



# How's the Cow?

A publication of the West Point Parent's Club of Alabama

[www.west-point.org/parent/wppc-alabama](http://www.west-point.org/parent/wppc-alabama)

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## From the President

Dear Parents,

Spring is here and with the gloom of winter behind us, we can look forward to the many upcoming changes this spring. We wish to convey our congratulations to all of the West Point Cadets but especially to the 2005 soon-to-be Graduates for their outstanding accomplishment, the 2009 New Candidates for their nomination and acceptance of this tough yet rewarding challenge for the next four years and lastly congratulations to the 2008 Cadets who have finished the most difficult year at West Point, Plebe Year!

Upcoming events include the 2005 Send-Off Party on June 4, 2005 at the Oak Mountain Church in Pelham, AL. We will be serving lunch and this will be a wonderful opportunity for the 2009 candidates from Alabama and their families to speak to current cadets and voice any questions, concerns, or ask other families who currently have sons or daughters attending the US Military Academy of their experiences. Several '08 parents are helping to organize this important event. They include: Judy Jackson, Liddell Davis, Nansi Clark, Maureen Vaughn, Ann Walker and Terry Davis.

We have ordered American Flags to be flown over the capital by Senator Jeff Sessions' office staff and Sam Shaw is getting Alabama Flags for the graduating '05 cadets. Thank you to U.S. Army Retired COL "Stretch" Dunn (USMA Class of '66) for his generous donation for the American Flags. We will also purchase an ad in the Howitzer yearbook with the 2005 graduating cadets' names listed.

We have a few administration changes that were announced at our annual meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> in Birmingham. My term will conclude in April and Danny Milster and Philip Hallmark will co-share the WPPC-AL President position for 2005 – 2006. Philip Hallmark will also continue maintaining the WPPC – AL web site. Please take some time to look: <http://www.west-point.org/parent/wppc-alabama/>. He has done a great job. Thanks again to several members who helped to make the last term and the All Academy Ball in December a great success: Jamie and Stephen

Kaye, Carol and Danny Milster, Sam Shaw, Philip and Melody Hallmark, John and Debbie Mainwaring, Judy Jackson, Liddell Davis, Terry and Brooks Davis and my family. Army hosted the 2004 ball and all who attended had a good time. Thanks also to Debbie Mainwaring who continues to organize and write the WPPC – Alabama quarterly newsletter.

After the Send-Off Party, our next event will be an "A" Day BBQ at the United States Military Academy. This event is jointly shared with a Pennsylvania WP Parent club who live closer to the post. Details to come later but after the Acceptance Day Parade, a tent will be setup and we hope to have as many Alabama cadets as possible stop by, grab a bite and say hello!

For the 2009 parents, the next few months will be a whirlwind but your sponsor families are there to help and answer your questions and concerns. If a sponsor family has not contacted you to date, please email [philiph@bellsouth.net](mailto:philiph@bellsouth.net). Be sure to mark your calendar for Acceptance Day (A-Day) and the Plebe/Parent weekend. The dates will be confirmed and listed in the WPPC-AL handbook you will receive at the Send-Off Party. A-Day is important because your 'new cadet' will officially become a part of the Corp of Cadets. It is also the first time they will see you since their departure for R-Day and they will be so very glad to see a friendly face. Plebe Parent Weekend marks another milestone in the Plebe year and is a must attend event! It is an exciting weekend and will be the only time you will be allowed access to a 'behind the scene' look at where your cadet sleeps, eats and studies! There will also be a ball on Saturday complete with a night out in the Mess Hall. Your new cadets will serve dinner to you and it is such a good time! There will also be many tours throughout the post during the weekend and I highly recommend you take advantage and get a glimpse of West Point that most people will never see.

We will have boodle during the following periods: "A" Day in August and Gloom/Doom in January. We would also like to send goodies on Halloween and Valentine's Day. We would like to send the 'best' boodle to the Alabama cadets but we need your help! Every Alabama cadet receives boodle from the club and if we have more funds, ideas and donations, we can send better/bigger boodle packages!

The 2005 – 2006 membership fees are now due. A membership application is enclosed but can also be printed from our web site: <http://www.west-point.org/parent/wppc-alabama/>. Our club depends on the membership dues to remain intact, to help future new candidates, and support the current cadets and parents.

We are looking forward to a great 2005 – 2006 year for the WPPC – Alabama!

Go Army, Beat Navy!

Karen Joinson, WPPC – AL, President



### Grad News

LT **Bart Tate** ('03, Birmingham) and Cristina Alvarez will wed in Nashville on May 21. Bart is still at Ft. Campbell but now has a mortar platoon.

CPT **Ed Whatley** ('00, Birmingham) and his wife, Leigh, are relocating from Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri to Ft. Knox, Kentucky in May as he completes his Advanced Engineer Course and his Masters degree in Engineering Management. They are expecting their first child in October.

### Bits and Brags

Cadet **Julia Miller** ('08, Prichard) made the Dean's List her first semester and is currently traveling on the Army track team (long jumper) and teaching Sunday school classes.

Cadet **Gregory Shaw** ('07, Montgomery) has been elected Drum Captain for the Spirit Band and Drum Sergeant for the Pipes and Drum Corps for 2005-2006 and will remain for 2006-2007. He is the first cadet in several years that will be Drum Captain/Sergeant for 2 years. Gregory will report to Fort Benning on June 2nd for Airborne training before returning to West Point for 2nd detail Cadre. In February for President's Day, Gregory, his parents (Judge Greg and Sam Shaw) and long-time friend Lindsey Watson traveled to New York to see "The Gates" in Central Park and to attend an off Broadway play. During the long weekend, Gregory escorted Lindsey and his parents on a tour of West Point.



Cadet **Jeremy Spruce** ('06, Millbrook) competed on the West Point "Supercharged" team along with 4 other cadets in the second annual MIT Soldier Design Competition.

They took first prize, an award of \$5,000, for their design of a battery scavenger system for recovering the power remaining in partially depleted batteries. They were very excited to win 1st place. Cadet Spruce also proposed to Cadet Darcy Wilson ('06 Arizona) during her softball tournament in Florida. She said YES and they will marry after '06 graduation.



Cadet **James Pickett** ('07, Montgomery) has been selected by the History Department to tour the Civil War, Virginia battlefields that pertain to Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign. He will tour these battlefields with other Cadets from May 29 - June 5 as an Advanced Individual Academic Development (AIAD) course. His Military Individual Advanced Development (MIAD) course will be the Robin Sage military exercise at Ft. Bragg from July 27 - Aug 12.



Cadet **Daniel Pate** ('07, Helena) and his friend Courtney Phelps, also of Helena, enjoyed a night out in New York City during the Yearling Winter Weekend on the last weekend in January. After taking the train from West Point to the city on Friday, they dined at Vivaldo's, an Italian restaurant in Manhattan, and then afterwards, enjoyed the play, Beauty and the Beast at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre on Broadway.

On Saturday, they attended the festivities at West Point that included a dinner banquet at the Mess Hall and concluded with dancing at Eisenhower (Ike) Hall. Cadet Pate has also been selected for CPRC (Cadet Public Appearance Participant) Graduation Week Hometown Visit Program May 23 – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005. He will visit local area schools including Pelham High School and Valley Intermediate School and other organizations to discuss the benefits of attending the United States Military Academy.

Cadet **Lee John Wright III** ('08, Hoover) is hanging in there. Studies are very challenging, plus the added time needed for football practice provides an ideal opportunity for applying time management.

Cadet **Kendrick Vaughn**, ('08, Madison) was named to the Dean's List this last semester. To qualify for the Dean's List, a cadet must maintain a 3.0 grade point average. Kendrick is a member of the gospel choir and has enjoyed traveling with them, making appearances in New York City, Philadelphia and Newburgh.



Cadet **David Jackson**, ('08, Warrior) received a Brigade Tactical Officer's Hooah Note which read in part: "You continue to take an active role in setting the example for your classmates by staying in top physical shape. Your dedication to duty and commitment to excellence are noteworthy. Thanks for going the extra mile. Well Done!"

Cadet **Austin Milster** ('07, Hoover) had surgery on his hand the Wednesday night before Spring Break - stitches in two fingers (our concern was the tip of his pointer) and broke the three middle fingers from getting his hand smashed between a 100 lb weight and a wooden bench. I tell you this to explain that we THINK he is doing Air Assault 1st half of summer (his TAC had to vouch for him that he can in fact climb a rope since the Doc wouldn't give permission until like April 20th - which was too late to sign up for the session - so we hope all this goes through) then he's supposed to do Buckner 2nd detail. The Milsters will be moving soon. We should close on May 25 and will then move to a smaller (FLAT) yard kind of place where we can not stress this hill so much.

Cadets **Reginald Gholston** ('05, Selma) and **Edwin Minges** ('05, Tuscaloosa) performed in the Class of 2005's 100<sup>th</sup> Night show this past February. It was a great production that was thoroughly enjoyed by all their '05 classmates, their families and the Corps.

Cadet **Todd Mainwaring** ('07, Dothan) has received the Superintendent's Award for Excellence for the last two semesters and currently stands 8<sup>th</sup> in his class. He



Cadet Todd Mainwaring (far right) with mom, Debbie, brother Cadet Brian Mainwaring ('05) and Mindy Page --100<sup>th</sup> Night weekend.

traveled home twice this last year, once at Thanksgiving and once at Spring Break, to participate in the Cadet Public Relations Council (CPRC). The CPRC program offers interested students an opportunity to learn about West Point personally from a Cadet's perspective. Cadet Mainwaring spoke at five area high schools over the two visits. This summer he will attend Airborne school at Ft. Benning, GA, serve as best man at his brother **Brian**'s ('05) wedding and then do his CTLT at Ft Jackson, SC. He will attend the United States Naval Academy for the fall semester as part of the Exchange Program between the three major academies.

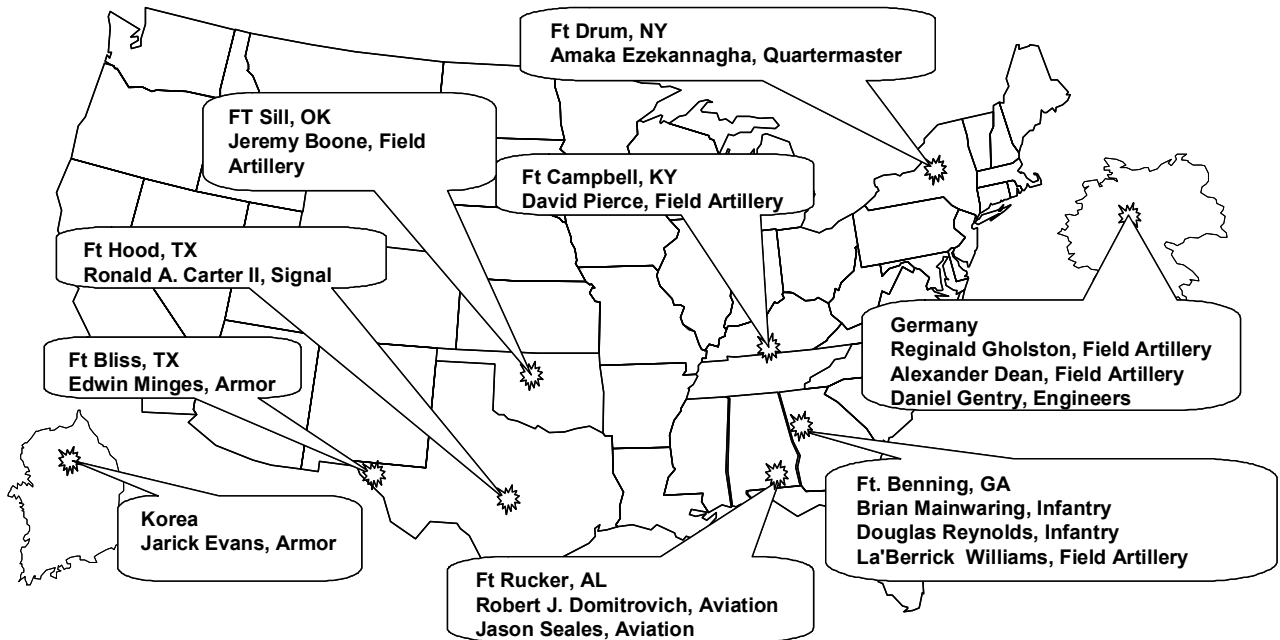
### Reminiscences and a Great Deal of Pride

Willie J. Gholston, '05 parent, Selma)

My son, Reginald J. Gholston, will be graduating in the West Point Class of 2005. Reginald is a 2001 graduate of Austin High School in Decatur, Alabama. Like all parents, I am very proud of my son and his accomplishments. It seems like yesterday when the family was watching the TV series "North and South" and I told my wife, "That boy is going to West Point". Today chill bumps are running down my spine thinking about how my son will make that statement a reality on May 28, 2005. It seems like only last week that we all loaded up and took the 22 hour drive to West Point. We were all so excited viewing the northeastern part of the United States. I put everybody to sleep talking about the Civil War as we passed through the states where historic battles took place. I remember when we all gathered at Ike Hall, and I was like a school kid on a field trip. I wanted to read everything and wished that I was Reginald J. Gholston, Class of 2005. I recall a cadet came up to Reggie and asked a question and he responded with such ease that the cadet told him he would have no problem becoming a West Point Graduate. After a while they all were called into formation, and Reginald's mother started to cry as we said goodbye. I remember telling Reggie to do his best and remember General Custer, who finished last in his class, but became a famous West Point General. The drive back to Alabama seemed longer than the past four years. My son kept the faith, made the grades and will be rewarded a degree in Systems Engineering on May 28, 2005. A West Point Man. My father was a share cropper and I became a teacher. I like to think that my father was as proud of me as I am of my son, Reginald J. Gholston (second from the left).



## Class of 2005 Branches & Assignments



### Branch Schools

Prior to reporting to their first assignments (above) after graduation, the Class of 2005 will all go to their respective Branch Schools for the Officer Basic Course (OBC). The locations of the various branch schools are as follows:

Armor – Ft Knox, Kentucky  
Aviation – Ft. Rucker, Alabama  
Engineers – Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri  
Field Artillery – Ft. Sill, Oklahoma  
Infantry – Ft. Benning, Georgia  
Quartermaster Corps – Ft. Lee, Virginia  
Signal Corps – Ft. Gordon, Georgia

Later in their careers, as Captains, they will return to their Branch Schools for their Captains Career Course (Advance Course).

### Summer Duties

While all new cadets are busy with Cadet Basic Training (CBT-“Beast”) and all rising yearlings are engaged in Cadet Field Training (CFT-“Buckner”) during the first two summers at West Point, there are

three specific things that all cadets must accomplish in their last two summers: a West Point detail (as Beast or Buckner cadre), a MIAD (Military Individual Advanced Development - such as Airborne, Air Assault, etc) and a CTLT (Cadet Troop Leader Training, where they are assigned to a unit).

Cadets put in their preferences for summer assignments, and then the TAC and TAC NCO fill the summer assignments, taking into account the needs at West Point, the number of slots available for various training exercises and the preferences of the cadets.

Alabama parents of rising yearlings may want to plan a trip to Ft Knox, KY during the week their cadet is scheduled to be there for the Mounted Maneuver Training phase of CFT. Usually the day of their arrival they are given the day off and often their evening hours are free. Your cadet can make a reservation for you to stay at the Military Guest House or Bachelor’s Officers Quarters (BOQ) on post.

### Graduation Speaker, 2005

General Richard Meyers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will address the Class of 2005 at the Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> in Michie Stadium.

## 2008 Class Crest Unveiled

The Class of 2008 had their Crest Unveiling Sponsorship Appreciation Dinner on Friday April 1, 2005 in Washington Hall. The dinner featured the unveiling of the class crest and allowed the 2008 cadets to thank their sponsors for their help and mentorship throughout the year. The crest is now displayed in Eisenhower Hall beside the crests from each of the other classes. Be sure to go by and take a look.

## How's the Cow??

"How's the Cow?" is the name of our West Point Parent Club of Alabama newsletter. For all those new parents who are wondering where this came from, "How's the Cow?" is a question upperclassmen will ask your plebe to determine his/her mastery of plebe knowledge. The answer is:

"Sir/Ma'am, she walks, she talks, she's full of chalk. The lacteal fluid extracted from the female of the bovine species is highly prolific to the nth degree."

## Parents Club Conference

Liddell Davis (Robert, '08) and Judy Jackson (David, '08) represented Alabama at the 2005 Parents Club Conference held at West Point April 14 - 16. They were joined by Philip Hallmark (Tyler, '07) on Saturday, April 16 for the small group discussions.

Topics of discussion included what comes after graduation, how Parent Clubs and West Point Societies can work together, how Parent Clubs can help the Academy with admissions, Tri-Care for Cadets, and NCAA guidelines. Copies of handouts from these and other sessions can be found at [www.usma.army.mil/PublicAffairs/club.htm](http://www.usma.army.mil/PublicAffairs/club.htm). Saturday morning was spent in small group discussions. The topics for these small groups were holiday balls and fund raisers, how to keep members involved, and how to keep club active. Much useful information was obtained during this Conference. Liddell and I will be compiling our notes to be shared with Alabama Parent Club members via the Internet. We appreciate the opportunity to represent Alabama parents at this conference.

## WPPC Membership

Fellow Parents,

It is time to renew your memberships, or, if you have never bothered to become a member of the West Point Parent Club of Alabama NOW is the time to join. Our membership year extends from June to June and our deadline for membership is August 1<sup>st</sup>. At that time, if we have not heard from you, you will be removed from newsletter circulation. A membership application form appears in this newsletter. Simply fill it out and return it in the mail with your dues for the year. Don't procrastinate!!! The money you send helps us plan and provide for all of our sons and daughters. So.....

1. Please fill out the member application found in this newsletter and send in with your check.
2. If you have a cadet at the Academy in academic year 2005-06 (Class of 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009), and you live in Alabama, dues are \$35.00 (Member).
3. If you do not have a Cadet at the Academy (alumni parent, friend or relative of a parent, etc.) or you live outside Alabama but want to be part of our WPPC, then dues are \$15.00 (Associate Member). Associate Members do not receive a WPPC-AL nametag.

## How WPPC-AL uses your membership dues

Carol Milster, WPPC-AL Treasurer

Are you the proud parent of a West Point Cadet from Alabama? Just wanted to let you know what our funds cover in the West Point Parent Club:

- BOODLE sent to your cadet's mailbox and POSTAGE!!
  - Chocolate Boodle (A-Day)
  - Gloom and Doom Boodle in January
  - Special Holiday Boodle
  - (We'd love to send more but funds run low - we send to all Alabama Cadets whether parents have supported us or not so if your cadet has never received boodle - we NEED to KNOW!)
- HOWITZER AD to congratulate 2005 graduates from Alabama (cost - \$300.00)
- FLAGS purchased for all Alabama graduates (American and State) and flown over the capitol buildings - \$300.00)
- SEND-OFF PARTY for New Cadets (a must for incoming parents and new cadet candidates) and PARENT HANDBOOK.
- This very NEWSLETTER you are holding in your hand right now! And the POSTAGE to send it...
- Usually in August we host an ACCEPTANCE DAY BBQ (last year sponsored totally by the Benders of Gulf

Shores) up at West Point for all the cadets and their visiting families.

-The ALL ACADEMY BALL in December comes with many expenses - funds need to remain healthy as our club hosts this every three years and it comes around FAST!

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE pay your dues and help us do more for all of our Alabama Cadets - we would even like to extend ourselves and send a treat here and there to our graduates now serving but we cannot do it without pulling together. Thanks for your support SO MUCH!



L-R Debbie Mainwaring (Newsletter), Philip Hallmark (Webmaster, 05-06 Co-President), Carol Milster (Treasurer), Danny Milster (05-06 Co-President), and Karen Joinson (04-05 President)

### **Helpful Websites**

An often overlooked website is <http://www.west-point.org/parent/wpp-net/>. This carefully created site has links to a myriad of information for parents, including but not limited to the bus schedules (link in center column), boodle companies, gift ideas, etc....

It's a good idea for all parents to bookmark both the WPP-NET webpage and the USMA webpage [www.usma.edu](http://www.usma.edu) and make a habit of browsing around those sites for updated information, calendared events (yes, the master calendar on the USMA webpage is an invaluable resource).

### **Wanted—Accounting Firm to File Club Tax Returns**

The WPPC-AL is looking for someone who can direct us to an accounting firm who might file our club tax returns pro bono. Karen Joinson has filed most of the paperwork so the WPPC-AL can get a corporate sponsor but the requirements include filing an annual tax return. If we can find someone in this area to handle it annually, it will always get done in the future regardless of who is currently serving on the board.

### **Class of 2009 Welcome and Send-Off Party Saturday, June 4th**

The Incoming Class of 2009 is taking shape and names are being added to our lists. We are sending out this newsletter to all who have been identified so far as a way to welcome them into our midst. Our Send-Off Party is being busily planned and we are hoping all the “experienced” parents, family members, and cadets will mark their calendars to attend. Come out and meet the new families and share some stories of West Point. And remember, even if your cadet cannot make it (due to training, prior commitments, etc.) we would love for you to come. You are all a part of our special Alabama group.



The Send-Off Party for the Class of 2009 will be Saturday June 4, 2005 at the Oak Mountain Cornerstone Church in Pelham from 11:30AM to 2:30PM. The Church is just off Interstate 65 at Exit 246 (Hwy 119) in Birmingham. Lunch will be served. Invitations are being sent to the new cadets.

Please make an effort to attend. Remember back to when you were incoming parents—all the questions you had and the feeling of being just a bit overwhelmed by it all. Talking to parents of older cadets was so much help. Now it's our turn to pass it on. And besides, it will be so nice to see folks from all our current year groups.



Send-Off Party Committee: L-R-Nansi Clark, Maureen Vaughn, Carol Milster, Melody Hallmark, Judy Jackson, Karen Joinson. Not pictured: Ann Walker, Terry Davis, Liddell Davis

## Calendar of Events 2005-2006

	Activity	Date & Time
May	Term End Exams (TEE)	Mon, May 16 - Saturday, May 21
	Graduation Week	Mon, May 23 - Saturday, May 28
	Graduation Class of 2005	Sat, May 28 in Michie Stadium
June	WPPC-AL Send-off Party (NCC 2009)	Sat, Jun 4 Oak Mountain Cornerstone Church, 11:30AM - 2:30 PM, Pelham, AL
	R-Day NCC Class of 2009	Mon, Jun 27 Eisenhower Hall (Parent Schedule TBP)
July	Independence Day	Mon, Jul 4
	Change of Detail, CBT (Beast)	Sun, Jul 20 (Class of 2009-Ice Cream Socials and Phone calls home)
August	CFT Run Back	Sun, Aug 7 (To be confirmed)
	March Back	Mon, Aug 8 (Arrive at Superintendent's Quarters @ 9:30AM)
	Acceptance Day, Class of 2009	Sat, Aug 13 (Parade at 10 AM); WPPC of AL BBQ, "A-Day" Boogie
	Affirmation, Class of 2007	Sun, Aug 14 (Classes begin Aug 15)
	Ring Weekend, Class of 2006	Fri, Aug 26 - Sun, Aug 28 ( Formal-7PM. Sat, Aug 27)
September	Labor Day Weekend	Fri, Sep 2 - Mon, Sep 5 (w/ Pass, back by 7PM Sep 5)
	Football @ Boston College	Sat, Sep 10, TBA
	Football Baylor	Sat, Sep 17 at 1:00PM, Michie Stadium
	Football Iowa State	Fri, Sep 23 at 8:00PM, Michie Stadium
October	Football Connecticut	Sat, Oct 1 at 1:00PM, Michie Stadium
	Football Central Michigan - Homecoming	Sat, Oct 8 at 1:00PM, Michie Stadium
	Columbus Day	Mon, Oct 10 (Regular class day)
	Plebe Parent Weekend	Fri, Oct 14 - Mon, Oct 17 (Oct 17 Training Holiday, Columbus Day makeup)
	Football @ TCU	Sat, Oct 15 at 7:00PM at Ft Worth, TX
Football @ Akron	Sat, Oct 22, Time TBA at Akron, OH	
November	Football @ USAFA	Sat, Nov 5, at Colorado Springs, CO
	Veterans' Day	Thu, Nov 10 (No Classes)
	Football Massachusetts	Sat, Nov 12 at 1:00PM, Michie Stadium
	Branch Night, Class of 2006	Sun, Nov 13 or Wed, Nov 17 Ike Hall (to be confirmed)
	Football Arkansas State	Sat, Nov 19 at 1:00PM, Michie Stadium
Thanksgiving	Wed, Nov 23 - Sun, Nov 27 (depart after last duty Wed, back by 7PM Nov 27)	
December	Army-Navy Football Game	Sat, Dec 3, 2:30PM, Lincoln Field, Philadelphia, PA
	Term End Exams (TEE)	Sat, Dec 10 - Sat, Dec 17
	Mid-Year Graduation	Fri, Dec 16
	Winter Leave	Fri, Dec 16 - Mon, Jan 2 (depart after last TEE, back by 7PM Jan 2)
	All Academy Ball	Date, Time and Location TBD
January	Martin Luther King Day	Mon, Jan 16 (No classes)
	500th Night, Class of 2007	Fri, Jan 20 - Sun, Jan 22 (Banquet-Sat, Jan 21, 6:30PM, Hop, 8:30PM)
February	Yearling Winter Weekend, Class of 2008	Fri, Feb 3 - Sun, Feb 5 (Banquet-Sat, Feb 4, 7PM, Hop-8:30PM)
	Ring Show, Class of 2007	Mon, Feb 6-Thurs, Feb 9 Ike Hall
	President's Day Weekend	Fri, Feb 17 - Mon, Feb 20 (w/ pass back by 7PM Feb 20)
	Post Selection, Class of 2006	Wed, Feb 22
100th Night, Class of 2006	Fri, Feb 24 - Sun, Feb 26 (Banquet Sat, Feb 25, 6PM Cadet Mess)	
March	Founder's Day Dinner	Thu, Mar 9, 6:30PM, Cadet Mess Hall
	Spring Leave	Fri, Mar 10 - Sun, Mar 19 (back by 7PM, Mar 19)

# How's the Cow?

WPPC of Alabama

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Note: The graduating Class of 2005 chose their motto during their Beast summer *before the 9-11 terrorist attacks* on the U.S.

