma mater and its mission, and I value your support, criticism, and feedback. We have completed our investigation of Rapone and have forwarded our findings to the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Army. The Department of the Army is in the process of determining what details can be released, and as soon as I get the green light, I will provide you with as much information as I possibly can. More to follow on that.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks and congratulations to Lieutenant General Larry Jordan '68 (Retired) as he completes his term as Chairman of the West Point Association of Graduates Board of Directors. Under Larry's incredible leadership, WPAOG has continued to be a vital partner in our mission to develop leaders of character, and I know that will continue under the leadership of Lieutenant General Joe DeFrancisco '65 (Retired). I speak for the entire USMA staff and faculty when I say thank you to Larry for his immeasurable support of West Point and the Long Gray Line. His dedication and lifetime of service have inspired us all, and we wish him and his family all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

As we approach Founders Day, I look forward to celebrating with many of you and updating you all on all the great things taking place at your alma mater.

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





# West Point

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES



# Thank You!

## MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE



Throughout the year, you may be asked to contribute to the following funds, each of which supports the Academy and WPAOG in important ways. *Please accept our deepest gratitude for your support.*

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annual gifts of \$1,000 or more*

### ***Long Gray Line***

unrestricted funds for WPAOG alumni programs  
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annual gifts of \$1,000 or more*

### ***Army A Club***

unrestricted funds for intercollegiate athletics

### ***Class Gift Funds***

restricted by classes in reunion campaigns

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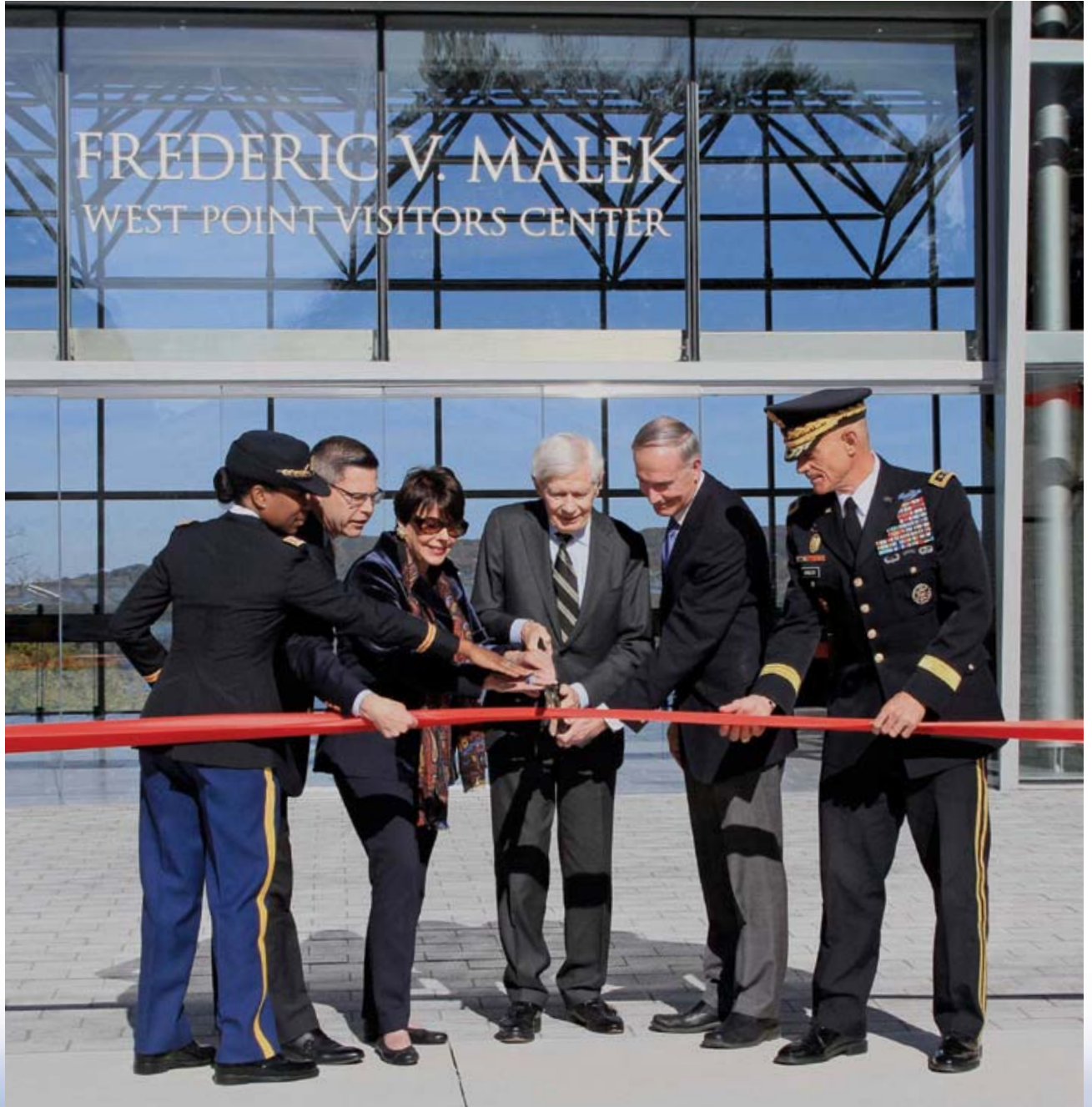


**We look forward to seeing our Superintendent's Circle, Chairman's Circle, and 1802 Circle members at Donor Tribute Day on May 3, 2018.**



***The 1802 Circle*** recognizes our consecutive donors whose loyalty and generosity are crucial to our success. The Circle welcomes all donors who have given \$2,500 or more annually to any fund over at least four consecutive years.

For more information, visit us online or call: [WestPointAOG.org/annualfunds](http://WestPointAOG.org/annualfunds) 845.446.1650



# USMA'S NEW FRONT DOOR:

## The Frederic V. Malek West Point Visitors Center

By Keith J. Hamel, WPAOG staff





On December 4, 2017, the new Frederic V. Malek West Point Visitors Center opened its doors to the public. After more than seven years of planning, fundraising and construction, this 31,000-square-foot, \$25 million, fully donor-funded building has created a new “front door” worthy of the United States Military Academy. The Center’s galleries tell the inspiring history of West Point, detail the service to the nation of its graduates, and provide an interactive experience of Cadet life.

West Point is home to many spectacular buildings. From the stately Taylor Hall (featuring an 180-foot tower comprised of solid masonry, the tallest of its kind in the world) and the majestic Cadet Chapel (with its Guastavino vaulted ceiling and approximately 250 stained glass windows) to the massive Eisenhower Hall (which can fit the entire Corps of Cadets in its 4,500-seat auditorium) and the new Davis Barracks (built with innovative design features such as its five-story natural light well), the architecture at West Point is nothing short of remarkable. Distinctive architecture is one of the factors that helped West Point earn National Historic Landmark certification in 1960. The other factors are its past history, and its present and future national significance. To learn about these, one need only visit West Point’s newest architectural gem, the Frederic V. Malek West Point Visitors Center.

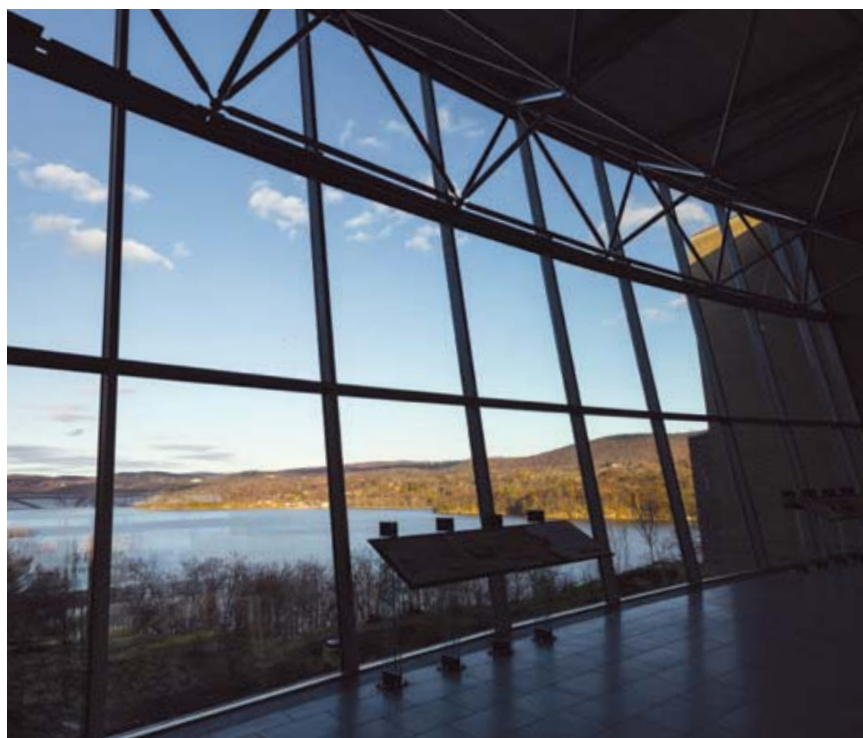
Last October, on a beautiful, blue-sky autumn day, West Point cut the ribbon on this new 31,000-square-foot building, located within the footprint of the old Visitors Center and adjacent to the West Point Museum on South Post. Nearly a decade in the making, and the top priority of *For Us All: The Campaign for West Point* (2009-15), the Malek West Point Visitors Center is the product of several visionaries, including past and present Academy leadership, architects and designers, and several individual and class donors, notably its naming source, Fred Malek ’59, philanthropist, corporate leader and 2014 Distinguished Graduate. Addressing these various parties at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Todd Browne ’85, West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG) President and CEO, said, “It took us all to come together to ensure that a building of this size and prominence came to fruition.”

The idea for a new Visitors Center goes back to when Lieutenant General (Retired) Franklin “Buster” Hagenbeck ’71 was Superintendent, as he first identified it as a need within the *For Us All* Campaign. When Lieutenant General (Retired) David Huntoon Jr. ’73 became Superintendent in July 2010, he expanded the scope and vision of the project believing that the current Visitors Center, with its 1970s look, had become dated and did not adequately communicate the Academy’s connection to history, nor the role it plays for the Army and the nation.

“In an era of declining Department of Defense resources and potential reductions in our military, we will be asked to restate in the most eloquent and cogent manner the national value of West Point,” Huntoon said at that time. “A new Visitors Center can serve

as a principal means to respond to the question ‘Why West Point?’ by telling our story in a compelling way.” For this reason, Huntoon made funding a new Visitors Center a top Superintendent’s priority, and his successor, Lieutenant General Robert Caslen Jr. ’75, West Point’s current Superintendent, continued this initiative, consistently stressing the need for a new Visitors Center.

In addition to Malek’s lead gift, 3,798 individuals and eight West Point classes (1972, 1973, 1974, 1978, 1984, 1988, 1990, and 2004) donated funds to the new Visitors Center, as did the estate of Margaret Ann Zipp (in memory of her husband, Charles A. Zipp ’53) and the Boeing Company. When it broke ground on September 9, 2016, the Malek West Point Visitors Center had become the largest gift-funded construction project since the completion of the Kimsey Athletic Center in 2003, according to Browne.



**Previous page, top:** Fred Malek ’59 and his wife Marlene cut the ribbon to dedicate the new Frederic V. Malek West Point Visitors Center, assisted by (L to R) USMA PAO Officer LTC Chevelle Thomas, WPAOG President and CEO Todd Browne ’85, former USMA Superintendent LTG(R) David Huntoon ’73 and current USMA Superintendent LTG Robert L. Caslen Jr. ’75. **Previous page, bottom:** The exterior arches and glass atrium of the new Malek West Point Visitors Center blend tradition and innovation, echoing the gothic style of West Point buildings and the wooden doors of Washington Hall, while using large contemporary glass walls to take full advantage of the Hudson River view. **Above:** From the the Class of 1974 Atrium entrance in the new Malek West Point Visitors Center, guests are treated to majestic Hudson River views overlooking the famous “S” curve in the river. The strategic advantage of this point on the river is vital to the history of West Point as a fortified site since the days of the American Revolution.



The façade of the new Malek West Point Visitors Center (left) was designed to match the buff color of the brick façade of the West Point Museum (right). The two buildings, along with the Class of 1972 Plaza and Class of 1978 Courtyard which unite them, are meant to evoke the sense of enclosure and geometric grass spaces found elsewhere at West Point.

The site which West Point finally selected was not the only one under consideration for the new Visitors Center. The Academy had also considered Buffalo Soldiers Field, Cullum Hall, the West Point Club and Trophy Point as potential sites. There was even an early plan to use the existing Visitors Center's space and simply add new exhibits to it, but Huntoon was convinced that a bigger statement needed to be made to the public reflecting the value of West Point. In the end, West Point chose for the building to remain at the existing Visitors Center site for logistic and practical reasons: the site is the most accessible to the public and it's a natural "gateway" to West Point, coming first in terms of entry sequence to the Post via Thayer Gate. The final design was able to keep some of the original building, which dates back to 1968 (when it was the library for Ladycliff College), but transformed its look with a new facade.

West Point also demolished a 1980s addition to the existing Visitors Center that was used as a gift shop. "By clearing the old gift shop, which had jutted out and blocked the view of the West Point Museum, we were able to re-establish the prominence of the museum's tower, an expression of the gothic tradition, and

introduce complementary architecture to the new Malek West Point Visitors Center," says Mark Thompson, Principal, Director of Architecture for Mark B. Thompson Associates LLC, the firm that designed the Malek West Point Visitors Center. For example, the 149,000 bricks used in the Malek West Point Visitors Center's construction match the color of those used to construct the West Point Museum. Speaking about this ensemble, Thompson says, "We have created a space here that begins to define the sense of enclosure that the rest of West Point has."

Reflecting its mission, which is to highlight the history and traditions of West Point while also showing the Academy as an institution that thrives on innovation and adaptation, the Malek West Point Visitors Center features architectural elements that are both traditional and modern. In a nod to West Point's military gothic tradition, the building's exterior and interior design features a series of arches that mimic the arches seen around West Point's Central Area. Class Crests from the Classes of 1984, 1990 and 2004 adorn three of these arches in recognition of their support of the Center. The entry's two flanking "gatehouses" have





monumental wooden doors that echo those of Washington Hall facing the Plain. Speaking of the Plain, according to Claire Donato, Senior Associate and Director of Restoration with Mark B. Thompson Associates LLC, the new Class of 1972 Plaza, which connects the Visitors Center to the West Point Museum, is meant to invoke the imagery of the Plain, with several geometric pathways cutting through large areas of open green turf.

In striking contrast to these traditional design elements, the central Malek West Point Visitors Center's entry pavilion boldly incorporates modern design and materials, including a very light, very strong structural space frame that supports 1,300 feet of glass, which is the entire back wall of the entry area. "The design idea for the Malek West Point Visitors Center was to reflect the traditions of West Point and the Army, but also to showcase the innovation and modern side of the military and what it is transitioning into," Donato says.

"This gateway to America's Academy will play an important part of telling West Point's story," said Caslen during the ribbon-cutting for the Malek West Point Visitors Center. The story begins as soon as visitors see the Hudson River through the glass of the Class of

1974 Atrium, since the strategically defensible "S" curve at this point in the river is the fundamental reason for West Point's existence in the first place. The atrium's floor also features a nine-foot carved granite medallion containing the West Point crest and the words "Duty, Honor, Country," immediately emphasizing the values that are the base of West Point's mission, which is to create leaders of character. Located to the left of the atrium (from the entrance) is the Long Gray Line exhibit in recognition of Lieutenant Colonel Charles W. Zipp '53 (Retired) by a gift from the estate of Margaret Ann Zipp. Battle streamers from a variety of Army conflicts hang on the wall and a display of cadet hats hangs suspended in mid-air, evoking the traditional "hat toss" at graduation. Underneath *Howitzer* photos of some of West Point's most prominent graduates, a four-minute video, played at times simultaneously and across three side-by-side screens, portrays the Academy's core mission and its military, physical, and academic programs, inspirationally previewing the concepts explored in more detail within the Malek West Point Visitors Center's large exhibition hall. But even if visitors do not have time to tour the galleries, the Long Gray Line exhibit provides a short, comprehensive overview of the West Point experience.



Before entering the exhibition hall proper, visitors are invited into the 50-seat Class of 1973 Theater, which features a proscenium that resembles the Academy's carved granite military gothic architecture. During the eight-minute film, wide-screen, high-definition projections on multiple surfaces showcase West Point's historical contributions and the continuing role its graduates play in service to the nation.

Upon exiting the theater, visitors enter a chronological "flow" design that leads them through dozens of spectacular galleries, 75 percent of which focus on today's cadet experience. "Visitors could easily spend three hours or more taking in the full experience found in the galleries," says Steve Feldman, Principal, Steve Feldman Design LLC, who designed the exhibits of the Malek West Point Visitors Center. "The West Point story is amazingly complex, and I easily could have filled a building triple in size of this one with additional exhibits." After an overview of the West Point Leader Development System and the Honor Code, visitors

follow a path of the cadet 47-month experience, complete with signs counting down the number of days until graduation.

Some of the highlights of the cadet galleries include a "Rising Responsibility" challenge, in which visitors pull a rope that lifts a weight with increasing tension, interactively demonstrating through lights the increased responsibility of each cadet year; the "Plebe" challenge, where visitors walk through a darkened space as objects light up and sounds echo to represent the various developmental challenges for plebe year (time management, conquering fear, learning to follow, etc.); an interactive "Marksmanship" activity, where visitors shoot M4 rifles connected to targets with electronic sensors that provide real-time feedback on accuracy, speed, and physical responses as the challenges become greater and stressors increase; and an immersive "Cadet Barracks Room" that goes beyond previous displays of this type in past Visitors Centers by allowing visitors to enter the space and see what is in the drawers and touch the properly made cadet bunk.

The four pillars of the West Point Leader Development System (Academic, Military, Physical and Character) begin the "Developing Leaders of Character: Leadership Excellence" exhibit.



Photo: Jim Smith Photography





An interactive display highlighting innovation and academic achievements features USMA cadet capstone projects such as the Concrete Canoe and ASCE Steel Bridge, along with projects that have won the Scott R. Clark Innovation Award and the Walter W. Hollis Award.



A life-size casting of a cadet negotiating one of the obstacles of summer training hangs suspended in the gallery highlighting the development of "Warrior Ethos" and "Every Cadet an Athlete" exhibits.



In the "Commissioning" gallery, guests may lift exhibit squares to learn about the various U.S. Army Branches into which firstie cadets commission on Branch Night.

## Malek West Point Visitors Center Principal Donors



*Frederic V. Malek '59*  
Lead Donor



*Class of 1974*  
Atrium  
\$4,074,074.74



*The Estate of Margaret Ann Zipp  
in memory of her husband  
Charles W. Zipp '53*  
Long Gray Line Exhibit  
\$3,000,000



*Class of 1972*  
Plaza  
\$2,000,000



*Class of 1973*  
Theater  
\$2,000,000

Interspersed with the experiential exhibits are traditional textual and pictorial galleries giving more detail and context to various aspects of cadet life: summer training, physical education instruction, the academic program, and more. Finally, interactive “graduate guides,” featuring short videos of recent graduates (5-10 years out) reflecting on their cadet experience, appear throughout the galleries. In short, the cadet galleries tell a story similar to that of the Malek West Point Visitors Center’s eponymous benefactor, who said in his remarks during the building’s ribbon-cutting that his character was molded by these cadet experiences, “as well as by the lessons of integrity and honor and discipline and persistence instilled here.” It is a story relatable to all West Point graduates.

The Malek West Point Visitors Center also features galleries dedicated to the Army and to the West Point graduates who have made an impact serving the nation. The Class of 1988 Legacy of Leadership Exhibit, for example, highlights some of the pathfinders, innovators, corporate leaders, and warriors who have

graduated from West Point and charted a record of distinguished service in the military, government, and private sector. In the “Commissioning” gallery, visitors are encouraged to lift squares to learn about the 17 branches of the U.S. Army. As they pass through the archway into the “Into the U.S. Army” gallery, visitors encounter a large world map, and they can press buttons to light up areas in which West Point graduates are currently deployed.

Visitors exit the exhibit hall by passing through the “Pride in West Point” gallery, a darkened pathway framed by converging walls made of LED-embedded glass and mirrored chambers. The gallery is populated by six full-body cadet sculptures “marching” toward the words “Duty, Honor, Country.” The “cadets” were lifecast using models who had molds made from their bodies and from their faces: a process that created life-like results with remarkable detail. The cadet sculptures also wear actual uniforms that have been specially treated to remain solid. As visitors move among the “cadets,” an audio program featuring Douglas MacArthur’s 1962

Even guests who are not able to tour the interior galleries of the Malek West Point Visitors Center can get a short, comprehensive overview of West Point through “The Long Gray Line” exhibit, complete with hats suspended in mid-air to evoke the famous “hat toss” as the class is dismissed at West Point graduation. This colorful and historic exhibit was funded by the Estate of Margaret Ann Zipp in memory of her husband Charles W. Zipp ‘53.







Guests can test their skills at the "Marksmanship Under Pressure" firing range interactive exhibit, demonstrating an important component of cadet military training.



An immersive "Cadet Barracks Room" (modelled after rooms in Davis Barracks) allows guests to see a cadet's living space, including bed, closet, locker, desk and more.



With panoramic screens showing scenes of cadet experiences at West Point, the Shared Experience Theater, supported by The Boeing Company, treats visitors to a multi-sensory look at Academy life.

## Malek West Point Visitors Center Principal Donors



*Class of 1978*  
Courtyard  
\$1,000,000



*Class of 1984*  
Class Crest on Large Outside Arch  
\$1,000,000



*The Boeing Company*  
Shared Experience Theater  
\$500,000



*Class of 1990*  
Class Crest on Small Outside Arch  
\$500,000



*Class of 2004*  
Class Crest on Small Outside Arch  
\$500,000



*Class of 1988*  
Legacy of Leaders Exhibit  
Leadership Excellence Exhibit  
\$375,000

Thayer Award speech as well as other famous speaker addresses at graduations and other ceremonies plays, accentuating the meaning of West Point's famous motto. Emotionally stirring, the "Pride in West Point" gallery captures the essence of West Point and provides an inspirational culmination to the story told via the galleries and exhibits of the Malek West Point Visitors Center.

But, in the end, does the new Visitors Center convincingly answer, "Why West Point?" "Absolutely," said Huntoon, minutes after taking his first tour. "This place, which begins with the bend in the Hudson River right as visitors enter the atrium, tells the great story of our military Academy, and, similar to the story of West Point, every gallery is different just as every year for cadets is different, from one's time as a plebe to a graduate's beginning as an officer serving the nation." He also lauded the multisensory, experiential and immersive storytelling experience of the Malek West Point Visitors Center, which uses state-of-the-art techniques to meet the 21st century expectations of visitors from not only the United

States, but also from around the world (foreign visitors are able to download a multi-lingual phone app—Spanish, French, German, Korean, and Mandarin Chinese—that coordinates with numeric codes on exhibit panels, allowing them to fully experience all the Malek West Point Visitors Center has to offer). "It has all been done to a very high standard," Huntoon said. In other words, the Malek West Point Visitors Center is worthy of telling the West Point story as a national treasure because it itself, in both architecture and design, is a jewel within that treasure. ★

*A number of exciting building naming opportunities are still available in the new Malek West Point Visitors Center. These funds will also support the maintenance of the Center and exhibits. To learn more about how you could support this landmark project, please contact Megan Dill, Assistant Director, Class Giving at [Megan.Dill@wpaog.org](mailto:Megan.Dill@wpaog.org) or 845.446.1551.*

The 50-seat Class of 1973 Theater shows an eight-minute film showcasing West Point's history and the contributions of its graduates in service to the nation. In addition to the spectacular film, the theater features a retracting proscenium arch and curtains that echo the carved gray granite of West Point buildings. The film scene shown here details the academic reforms instituted by Sylvanus Thayer, Class of 1808, and 5th USMA Superintendent, known as the "Father of the Academy."



Photo: Jim Smith Photography





Walking through the “Into the U.S. Army” exhibit, a special ‘lenticular’ exhibit, where the images appear to change, allows guest to witness the transformation of five individuals from civilian to cadet to Army Officer.



**Above and top right:** Guests exit the Malek West Point Visitors Center through the dramatic “Pride in West Point” gallery, walking among six full-body lifecast sculptures of West Point cadets wearing actual uniforms. The cadets walk toward a bright future, gazing ahead at the words “Duty, Honor, Country” on the far wall. Excerpts from famous speeches given at West Point, including graduation addresses and Thayer Award speeches play overhead, including the famous 1962 “Duty, Honor, Country” Thayer address of GEN Douglas MacArthur, Class of 1903. Other speakers at West Point heard in this gallery include Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Ronald Reagan and John F. Kennedy and Thayer Award recipients Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and GEN Colin Powell.





# First Captain Simone Askew '18:

## REPRESENTING THE CORPS

By Keith J. Hamel, WPAOG staff

According to the current *Register of Graduates* database, there have been 101 cadets since 1919 to hold the rank of “First Captain and Brigade Commander of the Corps of Cadets.” Prior to that, according to an article written by Robert J. Nicholson ’61 in the winter 1970 issue of *ASSEMBLY* magazine, another 111 have held various equivalent but different titles, from “Adjutant of the Corps” to “Cadet Major,” signaling their position as the top-ranking cadet of the Corps. Some historic figures populate these lists—John J. Pershing, Class of 1886; Douglas MacArthur, Class of 1903; William C. Westmoreland ’36; Peter M. Dawkins ’59; Vincent K. Brooks ’80; Kristin M. Baker ’90 and others—but, if news coverage is any indicator, no one has had a more historic appointment than the current First Captain, Cadet Simone Askew ’18.

Her story has been covered in all the major news outlets, from *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* to CNN and NBC News, with each one using a headline related to Askew “breaking a racial and gender barrier.” “The top question I am asked by the media is ‘How does it feel to be the first African-American female First Captain?’” Askew says, and she has done dozens of media interviews since her appointment as First Captain. But rather than grow weary of answering the same question over and over, Askew uses it as a platform to share the things that matter most to her and present to the public a new outlook on how West Point develops future officers for a changing Army.

In a nutshell, for Askew, this boils down to “Duty, Honor, Country.” “These are the ideals that encompass a lot of our missions and

**Above:** CDT Simone Askew '18, First Captain of the U.S. Corps of Cadets, marches the Brigade Staff into position prior to the 2017 Thayer Award review.



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visions,” she says. “You can nest everything West Point is about in ‘Duty, Honor, Country,’ and these values are very easily communicated.” In addition, Colonel Brian Reed '89, the Brigade Tactical Officer, has clearly acknowledged to Askew that she was chosen to be First Captain for her leadership skills, not her race and gender. “It has been very reassuring that I earned this position on merit,” she says, “and this has established a great sense of security in my own mind when hearing competing narratives about how I got here.” This was further confirmed when Askew was recently selected as a 2018 Rhodes Scholar.

As First Captain, Askew is responsible to the Commandant of Cadets for the discipline, the internal administration, the supply, training, morale, and general efficiency of the 4,000-plus Corps of Cadets. In her own words, the role is “to build a bridge between what Academy leadership wants and needs and what the cadets want and need, making sure all cadets are on the same page as to what the leadership expects, but also professionally and respectfully communicating the sustains and improvements cadets think need to be made.” While her administrative duties take up a great deal of her time, the First Captain is also expected to be the ceremonial face of West Point. Askew estimates that she has made an average of three ceremonial appearances per week since becoming First Captain. “I value getting to meet all the dignitaries who come to visit West Point,” she says. “The ceremonial role the First Captain fulfills is certainly fun.” As First Captain, Askew has dined with President Bush, thrown out the first pitch for game 2 of the NLDS between the Chicago Cubs and the Washington Nationals, and helped cut the ribbon to open the new Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Barracks.

**“From plebe up to firstie, we are all representations of West Point wherever we go, and everyone has something to offer to the diverse West Point team.”**

—CDT Simone Askew '18, First Captain

While Askew admits that the social experience and interpersonal development she gains from these ceremonial appearances is a rare opportunity for a cadet, she believes that interacting with the Corps is just as important and as valuable. “Whether it is speaking to the president of Poland or members of a cadet company, they are both people you have to appeal to, just with a different message,” Askew says. Furthermore, serving as the public face of West Point and the Corps has given her an increased sense of value for every single level of leadership at the Academy. “From plebe up to firstie, we are all representations of West Point wherever we go, and everyone has something to offer to the diverse West Point team,” she says. When she speaks to subordinates in the Corps, she stresses to them the importance of developing relationships. “Interpersonal skills—the ability to talk, appeal to, interact, and connect with other people—are the most important capabilities to develop for an Army officer,” Askew says.

Just as she dispenses advice to those below her rank, Askew has received advice from previous First Captains and other members of the Long Gray Line regarding her position as the face of West Point and the Corps. “The most important lesson they have taught me is that the First Captain can never flinch,” she says, “which is as scary as much as it is truth.” Askew realizes that, because she is in the public’s eye, if she steps out of line, a perception will emerge that there is a larger problem with the Corps itself. She admits that this puts some pressure on her, but during her three years at West Point she has developed a capability to follow and excel in the mandatory requirements of the Academy, as have, she argues, a substantial number within the Corps of Cadets.

While performing her public face role, Askew says that she spends a good deal of time dispelling misconceptions that the public has about West Point. “It’s really fun to hear what people think we do at West Point, probably based on what they’ve seen in the media or the movies, and then explain to them that we are actually sort of normal,” she says. While at West Point, her education has been enhanced through Margin of Excellence programs such as the Excel Scholars Program. Perhaps this is why Askew excels at her role as the “First Face” of West Point and the Corps of Cadets, she is a “real” cadet, as concerned with celebrating her 21st birthday with her friends and responding to the many messages of congratulations she has received for her appointment as she is with maintaining her GPA and what her branch assignment will be upon graduation (Engineering). As Askew herself says, “The media might be infatuated with just my race and gender, but to the USMA leadership and the Corps, I am just ‘Simone.’” ★

CDT Askew runs with USMA leadership, leading nearly 2,500 members of the West Point community during the 2017 Tunnel to Towers 5K Run in New York City.







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**Above and Right:** The Cadet Color Guard presents the colors at the 2017 Thayer Award review.

## *During a review at West Point, cadets march out onto the Plain in waves of companies.*

Companies line up to form battalions, and battalions stand side by side to form regiments. Smack in the middle of the sea of dress uniforms come five high-stepping cadets at close interval, who proudly bear the flourish of the colors. The two on the ends carry rifles at right shoulder arms, while the three in the middle carry flags in the socket of a sling: the U.S. flag, the U.S. Army flag, and the U.S. Corps of Cadets flag. This is the Cadet Color Guard, and since 1812, when regulations for parades and drill at the Academy were established, this unit has represented West Point and proudly carried these flags.

But the Cadet Color Guard is more than just three cadets carrying flags flanked by two more carrying rifles. It is actually comprised of more than two dozen cadets, and many of its duties do not involve marching in formation. Everything the Color Guard does, however, represents the United States Military Academy to the public, and this fact is not lost on its members. “I know at the end of the day people are going to be watching the Color Guard and forming opinions of West Point based on us,” says Cadet Joseph Wilkerson ’18, Brigade Color Captain. “Knowing that we represent the Corps, the Academy, and the Army with every duty we perform is very important to us.”

To become a member of the Color Guard, cadets must meet certain standards: they need to maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average, they must be proficient in the remaining Academy pillars (military, physical, character), and they should ideally be 5 feet, 10 inches or taller, which Wilkerson admits doesn’t always work out. Cadets express an interest for serving on the Color Guard to their company tactical officer, who will vet the candidates and send up the names of qualified candidates to the Brigade Tactical Department (BTD). The BTD has the ultimate say on which cadets make up the Color Guard.

In addition to the cadet commander, the Color Guard is comprised of an executive officer, two color lieutenants, two sets of five color sergeants (the ones who actually carry the flags and rifles), and ten color corporals (five per double regiment), who are responsible for the general officer flags seen at reviews. Most positions for the Color Guard are yearlong, and once they are selected for the team, cadets handle most of the responsibilities on their own. “We know that we need to look our best because of the attention placed on the flag for photos and such, and we are trusted by Academy leadership to get done what we need to get done,” says Cadet Michael Willis ’18, Brigade Color Executive Officer. While the team regularly drills with the Corps, it occasionally does additional drill on its own to prepare for a special ceremony. The Color Guard must master different turns, turn or halt using high steps, and perform a reverse maneuver that no company would ever attempt. “Luckily, because we are such a small unit, we are able to learn our maneuvers rather quickly,” Wilkerson says.

# FRONT & CENTER:

By Keith J. Hamel, WPAOG staff





# The USCC Color Guard



The Color Guard also performs its own inspections. Willis says the color lieutenants particularly focus on the color sergeants' uniforms, making sure that they are ironed, that they contain all the right pieces, and that the breast plate is properly clipped into the second button. "We know that whenever there is a class reunion the Old Grads will be watching, so we have to be on our game, making sure that our hand positions are correct and such," says Willis.

They also regularly inspect the flags themselves. The Color Guard maintains four sets of parade flags (the national flag, the Army flag with its 174 battle steamers, the USCC flag, and the seldom-displayed USMA bicentennial flag), three sets of general officer flags (red flags featuring one to four white stars, depending on the rank of the general officer present), and numerous flags representing foreign countries for occasions when international dignitaries visit the Academy. Before and after each ceremony, the Color Guard inspects the flags to be sure they are not torn, frayed, or dirty. Flags are sent out for cleaning regularly and are occasionally replaced, as dictated by budget. When the flags are not in use, the Color Guard keeps them folded in lockers or neatly hanging on racks in the USMA Color Room, which is located in the basement of the renovated MacArthur Barracks.

According to Wilkerson, requests for the Color Guard's services come in regularly throughout the semester, submitted through the

USCC S-3. "We typically fulfill one request per weekend," says Willis, "and a number of requests are turned down." The Color Guard sets up and strikes podium flags for any general giving a talk or brief at West Point, it tries to present the colors at as many Army-Navy Star Series matches as possible, and, of course, it marches and displays the colors at every parade and review. But the Color Guard is also active outside the gates of West Point. The Color Guard has presented the colors at a number of public events up and down the Hudson River, from the wreath-laying ceremony at President Franklin D. Roosevelt's tomb in Hyde Park, New York to the national anthem at the New York Yankees home opener in the Bronx. It even traveled to San Antonio, Texas in 2016 to present the colors at the Army West Point-Notre Dame football game. "I've felt an overwhelming sense of pride carrying the national colors at these types of public events," says Wilkerson, who was a color sergeant last year. "Before each public appearance, our leadership tells us, 'You represent the entire free world when you carry these flags,' which is a heavy weight of responsibility, but something the Color Guard is proud to do."

Many of the former members of the Color Guard have gone on to lead distinguished military careers and make significant contributions to U.S. history, including Dwight D. Eisenhower, Class of 1915, who became the 34th President of the United States. ★

Color corporals of the Cadet Color Guard bear general officer flags and flank a member of the color guard of the visiting 7th Infantry Division, who bears the flag for MG Thomas James at the review before the November 2016 football game against Morgan State.



Photo: John Pellino/DPTMSVI





On November 21, 2016, three days before Thanksgiving, Cadet Jacob Marchillo '18 was the featured guest on "Your Talk Show" with host Tim Bremel, a regular program found on 1230 AM News Radio WCLO out of Janesville, Wisconsin. For approximately 30 minutes, Marchillo answered Bremel's questions covering a wide variety of topics about the cadet experience at West Point: How did you get interested in West Point? What was it like when you first arrived? What is your typical day like? What will graduation be like? What are you hoping to do as an officer in the Army? Marchillo was one of roughly 200 cadets who returned to their hometown area during the Thanksgiving break and gave between five and ten different public presentations about West Point to school assemblies, church groups, media outlets, town hall meetings, and local chambers of commerce; another 225 or so cadets repeated this mission during the week of spring break.

They are all part of the United States Military Academy's Cadet Public Relation Council (CPRC), a Margin of Excellence cadet club serving under the direction of the West Point Admissions Office. The CPRC can trace its lineage to the Cadet Press Representatives Organization, which was started in 1947 and was later known as the Cadet Public

**Above:** CDT Jacob Marchillo '18, Brigade CPRC President, discusses life as a cadet at West Point on the air with Christine Bellport from WMTV's (NBC 15, Madison, WI) "Morning Show" on November 22, 2016. **Below:** A member of the Cadet Ambassador Program conducts a daily briefing in the Class of 1956 Admissions Room for candidates and their parents.



CPRC

By Keith J. Hamel, WPAOG staff

Today's Cadets Personally Influencing Tomorrow's Candidates



Information Detail. Early on, the duties of the nearly 80 cadets on this detail were pretty standard: maintain personal data sheets on cadets in their respective companies, prepare hometown releases periodically for editing and transmittal through the West Point Public Information

Office (sent to approximately 1,500 newspapers throughout the year), and prepare special stories as requested. Today's CPRC, however, has developed into a multifaceted and complex outreach organization, involving hundreds of cadets and several Admissions regional commanders.

In addition to the hometown visits during the weeks of Thanksgiving and spring break, CPRC cadets represent West Point at the some 250 Academy Days that take place around the country in a given year. Lasting three days (leave on Friday, return on

Sunday), Academy Days are by-invitation events hosted by members of Congress. The objective of these events is to provide information to prospective candidates about the West Point nomination and admissions process, and to give students an opportunity to meet with cadets and Academy representatives.

While the regional commanders or the congressional point of contact might give them certain points to cover, Cadet Ben Laird '18, Brigade CPRC Vice President, says that for both the hometown visits and the Academy Days, the cadets' mission is generally to give "a true picture of the Academy." "We don't just rave about the Academy," Laird says. "We are there to present cadet life based on our individual experiences and answer questions anyone has about those experiences." Any Third Class to First Class cadet who has attended the required CPRC briefing and who has approval from their tactical officer and the Dean's Office is eligible to go on a hometown or Academy Days visit. After their visit, the cadet fills out an after-action review to let the regional commander for that hometown or congressional district know how their presentation was received, the size of the audience they addressed, and guided points as to how the visit went. Addressing the success of the

**"We are there to present cadet life based on our individual experiences and answer questions anyone has about those experiences."**

—CDT Ben Laird '18, Brigade CPRC Vice President

**Left:** From atop Jefferson Library's 6th floor balcony, CDT Ben Laird '18 points out West Point landmarks to a pair of candidates. **Below:** CDT Laird takes prospective cadet candidates and their accompanying families on a tour of West Point in the Fall of 2017.





hometown and Academy Days visits, Pat Rose, West Point Admissions Public Relations Specialist, says, "When we get candidates who come to West Point for a daily or overnight visit, quite often they remark how they met so-and-so cadet who came to such-and-such place and spoke to them and that their talk was very informative."

These visits, or tours, are the third aspect of CPRC, in addition to hometown community presentations and Academy Days. In fact, as Laird points out, "What CPRC is really about is the cadet infrastructure behind the parent and candidate briefs and tours." That infrastructure is formally known as the Cadet Ambassador Program (CAP). The staff of 14 permanent CPRC cadets trains and certifies Third to First Class cadets to conduct these daily briefs and tours for prospective cadets and their families. Marchillo estimates that 300 cadets across the Corps are CAP certified. "The major factor influencing a candidate's decision to apply to West Point is meeting and interacting with CAP cadets," he reports. Should they be accepted to attend USMA, candidates are encouraged to return for another visit, this time a one-on-one visit with a plebe. "We are the pioneers of the pair-with-plebe daily tour and overnight visit," says Laird. CPRC uses plebes because Fourth Class cadets just went through the admissions process themselves less than a year prior, and their schedule among the Corps is the most relatable for candidates. Neither the U.S. Naval Academy nor the U.S. Air Force Academy offers one-on-one visits for its candidates.

Marchillo and Laird both know first-hand the impact of CPRC's various initiatives. "During my senior year of high school, I met

Logan Matheny '16, who came to my district for CPRC over his Thanksgiving break," Marchillo says. "I found him to be an exceptional cadet, and he convinced me that I could be him one day." "I had a different experience but equally positive," says Laird. "The cadet I stayed with during my overnight visit was actually questioning if he was going to stay at the Academy after his plebe year, but he answered all my questions honestly, and I got to see the real human side of cadets and the non-'hooah' side of West Point, which was really informative." Painting an accurate picture of the cadet experience is something the Admissions regional commanders stress to all CPRC cadets, and, through their unique individual journey along the greater West Point path, they become role models for future members of the Corps. "My goal in CPRC and the reason why I have been involved with it since plebe year is to be 'Logan' for some future cadet," says Marchillo, who is now Brigade CPRC President. "Once candidates see that cadets are real people who struggle in some areas and excel in others, they feel more confident about being able to make it at West Point themselves."

Whether it is a hometown engagement, an Academy Day, or an overnight or daily visit to West Point, CPRC is really about what Damian Shepard, Marketing Specialist for Admissions, calls "touchpoints." "Our research shows that candidates who have these types of personal engagements with our cadets have a higher propensity—up to 80 percent of our competitive applicants—of making West Point their first choice," Shepard says. "There is no better ambassador for our brand than the CPRC cadets themselves." ★



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*Against the backdrop of fall foliage on a mid-October afternoon, three UH-72 Lakota helicopters touch down on the Plain at the United States Military Academy.*

A team of dark-suited officials are positioned to receive the distinguished visitor on board. The subject exits the bird and is immediately moved to West Point's historic Taylor Hall, where more officers wait in advance of the special guest. The room is set. The flags are in place. Cadets stand at the ready. The subject enters and is greeted by the remaining members of USMA's top administration. The subject is then directed to a large, leather-bound book bearing signatures from the numerous dignitaries who came before him, including his own father. The subject picks up a black fountain pen and signs the name *George W. Bush*. The 2017 West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG) Thayer Award Recipient has arrived, according to protocol.

"Situational awareness is the main component of what the Protocol Office does on an event-to-event basis," says Jeff Reynolds, Chief of USMA Protocol. Reynolds heads up the Protocol Office at West

Point, a 10-person team whose primary role is to provide support and guidance for every aspect of both protocol and etiquette for the Academy, its Superintendent, and for all subordinate directorates. They are seasoned specialists who manage events and visits to West Point from numerous dignitaries, including heads of state, high level government officials, and military leadership. The three recent West Point Graduates currently serving on the protocol team are either medical holdovers recovering from injury or are waiting for a Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) start date. According to Reynolds, more than 600 visits per year are processed and executed by the Protocol Office, from members of Congress visiting with cadets in the Mess Hall to dignitaries attending Army West Point football games.

To effectively execute such a large number of events, each week a calendar review meeting with USMA Superintendent Lieutenant General Robert L. Caslen Jr. '75 and various cooperating entities is held to determine what, when and where event activities should



By **Anthony DiNoto**, WPAOG staff

# PROTOCOL:

## The Back Office Behind USMA's Forward-Facing Events



occur. Event itineraries are shaped under the direction of the Superintendent, who receives guidance from the Department of the Army for higher-level military visits. Reynolds and his team then shape itineraries accordingly and establish an open line of communication directly to the Superintendent, who trusts that the entire Protocol team is equipped to make the right decisions and get the job done. “Protocol’s main concern is the Superintendent and what his plans and expectations are—he’s a great boss and he knows exactly what we can and can’t do,” Reynolds explains. Once the itineraries are approved, management logistics and required personnel are determined and events are delegated to different members of the Protocol team, who work together to execute all events.

At larger events with heightened security details, all hands are on deck. All the logistics of USMA Graduation, for example, are determined by the Protocol Office. Where security is staged, where parents park, where they can walk, etc. are all handled by Protocol, and positions are based upon the guest speaker, who almost always requires the highest level of security and coordination. “Many people see us at events and think we’re the Secret Service,” Reynolds says jokingly. While they may not be the Secret Service, the Protocol team certainly appears just as poised and professional. With three visits by heads of state in one week alone this past October, coordination with the Secret Service is paramount to success. They conduct monthly meetings with the Secret Service to

synchronize itineraries and make any necessary changes that arise. Taking a macro view of the event itinerary, the Secret Service focus on security concerns while the distinguished visitor’s staff pay close attention to the optics. “It is then our job to meld the two together and form a unified plan of action that reflects what’s best for West Point and General Caslen,” says Reynolds. For the 2017 Thayer Award, the Protocol team had to coordinate not only with the Secret Service, but also with President Bush’s staff, USMA staff, WPAOG staff, and the Second Aviation Detachment out of Stewart Air Force Base to arrange everything from the departure time, landing, and seat location for each person on board the helicopters, including President Bush.

Back in the Thayer Award Room, Senior Protocol Specialist Jesse De Gil waits in advance of the official party making its way to him from The Plain. De Gil, a retired Air Force veteran, is the point person who serves as Reynold’s “leap-ahead guy” who must identify potential issues ahead of time so they can be resolved before the party arrives. Fortunately, Protocol Specialist Witne King and Protocol Officer Second Lieutenant Joe Pritts ’17 are there as well, ensuring cadets are in place, the photographer is present and the Thayer Award book is open to the proper page. Everything down to the flags, water bottles and coffee carafes are positioned according to Protocol. Once he confirms the team didn’t miss a thing, De Gil gives the OK to Reynolds that they are ready to receive the Thayer Award recipient.



**Above:** (front row left to right) 2LT Kelsie Burns '17, Protocol Officer; Ms. Jillian Rodriguez, Protocol Assistant; Mr. Jeff Reynolds, Chief of Protocol; Ms. Witne King, Protocol Specialist; 2LT Joe Pritts '17, Protocol Officer. (Back row, left to right) Mr. Tim Boyd, Senior Protocol Specialist; MAJ Tyson Behnke, Deputy Chief of Protocol; Mr. Jesse De Gil, Senior Protocol Specialist; Not pictured: Ms. Cathy St. Pierre, Protocol Specialist; 2LT Joe Frullaney '16, Protocol Officer. **Previous page:** A UH-72 Lakota helicopter carrying distinguished visitors touches down on the Plain at West Point. **Inset:** George W. Bush exits the helicopter and is greeted by USMA Superintendent LTG Robert L. Caslen Jr. '75.



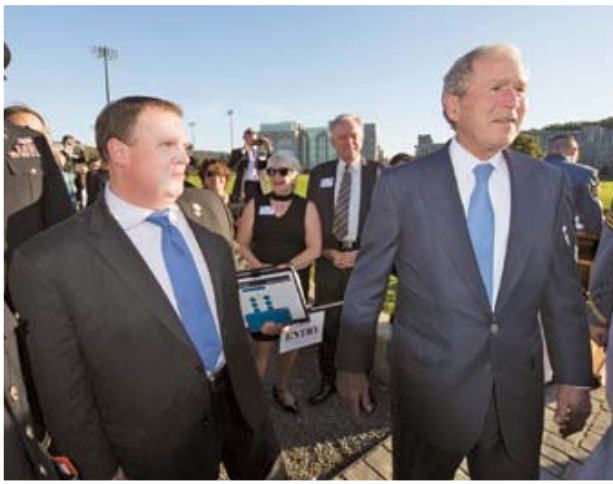
“Communication on the go is of the utmost importance, and you really can’t do this job by yourself,” says De Gil. While the different elements of the team are executing the Thayer Award program, Senior Protocol Specialist Tim Boyd is handling Under Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy, who is in attendance for the award ceremony. For Boyd, it’s just another week in the world of high-level event management at West Point—a week that saw the Italian Chief of Staff of the Army on Wednesday, President George W. Bush on Thursday, the West Point Board of Visitors on Friday and other distinguished guests on football Saturday. But Boyd forges on as he and the Secretary converge on the Plain alongside De Gil and Reynolds. At the review box, Protocol Specialist Cathy St. Pierre and Protocol Officer Second Lieutenant Joe Frullaney ’16 are placing the guests of the Superintendent and WPAOG in their proper seats. The review commences and Lieutenant General Caslen and President Bush troop the line while Reynolds and his team continue to ensure that the program proceeds according

to plan without any unnecessary distractions caused by breaches of protocol.

After President Bush and Lieutenant General Caslen review the Corps of Cadets on the parade field, the official party moves to Quarters 100, where Protocol Officer Second Lieutenant Kelsie Burns ’17 is vetting the list of approved guests for the pre-dinner event. Over at the Mess Hall, Protocol Assistant Jillian Rodriguez holds her spot at the main doors. She is ready to receive President Bush, who will make the official entrance into the Mess Hall for the culminating Thayer Award presentation. The rest of the night goes off without a hitch, and, while each member of the Protocol Office worked together to make everything look easy, Reynolds reminds himself that it simply couldn’t happen without a team. “I was once a Protocol Specialist, so I know how itineraries change all the time and how challenging it can be to have all the necessary information—but everyone on my team is really good at what they do, and I know they will make the right decisions,” he says.

At the end of every event, it is the combination of good manners and common sense which allows effective communications between West Point, heads of state, and their representatives that defines the USMA Protocol Office. And according to Reynolds, it is this unique mixture, along with attention to detail, that pays dividends. “Visitors to West Point are all dignitaries, and what they take back from Academy after they visit is so important. Our team sees these events as an opportunity to showcase USMA’s disciplined cadets, staff and facilities with respect and etiquette,” he says. Reynolds firmly maintains that these experiences could potentially lead to further support for West Point, all thanks to a well-executed event managed by the Protocol Office. ★

**Below:** Senior Protocol Specialist Tim Boyd and Chief of Protocol Jeff Reynolds coordinate from the sideline at the Army vs. Eastern Michigan University football game this past fall. **Inset:** Chief of Protocol Jeff Reynolds escorts George W. Bush across the Plain at West Point during the 2017 WPAOG Thayer Award.





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## 2017 THAYER AWARD

### *Former President George W. Bush*



On October 19, 2017, the West Point Association of Graduates presented the 2017 Thayer Award to George W. Bush, 43rd President of the United States. Presented annually since 1958, the Thayer Award recognizes a U.S. citizen whose outstanding character, accomplishments, and stature in the civilian community draw wholesome comparison to the qualities for which West Point strives, in keeping with its motto: Duty, Honor, Country. Before the award presentation, Lieutenant General Robert L. Caslen Jr., '75, 59th Superintendent of West Point, cited President Bush's leadership and selfless service following the events of September 11, 2001 among the primary criteria for his receiving the Thayer Award. "In the aftermath of those horrific attacks, President Bush rallied us as a nation and led us as we confronted a new kind of evil threat," Caslen said. Part of that rallying involved Bush's graduation speech to the Class of 2002, which he recalled during his Thayer remarks. "In the years that have followed that speech, West Point graduates have taken their rightful place in history alongside the men and women who have preceded them in advancing the cause of freedom," Bush said. "They did their duty with honor for their country...and I've looked into the faces of our future leaders, men and women who will promote our democratic values and our way of life through their actions and example, men and women who will live by the words, 'Duty, Honor, Country.'" Prior to the Thayer medal presentation ceremony in Washington Hall, Bush, like all distinguished Thayer Award recipients before him, including his father, George H.W. Bush, the 1994 recipient, had the opportunity to review the Corps of Cadets assembled in formation on the Plain in his honor. ★



“Excellence is an art won by training and habituation.”

—Aristotle

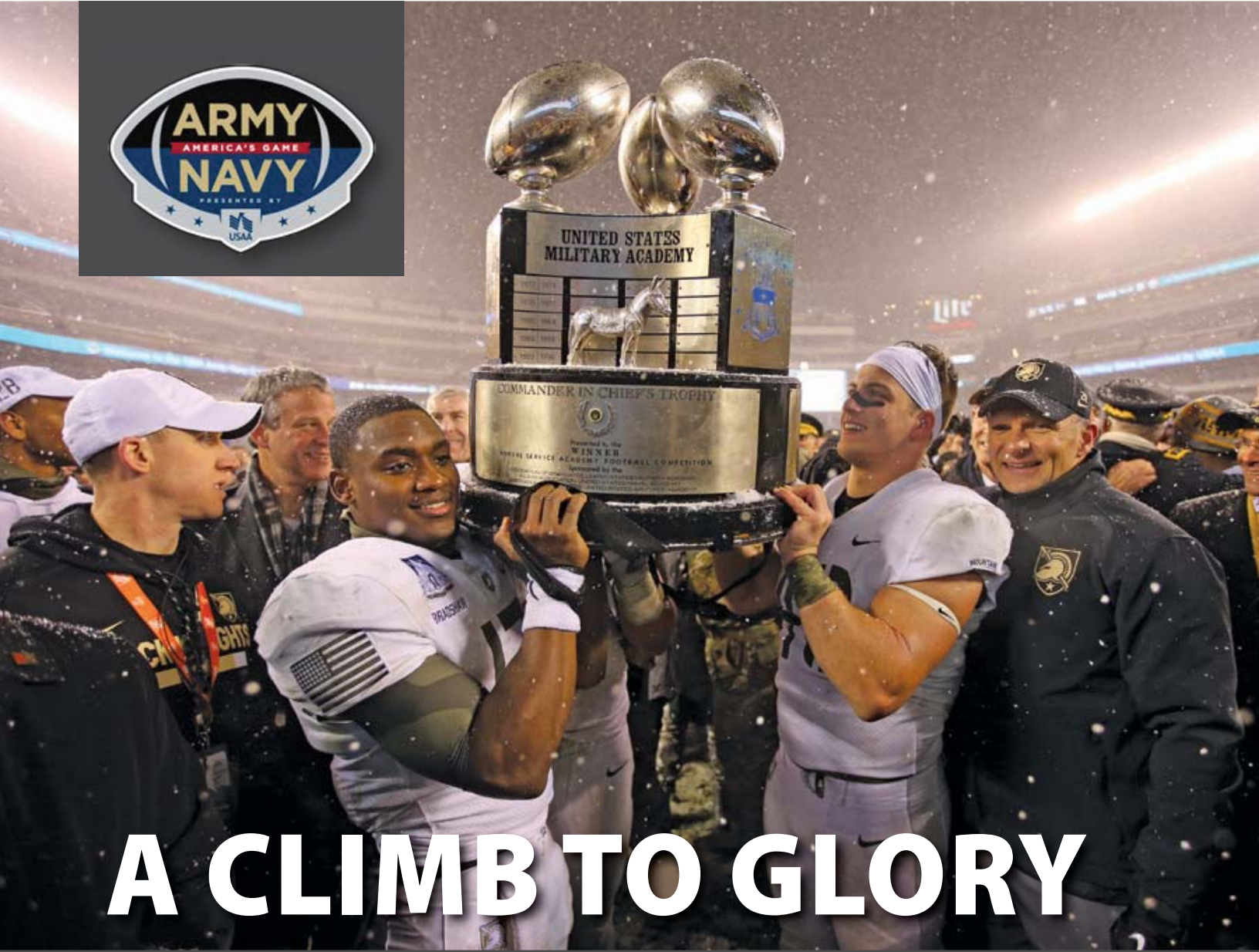






Photo: Ted Spiegel





# A CLIMB TO GLORY

## ARMY BEATS NAVY 14-13

On December 9, 2017, Cadets and Midshipmen met for the 118th time—this year on a snow-covered Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia. Throughout the history of the Army-Navy football rivalry, there has been no shortage of exhilarating games. But this year's matchup was especially one for the books, as the wintry afternoon ended with the Black Knights bringing home the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy for the first time since 1996. Not only did the nail-biting win in the final seconds prove heroic, but the wintry weather provided the perfect backdrop for the Army team, who fittingly wore all-white uniforms inspired by the 10th Mountain Division—the elite U.S. Army unit birthed in the winter warfare of World War II that is uniquely trained to fight on the harshest terrain, in any climate, anywhere in the world.

On the opening drive of the game, Army's Kell Walker '19 broke out for a 33-yard run down to Navy's 25 yard line. Army quickly

pushed further into the red zone and converted on a 4th-and-1 situation, setting up Darnell Woolfolk '19 to power his way up the middle for a touchdown to give Army the early 7-0 advantage.

Navy quarterback Malcolm Perry countered by taking his team on a 54-yard drive, culminating in a 28-yard field goal, which cut Army's lead to 7-3. In the minutes that followed, Navy forced Army to punt and the Midshipmen regained possession, allowing Perry to rush for a 68-yard touchdown to give Navy the lead going into the half.

In the second half, the Army defense held the line, limiting Navy to a field goal which brought the score to 13-7. On the following drive, Army quarterback Ahmad Bradshaw '18 threw one of only two completed passes of the game by either team to Calen Holt '19. The Black Knights rushed for further yardage but were forced to attempt a 35-yard field goal that sailed wide right.





**2017 Army-Navy  
Game marks the  
Rivalry's 118th  
meeting and  
87th time played  
in Philadelphia**

- ◆ Inaugural Meeting  
1890: Navy 24-0
- ◆ Last Meeting 2016:  
Army 21-17







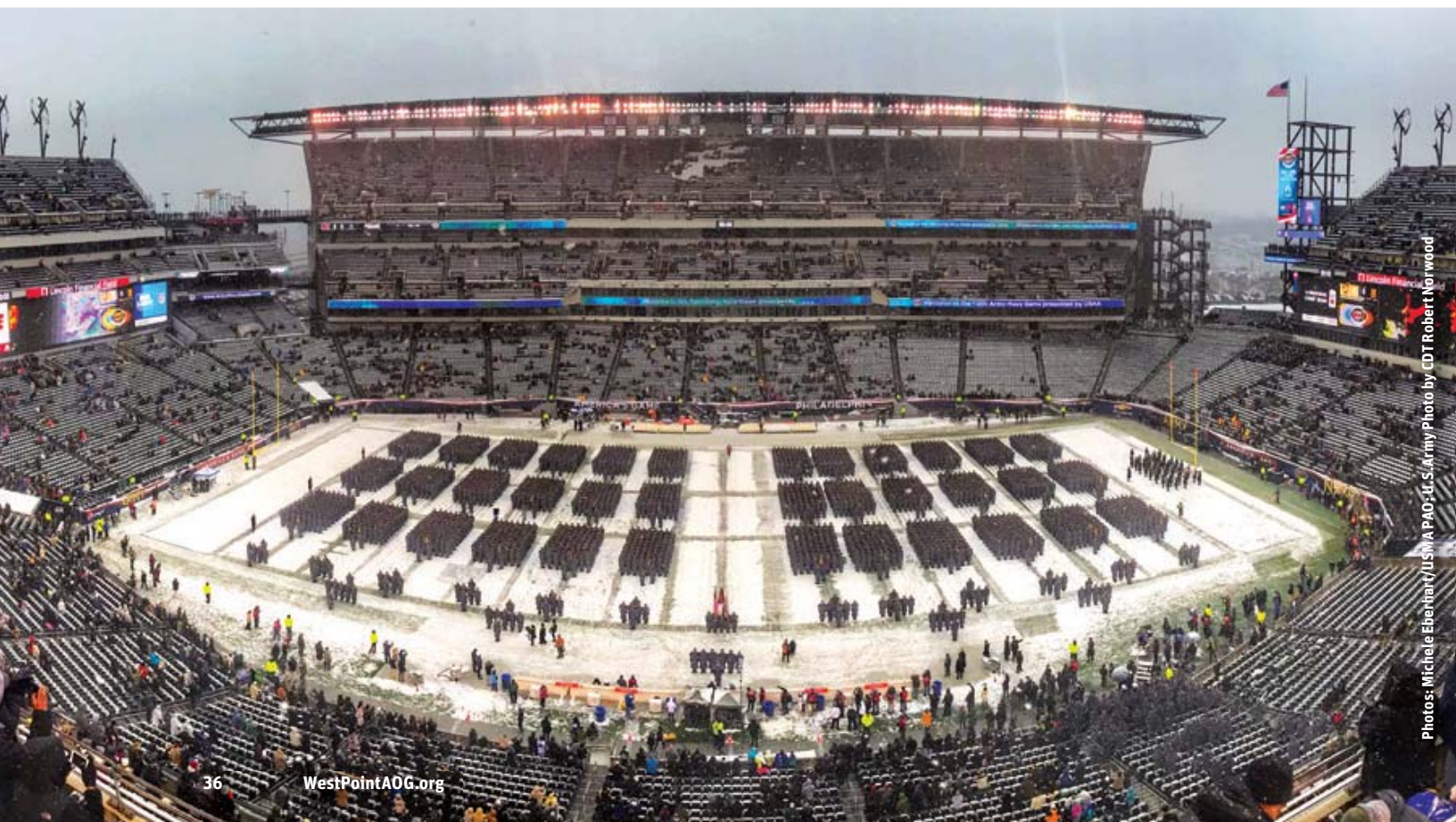
# ARMY-NAVY WEEKEND 2017

After a strong defensive outing, Army regained possession with 12:50 left on the clock. Bradshaw pounded his way upfield for three straight runs, followed by another rush into the end zone to put Army back on top, 14-13.

Navy had one final possession with 5:10 remaining on the clock. Perry rushed eight times to the Army 25, but a pair of penalties pushed Navy back 10 yards. Perry rushed on final time to set up Navy place kicker Bennett Moehring for a 48-yard field goal attempt with three seconds left on the clock.

From a distance, it looked as if Moehring's kick would split the uprights and crush Army's hopes of a repeat win. But just as the game clock ticked away to 0:00, the football went wide, securing the thrilling 14-13 victory for Army. Instantly, players, coaches and cadets plowed through the snow to congregate at midfield for expressive celebrations, and ultimately sang second before a crowd of 68,625 fans.

Thousands of people watched from the stands, and millions more watched from home; the annual Army-Navy game had the highest ratings since 1994 and marked the seventh-highest overall televised ratings for the entire 2017 college football season. And what a season it was for the Black Knights. It was truly a "Climb to Glory." ★







Photos: Anthony DiNoto/WPAO6, Danny Wild; U.S. Army photos by CDT Alex Werden and CDT Robert Norwood; Michele Eberhart/USMA PAO

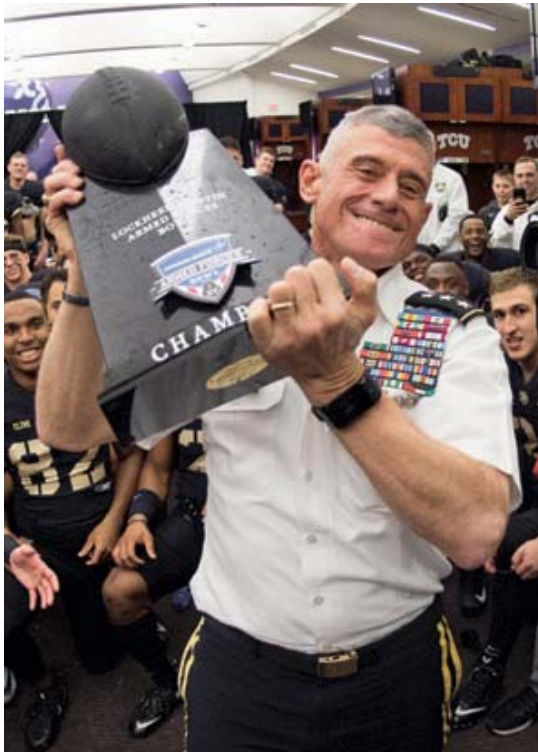




# ARMY WINS ARMED FORCES BOWL 42-35

On December 23, 2017, Army West Point capped off a record season with an electrifying 42-35 win over San Diego State (SDSU) in the Lockheed Armed Forces Bowl at Fort Worth, Texas. With Army trailing 35-28 in the final moments of the fourth quarter, and just 18 seconds remaining, Darnell Woolfolk '19 shot into the end zone to bump the score to 35-34. Army attempted a 2-point conversion for the win, and surprised the Aztecs with a successful sprint from Kell Walker '20, taking the lead at 36-35. With 12 seconds left, SDSU had several unsuccessful plays and just as the clock ran out, the Aztecs fumbled to Army's Elijah Riley '20, who dashed into the end zone for a touchdown, making the final score 42-35.

The victory came just two weeks after Army beat Navy to claim the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy for the first time since 1996. The Black Knights finished the season 10-3, becoming the second team in Army history to win 10 games, and they scored back-to-back Bowl wins for the first time since 1984 and 1985. For more details, play-by-play summaries, and game highlights, visit [GoArmyWestPoint.com](http://GoArmyWestPoint.com). ★



Photos: U.S. Army photos by John Peltino



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# WPAOG Seeks Final Funding for New Indoor Equestrian Facility

The West Point Association of Graduates is excited to announce that the plan to build a new Indoor Equestrian Facility for the Academy is nearing fruition. Thanks to significant contributions from several donors, we are in the “home stretch” in our fundraising efforts.

The exclusive, custom-built 30,500 square foot equestrian facility will feature an expansive 17,500 square foot indoor riding area with a dust-free, low-maintenance riding surface above an area of 1,850 square feet of jump and apparatus storage space. Additionally, the 20-stall facility will include a 1,100 square foot viewing area, announcer’s booth, and restroom and locker room facilities. It will provide needed space for the Equestrian Team, allow for year-round training, and be accessible to the entire West Point Community.

Long before Thayer Hall was home to many of the Academy’s academic departments, it was an indoor equestrian training facility.

Constructed in 1846, the facility was the largest indoor arena in the world at the time, representing West Point’s commitment to and emphasis on equestrian training. In fact, equestrian training was part of the cadet curriculum during this period, and cadets were required to know how to ride. They practiced artillery drills on horseback, partook in cavalry parades, learned to care for and stable their horses, and participated in polo competitions and shows.

This training at West Point developed many Olympic riders, including Guy V. Henry Jr. from the Class of 1898—the only 19th century graduate to compete in the Olympics. Henry organized West Point’s first equestrian team, and rode as a member of that team in the 1912 Olympics. Following in Henry’s footsteps was Earl “Tommy” Thomson, Class of 1922, who is considered to be the most accomplished rider in U.S. Olympic team history, competing in three Olympic games and receiving two gold and three silver medals.

In all, 40 West Point graduates have gone on to become Olympic riders—not to mention those who competed in polo or pentathlon, like General George S. Patton, Class of 1909. Patton competed in the Olympics’ first modern pentathlon in 1912. In this event, Patton put to use the skills he learned at West Point and received a perfect score in the horse riding competition, placing fifth overall.

Riding is truly an integral part of West Point’s history, and, although it is no longer part of the cadet curriculum and the original indoor facility is long gone, the strong bond between West Point and the horse endures. Today’s West Point Equestrian Team

**Below right:** CPT Earl F. “Tommy” Thomson, USMA Class of 1922 and five time Olympic medalist, rides “Jenny Camp” in the cross-country competition at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, where Thomson won an individual silver medal.



**Above:** Cavalry Skills and Mounted Drill Tactics at Thayer Hall, West Point, circa 1915. The Class of 1917 performs an exhibition ride in Thayer Hall, which was built in 1911 and used as a riding hall until 1946. **Right:** August 1945: GEN George S. Patton, Class of 1909, riding “Favory Africa,” a Lipizzaner horse from the Spanish Riding School of Vienna that Hitler had personally chosen to present to Emperor Hirohito. The Lipizzaners, captured by the Nazis, were later rescued by the Americans.







Architect's rendering of proposed new equestrian facility at Morgan Farm.

is a nationally competitive team, competing in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association, which boasts over 400 colleges and nearly 8,000 riders nationwide. West Point riders have consistently placed in championship positions at the regional and national levels.

The team currently trains at the excellent outdoor riding arenas and stable facilities at the Morgan Farm Equestrian complex. Unfortunately, these outdoor-only facilities do not offer protection for training during inclement weather and seasonal changes. "The equestrian team has superb outdoor training facilities, which has allowed them to achieve the level of success they've had so far," says Coach Peter Cashman. "However, the current facilities don't provide protection from the extreme cold and snow that is often experienced here at West Point, resulting in a loss of valuable training time. The team is at a point where it needs to be able to have consistent, year-round training in order to achieve the next level of success."

The new Indoor Equestrian Facility will not only support the team's 20 riders, but will also have a positive impact on the entire West Point community—from providing year-round riding lessons for cadets and West Point families, to helping to develop a strong Pentathlon Team at West Point, to offering more space for the Mule Team to train and exercise West Point's beloved mules. ★

**Right:** The Cadet Mule Riders care for the West Point mule mascots and ride them on the field at Army West Point football games. **Below:** Mounted drills take place at Morgan Farm. **Below, right:** The Army West Point Equestrian Team competes in an IHSA horse show.

*If you would like to learn more about the proposed new Indoor Equestrian Facility and how to support it, please contact Mike White '82 at [Mike.White@wpaog.org](mailto:Mike.White@wpaog.org) or 845.446.1557, or visit the WPAOG website at: [westpointaog.org/academy-funding-needs#morgan](http://westpointaog.org/academy-funding-needs#morgan).*





**James Naismith invented the sport known as basketball in 1891 at what is now Springfield College, Massachusetts, having been tasked with creating a new indoor sport for students during the cold winter months between baseball and football seasons.**

Basketball quickly grew in popularity and is now the most widely covered college sport after football. An article published by *Business Insider* in October 2016 also indicates that men's basketball was the second highest revenue-generating sport among the top 25 schools making the most revenue from their athletic programs. It is perhaps the ultimate dream of every college basketball coach to win their conference championship and progress to the NCAA Tournament—colloquially known as “The Dance.” And this is the vision for Army West Point’s Lee Anderson Men’s Head Basketball Coach, Jimmy Allen.

It’s a long road to the NCAA Tournament, and the first step is figuring out where to begin. For Allen, this means Army needs to

be a great transition team. In basketball, being successful with this style of play offers a distinct advantage. A great transition team controls the pace of the game, has more possessions, and is very difficult to defend against. And because the game rhythm is up-tempo, it’s also more fun for the players and fans alike. Allen hopes to establish a strong identity for the Army team based on the way that they play. He wants them to be fast, yet controlled, in transition and to have a very strong pressure defense. Becoming a great transition team is the plan to get to “The Dance”—to do what has never been done in the history of the Army program.

Allen may be just the right coach to guide this journey. First, he has post-season experience. At Emory & Henry, he played in four consecutive NCAA Tournaments during his undergraduate career. He also knows West Point. He served as an assistant coach at Army under Zach Spiker from 2010 until 2016, when he was named head coach. He also spent much of his young life at West Point, since his father (James Allen '67) was on the faculty. He grew up watching Army basketball games and even played with some former players when he was young.

The Army Men’s Basketball coaching staff has started to instill the motto of the program as “Toughness.” Allen claims, “It is everything at the championship level.” Everyone needs to compete as hard as they can, and do everything at a higher level. Allen’s vision is a championship culture that is player led, hardworking,



**Above:** CDTs Alex King '21, John Miller '19 and Tucker Blackwell '21 run the ball down the court in a pre-conference game against Columbia University. **Right:** John Emezie '19 drives to the hoop in the 2017 home game against Navy. Emezie ranked among the top four in field goals, three-point field goals, free throws and rebounds for the game.





# West Point Will DANCE



By Kim McDermott '87, WPAOG staff



and team focused, where everyone feels like they are a part of it. And the championship culture should extend off the court floor to include academics and military performance. Expectations are high, and Allen wants to help his players maximize their potential in all areas of their lives.

Supporting Toughness are three key areas: Leadership, Competitiveness, and Enthusiasm. Each of these areas also has three supporting ideas.

## LEADERSHIP

Allen is passionate about leadership and says it is the responsibility of everyone, each player and each coach.

**SELFLESSNESS.** In *Basketball Fundamentals: A Complete Mental Training Guide*, Jay Mikes says that basketball is “played to determine the better team, not the best individual.” Allen says, “We are not just a five-man roster. We have and play a good core group of guys. So, on any given day someone new has the ability to step up into that leadership role.” For Allen, it’s a matter of “putting the team and your teammates before yourself. Caring about others and supporting each other.”

**RESPECT.** Allen wants people to feel that they are a part of something and that their opinion matters. “We don’t always have to agree,” Allen says, but “no matter the challenges, we can find a way to be successful and we treat people the right way and are always respectful.” Naismith himself once said, “Let us be able to lose gracefully and to win courteously; to accept criticism as well as praise; and to appreciate the attitude of the other fellow at all times.”

**COMMUNICATION.** Allen believes firmly that the ability to communicate is the single greatest skill that a coach can possess. Explaining what you want and expect in a way that players and coaches can understand is paramount. “We must always be looking for new ways to reach people and keep how we are teaching things interesting,” he says.

## COMPETITIVENESS

Allen says, “No matter what the challenges, we are going to find a way to succeed and make no excuses. We must consistently do things to separate ourselves on the court and off.”

**CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT.** Allen has said perhaps a more important goal in the grand scheme is general daily improvement. He wants his players to have a “growth mentality. To grow as leaders and people, and graduate as prepared as they can be to move on into the world.” He has no issues reconciling those two goals, because he defines success as having “a program in which our players feel that we are invested in their development on the court, academically and in their lives. That we as coaches are working to help them be successful.”

**RESILIENCE.** Allen’s favorite moment so far as head coach is the perfect example. The headline on February 18, 2017 was **Army Stuns Navy After Historic Comeback**. Army West Point came back from a 25-point deficit with 13 minutes left in the game to BEAT NAVY! The win tied for the largest comeback in NCAA Division I play last year and was the largest comeback in the Army-Navy Game series history.



## THE COMEBACK KID!

Coach Allen says it was “truly an honor” to be selected for the job. He grew up watching Army basketball games when his father (James Allen '67) served on the faculty. He names some former Army players who made an impression on him.





**PRACTICE IS EVERYTHING.** The legendary basketball coach Bobby Knight, who once coached Army Men's Basketball, said, "Most people have the will to win, few have the will to prepare to win." Allen says his team must "work so hard in practice that we 'deserve' to win games." To earn these wins they must outwork their opponents, and compete daily in practice to improve.

## ENTHUSIASM

Allen hopes to create an environment where coaches and players alike are genuinely excited and enthusiastic to come to work and practice every day.

**APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY.** Often, West Point is viewed as something that cadets must "go through." Allen wants his players to appreciate what they "get to do" as cadets every day and to see their cadet experience for the valuable opportunity that it is, full of rich tradition and unlimited possibilities.

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WEST POINT.** Leverage the opportunity. Allen's view is that cadets "are doing things and learning things that kids at other schools do not have the opportunity to learn. They have people and resources around them on a daily basis that can help them improve both on the court and off. We need to make sure that we understand and appreciate this."

**GIVE PEOPLE ENERGY.** Allen hopes that every member of his team will contribute a positive energy, especially to each other, but also to the fans. He says this is not a forced "rah-rah" type of energy, but genuine excitement and passion—for the game and each other.

Allen clearly wants to lead the Army West Point team. He explains his drive, "I was fortunate enough to have great relationships with

**"Real winners put forth the time and effort to make it happen. By putting in the work, you make yourself worthy of winning... [and] you will not win consistently unless you are worthy."**

—Duke University head coach and former Army Basketball head coach Mike Krzyzewski '69 ("Coach K")

the coaches I played for. These men had tremendous impact on my life, and I am excited about the opportunity to help the current and future Army West Point players." He says that one of the biggest lessons he learned from his mentors is the attitude of "go to work and do your work." This requires a consistent investment of time and energy, and "it's not a guarantee you'll succeed—but it gives you a chance." Duke University head coach, and former Army Basketball head coach Mike Krzyzewski '69 ("Coach K") says, "Real winners put forth the time and effort to make it happen. By putting in the work, you make yourself worthy of winning... [and] you will not win consistently unless you are worthy."

Army West Point can make history—do what has never been done in the program. Allen believes Army West Point "will Dance." He knows it is within reach, and he knows how to get there. He's got a road map based on the important qualities of championship programs and is prepared to lead the way. Along the way, Allen hopes that the fans will see a "together" group, excited about representing West Point and what it stands for. ★



**Above:** The 2016-17 squad after a historic comeback victory over Navy on February 18, 2017. Army came back from a 25-point deficit with 13 minutes left in the game, the largest comeback in series history.





Outbound from the central barracks area to a bus waiting behind the Superintendent's Box on the Plain, members of the Army West Point Men's Rugby Team set off for an away game.

# Fall Back to Battle Rhythm...

**Another year begins at USMA as cadets balance academics, training and athletics amidst the glory of autumn in the Hudson Valley.**

Photo essay by **Ted Spiegel**, guest writer and photographer





October's traditional colors of orange and yellow decorate the West Point campus.



Battle monument spheres are decorated with bronze belts commemorating the fallen of the regular Army of the United States during the Civil War.



Autumn's colors are cropping out on Lusk Reservoir as the Army West Point Football Team streams onto Blaik Field in Michie Stadium at the start of the Temple game. At right: the statue of "Fame" atop Battle Monument seems to herald the arrival of autumn in the hardwood forests surrounding West Point.







The Class of 1992 kicks off its 25th reunion weekend with a Hudson River cruise.



Felix de Weldon's "To the American Soldier" charges out of autumn's blaze.



An exchange cadet joins West Point cadet company leadership during a pre-football game parade.





The Army West Point Men's Rugby Team scores another goal in its 57-14 victory over St. Bonaventure.



The Hellcats, believed to be the U.S. Army's oldest continuously performing musical unit, calls the Corps of Cadets to parade onto the Plain prior to a home football game.

## ...Autumn at West Point



An Army West Point Women's Crew four strokes their way north on the Hudson River during a late afternoon practice.





# Grad Pass

## The “Key” to Your Rockbound Highland Home

*“As a graduate and a New Jersey resident, I visit West Point frequently. The security process for getting on post has often been time-consuming and restrictive. Yesterday I had a new wonderful experience. With my recently issued Alumni ID, I entered through Washington Gate, previously restricted to DOD only. The guard looked at my Alumni badge, welcomed me home and waved me through. I highly recommend that all grads get their LAC badge. It’s easy to do. Just go online and fill out a short application form at least three days before your visit. Then before entering post, stop at the Visitor Control Center where they will take your picture and issue your badge, good for one year. You then have access to West Point through any gate and any lane. I can’t thank Todd Browne and the AOG enough for respecting ‘Old Grads’ and making their visit to school an enjoyable one.”*

**—Duke Parker '66**



# WPAOG ROCKBOUND HIGHLAND HOME PROGRAM

West Point graduates share lifelong memories of their cadet experience at “our Rockbound Highland Home.” Along with their common, shared experiences, graduates also carry their own unique personal memories from their 47-month experience, and, when graduates return home to West Point, they often want to share these special stories about cadet days with families and friends.

WPAOG’s new **Rockbound Highland Home Program** has made it easier than ever for graduates to come back to West Point. Because West Point is an active military post, gaining access and touring the Academy had become challenging in the post 9/11 era—even for Academy alumni. To assist graduates, WPAOG worked with USMA and Garrison staff to create **Grad Pass**, offering alumni secure, expedited visitor security clearance in advance of a visit. A **Grad Pass** also offers its holders **Grad Perks**, access to USMA’s MWR facilities.

In addition, WPAOG also worked with the Academy and Garrison to create the **Grad Insider Tour**, an exclusive tour for grads and their guests with an itinerary that accesses areas of West Point usually open only to cadets and staff. The **Grad Insider Tour** offers graduates a new and special way to show “their” West Point to families and guests. WPAOG offers this unique tour with dedicated guides and a comfortable small-group tour van to further enhance the **Grad Insider Tour** experience.

*“I saw areas I had never seen while at West Point as a cadet or a Tactical Officer. Excellent service to grads. Thanks!”* —Ron Scott '72

The **Grad Pass** and **Grad Insider Tour** programs have impressed many returning alumni. Grads continue to give us positive feedback on these new services, commenting how appreciative they are that WPAOG is helping them maintain their connection with the Academy.

To learn more about **Grad Pass**, **Grad Perks** and **Grad Insider Tours**, visit [westpointaog.org/rockboundhighlandhome](http://westpointaog.org/rockboundhighlandhome); email [rockboundhighlandhome@wpaog.org](mailto:rockboundhighlandhome@wpaog.org), or call 845.446.1622. For expedited post access, visit the **Rockbound Highland Home** web page and be sure to get your **Grad Pass** in advance of your tour. ★

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

*“We had an excellent guide for the tour, and it was a great way for me to share an important part of my life with my family.”* —Rob Bohr '99

The **Grad Insider Tour** offers exclusive, guided, behind-the-scenes 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.”

**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 structure in the United States.

**Arvin Physical Development Center:** This 495,000 square-foot fitness facility is where the cadets focus on their

physical development using amenities such as athletic courts, swimming pools, the Class of 1979 rock climbing wall, boxing rooms, and of course, Hayes Gym for their Indoor Obstacle Course Test (IOCT).

**Kimsey Center:** Houses state-of-the-art athletic training facilities for all sports teams as well as 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 America.





# West Point Authors Bookshelf

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

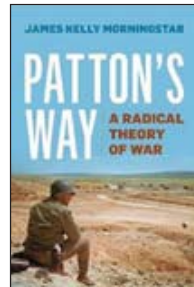


## ***Gestation Seven***

J. Stewart Willis '58

In this novel two dead babies are found in a trash dumpster off U. S. 1 south of Alexandria, Virginia. A young reporter and the Alexandria Police follow clues leading to three government scientists who have gone rogue and conducted an experiment to reduce the gestation period of the human race from nine to seven months. The experiment has gone terribly wrong producing ramifications for all who are involved.

Available from Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com and Google Books

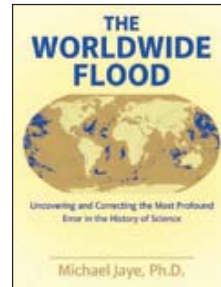


## ***Patton's Way***

James Morningstar '83

A groundbreaking reassessment described as "brilliant," "compelling," and "a must read," *Patton's Way* cuts through popular misunderstandings to reveal the general's development of a radical doctrine based on shock to destroy the enemy's will, multi-dimensional combined arms, flexible command and control, and integrated intelligence systems. Using the conceptualization and execution of the campaign in France as a case study, Morningstar shows Patton challenging the enemy, his peers, and the nature of war itself. Finally, the book traces the legacy and limits *Patton's Way* from World War II to today's battlefields.

Available at Amazon.com



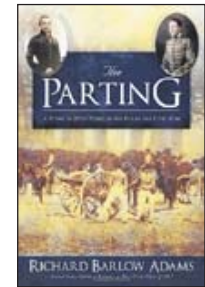
## ***The Worldwide Flood***

*Uncovering and Correcting the Most Profound Error in the History of Science*

Michael Jaye, Ph.D., '81

Nearly two centuries ago, geologists determined that there was never a worldwide flood. But their conclusion is indisputably wrong. Inspired by new map data revealing submerged rivers in the deep abyss, Michael Jaye corrects geology's error by identifying the source of planet-changing floodwaters. Jaye's work unites science with ubiquitous yet discounted flood traditions. This historic work will change the way you consider Earth and human history.

Available at Amazon.com



## ***The Parting***

*A Story of West Point on the Eve of the Civil War*

Rich Adams '67

Foreword by Pete Dawkins '59

Winner of the 2017 Gold Medal for historical fiction by the Military Writers Society of America, *West Point* comes to life in this factually-based narrative about the Class of 1861, the inimitable Benny Havens, summer encampment, the session of Southern states, the cat and mouse game of Fort Sumter, and classmates confronting each other in the First Battle of Bull Run.

Available at Amazon.com



## ***Tiger Bravo's War***

Rick St John '66

Follows a band of young, 101st Airborne Division paratroopers in the Vietnam War—from a bayonet charge in War Zone D and street fighting during Tet 1968, to the rescue of a surrounded platoon and rock and roll in the mess hall. Among them, the son of a WWII Japanese fighter pilot, who wins the Silver Star, and a medic, abandoned by his mother, who finds in *Tiger Bravo* the family he never had.

Available at Amazon.com



## ***USMA: Universally Simple Minded Approach***

*The West Point Experience*

P.J.30547

The author of *West Point Letters: Legacy of a Lost Art*, tells his story following high school to graduation from the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point. This close and personal portrayal of his experience is absolutely genuine and engaging. The author evokes the truth about an institution that is so scathing that the reader will appreciate why this story has never been told before!

Available at Amazon.com

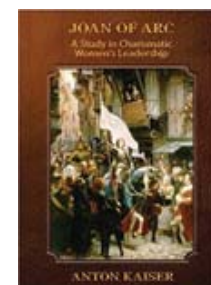


## ***U.S.-Iran Engagement in Science, Engineering, and Health: A Resilient Program but an Uncertain Future***

Glenn E. Schweitzer '53

During the past 15 years, scientific exchanges have enabled thousands of American scientists to benefit from the surprisingly high level of research achievements in Iran. At the same time, Iranian publications in international science journals have skyrocketed from 3,000 during 2001 to 40,000 in 2016. Political acrimony now threatens to close this scientific Gateway to Understanding when it is needed more than ever.

Available through National Academies Press



## ***Joan of Arc: A Study in Charismatic Women's Leadership***

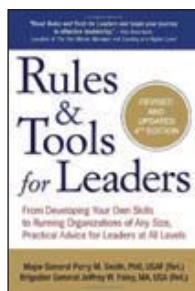
Anton Kaiser '69

A comprehensive study of Joan as a soldier, not as a saint. The view is wholly from the lowly foxhole. Supported by comparative observations based on a broad sweep of historic military leaders, this assessment explores her martial relationships and battlefield actions and their influence on soldier motivations, explaining why these relationships and actions led to her successes and failures. Rated five-stars by the St. Joan of Arc Center.

Available on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com

Inclusion of these books in *West Point* magazine is a paid advertisement and is not an endorsement of the contents or values expressed in the books. Descriptions have been provided by authors or publishers and should not be considered a review of the book.



**Rules and Tools  
For Leaders**

Jeff Foley, '78 and Perry Smith '56

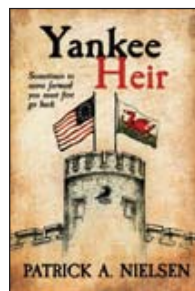
Having passed the 300,000 mark, this best-selling book is used in various corporate, military and academic leadership programs. It is made available to all newly promoted flag officers.

The 4th edition includes additional checklists and has new chapters on leading the non-profits and managing the electronic workspace.

For more information visit:  
genpsmith.com or  
loralmountain.com

Smith has also published  
*Assignment Pentagon and Courage,  
Compassion, Marine.*

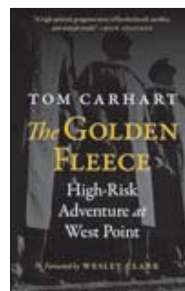
Available at Amazon.com

**Yankee Heir**

by Patrick A. Nielsen '00

It is 1796, and like the fledgling United States he serves, Captain Bran Gruffudd is young, reckless, and full of potential; but when a battlefield victory gives way to personal tragedy, Bran is left with nothing. Then an unanticipated inheritance gives Bran the opportunity to begin anew. In order to secure his ancestral birthright, Bran must first cross the Atlantic, and face the adventure that awaits.

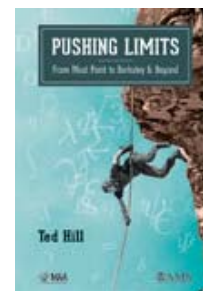
Available at Amazon.com  
or visit yankeeheir.com

**The Golden Fleece***High-Risk Adventure at West Point*

Tom Carhart '66

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

Available wherever books are sold  
including Amazon.com

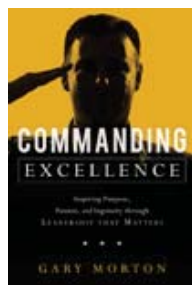
**Pushing Limits:***From West Point to Berkeley and Beyond*

Ted Hill '66

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

Available at  
bookstore.ams.org/mbk-103.

For military discount use  
HILLMIL17.

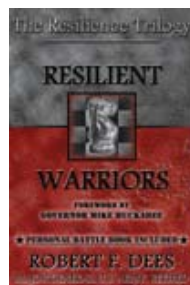
**Commanding Excellence:  
Inspiring Purpose, Passion,  
and Ingenuity through  
Leadership that Matters**

Gary Morton '84

The Cold War's incredible turnaround story involving Army Football, powerful principles, and ingenious new approaches. Fred Dibella's '69 TF 4-68 won every force-on-force engagement against the NTC's OPFOR. How did they achieve a feat most considered impossible?

"If you want success as a leader in a complex environment, read Commanding Excellence and follow it!" —GEN Doug Brown, USA(R), former commander SOCOM

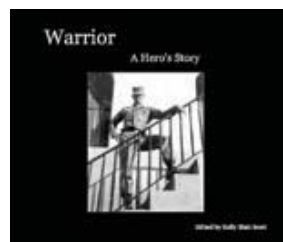
Available at Amazon.com,  
BarnesandNoble.com,  
800CEORead.com

**Resilient Warriors**

MG(R) Robert F. Dees '72

Resilience is a critical life skill. How do we prepare for the storms of life, weather those storms, and then bounce back without getting stuck in the toxic emotions of guilt, false guilt, anger, and bitterness? How do we grow through adversity—getting better, stronger, wiser? *Resilient Warriors* is a "must read" for warriors in every foxhole of life.

Available at  
www.ResilienceTrilogy.com  
eBook versions available  
on Nook and Kindle

**Warrior: A Hero's Story**By Kelly Blair Scott  
Wife of James A. Scott '61

A pictorial saga of James A. Scott's military service, from enlisted soldier to West Point graduate, Class of 1961, and decorated Vietnam Aviator, recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, and the Distinguished Flying Cross. This includes Scott's awards with photos of citations and presentations, plus rare photos of shoulder patches, devices and medals. Scott now battles another lethal enemy: Inclusion Body Myositis. Proceeds will go to research a cure for that disease.

Available from Blurb.com

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

West Point Association of Graduates

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

Available at WPAOGiftShop.com



## Class of 1977 \$1M 40th Reunion Gift to Center for Oral History

On October 5th, West Point's Class of 1977, in commemoration of its 40th reunion, generously gave a gift of \$1,000,000 in support of the West Point Center for Oral History. The Center for Oral History is a living history center, contributing to the broader public's understanding of the American military and serving to inspire cadets by the example of those who went before them. Sharing the stories of leaders from all walks of life as they discuss how honorable and ethical living has shaped who they are and contributed to their success, this important archive brings alive the values of honor and ethics that are the foundation of West Point.



## Branch Night: Class of 1968 gives "First Brass" to USMA 2018

On November 15, 2017, the members of USMA 2018 received their branch assignments. LTG (R) Larry Jordan '68 was the Branch Night speaker, and West Point graduates from the 50-year Affiliation Class of 1968 were on hand to present the cadets with their "first brass" branch insignia pins. The chart below shows the breakdown of branch assignments.



BRANCH	MEN	WOMEN
Air Defense Artillery	40	11
Armor	73	7
Aviation	83	9
Engineering	94	30
Field Artillery	125	19
Infantry	190	6
Adjutant General	3	21
Chemical	7	7
Cyber	15	5
Finance	7	2
Military Intelligence	41	21
Military Police	11	7
Medical Services	11	9
Ordnance	25	10
Quartermaster	13	11
Signal Corps	35	9
Transportation	12	14

## Announcement of WPAOG 2018 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the membership of the West Point Association of Graduates shall take place on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 5:00pm Eastern Time at the Herbert Alumni Center, West Point, New York. At the Annual Meeting, the 2018 election of

members of the Board of Directors and at-large members of the Advisory Council shall take place. Information on the nomination process for Director and Advisor-at-Large positions is published at [WestPointAOG.org/nominationpolicy](http://WestPointAOG.org/nominationpolicy).





## West Point Alumni and Cadets Crew Together

On October 28, Old Grads got to relive the glory of their Army Crew days at the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta in Philadelphia while connecting with USMA cadets. Competing in the Alumni Four Events were:

**Men's Alumni Four:** Robert Beale '02 (stroke), Robert Davis '08, Wen Barker '87, Patrick Linford '07, CDT Mike McGerty '20 (coxswain).

**Men's Alumni Four:** Rob McClintock '94 (stroke), Jeff Montanari '96, Tom Babbitt '99, Troy Schnack '96, CDT Alanna Appel '20 (coxswain).

**Women's Alumni Four:** Jessica Ostasewski '08 (stroke), Courtney Miller '09, Darcy Schnack '96, Kristyn Jones '93, CDT Honor Fusselman '20 (coxswain).

Alumni rowers are now an official rowing club recognized by the U.S. Rowing Association. Go Army!

## WPAOG Annual Meeting Election Results

At the WPAOG Annual Meeting on November 21, 2017, the following members were elected to positions on the Board of Directors and the Advisory Council.

To serve their terms from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019:

### Chair:

Joseph E. DeFrancisco '65

### Vice Chair:

Stanley J. Shipley '73

To serve their terms from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020:

### Directors:

Deirdre P. Dixon '84

James A. Hoffman '78

Felisa S. A. (Sally) Lewis '90

Robert A. McDonald '75

William D. Rogers '82

### Advisors at Large:

John R. Higgins '87

Jennifer Voigtschild-Minus '93

William S. Pavlick '72

F. Daniel Streetman '90

Holly F. West '91

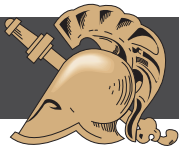
Michael W. L. Yap '67



## WPAOG Welcomes USMA 2018 for Firstie Social

On October 2-3, WPAOG hosted almost 300 cadets at the "Firstie Social." This annual reception is made possible by a generous endowment from the Class of 1996, and about a dozen members of that class were on hand each night. The event is intended to congratulate and welcome the firstie class as soon-to-be members of the Long Gray Line and to introduce them to the services offered by WPAOG and its staff. Photo opportunities and door prizes added to the fun!





## West Point Parents Giving Supports Margin of Excellence

MARGIN OF  
EXCELLENCE



During the Army vs Temple football game on October 21, Rona Wenik P'18, Glean Davis P'19, Ann Johnston P'20 and Jennifer Tarry P'21 represented West Point Parent donors by presenting a check for \$2,600,000 to the Academy. Joining them on the field were the

President and CEO of the West Point Association of Graduates, Todd Browne '85, and Shelisa Baskerville, WPAOG's Annual Giving Parent Relations Manager. Accepting on behalf of West Point was Lieutenant General Robert Caslen Jr. '75, 59th Superintendent. This outstanding gift raised by West Point Parents will support Margin of Excellence programs, which allow all cadets to reach their highest potential. Thank you to all our parents and families for your tremendous support!



## Parents Clubs Host Tailgates for West Point Family Weekend



On October 20-21, almost 600 families came to West Point for Family Weekend, designed to provide families with a view of West Point from the cadet perspective. The weekend included tours, information on athletics and clubs, and academic departments held open houses and presentations for families to learn more about the curriculum and offerings both in and out of the classroom. Families and cadets also enjoyed a variety of events such as the Cadet Drill Team demonstration, a Pipes and Drums performance, the football homecoming game against Temple, and the volleyball game against Bucknell. On Saturday, October 21, several Parents Clubs held tailgates for cadets and their visiting families.

## Parents Clubs Provide Halloween Treats for Cadets

Parents Clubs help parents stay connected to their cadets and happenings at West Point year round. On Halloween, the West Point Parents Clubs of Connecticut, Illinois, Long Island, Michigan, New Jersey, San Fernando California, St. Louis, and South East Pennsylvania provided treats for cadets. WPAOG thanks all the participating Parents Clubs for their support!







## West Point Band Caps Off Bicentennial Year in Style

Under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel Tod Addison, the West Point Band celebrated its bicentennial with a gala performance at David Geffen Hall at New York's Lincoln Center on October 29, 2017. The sold out concert also featured a performance by the West Point Glee Club under the baton of Ms. Constance Chase, which sang the Alma Mater, "The Corps," and other West Point songs.

In attendance were leaders from the United States Military Academy, West Point Band alumni, composers who have written works for the band, and members of the public. The multimedia performance treated the audience to a journey through two centuries of American music, celebrating the history of the band as well as its service, not only as an ambassador of the Army and the U.S. Military Academy, but also as a source of inspiration to the Corps of Cadets. The program included works of historical significance as well as several world premieres.

In the past year, the West Point Band has performed over 3,000 missions in support of the Army and the Corps of Cadets. The band was formally established in 1817 and is the Army's oldest musical

organization. Today's band members are professional soldier-musicians from the country's top performing groups and music schools. However, the band's roots go back even further to 1778, when the fifers and drummers who were attached to companies of Continental Soldiers on Constitution Island crossed the icy Hudson River under the leadership of Brigadier General Samuel Parson to occupy West Point.

A reception before the concert gave guests an opportunity to mingle with band members, Academy leaders, cadets and VIPs. Family, friends and fans of the band and glee club had traveled from near and far to see the performance. Rich DeMarco, the voice of Army Football, was the master of ceremonies, and Superintendent Lieutenant General Robert L. Caslen Jr. '75 offered congratulatory remarks. After thanking the Band and the Glee Club for their contributions to the Academy's mission, the Superintendent thanked the audience for their attendance and told them that "if you want to see what's right with America, you are at the right place tonight." ★

**Above:** The West Point Band and West Point Cadet Glee Club perform at the bicentennial concert at Lincoln Center. **Inset:** LTC Tod Addison, Commander and Conductor, West Point Band.



# 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*

1969

## Krzyzewski '69 Coaches 1,000th Win at Duke University

Mike “Coach K” Krzyzewski became the first men's Division I coach to win 1,000 games at one school on November 11, 2017 in a win over Utah Valley. In 2015, Krzyzewski became the first Division I men's coach to reach the 1,000-win career mark, and he has coached for 38 seasons at Duke.

1986

## Esper '86 Named Secretary of the Army

Dr. Mark T. Esper was confirmed by the Senate as the 23rd Secretary of the Army on November 15, 2017. As Secretary of the Army, Esper has statutory responsibility for all matters relating to the U.S. Army: manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications, and financial management.



2001

## Bodnar '01 Named President University of Montana



Effective January 1, 2018 Seth Bodnar will take office as President of the University of Montana in Missoula, MT. Bodnar is a Rhodes Scholar with two master's degrees from Oxford University and currently an executive at General Electric.

1983

## Trainor '83 Inaugurated as Mount St. Mary's 26th President



On October 23, 2017 Mount St. Mary's University in Emmittsburg, MD celebrated the inauguration of its 26th president, BG(R) Timothy E. Trainor, Ph.D. Trainor's inaugural address focused on the theme of preparing students to lead lives of significance.



### Promotions

To the rank of Lieutenant General:

Major General Paul J. LaCamera '85

To the rank of Brigadier General:

Colonel Joseph D'Costa '89 (USAR)

Colonel Matthew P. Easley '88 (USAR)

### Assignments

Lieutenant General Paul J. LaCamera '85 to Commanding General, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, Fort Bragg, NC



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**Feb. 11**



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# START*the*DAYS!

FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
<p><b>2-4</b> Yearling Winter Weekend Class of 2020</p>	<p><b>9-11</b> Plebe Parent Weekend Class of 2021</p>	
<p><b>10</b> Men's &amp; Women's Basketball Doubleheader <i>BEAT NAVY!</i></p>	<p><b>16</b> Founders Day</p>	
<p><b>17</b> 100th Night Class of 2018</p>		
		<p><b>14-15</b> Sandhurst Competition</p>
		<p><b>19</b> Mission Command Conference</p>

**Upcoming events submitted by West Point staff & faculty.**

Events for May—July 2018 should be sent to [editor@wpaog.org](mailto:editor@wpaog.org) by Feb 15, 2018.

For the entire calendar, go to  
**[WestPointAOG.org/calendar](http://WestPointAOG.org/calendar)**



# MAILBOX *West Point*



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](mailto:Editor@wpaog.org), or chat with us on one of our WPAOG social media channels!

**FROM: James Vestermark '74**

Congratulations on publishing a wonderful issue of *West Point* for the fall of 2017. It is wonderful to learn of all the improvements on the grounds of West Point. Davis Barracks is stunning. I hope to be able to see it on my return. He was a remarkable graduate, pilot and leader. A biographical book about this graduate should be required summer reading as part of leadership training prior to graduation.

**FROM: COL (R) William Barry '59 MD, MPH (USAF, MC)**

As noted in Todd Browne's President's address in the 2017 fall issue of *West Point* magazine, it has been a remarkable year for the U.S. Military Academy. And, in that same vein, I think this issue of the magazine is one of its absolute finest. My highest kudos for your efforts! I served a career in the U.S. Air Force as a Test Pilot Physician, so it was with particular interest that I enjoyed the articles detailing the dedication of the new Davis Cadet Barracks. From General Davis' remarkable biography to the naming process and the exceptional details of the construction process, the issue was superb. Thanks from an Old Grad who in his ninth decade can still take pride in the continuing historic accomplishments of his alma mater. Because of the ability to view the entire magazine online, I have recommended it to a host of friends, colleagues, and White House Fellow classmates. They have been unanimous in their accolades, and many have archived it in their personal libraries.

**FROM: LTC (R) David T. Baker '46**

The articles about General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. and the Davis Barracks were very good. I noted that they mentioned as an historical fact, that Cadet Davis was "silenced." But I did not notice a discussion or an acknowledgment of this reprehensible behavior. I wonder if such a discussion or confession took place at the time of the ceremonies?

Surely, the USMA officials at the time; the Superintendent, the Commandant, the tactical officers (and even cadet leaders) were aware of what was happening. They condoned it by not doing anything about it. When I was a cadet in the early 1940's, I was amazed to discover that the Corps was silencing an African American Class of 1946 classmate of mine. I am ashamed to admit that I failed to protest. The adverse effects of this terrible behavior could have been (and still could be) partially mitigated if we completely acknowledge that we were very, very wrong.

**RESPONSE:**

*Thank you for your thoughtful response. The silencing of Cadet Davis was indeed acknowledged and explained at the dedication ceremony, in the event program, and in the academic symposium later that day.*

**FROM: Tray Tankersley '92**

After completing Cadet Jori Mason's '18 article in the 2017 fall issue, I felt compelled to communicate how deeply moved I was at her profound insights, as well as her ability to communicate them in her short essay, "Aura and Architecture: How Davis Barracks Symbolizes Benjamin Davis's Life." The insights and symbolism she drew between the challenges of those cadets who now reside in the new Davis Barracks and the challenges Benjamin Davis experienced as a cadet deeply impressed me. The metaphor of life in Davis Barracks as representative of life at West Point for Cadet Benjamin Davis was just brilliant. I have always been proud of my alma mater, but the presence of Davis Barracks makes me prouder still. I am just as proud that West Point can also help shape beautiful writers like Cadet Mason.

**RESPONSE:**

*Cadet Mason's analogy between Benjamin O. Davis Jr.'s life and the barracks that now bears his name was a fitting addition to the articles devoted to Davis and Davis Barracks in the 2017 fall issue, especially her last line: "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." We thank her for providing the cadet perspective to this topic.*

**FROM: William Harner '78**

In the "Past in Review" for the 2017 fall issue, the writers state that the French Study Abroad program started in '92 "was West Point's first...study abroad program." This is incorrect. While during my first year as TAC for D-4 (1988-89), I heard the Superintendent state to the Corps in Ike Hall his vision for cadets spending a semester or more away from West Point. Shortly thereafter, I approached the Head of Foreign Language, Colonel Thomas, my former Russian professor, with an idea to send Darren Smith '91 to the Soviet Union. He liked it! So with his support, I approached the Commandant, Major General Fred Gorden '62, with the concept. With his support, I asked for an office call with Lieutenant General Dave Palmer '56, the Superintendent. He gave me the support and money. Darren went through a program with Arizona State University and spent the first semester of his college year at Leningrad State University. He was the first cadet ever to spend a part of his year away from West Point, outside of the Academy Exchange Program.

**RESPONSE:**

*Thank you for reminding us of this unique semester abroad experience from the spring of 1990. As you rightly point out, Colonel Smith's participation as a cadet in the Arizona State University study abroad program in Leningrad predates the creation of West Point's first in-house study abroad program by about 18 months. Although his experience was never replicated, your trailblazing vision has undoubtedly had a great impact on his life and his career as a FAO for the past 17 years with assignments around the world including returning to West Point as a Russian Instructor.*



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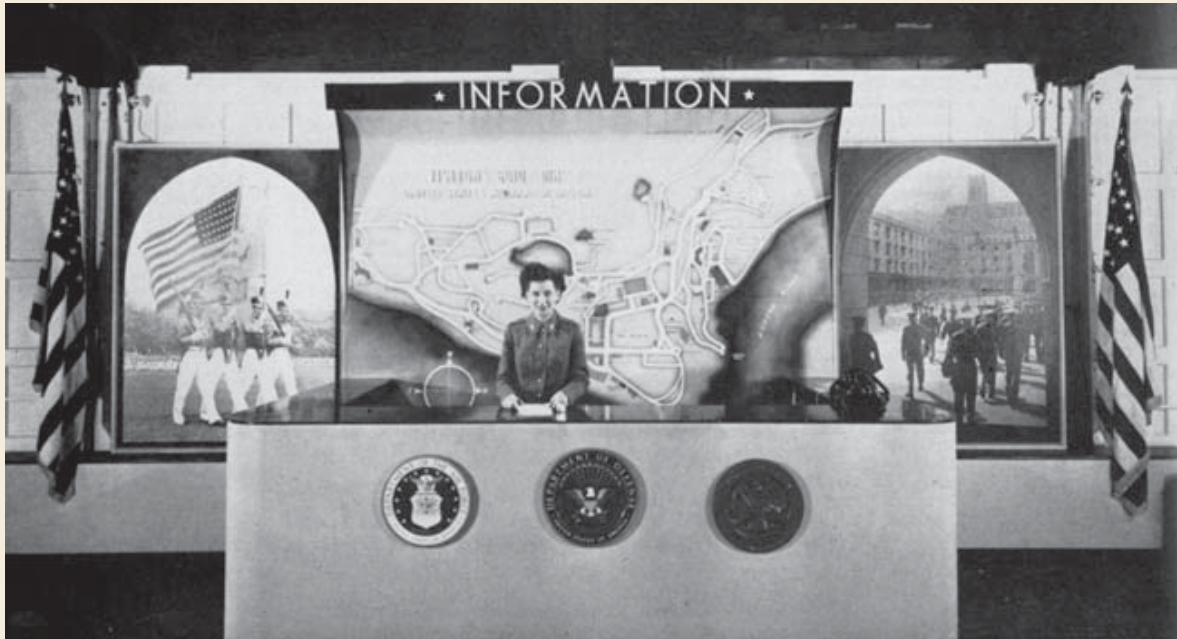
# Be Thou at Peace

Deaths reported from September 21—December 7, 2017.

COL Harold N. Moorman, USA, Retired	1938	Col Howard L. Peckham Jr., USAF, Retired	1951	LTC William W. Robocker, USA, Retired	1960
COL George R. Allin Jr., USA, Retired	1942	Mr. Donald T. Sheridan	1951	Mr. Thomas H. Taylor	1960
Brig Gen Benjamin B. Cassidy Jr., USAF, Retired	1943 JUN	COL John E. Shillingburg, USA, Retired	1951	COL William R. Griffiths, USA, Retired	1961
Col Ullin L. Hudson, USAF, Retired	1943 JUN	Mr. Russell F. Walthour	1951	LTC David H. Mace, USA, Retired	1961
LTG John H. Cushman, USA, Retired	1944	COL George B. Bartel, USA, Retired	1952	COL James B. Royce, USA, Retired	1961
LTC Wilbur L. Kahn, USA, Retired	1944	COL Michael A. Boos, USA, Retired	1952	LTC Harold E. Harris, USA, Retired	1962
Mr. Joseph R. Shelton Jr.	1944	COL Williams L. Harrison Jr., USA, Retired	1952	Lt Col Arthur R. Miller, USAF, Retired	1962
Mr. George E. Wyatt Jr.	1945	LTC Herbert C. Hollander, USA, Retired	1952	Col Arthur J. Bianco, USAF, Retired	1963
COL William P. Schneider, USA, Retired	1946	Mr. John R. Englehart	1953	LTC Olen L. Earnest, USA, Retired	1963
Mr. Forest W. Crowe	1947	COL Robert L. Kaplan, USA, Retired	1953	Mr. Clyde W. Hotman Jr.	1963
Mr. Thomas L. Flattery	1947	LTC John W. Gilboux, USA, Retired	1954	Mr. Arthur C. Lewis	1963
Mr. Burton Katz	1947	Col Robert A. Hamblin, USAF, Retired	1954	Mr. Henry L. Strickland	1964
COL John W. Lauterbach Jr., USA, Retired	1947	Mr. Ernest A. Marvin Jr.	1954	Mr. John B. Gailley	1965
LTC James A. Blakeslee, USA, Retired	1948	Mr. James F. Obendorfer	1954	COL Zigmund J. Roebuck, USA, Retired	1965
Col Benjamin J. Loret, USAF, Retired	1948	LTC George E. Perrin, USA, Retired	1954	Mr. Earl T. Wiley III	1965
COL Allan J. English Jr., USA, Retired	1949	LTG James A. Williams, USA, Retired	1954	Mr. Frederick H. Thomas	1967
Professor Robert T. Fallon	1949	Dr. Dennis J. Cosca	1955	COL James D. Craig, USA, Retired	1968
BG Gilbert W. Kirby Jr., USA, Retired	1949	COL Irvin G. Katenbrink Jr., USA, Retired	1955	LTC Larry S. Fulton, USA, Retired	1968
COL William F. Luebbert, USA, Retired	1949	Lt Col Walter F. LeCates Jr., USAF, Retired	1955	COL Craig R. Garrett MD, USA, Retired	1969
Mr. George M. Shepherd	1949	Mr. Samuel N. Lowry Jr.	1955	Mr. Paul M. Andrew Jr.	1971
Lt Col William C. Shiel, USAF, Retired	1949	Mr. Paul R. Smor	1955	Mr. Robert P. Rhea	1972
Mr. Everett J. Yacker	1949	Mr. Clarence L. Trentman	1955	Mr. John R. Stone	1978
MG Lucien E. Bolduc Jr., USA, Retired	1950	Mr. Nelson M. Lynde III	1957	MAJ Barry W. Muth, USA, Retired	1981
LTC Harry E. Dodge, USA, Retired	1950	Mr. Nicholas Monaco Jr.	1957	Mr. Samuel S. Rollinson	1982
COL Alfred L. Griebing, USA, Retired	1950	LTC Bernard J. Tullington Jr., USA, Retired	1957	Mr. David D. Coover II	1983
COL Lyman H. Hammond Jr., USA, Retired	1950	COL Edward V. DeBoeser Jr., USA, Retired	1958	Mr. Michael W. Wooley	1984
LTC James G. Howell, USA, Retired	1950	Mr. Robert L. Hultzen	1958	Mr. Brian F. Wycoff	1984
COL Lucien E. Rising, USA, Retired	1950	LTC Dwain T. Moentmann, USA, Retired	1958	Mr. David A. Reynolds	1985
COL Winfred G. Skelton Jr., USA, Retired	1950	Mr. Albert A. Breuel	1959	Mr. Samuel J. Bass	1986
Mr. Frank N. Watson	1950	Mr. James A. Dorsey	1959	Honorable J. K. Day	1993
COL Patrick W. Wilson, USA, Retired	1950	Col George P. Hannan, USAF, Retired	1959	Mr. John G. Chung	1997
MG James G. Boatner, USA, Retired	1951	LTC Denis C. Dice, USA, Retired	1960	Mr. Robert C. Vincent	2003
Mr. James M. Lowerre	1951	Lt Col Warren H. Glenn, USAF, Retired	1960	1LT Stephanie M. Hetland, USA	2014



# Past in Review



Upon entering the original West Point Visitors Information Center, guests were greeted by an attendant at a central information desk.

## Welcoming Guests Since 1952: West Point's Past Visitors Centers

By **Keith J. Hamel**, WPAOG Staff

Sixty-five years before the new Frederic V. Malek West Point Visitors Center opened its doors to guests, West Point put the finishing touches on its first Visitors Information Center. Located in the east wing of the old gun shed that used to be at the south end of the post (around Buffalo Soldiers Field), West Point's initial Visitors Information Center was the product of the Academy's Sesquicentennial initiatives. Opened in 1952, the Visitors Information Center featured a large map of West Point, an information desk staffed by Academy personnel, and exhibits suggested by Colonel Ralph E. Kelly, USAF, who reportedly had an extensive background in such matters. Kelly recommended exhibits that presented a concentrated view of a cadet's four years at West Point, including a panel that illustrated the Academy's entrance requirements, photographs of the academic subjects taught, and a display devoted to military instruction.

The exhibits began, however, with a panel highlighting the mission of the Academy and an enlarged copy of Robert Lovell's "Spirit of West Point" painting. Perhaps the most popular exhibit in the Visitors Information Center was the full-scale model of a cadet room. According to Major George S. Pappas '44, the Academy's Assistant Public Information Officer at the time, the cadet room model, which was behind glass partitions and featured measurements identical to those of an average cadet room, provided the public with its first view "in the entire history of the Academy" of how cadets live in the barracks. "Each year cadets of the Public Information Detail prepare the room as if for a Saturday morning inspection," Pappas noted in *ASSEMBLY* magazine, "and tactical officers would then inspect the room to make sure it was in top form." The Visitors Information Center also featured a small theater that regularly ran a short film titled "This is West Point."

Open seven days a week from April to October, the West Point Visitors Information Center welcomed more than 80,000 guests in its first two years of existence. In the ceremony marking its 1954 spring opening, three special guests received the first tour of the season: actress Maureen O'Hara, actor Tyrone Power, and film director John Ford. The three Hollywood legends were at West Point for several weeks to film *The Long Gray Line* for Columbia Pictures. Also in 1954, thanks to material provided by the Department of the Army Exhibit Unit, Cameron Station, the West Point Visitors Information Center added six large exhibits related to the Army and the soldier. The displays in these exhibits showcased the various branches of the Army and illustrated the duties that West Point graduates would be performing after graduation.

After 37 years, the West Point Visitors Center dropped "Information" from its name



(at least on its façade) and moved its location outside of Thayer Gate, taking up residence in the former library of Ladycliff College. On September 1, 1989, it opened its doors in conjunction with the West Point Museum, which had vacated its location in Thayer Hall the previous July and occupied another one of Ladycliff's buildings, renaming it Olmsted Hall (after Major General George H. Olmsted '22, Retired, who donated much of the funding needed to renovate the new building). A gift shop completed the new south post visitors complex, which was now open year round (except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's). At the time of the new Visitors Center's opening, West Point was averaging nearly three million visitors annually as one of New York state's top three tourist attractions, according to the July 1990 *ASSEMBLY* magazine.

According to Sherry Macklin, manager of the West Point Visitors Information Center at the time, the new Visitors Center was set up in three sections: first, a macro view of West Point and the vicinity, highlighting the intellectual, physical, and military development of cadets; second, a micro view of contemporary cadet life, including the popular cadet room model and a four-minute video of a typical day in the life of a cadet; and, lastly, a visitor orientation area where guests could obtain information about West Point activities and purchase tickets for guided tours (West Point Tours, Inc., began daily bus tours of the Academy from a location adjacent to the new Visitors Center).

James M. Warner '67, a principal and partner with JSA, Inc. Architects and Planners, helped design the new 1989 Visitors Center. "I wanted to create a marriage between the old Ladycliff College Library and the new addition," he told *ASSEMBLY* magazine in 1990. The Visitors Center's 30-foot high glass and steel central atrium created a dramatic entrance, bridging the building's new construction and renovation work, and the new Visitors Center earned praise from various architectural publications, including receiving the cover image of a 1989 edition of *Modern Steel Construction*.

After more than two dozen years of existence, however, the overwhelmingly positive reviews for the Visitors Center have faded and its "modern" design has become dated. In 2012, then Superintendent

Lieutenant General David H. Huntoon Jr. '73, believing that the Visitors Center was no longer helping shape visitors experiences and expectations adequately, made it a priority to build a 21st-century "Experience Hub" that could join the legion of "must sees" at West

Point, such as the Cadet Chapel, the Cemetery, and Trophy Point. In August 2016, the majority of the Visitors Center was demolished in order to make room for West Point's third "front door" in Academy history, the Malek West Point Visitors Center. ★



One of the most popular exhibits of West Point's second Visitors Center (bottom), which opened September 1, 1989, was the cadet barracks room, complete with a mannequin wearing Full Dress under Arms and Parade Hat (top).





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