

Class of 1964 Committee on Ethics

Mike Conway has arranged the Committee on Ethics to participate in Honor Code instruction with the West Point Class of 2014. Principals include Dan Evans, Bob McCoy, Joe Mastriani, Tom Kullman, Max Johnson and Mike Conway. The Committee is pledged to attend 4 classes each year with the Class of 2014 until they become Firsties. The first meeting of Plebe Year covered the basic rights of cadets if implicated in an honor violation, the 2nd meeting was on the importance of respect, the 3rd meeting was on the issue of "Conflicting Loyalties." and the 4th meeting which will take place on 5 May will focus on "Reflections on Plebe Year".

On 28 February the Committee sent representatives to the 3rd meeting for Plebe Year. The Class of '64 group that went to West Point to participate in the Honor Code instruction consisted of Mike Conway, Max Johnson, Joe Mastriani, Dan Hornbarger, Tom Kullman and Mark Brennan.



Major Matt Dawson, Mike Conway, Tom Kullman, Max Johnson, Joe Mastriani, Dan Hornbarger, Mark Brennan during the pre-meeting at Schades Resturant

Mark Brennan reports on the meeting on “Conflicting Loyalties.”

We gathered the night before at Schades Restaurant in Highland Falls where we met with Major Matt Dawson, Tac for Co A-1. He presented an overview of how the tactical officers ran instruction on the honor code and officer professional development. The Cadet Honor Code still remains cadet, not tactical department or anyone else until you get into the process of what happens to a cadet charged with an honor violation. Then there is a series of checks and balances that ensure the rights of the individual. The topic that we were resources for was "Conflicting Loyalties".

Before going out into the classrooms with our cadet instructors, we got a briefing from the head of the Department of Professional Military Ethics, aka PME, along with reps from '62 and '63. Then '64 joined with the Superintendent's staff officer for Honor Code. We got some really great insights into the changes in PROCESS, but were happy to find that the Honor Code was intact.

After that briefing we were picked up by the company reps and escorted to our various companies. I went to Co F-4 where I met the Tac and Tac NCO. I then met the cadet sergeant (cow) who would teach the class and we did our coordination at the noon meal formation and to some extent in the mess hall. Afterwards we went to the top floor of the mess hall, the old ES&GS area, for the class.

There I went to a class of half of the F-4 plebes. The cadet sergeant used some of the slides to present situations to provoke discussions of whether there was an honor violation and whether they as individuals were responsible for reporting it. Many were violations of regulations that meant that no honor was involved. Others were clear cut honor violations. The cadet instructor had a good personal example of a clear cut honor violation that involved him reporting another cadet even though he personally would get quilled for what the other guy did not do. Caught the plebes attention. My participation was offering up what happened when I worked for someone who I did not respect as a commander, yet supported because he was the commander. My loyalties were conflicting, but for the good of the unit, I supported him.



In the classroom

Observations on our Class participation with the Class of 2014.

Max Johnson states:

I suppose we will give them a perspective of how things have changed in 50 years. In fact, that is probably our main contribution throughout the program; in addition, we can give the perspective of how important honor and ethics are to officers in the service.

I have truly enjoyed making the 300 mile trip to West Point and being back in the classroom with Cadets again. It brings me back to my 3 years as a Physics Instructor up there and it is just inspirational to be among young men and women of such high commitment and moral integrity.

Mike Conway adds:

What we are doing with the Professional Military Ethics classes is part of our 4 year commitment to follow this class through until their graduation. Our PME program is just part of the 4-year affiliation/affiliated class program with the class of 2014 headed up for our class by Tom Kullman.

There have been many events thus far such as the R-day parents program, the plebe march-back.etc/ While I will admit our PME program is much longer and more extensive than most of the other programs, it is part of a broader class effort to "grip hands" more visibly and be more in touch with the cadets and the staff and faculty.

The source of great pride is the dedication and great personal sacrifice provided by the classmates in this effort. They travel from afar-Tulsa, Oklahoma; Naples, Florida; Northern Virginia; Greater Boston, Massachusetts and New Jersey and the time and personal effort to read, research and prepare for these classes has been exceptional!! We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and selfless group in our Class of '64.

Images taken during the trip to West Point.

Historical room displays



Gloom Period at West Point

