

The West Point Class of 1964 Welcomes the **Members of the West Point Class of 2014**

Congratulations on your acceptance to West Point. You will soon be following in the footsteps of West Point cadets who marched before you, as far back as 1802. We, the members of the Class of '64, look forward to meeting you as you begin to follow in our footsteps and also those we followed 50 years ago. The 50 Year Affiliation Program of the Class of 1964 and the Class of 2014 begins as we meet many of you in your home town areas. And, at West Point on 28 June 2010, many members of our class will meet your parents when you report in on R Day, your first day as a cadet. Late afternoon on that day, '64 representatives will be present for your swearing-in ceremony at Trophy Point.

Both classes will interact with each other at events of special significance for the Class of 2014 during your four years at West Point. The Long Gray Line strengthens as the Class of 2014 "Grips Hands" with us who preceded you a half-century earlier. Simply put, the purpose of the 50 Year Affiliation Program is to strengthen the ties between the graduates of yesterday and of today as both groups work together to strengthen the Long Gray Line as it serves our nation.

Following is a chronological listing of all the Affiliation events, ending at the Graduation of the Class of 2014.

Attend Ceremonies for Newly Selected Members of Class of 2014, April thru June 2010:

Most new selectees for admission to West Point are notified in early May each year. Throughout the country selected candidates are recognized at their high school award ceremonies by the local area West Point Societies and by West Point Parents Clubs. Members of the Class of '64 begin the Affiliation Program by attending those events.

R-Day Reception and Swearing-In Ceremony, 28 June 2010: This event is the initial element of the Affiliation program involving all members of the new class. Parents and family members bring their soon-to-be new cadets to the Holleder Center. After a brief orientation, parents and family members say their goodbyes. The new cadets begin their first day at West Point. After leaving the Holleder Center the parents and other family members are welcome to join members of the Class of '64 and their spouses for a reception and refreshments in Eisenhower Hall at the Benny Havens Lounge. This event begins at approximately 0630 and ends in mid-afternoon. The purpose of this event is to provide the families and friends of the new Cadets a place to relax, enjoy refreshments and interact with members of the Affiliation Class in order to gain their perspective on what awaits the new Cadets. Later in the afternoon, members of the Class of '64 move nearby to Trophy Point to witness the swearing-in ceremony that formally initiates the new class into the Academy.

Plebe Hike/Grad March Back, 9 August 2010: Members of the Class of 1964 along with many other classes ranging from those of the 1940's to the 2000's participate in the 11 mile

terrain hike of the Class of 2014 from Lake Frederick to the Ski Slope. From there the Class of 2014 leads the 2 mile parade down Washington Road to the Superintendent's house where they pass in review. Following also in parade formation are the Class of '64 participants as well as participants from many other classes. This event marks the conclusion of Cadet Basic Training.

Acceptance Day Parade, Saturday 14 August 2010. This is the final event of Reorganization Week. The Class of '64 provides one of its members to join members from each of the other three Affiliation Classes, '61, '62, & '63 to comprise the Reviewing Party for the Acceptance Day Parade. The focus of this event is to welcome the 2014 Plebe Class into the Corps of Cadets, and the Affiliation Class Reviewing Party serves to reinforce the connection between this new class and the three classes that precede it. The Class of 1964 will continue to provide one of its members for each of the three following years for the Acceptance Day Parade reviewing party as the class of 2014 progresses to their First Class year. Following the Acceptance Day Parade, members of the Class of '64 will be present to meet families and Cadets of 2014 near the parade ground.

Class Crest Unveiling Ceremony, Spring 2011: One or two of our '64 Classmates, and their spouses, will join the Plebe Class in the Mess Hall for the official unveiling of the Plebe Class Crest. This event occurs during the spring and is in conjunction with the Plebe Sponsor Appreciation Dinner. The Affiliation Class members sit at one of the Head Tables, normally with the Plebe Class President, and are recognized during his/her remarks to the class during dinner.

Yearling Flag Ceremony, July 2011: For the past several years, this event has occurred at the change-of-detail ceremony during Cadet Field Training at Camp Buckner. There have been recent changes to the summer training schedule, but the event itself will most likely retain the tradition of the Affiliation Class presenting the new Yearling Class with its set of Class Colors at some point during summer training. This set of Colors consists of a Class Flag mounted on a brass-tipped staff, and the presentation of the colors is preceded by remarks by a member of the Affiliation Class to the Yearlings. At the conclusion of this event, the contingent of the Affiliation Class in attendance - about a half-dozen strong, plus spouses - joins the Yearling Class for lunch and fellowship.

Cow Affirmation Ceremony, August 2012: '64 presents all cadets in the Cow Class (the third year class) a joint Class coin bearing each class's Crest, symbolizing the commitment of the Cow Class to the Profession of Arms and the support provided by the Affiliation Class to these newest members of this profession. This event occurs the evening prior to the first day of classes for the Cow Class, and it involves a member of the Affiliation Class speaking to the Cow Class in Robinson Auditorium, followed by the administration of the Affirmation Oath by the Commandant and the presentation of the Affirmation Coins by Company Tactical Officers. Six to eight members of the Affiliation Class and their spouses witness this event.

Class Ring Memorial Program, March 2013: Classmates and families of deceased class members who choose to participate in this program donate class rings that are melted with gold from previous melts and incorporated into the gold for the rings of the Class of 2014. At the Melt ceremony, the biographies of those who donated rings are read aloud and a family member or classmate represents each donor.

Ring Weekend, August 2013: First Class Year involves many significant events for the First Class, and the Affiliation Class has an official role in three of these events: Ring Weekend, Branch Notification Night, and Graduation. During Ring Weekend, two or three members of the Affiliation Class, with spouses, participate with the First Class in the Ring Presentation Ceremony, the Ring Donors' Reception, the Commandant's Reception, the Ring Banquet, and the Ring Hop. During the Ring Presentation Ceremony, the Affiliation Class representatives sit on-stage with the Academy leadership, and they sit at one of the Head Tables during the Ring Banquet. They are formally recognized at both events, and their presence at these events strengthens their Class' connection with the Cadet Class.

Branch Notification Night, November 2013: One of the most significant choices cadets make involves their selection of their Branch. First Class Cadets learn the results of their Branch selection during an evening ceremony at Eisenhower Hall during November, and the Affiliation Class is once again present with its Cadet Class at a key point in that Class' time at West Point, as a member of the Affiliation Class speaks to the First Class Cadets about the significance of their Branch assignments. Once the Affiliation speaker and Commandant have made their remarks to the Firsties, the First Captain tells them to "Open Envelopes," at which time the Cadets rip open the envelopes containing the official notification of their respective Branches. This notification takes the form of a set of Branch insignia, "First Brass", provided courtesy of the Affiliation Class.

First Class - Leadership Dinner, February or March 2014: Representatives of our class attend a dinner with class officers of the Class of 2014 and the senior leadership of the Academy and the AOG.

Graduation - 2LT Bar Presentation, June 2014: As a fitting way to culminate the Affiliation Program, a few members of the Affiliation Class present the new graduates with their first set of 2LT bars, on the backs of which are engraved the last two digits of the graduation years of the Cadet and Affiliation Classes, i.e. 64/14. This engraving symbolizes the ever-lasting connection between these two classes forged over the four years of the Affiliation relationship. Since the presentation of these 2LT bars occurs on the graduation stage as the Cadets are leaving the dais after receiving their diplomas, this event is all the more memorable. Prior to the beginning of the graduation exercise, the 2LT bar presenters are seated in a prominent position immediately next to the Cadets, and the Adjutant recognizes the presenters and their Class, and the 50 Year Affiliation Program in its entirety, in the opening remarks. This recognition symbolizes the importance attached to this program by Cadets, the Academy, and the Long Gray Line.