

West Point

SPRING 2020

Corps 2020

A New Generation Upholds the
Legacy of the Long Gray Line



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West Point

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2 • SPRING 2020

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

POSTMASTER

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

West Point is printed by Sheridan NH.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions may be ordered for \$25 (domestic mail) online at WestPointAOG.org; by calling 800.BE.A.GRAD; or by sending a check to WPAOG, *West Point* magazine, 698 Mills Road, West Point, NY 10996-1607. (International shipping incurs additional fees; please inquire.)

ON THE COVER: More than 4,000 Cadets eat lunch weekdays in the Cadet Mess in Washington Hall. Tom Loftin Johnson's 1936 mural "Panorama of Military History" in the southwest wing was restored with a 2002 gift from the Class of 1976. Photo by Erika Norton.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Graduates:

March 16 marked Founders Day, the day in 1802 when President Thomas Jefferson signed a document that read in part, "...that the said corps, when so organized, shall be stationed at West Point in the state of New York and shall constitute a military academy." West Point and its Long Gray Line of graduates have seen much in the subsequent 218 years: wars, economic turmoil, social unrest, and more. After each disruption has subsided, the Academy and the Long Gray Line has come out stronger and more united than ever before.

Today, we face the global pandemic known as COVID-19. It has forced drastic changes to life at West Point. The Corps of Cadets was directed not to return from spring break, the Army West Point Athletic Association announced the cancellation of all remaining athletic events for the Spring 2020 season, and West Point was closed to visitors. COVID-19 also altered business at the West Point Association of Graduates. Out of concern for the health and welfare of its staff, WPAOG allowed its employees to work remotely. This move protected the safety of WPAOG employees while allowing them to maintain the continuity of the valuable services and programs WPAOG provides. The Entrepreneur Summit was postponed until the end of July, the Jacksonville Service Academy Career Conference was converted to a virtual event, and more than five dozen West Point Societies did not hold Founders Day events—but all still celebrated this great day in spirit. The spring reunions will all be rescheduled.

This issue of *West Point* magazine was completed before the measures described above were implemented. As a result, it contains articles about teams and activities that have been impacted by COVID-19. For example, the Army West Point Hockey Team was unable to compete in the 2020 Atlantic Hockey Tournament, and the 2020 USMA Black Squad had to stop training for the defense of its 2019 Sandhurst title.

One article that might be serendipitous at this time is the cover article dealing with the Corps 2020. The article highlights that a new generation of cadets currently comprises the Corps and will soon be entering the ranks of the Long Gray Line, a generation that was born in the wake of 9/11 and now reaches maturity in the ascendance of COVID-19. Like all generations of West Pointers before them facing such challenges, thanks to the lessons in leadership they have received at the Academy and from Margin of Excellence opportunities funded by WPAOG, this generation is well prepared to meet the challenges of this new age.

Grip (wash) Hands!



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





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The USCC is a microcosm of American youth, and the impact of national attitudes at West Point is strong. But while a new generation with new attitudes now makes up the Corps, history suggests that the values of the Long Gray Line—*Duty, Honor, Country*—remain timeless.

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Over 53 years, Sandhurst, West Point's annual military competition, has evolved from a Corps of Cadets event into the world's premier military skills exercise for officers in training. Today's international competitors are all-star squads from military academies across the globe. In 2016, West Point decided to form its own all-star Sandhurst teams.

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Each weekday, more than 4,000 cadets fall into formation, enter Washington Hall, eat lunch at more than 450 tables, and depart for class in about 25 minutes. Supporting this marvel of logistics behind the scenes, the Mess Hall crew starts preparing about nine hours in advance.

To view a time lapse video of the West Point Mess Hall: Open the camera on your smartphone or tablet. Hold over the QR Code image at right. A link will appear. Click on the link. Or, go to bit.ly/messhalltimelapse



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"I know you join me in celebrating our Academy and its role in our national defense, the kinship we all share as graduates, as well as the strength and resiliency of the Long Gray Line."

Fellow Members of the Long Gray Line:

On behalf of the West Point team, Happy Founders Day to you all. As you know, in light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, many Founders Day events were cancelled. I know this was a difficult decision, as we all look forward to this annual celebration, and I appreciate your patience and understanding during this time. Even if we cannot gather together in person, I know you join me in celebrating our Academy and its role in our national defense, the kinship we all share as graduates, as well as the strength and resiliency of the Long Gray Line.

Over the past several weeks, we at the Academy, in coordination with our chain of command and local, state, and federal partners, have taken a number of actions to limit the spread of the virus and to ensure the health and safety of the entire West Point community. We did not reassemble the Corps of Cadets after Spring Break, we closed the installation to visitors, and we cancelled or postponed conferences and other on-post events, among other actions.

The entire West Point team—the USMA staff and faculty, Garrison, Keller Army Community Hospital and many other enterprise partners—has been working around the clock to ensure we're able to continue operations as much as

possible, while planning for the safe return of the Corps of Cadets and protecting the health of the entire community. The members of the team have done, and continue to do, incredible work as we navigate the many challenges associated with this pandemic, and I know we're all grateful for their hard work.

This pandemic has disrupted normal operations here for the foreseeable future, and I know this is disappointing and frustrating for many. My number one priority as Superintendent is the health, safety and security of every member of the West Point community. Please know that we are taking every precaution to protect the force.

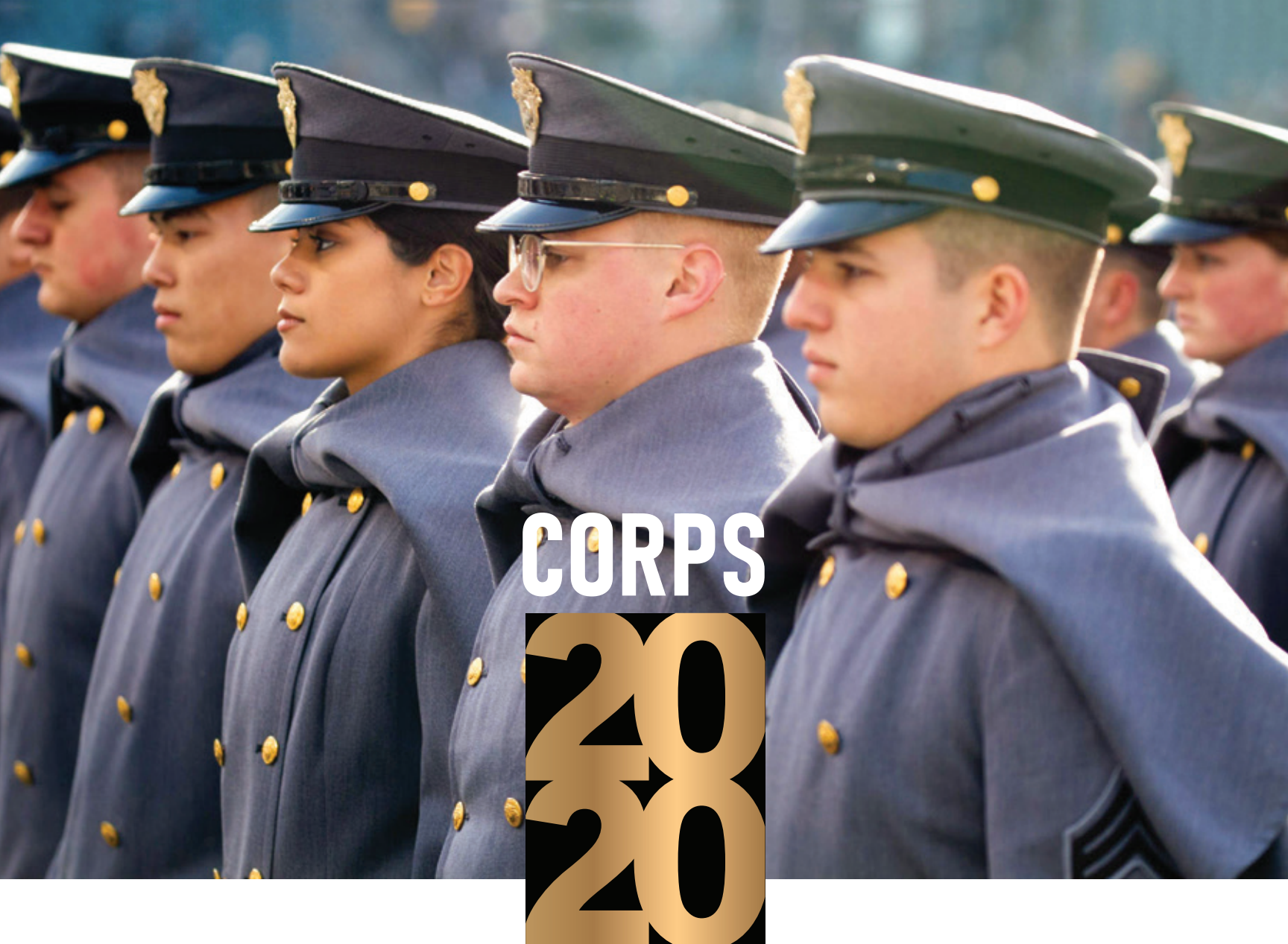
Thank you for your patience and understanding during these challenging times. Ultimately, it is our strength and resiliency that will ensure we weather this situation.

As always, thank you for all you do for West Point and the Long Gray Line.

Go Army!

Darryl Williams '83
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
60th Superintendent, U.S. Military Academy
[Letter as of March 16, 2020]

**For the U.S. Military Academy's latest coronavirus guidance, please visit
WestPoint.edu/coronavirus**



A New Generation of Cadets Upholds the Legacy of the Long Gray Line

By **Keith J. Hamel**, WPAOG staff, with contributions from **Dr. Steve Condly** and **Dr. Arthur Coumbe '73**

In October 1975, in observance of his 50th class reunion, Brigadier General Charles P. Nicholas '25 published "West Point—Then and Now: Fifty Years of Growth and Change," an eyewitness account of the most fundamental changes at West Point from the time he arrived in 1921 to 1975. In between describing the "massive array of new buildings" required by the successive increases in the size of the Corps of Cadets, and the reasons why cadets who were once "found" were now resigning from the Academy before separation procedures occurred, Nicholas penned a passage that is as true today as it was then: "The Corps of Cadets is a microcosm of American youth, and the impact of national attitudes at West Point is strong. Certainly these attitudes have changed since fifty years ago."

Given the milestone nature of 2020—it is the start of a new decade, its repeating digits represent a phenomenon that occurs only once a century, and it marks several historical anniversaries (100 years since the 19th Amendment and women’s suffrage and 400 years since Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower arrived in the New World)—*West Point* magazine decided it would be a good time to look at today’s Corps of Cadets and see how it compares to “the Corps of an earlier day.”

“We of the Corps are Treading, where They of the Corps Have Trod”

Today’s Corps of Cadets is nearly 100 years removed from the 1921 start of Nicholas’s account, a year that marked the final year of Douglas MacArthur’s (1903) tenure as Superintendent. As for being a microcosm of American youth, today’s cadet is considered to be a member of what is now dubbed “Generation Z.” According to the Pew Research Center, this new generational cohort began in 1997, the birth year of Cadet Daine Van de Wall ’20, this year’s First Captain. Per the Beloit Mindset List—an annual compilation of the societal events, innovations, and attitudes that define that year’s college students—for members of Generation Z, cloning has always been a mundane laboratory procedure, they have always had eBay and various Apple Inc. “i” products (iMac, iTunes, iPod, iPad, and iPhone), and the United States has always been at war. Whereas Millennials, the immediately preceding generation, are referred to as “digital natives,” members of Generation Z are seen as “digital integrators,” never having known a world without computers or

cell phones, which they have integrated seamlessly into their lives. They are also motivated by security, value independence and entrepreneurial ideas, and navigate the demographic changes affecting American society with apparent ease. So, what is the Corps of 2020 like?

2020 Authorized Strength: 4400 Cadets

Since 2003, the Corps has operated at an authorized strength of 4,400 cadets. This authorization goes all the way back to March 1964, when Congress increased the size of the Corps from 2,529 to 4,417 cadets. It took another 12 years, however, before the Corps actually reached full strength. In 1991, as a result of the post-Cold War drawdown, during which the Army shrank by 30 percent, the authorized size of the Corps was reduced from 4,400 to 4,000. After 9/11 and the launch of the Global War on Terror, the number went back up to 4,400, with USCC reaching that target in 2012. To accommodate all these changes, the Corps increased from two regiments to four in the mid-1960s, eliminating “K,” “L,” and “M” companies in the process. “I” companies were cut following the graduation of the Class of 1998, but returned in the summer of 2011. Thus, the Corps today is a brigade of four regiments, each having three battalions, with each battalion having three companies of approximately 135 cadets.

Growing Diversity

While the size of the Corps has remained relatively consistent since the last of the “Silent Generation,” those born between 1928 and 1945, marched in dress gray, today’s Corps is much

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2020



more diverse in race and gender. Starting in 1948, following an order for the Army to integrate, every incoming West Point class included African-American cadets. Still, the Corps had only two dozen or so African-American cadets until 1968, the year in which an African-American officer was assigned to the USMA Admissions Office and charged with the responsibility of attracting more minority candidates.

According to Theodore Crackel, a former visiting professor in USMA's History Department, three years later there were almost 100 African-American members of the Corps. "At the same time, other minority groups—Hispanics, Asians, and Native Americans—began to score important gains," Crackel says. Minority representation in the Corps grew from 5 percent in 1971 to 15 percent in 1990. Similarly, in 1976, female cadets were first admitted to the Academy, and their representation in the Corps grew from 8 percent in 1980, the first year of female graduates, to 15 percent by 2000. Today, there are approximately 1,150 women in the Corps, which amounts to nearly 25 percent of its total makeup.

According to the USMA G-5, minority representation in the Corps is also at an all-time high, with nearly one-third of today's Corps identifying as African-American (15 percent), Asian (8 percent), Hispanic (10 percent), or American Indian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander (1 percent). The G-5's office of Institutional Research also maintains that these changes in the demographics of the Corps occurred for three primary reasons: to reflect changing national demographics, to reflect the goals and needs of the Army, and to increase the social legitimacy of the Army.

Academics Today: More Electives, Majors and Minors

When the Corps began to expand, more cadets started to come from the pool of "congressional qualified alternates," and, according to Lance Betros '77, former professor and head of USMA's History Department, this gave West Point a long-sought tool to enhance the academic qualities of entering classes. Concurrently, the Academy began a two-decade evolution of what Betros calls, "From Prescription to Choice," regarding the academic curriculum. The Class of 1961 was the first class to be offered a full slate of academic electives (other than a foreign language); in 1970, cadets began to select an area of concentration; and by academic year 1983-84 cadets could opt to pursue one of 16 optional majors in lieu of the prescribed core sequence. Today, there are 36 majors available to cadets.

Simultaneously, with the growth in majors, the number of required core courses in the curriculum declined. In 1962, the core included 48 courses. By 1972, it had dropped to 40 courses, and in 2000, it fell to 30 courses. Today, after selecting an academic major became mandatory in 2007, there are now 27 core courses. In addition, today's cadets have the option of pursuing a minor in 15 different subjects.

Majors and minors were added to the West Point curriculum for two reasons: one, to boost admissions and retention; and, two, to address the expanding needs of the Army, particularly its greater need for specialized talent in today's operational environment. In addition to seeing the introduction of majors, the Class of 1983 was the last class that allowed cadets to graduate with less than a 2.0 grade point average. While "chasing tenths" was the

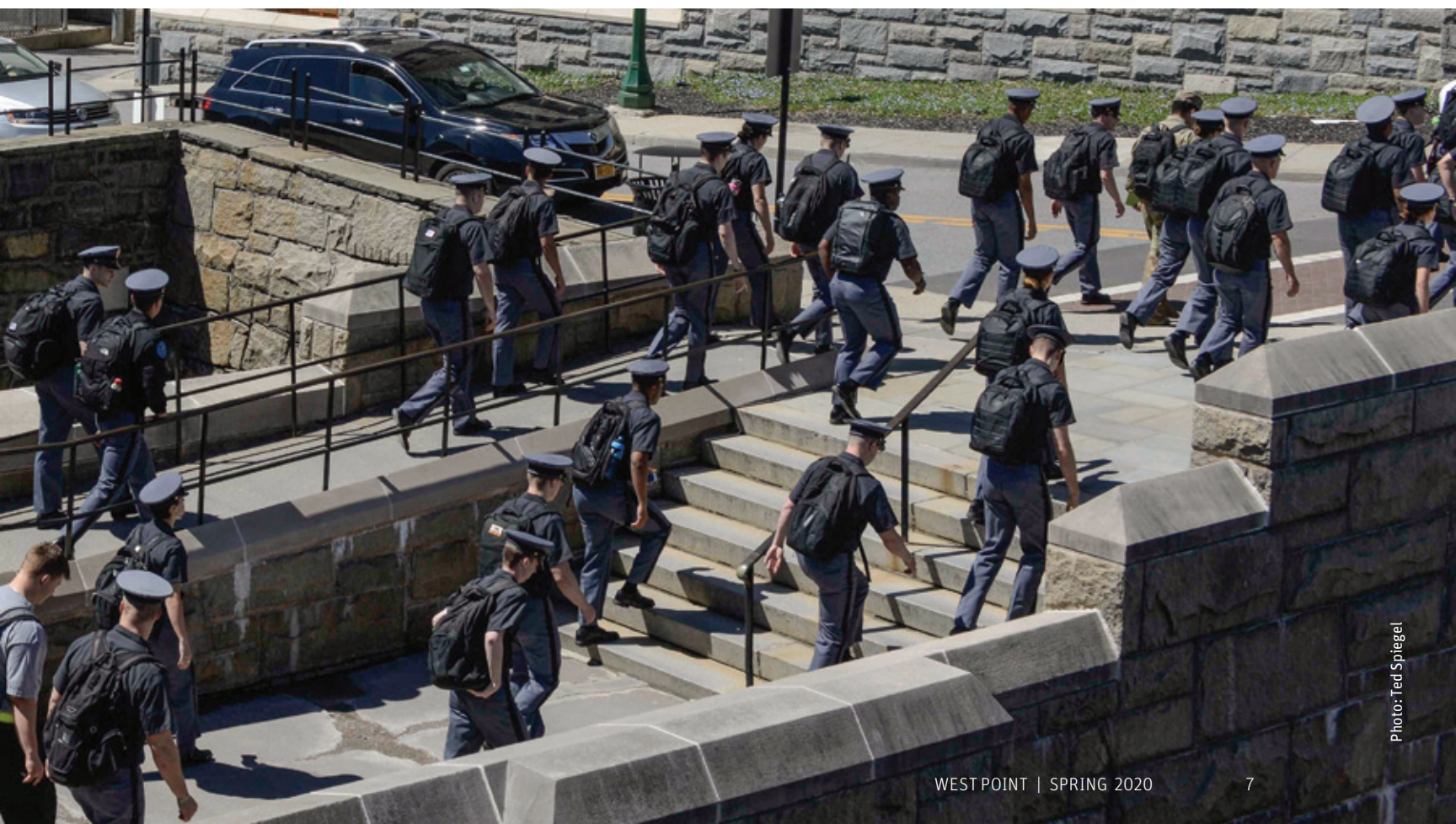


Photo: Ted Spiegel



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academic bane of Baby Boomer and earlier generation cadets, today's cadets must satisfy the rigorous requirements of their particular academic major, which typically involves completing a semester-long capstone project. But they are ready for the challenge. Nearly two-thirds of today's Corps is comprised of cadets who graduated in the top five percent of their high school class, and more than 10 percent of the cadets in the Corps were the valedictorian or salutatorian of their high school class.

Military Instruction Changes Made During Cold War, 90s Demobilization, Post 9/11

In addition to adapting to new academic standards, today's Corps also undergoes a more tactical and technical military program. In 1958, General Maxwell Taylor (1922) said that West Point was not "a mill for producing second lieutenants." What he meant by this is that West Point's focus was on providing a general education to cadets, one that would prepare them to attend graduate school in a number of disciplines so that they could serve as skilled and perceptive senior field grade officers. Ironically, right around the time Taylor made his pronouncement, West Point was updating its military program, laying the groundwork for the model in place today.

According to Betros, in the early 1960s, Second Class cadets began participating in Army orientation training, serving as assistant platoon leaders in real "Big Army" units. First Class cadets also spent their June on a combat-arms trip to Army branch centers. Starting in 1971, Second Class cadets were allowed to attend Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and, says Betros, "Within a few years the menu of specialty schools available to cadets as part of what became known as the Cadet Military Skills Program increased considerably: Ranger, flight, jungle, and northern warfare training." The combat-arms orientation program ended in 1973, and from then on, West Point's military program remained virtually unchanged until 9/11. In fact, with the end of the Cold War and demobilization in the 1990s, the emphasis on producing platoon leaders shifted somewhat, as the Academy started to emphasize service to the nation rather than service to the Army.

With the launch of the Global War on Terror and the Army's introduction of the "Warrior Ethos," West Point again turned its attention to readiness and the production of platoon leaders. Starting in 2003, cadets returned to taking military science courses during the academic year, and, in 2008, the Academy introduced *MX400: Officership*, a capstone course for the Military Science program and a graduation requirement for cadets. According to then Brigadier General Robert Caslen '75, Commandant of Cadets from 2006 to 2008, MX400 was designed so that "upon graduation, each new Second Lieutenant will be fully prepared for the immediate challenges of junior officership."

That same year, West Point also introduced Cadet Leader Development Training (CLDT) to summer training, a three-week program for rising firsties that uses tactical problem-solving and leadership under stress to expose cadets to the technical proficiency required of second lieutenants. Demonstrating the increased emphasis of tactically focused training on today's Corps, it is not uncommon to see current cadets at West Point writing elaborate operations orders and tactical plans for DMI, performing PMCS on vehicles on weekends, planning collective night-time training exercises, conducting air assault training, or regularly wearing ACUs to class.

Leader Development Through the Cadet Chain of Command

Today's cadets also do more in the way of chain of command duties than their predecessors of several decades ago. The Brigade Staff, for example, is the largest it has ever been, and every yearling serves as a team leader to one or more plebes. The goal is that each cadet, plebe through firstie, develops as a leader of character who lives honorably, leads honorably, and demonstrates excellence. In the past, cadet discipline and leader development was dictated by the Fourth-Class System, an "attrition" model that had its origins in the strict hierarchy that put plebes in a subservient position to upperclassmen. In 1969 and again in 1971, studies were conducted on this system, the results of which questioned how well compliance contributed to positive



leadership development, but changes weren't made until the findings of the West Point Study Group were made public in September 1977. These changes first came in 1978 in the form of reducing the amount of "plebe knowledge" a Fourth Class cadet needed to memorize, but many still worried that West Point's traditional model wasn't adequately meeting the Academy's leader development goals.

Move from Fourth Class System to Class Leader Development System

To address this, in July 1990, the Academy abolished the Fourth Class System and instituted the Class Leader Development System (CLDS). Nicknamed the "Four Class System," CLDS went beyond the plebe experience and placed increasing demands and responsibilities on cadets of each class, as well as addressing leader development across six domains: intellectual, military, physical, social, moral-ethical, and human spirit. Rather than compliance, the outcome of CLDS was focused on officership, particularly inculcating each cadet as a member of the Profession of Arms, as a warrior, and as a leader of character.

2012: West Point Leader Development System Adds Character Pillar

In 2012, CLDS changed focus, replacing the six domains with eight learning outcomes, and became known as the West Point Leader Development System (WPLDS). With the change, West Point added the character pillar to USMA's overall developmental program. WPLDS changed its focus in 2018, adding "accountability" to the developmental system already in place, and this is the model guiding the 47-month experience in today's Corps. According to the Superintendent's report "Developing Leaders of Character," "WPLDS adds to Army doctrine by integrating into its framework five facets of character—moral, civic, performance, social, and leadership—that help operationalize character into observable behaviors." For example, regarding leadership, today's cadets have multiple

opportunities to practice leading as much as following, serving in formal roles such as the cadet chain of command, as a section marcher for a class, or as a club cadet in charge; or serving in informal roles as members of a squad, teammates, and classmates.

"Or Living, or Dying, to Honor, the Corps, and the Corps, and the Corps"

It is clear that much has changed in the Corps over the last several generations of cadets, and not just the attitudes of American youth. In fact, when one looks further into Nicolas's assessment of the Corps of Cadets as a microcosm of American youth, he later notes that West Point receives its cadets from a majority of college-age Americans "ready to accept discipline and high standards." So, whether one is a member of the Baby Boomer generation, raised on Beatlemania, the transition from black and white to color television, and social unrest and economic recession; of Generation X, coming of age with MTV, AIDS, working moms, and the introduction of home computers; or of the Millennials, defined by 9/11, the Internet explosion, the "sharing economy," and after-school schedules; all are committed to the values that have defined what may be termed the "Long Gray Line generation"—that is, Duty, Honor, Country. And while a new generation of American youth with new national attitudes now make up the Corps, 218 years of precedent suggest that the Long Gray Line generation will not change. ★

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Dr. Arthur Coumbe '73 is a retired USMA Associate Professor who taught courses in the History and Social Science Departments. He currently works as a research historian in the Office of Economic and Manpower Analysis (Department of Social Sciences).



“Generational” shifts in the Corps since 1960:



1960

Last class to be assigned companies based on height



1961

First class to be offered a full slate of academic electives (other than foreign language)



1963

First class to undergo RECONDO training at Camp Buckner



1966

Last class to have two regiments



1967

Last class to spend Plebe Christmas at West Point



1971

Cadet Military Skills Program initiated, with second classmen allowed to attend Army's Airborne School at Fort Benning



1972

Last class to have four years of mandatory chapel attendance



1973

Last class to see “Silencing” as an officially sanctioned punishment by the Honor Committee



1976

Women admitted to West Point



1978

Last class to be issued slide rules



1978-79

Regulations for the Fourth-Class System change



1980

First class to graduate female cadets



1983

Last class to allow graduation with less than a 2.0 GPA



1990

First class to be issued personal computers



1990s

Cadet Leader Development System introduced in July 1990



1994

First class to receive “early recognition” before graduation



2006

First class to receive laptops



2008

MX400: Officership becomes a requirement for cadets/CLDT required for First Class cadets



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SETTING THE STANDARD FROM THE START: CBT and Lessons of Character

By Keith J. Hamel, WPAOG staff

Most graduates remember Cadet Basic Training (CBT) as a time for learning fundamental Army skills. Today, new cadets are still learning those skills, but they are also receiving training in something just as important to a future Army officer as marksmanship, land navigation, and rappelling—character training.

Character development has always been an important component of CBT, but today's West Point character training is more than just the two hours of lecture-format and procedurally driven Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) and Equal Opportunity (EO) training mandated by the Army.

In 2019, USMA's Department of Military of Instruction (DMI), in conjunction with the Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic (SCPME), revamped the way cadets receive character training. In addition to learning about Army values and

the Cadet Honor Code, cadets now receive honor and respect training under the heading of character education. "Honor and respect training are meant to build on what's being taught through SHARP and EO," says Major Ryan Hintz, who coordinates DMI's CBT Character Education program with SCPME, "and it is an extension of what the Academy is doing as part of its Honorable Living Stand-Down Day initiative." These events, held at the start of each academic semester, serve to improve the culture at West Point by attempting to create a community of trust, honor, and respect.

According to Dr. Pete Kilner '90, J. Alex Hottell SCPME Chair for Character Development, new cadets received seven hours of dedicated character training during CBT 2019. "The first hour was the Brigade Honor Captain's address to the entire class of new cadets; the other six hours featured squad-level conversations that drew upon the cadre's and new cadets' life experiences and engaged them in thinking about what it means to live honorably as West Point cadets," Kilner said. Anecdotal evidence suggests that these small, vignette-based group discussions are much more effective in forming and shaping the character of new cadets, given that the upperclass cadets who lead the conversations are so enormously influential in their lives. "The new cadets observe and interact with their cadre all day, every day during CBT," said Kilner. "They are a huge influence on new cadets' behaviors, motivations, and identity." In other words, the upperclass cadets set and enforce right standards of conduct; they explain why character matters in terms of self-interest, USMA's mission, and moral values; and they "walk the talk" as the leader role model.

The new cadets observe and interact with their cadre all day, every day during CBT. They [the cadre] are a huge influence on new cadets' behaviors, motivations, and identity."

—Dr. Pete Kilner '90

Upperclass cadets learn about their role in CBT character training during their own Leadership Training Program (LTP), a two-week course that teaches the cadre the skills necessary to train and lead the subordinates they will have over the summer. In 2019, once enabled by and empowered with the lessons of LTP, the upperclass cadets demonstrated a lot of initiative in regard to the new character training. "The cadre of CBT-I and CBT-II really grasped the opportunity to make this their own," said Hintz. "Most of CBT is executing a training plan that is not their own—keeping the trains running on time, so to speak—but when they were given the opportunity to bite into something, they did it well."

For a lesson regarding respect, the cadre took a big bite into a lesson developed by Kilner that was designed to foster an appreciation of empathy among new cadets. Companies had their squad leaders pair off new cadets by various "differences" (geographic, racial, gender, etc.) and asked pair members to tell their partners of a time during which they felt disrespected or misunderstood. Later, when they reconvened as a squad, partners needed to tell the story to the larger group, making themselves the subject of the story they were told, and explaining why the situation would cause suffering from their own point of view. After-action reports noted that this exercise, described as "empathy in action," helped increase new cadets' skills in both cognitive and affective empathy.

Squads also honed their "honor skills" by discussing scenarios designed by SCPME based on the principles of the West Point Leaders Development Program. One such scenario posed a situation in which a new cadet, in a rush to get equipment ready, forgot the command to fill his Camelbak with water before an 8-mile foot march during hot and humid weather. The squad leader then asks new cadets a series of questions designed to review basic West Point honor-related knowledge and test their integrity: "In formation, I ask you, 'Is your Camelbak full?' What should you do? Why?" "If you know that a squadmate's Camelbak is nearly empty, yet your squadmate lies, what should you do?" "If I ask the entire squad for a thumbs-up for full Camelbak and didn't notice that you didn't do one [thumbs-up], what should you do?" Sometimes, as in the last question, the issue is as much common-sense safety as it is honor, but all of them are designed to instruct new cadets on what it means to live in an honor-based community.

"The training is practical, encouraging character development on behaviors that new cadets can immediately practice," said Kilner. It also highlights the positive aspects of honorable living, rather than just citing violations of the Cadet Honor Code or Respect Creed. In this regard, Kilner sees the training as a challenge to which all cadets can strive, pursuing excellence in all aspects of their character and not being content with just following West Point's rules of behavior. "Just like their physical fitness, their character improves with practice, and, just like on foot marches, their path to reaching their goal, becoming a leader of character, is achieved one step at a time."

According to Hintz, character training has been templated to continue for CBT 2020: "As character training becomes more common, the cadets who have been here and see it as something 'new' will graduate, and suddenly the new cadet who hasn't known anything but periodic meaningful conversations about character will see this as 'normal,' as how it's 'always been' at the Academy." ★



In addition to learning many other fundamental Army skills, new cadets receive character training as part of Cadet Basic Training.

Military All-Stars: USMA's Black and Gold Sandhurst Teams



The USMA Black team claimed the Reginald E. Johnson Saber Plaque as the top overall team at Sandhurst 2019.



By Keith J. Hamel, WPAOG staff

In its 53-year history, Sandhurst, West Point's annual military competition, has evolved from a strictly Corps of Cadets event into the world's premier military skills exercise for officers in training.

The transformation began in 1993 when two teams from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, a military academy in the United Kingdom, were invited to participate. Recently, international participation has grown rapidly, with 14 international teams competing in Sandhurst 2019. The increase in international participation aligns with the Superintendent's international outreach priority for the Academy, especially with our allies. For the promotional material for Sandhurst 2019, Lieutenant General Darryl A. Williams '83, 60th Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, said, "Sandhurst strengthens relationships with our allies and partners to foster multi-national cohesion and interoperability while showcasing the tenacity and grit of future military leaders from across the world."

Sandhurst's international teams are all-star squads, formed out of the best-of-the-best from military academies across the globe. From 1993 to 2016, international squads won the Reginald E. Johnson Trophy as Sandhurst's highest scoring team 22 out of 23 times. The lone victory for a Corps of Cadets squad came in 2011, when Company B-3 took home first place honors. In the fall of 2016, Brigadier General Diana Holland '90, the Commandant of Cadets, made the decision to form USMA's own all-star team, which actually becomes two separate squads during competitions, the more experienced Black squad and its junior-equivalent Gold squad.

With West Point being the premier military academy in the world, it needs to have a premier team," says Cadet Pat Sutherland '20, the Cadet in Charge of the USMA Sandhurst team, "and even if we are not winning Sandhurst every year, we need to show that we have the capability to be in the hunt." In the spring of 2017, with Sutherland as a plebe on the team, USMA Black took home the Reginald E. Johnson Trophy in its first-ever Sandhurst competition, and USMA Gold came in third. A year later, in 2018, USMA Gold came in fifth, and in 2019 USMA Black reclaimed its status as the best overall squad of the competition, with USMA Gold finishing in fourth place. In fact, 2019 cemented USMA's premier status when it comes to Sandhurst, since two USCC company teams also finished in the top five.

The USMA Sandhurst team is technically a Department of Military Instruction club, but it functions like a Department of Physical Education (DPE) competitive sports club. "Our team has the endurance of a DPE club and the tactical prowess of a DMI club," says Sutherland. The team is cadet run with officer oversight. Its officer representatives (OR) come from DPE or the Brigade Tactical Department. "Having officers from all different

backgrounds helps the team tremendously,” says Sutherland. “We have Infantry officers assisting us with coordinating ranges, and we have DPE ORs overseeing our physical training plans.” The cadets generate those plans, and ORs tweak them and make suggestions.

A three-day tryout is held every fall for cadets wanting to join the USMA Sandhurst team, and cuts are made after each day. The tryout events assess cadets’ rucking ability, running stamina, and muscular endurance. Tryouts also feature team-based events to assess potential squadmates’ character and leadership abilities, as well as their communication skills. At the conclusion of the tryout event, the current members of the Sandhurst team conduct interviews with the top candidates before making their final selections.

“The cadets of the Black and Gold squads are some of the highest achieving cadets at West Point in all pillars,” says Dr. Todd Crowder, a DPE Professor and one of the team’s officer representatives. “Some have gone to SAPPER school and others have won the Goldwater Scholarship—they are absolute thoroughbreds and live and breathe grit.” Currently the 25-member USMA Sandhurst team is comprised of three plebes, eight yearlings, six cows, and eight firsties. Returning team members are guaranteed a spot on the overall team, but they still must compete for spots on the individual Black or Gold squads. In fact, there are a few cadets on the team who will end up not competing as a member of either of the two 11-member Sandhurst squads. The team also added a cadet team manager in 2019.



Top left: The USMA Black Squad in action at Sandhurst 2019. **Top right:** The USMA Gold Squad in action during Sandhurst 2018. **Above:** The Black and Gold squads in training together for Sandhurst 2020. The squads will later train separately in spring before the event.



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“Sandhurst strengthens relationships with our allies and partners to foster multi-national cohesion and interoperability while showcasing the tenacity and grit of future military leaders from across the world.”

—LTG Darryl A. Williams '83, 60th Superintendent, USMA



Left: The USMA Black squad participated in Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2019, a 40-mile course involving numerous military maneuvers and patrols throughout the countryside of Wales, United Kingdom. **Right:** Cadets in training for Sandhurst 2020 negotiate a variety of obstacles.

The Black and Gold squads train together in the fall but separately in the spring, and they have a very demanding training regimen. During the spring semester, they train six days a week. The squads hold 90-minute to two-hour workouts every afternoon. They also have two to four morning practices every week, typically focused on swimming or lifting. They also visit the ranges once during the week and do extended range training on Saturdays. “Timewise, this is one of the more demanding activities at USMA,” says Sutherland.

While both teams have excellent athletes, the Black squad has more experience. “And in international competition, experience matters,” says Crowder. Having an “all-star,” international team has allowed USMA to participate in other military skills competitions across the globe. Team members have competed in Mexico, Chile, and (last October) Wales. “We were only the third American team to participate in the Cambrian Patrol competition [Wales], and the first cadet team to ever do so,” says Sutherland. The other teams were a squad from the 82nd Airborne Division in 2010 and one from the 75th Ranger Regiment. Many of the teams that entered the competition—which is one, long, immersive tactical scenario throughout the rugged Cambrian Mountains and swamplands of mid-Wales—did not finish. Out of 134 teams from 34 countries, the USMA Black squad achieved the silver medal (given to teams that finish in the top 20 percent) and finished the course in 40 hours, making it one of the five fastest teams to complete the 65-kilometer course. “The commanding general of the 160 (Welsh) Brigade was especially impressed with our performance,” says Sutherland.

Crowder says, “I spoke to one of the enlisted soldiers who was out in the field, and he said that there was a six-to-eight hour period with some of the most demanding weather he has ever seen during the exercise, and this was his third competition.”

Some might argue that having an “all-star” USMA team contradicts the original purpose of Sandhurst, which was to give all cadets a venue to showcase their military excellence, but Sutherland maintains that having the Black and Gold squads has made all the USMA companies better. “When the company teams see us winning and competing at the highest level—cadets they know and recognize from the classroom or the barracks—they know they can do so as well,” he says. Last year, Company D-2 came in second overall to USMA Black, and H-2 came in fifth. “In 2019, USMA had its best field of cadet teams since the competition went international,” says Sutherland. Furthermore, just to compete in Sandhurst, all cadet squads now need to up their game. For the first time, in fall 2018, West Point added a fall component to Sandhurst, requiring USMA’s 36 company teams to compete in a “mini Sandhurst,” with the top 12 moving on to compete the following spring against the international teams, the dozen or so ROTC teams, and other U.S. service academy teams.

“Some cadets could make the Black or Gold squads, but they choose to stay with their company, which is rewarding also,” says Crowder.

Cadets who join the USMA Sandhurst team do so hoping to accomplish something bigger for the Academy than just winning for their company. Sutherland has sent training plans to other Sandhurst squads and actually conducted training with other company squads. “In doing so, we believe we are continuing the original mission of Sandhurst—fostering the military proficiency of cadets during the academic year.”

Plus, says Sutherland, “A win for our team is a win for the Corps.” ★

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Around West Point, everyone is familiar with the position of Brigade Commander, popularly known as First Captain of the Corps of Cadets. Some notable past First Captains include John J. Pershing (1886), Douglas MacArthur (1903), William Westmoreland (1936), and Vincent Brooks (1980). But the Brigade Staff at West Point is more than just the First Captain.

Today, approximately 80 cadets make up the Brigade Staff, and they are divided into four platoons: the primary staff (S-1, S-2, etc.), a secondary staff, the color guard, and a character platoon. The Honor Captain has been a long-established position in this last platoon, but it is also home to two of the Brigade Staff's newest positions: the Respect Captain and the Trust Captain.

Cadet Samantha Sullivan '20, a Computer Science major who branched Corps of Engineers, is this year's Trust Captain.

According to USC PAM 6-22, her role makes her responsible for handling the administration of the Corps of Cadets' Trust Program. Basically, this means that she coordinates and supervises all aspects of sexual assault and harassment education and inculcation for cadets. "My position, which is part of the Academy's overall Character Program, evolved out of CASHA [Cadets Against Sexual Harassment and Assault]," says Sullivan. "Over time, CASHA became synonymous with SHARP [the

Respect and Trust: USCC's Newest Brigade Captains

By Keith J. Hamel, WPAOG staff



(L to R) CDTs Samantha Sullivan and Grace Blackwell (both USMA 2020) often find themselves working together to make the Corps better as the Brigade Trust and Respect captains, respectively.

Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program], and cadets started to see it as something punitive, so it was renamed 'Trust.'"

Sullivan, who estimates that she spends 30 percent of her time fulfilling her duties as Trust Captain, manages a staff that consists of a PAO, an S-3, and an XO. Together, they conduct training at the company level with assistance from regimental Trust officers. She also participates in other Corps-wide initiatives involving Character and Trust, such as Honorable Living Stand Down Day, the "Share Your Story" program, and Trust Football Week. Regarding this last initiative, Sullivan says that she, as well as members of her brigade and regimental staffs, had dinner with the Army West Point Football Team. "This is the first year we have sponsored a fall [football] game. They always make their spring game teal-themed for sexual assault awareness and prevention month, but all three of the football captains and I thought having a fall trust dinner would be nice for the team, not for educational purposes, but just so they could connect as a team and get to know the Trust leadership better. We talked about what motivates us, both on and off the field, and what it meant to them to trust their teammates. The football team was proud to show support for the Trust Program, and they are a huge influence on the Corps."

Sullivan sees her mission as one to create an environment in which all cadets feel comfortable. "We need to make it so that cadets feel comfortable about coming forward and feel comfortable addressing other cadets when it comes to sexual assault and harassment," she says. Sullivan knows that change will not happen overnight, but she is starting small and hopes to see some expansion of her program moving forward. "I liken it to the Army's crawl-walk-run method of training," she says. "Right now we are in the 'crawl' phase, employing an anonymous reporting system, but by the end of my term I hope we are at the 'walk' phase, in which a cadet who witnesses questionable behavior will feel confident enough to confront their peer."

Before assuming her position, Sullivan, who had to complete two interviews in order to be selected (one with the former Trust Captain and one with Colonel Scott Halstead '91, then Director of the Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic), read the entire 2018 Service Academy Gender Relations Survey and went through SHARP training to learn about reporting procedures. "I am a good public speaker and can passionately promote Trust among the Corps, but ultimately I am a resource for cadets to assist them in their time of need," Sullivan says.

Sullivan's counterpart is Cadet Grace Blackwell '20, this year's Respect Captain. "The Respect and Trust positions have been defined and re-defined in the last couple years," says Blackwell, an American History major who branched Field Artillery. Like Trust, Respect is a pillar of and a position within the Character Program, but it is one that is undergoing a change. "Last year, they dissolved most of the Respect positions and only brought back my position on Brigade Staff," Blackwell says. "Thankfully, Samantha's staff helps out when they can, and a lot of the Trust reps at the company level also double as Respect reps."

Because of the changes to the Respect Program coming into this year, there wasn't a prescribed job description for Blackwell. "I had to establish definitions and boundaries on day one," she says. "While Trust focuses specifically on the subjects of sexual assault and harassment, I believe that Respect addresses the rest of the issues that fall under character holistically." In the past, the Respect Program was primarily associated with the Army's Equal

Opportunity (EO) program, but, for Blackwell, Respect is much more about developing one's character, particularly in the ways in which cadets treat one another. "If you leave West Point without the ability to see your peers as equal, then when you stand in front of your soldiers, who you can bet are going to be a diverse group, you are not going to be an effective leader," Blackwell says.

Despite the challenges facing her without a staff or a regulation defining her position, Blackwell went to work right away and created a new program under Respect, the Peer Respect Development Systems (PRDS). "We already had in place SLDP-R [Special Leader Development Program-Respect], but it is really geared toward more serious cases of disrespect that fall outside the bounds of cadet oversight," she says. Blackwell sought an intermediate program designed to handle low-level peer leadership challenges predominantly for underclassmen. Unlike SLDP-R, which is a corps-wide, six-month long program that involves a loss of rank and privileges, PRDS operates at the company level for two months and the offending cadet is coached by a senior cadet on their battalion staff and not an officer. "We can't expect all cadets to come to West Point already fully living the Army's values," Blackwell says. "This program is low threat, developmental, and has your peers genuinely caring about who you are rather than shoving you aside as some sort of social outcast." While not designed for truly overt or malicious Respect violations, PRDS is able to address the subtle issues that could become cause for SLDP-R intervention down the road. "I see three benefits to PRDS," says Blackwell: "First, it encourages cadets to confront their peers about Respect issues; second, it allows company commanders to make decisions about how behavioral issues are handled within their companies rather than just bumping them up to a TAC; and third, it allows cadets to practice coaching their peers developmentally." Ultimately, PRDS fulfills West Point's philosophy that one is not only responsible for their own individual development, but that of those around them as well.

"The Corps is constantly becoming more diverse, but you need a way to make that diversity beneficial to the institution rather than causing fractures in it."

—CDT Grace Blackwell '20

Grads coming back to West Point are surprised to learn of Sullivan's and Blackwell's positions. "Whenever an old grad sees my five bars and asks about my position, I get puzzled looks when I tell them that I am the Trust Captain," says Sullivan. "No such person in the Corps was involved with this 10, 20, 30, or 40 years ago." Having Respect and Trust captains shows a continuum of character development that the Corps has never really had before. Character development, respect, and sexual assault and harassment are important issues that today's Academy is taking very seriously.

"The Corps is constantly becoming more diverse," says Blackwell, "but you need a way to make that diversity beneficial to the institution rather than causing fractures in it." They might not be as well known as the First Captain, but with Sullivan and Blackwell serving as Trust and Respect captains, respectively, the Academy is ensuring that it is not just a diverse institution, but an inclusive one as well. ★

CORPS
2020



FEEDING the CORPS



Large photo: Inside the dining area of Washington Hall as cadets scramble to eat during lunchtime. **Inset:** Photo of some dining hall staff members after a team huddle discussing the plans of the day.



Top (left to right): One of the Mess Hall's 455 tables, each with its own condiment settings. Cadet picking up a treat in the 'Grab and Go' area near the Mess Hall (the 'Grab and Go' is a program that started in 2019). Wooden Mess Hall table with semi-formal place setting for 12. **Bottom (left to right):** CDT Kaylie Breslin '20 makes commands and announcements from the Mess Hall's legendary Poop Deck. Cadets take a break from eating lunch and smile for a photo opportunity for *West Point* magazine. Cadets in line at the Mess Hall's salad bar.

It's a scene that occurs Monday through Friday throughout the academic year.

Around noon, cadets start falling into formation by company around Washington Hall's various wings. After company business (accountability reports, inspections, and announcements), they receive the order to enter the Mess Hall for lunch. Each company gets seven tables, and each table seats 12 cadets. Varsity sport athletes also have their own team tables. After a few announcements from the Poop Deck, cadets are ordered to "take seats" and lunch commences. Mess Hall servers bring hot items, which are passed around the table family style. Cadets also have the option to go to one of the Mess Hall's salad bars, but they have to be quick. Lunch only lasts 25 minutes; however, thanks to a battle plan refined over the years by the Mess Hall staff, a scant mealtime is never a problem for hungry cadets.

To view a time lapse video of the West Point Mess Hall: Open the camera on your smartphone or tablet. Hold over the QR Code image at right. A link will appear. Click on the link. Or, go to bit.ly/messhalltimelapse



Left: West Point Band's Hellcats signal to cadets that it's time to line up outside the main doors of Washington Hall. **Right:** A company during lunch formation just outside the main doors of Washington Hall.



Above: (L to R) Chef Mickey Guerriero and Chef Terry Selby open the door to one of the many walk-in freezers that hold the massive amounts of food that feed the Corps. **Right:** Inside peek of one of the Mess Hall's huge walk-in refrigerators (the room could easily park five SUVs inside), with its stacks of supply boxes.

For the Mess Hall crew, lunch starts nine hours prior to formation, with the first shift of Mess Hall workers prepping lunch simultaneously with breakfast. Cooks, for example, might start firing up the Mess Hall kitchen's six combi ovens or nearly two dozen revolving ovens to bake entrees or cook side dishes. Staff workers also start placing accompanying food items, such as lettuce and tomatoes for sandwiches, onto wheeled cars and storing them in the kitchen's eight walk-in coolers. Approximately an hour before lunch, 30 or so Mess Hall workers and servers gather below the Poop Deck for final orders on how to divide duties regarding the Mess Hall's 455 tables. Once the cadets take seats, each server gets food to his or her allotted number of tables in just minutes. If cadets don't like what's on the menu any given day, there is always peanut butter and jelly on the table. These are among the nearly two dozen condiments, from sriracha to A-1 sauce and from mayo to maple syrup, placed on every table.

Lunch service for the Mess Hall staff doesn't end once the cadets are dismissed. At that point, some staff members start clearing up dishes, cups, and silverware from each table. Others begin running all the trays, cookware and tableware through the Mess Hall's two large dishwashers, two glass washers, and two pot-and-pan machines. Finally, still others haul out the garbage and sweep and mop the Mess Hall's expansive floor. By the time they are done, the battle plan for dinner is ready to execute. Another day complete of feeding the Corps. ★





Top row, left to right: A staff member works to keep up with the paperwork of the mess hall. Staff members working hard to put together a delicious fresh fruit salad for the cadets. Pies are wrapped and pre-cut into even slices, relieving plebes of their old pie-cutting duties. **Center row, left, top, bottom:** Zarate Micelina is prepping for lunch with a smile as she double checks to make sure everything is in place. The dining hall becomes filled with a citrus scent after the fresh fruit and veggies are placed in bins so that cadets have lots of healthy options. The staff carefully checks each table to make sure it has 12 cups, 12 sets of silverware and lots of condiments. **Bottom row, top, bottom, right:** Chef Terry Selby (left) and Chef Mickey Guerriero (right) open the lid to a giant cooking pot used to make soups and chilies. Staff members Edgar Rosales and Jason Morales mix together a fresh fruit salad for cadets. Although they are preparing grilled chicken for lunch, Daniel Reyes (left) and Chef Terry Selby (right) stop to 'ham' it up for the camera.



The Spirit of the Rings: The 2020 Class Ring Memorial Program

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

Hobey Hewett, the grandson of Major General Hobert Hewett, Class of 1919, and the first presenter at the 20th Annual West Point Class Ring Memorial “Melt,” captured the significance and sublimity of the ceremony perfectly when he told the amazing story of how his grandfather’s ring became part of the Ring Melt for the Class of 2021.

General Hewett died in 1967, and his class ring passed on to his daughter, Hobey Hewett’s mother. The ring was missing for decades, but, about two weeks before the Ring Melt Ceremony, Hewett and his brother were cleaning out his mother’s house and found the ring. He then learned about WPAOG’s Ring Memorial Program and worked feverishly with WPAOG’s Class Services to get the ring into this year’s program on short notice.

“It was the spirit of the ring that got it here,” Hewett said, offering an explanation as to why the ring was serendipitously found. “It wanted to be here, it wanted to come home, and it wants to be worn on the fingers of the cadets in the Class of 2021.” The Class of 1919, as it turns out, entered as the Class of 1921, but they were graduated early due to the need for officers during World War I. Despite this, his class maintained their 1921 crest; so, General Hewett’s ring could be considered a centennial gift to the Class of 2021. The power and magnitude of this story caught Cadet Katarina Christianson, President of the Class of 2021, a bit off guard, and she had to wipe away a tear from her eye before announcing the name of the next ring presenter.

Forty more rings, each with its own story and each with its own spirit, were placed in the crucible to be melted and used in making the Class of 2021’s rings. And several more times throughout the ceremony cadets and guests got a bit choked up listening to what the rings meant to their former wearers.

“He loved the Academy and never missed a reunion in his 99 years,” Daniel Ferris ’71 said about his father, Colonel Edwin Ferris ’35.

“The last thing he did before he passed was give his ring to his grandson,” Jon Greene said of his father Edwin Greene ’47, whose grandson is Drennan Greene of the Class of 2021.

“It is likely that this ring bears signs of physical sacrifice in its gold,” said Chaplain Matt Pawlikowski ’86, regarding the ring of living donor Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Robert W. Faulkender ’57, a Purple Heart recipient.

“He was West Point to the core” said Rose Bloomfield about her husband, Kenneth Bloomfield Jr. ’64, “and his is a ring that has

The West Point Class Ring of MG (R) Hobart Hewett, Class of 1919, was the oldest ring donated at this year’s Ring Melt ceremony.

history, a ring that has love, and a ring that has hope for all who come after him.”

Finally, upon presenting the ring of Major Christopher Thomas '01, the youngest grad to have a ring in the Ring Memorial Program, Melissa Thomas '04, his spouse, told the audience how Chris, a prior prepster who graduated in December 2001, was quite often the oldest cadet around. “He was nicknamed ‘old man,’ and he would get a kick out of being the youngest grad with a ring in today’s event,” Thomas said. She then continued, “The last time Chris was at West Point was in 2011 for his 10-year class reunion; so, every 10 years from now, a little piece of him will be coming back when the Class of 2021 has its 10-year reunions.”

“Listening to the stories and seeing people tear or choke up gave me chills,” said Cadet Adam McElligott, the Class Ring & Crest Chair for the Class of 2021. He also got chills walking the crucible containing the 41 donated rings to Bartlett Hall, where a special station had been set up to perform the melting. “I couldn’t believe how much history I was holding at one time,” McElligott said. “For us to take these items and melt the grads’ experiences all down so that the result could later be distributed evenly to my entire class in the form of our new class rings... that’s just awesome.”

Adding to the splendor and grandeur of the 20th Annual Ring Melt was the venue in which it was held. For the second time, the

event was held at West Point, after being held at a foundry in Warwick, RI its first 18 years. Specifically, it was held in the Haig Room, on the sixth floor of the Jefferson Library. With its panoramic views of Trophy Point, the Hudson River, and the Wind Gate formed by Storm King Mountain and Breakneck Ridge, this room served as the perfect backdrop for an event designed to bind generations of the Long Gray Line to the permanence of West Point and its eternal values: *Duty, Honor, Country*.

Right before handing over the gold bar to a representative from the Balfour ring company to be used in the making of the Class of 2021’s class rings, Cadet Christianson addressed the families of ring donors gathered in the ballroom of the West Point Club for the Ring Melt luncheon: “This ceremony symbolizes the unity of the past and the present... Today, the donation of your rings endows our rings with the spirit of high ideals, sacrifice, honor, and duty to the nation... The expectation is now set—for us to do better, to be braver, to always do the right thing, and to serve with honor, as you and your families have done before us. We will rise to the expectation that has been set for us today.” ★

To learn more about the Ring Memorial Program, visit WestPointAOG.org/RingMemorialProgram or call us at 845.446.1614.

“It was the spirit of the ring that got it here... It wanted to be here, it wanted to come home, and it wants to be worn on the fingers of the cadets in the Class of 2021.”

—Hobey Hewett, grandson of Major General Hobert Hewett, Class of 1919



Class officers and members of the Class of 2021, WPAOG Director of Class Services Cathy Kilner '90 and VP of Alumni Services Terence Sinkfield '99 pose with the ingot made from the melted gold of 41 donated West Point rings worn by past graduates. This gold will become part of USMA 2021 class rings, which they will receive in a special ceremony at Trophy Point in August 2020.

The 2020 Ring Memorial Program



Clockwise from upper left: Friends and family look at the donated West Point class rings before they are placed into the crucible, including Jon Greene and CDT Jon Greene Jr., Class of 2021, who donated the West Point class ring of Edwin B. Greene '47. Dan Ferris '71 and Mike Ferris salute after placing the West Point class ring of their father, COL (R) Edwin H. Ferris '35, into the crucible. Class of 2021 Ring and Crest Chair CDT Adam McElligott displays the crucible containing the 41 donated West Point class rings, which he delivered to Bartlett Hall for melting. The 41 donated West Point class rings worn by past West Point graduates were melted into an ingot, which will be incorporated into the rings of the Class of 2021. West Point cadets attended the Ring Melt ceremony to witness the donated West Point class rings, which were melted and will be used to make their own class rings.



West Point cadets, graduates, and families of ring donors posed with the gold ingot made from the 41 melted West Point class rings and the Legacy Gold, which will be used to produce the class rings for the Class of 2021.



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TEXTURES

of West Point

Photographs by **Ted Spiegel**

West Point is a special place, full of unique experiences, buildings, and monuments. Most graduates have vivid memories of the view from Trophy Point, marching on the Plain, living in the barracks, participating in athletics, and going to class in Thayer or Bartlett Hall. In day-to-day life after graduation, these memories of cadet days may fade, but sometimes a single image can renew vibrancy in the mind's eye.

Longtime West Point and *National Geographic* photographer Ted Spiegel brings a unique eye to the campus: "I think that there has been an institutional architectural grammar at West Point. There are lines and textures and styles and visual prompts which become resident in the minds of anyone who has spent time on post." In creating this photo essay exclusively for *West Point* magazine, Spiegel captured details of the architecture and cadet activities over the course of a year, illustrating what he calls the "Textures of West Point." We hope you enjoy it. ★





Photos: Ted Spiegel





"It is by riding a bicycle that you learn the contours of a country best, since you have to sweat up the hills and coast down them."

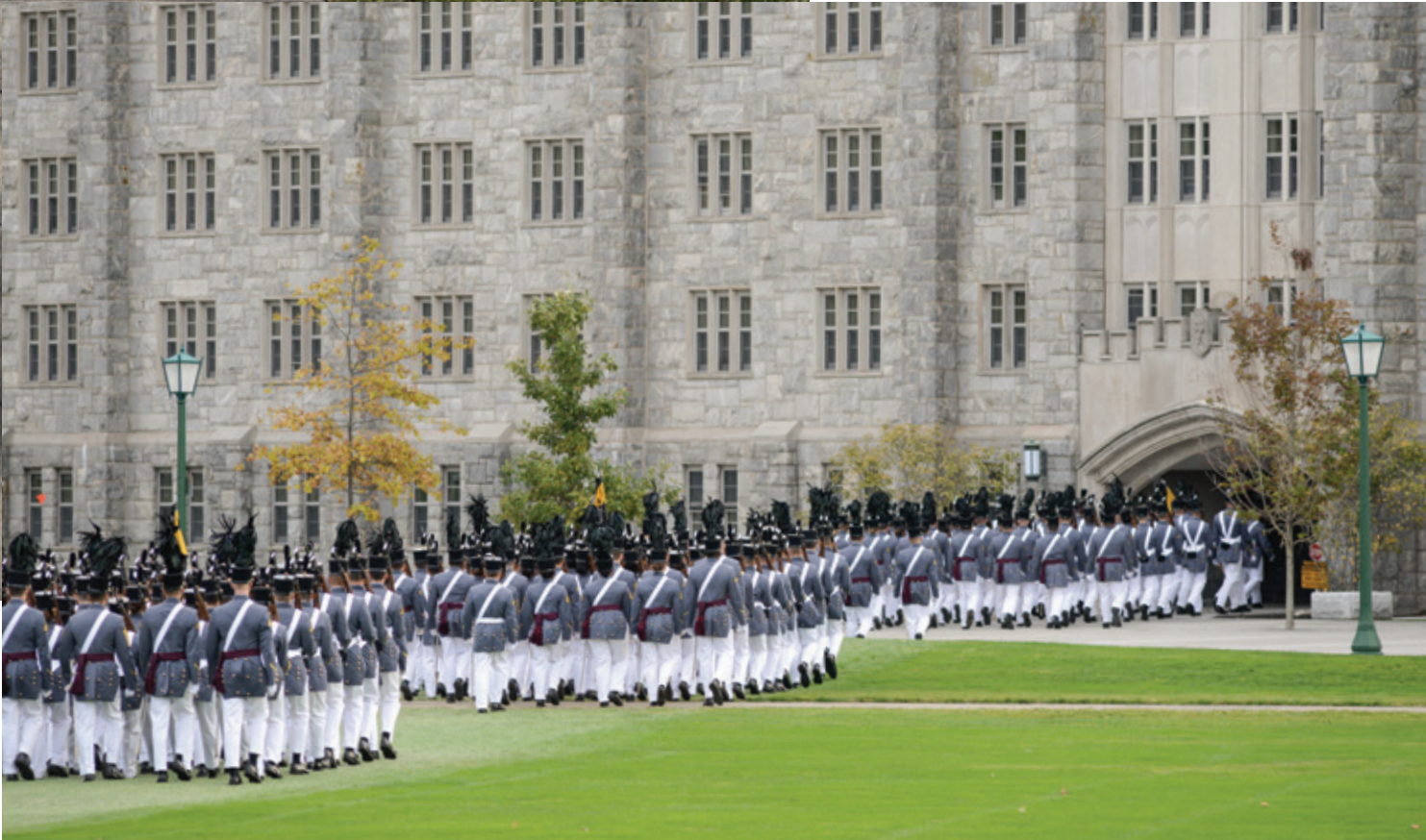
—Ernest Hemingway



“The world is full of obvious things which nobody by any chance ever observes.”

—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle





Photos: Ted Spiegel



THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN CADETS' LIVES: Why the Relationship between the Internet and Character means “The Corps Has Not”

By CDT Liam Furey '20, Guest Writer

Editors Note: Our guest writer argues that the infiltration of technology into cadet life has resulted in cadets who have better internalized the concept of honorable living.



Whether attending the Army-Navy Football Game, a West Point Association of Graduates sponsored event or completing Cadet Troop Leader Training in the “Big Army,” a conversation with “Old Grads” doesn’t last long before I hear those three dreaded words, “The Corps Has...” In almost every facet of cadet life, grads argue the Corps of today seem to have it easier than its predecessors in the Long Gray Line. Yes, modifications have been made to summer training at Camp Buckner, changes made to leave and pass rules, and many daily tasks can be easily accomplished through technology. Indeed, technology has allowed the Corps to evolve and streamline many aspects of the cadet experience while adding requirements to make us ready to fight our nation’s wars in the information age. Technology makes the 47-month experience different, not easier.

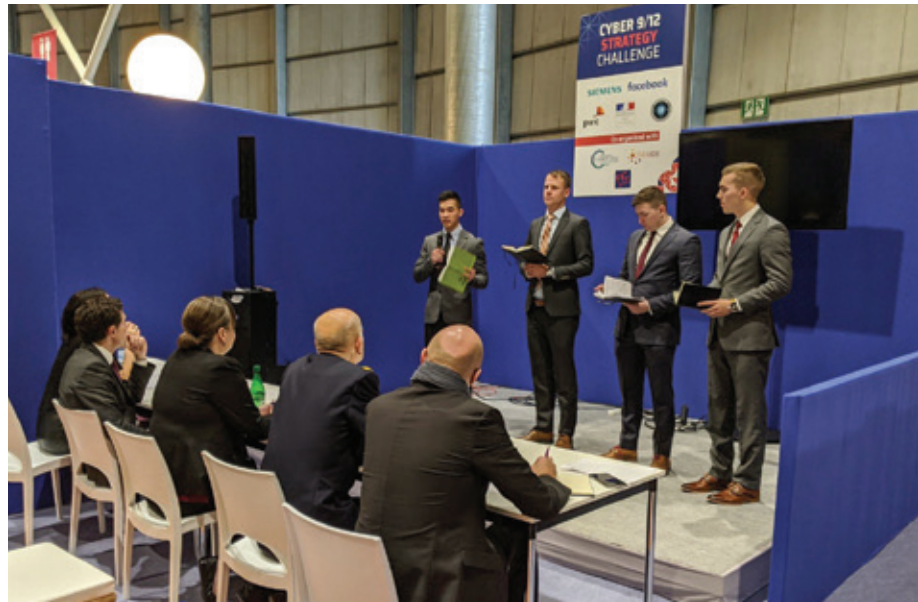
Let’s focus on character. Cadets live in an era of interconnectedness like never before, and the introduction of the Internet and technology like cellphones and computers only increased the level of

Top: In January 2020, members of the West Point Cyber Policy Team (L to R, CDTs Josiah Park '20, Liam Furey '20, Zachary Bolen '22, and Robert Norwood '20) traveled to Lille, France, where they won the Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge.

character development cadets will receive at West Point. A few decades ago, cheating on an assignment required deliberately copying a peer's work. Today, with the totality of human knowledge at one's fingertips, the temptation for dishonesty—choosing the easier wrong—is higher than ever.

It is true. Technology has changed the 47-month cadet experience. The ability to video chat with family and friends as a plebe, the countless location-centric social apps, and the speed of communication with other cadets have all improved cadet quality of life. The presence of a camera, microphone, and telephone in every cadet's pocket today has increased the level of scrutiny placed on individual cadets. The mantra of being on duty "24/7" is truly enforced in cadet life. It is impossible for a cadet to be certain who is watching or recording them at any given time, so cadets quickly learn to embody professionalism at all times. Whether the audience is the tourists packing buses during the summer or the crowds of fans at the football games—we have learned someone always is one second away from capturing a moment forever. This awareness reminds us to not only carry ourselves in a professional manner during the duty day but also in all facets of our life. Once we leave the Academy, there is an expectation that soldiers will always be watching. Now, more than ever before, my peers and I are required to tackle this challenge head-on and fully embrace and adopt the call to live honorably and lead honorably. ★

From West Barnstable, Massachusetts, Liam Furey '20 is a Computer Science major at the United States Military Academy at West Point. After graduation, he will commission as a Cyber officer. In his free time, Furey competes as a member of the West Point Cyber Policy Team and volunteers with the Scout Master's Council. He currently serves as the Battalion Operations Officer for 3rd Battalion, 2nd Regiment.



Members of the West Point Cyber Policy Team, of which CDT Furey is a member, address the judges at the Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge.

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Keeping the Dream Alive: Forty Years of the WPAOG Preparatory Scholarship Program



Gunnar Schwab



CDT Evan Zhang '22

Since he was in middle school, Gunnar Schwab of Farmington, New Mexico has dreamed of becoming a West Point cadet. His brother Scott was a 2017 USMA graduate, and Gunnar himself applied to West Point in 2018 to become a member of the Class of 2023. While fully qualified, Gunnar was not deemed the “best qualified” from his congressional district and thus was not offered admission to the Academy. He is not alone. Every year, a select group of applicants coming from highly competitive districts who aspire to “lead an uncommon life” as West Point cadets find themselves in a similar position. However, thanks to the West Point Association of Graduates’ Preparatory Scholarship Program, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2020, their dream of becoming a commissioned leader of character is still alive, much like Gunnar’s. He has recently received and accepted his offer to become a member of the Class of 2024, and given that those who go through the program graduate from West Point at higher rates than those directly admitted, the West Point AOG Preparatory Scholarship has proven to be a winning program for all involved: the candidate, West Point, and WPAOG.

West Point provides two alternative roads for select candidates who are not offered direct admission. The first is the U.S. Military

Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS), and the second is the West Point AOG Preparatory Scholarship Program. Both programs provide specialized instruction so that cadet candidates can successfully re-apply and qualify for admission the next academic year. The West Point AOG Preparatory Scholarship Program, a civil prep option, has an outstanding 40-year record of preparing students for West Point.

Each year, the USMA Director of Admissions hand-selects approximately 40 candidates (USMA can vary the number annually based on the size of the Corps); 30 scholar-leaders and 10 athletes. These candidates have outstanding qualities, and USMA Admissions provides them with a unique “second chance” opportunity: excel at a USMA-approved preparatory school or military college and receive an excellent chance of being offered admission to West Point the next academic year.

The civil prep candidates take courses dictated by the USMA Academic Board: American history, chemistry with lab, pre-calculus or calculus, and English composition. Scholar-leaders choose from a number of participating preparatory schools, which include Marion Military Academy, Georgia Military College, Northwestern Preparatory School, Hargrave Military Academy, and New Mexico Military Institute. “These prep schools prepare

“The West Point AOG Preparatory Scholarship Program outperforms both direct admits and USMAPS in the form of retention and graduation rates”

—USMA Admissions Office

our cadet candidates for the academic, physical, and military rigors of the United States Military Academy,” states the USMA Admissions Office. “Each school brings a unique experience for the selected candidates, building upon their already existing academic prowess, leadership skills, and physical fitness, and each school provides a place where like-minded students can all strive for their goals together, bringing a sense of camaraderie that, outside USMAPS, is unrivalled.”

Under the terms of the program, and in accordance with NCAA rules, a quarter of the candidates in each year’s civil prep cohort may also be recruited athletes who, in the view of the USMA Admissions Committee, would benefit from an additional year of academics in order to pass the rigorous courses at West Point. The civil prep athlete candidates take the same academic courses as the scholar-leaders, and attending this program allows them to play a sport at the post-graduate level without losing a year of college eligibility. Athletes attend top-notch prep schools that have excellent academic programs and athletic programs well suited to their individual sport.

Originally called the AOG Civilian Preparatory Scholarship Program and financed through endowments and other funds contributed to the West Point Fund, the program provided assistance to 18 deserving candidates—14 scholar-leaders and four athletes—in 1980, its first year. A year later, the program was made permanent, and AOG administered and financed 20 scholarships at a total cost of \$44,170. Soon after the program became permanent, West Point classes, such as the classes of 1934 and 1953, and individuals, such as Colonel Winfield Sisson ’30 and Ralph and Mary Grooten, started to endow individual scholarships within the program.

Over the years, some unfamiliar with the program have speculated that WPAOG civil prep candidates are “also rans,” arguing that they are less “well qualified” than the rest of their West Point classmates. “Nothing could be further from the truth,” maintained Colonel Herbert Morris ’50 (Retired), a former AOG vice president who could very easily be called the architect of the West Point AOG Preparatory Scholarship Program. Herbert was program director of the civil prep scholarship from its founding until his retirement in 1992. “The preponderance of our scholarship candidates come from congressional districts where the competition for appointments is the toughest in the nation, and are routinely better qualified than many candidates who are admitted to West Point from sections of the country (and congressional districts) where the competition is less stringent,” Morris once said. “Thus, the West Point AOG Scholarship Program tends to ‘level the playing field’ for young people desiring to attend West Point.”

History has borne out Morris’s pronouncement. More than 90 percent of the candidates who are awarded a WPAOG Civil Prep scholarship are offered admission to West Point, which they have both a moral and legal obligation to accept (if they do not, they must repay the scholarship grant.) Also, as the USMA Admissions Office highlights, “The West Point AOG Preparatory Scholarship Program outperforms both direct admits and USMAPS in the form of retention and graduation rates.” Indeed, of the more than 1,000 candidates who have entered USMA via the West Point AOG Preparatory Program in its 40 years of existence, nearly three-quarters of the scholar-leaders have graduated. Similarly, a higher percentage of civil prep athletes letter in their sport and

graduate than recruited athletes who entered USMA directly from high school or from USMAPS, and their leadership and academic grades are also higher.

“My year in the West Point AOG Prep Scholarship Program was incredibly beneficial to my success at West Point,” says Cadet Thomas Ruede ’21. “It gave me a look at the military lifestyle, especially cadet living, and the academic and physical fitness lessons I learned as a WPAOG-sponsored cadet have helped me every day while at West Point, and I expect they will bring success in my life in general too.”

“The scholarship offered to me by WPAOG gave me the time to grow as a person, a student, and an athlete... It helped me change my study habits and become more confident—without it, I wouldn’t have been able to survive and thrive at West Point.”

—CDT Evan Zhang ’22

Cadet Evan Zhang ’22, a West Point swimmer (breaststroke and IM) who earned a position on the 2018-19 All-Patriot League First Team and received multiple Patriot League honors this season, believes he would not even be at West Point if it were not for the West Point AOG Scholarship Program. “The scholarship offered to me by WPAOG gave me the time to grow as a person, a student, and an athlete,” Zhang says. “It helped me change my study habits and become more confident—without it, I wouldn’t have been able to survive and thrive at West Point.”

“During my civil prep year, I learned how to effectively manage my time when inundated with projects and tasks while simultaneously creating strong relationships with others,” says Cadet Sydney Polansky ’23, who went through WPAOG’s Civil Prep program last year. “Since being at West Point, I have excelled academically by staying on top of my workload, and, as a result, I have been able to participate in many clubs and activities despite my busy schedule.”

Currently at the New Mexico Military Institute as a WPAOG civil prep scholarship recipient, Gunnar Schwab hopes to join Ruede, Zhang, and Polansky as a member of the Corps of Cadets. He notes that his time in a civil prep year have resulted in his highest ACT scores and an improvement in his math ability. “The struggles I am undergoing and the lessons I am learning this year are making me realize all that I can overcome and accomplish in my continuing effort to attend West Point,” Schwab says. “Thank you WPAOG, and happy 40th anniversary West Point AOG Preparatory Scholarship Program!” ★

WPAOG was saddened to hear that COL (R) Morris Herbert ’50, the “father” of the WPAOG Preparatory Scholarship Program, passed away shortly before this article went to print. He will be fondly remembered and sorely missed. Be Thou at Peace.

To learn more about the WPAOG Preparatory Scholarship Program, visit our website at WestPointAOG.org/PrepSchoolScholarship.

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CDT Steve J. Lee
CDT Alyssa M. Milner
CDT Daniel R. Neuburger
CDT Henry D. Newstrom
CDT Riley D. Page
CDT Conner J. Sparks
CDT Hannah M. White

B1—Participation: 6%

CDT Joseph K. Kyser Jr.
CDT Andrew M. Neidnig

C1—Participation: 3%

CDT Christopher W. Ritter

D1—Participation: 4%

CDT Amira T. Mohamed

E1—Participation: 3%

CDT Ebakoliane Obiomon

F1—Participation: 9%

CDT Deanna R. Edgar
CDT Minsung Kim
CDT Devon M. Moore

G1—Participation: 3%

CDT Chance E. Kremer

H1—Participation: 16%

CDT Brock M. Curry
CDT Tyler M. Kopishke
CDT Elizabeth L. O. Sangvic
CDT Rachael L. Schloo
CDT Patrick T. Swanton

I1—Participation: 13%

CDT Jack H. Cheng
CDT Michael S. Osburn
CDT Jacob S. Ryser
CDT Kevin R. Seaward

A2—Participation: 15%

CDT Alexander J. Gudenkauf
CDT David G. Kerstens
CDT Ean T. McCool
CDT Gabrielle M. Milanese
CDT Joshua O. Phillips

B2—Participation: 9%

CDT Mary A. Monnard
CDT Eric H. Niino Jr.
CDT Gerald J. Walker Jr.

C2—Participation: 3%

CDT Corrie C. Michell

D2—Participation: 3%

CDT Hannah L. Deines

E2—Participation: 11%

CDT Joseph S. Alcorn
CDT Mary Kate I. Beachler
CDT Frances I. Trivette

G2—Participation: 9%

CDT Foster B. Dittmer
CDT John D. Silvers Jr.
CDT Sally T. Varner

H2—Participation: 14%

CDT Caneel J. Dixon
CDT James N. Durst
CDT Nico C. Fluri
CDT Jeffrey A. Reffert
CDT Allison M. Strong

I2—Participation: 6%

CDT Donavan C. Lynch
CDT Galen A. Quiros

A3—Participation: 43%

CDT Luke I. Argueta
CDT Julian A. Coon
CDT John C. Erskine
CDT Kathryn I. Hilbert
CDT Matthew S. Hopwood
CDT Dov L. Landau
CDT Nikita Pereverzin
CDT Jakob W. Poole
CDT Lauren S. Schultz
CDT Felix L. Thibodeau IV
CDT William W. Thomas
CDT Rebecca A. Weigel

B3—Participation: 17%

CDT Lindsay N. Bowen
CDT Jaccob L. Cortes
CDT Evan M. Crowell
CDT Eurica Shane Y. Diego
CDT Celeste V. L. Tyner
CDT Weichun M. Wang

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CDT Denise S. Blackmon
CDT Luke A. Early
CDT Fabiola Gonzalez

F3—Participation: 9%

CDT George E. Cox IV
CDT Alexia T. Hsu
CDT Steven L. Robertson Jr.
Participation 9%

H3—Participation: 4%

CDT Ryan H. French

A4—Participation: 26%

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CDT Brigitte M. Bordelon
CDT Courtney R. Horace
CDT Kazper Lewis
CDT Michael E. Merritt Jr.
CDT Iwonka G. Niscior
CDT Rachele M. Smith
CDT Amy T. Ziccarello

B4—Participation: 3%

CDT Mason B. Rockman

C4—Participation: 19%

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CDT Jeronne K. Carter
CDT Peter E. W. Fenton
CDT Kelsey M. Frizell
CDT Kendrick L. Laret
CDT Nikki N. L. A. Lum

D4—Participation: 16%

CDT Jessica L. Jin
CDT Kaelynn M. Mayes
CDT Andrew P. Maier
CDT Dade R. Mortimer
CDT Jay T. Yang

E4—Participation: 10%

CDT Noe A. Gallegos
CDT Matthew R. Houston
CDT Thomas V. May

F4—Participation: 18%

CDT Grace E. Blackwell
CDT Ricardo A. Damiani
CDT Joshua L. Fonseca
CDT Bryce A. Meylan
CDT Vishnu S. Peri
CDT Liam T. Stills

G4—Participation: 25%

CDT Zachary E. Aponte
CDT Matthew R. Arnold
CDT Devon R. Joseph
CDT Ethan M. Porter
CDT Christopher B. Robertello
CDT Samantha K. Sullivan
CDT Ramsey R. Wagner

H4—Participation: 9%

CDT Drew P. Bailey
CDT Nathen P. Hein
CDT James T. Mitchiner

I4—Participation: 21%

CDT Meaghan M. Carroll
CDT Cole J. Christiansen
CDT Alexander J. Decker
CDT Lauren K. Fairfax
CDT Jackson F. Hohlt
CDT Archie L. Jungblom
CDT Seth D. Ruckman



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WPAOG's new Military Retiree Recognition Program honors our military retirees for their service and sacrifice. If you retired on October 1, 2017 or later, you and three guests are eligible for a free Grad Insider Tour, as well as a free night at The Hotel Thayer, subject to restrictions. We will also publish your name in *West Point* magazine, with your permission. If you wish to participate, please contact retiree@wpaog.org to learn more.

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COL Jeffrey A. Klein	1989
COL William T. Winklbauer	1989
COL Richard P. Pannell	1989
LTC Leonard G. Brown III	1991
LTC David J. Morgan	1991
COL Sean Keenan	1991
COL Christopher J. Kidd	1992
COL Charlie H. Kim	1992
COL William I. Lewis Jr.	1992
COL John C. Brown	1993
LTC Daniel R. Smith	1993
COL James A. Dickerson	1994
COL Raul G. Palacios III	1994
LTC Kurt W. Roberts	1995
COL David A. Waldron	1995
LTC Richard L. Comitz	1996
LTC Amy J. Luyster	1996
LTC Aram M. Donigian	1998
LTC Jeffrey R. Knudson	1998
LTC Christopher L. Cline	1999
LTC Bryan G. Juntunen	1999
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Army Hockey Head coach Brian Riley wears two steel bracelets, one on each wrist. They bear the names of two graduates who have left an indelible mark on Riley. Leaving legacies to the program, and to the nation, were Major Thomas Kennedy '00 and First Lieutenant Derek Hines '03. Both officers were killed in action in Afghanistan: Hines on September 1, 2005 and Kennedy on August 8, 2012. The mention of their names clearly touches a nerve and sets off a passionate response that Riley has repeated many times over. He says, "I would go to the top of any mountain to talk about them."

"One of the most important jobs I have is to make sure the legacies of our former players live on. I wear these bracelets in honor of that, and I will never take them off. These guys were my guys. They were obviously good hockey players, but more importantly, they were great people, young men and great leaders." Riley does all he can to make sure his current players understand who Kennedy and Hines were, holding them up as models to emulate. Cadet Trevin Kozlowski '21 says, "I can only hope to try and accomplish some of the great things that these great men have done."

"Both had such team-first mentalities," Riley says. "Neither were superstars, they just cared more for their teammates than themselves." Riley believes that their selfless attitude as players carried over to their actions as leaders on the battlefield. He leverages every opportunity he can to speak about Kennedy and Hines and always ends with saying that he is certain of one thing, that "without a doubt, if they could speak now, they would say no matter how bad their loss was—how painful, how much they miss their families and friends—they would much rather have it happen to them than one of their soldiers."

In the summer of 2017, Riley had a special opportunity to recognize Hines. The Cadet Basic Training detail that summer was designated Task Force Hines. Riley got to talk about Hines to the cadre and new cadets. He was especially honored to give a leadership talk to the cadre and present a real-world hero who modeled commitment, accountability and selfless leadership.



Army West Point Hockey: Legacy and Family in Action

By Kim McDermott '87, WPAOG staff



Right: Head coach Brian Riley standing on the ice at Tate Rink. **Inset:** Army celebrates a goal against Ohio State University on January 4. The game was part of the Fortress Invitational, hosted in Las Vegas, NV by the NHL's Vegas Golden Knights, owned by West Point graduate Bill Foley '67.



Left and center: Against Air Force on January 10, Coach Riley and USMA Superintendent LTG Daryl Williams '83 show spirit and the team prepares to take the ice.

Then in late January of 2018, with alumni players, family and friends of Kennedy, and the (then) Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, General Mark Milley in attendance, the team dedicated its newly renovated locker room to Kennedy. "This locker room honors the memory of, not a former Army Hockey player, but the memory of an American hero," Riley stated during the ceremony.

The legacies of Kennedy and Hines serve as true reminders for cadet athletes that their lives and actions not only matter, they affect the future. Cadet Michael Wilson '20 says, "As a player I look at those two men and feel a certain comfort. It's one of those things that can't be explained because they truly are two of the best men that have stepped foot on West Point. They laid down the ultimate sacrifice for our country. If there is anyone in this world that deserves endless respect it is [them]."

And the legacies left by "TK" and "Hinesy" (as they are commonly referred to) directly relate to why Army hockey players stay at West Point. While the opportunity to play Division I hockey is a big draw, over time they develop a deeper sense of the community they belong to. For patriotic young men, it means even more. Wilson says, "Each and every day I am around people who believe in the right things." Cadet Kevin Dineen '21 adds, "The lessons and people I am surrounded by everyday are what drew me to stay. Everyone here really wants you to become the best version of yourself."

Riley didn't always understand what the Academy was about. He admits that, growing up at West Point, he wondered why his father, Jack, kept his family at West Point for so long. (See page 48 for more information on the Riley family coaching legacy). But now, wrapping up his 16th season doing the same thing his father did—as his brother did between them—it is clear that Riley has truly internalized a deep respect for West Point. He appreciates how great it is to be around cadets, and loves knowing that he is shaping and developing them as players, cadets, future officers and as men. In fact, he claims it is "the most rewarding and humbling coaching job in all of sports."

Riley says the biggest lesson he learned from Jack is to always show his players that he cares more for them as people than as players. He explains, "This creates a dynamic allowing the team to overcome any obstacle." And for cadets at West Point for 47 months there will be obstacles, so they need that. Riley strives to create a team environment in which players realize there is "always somebody there for you."

As a coach, Riley focuses his team on four main areas: physical toughness, mental toughness, discipline, and family. The first three are common to athletics in general. He realizes that West Point players, in particular, had better be physically tough, because that's what opponents expect. Mental toughness he describes as having the capacity to "do whatever it takes to battle adversity to get through 60 minutes on the ice." And discipline, he says, is just reinforcing "the way of life here at West Point." He expects his players to have the discipline to come to practice and work hard, to play the right way, and to always work at lifting each other up. Riley emphasizes that teams lose when there is a lack of discipline.

Many programs talk about family, and it is always important for teammates to be there for each other. But being at West Point seems to take it to another level. Riley says that the Academy and the team are something that his players will be a part of forever, "until the day they die." As an example, he describes how much it meant to him that when his father died in 2016, the players (both current and alumni) circled around him and his family—to lift them up. It is that caring for each other that means the most to him for his players to learn.

Riley quickly adds, "Caring doesn't mean you can't be tough and enforce standards," and his players confirm that. Kozlowski says, "Coach demands excellence from his team and is not afraid to let you know when he feels you could be doing better. This is because he only wants the athletes on this team to be the best possible version of themselves both on and off the ice."



Coach Riley in the team locker room. (Derek Hines wore the number 7 as a player).

"Xs and Os are important, but, in that 48th month when they leave, I want to feel good knowing that they'll represent this program and West Point in a way it deserves." Riley's proudest moments aren't the wins, he says. "It's when I'm on the deck of the Holleder Center watching the bar pinnings, because I know that they are leaving as leaders that will make this institution proud."

Players get a taste of that pride, even as cadets. Kozlowski says, "Being able to represent not only the United States Military Academy but the Army as a whole is something incredibly special to me. Whenever I pull the jersey over my head, the first thing I

do is look down at the word ARMY across my chest. This reminds me that I am playing for something bigger than myself."

They are playing for something bigger than themselves, and Riley will never forget this. Every morning, as Head Coach Brian Riley drives past the West Point Cemetery, he says something to one of the fallen who rests there—Kennedy. At a lot of schools, losing games is a coach's biggest fear. For Riley, this is not the case. He says his biggest fear is to lose a player. "I wear two KIA bracelets," he says. "I don't have any more wrists." ★

"Coach demands excellence from his team and is not afraid to let you know when he feels you could be doing better. This is because he only wants the athletes on this team to be the best possible version of themselves both on and off the ice."

—CDT Trevin Kozlowski '21



The NCAA established the Derek Hines Unsung Hero Award in 2006 to recognize the Division I player judged to best exemplify the qualities of sportsmanship, competitiveness, intelligence and work ethic. A plaque outside Tate Rink lists the recipients.





Current head coach Brian Riley.

The Riley Family: Army's Hat Trick

A Riley has been at the helm of the Army Hockey program for the better part of the last seven decades, serving as the 14th, 15th and 16th head coaches. From 1950 to 1986, Jack Riley compiled a 542-343-20 record. During his tenure at West Point, Jack Riley also coached the 1960 U.S. Olympic Hockey team to its first gold medal.

Upon Jack's retirement, his son Rob Riley became the head coach. He led the program, accruing over 300 wins in 18 years. In 2004, it seemed completely appropriate to ask Rob's assistant coach—his younger brother Brian—to fill the spot. Brian will soon cross the 200-win threshold.

The Riley family legacy will be one of success and brotherhood. They have shown an abiding respect and love for the generations of young men they have coached and, since 1950, have given the Army Hockey Family a place to call home. ★



Former head coach Jack Riley.



Former head coach Rob Riley and then-assistant coach Brian Riley in action during a game.



USMA Superintendent LTG Willard W. Scott '48 recognizes head coach Jack Riley on his 500th win February 1, 1984.

OFFICIAL CLASS RING SUPPLIER OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955
1956 1958 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1968 1969 1970
1971 1975 1976 1977 1979 1981 1982 1984 1985 1986 1988 1999
2003 2004 2005 2006 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2020



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(201) 262-8800 or
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Consistency - noun

Conformity in the application of something, typically that which is necessary for the sake of logic, accuracy, or fairness:

Synonyms: steadiness, reliability

Antonym: Fickleness (found often in weather and financial markets)



We're hiring a few Associates to take part in our growth.

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and investor relations, please visit our website and contact us.

www.BattleMonument.com
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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, or chat with us on one of our WPAOG social media channels.

FROM: LTC (R) Robert M. Dunning '61

I read with great interest Keith J. Hamel's article in the Winter 2020 edition of *West Point*. LTC Diana Loucks' statement that "Space has always been a part of West Point" is more true than she, and perhaps everyone else except some obscure archivist, might know. As a cadet in the Class of 1961, a classmate named Douglas Wold and I were offered the opportunity (along with the rest of our class) of pursuing the first elective academic course in academy history. We designed and built an ion propulsion system capable of adjusting and maintaining orbital stability for satellites and, in higher impact versions, for deep-space propulsion systems. As the "fuel" medium, our system ionized argon gas in an electron accelerator

chamber calibrated to the approximate pressure of outer space. Wold and I presented our project to an audience of physicists and engineering students at the intercollegiate science fair at Syracuse University in the spring of 1961, and we were awarded "Honorable Mention" credits. I believe our project was the beginning "baby steps" for the Space Science major LTC Loucks now leads.

RESPONSE:

That is fascinating history LTC Dunning! As former Superintendent LTG Caslen '75 used to say about grads, "Yours are the shoulders on which cadets of today now stand." Your work as a cadet is proof of his maxim.

SACC *Service Academy Career Conference*



Planning a career transition? Start here.

- The only military career fair exclusively for Federal Service Academy Graduates.
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- Learn how to get your foot in the door for your desired civilian career.
- Explore graduate school options.



Washington, DC	Jun 11–12, 2020
San Diego, CA	Aug 20–21, 2020
Dallas, TX	Oct 29–30, 2020
Jacksonville, FL	Feb 25–26, 2021

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



WPAOG Career Services
WPAOGcareers.org | 845.446.1618
 Email: careers@wpaog.org

WPAOG Career Services can help!

If you would like more information about WPAOG Career Services visit wpaogcareers.org

Unlock the Power of the Long Gray Line with WPAOG's Enhanced Career Services

196

GRADS
PLACED

SINCE 2019

1,560

Grads engaged
with Career
Services

2,564

COMPANIES
IN CAREER
SERVICES
PORTFOLIO

1,233

Employer posted
jobs in
Career Services
portfolio

In today's market, **networking** is the most effective way to get a new job! **WPAOG Career Services** is the hub of your Long Gray Line Network!

We're here for you every step of the way.

All USMA graduates have lifetime free access to Career Services, including the following services and employer connections:

- Dedicated transition coaching by our experienced team members
- Quarterly SACC Job Fairs
- Tailored networking events and webinars
- Workshops relevant to each facet of the job search, including preparing for SACC
- Grad-only access to Career Services Job Board
- 150+ employer partnerships across diverse industries
- Networking opportunities through our database of 500+ industrial and regional advisors
- Access to Korn Ferry Advance career coaching platform

TOP INDUSTRIES

Information Technology (IT)
Financial Services
Consulting
Defense
Engineering & Construction



West Point
ASSOCIATION
OF GRADUATES
CAREER SERVICES

For more information on this program, please contact a member of WPAOG's Career Services team at careers@wpaog.org or visit us online at WPAOGCareers.org

All statistics as of 3/16/2020

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West Point | ASSOCIATION
OF GRADUATES



The West Point Authors Bookshelf is Moving!



Beginning in Fall 2020, the West Point Authors Bookshelf will appear in the Fall and Spring instead of Winter and Summer issues. This gives people time to consider your books for summer reading or holiday gifts! Reserve your space in the Fall 2020 West Point Authors Bookshelf, a specially-priced advertising section in *West Point* magazine showcasing books by West Point affiliated authors. Check out the latest West Point Bookshelf in the Winter 2020 issue to discover and support these books.

To learn more about this and other WPAOG advertising and sponsorship opportunities, visit WestPointAOG.org/advertise, call 845.446.1646, or email ads@wpaog.org

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WPAOG News

WPAOG Wins 5 CASE Accolade Awards

WPAOG won five 2020 CASE District II Accolade Awards: two golds, a silver, a bronze and an honorable mention. CASE, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, is the premier global non-profit association dedicated to educational advancement. The Accolades Awards celebrate institutional accomplishments in alumni relations, development, communications, events, and program development. WPAOG received the following awards:

Special Events:

Gold: Ring Melt—Tangible Connection Between Cadets and West Point Graduates

Video Features:

Gold: Celebrating 150 Years of West Point AOG In Three Minutes

Honorable Mention: Telling the Story of the West Point Ring Melt

Special Events: Event Series

Silver: 150 Years of Serving West Point and the Long Gray Line

Alumni Relations Events And Affinity Programs

Bronze: West Point Entrepreneur Summit: Exploring Professional Service After Selfless Service



Crocker to Receive 2020 Thayer Award

WPAOG is pleased to announce that Career Ambassador Ryan Crocker will receive the 2020 Sylvanus Thayer Award. The award will be presented on October 1, 2020* during ceremonies hosted by LTG Darryl A. Williams '83, 60th Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.



*Dates subject to change. Please check WestPointAOG.org for updates.

WPAOG's 2030 Strategic Plan Available Online



WPAOG's *2030 Strategic Plan* advances our alumni body's remarkable record of service to West Point and to one another. The plan builds on the many existing connections among graduates, and defines a campaign for the next decade to continue to unlock the power of the Long Gray Line. Our planning process was comprehensive and integrated, with input from individual graduates,

volunteer leaders, experts in various alumni industries, WPAOG staff, and key USMA staff and leadership. Among the comments that resonated with us was the observation that "Grads have high expectations of the West Point network." We have taken that sentiment to heart: facilitating new or expanded connections among graduates will remain the focal point of WPAOG's efforts to serve the Long Gray Line and to serve our alma mater, West Point. View the plan online at: WestPointAOG.org/file/WPAOGStrategicPlan.pdf

Follow WPAOG on Instagram!



Stay up to date on the latest West Point alumni news on the go with our newest social media channel—Instagram. We've almost got enough followers to get the "swipe up" feature—help us reach our 10,000 follower goal! From exclusive photography to information on upcoming alumni events, we invite you to like and share our posts and videos with fellow Old Grads.



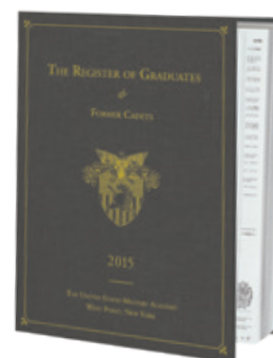
WPAOG Hosts Classes of 2020 and 2021 for Cadet Leader Breakfast

On February 26, WPAOG hosted more than 60 cadets from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 for breakfast in the Herbert Alumni Center. The firsties and cows heard from WPAOG's CEO, Todd Browne '85, regarding the work WPAOG does to support the Long Gray Line and the Academy. Cadets provided valuable feedback and insight into their experiences, and we are thankful for their time and participation.



The 2020 *Register of Graduates* is Coming! Update Your Record of Service to the Nation

In 2020, WPAOG is updating the *Register of Graduates* (ROG), its flagship publication, which we publish every five years. We need all graduates to help us continue the project initiated by General George W. Cullum, Class of 1833, to chronicle the careers and service to the nation of all West Point graduates. Graduates can review their current ROG biographies and submit updates online at WestPointAOG.org/RegisterofGraduates. Login today to review yours and update your assignments, promotions, retirement and civilian positions in time to be included in the 2020 edition. Information on ordering the 2020 *Register* will be published after June 1, 2020.



2020 WPAOG Election—Call for Nominations for Board and Advisory Council

All USMA graduates may apply for election to the WPAOG Board of Directors and/or for election to the WPAOG Advisory Council. In 2020, the WPAOG Nominating Committee will nominate graduates for five Director positions and six Advisor-at-Large positions. To apply, please see the instructions posted at WestPointAOG.org/NominationPolicy. The deadline for graduates to submit their completed applications (to include a nomination letter from another graduate) is July 1, 2020. The 2020 nomination and election process will conclude on November 17, 2020* at 5 pm EST, when the Annual Meeting of the Association of Graduates will take place at the Herbert Alumni Center. Please send applications for nomination to WPAOG, Attention: Laurie Fontana (Laurie.Fontana@wpaog.org; 845-446-1523).

*Dates subject to change. Please check WestPointAOG.org for updates.



WPAOG's 150th Anniversary Celebration BY THE NUMBERS

In 2019 the Long Gray Line came together as never before to celebrate 150 years of the Association of Graduates.
Thank you for your outstanding participation in our successful commemoration!

FOUR



WPAOG history articles read into U.S. Congressional Record by graduate Members of Congress



2

CASE Accolade Awards



GOLD Award: Video:
Celebrating 150 Years of West Point AOG in Three Minutes



SILVER Award:
Special Events: 150 Years of Serving West Point and the Long Gray Line

4.6 MILLION

150th IMPRESSIONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



813

150th Posts on Social Media

365+

"On this Day" daily posts honoring the legacy of the Long Gray Line

2,098

views of the 150th Anniversary Video
vimeo.com/322807700





61,000

Birthday Virtual
Toast Impressions
on 5/22/19

29 CLASSES, 21 SOCIETIES
vimeo.com/334581531



BIRTHDAY GIFTS FOR WPAOG! In honor of your alumni association, an anonymous donor challenged the LGL by matching gifts dollar for dollar up to \$50K

727 donors took the "50K for the 150th" challenge in December

\$253,800 raised in two weeks

2x money for the Long Gray Line Fund (versus 2018)



234,000 Copies of WP magazine featuring 150th history

16 Website pages dedicated to 150th Anniversary timeline and stories

1.1 Million

First Call and Parent Review
Emails with 150th stories throughout the year



390

Flat Cullum photos received [from 29 countries and 30 states]





West Point

Parents Corner

West Point Parents Fund Has Lasting Impact—Thank You for Making a Difference

The West Point Association of Graduates thanks all of our donors who made 2019 such a resounding success! Because of you, we had an outstanding year and raised \$48.3 million in cash receipts for the Academy and WPAOG. Year over year, our alumni participation rate continues to grow and in 2019, we reached 37 percent, a two-percent jump from the year prior. Your gifts and participation strengthen the Academy's Margin of Excellence programs for cadets and sustain the traditions that honor generations of West Point graduates. Watch our "Thank You" video at vimeo.com/389561472 to see highlights from the past year at West Point.



Welcome 2020 Superintendent's Circle Parent Members



Thank you to everyone who made a gift of \$1,000 or more to the West Point Parents Fund in 2019. You are now a member of the 2020 Superintendent's Circle. Parents in the Superintendent's Circle will be invited to special events in 2020: Projects Day, Superintendent's Circle Weekend, and Superintendent's Circle Special Parent/Cadet Reception during Family Weekend. More information will be sent to Superintendent's Circle members. The Superintendent's Circle benefits have been elevated for 2021. To learn more about WPAOG's Recognition Circles and Superintendent's Circle benefits, please visit WestPointAOG.org/WestPointRecognition. If you have any questions, contact Parent Relations at 845.446.1535 or parentrelations@wpaog.org.

Stay in Touch With WPAOG's Cadet News Delivered to Your Email

Have you looked at WPAOG's Cadet News page lately? These are stories we receive about cadet clubs and activities, academic achievements, athletic achievements and more. Your cadets are phenomenally successful, and this our way of showing them off to the world! If you want, you can subscribe to have all the news delivered right to your email inbox. Just look for the link at the top of the page at WestPointAOG.org/CadetNews, and you can also follow WPAOG social media on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



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

2020 Distinguished Graduate Award Recipients Announced

WPAOG’s annual Distinguished Graduate Award is bestowed upon those West Point graduates whose character, distinguished service and stature draw wholesome comparison to the qualities for which West Point strives, in keeping with its motto: “Duty, Honor, Country.” Please join us in congratulating the 2019 Distinguished Graduate Award recipients:

Richard A. Nowak ’64

William H. Roedy ’70

Andrew F. Krepinevich ’72

Kenneth W. Hunzeker ’75

Curtis M. Scaparrotti ’78

The awards will be presented in a ceremony at West Point on May 19, 2020,* with further coverage in the Summer issue of *West Point*. Visit WestPointAOG.org to learn more about the Distinguished Graduate Award and the recipients.

***2020 DGA Event Date has been changed. Please check WestPointAOG.org for updates.**



General Officer Announcements

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

MG Kenneth L. Kamper ’89 to Commanding General, United States Army Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill, Fort Sill, OK

1975

McDonald Honored

In April 2020, Robert A. McDonald, 8th Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Retired Chairman, President and CEO of The Procter & Gamble Company, was inducted into the prestigious Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc.



1978

Anderson Selected as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army

Former WPAOG Director Darcy Anderson was appointed as a new Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army during an investiture ceremony in the Perot Building on January 8.



1998

Rubio Graduates from NASA’s Astronaut Program

On January 10, LTC Frank Rubio ’98 graduated in the first class of astronauts under NASA’s Artemis program, which aims to land the first woman and the next man on the moon by 2024.



Be Thou at Peace

Deaths reported from December 11, 2019 — March 11, 2020

Lt Col Arthur A. Marston USAF, Retired	1943 JAN	Brig Gen Clinton H. Winne Jr. USAF, Retired	1952	LTC Anthony J. Buetti Jr. USA, Retired	1966
Col William R. Stewart Jr. USAF, Retired	1943 JAN	COL Montecue J. Lowry USA, Retired	1953	COL James C. Gleason USA, Retired	1966
Col Richard L. Dennen USAF, Retired	1944	LTC Charles O. Neal USA, Retired	1953	COL James D. Hallums USA, Retired	1966
COL Walter G. Allen USA, Retired	1945	COL Thomas E. Nesbitt USA, Retired	1953	LTC Richard W. Manlove USA, Retired	1966
COL Harry O. Amos Jr. USA, Retired	1945	Mr. Egerton K. van den Berg	1953	COL Michael J. Cox USA, Retired	1967
Col John E. Coulahan Sr. USAF, Retired	1945	Mr. Frank S. Wilkerson Jr.	1953	Mr. Peter Economos	1967
Dr. Andrew G. Favret	1945	MG Edwin M. Aguanno USA, Retired	1954	Mr. Gary L. LaBelle	1967
Mr. Thomas J. Godwin	1945	LTC Audrey J.W. Short USA, Retired	1954	LTC Stewart D. Beckley Jr. USA, Retired	1968
LTC William O. Perry Jr. USA, Retired	1945	LTC Julius O. Thomas Jr. USA, Retired	1954	LTC Henry B. Richmond III USA, Retired	1969
LTC Fred W. Rankin Jr. USA, Retired	1945	LTC Clarence A. DeLong USA, Retired	1955	Mr. Thomas L. Secrest	1970
Dr. DeBow Freed	1946	COL John C. McCloskey AUS, Retired	1955	Lt Col William B. Hoelscher Jr. USAF, Retired	1971
Mr. Howard E. Pleuss	1946	LTC Alton B. Parker Jr. USA, Retired	1955	Mr. Joe R. Nichols	1971
Lt Col Bailey T. Strain USAF, Retired	1946	MAJ William L. Di Gennaro USA, Retired	1956	Mr. Larry C. Schroeder	1971
Mr. Patrick J. O'Connell	1947	Lt Col Alfred J. Hallisey USAF, Retired	1956	COL Russell P. Vaughan USA, Retired	1971
Maj Gen Edwin W. Robertson II USAF, Retired	1947	LTC David J. Johnston USA, Retired	1956	Col Jay M. Augustenborg USAF, Retired	1972
COL James W. Barnett Jr. USA, Retired	1948	COL Francis W. Matthews USA, Retired	1956	LTC Jeffrey B. Staser USA, Retired	1972
LTC Wayne C. Smith Jr. USA, Retired	1949	LTC Frederic L. Shean USA, Retired	1956	LTC Edward J. Durham Jr. USA, Retired	1973
COL Jack D. Thomas USA, Retired	1949	MG Leroy N. Suddath Jr. USA, Retired	1956	COL Thomas A. Gandy USA, Retired	1974
Col Victor R. Wakefield Sr. USAF, Retired	1949	Dr. Maxim I. Kovel	1957	Mr. Paul K. Rappold	1974
LTC Francis A. Wolak USA, Retired	1949	MAJ Robert B. Turnbull USA, Retired	1957	Mr. Hilario J. Ramirez Jr.	1975
COL Arthur H. Blair USA, Retired	1950	Mr. Guy E. Wallace	1957	MAJ Danny E. Stroud USA, Retired	1975
COL Lauris M. Eek Jr. USA, Retired	1950	LTC Robert C. Westerfeldt USA, Retired	1957	Mr. Robert L. Mitchell	1977
COL Morris J. Herbert USA, Retired	1950	LTC Cline G. Cook USA, Retired	1958	Mr. William C. Sumner	1978
Maj James C. Horsley Jr. USAF, Retired	1950	Mr. Sean H. Cummings	1959	COL Bruce A. Wilhelm USA, Retired	1978
COL Kilbert E. Lockwood USA, Retired	1950	COL Louis V. Hightower III USA, Retired	1959	COL Elliott M. Benson USA, Retired	1980
Lt Col John A. Magee Jr. USAF, Retired	1950	LTC Raymond R. Ramsey Jr. USA, Retired	1959	Mr. Thomas J. Hagan Jr.	1980
Mr. Walter C. McSherry	1950	Mr. Robert I. Shapiro	1959	Mr. Dean A. Massman	1981
COL James H. Tormey USA, Retired	1950	Dr. James M. Crabbe	1960	COL Michael J. Peffers USA, Retired	1982
Lt Col Arthur F. Trompeter USAF, Retired	1950	BG Michael L. Ferguson USA, Retired	1960	Mr. Mark A. Blodgett	1987
COL Leonard W. Wegner Jr. USA, Retired	1950	LTC Carl T. Hansen USA, Retired	1961	Ms. Elizabeth A. O'Neal	1987
COL Seldon B. Graham Jr. USA, Retired	1951	LTC James F.X. Looram USA, Retired	1961	COL James D. Pruneski USA, Retired	1988
COL Guy E. Jester Jr. USA, Retired	1951	LTG Glynn C. Mallory Jr. USA, Retired	1961	LTC Leif W. Gunhus USA, Retired	1989
MG Kermit D. Johnson USA, Retired	1951	Mr. William A. Weis	1961	Mr. Lloyd M. McClure	1990
Maj Gen Donald A. McGann USAF, Retired	1951	COL George W. Kirschenbauer USA, Retired	1962	COL Jonathan J. Vannatta USAR	1994
Mr. William G. Owens Jr.	1951	COL John F. Meehan III USA, Retired	1962	Mr. Adam C. Lynch	2005
Mr. Frank A. Allen III	1952	Mr. Wayne B. Parker	1962	MAJ Peter D. Cha USA	2006
Mr. George R. Dietz	1952	Mr. Anthony A. Pattarozzi Jr.	1962	Mr. James H. Fisher III	2006
COL Thomas E. Fitzpatrick USA, Retired	1952	Mr. William J. Grabner	1963	MAJ Douglas N. Odera USA	2006
Maj William D. Landon USAF, Retired	1952	Mr. Richard W. Davis Jr.	1964	CPT Joshua R. Minton USA, Retired	2010
Mr. Donald H. Ross	1952	Mr. Jeffrey K. Warner	1964	1LT Andrew D. Wilhelm USA, Retired	2012
Dr. Scott H. Shipe Jr.	1952	Mr. Edward R. Evans	1965		

STARTtheDAYS!

NOTE: Dates shown are as of 3/10/2020 and are subject to change. Check WestPoint.edu for the latest event updates.

MAY		JUNE
	<p>22 Happy 151st Birthday WPAOG!</p>	<p>11-12 SACC Washington, DC</p>
<p>9-15 Term End Exams "BEAT THE DEAN!"</p>	<p>23 Graduation Class of 2020</p>	<p>11-13 Alumni Golf Outing</p>
<p>10-14 All-Academy Challenge</p>		<p>29 R-Day Class of 2024</p>
<p>19 Distinguished Graduate Awards</p>		JULY
		<p>13 USMAPS R-Day</p>

Upcoming events suggested by West Point staff & faculty.

Events for Aug – Oct 2020 should be sent to editor@wpaog.org by May 15, 2020

For the entire calendar, go to

WestPointAOG.org/calendar

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Past in Review

Red Square is enchanting, especially at night. The familiar multi-colored onion domes of St. Basil's Cathedral contrast starkly with the foreboding black marble contours of Lenin's Mausoleum. For decades, Soviet citizens stood in long lines to view the embalmed body of the founder of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), Vladimir Lenin. On a frigid night 30 years ago, a KGB officer escorted 10 West Point cadets from the USMA Class of 1990 and two U.S. Army officers, paired with their counterparts from an elite Soviet military academy in Moscow, to the front of the endless mausoleum queue. Instead of rebuking the military

delegation for cutting in line, the ordinary, and no doubt cold, Soviet citizens applauded. Their warm reaction to participants in the historic Soviet-American Cadet Exchange reflected the "Spirit of 1990," an ardent hope that former enemies could become friends and amicable individual relationships could translate into improved international relations and, consequently, a safer world.

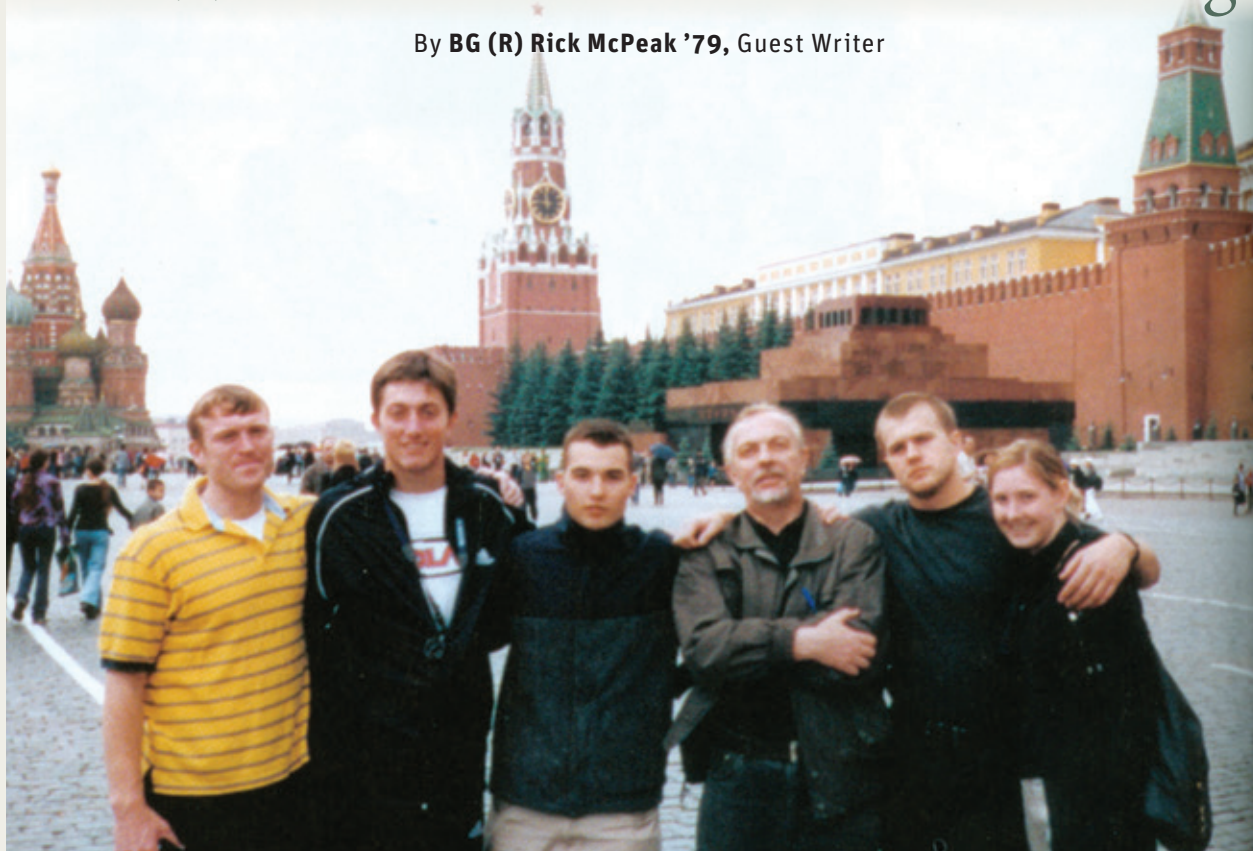
On the same evening that cadets visited Red Square, Mikhail Gorbachev became president of the USSR. His efforts to restructure the system (perestroika) and give a voice to the people (glasnost) promised liberalization of the regime

and resolution of Cold War antagonisms; however, these increased aspirations were tempered by troubling uncertainties. After all, the Soviet Union continued to promote communism, which the United States opposed. The Soviet military had recently left Afghanistan after a humiliating defeat facilitated by American proxies. Despite extensive arms control efforts, the two superpowers retained enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world several times. The winds of positive change did not guarantee the "Spirit of 1990" would prevail.

The 1990 Soviet-American Cadet Exchange, hosted at West Point in

When Cadets Met "the Enemy": The 1990 Soviet-American Cadet Exchange

By **BG (R) Rick McPeak '79**, Guest Writer



For three weeks in the spring of 2002, Paul Schmitt '90 (not pictured), who was part of the original Soviet-American Cadet Exchange in 1990, took four USMA Russian-language majors and a newly minted 2LT to Russia, where they met Voronezh State University Professor Anatoliy Leonov (arms crossed in photo) and posed for a picture in St. Petersburg's Red Square. Later, Schmitt and Leonov formed an exchange program that lasted from 2005 to 2014.

February and at the Moscow Military Combined Arms Command Academy (MVOKU) in March, aimed to translate the “Spirit of 1990” into action. Since the American and Soviet militaries no longer considered each other “main enemies,” their future leaders were allowed to interact and, ideally, develop mutual trust and understanding. In theory, as these future officers rose through the ranks of their respective armed forces, they could leverage the goodwill gained during the exchange to solve global security problems together.

Considering the legacy of the Cold War, it was entirely predictable that participants did not initially trust each other. Barriers to mutual understanding included stark differences between languages and cultures, ideologies, and education systems. American cadets from the Class of 1990—Greg Sarafian, Paul Schmitt, and Joel VanTimmeren among them—applied their nascent understanding of Russian language and culture to describe similarities and differences. They found it particularly difficult to explain plebe initiation rites, Army’s rivalry with Navy, and the presence of and roles for female cadets at USMA to their Soviet exchange partners. Youthful energy and military focus empowered cadets to find a

common language and convey critical information. Perhaps the most difficult challenge, however, was understanding the differing approaches to developing junior officers.

The American officer in charge, then Major Hank Gillen ’78, discovered that his Soviet counterparts were convinced the West Point leadership was hiding military equipment and training from them. Most of USMA’s military training occurred during the summer and was, therefore, invisible to the MVOKU visitors in February. The four years at MVOKU heavily emphasized military skills, so Soviet cadets drove military vehicles and fired their weapons much more frequently than American cadets. After observing the Soviets in their tech-focused classrooms and at their training center, Joel VanTimmeren quipped, “I think they could have probably built a BMP [the primary Soviet infantry fighting vehicle] from a pile of parts.” MVOKU aimed to produce lieutenants who would be the technical and tactical experts in their platoons. West Point platoon leaders were not expected to graduate as experts, because they could rely on an infrastructure absent from the Soviet military—a professional noncommissioned officer corps. In the end, the Americans valued the Soviet

military focus, especially the opportunity to drive armored vehicles and fire weapons at MVOKU. The Soviets, on the other hand, appreciated West Point’s academic emphasis, especially the opportunity to earn an accredited bachelor’s degree transferrable to the civilian sector.

The exchange participants learned that both academies were values-based institutions. For example, their common motto—Duty, Honor, Country—indicated that cadets at both academies chose to serve something larger than themselves. Of course, the cadets also affirmed differences in the national value systems. The USSR favored security over freedom, but freedom is the supreme value of the United States. Because of this, the host phase itinerary of the 1990 Soviet-American Cadet Exchange focused on individual freedom, symbolized by the Statue of Liberty; religious freedom, represented by the Cadet Chapel; and economic freedom, embodied in the World Trade Center. Paul Schmitt recalled that one Soviet cadet, whose official “religion” was scientific atheism, highlighted the similarities between the Sunday sermon and propaganda lectures at MVOKU. Paul also remembered that some Soviets, who experienced food shortages in their



A cadet from the Moscow Military Combined Arms Command Academy visits West Point as part of the 1990 Soviet-American Cadet Exchange.



As a result of the Soviet-American Cadet Exchange, Cadet Sergeant Alexander Petukhov became an Army sports fan and proudly wore a “Beat Navy!” pin on his uniform.

homeland, were convinced that the abundance of food at a local grocery store was not authentic, but rather an American propaganda ploy.

The trek to FDR's home at Hyde Park reminded all participants that, despite significant ideological clashes, Soviets and Americans never fought each other in a "hot" war. When Roosevelt was commander-in-chief and the chips were down, the United States and USSR, led by graduates of West Point and MVOKU, fought together to defeat fascism. Thanks to the exchange, the American delegation grasped the heavy cost to the Soviet Union, which suffered at least 26 million casualties during the "The Great Patriotic War."

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, West Point cadets have participated in a series of smaller scale, lower visibility cadet exchanges with successor countries. The signature program, which can trace its lineage to the 1990 exchange, was the cadet semester abroad at Voronezh State University in southwest Russia. While pursuing an MA at Middlebury College to teach Russian, then Captain Schmitt befriended a forward-looking professor from Voronezh. The two of them formulated a student exchange program, which ultimately lasted from 2005 to 2014 and fostered meaningful interaction between approximately 100 West Point and Voronezh cadets. Unfortunately, this legacy of 1990 fell victim to increased tensions between the Russian and American governments.

The 1990 exchange shaped the military careers of Paul Schmitt and Greg Sarafian, both of whom became Foreign Area Officers, specializing in the language, culture, and regional dynamics of Eurasia. Colonel Schmitt, who has served in several successor countries, is currently the Army attaché to Ukraine. Sarafian, now retired from the Army, has worked in former Soviet territory for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and written professional articles about the region.

Reflecting on the 30th anniversary of



Depicting the youthful exuberance of future military leaders who are no longer enemies, West Point cadets and cadets from the Moscow Military Combined Arms Command Academy appear together on a 1990 cover of the Soviet magazine *Military Herald*.

the program, participants' observations confirm that the 1990 Soviet-American Cadet Exchange met the goal of humanizing America's former enemy. Greg Sarafian opines that the most meaningful events were not grand gestures, such as visiting Red Square, but rather informal activities, like celebrating a birthday after taps in the Soviet barracks. Paul Schmitt recalls the Soviet refrain, "We love Americans, we just don't like your government's policy," and adds, "I feel the same way about the Russian people." Perhaps Joel VanTimmeren says it best: "I was struck by how much like us they were—young, smart,

aggressive and excited to get on with their lives after their time at the Academy—and I think it was good for all of us to meet our 'enemy' and know they were, in so many ways, the same as us." ★

The historic 1990 Soviet-American Cadet Exchange shaped BG (R) Rick McPeak's, Class of 1979, military career. A former Professor and Head of the Department of Foreign Languages, McPeak has devoted the subsequent three decades to promoting mutual trust and understanding among current and future leaders of the U.S. and Russia.



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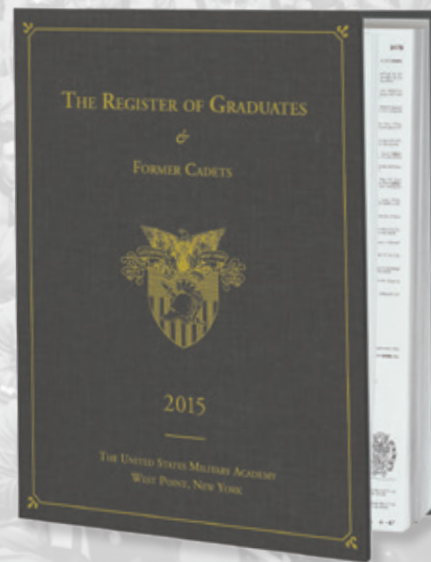
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