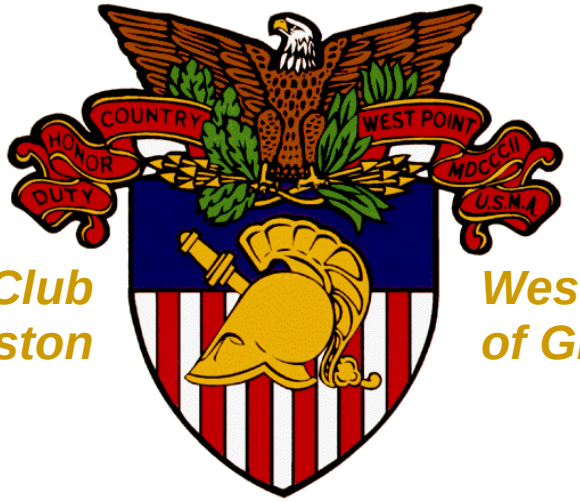
West Point Parents Club of Greater Houston



West Point Society of Greater Houston

The West Point Parents Club of Greater Houston (WPPCGH) and the West Point Society of Greater Houston (WPSGH) both wish to congratulate you on your son's / daughter's acceptance to the United States Military Academy. The transition from civilian life to life at West Point can sometimes be challenging. Please note, you are not alone – we are here to help you. Remember, many have gone before you and many will follow afterwards.

Before long you will be saying your goodbyes at Eisenhower Hall and beginning the journey to graduation. If there is ever anything we can assist you with, please contact any member of the WPPCGH or the WPSGH. We trust the accompanying information from Plebe Parent Handbook for the USMA Class of 2011 will assist you throughout the "Plebe" year.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THINGS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE YESTERDAY 4
JUNE 2007 8
JULY 2007 12
AUGUST 2007 15
SEPTEMBER 2007 18
OCTOBER 2007 21
NOVEMBER 2007 24
DECEMBER 2007 26
JANUARY 2008 28
FEBRUARY 2008 30
MARCH 2008 32
APRIL 2008 34
MAY 2008 36
JUNE 2008 38
TELEPHONE NUMBERS – USMA 39
TELEPHONE NUMBERS – HIGHLAND FALLS/FORT MONTGOMERY 40
TELEPHONE NUMBERS – WEST POINT AREA HOTELS / MOTELS 41
OTHER HELPFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS 41
WEB ADDRESSES 42
- TRAVEL 42
- WEST POINT INFORMATION 43
- MERCHANDISE 43

SUMMARY CALENDAR 44
FOR THE PERIOD OF JUNE 2007 THROUGH JUNE 2008 44
SIGNIFICANT PLEBE – USMA EVENTS 45
- "R" DAY (RECEPTION DAY): JULY 2, 2007 FOR THE CLASS OF 2011 45
- REORGANIZATION FROM FIELD TRAINING (CBT) TO CLASSROOM PREPAREDNESS 49
- ACCEPTANCE PARADE: AUGUST 18, 2007 49
- ACADEMIC YEAR 50
- PLEBE PARENT WEEKEND: OCTOBER 12-15, 2007 51
- PASSES 52
- THE REST OF THE FIRST SEMESTER 53
- WINTER REORGANIZATION WEEK: JANUARY 7 – 11, 2008 53
- GLOOM PERIOD 53
- PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND 53
- SPRING BREAK 53
- AFTER SPRING BREAK 53

THE YEARLING YEAR 55
- ADVICE FOR A RISING YEARLING GETTING READY FOR A BUCKNER SUMMER: 55

Clothing *55*
Gear *56*
Toiletries *56*
Food (to bring and for boodle) *57*
Misc *57*
VISITING BUCKNER: 58
RETURNING TO WP: 59
LEADERSHIP: 59
ACADEMICS: 59
DECLARE AN EMPHASIS IN ENGINEERING: 59
DECLARE A MAJOR: 59
YEARLING WINTER WEEKEND: 60
STAY INVOLVED: 60
OUT OF THE LIMELIGHT: 60
HONOR VIOLATIONS: 60
LINK TO THE ADMISSIONS EFFORT AT HOME: 60
SUMMERS FOLLOWING THEIR YEARLING YEAR: 61

THE COW YEAR 62

AFFIRMATION: 62
500TH NIGHT WEEKEND: 62
COW LOANS: 62
RING SELECTION: 62
CARS: 63
WPPWE (WEST POINT PROFESSIONAL WRITING EXAM): 64
SOSH RUN: 64
RING WEEKEND: 65
BRANCH SELECTION: 66
BRANCH NOTIFICATION: 70
ORDERING FOR GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS: 70
GRADUATION PHOTOS: 70
ARMY UNIFORMS: 71
MEMORABILIA: 71
POST NIGHT: 71
CLEAN OUT ROOMS EARLY: 71
CLASS HOME PAGE: 71
100TH NIGHT WEEKEND: 72
GRADUATION WEEK: 72

GLOSSARY OF CADET TERMINOLOGY 73

ORGANIZATION OF THE CORPS OF CADETS DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR 76

CADET RULES AND REGULATIONS 77

A AND B SATURDAYS 77
LEAVES AND PASSES 77
WALKING PRIVILEGES 77
MEDICAL TREATMENT 78

DIRECTIONS TO WEST POINT FROM AIRPORTS 79

MAP OF WEST POINT 80

MAP OF AREA 81

The West Point Parents Club of Greater Houston has prepared this handbook as a supplement to the information you will receive from the Admissions Office of USMA. If any informational conflict exists, please follow the guidelines provided by USMA.

Things That Should Have Been Done Yesterday

1. Be sure the USMA offer of admission has been accepted.
2. Complete USMA paperwork requirements. Keep copies as paperwork does get lost.
3. Purchase the following items needed for "R" Day. Be sure to travel light – one bag. You can send additional items to your Cadet after Beast Barracks. It will be beneficial to your Cadet if small items are packed in clear sealable plastic bags. Be sure all black shoes, running shoes, and combat boots are well broken in before "R" Day. But do not fret if everything is not perfect as these New Cadets will manage and what they don't have, USMA will provide.
    - Plain black shoes with laces. The instructions proved by USMA will specify the type of Army issue shoe that is acceptable. In the past, Plebes have not been allowed to wear highly shined plastic surfaced officer style "corfam" shoes;
    - Comfortable running shoes – not cross trainers. Cadets do a lot of running;
    - One pair of standard issue, all leather, Army combat boots (You may have to go to an Army post or Air Force base to obtain these; follow the instructions provided by USMA);
    - Razor – safety razor with shaving cream or electric razor;
    - Watch – inexpensive but sturdy (Casio G-Shock is acceptable);
    - Compression shorts – will significantly reduce BDU chaffing (black only);
    - White Sports Bras – female Candidates;
    - Alarm clock – battery operated;
    - Small penlight with extra batteries, mini-mag is acceptable;
    - Nail polish remover (small bottle) to remove lacquer finish from brass;
    - Soft, lint-free cloths for shining shoes;
    - One 8 x 10 picture (collage of pictures) – glass is not recommended. You can put multiple collages behind each other in the single frame, enabling the New Cadet to change out the collage;
    - Supply of stamps, self-addressed envelopes, and stationary;
    - Toiletries;
    - Small camera – disposable recommended;
    - Multipurpose fold up tool – Leatherman or Gerber recommended;
    - Bic-type lighter;

- Chapstick;
- BAND-AID®s and moleskin or BAND-AID® BLISTER BLOCK™;
- Gold Bond® medicated foot powder;
- All white crew socks – no logos or color;
- Toothbrush and paste;
- Insect repellent (any brand with DEET recommended).

4. If you are accompanying your Cadet to "R" Day, make your hotel reservations early. Cadet reservations may be handled through the Academy vendor.

5. Make hotel reservations for "A" Day, Plebe-Parent Weekend, and any fall weekend travel to USMA. Hotels fill up early for scheduled USMA events – especially football games. For "A" Day Weekend try to get a room within the walking privilege area (roughly 5 miles of Thayer Gate to south & east). The boundaries of Walking Privileges in the past have been:

   North - Washington Gate
   East - Hudson River
   West - Highway 9W (Cadets may visit establishments on 9W)
   South - Bear Mountain traffic circle; Cadets driven by car may go to the Bear Mountain State Park area south of the traffic circle (including the Bear Mountain Inn).
   And sometimes the Round Pond area maybe included at the discretion of USMA

6. Convince your Cadet to RUN, RUN, RUN, and RUN some more. Practice running up hills, and if available running bleachers. Houston area Cadets are flatlanders, at West Point they need to become highlanders. Initially, everything at West Point will seem to be uphill.

7. If they have a chance, encourage your Cadet Candidate to browse through "Bugle Notes" for which excerpts are available on the web or can be obtained from the http://www.usma.edu/uscc/dca/Pubs/Bugle.html. New Cadets will be required to recite "knowledge" during Beast. All the information that they must memorize comes from a little book called "Bugle Notes." Different young people respond differently to this. Some Cadet Candidates find that this stressed them out to try to memorize ahead of time so there is not need to fret over it but it does help just to browse through it. All will do just fine even if they don't memorize one word before they report. If they know too much, they get just as much attention as if they can't get it. In fact the only thing that will be very helpful on "R" Day is to memorize is how to report to the Cadet in the Red Sash. It's easy and any of of the parents of older Cadets can explain how and the exact words to use.

8. Get to know the Military Academy Liaison Officers ("MALOs") for the Greater Houston Area. MALOs are volunteers, primarily Army Reserve Officers, who are assigned by the USMA Admissions Office to provide support and assistance to area Cadets and their families. MALOs are also involved in "College Nights",

interviewing candidates, and presenting the admissions meeting held in the Houston area.

9. Keep in mind the West Point Parents Club of Greater Houston, the West Point Society (alumni group that parents can join) and other Cadets are valuable sources of information.
10. Suggested gifts – which can be sent after Beast Barracks:
    - Iron and mini ironing board;
    - Address book (filled in with information);
    - Monthly boodle (boodle box size 23” x 17” x 9”) - after Beast Barracks;
    - Small electric fan – a Cadet favorite;
    - Coffee pot or hot pot for soups, etc. (but no hot plates). For the iron/board, coffee pot or hot pot, many Companies only allow one per room, so you may wish to coordinate with the Fall roommate(s).

    Note: In most Companies, roommates change each semester but Plebes will be assigned roommates from their class only.

“Courage is fear holding on a minute longer.” – ***George S. Patton***

June 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 New Cadet Picnic @ The Woodlands
10	11	12	13 Flag Day	14 232nd U.S. Army Birthday	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19	20	21	22 CFT - Buckner Class 2010	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

June 2007

1. Join the West Point Parents Club of Greater Houston. Annual dues are nominal -- $30 or $35 depending on your payment plan.
    - Obtain a list of WPPCGH members;
    - Call your WPPCGH mentor, or WPPCGH Class Rep, when you have questions or concerns;
    - Attend the New Cadet Picnic at The Woodlands, sponsored by WPPCGH and the MALOs. This is a great time for your Cadet Candidate (so called until "R" Day) to meet new classmates and upperclass Cadets from the Houston area. Parents are also encouraged to ask questions of attending MALOs and WPPCGH members.

2. If you have not already done so, join Plebe-Net, a terrific list serve and resource for Plebe Parents at http://www.west-point.org/parent/.

3. Make reservations for "R" Day.
    - Notify your WPPCGH Class Rep if you are accompanying your Cadet Candidate to USMA;
    - If you are not going to West Point for "R" Day, prepare a card or letter with words of encouragement to your Cadet Candidate. Send it with a parent who is going and ask that it be addressed and mailed to your New Cadet immediately from the West Point Post Office. Generally, the new P. O. Box information for New Cadets (will be the box for all four years) will be available the morning of "R" Day in Eisenhower Hall immediately following New Cadet's departure from their reporting briefing.
    - Have an "upbeat, motivational" card ready to put in the mail upon receipt of your New Cadet's address.

4. Complete an application for a major credit card for your New Cadet. While this is optional it is good for the Cadet to have in emergency situations. A credit card or debit card will be required for your Cadet to book airline tickets. By this time you should have a checking account for direct deposit of the Cadet's paycheck. Most choose either Pentagon Federal Credit Union or USAA. If your Cadet is still under the age of 18 at the time they report to USMA, you may need to open the checking account in the parent's name as well. Both financial institutions will open the account over the phone with signature cards sent out by the entity. Pentagon Federal Credit Union (www.penfed.org) has an office in the Cadet area of USMA and has 5 ATM locations and another branch in Highland Falls. Many also use USAA (www.usaa.com) because it has a branch in Highland Falls and when the Cadets become Cows, their Cow loan is done through USAA. Cadets will also obtain insurance and other financial services when they graduate through USAA.

5. Get your Cadet Candidate a telephone credit card and/or an 800 number. During Beast Barracks, your New Cadet will not be allowed to have a cell phone. Typically New Cadets are allowed only 3 phone calls (see information at the back of this handbook) and on "R" Day, approximate dates of those calls will be announced in the Superintendant's briefing.

6. Re-read INFORMATION for New Cadets/Parents, West Point Parents Almanac, and Instructions for Candidates Offered Admission. Copies of these booklets will come directly from USMA but copies may also be posted on the USMA website as "R" Day approaches.

7. Continue to encourage your Cadet Candidate to RUN, RUN, RUN, and then RUN some more. We cannot emphasize this enough. Each New Cadet will take an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) in the first few days of Beast. They will be required to do situps for 2 minutes, pushups (in proper form) for two minutes and a two mile run (usually on a flat course). They will also do increasingly longer road marches, culminating in a 15 mile ruck march (carrying a backpack) from Camp Buckner at the end of Beast.

8. Check to make sure West Point has received all necessary paperwork.

9. It is a good idea for your Cadet Candidate to get an appropriate haircut before departing for West Point. It relieves the shock of "R" Day. However, in the past, USMA has discouraged full "buzz" cuts prior to "R" Day.

10. Parents may be invited (notice typically announced on Plebe-Net) to a practice "R" Day which will be held the Thursday or Friday before Beast begins. This is the day the cadre refine their "R" Day skills. Cadet Candidates are not eligible to attend.

11. Plan an informal farewell for your Cadet Candidate with family and friends.

12. Purchase tissues – you will need them the day your Cadet Candidate leaves and on many occasions thereafter.

13. Make hotel reservations for future visits to West Point.
    - New Cadets are not allowed to have visitors during Beast Barracks. "Beast" officially ends with an infantry march back to the main academy area from Camp Buckner in August and culminates with the Acceptance Parade a few days later;
    - Make hotel reservations, preferably within walking privileges (see above for boundaries), for Acceptance Day ("A" Day);
    - Labor Day weekend – a very, good time to visit West Point and New York. Each Plebe will be allowed one weekend pass each semester assuming their privileges have not been restricted. Though it only seems a short

time since “R” Day, Cadets (no longer called New Cadets after “A” Day), many will savor a respite from the boundaries of West Point.;
- Weekends during football season, especially the WPPCGH sponsored Texas Tamale Tailgate;
- Plebe Parent Weekend.

14. Prepare yourself and your Cadet Candidate for the stress of “R” Day. The realization that your son/daughter is now in the Army can be quite stressful. Many parents are a little shaken when they leave Eisenhower Hall.

15. Get your New Cadet’s address from Eisenhower Hall on “R” Day. The address cards will include P.O. Box Number, your Cadet’s Company number, platoon number, and squad number. You may address mail to, “New Cadet Doe, USMA, P.O. Box Number, West Point, New York 10997.” Your Cadet will be a “New Cadet” until the Acceptance Day Parade in August. Omitting the first name during Beast may eliminate a few pushups and since every Cadet’s P.O. Box is unique, the New Cadet will still get his/her mail.

16. On “R” Day, consider taking a tour of USMA, including the Cadet’s Chapel, Alumni Center (close to Michie Stadium), but plan to be at the Superintendant’s briefing (usually around 3:00 p.m.)

17. As your son/daughter reports in Eisenhower Hall (see more detail in the back of this handbook), they must be on time. West Point’s main area is quite large and if you are walking from the parking lot or Thayer Hotel (there will be free bus service all day), allow ample time.

18. Attending religious services is a great activity for your New Cadet – with time for visiting and cookies/doughnuts. This is also important during Beast and shortly after “A” Day as Plebes may have the opportunity to go on a weekend retreat with other Plebes of their own faith.

“There is no security on this earth; there is only opportunity.” – Douglas MacArthur

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July 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	**2** **R-Day Class 2011**	**3**	**4** **Independence Day**	**5**	**6**	**7**
8 **Beast Survival Meeting**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**
15	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**
22	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**
29	**30**	**31**				

July 2007

1. Mail notes of encouragement daily or as often as possible – humor helps a lot. Ask friends, teachers, church members, etc. to write. New Cadets find comics, jokes, etc. particularly fund to receive especially since they may have to "entertain" the cadre leading them at meals

2. Do not expect a telephone call for several days. New Cadets are usually restricted to only three telephone calls during "Beast". Your New Cadet can call only when given permission by his/her squad leader.

3. Think about purchasing a speakerphone, the benefits of which are:
    - Enables your New Cadet to speak to everyone at once so he/she does not have to repeat comments. The duration of telephone calls is also restricted during Beast Barracks. In the past, calls typically ranged from 1 to 5 minutes. Let your Cadet do the talking as time is limited;
    - Allows telephone conversations to be recorded so family members not present can listen at a later date.

4. Keep a pad and pen by your telephone to record requests made by your New Cadet. Make notes of items that you intend to discuss with your New Cadet.

5. Prepare yourself for a "downer" communication – either a letter or a telephone call. New Cadets are under extreme stress and they need to vent. This is a time for parents to listen and be supportive.

6. REMEMBER – you know your New Cadet better than anyone else does. Listen to what he/she says. Each New Cadet will have different kinds of concerns. Other parents may offer suggestions on different ways to solve a problem, but you know better than anyone which method might be most effective.

7. Talk with parents of other Cadets for moral support. Your WPPCGH mentor is willing to provide assistance <u>whenever</u> requested.

8. Do not send any packages or include anything in your letters (except stationary and stamps) until your New Cadet tells you that packages are allowed. This will be after "A" Day.

9. Check with your car insurance agent to determine if your New Cadet qualifies for a reduced rate or if he/she should be removed from the policy. Many insurers offer a reduced rate for students away from home without access to an automobile.

10. Be sure you do not do anything that will draw attention to your New Cadet. He/she will want to keep a low profile during Beast. If you have concerns, call

your WPPCGH Mentor, Club Officers, or Class Representative. Calling your Cadet's TAC officer should be restricted to only the most serious family matters and emergencies.

11. If you happen to be in the West Point area for the 4th of July, attend the band concert and fireworks at Trophy Point (typically the Sunday before the 4th). This is an incredibly moving experience which thousands of residents from the Northeast attend. Though your New Cadet will likely attend, you will not be able to visit but you could see him/her at at distance as they march in and are seated in the front. This is somewhat like "Finding Waldo" or the search for a needle in a haystack.

"What counts is not the size of the dog in the fight; it's the size of the fight in the dog."
– Dwight D. Eisenhower

August 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 CFT - Camp Illumination Class 2010
5 WPPCGH Meeting @ 2 PM	6 CFT Run Back Class 2010	7	8	9	10	11
12 CBT March Back Class 2011	13	14	15	16	17	18 Acceptance Day Parade
19 Oath of Affirmation Class 2009	20 Academic Term Begins	21	22	23	24 Ring Weekend Class 2008	25 Ring Weekend Banquet Class 2008
26 Ring Weekend Class 2008	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2007

1. Keep sending notes of encouragement. Your Cadet will appreciate every letter he/she receives.

2. Remember you will hear the worst from your Cadet. You are the outlet for all the frustrations. Most times your Cadet will feel much better after the phone call, while you will feel worse. Do not hit the panic button if your Cadet mentions quitting – most think of it, some say it. During these conversations, practice the techniques given below:

    - Be a good listener. Encourage the use of humor to get through tough times;
    - Be positive;
    - Be understanding;
    - Be encouraging;
    - Be empathetic;
    - Do not ask how he/she likes it. Postpone this question until at least after graduation.

3. Talk with other Cadet parents for moral support.

4. Attend Parents Club meetings – only five regularly scheduled meetings a year, usually on the third Sunday of February, April, May, August and October and sometimes one in December.

5. Watch for airline specials. There are a few long weekends during the year. Your Cadet may want to use a pass to come home. A home-cooked meal and a familiar bed may be appealing.

6. Prepare to send a boodle box (snack items). The first box should include an airtight container (approximately 23" x 17" x 9") to hold future food such as:

    - Baked goods from home (don't send cosmetics and food in the same box);
    - Items delivered by specialty shops in Highland Falls (see back of this handbook or West-Point.Org website for options at http://www.west-point.org/parent/wpp-net/faq/.

    These boxes can be found at large discount stores and also can be obtained at USMA at the PX.

7. Send any parcel via UPS so that the package goes directly to the orderly room in the Company. This makes it easier for your Cadet to pick it up. Address the package, "Cadet John Doe, Company number (F1, for example), c/o Cadet

Central Guard Room, Building 745C, West Point, New York 10996. After "A" Day, the use of the first name will not result in pushups.

8. Send one set of "civilian clothes" if your Cadet requests them. You might send a favorite pair of running shoes as well.

9. Prepare for another "downer" communication – reorganization week is immediately after Beast and is particularly stressful. Upperclassmen return, and the ratio is now three upperclassmen for each lowly Plebe. During this week New Cadets will organize their barracks, be issued computers and books and will be able to contact their parents (though time is limited as they have much to accomplish).

10. If you attend "A" Day, do not expect to get to visit until after the parade. Even when the marchback occurs, parents will line up along the road but do not attempt to talk to your New Cadet or to call attention to him/her.

11. After the "A" Day parade, there will be lots of Plebes who remain on the grounds (below The Plain) for picnics as not all parents secure lodging within walking privileges. Even if you are unable to attend "A" Day, be assured that families will "adopt" the Cadets for the weekend.

12. Encourage your Cadet frequently. Classes begin creating stress of another type. The Thayer method of instruction is utilized – study/application first with explanations later. It is a unique approach that creates frustration until adjustment can be made. This is when your Cadet learns the most efficient way to manage time. Homework is done before the class, not after. The Cadet should be prepared before the first day. Assignments will be delivered by e-mail prior to class. Encourage your Cadet to take advantage of AI (additional instruction) from his professors to keep from getting behind in class. Virtually all Cadets take this opportunity, and Plebes will frequently find that those who rank highest academically have used AI extensively.

13. The best answer to the question on how your Cadet is doing is, "He/she is still there." That in itself is a major accomplishment.

14. By this time, your Cadet will be able to receive and send e-mail. If you do not already have an internet service provider, any of the popular on-line services will work, e.g. America On Line, Road Runner, SBC, etc.

15. Consider having your Cadet purchase a fan from the Cadet Store for his room to help survive the hot summers at West Point.

"The education of a man is completed only when he dies." – ***Robert E. Lee***

September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 ***Football*** ***ARMY @*** ***Akron***
2	**3** **Labor Day** **No Classes**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8** ***Football*** ***Rhode Island*** ***@ ARMY***
9	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15** ***Football*** ***ARMY @*** ***Wake Forest***
16	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22** ***Football*** ***ARMY @*** ***Boston*** ***College***
23	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29** ***Football*** ***Temple*** ***@ ARMY*** ***Texas*** ***Tamale*** ***Tailgate*** ***TENTATIVE***
30						

September 2007

1. Your Cadet may be able to take a pass for the Labor Day weekend and come home. If not, you may choose to visit West Point – it's a beautiful time of year to visit New England. If a choice has to be made between visiting on Labor Day or during Plebe Parent Weekend ("PPW"), choose PPW. USMA makes available a variety of activities during PPW which are not available at any other time.

    - Talk with your Cadet before making specific plans. Each Cadet's schedule can vary and may include unexpected duties or disciplinary activities;
    - Remember Cadets are ultimately responsible for their own plans.

2. Expect to see a changed person – weight lost may have occurred.

3. Be sure your Cadet has registered to vote. Telephone the County Clerk's Office (Harris County 713-755-6965 or go online at www.co.harris.tx.us) to learn of any upcoming elections and the procedure for voting absentee. Cadets are made aware of national elections, but there are also local elections where the Cadet may want to be involved in the outcome.

4. Be attuned to your Cadet during visits. Let your Cadet gauge how much he/she wants to do. Do not ask your Cadet to spend every minute with you. Give him/her a break now and then. Rack time is an important activity for Cadets on break and in fact, they may seem to sleep virtually all the time.

5. Be prepared for a "let down" feeling after seeing your Cadet – it's NATURAL!

6. Make hotel reservations for PPW if you have not already done so. Most of the local facilities will already be filled. Your Cadet may be permitted to travel within a 75 mile radius of West Point during PPW.

7. The USMA sponsor program assigns a sponsor to your Cadet. Encourage him/her to accept invitations to visit in the homes of his/her sponsor. This provides a welcome and needed place for some relaxation. Visits with the sponsor usually include a meal. Your Cadet should be encouraged to send a thank you note after every visit.

8. Keep up with the football games. All extra curricular activities are important to your Cadet's educational experience. Football games serve as a good conversation starter.

9. Encourage your Cadet to attend the WPPCGH sponsored Tamale Tailgate event after the football game, the date of which is still to be determined. This is a great chance to meet classmates and upperclassmen from the Houston area.

"Democracy, the practice of self-government, is a covenant among free men to respect the rights and liberties of their fellow man" – Franklin Delano Roosevelt

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October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6** ***Football Tulane @ ARMY***
7 **WPPCGH Meeting @ 2 PM**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12** **Plebe Parent Weekend**	**13** ***Football ARMY @ Central Michigan*** **Plebe Parent Banquet**
14 **Plebe Parent Weekend**	**15** **Plebe Parent Weekend**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20** ***Football ARMY @ Georgia Tech***
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**
28	**29**	**30**	**31** **Halloween**			

October 2007

1. Continue to send notes of encouragement to your Cadet.

2. Consider making plans to attend the Army/Navy football game in Philadelphia in December. Tickets will need to be purchased by your Cadet unless you are a member of the Army "A" Club (Go to www.GoArmySports.com for further details)

3. Send your Cadet a list of names of Houston area Cadets (all classes). It will help to start conversations and thereby make the West Point experience more positive. This can be obtained from the WPPCGH Yahoo website (under Files—this is the private site for WPPCGH members).

4. Attend the WPPCGH meeting in October.

5. Begin to make plans for Thanksgiving.

    - Check with your Cadet before making flight arrangements. Have your Cadet confirm times with his/her chain of command;
    - Remember that policies change – your Cadet must know the current policy;
    - Schedule flights by leaving ample time for ground transportation as well as other unexpected delays;
    - If the airline expense is too much for your budget, your Cadet may want to visit friends and/or relatives in the West Point area for Thanksgiving. Airline rates are usually greater at Thanksgiving than at any other time of year.
    - USMA provides bus service at a very reasonable rate through GMK Bus Service; tickets typically go on sale at Grant Hall to Cadets shortly before Thanksgiving and go to all the major airports. The schedule will be available to parents and Cadets several weeks before and will be available on the West-Point.org website.

6. Visit West Point for Plebe Parent Weekend, and do all those things you're not usually able to do:
    - Visit your Cadet's room and attend the TAC briefing for her/her Company, if available;
    - Tour the dining hall;
    - Tour the Superintendent's home;
    - Tour the uniform factory; if you desire to buy a coat there (similar to a coat worn by Cadets), do so early as they sometimes sell out of some sizes;
    - Visit the Thayer Award Room;
    - Eat in the dining hall;

- Visit the departmental presentations – DPE demonstration is particularly impressive;
- Take warm clothes. West Point in October can be cold.

The Weekend will include a formal dinner in Washington Hall (celebration glasses are yours to take home so bring some bubble wrap) and hop at Eisenhower Hall with the Superintendant's receiving line and pictures. This is a glimpse at West Point that will not be available at any other time in your Cadet's four years.

7. To plan for Christmas leave, ask your Cadet for the final exam schedule (also called TEEs) and details regarding dismissal from duties and time for reporting back in so that flight arrangements can be made. Your Cadet needs to call you as soon as the schedule is released. In scheduling the return flight, schedule the first flight out that day. Moving into a new room will need to be done after arrival. The earlier the arrival, the better prepared the Cadet can be for resuming Cadet activities.

"Duty, Honor, Country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying points, to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn." – ***Douglas MacArthur***

November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 ***Football ARMY @ Air Force***
4	5	6	7	8	9 ***Football Rutgers @ ARMY***	10
11 **Branch Assignments Class 2008**	12	13	14	15	16	17 ***Football Tulsa @ ARMY***
18	19	20	21 **Thanksgiving Leave Begins After Last Duty**	22 **Thanksgiving**	23	24
25 **Thanksgiving Leave Ends**	26	27	28	29	30	

November 2007

1. Prepare for a happy Thanksgiving.

2. Let your Cadet's mood dictate your plans. Your Cadet may just want to spend "quiet" time at home. He/she will notice every change in the home, so avoid major remodeling before your Cadet's first visit home.

3. Discuss plans for the Joint Service Academies Military Ball in Houston right after Christmas.

4. Continue sending notes of encouragement.

5. Get Christmas gift ideas from your Cadet. CD players, CD's, and money are popular as well as Texas items such as boots, belt buckles, Texas T-shirts, Texas hats, and Texas flags. "Under Armor" and/or silk or polypropylene long johns will be appreciated as it will keep your Cadet warm.

6. Encourage your Cadet to join clubs of interest. These clubs frequently have weekend field trips that provide the Cadet with an opportunity to "get away". Looking forward to special times away from the post sometimes helps.

7. Consider having your Cadet purchase a small electric heater from the Cadet Store for the COLD West Point winter.

"From the Far East I send you one single thought, one sole idea – written in red on every beachhead from Australia to Tokyo – there is no substitute for victory!." – ***Douglas MacArthur***

December 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 - ***Football GO ARMY BEAT Navy! @ Baltimore***
2	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
9 **WPPCGH Meeting @ 2 PM**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14** **Winter Leave Begins After Last Duty**	**15**
16	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**
23	**24**	**25** **Christmas**	**26** **Houston Military Ball**	**27**	**28**	**29**
30	**31**					

December 2007

1. Set your television recorder for and make plans to watch the Army – Navy football game with other West Point parents, or better yet, make plans to attend the game.

2. Make reservations for the Joint Service Academies Military Ball in Houston.

    - Tell your son to bring his FULL DRESS OVER WHITE uniform and your daughter to bring her MESS DRESS (long skirt);
    - Details of the military ball will be announced at the October WPPCGH meeting;
    - Parents, family, and friends are encouraged to attend;
    - Excellent gifts, including cash, are given to all Cadets attending.

3. Encourage your Cadet to attend the Houston admissions meeting sponsored by the West Point Military Academy Liaison Officers (MALOs). The meeting is usually held at St. John's High School to provide input for prospective Cadets and their parents. This is usually held the Saturday immediately prior to Christmas. Please note any uniform is appropriate.

4. Remember, Cadets have been assigned new roommates for the spring semester.

5. Be aware that your Cadet will be feeling a lot of stress right before going back to West Point after each home break and may be unusually irritable.

"Instruction in things moral is most necessary to the making of the highest type of citizenship". – ***Theodore Roosevelt***

January 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 **Winter re-organization begins**	8	9	10	11 **Winter re-organization ends**	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 **MLK Day** **No Classes** **USMA**	22	23	24	25	26 **500 th. Night (Class of 2009)**
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2008

1. Be aware that January is the beginning of the “gloom” period when the weather is continually gray and your Cadet may experience an emotional roller coaster.

2. Understand that adjusting to new roommate(s) may cause additional stress for your Cadet.

3. Prepare to receive a letter from West Point Fund requesting a donation to the special activities of the Cadets. You are not required to make a donation or pledge. The letter will be followed up by a telephone call. Be prepared to give a response – making a donation is optional.

4. It’s Super Bowl time. Your Cadet’s sponsor will most likely have a Super Bowl party.

5. Be on the lookout for special airline fares. President’s Day may be another time your Cadet may want to take advantage of a pass for a trip home.

6. Replenish the “boodle” box.

7. Keep up with the correspondence.

“The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is the knack of getting along with people”. – ***Theodore Roosevelt***

February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Yearling Wknd. Begins (Class of 2010)	**2**
3 Yearling Wknd. Ends	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
10	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**
17	**18** Presidents Day (No Classes)	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23** 100th Night Wknd (Class of 2008)
24	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	

February 2008

1. Attend the WPPCGH meeting.

2. Remember, everything is “gray” this time of year at West Point. Keep up the encouraging words.

3. Remember the “boodle box”.

4. Keep up with the correspondence.

“Far from being a handicap to command, compassion is the measure of it. For unless one values the lives of his soldiers and is tormented by their ordeal he is unfit to command.”

– Omar Nelson Bradley

March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 **Spring Break (Not Confirmed)**	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 **EASTER**	24	25 **Classes Resume (Not Confirmed)**	26	27	28	29
30	31					

March 2008

1. West Point Founders Day is celebrated by Cadets at West Point and graduates throughout the world who gather for a formal dinner and program. The West Point Society of Greater Houston hosts a Founders Day dinner and program that you are invited to attend.

2. Spring Leave (Break) begins the day after Founders Day is celebrated at West Point. The typical dinner held on Thursday night is surf and turf – lobster and steak. Cadets can leave the morning after the celebration. Cadets return on Sunday (one week+ later) for accountability formation. Prepare to enjoy Spring Leave – even if your Cadet decides to spend the time with friends instead of coming home to Houston.

3. Be prepared for your Cadet to get "moody" just before he/she returns to West Point.

"It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed. In this life we get nothing save by effort" – ***Theodore Roosevelt***

April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

April 2008

1. Attend the WPPCGH meeting.

2. Continue encouragement. Academics are in full swing. Suggest Cadet take advantage of additional instruction (AI) as needed.

3. The APFT (Army Physical Fitness Test) is usually administered during the month. Passing the APFT is a semi-annual requirement for Plebes. It consists of doing sit-ups, push-ups, and a two-mile run within a given time limit. This is a very important test. If a Cadet fails the APFT or is designated as deficient in the Physical Program, he/she will be enrolled in either Commandant's Physical Remedial Program (CPRP) or Summer Term Academic Program (STAP) beginning 5/26/08 based on their specific deficiency in the Physical Program.

4. Check with your Cadet before making flight arrangements for summer leave. Cadets must remain at West Point until after graduation exercises have been concluded even though TEE's will finish earlier. Although not recommended, permission to leave early can be requested.

5. Keep up with the correspondence and the "boodle" box.

6. If possible, attend the Sandhurst competition. The Sandhurst Military Skills Competition has run in various configurations since 1967. All Companies of WP, six select University ROTC teams (including Texas A&M), the United States Military Academy Preparatory School team, and international teams from Britain's Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) and Canada's Royal Military College (RMC) compete. Each USMA Cadet Company and Visiting Team selects a 9-member Squad (at least one member must be female) with two alternates. This squad is required to perform a series of challenging military tasks during a rapid, non-tactical move along a partly-prescribed 9 Kilometer route, in less than 3 hours.

"The law of worthy life is fundamentally the law of strife; it is only through labor and painful effort, by grim energy and resolute courage that we move into better things."
– Theodore Roosevelt

May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Sandhurst
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16 USMAPS Graduation	17 Armed Forces Day
18	19 Term End Exams (TEE's) Begin	20 TEE's	21 TEE's	22 TEE's	23 TEE's	24 Term End Exams End
25 Class of 2008 Graduation Week Begins	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31 Class of 2008 Graduation

May 2008

1. Attend the WPPCGH Hail and Farewell luncheon meeting.

2. Talk with prospective Cadets and their parents to assist them with making their transitions easier.

3. Keep your Cadet focused. Making summer plans can be exciting; however, the academics must come first.

4. Send notes of encouragement – exam time is tough! TEEs stands for term end exams.

5. Consider sending a "survival kit" to help your Cadet through those study sessions for exams.

6. Breathe a sigh of relief! Your Cadet has survived Plebe year!

"Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people. A nation does not have to be cruel in order to be tough." – Franklin Delano Roosevelt

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June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
8	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14** **Flag Day**
15 **Father's Day**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**
22	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**
29	**30**					

June 2008

1. Encourage your Cadet to allocate time for the MALO, WPPCGH, and West Point Society picnic at The Woodlands. This is a picnic for our returning "graduate Plebes", New Cadets, and their families. Cadet Candidates need the advice that can only come from someone who has just experienced life as a Plebe.

2. Be aware your Cadet may be required to take a class in summer school (called STAP) if academics are not up to par. Don't be discouraged. Your Cadet won't be the first one who's done this and will certainly not be the last. Also, Cadets can replace their lower grade with STAP (course retake) grade!

3. Give your Cadet lots of hugs and kisses. Enjoy the positive change that you will see in your Cadet.

4. Provide ample "rack" time.

5. Be unselfish, and don't get your feelings hurt. Your Cadet is probably more eager to spend time with friends than with parents. He/she may even want to go visit with some new West Point friends.

"A platoon leader doesn't get his platoon to go by getting up and shouting and saying, 'I am smarter, I am bigger, I am stronger, I am the leader.' He gets men to go along with him because they want to do it for him and they believe in him." – ***Dwight David Eisenhower***

Telephone Numbers – USMA

• **Admissions Office**	**845-938-4041**
• **AOG Gift Shop**	**800-426-4725**
• **Army Football Ticket Office**	**845-446-4996**
• **Academy Photo**	**845-938-3448**
• **Cadet Activities Restaurant (Boodle)**	**845-938-4453**
• **Cadet Book Store**	**845-938-5356**
• **Directory Assistance – USMA**	**845-938-4034**
• **Hospital (Keller)**	**845-938-5169**
• **Hotel Thayer**	**800-247-5047**
• **Carlson Wagonlit Travel**	**800-335-8747**
• **West Point Gift Shop – Visitor Center**	**800-315-8762**
• **West Point Museum Gift Shop**	**845-938-2203 or 845-938-3590**
• **West Point Switch Board Hours – Mon-Fri 7 am to 6 pm; Sat 8am to 4pm**	**845-938-4011**
• **West Point Central Guard Room (Packages)**	**845-938-3030**
• **Duty Officer**	**845-938-2555**

Telephone Numbers – Highland Falls/Fort Montgomery

1. **Boodle**
   - **Love A Cadet** — **845-652-8569**
   - **The Ice Cream Shop** — **845-446-2380**
   - **Main Street Floral** — **845-446-4749**
   - **Giftworks** — **845-534-0506**
   - **LaPetite Bakery** — **845-446-2097**
2. **Motels / Hotels**
   - **Holiday Inn Express (Ft. Montgomery)** — **845-446-4277**
   - **Palisades Best Western** — **845-446-9400**
   - **US Academy Motel** — **845-446-2021**
   - **West Point Motel** — **845-446-4180**
3. **Restaurants**
   - **McDonald's** — **845-446-4935**
   - **Schades** — **845-446-2626**
4. **Other**
   - **Taxi** — **845-446-8294**
   - **USAA** — **845-446-4931**
   - **Vasily's Souvenirs** — **845-446-5918 or 800-238-9969**
   - **West Point Tours** — **845-446-4724**

Telephone Numbers – West Point Area Hotels / Motels

1. **USMA – West Point, NY**
   - **Thayer Hotel** — **800-247-5047**
   - **Five Star Inn – Military Lodging**
     For more information go to
     www.usma.edu/mwr/ACTIVITY/5STAR/5star.htm — **845-446-5943**
   - **Holiday Inn Express (Ft. Montgomery)** — **845-446-4277**
2. **Bear Mountain State Park**
   - **Bear Mountain Inn** — **845-786-2731**
3. **Newburgh, NY**
   - **Days Inn** — **845-564-7550**
   - **Ramada Inn** — **845-564-4500**
   - **Comfort Inn** — **845-567-0567**
   - **Quality Inn** — **845-564-9020**
   - **Howard Johnson** — **845-564-4000**
   - **Super 8 Motel** — **845-564-5700**
4. **Fishkill, NY**
   - **Holiday Inn** — **845-896-6281**
5. **Poughkeepsie, NY**
   - **Holiday Inn Express** — **845-473-1151**
   - **Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel** — **845-485-5300**

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers

Houston Area Travel Agencies

These travel agencies negotiate group airfare rates (mostly with Continental) for parents and Cadets who travel at the same time, i.e., R-Day, A-Day, holidays, and football games at West Point. Often there is a deposit requirement (which will be returned upon completion of your trip) to reserve your seat. There is also a deadline by which your reservation must be confirmed.

1. **Distant Travel – Sheila French** — **281-428-7591**
2. **Marquardt Travel – Diana Marquardt** — **281-492-7720**

Web Addresses

Travel

1. **Airlines & Fares –** check air fares and schedules, make reservations, request seat assignments, purchase E-tickets, and check real-time flight schedules and get gate numbers for both outbound and inbound flights.

    - **Continental Airlines http://www.continental.com**
      Offers the only non-stop flight between Houston and Newark Airport

    - **Delta Airlines http://www.delta-air.com**

    - **American Airlines http://www.aa.com**

    - **Best Fares Magazine http://www.bestfares.com**
      Keep up with fare wars and airline specials

    - **Microsoft Expedia http://www.expedia.msn.com**
      Compares airfares and schedules for all airlines

    - **Cheap Tickets http://www.cheaptickets.com**
      Compare airfares and schedules for all airlines

    - **Orbitz http://www.orbitz.com**
      Compare airfares and schedules for all airlines

2. **Car Rental** – check rates, make reservations, learn about special discount offers.

    - **Hertz http://www.hertz.com**

    - **Avis http://www.avis.com**

    - **National Car Rental http://www.nationalcar.com**

    - **Alamo Rent-A-Car http://www.alamo.com**

3. **Train** -- Metro-North Railroad (Hudson Line)
   http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/mnr/index.html
   Take the train from Garrison Station (across the river from West Point) into Grand Central Station in NYC. Check schedules and fares.

West Point Information

1. **USMA West Point** – **http://www.usma.edu/**
   This is the official home page of USMA. This site is loaded with information such as Cadet news, sports schedules, notes from the Commandant, Dean, and Superintendent, E-mail addresses, etc.

2. **West Point Parent Forum** – **http://www.west-point.org/parent/parent-forum/**
   Become a member of the USMA parents' internet forum, ask questions, meet other parents, and receive up-to-date information about West Point.

3. **WPPCGH** – West Point Parents Club of Greater Houston
   http://www.west-point.org/parent/wppc-greater-houston/
   The official web site of the parents club of Greater Houston. Click on "Yahoo" site referenced there and join the private WPPCGH website (Moderator enrolls you).

4. **West Point Weather** – **http://www.weather.com/weather/local/10996**
   Find out what kind of weather your Cadet is experiencing. If you are planning a trip to West Point, check the ten-day forecast. Remember 10997 and 10996 are the zip codes for West Point.

Merchandise

1. **Bates Shoes** – **http://www.nationalfootwear.com/bates_shoes_online.htm**
   A good source for military shoes and boots. Bates makes the black, low quarter shoes required for Plebes.

2. **L. L. Bean** – **http://www.llbean.com**
   You will be hearing about the silk and polypropylene long johns that keep your Cadet warm during the dreadfully cold winter months at West Point. This is a good source and they will ship directly to your Cadet. Your Cadet will tell you which material he/she prefers. Be careful – only bright white and a certain shade of brown are acceptable colors.

3. **Lands End** – **http://www.landsend.com**
   Another good source for silk long johns. Track your order via the internet.

4. **Blue Mountain Electronic Greeting Cards – http://www4.bluemountain.com/**
   Send your Cadet an animated, musical, electronic card for any special occasions, or simply send him/her some words of encouragement. (It's FREE)!

5. **West Point Gift Shop** – **http://goarmysports.collegesports.com/store/**
   The official online store of ARMY athletics.

Summary Calendar
For The Period of June 2007 Through June 2008

June 9, 2007	**New Cadet Picnic at The Woodlands – 11 a.m.– 3 p.m.**
July 2, 2007	**"R" Day at USMA – Class of 2011**
July 8, 2007	**Beast Survival Meeting at KBR – 2 p.m.**
August 18, 2007	**"A" Day at USMA**
August 20, 2007	**Academic Term Begins**
September 3, 2007	**Labor Day – No Classes at USMA**
October 7, 2007	**WPPCGH Meeting at KBR – 2 p.m.**
October 12-15, 2007	**Plebe Parent Weekend at USMA**
November 11, 2007	**Veteran's Day**
November 21 – 25, 2007	**Thanksgiving Leave – USMA**
December 9, 2007	**WPPCGH Meeting at KBR – 2 p.m.**
Dec.14 ,07– Jan.6, 2008	**Winter Leave – USMA NOT CONFIRMED**
January 21, 2008	**Martin Luther King Day – No Classes at USMA**
January 26, 2008	**500th Night Weekend at USMA – Class of 2009**
February, 2008	**WPPCGH Meeting at KBR – Date TBA**
February 1 – 3, 2008	**Yearling Weekend at USMA – Class of 2010**
February 18, 2008	**President's Day – No Classes at USMA**
February 22– 24, 2008	**100th Night Weekend at USMA – Class of 2008**
March , 2008	**Founder's Day at USMA**
March 14 –25 , 2008	**Spring Leave – USMA NOT CONFIRMED**
April, 2008	**WPPCGH Meeting at KBR – Date TBA**
May , 2008	**WPPCGH "Hail and Farewell" Luncheon**
May 31, 2008	**Graduation Day at USMA – Class of 2008**
June , 2008	**New Cadet Picnic at The Woodlands**
July , 2008	**"R" Day at USMA – Class of 2012**

SIGNIFICANT PLEBE – USMA EVENTS

"R" Day (Reception Day): July 2, 2007 For The Class Of 2011

This day marks the beginning of a unique experience for your son or daughter, and to some degree for you. We strongly suggest that you accompany your Candidate to West Point for R-Day. West Point, the oldest continuously operated military post in the country, is steeped in the history of our great country and its many exceptional leaders. It will help you to be able to picture where your son or daughter is going for the next four years.

Parents and R-Day visitors should wear comfortable casual clothes and comfortable walking shoes. Casual dress at the Academy is defined as Men – slacks with collared shirt, sweater or sports coat; Ladies - slacks with blouse, skirt and blouse or pantsuit (while you will see blue jeans, shorts and T-shirts, you may feel more comfortable, or more appropriately dressed, a bit more in the classic style.)

Other family members may accompany you for this important day. Note – If elderly relatives come, it may be a grueling day for them because of the heat and the amount of walking, which is mostly uphill. No matter where you go at West Point, it always seems to be uphill. This is also a day of emotions.

With respect to arrival time, we would only suggest that you neither be too early nor too late. Follow the schedule prescribed by the Academy, which is based on the last digit of your son/daughter's social security number. Your son/daughter will very rapidly learn to not draw attention to themselves and to become a part of the team. Being first or last in anything only makes them stand out. Be sure to say your good-byes BEFORE you get to the reporting-in location because you only get a few seconds for a quick hug after the greeting by the Officer of the Day and the instructions "Candidates exit …(wherever) – This will be the last that you will see your Candidate until CBT is finished in August". Relax. Your child will be totally occupied and in the best of hands. If you should happen to see your son/daughter or pass them during training on R-Day (very unlikely) DO NOT try to talk to them.

After your son or daughter has departed, you will have the opportunity to visit all the vendors set up at the Parents Welcome Center. You will have the opportunity to order football tickets, purchase various 2011 souvenirs which are only available on R-Day (such as special T-shirts and tote bags emblazoned with the names of all members of the Class of 2011, and 2011 coffee mugs, hats, etc), visit various exhibits and most importantly to get your son/daughter's CBT Company assignment and Post Office Box number. Some parents do not purchase all the special year memorabilia on R-Day, and are later disappointed that stock has run out and will not be reordered. If you place your order on R-Day, even if they HAVE run out (which happens often) they will ship the tote

bags, shirts, etc., to you, and you are sure to have them. You may wish to purchase extras of some special items, as Grandmas are known to have been unhappy to be left out, and bragging rights go beyond parents! Remember to bring pencil and paper to jot down the P.O. Box number and other important information that is available at the various booths.

During the day, you will most likely have time to walk around The Plain and Trophy Point areas, but will not be allowed in the Cadet Area, which is beyond the chains in front of the Barracks and Washington Hall. There will be some locations near the central area where you can observe the New Cadets being instructed by the cadre, but again remember even if you are close enough to talk to New Cadets, please don't. Also, the large grassy parade area (commonly referred to as "The Plain") in front of the bleachers is off limits to pedestrian traffic.

In the past, there has been a Superintendent's briefing for new parents in the Eisenhower Hall Auditorium sometime in the mid-afternoon. This will be an uplifting, emotional and very informative introduction to Academy life and an opportunity for you to better understand the various aspects of Cadet life.

In the early evening, there is the R-Day Parade and swearing-in ceremony that is usually held on The Plain or at Trophy Point. (Check your instructions on R-Day as to the exact time and location of the swearing in ceremony – this has changed over the past few years). Arrive early (up to 1 hour before the ceremony is scheduled to commence) to obtain a good location to observe this ceremony. It gets very crowded. Bring your camera, video camera or binoculars. Remember that all New Cadets will look alike. They are not easy to identify because all have the same haircut, uniform, and no expression. They will be lined up by height, front to rear of each Company, and this may help you pick them out as they march past (yes, they will actually march! in uniform!) And with a great sense of pride and accomplishment. The information on your Candidate's Company assignment will also help. You will receive this typically along with their P. O. Box in Eisenhower Hall, shortly after your Cadet reports.

Once your son or daughter has taken the official Oath during the morning swearing-in ceremony, (which is actually held in a classroom, and not open to the public) they will be called "New Cadets", a form of address that they will grow to hate, for the next several weeks. Only after they complete Cadet Basic Training and are accepted into the Corps of Cadets at the Acceptance Day Parade, in August, will they become "Cadets".

After the ceremonial swearing-in at 6:00 P.M. (or whatever time it is scheduled for this year), the New Cadets will march directly into Washington Hall (Mess Hall) for their first evening meal as New Cadets. The day is over for you and your family at the conclusion of the swearing in ceremony. Don't forget to mail those letters and cards before you leave so that your New Cadet will be among

the first to receive mail. Mail from home is extremely important during Beast and the entire first year. Make out post cards, envelopes or address labels with your New Cadet's address and send them out to their friends and relatives. Write very often yourself. Keep it upbeat as you let them know how your summer is progressing. Be as newsy as possible, and you can even send news clippings of events back home. Be sure to give your New Cadet an address book with family and friends' addresses, important dates, lots of stamps, envelopes and writing paper before they go to R-Day. However, DO NOT EXPECT A LOT OF MAIL FROM THEM. New Cadets have almost no time to write. The cadre (upper class Cadets in charge of training) normally requires them to write a letter home the first night. It will be short and should arrive 4-5 days after R-Day.

Cadet Basic Training

"Duty-Honor-Country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying points, to build courage when courage seems to fail to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn." (Excerpt form General Douglas MacArthur's Farewell Address delivered to the Corps of Cadets on 12 May 1962.)

R-Day is the start of Cadet Basic Training or "Beast", as it is affectionately known. Some New Cadets actually like it, but others hate it. It is a time when a group of high school graduates are molded into West Point Cadets. It is intentionally tough, mentally, physically, and emotionally.

During Beast Barracks, a New Cadet's daily life begins before 5:00 a.m. and will extend well into the evening hours. Lights out is at 10:00 p.m. Last year, lights out was strictly enforced to ensure that New Cadets received an appropriate amount of sleep. Likewise, the cadre ensured that no one was up and about before the prescribed morning revelry call. In addition to extensive military training, including military courtesy, marching and the handling of firearms – the New Cadets will be schooled in the traditions of West Point and will learn what it takes "to make it". They are constantly challenged.

This is a particularly difficult adjustment period for the New Cadet. His or her lifestyle will undergo a complete change, as he/she is totally immersed in a military setting. Stress is a major art of the program along with the ability to memorize data, learn military drill, courtesy and the "West Point Way". It is a time when all are in need of encouragement and support. You may hear a lot of negative reaction on the part of your son/daughter. Encourage him/her to hang in; insist that he/she give it a fair trial. Staying power and the ability to perform well under stress is the hallmark of a West Pointer and a valuable attribute for anyone.

For the first few weeks of Beast, New Cadets will be very, very busy. The concept of "One Day At A Time" (1DAAT) will help them over this initial experience and adjustment. Actually, one of our grads (who is also now a Cadet dad) counsels that New Cadets may prefer to think in terms of "One Meal At A Time" (1MAAT) – a day is too long! Sometime during the first two weeks, your son/daughter will be allowed to make a short, timed and sometimes supervised phone call to home. This call can come at any time so an answering machine comes in handy. However, if he/she does not make direct contact with you he/she will be allowed to call until he/she gets through to you. This is a time to let your son/daughter do the talking, and you do the listening. It will probably be a few weeks before your son/daughter will be able to call again. This first call is usually filled with emotion and may even be somewhat negative – or he/she may just be very quiet. This is all very normal! All the New Cadets have had it with standing in lines, learning Plebe Knowledge, getting haircuts, testing, mess hall formality, and the intense nature of the whole experience. It may seem to be the worst time of your son/daughter's lives at this point. Encouragement and support is what he/she needs the most from you "1DAAT" or "1MAAT". Remember more than 200 Plebe classes have survived so can he/she. If you do not get a phone call in the first couple of weeks, don't panic. Sometimes New Cadets will intentionally pass on the first opportunity to call because they are not yet ready to hear their parents' voices and all the emotions a call to home bring. Relax and let your son/daughter, and the cadre supervising, choose the time.

Of utmost importance is to keep those cards and letters coming. Don't be discouraged if another parent tells you that they heard from their son/daughter and you have not. Assignments and free times differ greatly throughout the various Companies.

At some point during Beast Barracks, your son or daughter will likely be allowed to visit the Cadet Store to purchase some necessary supplies. One of the most popular purchases is a small electric fan. The rooms in the barracks can get very hot during July, August and September.

Toward the end of July, just when the New Cadets are starting to get comfortable with their cadre, the upperclassmen change with a completely new detail of cadre and leadership (this is training in leadership for the upperclassmen as well as basic training for the New Cadets). This change can be particularly stressful for the New Cadets. Prepare for a possible "downer" communication after this change. The silver lining to the change of cadre is the fact that on the day of the change of command all New Cadets are "treated" to an afternoon at a West Point family's home, with the attendant opportunity for an extended phone call home, some relaxation and perhaps even a nap and some good food. Most importantly, the New Cadets enjoy the opportunity to be away from the "ever watchful eyes" of the cadre.

While the first half of Cadet Basic Training is spent largely at the garrison, there is substantially more field training during the second half of Cadet Basic Training. The last week of Beast is spent at Camp Buckner, a military camp on the West Point reservation. The New Cadets will bivouac (camp out, for us layman), learn military skills and really bond as a class. On the last night at Camp Buckner, the Class of 2010 will relax with a variety show. Even if your Cadet doesn't have a talent to show, they can volunteer to help with the production, which those that do say it is great fun.

Reorganization From Field Training (CBT) To Classroom Preparedness

Reorganization Week is considered by many to be the worst time of the Plebe year. Throughout Beast there has been only one upperclassman for every twelve – fifteen Plebes. Just as the Plebes are feeling happy and proud that they survived Beast and looking forward to being Cadets rather than "New Cadets", they are confronted with a mass infusion of the dreaded upperclassmen. These upperclassmen are returning from various summer assignments all over the world and have nothing more important to do than to get up close and personal with the new Plebe class. The ratio is now drastically changed to three upperclassmen for every Plebe and, much worse, they have to live with them in their new Companies and eat with them in the Mess Hall. Reorganization lasts less than a week, but can be intense and seem a lifetime to a Plebe who is trying to adjust to an entirely new environment and may once again be with no one who he/she knows and with the added pressure of preparing his/her new room for a spit and polish inspection of Saturday morning (called a SAMI – Saturday AM Inspection)! During this week, each Plebe will move in with new roommate(s) from his/her own class and become part of one of the 32 Companies that make up the Corps of Cadets. This Company will be their home for the next year. He/she will also receive a computer and something new – a homework assignment for each class – to be completed BEFORE they report to the first class on Monday, August 20. Such is the Thayer method of teaching.

The good news about reorganization week is that the New Cadets are once again linked to the outside world, and once they have their computers up and running, and the phones assigned, they can contact you with their new e-mail address, phone number, etc.

Acceptance Parade: August 18, 2007

On the Saturday following the march back from Camp Buckner, the Class of 2011 will be formally accepted into the Corps of Cadets during the Acceptance Parade. This is one of only a very few parades during the entire West Point experience that is totally dedicated to a particular class (R-Day, the parade at Plebe-Parent Weekend and the Graduation Parade come to mind as others). CBT training culminates with the Acceptance Parade. Toward the very end of Beast Barracks or during Reorganization Week, your son/daughter will be able to tell you which Company he/she has been assigned to for the academic year, and you will be able to place yourself in the stands aligned with his or her new

Company using the markers on the parade field. The upperclassmen march onto the field and the New Cadets march along the outer edges of The Plain forming in front of the bleachers. After their "acceptance" the Plebes take their places with their permanent academic Companies as members of the Long Gray Line and pass in review. It is really exciting to see the New Cadets march toward the Corps and then disappear into the ranks, as they become one with the Corps!

For the Class of 2011, this Parade is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on August 18, 2007 on The Plain. The New Cadets will wear their white hats for the first time and be formally accepted into the Corps. If you can attend, it is a truly happy occasion!

CONGRATULATIONS – your sons/daughters are now officially Cadets of the United States Military Academy at West Point. In past years, Acceptance Day also marks the day when Cadets have enjoyed their first family visitation since R-Day. Typically, the new Plebes are released from duties by mid-afternoon and enjoy walking privileges until approximately 10:30 p.m. on Saturday night, and then again on Sunday until 7:00 p.m. Plan a picnic by the river, a meal at a restaurant located within the limits of walking privileges or a happy reunion somewhere on post. Without a doubt, your son/daughter will enjoy the opportunity to eat some home-baked goodies, and share their experiences of the past several weeks!

Academic Year

The academic year commences immediately after Reorganization Week, which means that for the Class of 2011, their first day of their college classes at West Point will be August 20, 2007. Classes usually have less than fifteen students and are very challenging to even the brightest students. Encourage your son or daughter not to neglect his or her academics. Academic standing accounts for 60% of their class rank grade. (Military 25%, & Physical 15%) The Academy, while educating the whole person, obviously stresses academics. Your son/daughter will be well advised to study hard and develop good study habits. One of the most important lessons to be learned is TIME MANAGEMENT. The Academy offers a short course on this subject for Plebes. Your son or daughter may wish to consider taking advantage of this course.

The beginning of classes also creates another type of stress. The Thayer method of instruction is study and application first with explanation later. This is a unique approach that usually creates frustration until adjustment can be made. Many top honor students who have never had a grade below a "B" fail their first few quizzes of WPR's (Written Partial Reviews). This is also normal; not to panic.

In addition to the NEW academic strain, there are also Plebe duties, room management and personal military inspections. Upperclassmen are "helpful" in reinforcing high standards and then some. This time under pressure is when

your son or daughter will learn the most efficient way to manage time. Homework is done before the class, not after. In order to succeed Cadets must be prepared BEFORE the first day and BEFORE every class.

We suggest that you encourage your son or daughter to become involved in clubs and similar activities in order to afford some outlet from academics and to fully experience West Point life. Several extra-curricular activities are performed outside of West Point and these can provide Cadets opportunities to leave the Academy for an occasional weekend.

Team Leader. Your Cadet will be assigned a team leader who is a Yearling designated to assit in orientation to West Point

Sponsor. Your Cadet will also have the opportunity to be assigned a sponsor. That is a staff person who has volunteered to assist your Cadet and will provide some of the comforts of a home away from home. Typical activites with the sponsor are spending free time in a home environment and watching football games. Most Cadets sign up for this program.

Tactical Officer (TAC). Your Cadet will be directly supervised by a group of upperclass Cadets. However, each Company's legal commander is an Army Tactical officer (TAC) who is charged with establishing a climate for developing leadership.

Plebe Parent Weekend: October 12-15, 2007

Plebe Parent Weekend is an absolute must for all parents who can possibly make it. You will receive a booklet form West Point with schedules for this special weekend. Your son/daughter will have the opportunity to show off the Academy to family and friends. You will have the opportunity to see your son or daughter's room, classrooms, meet their roommates, instructors and TAC officers, their Mentor and get the grand tour of such places as the Superintendent's Quarters, the Uniform Factory, and the Mess Hall. On Saturday night there will be a formal banquet and Ball. Tickets are required for some of these events and some require reservations. Your son or daughter must order tickets in advance. Last year, Cadets were granted Off Post Privileges – the ability to leave the main garrison area – as long as they remained within 75 miles of West Point - on Friday evening, from approximately 1800 – 2300, and again on Sunday from 0530 until midnight and on Monday from 0530 until 1900 hours.

Thousands of people come to West Point to visit their Cadets during Plebe Parent Weekend. Some families, particularly those who are a great distance from West Point, make a big family trip – including younger siblings and grandparents. And yes, just to answer the question that the Cadets will likely be interested in – dates are welcomed, as long as you, the parent wish them to attend. Many forget that the weekend is called Plebe-PARENT Weekend, and

fear they will be interfering with their son/daughter's enjoyment if they (the parent) come! Nothing could be further from the truth.

During Plebe-Parent Weekend, you will have the opportunity to visit some facilities (such as the barracks and the uniform factory) that are not open to the public. This is a once in a lifetime experience that you should not miss. Be aware, however, that the security measures put into place after 9-11 include vehicle searches, and when large crowds are expected on post, restriction of parking to outer areas. Please allow lots of extra time, maintain your sense of humor and realize that this is all done for the safety of all the Cadets, our sons and daughters included!

Passes

Officially, Plebes are only authorized one baseline "pass", or weekend away from West Point per semester. Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring Break do not count as passes. In the past few years, Cadets had been able to earn additional "performance passes", but this privilege is not guaranteed, and was substantially curtailed in recent years. In the past, many of our Texas Cadets have chosen to take their one pass for the Labor Day weekend, even knowing that may be "it" for the entire semester. For many Plebes, Labor Day weekend provides a much-needed respite after the strain of Beast Barracks and the tension of the first few weeks of academics. Other Plebes find it preferable to catch up on sleep and school work in a quieter environment, when many upperclassmen and fellow Plebes are away. Some Plebes even have their families visit them at West Point during this weekend. Still others will have guard duty that weekend, and will not be able to take pass. However, the type of guard duties performed by Plebes are minimal guard duty with someone who is not leaving post for the weekend. Remain flexible, and let your son or daughter decide what works best.

When you first see your son or daughter after Beast Barracks, either on Acceptance Day or thereafter, expect to see a changed person – weight loss may have occurred, but more importantly, they will have experienced so many new things about themselves that they HAVE grown up before your very eyes, and may seem older than their years. Also when your son/daughter comes home, be flexible. As much as you want see him/her, he/she is also anxious to reconnect with old friends, or may just want to sleep. While he/she is happy to be home, he/she may also seem preoccupied. After all he/she is fully aware of the work and duties awaiting him/her upon his/her return!

Veteran's Day weekend may also be a nice time for your son/daughter to use his/her one pass. For many, however, they will "see the light at the end of the tunnel" as they will shortly be going home to enjoy Thanksgiving leave, and will want a break earlier in the year. Remember at all times that your son/daughter is only guaranteed one pass per semester, and even that is dependent on maintaining good grades, having passed the Army Physical Fitness Test, not being in any "trouble" and is subject to duty assignments, etc.

The Rest Of The First Semester

From Labor Day on things start to settle down. There will be emotional ups and downs along the way. Be ready to give your support and encouragement. There may be poor grades on papers, an "F" on a quiz or an unsatisfactory grade on a WPR (Written Partial Review). At this time, the challenges may seem like mountains to students who have never had a "C" on a paper before. By the end of the semester, most Cadets will be able to work things out and will hopefully be doing well by the time finals roll around. Looking forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas leave and the Army/Navy Game keeps all Cadets going.

Winter Reorganization Week: January 7 – 11, 2008

The first few days after winter leave will be spent adjusting to new rooms, new roommates, new jobs for upperclassmen; while allowing all Cadets the appropriate time to prepare for second semester classes.

Gloom Period

From January through March, everything at West Point seems and is GRAY - uniforms, buildings, the mountain and the weather. Keep sending letters, packages, and boodle to your Cadet..

President's Weekend

Depending on their performance, Cadets may take a 3-day leave over President's weekend. Some will come home, but others may use the opportunity to go skiing in New England or take other off post trips. This weekend helps to break up the Gloom Period, although it is notorious for bad weather and late flights.

Spring Break

Starting with the Class of 2002, Plebes have been given time for Spring Break with the rest of the Corps. Make reservations in advance to get the best airfares and travel times. It will be a good time for you and your Cadet to reflect on the experiences at West Point and relax a bit. Some Cadets may want to travel independently. Just be sure travel arrangements get your Cadet back by the necessary times.

After Spring Break

After March, the weather and the moods lift. The APFT (Army Physical Fitness Test) will be administered during the second semester. Passing this APFT is required for promotion. It consists of sit-ups, push-ups, and a timed two-mile run. This is very important to all Cadets.

Make arrangements for flights for summer leave.

Promotion is essentially the end of the difficult part of Plebe year. Plebes will be promoted during graduation activities in May. Cadets are promoted to Private

First Class. One of the biggest hurdles of the four years is over. Promotion is definitely a high point in the Plebe year. You will be amazed at the change in your Cadet when you see them the following week. They are now human again and have returned to the same outgoing child that you dropped off on R-Day.

All Cadets MUST remain at West Point until after the graduation exercises have been concluded. Cadets will probably be released between noon and 2:00 p.m. on the day of graduation. After graduation, the Cadets will be bused out to Camp Buckner (which is where Cadet Field Training or CFT occurs) with their gear. They must sign out at Buckner and then proceed by bus to the airport for their summer leave.

THE YEARLING YEAR

This is a significant period in the lives of you and your Yearling Cadet. They have made it through the dreaded Beast Barracks, navigated the choppy waters of Plebe year, and now enjoy the status of being more senior Cadets in the Corps, on their way to being leaders of the Corps of Cadets and Officers in the U.S. Army. WOW! Be proud. BUT, remember, there's a long way to go and some things you should be aware of as the year gets underway.

Yearlings will have moved everything to Camp Buckner prior to leaving WP after graduation. They will have all the creature comforts of home at Buckner, will live in wooden barracks, have access to a Cadet store, laundry and post office, large mess hall and phone, though many chose to use their cell phones when available. Reception for the cell services is very sporatic and many find it necessary to climb to the top of the hill at Buckner to have cellular access. However, there are attachments to phone which will greatly boost reception and are readily available.

Advice for a Rising Yearling Getting Ready for a Buckner Summer:

#1 - Make sure your Cadet reports to Buckner with the combination to his/her locker lock. They will provide their own locks but some forget the combination inbetween moving their gear to Buckner before graduation and reporting a few weeks later. Apparently, lock cutters are not readily available.

2 - NOTE regarding cell phone usage: Certain cell phones work very well on most occasions from a hill nearby, so the Cadets will be able to use a cell phone if they, or one of their friends, brings one. An alternative to consider (more financially palatable) is the new pre-paid cellular phones--no monthly fees, no year long service contract--work just as well as a *regular* cell phone.

Things SUGGESTED to bring beyond the West Point required list are listed below along with the common items on the West Point required packing list. The Cadets are not expected to bring everything listed below just those items they think they might need, and bear in mind, whatever they bring in to Buckner, they MUST use up or bring out at the end!

Clothing

- bathing suit
- summer BDU's
- jungle boots, extra boots
- boot bands, boot inserts (you're going to walk a lot of miles in them...might as well be comfortable)
- extra sport bras
- gloves (warmth)
- green glove inserts to keep chiggers off of hands

- "snivel gear" to put on just before sleep (might as well be warm when you go to sleep, don't use it until you are going to sleep or your will cancel out its effects and remain cold)
- socks (both boot and dress in case you have to wear dress under boot socks for blisters)
- extra socks
- extra t-shirts
- Spandex/boxers/compression shorts (whatever keeps you from chafing on road marches)
- polypro or long underwear
- watch with really bright indigo devise (to help pass land nav) (chrono is also nice)

Gear

- antenna attachment to phone which will greatly boost reception
- Camel Back® or tube for 2 quart
- tube-type camo cream
- 550 cord (more than one package), Don't be too hasty to hand this stuff out to your friends
- bungee cords (good for shelters, tying stuff down)
- D rings (clips gloves, etc together)
- dog tag silencers
- flight bag (Don't count on being issued one...and get it quick. Maybe even more than one. The PX will run out fast.)
- foam donut for kevlar
- brown mesh laundry bags make great mosquito nets when you're sleeping.
- mini-maglite® with red filter (beyond the issued flashlight)
- mosquito net (to cover helmet and face)
- inflatable pillow (in tactical colors, of course)
- Gerber® or Leatherman®, minimally a folding knife
- LBE extender
- lighters
- notepad--the waterproof Storm-Saf® ones are nice
- Pace beads (land nav)
- kidney pad for ruck frame
- pad for pistol belt
- pads for ruck straps
- mechanical pencils with extra lead
- pocket mirror for camo application
- ruck frame
- space blanket
- 100 mph tape
- zip lock bags (extra large and small ones are a must for maps etc.)

Toiletries

- antiseptic cream
- baby wipes, travel size are convenient
- BAND-AIDs®
- electric razor
- hair gel
- insect repellent (like skin-so-soft)(deep woods, watch out about DEET)
- lip balm
- mole skin
- pain reliever (such as ibuprophen, Motrin®, etc.)
- body powder (baby or gold bond)
- foot powder

- toilet paper (Take the cardboard tube out so it will fit in your ruck easier)
- shampoo, body wash, deodorant, toothpaste (Plenty of soap/toothpaste/etc. Getting to the C-shack is not always easy)
- sunscreen
- small packs of tissues
- individually wrapped sanitary pads or tampons
- It is not advisable to shave legs right before field time as some women have gotten infections from shaving and then crawling in the mud.

Food (to bring and for boodle)

- drink mix
- hard candy
- jerky
- protein bars, power bars
- snacks that fit in your ammo pouches
- sunflower seeds (great to eat when your lost in the woods)

Misc

- alarm clock
- baseball & mitt
- batteries
- small applicator brush for Kiwi
- cash or checks, there's no ATM
- disposable cameras
- folding chair with foot rest
- fan
- Frisbee
- index cards
- small mirror, metal for camo (don't buy the little signal mirror from the PX--the plastic coating will get all scratched up)
- music
- musical instrument if you play one
- playing cards
- reading material (books, mags)
- reading light, if you're a night owl
- stamps, envelopes, paper, etc.
- IPOD/Walkman/Discman or a portable stereo (arrange this one with your squad-mates)
- large Ziplock® bags (more than one box)
- laundry detergent tablets

Parents: Remember that when the kids are out at Buckner, you will suffer *some* of the same pangs of feeling out of touch as you did their first summer but not anywhere comparable. Yes, you are locked out of your computer access (they don't have computer access) but there are pay phones, and MANY, MANY Cadets will have cell phones. The kids DO share their cell phones, so don't feel that yours will be the ONLY one without a cell phone (and don't let them "guilt" you into having to get one if you don't already have one). Again, you can also choose the option of the pre-paid cellular phones ... no worries about monthly fees, minutes, etc.

Remember also that much of this list will be provided to your son/daughter on the official USMA packing list. You don't have to run out and try to find this "stuff". The PX at West Point carries ALL this stuff, and they can go do all this shopping for themselves.

Particularly with the military items listed, please remember that this list contains suggestions from years' past. Times change, and policies change, so the Cadets are the best to know what is/is not permitted.

There is a small store out at Buckner which does carry some of the supplies - but it's nice to receive boodle packages from home, and sometimes the C Shack is not open when they are physically back at Camp Buckner (they do spend long hours in the field).

There are washing machines/dryers out at Buckner, which get a great deal of use. The reality is that they are in BDUs the majority of the summer, and they get hot, and sweaty, and often don't have the luxury of waiting a week to get the stuff returned from the USMA laundry, which will also operate as usual for them. Oftentimes, a squad will get together and take turns as to who does the BDUs; hopefully the assigned kids don't fall asleep and forget to move the squad's BDUs from the washing machine into the dryers!

Needless to say, USMA/USCC command has the FINAL WORD on what will be permitted. ALSO, gear up those letters again ... They DO have a mailroom at Camp Buckner, and will be looking for letters and packages from home.

Visiting Buckner:
Camp Buckner is on Route 293. If you exit West Point from the Washington Gate (the northernmost gate just past the hospital) make a left at the MP gate, go past the Mint and Ski Slope (on the left), then the Golf Course (again, on the left), then when you get to the fork that says 9W North (bear left) and 9W South/Route 293 (bear right), take the right fork, but don't follow 9W South, rather stay to the right and follow Route 293 towards Central Valley. Go past Round Pond Recreation Area (on the right) and Camp Buckner is a few miles down on the right. There is a traffic light (usually blinking yellow) at the entrance, so you can't miss it.

There are lots of weekends available for visiting Buckner, particularly 4th of July. It is a wonderful opportunity to see these Cadets enjoying themselves, canoeing, playing volleyball, throwing Frisbees, and just enjoying themselves. There will be lots of cookouts and relaxation on Sundays. Be prepared to see your Yearling carrying a gun most all of the time as USMA has added this weapons emersion program to familiarize them with practices in the Army basic training.

There will be a one trip to Fort Knox for Mounted Mobility Training. There will be many trainings that will take place at Buckner including Advanced Rifle Marksmanship, Bayonet Training and Assault Course, Combat Skills, Land Navigation (many have to retest on this one), etc. Many are quite challenging. One of the most challenging is Infantry Week, also called Operation Highland Warrior, wherein opposing forces of two Companies act as the enemy and involves moving through the woods, sleeping out and incorporates most of what they have learned.

The end of Camp Buckner the Yearlings attend the Illumination Dance which is a formal dance. The Cadets wear their India Whites. Some parents come for the weekend but are not encouraged to attend the dance itself.

Returning to WP:
Many return to WP with mixed emotions. They've had some time at home and in many cases compared notes with friends from high school, many of whom report having a vastly different freshman experience than your Cadet. In many instances it's hard for your Cadet to even verbalize to friends how different life is for them, so many don't even try. Often they head back with a heavy heart, though not always, missing the more relaxed pace of life back home and of the college experience that might have been had they opted for another university. The doldrums can quickly set in if these feelings and perceptions are left unchecked. For most it doesn't take long to get back in line and look forward to what's ahead, instead of mulling over what might have been. And for some they are really ready to move on from the life that was. Their friends have developed many different interests in life and in many cases their best friends are at WP now, not back home and the strength and significance of this bond will get even stronger in year 2.

Leadership:
They will be assigned a Plebe to mentor this next year. This may be their fist test of leadership, certainly as Cadets. Is it was appropriate to also mentor the parents of their Cadet's Plebe? The answer is NO. Let your Cadet manage this relationship. It's how they learn.

Academics:
They have a heavy academic load to master, perhaps the toughest of the 4 year load, and some new found freedom to enjoy. Continue to be supportive as they settle into the academy grind. Remind them of the counseling support that is available. Send some boodle to brighten their spirits. Call often or email, clippings from home, etc. Don't allow them to lose contact with the rest of the world as they attempt to survive Physics, and other wonderful courses. ALWAYS ENCOURAGE!

Declare an Emphasis in Engineering:
As each Cadet will graduate with a B.S. with core courses in engineering regardless of their major or field of study. There are 6 engineering programs – civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, systems engineering, environmental engineering and engineering management. Early in the fall of the Yearling year, they will be asked to submit their choice of core engineering sequence.

Declare a Major:
Be aware that they will soon have to make their choice for a major area of study from among the current 42 majors. They'll spend the next few weeks exploring their options. While not irreversible, it's also not as easy to change as it might be in XYZ University. They are on a strict schedule. Graduate in 4 years is the rule not the exception. They don't have a lot of flexibility to keep changing their mind. So what advice can a parent

give? It's almost easier to suggest what you shouldn't do. For example, don't interject yourself personally in the process. As with almost everything else they do, this is their choice and they must learn to live with the consequences. I've known parents to ask to visit the Academy to witness department displays, talk to Professors about the best options from a career perspective, etc. DON'T. Sit back and listen, hold your breath if need be. Respond to any requests for info from your Cadet in a positive way. In the end what counts most is that they pick a major that best suits THEM, something that excites their desire to learn, their passion for mastering the subject matter. Getting the degree is what matters most to the Army. Yes, they will have some limits as to who can study what, but at the end of the day, those that succeed will all become the same second lieutenant.

Yearling Winter Weekend:
This weekend occasion is planned for Yearlings and their guests. Winter sports activities at West Point are highlighted, along with a Saturday evening banquet and formal dance.

Stay Involved:
Encourage them to stay involved. In too many cases, those that had aspirations to compete in sports let those aspirations slip away. Now that they don't have to seek out the safety of a training table to better survive the attentions of the upper class, and as the pace of academics heats up, they can be tempted to withdraw from many of the extracurricular opportunities that abound. Encourage them to stay engaged, to participate. It will brighten their overall experience.

Out of the Limelight:
As Plebes, they were special, always the focus of someone's attention. As yearlings they will largely be ignored. They're not senior enough to perform in a leadership capacity, and the real upperclass Cadets are busy making life special for the Plebes. The Yearlings are in that in-between stage and accordingly many become complainers. Most sought to fade into the woodwork their first year. It's a well know survival technique. Now they can walk around more freely and just be ignored but that has it’s own special effect on their mood.

Honor Violations:
These continue to be an issue, particularly as they juggle a demanding academic schedule. Caution them as the opportunity arises--AT ALL COSTS avoid the easier wrong.

Link to the Admissions Effort at Home:
Some may have already participated in the school visitation program during home leave, but most don't until during their Yearling Year. Encourage their participation. They indicate a desire to do so with Academy officials and their TAC must approve at some level. As parents you may be asked to help coordinate the visit, but the Field Force still has primary responsibility.

Summers Following their Yearling Year:
As a Second Classmen, or Cows, Cadets receive leadership experience in active Army units, serve as squad leaders at Cadet Basic Training and Cadet Field Training, or participate in military specialty training. A portion of the class participates in Drill Cadet Leader training at U.S. Army training centers, guiding new U.S. Army recruits. Another group participates in Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) at U.S. Army posts and in locations around the world. This training allows Cadets to go to a regular Army unit and serve "shadowing" a squad leader, platoon leader, etc. This is also a requirement for graduation. The remainder of the class participates in Cadet Basic Training at West Point or Cadet Field Training at Camp Buckner.

MIAD: Military Individual Advanced Development refers to training courses in such programs as Air Assault, Airborne, Mountain Warfare, Northern Warfare, Special Reaction Team Course, Sapper Leader, and Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) training courses. There may be duty at the National Training Center, the Joint Readiness Training Center, or Combat Maneuver Training Center. All Cadets must complete one MIAD during their time at USMA.

Cadets also have the opportunity to participate in other experiences such as AIAD (Advanced Individual Academic Development) which can include internships on Capitol Hill or on Wall Street and other summertime assignments associated with various academic disciplines. Many Cadets complete AIADs in the United States, and others participate in AIADs overseas. Some work in military and government agencies while others provide community services and support. Still others train with civilian industry and locations have ranged from Alaska to Brazil, from California to Kazakhstan, from Ireland to Zaire.

There is also PIAD (Physical Individual Advanced Development) which is an intense physical program designed for Cadets with an interest in total fitness.

THE COW YEAR

Affirmation:
The 2nd Class or Cows take another oath the day before the academic year following Reorgie Week. Some families attend the Affirmation ceremony which lasts about 1 hour. The ceremony is to affirm their commitment to complete their next two years of study and at a minimum to serve five years of active-duty military service thereafter. It is an impressive ceremony highlighted by a renewal of the oath they took on The Plain over two years before. Upon completion of the event, each Cow receives a Second Lieutenant's gold bar, engraved with the class year. It is both symbolic of their commitment and representative of the goal which they are seeking to attain over the coming two years.

500th Night Weekend:
The occasion that marks the 500th night before graduation prompts a January weekend of festivities for Cows. This milestone in a Cadet's schooling is typically celebrated with a Saturday night banquet, followed by a formal dance.

Cow Loans:
Very low cost loans are made available to Cadets during their Cow year. The payment is made in the spring of Cow year but Cadets / 2LTs do not start making re-payments until they are commissioned, generally the August after they graduate. In the past they have been repaid in 60 equal monthly installments. One requirement from the banks is usually that the monthly payment is directly deposited. Banks offer these loans at well below market rates. They are not making any money on these loans, rather they are looking for lifetime customers.

The timetable for the process is normally as follows:

1. Commandant approves a maximum loan ceiling based upon the pay that a 2LT makes. (NOV)
2. Class solicits bids from financial institutions. About 40 banks are notified. (NOV)
3. Banks offer bids. (DEC)
4. Cadets / Comm review bids and select the best deals. (DEC)
5. Loan / investment informational briefing. Cadets request which loan they want. (FEB)
6. Loans approved, disbursements made. (MAR)

Ring Selection:
Many use their Cow Loan to purchase their West Point ring. Information is provided in January regarding ring selection and shortly thereafter, rings, mother's rings, miniatures for fiancés, etc. are ordered. They will not receive their rings until August of their Firstie Year. Some Cadets purchase expensive rings while others chose less expensive options, using the remainder of their Cow Loan to make investments, purchase cars, etc. A Cadet's ring is a very prized possession in the life of a West Pointer.

The details of the Class Ring will vary from year to year, because each class ring is unique. The Class crest, which is included on the ring, will have been determined during Plebe year. Now, each Cow will need to decide what quality of gold to buy, and what kind of stone or stones to have.

For the Cadet, since 18K gold is soft and wears quickly, he or she might want to lean toward 14K or 10K. There is a large variety of stones that can be put into the ring. What stone is really just Cadet preference. Some parents have indicated that a diamond in the center of the male Cadet's stone has been quite popular while female Cadets prefer the cluster of diamonds. Other parents have mentioned the stone can be granite. When it's polished, it can look beautiful and is much less expensive than many stones. Besides, it is more sentimental because it is actually from a piece of one of the West Point walls. The Cadet would always have a piece of West Point with him. Back in the OLD days, some Cadets who spent MANY hours walking the area would take a piece of concrete from the area and have that put in their rings as a stone.

In the past, some Cadets have originally planned to have their own family stones placed in the rings but decided against it because of the extra costs from the ring companies. One parent also has advised that the Cadets might want to get their rings a half size bigger since their hands will expand in the summer heat.

Tradition and custom also dictate the wearing of the class ring. Prior to graduation, the Class Ring is worn with the Class Crest closest to the heart signifying the closeness of the class. After graduation, the ring is worn with the Academy Crest closest to the heart signifying closeness with the Academy. A small problem arose with the admission of women in that the man's ring is too large for the female hand and a miniature version would connote engagement. The ring companies developed an appropriate size for the women graduates.

The slight difference between the miniature and the woman's Grad ring has resulted in the miniature being less popular today as an engagement ring.

As far as choices for mothers, most people thought it was a matter of what one would prefer. In response to a question on this subject, one mother received many favorable responses regarding pendants. Most thought they were beautiful, less expensive than the miniature rings, and perhaps a little more practical since they can be worn with either casual or dressy clothes. They felt that they were very noticeable and they received a lot of complements on them. The mothers who had received the miniature rings were also very pleased with them and said they rarely took them off. Also quite popular were A-pins that have the West Point crest of one side of the chain and the class crest on the other side.

Cars:
For the first time, Cows can have cars following Spring Break and many use that break to purchase and drive their car back to West Point.

WPPWE (West Point Professional Writing Exam):
Cows take a course in English in advanced writing skills which is mandatory for graduation. About three weeks before the term end, a three hour exam (pronounced "WHIP-WHEE") is administered on a Sunday evening and it is graded "pass/fail." If "pass" then the course is over, no further exam is necessary, and a letter grade of at least C+ is assigned, depending on all course graded items. If "fail" then continued class attendance is necessary, a re-test is administered, and a grade between C- and C+ can be earned.

The exam is graded anonymously by five reviewers. In this blind exercise, the graders do not know whose test it is or what value was previously assigned. To pass, a Cadet must get three out of five "Go's." A "Go" means that the person reading it would accept that writer as a lieutenant in his or her unit.

This process is used to test a key skill for Army officers. This exam is not an easy one and approximately 20% of the students do not pass on the first try. Those who don't get correspondingly increased attention during the last six lessons. With this intensified study, about 97% of the students pass the second test. Those still failing to get three "Go's" are required to retake the course as is the normal case with all graduation requirements.

Sosh Run:
The Sociology Department requires a written assignment which has become somewhat of a legend in the manner of its delivery by Cadets during their Cow year. Some deliver them in costume, others by skates and its tradition is to wait until the last minute to turn it in. These Cadets are participants in the "Sosh Run" – a race to be the one who turns in his or her SS307 International Relations paper to the Department of Social Sciences closest to the deadline of 1600 hours. Cadets willing to take this time challenge race from the barracks to Lincoln Hall with papers in hand.

THE FIRSTIE YEAR

With the First Class year comes more privileges, latitude, and much greater responsibility. Approximately half of the First Class leads the training of the third class Cadets at Camp Buckner and the New Cadets during Cadet Basic Training. The balance of the First Class receives leadership experience in active Army units in Cadet Troop Leader Training. They may join United States Army units in Germany, Panama, Alaska, Hawaii, Korea or the continental United States. First Classmen also participate in Military Individual Advance Development training courses.

Final preparation for the First Class before graduation and a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army includes courses in the profession of arms. These courses educate Cadets on military justice issues, ethics, Army organization and standard operating procedures. The courses are designed to show a Cadet how a junior officer takes charge of a platoon, protects against terrorist measures and develops a professional military role with noncommissioned officers.

First Class Cadets also receive information on the various Army branches of service, assisting them in selecting a branch and a first unit assignment.

Ring Weekend:
Ring Weekend, held at the very beginning of the Firstie Academic Year, is a major milestone in every Cadet's life. Since West Point was the first college to have class rings, there is much tradition associated with this weekend.

The ring is selected during Cow Year, and is received in a simple, but very moving ceremony which is basically just for Cadets. Traditionally, the ceremony takes on Trophy Point at the beginning of the weekend. This area is restricted to Cadets, the TAC officers and NCO's of the companies involved. The ceremony may be viewed from on top of Trophy Point by spectators, but that is about 300 ft away from the event itself. MPs provide security to maintain the sanctity of the event. In case of weather, the ceremony is moved into Eisenhower Hall.

The Firsties wear their India Whites for this event. Afterwards, they try to go back to the barracks, striving to avoid the Plebes who are waiting to waylay them. The Plebes, with very dirty hands, make a point of admiring the rings. Part of the tradition includes the Plebes reciting "poop" of "What a crass mass of brass and glass! What a bold mold of rolled gold! See how it sparkles and shines! It must have cost you a fortune! May I touch it please, Sir/Ma'am?"

Afterwards, the Firsties change into "civies" (civilian clothes) and meet their dates for a trip to NYC for dinner and a play, or something similar. It is the Firstie's responsibility to make all the plans for this weekend.

Saturday night is the formal banquet and hop, with Cadets again in India Whites with the coveted red sash. Military guests wear Dress Blues, Dress White, or Dress Mess.

Civilian male guests wear a tuxedo or conservative business suit, and the ladies wear either a long or short formal dress. Another of the traditions is having pictures taken under a huge class ring.

Branch Selection:
Throughout the first three years at the Academy, each Cadet receives information from branch representatives and faculty members as to the merits of each branch and the particular talents required. By the end of October, a Firstie must select a branch. The Branch Notification Ceremony presently takes place in November. The Firstie makes post selection in February, except Aviation candidates who do not select posts until they have completed their Aviation training at Ft. Rucker, AL.

After much anticipation, the Cadets of the graduating class receive their Army branch assignments, which will spell out the futures of the soon-to-be USMA graduates for at least the next five years. Traditionally, the majority of the class receives its first choice from among the many branches offered to the grads for their service obligation. A grad may choose from among a variety of combat arms and combat support service fields. The most popular choice by far, (and the one for which there are the most "slots"), is the Army's main combat branch, that of the "foot soldier," more traditionally known as the Infantry. Other popular branches include Air Defense Artillery, Armor, Aviation, Engineers, and rounding out the combat arms choices, Field Artillery.

The Army is organized as follows:

Combat Arms Division	Combat Support Arms Division	Combat Service Support Division	Health Services Division
Air Defense	Chemical Corps	Adjutant General Corps	Army Nurse Corps
Armor	Engineers	Finance Corps	Dental Corps
Aviation	Military Intelligence Corps	Logistics Branch	Medical Corps
Field Artillery	Military Police Corps	Ordnance Corps	Medical Service Corps
Infantry	Signal Corps	Quartermaster Corps	Army Medical Spec. Corp
Special Forces		Transportation	Veterinary Corps

In the fields of combat support arms and combat service support, there is also a wide array from which to choose: Adjutant General Corps, Chemical Corps, Finance Corps, Medical Service Corps, Military Intelligence, Military Police, Ordnance, Quartermaster, Signal Corps and Transportation Corps. There is an additional branch, which no Cadet can elect to enter directly after graduation- Special Forces ("The Green Berets") requires additional training and experience before one can apply for service in that branch.

Typically, on this very special milestone night, members of the graduating class assemble in Ike Hall, and with traditional West Point fanfare, as one, they ceremoniously open the envelopes that contain their branch insignia that reveal how, in

only a few months from then, these young soldiers will begin their Army careers. A soldier's branch of service is dear to his heart, for it spells out the special skills and duties to which the new officer will dedicate him- or herself for at least the next five years.

Traditionally, almost all the Cadets get their "first choice." For a few, there may be a measure of disappointment. Not that there's little to select from. Each has a wide range of choice among a variety of combat arms and combat service and/or support organizations that collectively comprise the greatest fighting outfit on the face of the earth- the Army of the United States of America.

From the AG (Adjutant General Corps) to "Transpo" (Transportation), there is something for everyone. For your information, below are described most of the Army branches shown along with their respective insignia:

(AD) Air Defense Artillery

ADA is an outgrowth of Field Artillery branch. This branch is trained in use of weapons that provide protection against attack from the air. The Persian Gulf War highlighted the use of the Patriot Missile System which is operated by members of the ADA branch.

(AG) Adjutant General's Corps

The AG Department was established by the act of 13 March, 1813, and redesignated the Adjutant General's Corps in 1950. Today, the AG is the branch responsible for providing education, development, and training and resettlement services, thus contributing to the operational efficiency of the Army. The branch is charged with improving the efficiency, effectiveness and morale of the Army. Its insignia is the red, white, and blue stars and stripes shield.

(AR) Armor

This branch traces its origin to the U.S. Cavalry. A regiment of cavalry was authorized to be raised by the Continental Congress Resolve of December 12, 1776. The tank service was formed on March 5, 1918. The Armored Force was formed on July 10, 1940 and Armor became a permanent branch of the Army in 1950. Armor training is conducted at Ft. Knox, KY. The "new cavalry" has been effectively instrumental for the U.S. in fighting wars since WWI right up to and including the Persian Gulf War. Armored units are currently deployed in Kosovo and other world locales today.

(AV) Aviation

Following the establishment of the U.S. Air Force as a separate service in 1947, the Army began to develop its own aviation assets (light fixed-wing planes and rotary wing aircraft) in support of ground operations. The Korean War gave this drive impetus and it saw its fruition in the Vietnam War. Aviation performs a variety of missions including reconnaissance, transport and evacuation, and fire support. Aviation became a separate branch on April 12, 1983, and a full member of the combined arms team for the U.S. Army. All of its pilots are trained at facilities at Ft. Rucker, AL.

(CM) Chemical Corps

With the rise of the use of chemical agents in warfare during WWI, the Chemical Warfare Service was established on June 28, 1918, combining activities that until then had been dispersed among five separate government agencies. It became a permanent branch of the Regular Army by the National Defense Act of 1920. In 1945, it was designated the Chemical Corps.

(EN) Corps of Engineers

The Corps of Engineers was established on June 16, 1775, when by Continental Congressional Authority, a Chief Engineer for the Army was appointed. Congress authorized a Corps of Engineers for the United States on 11 March, 1779. The Corps as it is known today came into being on March 16, 1802, when President Thomas Jefferson was authorized to "organize and establish a Corps of Engineers... that the said Corps... shall be stationed at West Point in the State of New York and shall constitute a Military Academy." A Corps of Topographical Engineers was merged with the Corps of Engineers in March, 1963. Since its inception, the Corps has been responsible for some of the greatest civil engineering feats in the world, building many of the dams, bridges, canals, tunnels and highways that we use even today. Army Engineers are charged with combat ops support in such areas as mobility, counter mobility, survivability, sustainment and topographic engineering, and ground combat (as infantry). Their insignia is the familiar castle whose design all academy visitors should recognize whenever they pass by Pershing Barracks on the Thayer Walk Area.

(FA) Field Artillery “King of the Battle”

The Field Artillery branch was established on November 17, 1775, when the Continental Congress unanimously elected Henry Knox "Colonel of the Regiment of Artillery." The regiment formally entered service on 1 January, 1776. Its insignia is the crossed cannon. FA is a combat arms branch whose mission is "to destroy, neutralize or suppress the enemy by cannon, rocket, or missile fires and to integrate all fires into combined arms operations." Training for its new officers is conducted at Ft. Sill, OK.

(FI) Finance Corps

The Finance Corps is the successor to the old pay department, which was created in June, 1775. The Finance department was created by law on July 1, 1920, and became the Finance Corps in 1950. Among the many of its responsibilities is managing the astronomical payroll of all Army service members, including the Corps of Cadets.

(IN) Infantry

On 14 June, 1775, ten companies of riflemen were authorized by a resolution of the Continental Congress. The oldest regular Army infantry regiment, the 3rd, was constituted on 3 June, 1784, as the new nation's First American Regiment. The infantry is of course the backbone of any army; it is comprised of the foot soldiers that must always fight on the front wherever battle lines are drawn. Evolving from those first "minuteman militias" of the Revolution to the best trained fighting men in the world today, to "go infantry" is the true and valiant call to arms of many graduates of the United States Military Academy. The infantry insignia is the easily recognizable crossed rifles. All new second lieutenants who select this branch receive their OBC at Ft. Benning, GA.

(MI) Military Intelligence

On 1 July, 1962, General Orders No. 38, an Intelligence and Security established branch of the Army to meet its requirement for national and tactical intelligence. On 1 July, 1967, the branch was redesignated as Military Intelligence. Army Intelligence performs a wide range of tactical and intelligence services in the interests of national security both during periods of peace and war. The need to discover in advance the enemy's tactics and plans and uncover both its strengths and weaknesses has always been an important advantage to our army's generals dating back to Washington and the Revolutionary War. The insignia of MI is a compass rose. The MI OBC is conducted in Arizona.

(MP) Military Police

A Provost Marshal General's Office and Military Police Corps were established in 1941. Prior to that time, except during the Civil War and WWI, there was no regularly appointed PMG or regularly constituted MP Corps, although a Provost Marshal can be found as early as January, 1776, and a Provost Corps as early as 1778. The MPC is charged with protecting and providing security for every U.S. Army installation, post and camp in the world.

(OD) Ordnance

Act of Congress established an Ordnance Department on May 14, 1812. During the Revolutionary War, ordnance material was under Supervision of the Board of War and Ordnance. It acquired its present designation in 1950. The Ordnance Corps oversees the provision of the wide range of armaments, ammunition and material for the Army. Its insignia, the lit-fused bomb, is highly recognizable.

(QM) Quartermaster Corps

The Quartermaster Corps was originally designated as the Quartermaster Department on June 16, 1775. It has the "U.S. Army's Provisioner" as their service branch's motto. The "QM" is the literal lifeline of the Army, responsible for supplying and equipping its soldiers with everything from their BDU's (Battle Dress Uniforms) to their underwear. Virtually every element of field and personal supply passes through the QM to the soldier on the battlefield, including clothing, personal hygiene materials, ammunition, food rations, fuel, and medical items. The importance of the role of the Quartermaster is perhaps best summed up in these terms: "The Key to the Battlefield and Sustainer of Armies."

(SC) Signal Corps

An Act of Congress authorized the Signal Corps on May 3, 1863. However, it dates its existence from June 21, 1860, when Congress authorized the appointment of one signal officer in the Army, and a War department order carried the following assignment: "Signal Department- Asst. Surgeon Albert J. Myer to be Signal Officer, with the rank of Major, June 27, 1860, to fill an original vacancy." The Signal Corps has come a long way from flags and mirrors to alert its side to enemy movements. Now, highly sensitive and accurate electronic devices and state-of-the art communications are keeping careful watch on the movements of those who threaten our national security.

(TC) Transportation

This branch is responsible for getting the Army to the battlefield in the safest and most expeditious manner possible. Rapid troop deployment falls squarely in its lap.

This Corps has continually proved itself in virtual every armed conflict (and many humanitarian efforts as well)- witness such "ops" as Desert Storm, among others. Whether by land, rail, or sea, it is the task of Transportation to get the Army where it has to be. "Transpo" officers receive tactical and logistical training during TOBC (Transportation Officer Basic Course), which will culminate in an FTX (Field Training Exercise) with students serving in leadership positions of a typical truck company. The Transpo Corps was created on July 31, 1942, although it can trace its historical background to WWI. Prior to that time, transportation fell under the operations of the Quartermaster General.

Branch Notification:
By mid-October, the Firstie Class goes to Eisenhower Hall and is given their envelopes with the branch assignment enclosed along with branch insignia. A short reception by the branch followed the ceremony. It is an evening for Firsties to celebrate, and they do!

Ordering For Graduation Announcements:
Soon after Thanksgiving but before Army/Navy, the Firstie Class will receive notice through email that they needed to order announcements for graduation. The "Ring and Crest" rep from each company takes the orders. Remind your Cadet that you want him/her to order graduation items and ask your Cadet to copy and forward this particular email message or to call you with the options and prices. Invitations and announcements for the graduation ceremony, class crest and personal stationary, name cards and a memorial book can be purchased at reasonable prices.
Due date is in the first week of December. Make sure that you have enough ordered because it is hard to get additional items after order has been placed.

Graduation Photos:
Cadets usually have two photos taken for Firstie year. In the second semester of Cow year, the yearbook photo for graduation is taken and the recommended deadline according to the Howitzer staff is May of the year prior to graduation. This photo is very similar to the Plebe year photo. If a graduating Firstie has not had his/her portrait taken by Spring Break of their Firstie year, the Howitzer will be forced to use a Plebe year portrait. The second photo, or the "graduation photo" is taken anytime, but the "recommended deadline for class portraits is spring break of the Firstie year."

Your Cadet needs to make an appointment at Academy Photo for the sitting. Traditionally, your Cadet is in full dress gray over either white or gray, tarbucket in hand along with Cadet sword and red sash. Remind your Cadet to have the proofs sent home (so that Mom and Dad can pick out their favorites). Retakes are available if you are not happy with the portraits and prices vary according to the package you choose. By having the pictures done early enough you will be sure to have them ready in time for graduation. A nice idea is to send a wallet size photo included with your Cadet's graduation invitation or announcements.

Academy Photo www.academyphoto.com
PO Box 102
West Point, NY 11996
845-938-3448

Right after Spring Break, Firsties gather for a panoramic class picture.

Army Uniforms:
In October of Firstie year Cadets order their uniforms. Previous classes may have ordered their Army uniforms during the second semester. Cadets go to Eisenhower Hall where four or five uniform companies display uniforms and Firsties order their blues and greens. Your Cadet will be spending in excess of $1,000. This is one of those things we can't help with as they must to do this for themselves.

The blue uniform is the "Dress Mess" for formal occasions. The green uniform is considered the "Class A." Also, consider that Dress Mess is used frequently (all formal occasions) and "Class A" is rarely used. This is also a good time to consider ordering extra pairs of BDU's depending on post location (winter or summer weight).

Memorabilia:
There are A LOT of things to purchase to commemorate your Cadet's graduation. Photos, prints, pewter plates, watches, etc., etc., etc.

Post Night:
The First Class will likely have Post Night in February. Each branch meets separately on this evening at a pre-arranged spot.

Clean Out Rooms Early:
We cannot stress how important it is for your Firstie to start cleaning out his/her room early. From a slightly filled duffle bag on R-Day, their possessions have expanded logarithmically. Encourage your Firstie to begin sending/bringing things home at Christmas. Continue to encourage as you can. As it is, most new 2^{ND} LT can be seen leaving the West Point with the cars filled to the top of the interior with boxes, uniforms, computers etc. Cadets can send things home (or to OBC or their first assignment via a shipping company. This is done free of charge; however, this takes time out of an already busy grad week and your Cadet may decide to bring things home by him/herself.

REMINDER &/OR ADVISE YOUR CADET: DO NOT SEND ARMY UNIFORMS VIA THIS SHIPPING SERVICE. ITEMS MAY NOT ARRIVE IN TIME FOR OBC.

In years past, parents have rented a van in order to help bring everything home and because of the RENTAL; the Cadet was able to get some reimbursement. You may want to have your Cadet investigate this possibility.

Class Home Page:
All of the graduating classes have a web site. Look for one for the Class of 2007 or 2008. Access http://www.usma.edu and click on the highlighted words: **Alumni** and then **Association of Graduates** and then find the Class and check out the home page for the graduating class.

100th Night Weekend:
This event is celebrated by the Cadets in late February/early March and commemorates the mere 100 days remaining until graduation. It permits the Firsties to reflect upon their four years at the Academy.

This show is a hoot! It is written, directed, acted and produced by the graduating class and has its tradition dating back to the nineteenth century. Much of what is done is definitely spoof, some over our civilian/non-Cadet heads, but to hear the raucous laughter of the Cadet audience is contagious. The talent is quite good. The vignettes depict the previous three and a half years at the Academy, and if your Cadet has been keeping you informed as to the goings on, you might just have an inside track to enjoyment. As with Ring Weekend, 100th Night is more Cadet oriented, although many parents do attend Saturday is free during the day. In the evening, a formal banquet is held in Washington Hall for Firsties and their guests. A formal ball follows this. Cadets will be wearing their full-dress uniforms. Dark suits for men and dressy attire for women would be appropriate. While the ball is in progress, the 100th Night Show is presented once again and is open to the public and to the underclass Cadets.

For those parents who wish to attend 100th Night, do not expect your Cadet to stay with you the entire weekend. Cadets may want to be with their fellow Cadets. It is slowly sinking into their heads and hearts that their Academy experience will soon end.

Graduation Week:
Many special activities are planned during the week preceding the Saturday morning graduation ceremony. The USMA Operations Office sends Firstie parents a Parents Guide for Graduation Week outlining the week's events. This is mailed in April of the Cadet's senior year. Although some events begin as early as Wednesday, Friday is when the graduation parade, banquet and hop occur. Please remember: if you are planning to attend, you will need to make arrangements for lodging well in advance. Graduation Day for the Class of 2008 is May 31, 2008. USMA will issue a Guide to Graduation Week well in advance.

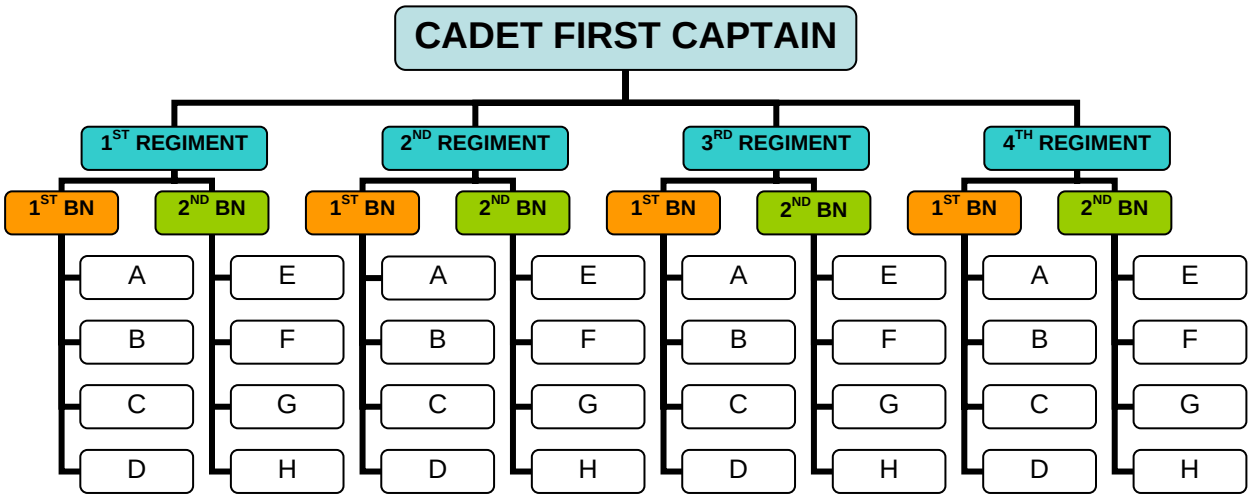
Glossary of Cadet Terminology

“A” Squad a	Refers to Cadet varsity ntercollegiate team.
A.I. n	Additional Instruction.
A.M.I. n	Morning (a.m.) Inspection
Area Bird n	A Cadet who is serving punishment through walking in the area
Area Tour n	one hour of punishment
Army Brat n	Son or daughter of an Army officer or enlisted person.
ASAP	As soon as possible.
B.J.	Fresh; lacking in respect. "Bold before June." (from the days when Plebe recognition was the day before June graduation).
Beast n	Cadet Basic Training (CBT).
Beast n	"Old Corps" slang for Cadet Basic Training.
Blow Off v	To not worry about something. To not complete an assignment or homework. ("I blew it off.")
Bogus a	Uncalled for audacity.
Bolo v	To fail a test or qualification.
Bone v	To study; to strive for something.
Boodle n	Cake, candy, ice cream, etc.
Boodlers n	Cadet boodle store.
BTO n	Brigade Tactical Officer
Bugle Notes n	“Plebe Bible” - book with historical and required knowledge, issued to Fourth Class Cadets.
Bust v	To revoke the appointment of a Cadet commissioned or noncommissioned officer; to reduce in rank.
Butt n	The remains of anything, as the butt of a month.
Butter Bar n	A new Second Lieutenant.
CBT n	Cadet Basic Training
CFT n	Cadet Field Training.
Circular File n	Trash can.
Civvies n	Civilian clothes.
Cold n	Absolutely without error, as "a cold max."
COM	The Commandant of Cadets.
COR n	Cadet Observation Report.
Corps Squader n	A Corps Squad Athlete (i.e. Varsity, Junior Varsity).
Cow n	A Cadet of the Second Class; a junior.
CPR n	Cadet Performance Report.
Crab n	One who attends the Naval Academy. Also **"SQUID**" or **"MIDDIE**."
D. a	Deficient; below average, as in academics.
D.M.T. n	Department of Military Training.
D.P.E. & A.	Department of Physical Education and Athletics.
Engineer n	One well up in studies. A Cadet in the upper section in academic work.
F.D. n	Full dress uniform.
Find v	To discharge a Cadet Candidate for deficiency in studies, conduct, or honor.
Firstie n	A Cadet of the First Class; a senior.
Flick n	A motion picture.
Flirtie n	Flirtation Walk, scenic walk where only Cadets and their escorted guests may go.
Fried Egg n	Insignia of the U.S.M.A. , worn on the hat or tarbucket.
G.I. n	Government Issue (not to be used when referring to enlisted personnel).
Ghost n	A fourth class Cadet who hides in his/her room to avoid the upperclass or to shirk duties. Also refers to an upperclass Cadet who is rarely seen around a Cadet Company.
Goat n	A Cadet in the lower sections. A Cadet near the bottom of the class.
Gray Hog n	An extremely USMA/USMAPS-oriented Cadet.

Green Girl n	Comforter.
Green Suiter n	An Army officer, NCO or Enlisted Soldier.
Gross a	Poor in appearance, distasteful.
Held Report n	Explanation of Report.
Hell Cats n	Musicians who sound reveille and the calls.
Hive n	One who studies a lot.
Hop n	Cadet dance.
Hotel Night n	One night a week when sheets are broken down due to laundry send out.
IKE n	Eisenhower Barracks or Eisenhower Hall.
Ikette n	A girl who frequents Eisenhower Hall for the sole purpose of picking up a helpless male Cadet. Impressed only by the "man in a uniform" Image.
IRP v	A command: "Immediate Response, Please."
Juice n	Electricity, Electrical Engineering.
Limits n	The limit on the reservation to which Cadets are restricted.
MAC n	MacArthur Barracks
Max n	A complete success, a maximum. v. To make a perfect mark in academic recitation; to do a thing perfectly.
Max v	To make an “A” in academic recitation; to do a thing perfectly.
Minutes n	The time remaining before a formation.
New Cadet n	A Cadet not yet officially accepted as a member of the Corps (i.e., during CBT).
O.A.O.,	One and Only.
O.C. n	Officer-in-Charge.
O.D. a	Olive Drab.
Odin n	A Norwegian god to whom Cadets appeal for rain before parades, inspection, etc.
Old Corps	The way things used to be at USMA, (ie., "When Dinosaurs roamed the Plain..."); In reality, when the Firsties were Plebes...
Old Grad n	One who has graduated from USMA.
P. n	A professor; an instructor.
PDA n	Public Display of Affection
Plebe Bible n	(slang for BUGLE NOTES) The handbook of the Fourth Class, contains all essential knowledge for survival.
Plebe n	A Cadet of the Fourth Class, a freshman.
PMI n	Afternoon Inspection, a state less than AMI.
Police v	To clean up.
Poop n	Information to be memorized.
Poop-Deck n	The Balcony in the USMA Cadet Mess from which orders are published.
Poopster (or more commonly: Prepster) n	USMAPS Cadet Candidate/graduate.
Pop Off v	Sound off in a military manner.
PRO a	Proficient, above passing in studies of looks.
Pull Out v	To barely complete an assignment on time and meeting only the minimum standards. (Also SLUG STOPPER, n.)
Quill n	(2-1) A report for delinquency.
R.H.I.P.	Rank Hath Its Privileges.
Rack n	Cadet Candidate bed, also SACK, v To sleep.
RD=FC n	"Rough Draft Equals Final Copy". The art of completing a paper or project in one sitting.
Rock Squad n	Remedial Swimming, an additional class for Plebe non-swimmers. (Derivative - ROCK, n An individual that struggles in academics and "sinks" to the bottom of the class. "ROCK MATH" is the lowest section in Plebe Math.)
Roger n	I understand.
Room Con n	Confinement to quarters, as a punishment for breach of discipline.
S.O.D. n	Senior Officer Of the Day.

S.O.G. n	Senior Officer Of the Guard.
S.O.P.	Standard Operating Procedure.
SAMI v	Saturday Morning Inspection.
Slug n	A special punishment for serious offense. Also SLAM, v To impose a special punishment on someone.
Snake n	One who will cut in at hops. v to cut in.
Solids n	Engineering mechanics.
Sound Off n	A powerful voice.
Sound Off v	To use the voice so as to be heard, shout.
SPAZ v	To function improperly. n Someone who functions improperly.
SPEC, (speck) v	To memorize verbatim, as: "to spec blind." (Also SPEC AND DUMP: to memorize material to pass a test, then forget it.)
Squid n	One who attends the Naval Academy.
Star Man n	An academically distinguished Cadet Candidate.
Striper n	A Cadet captain.
Supe n	The superintendent.
T.E.E. n	Term End Examination, finals.
TAC n	A tactical officer.
Ted n	An intelligent person or one who learns quickly (Also GEEK).
The Days n	Required knowledge for Plebes; signifying the duration to the next major event for the upperclass, and "A finite number for the end of eternity" for the Plebes.
Tie Up v	To make a gross error.
Tour n	One hour's walk on the area (punishment); a period of duty, as a guard tour.
Trou n	Trousers.
Turnback n	A readmitted Cadet.
Unsat n	Unsatisfactory performance.
W.P.R. n	Written Partial Review.
Went-Off	Special attention from an upperclass Cadet.
Woo-Poo-U n	USMA, Also, WOOPS.
WOOPS	Sound squids make when they see USMAPS Cadet Candidates.
Wopper W.O.P.R.	Written Oral Partial Review.
Writ n	A written recitation, an examination.
Yearling n	A member of the Third Class; (also Yuk.)
You Fly, I Buy	Phrase. You pick the food up, and I'll pay for it.
Zoomie n	One who attends the Air Force Academy.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CORPS OF CADETS
DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR



BN = Battalion

Letters denote Cadet Companies

CADET COMPANY ORDERLY ROOMS
All Phone Numbers are within the 845 area code. Dial (845)…

CO	Phone	CO	Phone	CO	Phone	CO	Phone
A1	938-2663	**A2**	938-3570	**A3**	938-2962	**A4**	938-4125
B1	938-3238	**B2**	938-4431	**B3**	938-3236	**B4**	938-3343
C1	938-2897	**C2**	938-3761	**C3**	938-2664	**C4**	938-4120
D1	938-3033	**D2**	938-3293	**D3**	938-2763	**D4**	938-3370
E1	938-2391	**E2**	938-3195	**E3**	938-2466	**E4**	938-3364
F1	938-2944	**F2**	938-3556	**F3**	938-5476	**F4**	938-3776
G1	938-4330	**G2**	938-2983	**G3**	938-3085	**G4**	938-2444
H1	938-3260	**H2**	938-3285	**H3**	938-3189	**H4**	938-4346

Cadet Rules and Regulations

(courtesy of Public Affairs Office United States Military Academy)

A and B Saturdays

A and B Saturdays refer to two kinds of Saturdays in the Cadet academic year schedule. The following explanation is from an academy regulation.

Alpha (A) Saturdays are those during which all Cadets, except those participating in corps squad and selected club competitions at or away from West Point, are expected to be in attendance for events scheduled on Saturday morning by the Commandant (A/C) and the Dean (A/D). Operating rules for A/D include a Friday formal evening study period (ESP) and Saturday from 7:35 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. for Dean's activities.

Operating hours for A/C do not include a formal ESP on Friday, but do provide Saturday from 7:35 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. for Commandant's activities.

Bravo (B) Saturdays are those when Cadets will pursue discretionary events. Extracurricular groups try to schedule their away events on Bravo Saturday weekends.

Cadets will receive the specific schedule of Saturdays at the start of the academic year. Many parents who plan a trip to West Point often schedule it on a B Saturday weekend, which may allow them more time with their Cadet. **Reminder: All information provided in this almanac is subject to an individual Cadet's circumstances and duty requirements.**

Leaves and Passes

Information about leaves and passes is contained in the USCC Standing Operating Procedures (SOP).

Cadets are responsible for submitting all requests and obtaining approval for leaves or passes. Approval must be obtained before making any travel arrangements.

A **Pass** is a privilege that may be earned. It is approved or disapproved by the Company tactical officer (TAC). Plebes are eligible for one pass during their first semester.

Generally, all Cadets are authorized **leave** as a part of the curriculum and as a respite from academic and military duties. Unless otherwise notified, Cadets may take leave from West Point during Thanksgiving, December holiday leave period, spring break and during the summer.

In the event of an immediate family emergency, TACs, and in their absence the USCC Officer-in-Charge, may approve emergency leave requests. If parents cannot reach their Cadet, they should call the Cadet's Tactical Officer or TAC NCO. Parents may also call the Central Guard Room (845-938-3030) which is staffed 24 hours a day or the Brigade Tactical Department Headquarters at 845-938-6005.

Walking Privileges

At the conclusion of CBT and the Acceptance Parade, New Cadets are welcomed into the ranks as Cadet privates or Plebes. They are then allowed walking privileges in accordance with the guidelines in the USCC SOP.

Cadets in good standing have walking privileges on the weekend once they have completed all duties. On normal weekends, Cadets may take walking privileges on Saturday after their last duty until 11 p.m. and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. There are additional allowances for holiday weekends specified in the USCC SOP.

As is the case in any explanation of Cadet regulations, these are general guidelines that are subject to an individual Cadet's circumstances. It is the Cadet's responsibility to know the regulations and how to apply them to each particular case.

Medical Treatment

Cadets are members of the active duty Army and are entitled to complete military medical and dental benefits as long as they remain on active duty. Eligibility for military health benefits lasts until midnight on the date of discharge from the active Army. Retention of a civilian medical plan ensures continuous medical coverage after discharge.

Don't panic if you hear your Cadet is in the hospital. You may call the TAC Team at any time to get information. Cadets who have an illness that requires bed rest, such as the flu, are often hospitalized because they do not have the option of missing classes and resting in their rooms. Because of laws that protect the confidentialilty of medical information, Cadets are responsible for notifying their parents. If a serious injury occurs, the TAC officer will notify the parents. While in the hospital:

- Your Cadet can call you by using a calling card or dialing collect.
- You can reach your Cadet by calling the nurses' station at (845) 938-3004/3045. Your call will be transferred to the Cadet's room.
- Parents of Cadets with significant illness or injury may speak with their son's/daughter's attending physician. Understand, though, the doctor cannot discuss medical information unless permission is granted by the Cadet.

Cadets who become ill or injured while on leave, pass or temporary duty (TDY) should go to a military medical treatment facility (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine, Coast Guard, or VA), if available within a reasonable distance. The government will not pay for non-emergency medical or pharmacy care from civilian source without prior authorization.

In the event of an emergency*, Cadets should call 911 or obtain medical care at the nearest medical facility (military or civilian). All Cadets are required to carry a USMA Cadet Medical Benefits card with information on the procedures to follow. Prior authorization is not required for emergencies. In an event of an injury or illness that is urgent but not emergent*, prior authorization is required. Cadets must call either the TRICARE North Region contractor at 1-877-TRICARE, or the Keller Army Community Hospital Health Care Information Line at (800) 552-2907 (select option 3).

Cadets who are separated from the Academy because of an injury or illness suffered while on active duty may apply for medical care from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Cadets who resign for reasons other than injury or illness suffered while at West Point, generally are not eligible for VA medical care.

If allowed by the health insurance carriers, parents should consider maintaining health insurance coverage for their Cadets. Doing so will ensure that your Cadet can depart the Academy for any reason with no loss in medical insurance coverage and risk of "pre-existing conditions." Some insurance carriers may not allow your Cadet to remain on your policy because your Cadet is a member of the active duty military.

* An "emergency" is a medical condition that, if not treated immediately, could result in the loss of life, limb (including loss of function) or eyesight. Cadets must exercise reasonable judgment. They should never gamble with their lives out of fear of paying a bill.

Directions to West Point From Airports

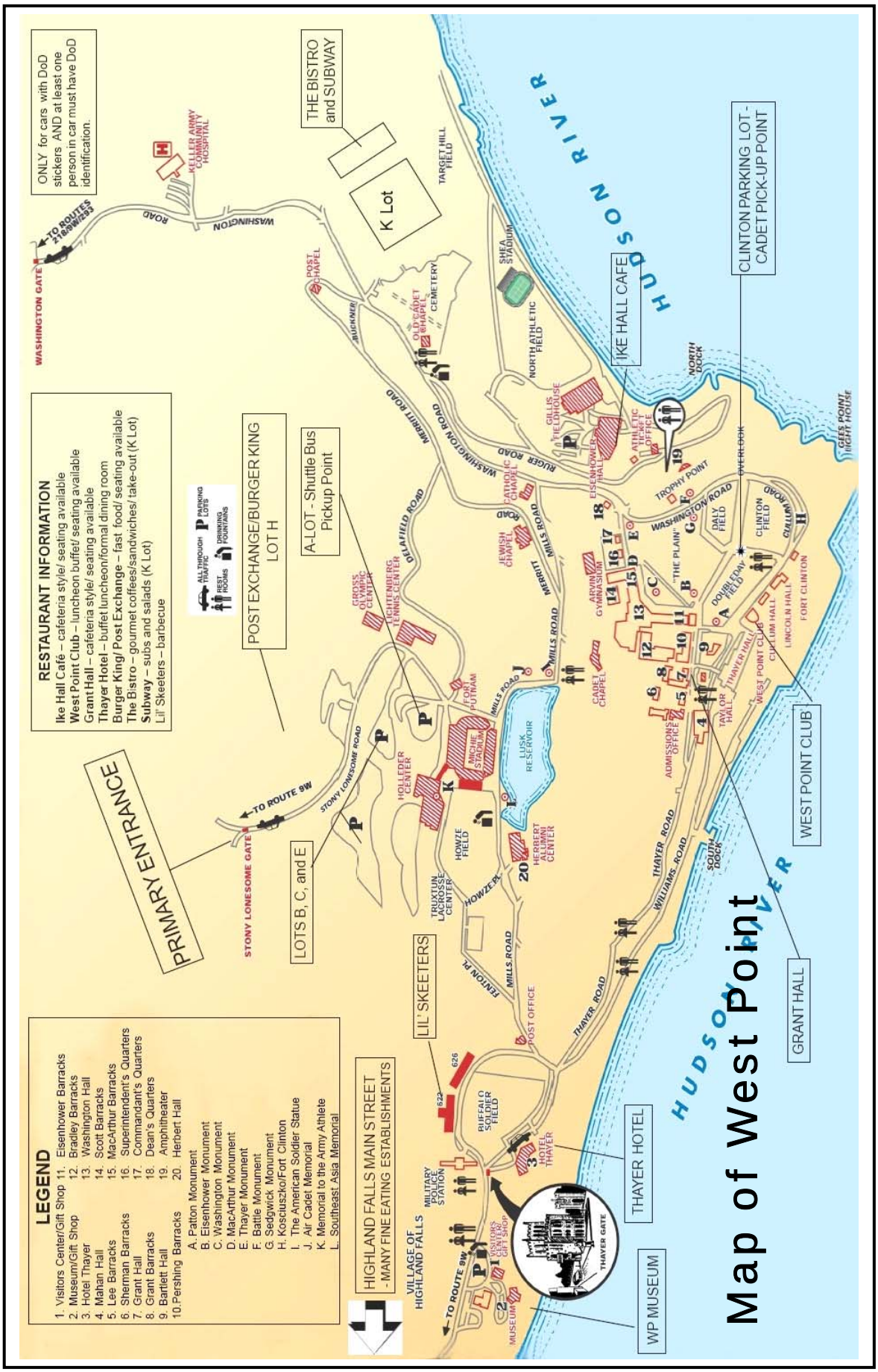
The West Point area has five major airports-LaGuardia, JFK, Newark, Albany and Stewart International Airport (Newburgh). Stewart is the closest to West Point. Newark and Albany are generally regarded as the next best choices. Driving directions from the airports are as follows:

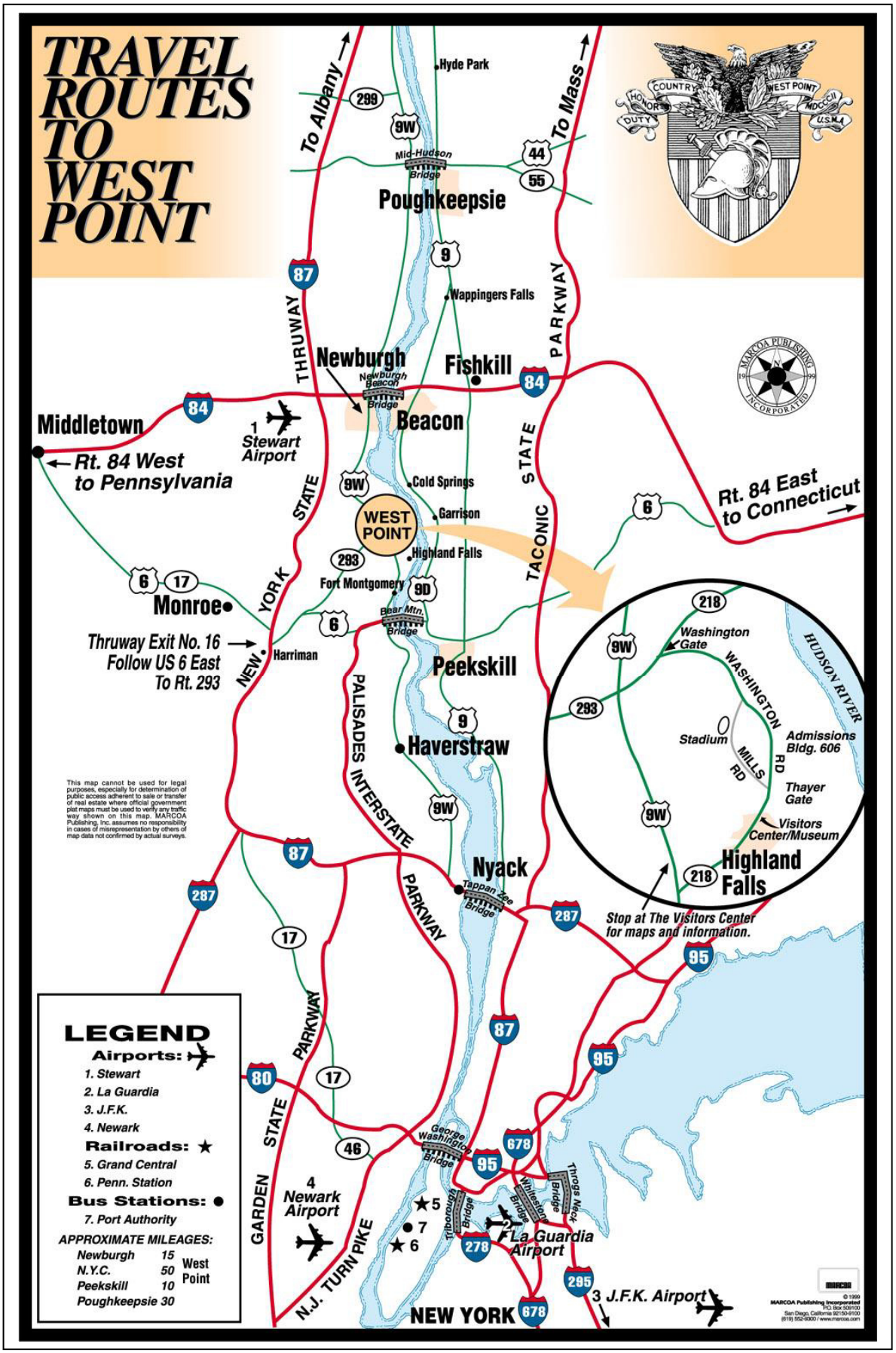
Stewart to West Point
From the main entrance to Stewart, turn left onto Route 207, which merges with Route 300. Remain on Route 300 until it intersects with Routes 32 and 94 at the Five Corners intersection in Vail's Gate. Continue on Route 32 to the second traffic light. Turn left toward Cornwall. Enter Route 9W (South - Bear Mountain Bridge exit) before entering Cornwall. Take 9W South to signs for West Point.

Newark to West Point
Take 95N/New Jersey Turnpike North to Exit 18. After final toll, continue on the expressway, but be on the lookout for a large sign for George Washington Bridge (about four miles after last toll). The highway will divide into Express and Local Lanes—stay in the Local Exit Lane (there will be three Local Lanes—try to stay in the far left lane). DO NOT take the George Washington Bridge exit. As you approach a large arch across the lanes, there will be a sign in far left Local Lane with Fort Lee and/or Palisades Parkway North directions—you will exit off left to a traffic light. Turn left at the light and go on the overpass. You will be in city traffic (stay in the right lane) and after three or so blocks, you will see a sign to exit right to the Palisades. Once on the Palisades, drive about 40 miles to the Bear Mountain Traffic Circle. In the circle, take the third cutoff to Route 9W Northbound (Newburgh/West Point). Take the first West Point exit after passing through Fort Montgomery. You will be in Highland Falls—stay on this road (about 1.5 miles) and you will see the West Point Visitors Center on your right. Stop at the Visitors Center for maps and directions.

Albany to West Point
Go Southeast on Airport Access Road towards NY-155 E by turning to left. Turn slight left onto NY-155 E. Take I-87 S to I-90 E/I-87 S I-90 W exit number 1 towards Albany, Boston, New York, Buffalo. Keep right at the fork in the ramp. Merge onto I-87 S. Take the I-87 S exit, number 23 to 1 towards New York merge onto NY State Thruway toll road. NY State Thruway becomes I-87 S. Take NY State Thruway to exit 16 Harriman to US 6 East to Rte 293 north to 218.

NYS Thruway (I-87) South LaGuardia and JFK to West Point
Take Throgs Neck Bridge or Whitestone Bridge to Cross Bronx Expressway or Grand Central Parkway to Triborough Bridge to Major Deegan Expressway. Follow signs to George Washington Bridge upper level. Stay in right lane on George Washington Bridge. Take exit to Palisades Parkway North. Drive about 40 miles to the Bear Mountain Traffic Circle. In the circle, take the third cutoff to Route 9W Northbound (Newburgh/West Point). Take the first West Point exit after passing through Fort Montgomery. You will be in Highland Falls—stay on this road (about 1.5 miles) and you will see the West Point Visitors Center on your right. Stop at the Visitors Center for maps and directions.


Map of West Point
HUDSON RIVER
LEGEND
1. Visitors Center/Gift Shop
2. Museum/Gift Shop
3. Hotel Thayer
4. Mahan Hall
5. Lee Barracks
6. Sherman Barracks
7. Grant Hall
8. Grant Barracks
9. Bartlett Hall
10. Pershing Barracks
11. Eisenhower Barracks
12. Bradley Barracks
13. Washington Hall
14. Scott Barracks
15. MacArthur Barracks
16. Superintendent's Quarters
17. Commandant's Quarters
18. Dean's Quarters
19. Amphitheater
20. Herbert Hall
A. Patton Monument
B. Eisenhower Monument
C. Washington Monument
D. MacArthur Monument
E. Thayer Monument
F. Battle Monument
G. Sedgwick Monument
H. Kosciuszko/Fort Clinton
I. The American Soldier Statue
J. Air Cadet Memorial
K. Memorial to the Army Athlete
L. Southeast Asia Memorial
RESTAURANT INFORMATION
Ike Hall Café – cafeteria style/ seating available
West Point Club – luncheon buffet/ seating available
Grant Hall – cafeteria style/ seating available
Thayer Hotel – buffet luncheon/formal dining room
Burger King/ Post Exchange – fast food/ seating available
The Bistro – gourmet coffees/sandwiches/ take-out (K Lot)
Subway – subs and salads (K Lot)
Lil' Skeeters – barbecue
ONLY for cars with DoD stickers AND at least one person in car must have DoD identification.
PRIMARY ENTRANCE
POST EXCHANGE/BURGER KING LOT H
A-LOT - Shuttle Bus Pickup Point
LOTS B, C, and E
LIL' SKEETERS
HIGHLAND FALLS MAIN STREET - MANY FINE EATING ESTABLISHMENTS
THAYER HOTEL
WP MUSEUM
GRANT HALL
WEST POINT CLUB
CLINTON PARKING LOT - CADET PICK-UP POINT
IKE HALL CAFE
THE BISTRO and SUBWAY
K Lot
WASHINGTON GATE
STONY LONESOME GATE
TO ROUTE 9W
TO ROUTES 218/9W/32
WASHINGTON ROAD
KELLER ARMY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
POST CHAPEL
OLD CADET CHAPEL
CEMETERY
TARGET HILL FIELD
SHEA STADIUM
NORTH ATHLETIC FIELD
GILLIS FIELDHOUSE
ATHLETIC TICKET OFFICE
NORTH DOCK
GEES POINT LIGHT HOUSE
OVER DOCK
TROPHY POINT
RUGER ROAD
MERRITT ROAD
BUCKNER
DELAFIELD ROAD
CATHOLIC CHAPEL
EISENHOWER HALL
JEWISH CHAPEL
MERRITT MILLS ROAD
ARVIN GYMNASIUM
"THE PLAIN"
DALY FIELD
DOUBLEDAY FIELD
CLINTON FIELD
CLINTON ROAD
FORT CLINTON
LINCOLN HALL
GROSS OLYMPIC CENTER
LIGHTENBERG TENNIS CENTER
HOLLEDER CENTER
MACHINE STADIUM
FORT PUTNAM
LUSK RESERVOIR
CADET CHAPEL
ADMISSIONS OFFICE
TAYLOR HALL
THAYER HALL
WEST POINT CLUB
CULLUM HALL
LINCOLN HALL
FORT CLINTON
HOWZE FIELD
TRUXTUN LACROSSE CENTER
HOWZE PL
HERBERT ALUMNI CENTER
MILLS ROAD
POST OFFICE
FENTON PL
THAYER ROAD
WILLIAMS ROAD
SOUTH DOCK
BUFFALO SOLDIER FIELD
MILITARY POLICE STATION
VISITORS CENTER/ GIFT SHOP
MUSEUM
VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
HOTEL THAYER
THAYER GATE
PARKING LOTS
ALL THROUGH TRAFFIC
REST ROOMS
DRINKING FOUNTAINS


TRAVEL ROUTES TO WEST POINT
To Albany
To Mass
Hyde Park
299
9W
Mid-Hudson Bridge
44
55
Poughkeepsie
9
Wappingers Falls
87
THRUWAY
PARKWAY
Newburgh
Newburgh Beacon Bridge
Fishkill
84
Beacon
Middletown
Rt. 84 West to Pennsylvania
1 Stewart Airport
STATE
9W
Cold Springs
WEST POINT
Garrison
Highland Falls
293
Fort Montgomery
9D
Bear Mtn. Bridge
6
17
Monroe
YORK
NEW
Harriman
Thruway Exit No. 16
Follow US 6 East
To Rt. 293
TACONIC STATE
Rt. 84 East to Connecticut
Peekskill
PALISADES INTERSTATE
Haverstraw
9W
Nyack
Tappan Zee Bridge
287
PARKWAY
17
87
95
80
46
GARDEN STATE
PARKWAY
N.J. TURN PIKE
4 Newark Airport
George Washington Bridge
678
Throgs Neck Bridge
Whitestone Bridge
Triborough Bridge
278
2 La Guardia Airport
285
3 J.F.K. Airport
NEW YORK
218
Washington Gate
HUDSON RIVER
WASHINGTON RD
MILLS RD
Stadium
Admissions Bldg. 606
Thayer Gate
Visitors Center/Museum
Highland Falls
Stop at The Visitors Center for maps and information.
LEGEND
Airports:
1. Stewart
2. La Guardia
3. J.F.K.
4. Newark
Railroads: ★
5. Grand Central
6. Penn. Station
Bus Stations: ●
7. Port Authority
APPROXIMATE MILEAGES:
Newburgh 15
N.Y.C. 50
Peekskill 10
Poughkeepsie 30
West Point
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