

# PLEBE PARENT HANDBOOK

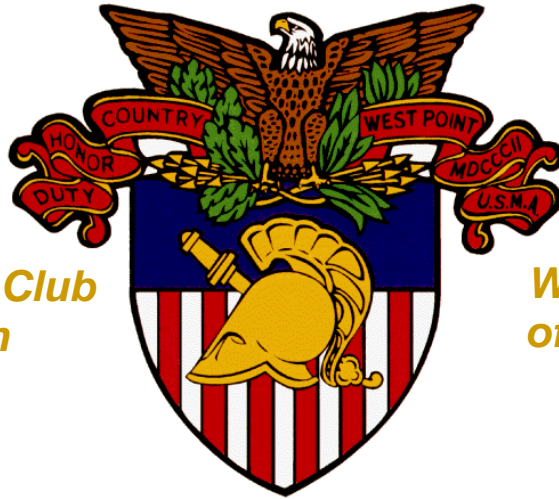
**WELCOME**

# USMA CLASS OF 2014



Prepared by the  
**West Point Parents Club  
of Greater Houston**





***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 on R-Day 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 2014 will assist you throughout the “Plebe” year and beyond.

### **Special Note**

***The United States Military Academy at West Point will be referred to as either West Point or USMA. 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. Be aware this information is general and should be checked against information you receive directly from USMA.***

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## ***A Few Terms Which May Help You Get Started***

The following is a short list of some of the basic terms and phrases which will be helpful for you to know. You will find your cadet will quickly fall into the normal use of many acronyms and terms not familiar to you. Don't worry, you will pick up the lingo quickly.

<b><i>TERM</i></b>	<b><i>DEFINITION</i></b>
<b>“Cadet Candidate”</b>	An individual receiving and accepting an appointment to USMA is referred to as a “Cadet Candidate” until they report on R-Day.
<b>“New Cadet”</b>	An individual Cadet Candidate is referred to as “New Cadet” from the day they report on R-Day to until they complete CBT and are accepted into the Corp of Cadets on A-Day.
<b>“Cadet”</b>	Upon completion of CBT and the A-Day activities New Cadets are then referred to as a “Cadet” or a “Cadet Private”
<b>“Plebe”</b>	A Cadet of the Fourth Class (Freshman)
<b>“Cadre”</b>	The term used to refer to the Cadet group responsible for the training and supervision of “New Cadets” during Cadet Basic Training (CBT)
<b>“R-Day”</b>	R-Day (Reception Day) is the day Cadet Candidates report to USMA
<b>“A-Day”</b>	A-Day (Acceptance Day) is the day a New Cadet is accepted into the Corp of Cadets
<b>“CBT”</b>	Cadet Basic Training, also referred to as “BEAST” or “Beast Barracks”
<b>“March Back”</b>	The second portion of “BEAST” is held in the field at Camp Frederick at USMA. Upon the completion of “BEAST” the New Cadets will complete a “Ruck March” back to USMA. This approximate 15 mile ruck march is called the “March Back”
<b>“Ruck March”</b>	A march in which New Cadets march in Army Combat Uniform (“ACUs”), desert boots, full “battle rattle” including Kevlar helmet, rifle and forty (40) lbs backpack (“ruck”)
<b>“ReOrgy Week”</b>	Reorganization Week (“ReOrgy”) is the five (5) days between March Back and Acceptance Day (“A-Day”) during which New Cadets are organized into their Academic Year Companies
<b>“Yuk”</b>	A Cadet of the Third Class (Sophomore)
<b>“Cow”</b>	A Cadet of the Second Class (Junior)
<b>“Firstie”</b>	A Cadet of the First Class (Senior)
<b>“Supe”</b>	USMA is commanded by Superintendent (“Supe”), typically a three (3) star general [Lieutenant General (“LTG”)]
<b>“Comm”</b>	Commandant (“Comm”), typically a two (2) star general [Major General (“MG”)] in charge of the Corps’ military & physical training and Tactical Officers & NCOs (“TACs”)
<b>“Dean”</b>	Academic Dean (“Dean”), typically a one (1) star general [Brigadier General (“BG”)] in charge of academic professors and curriculum.

**Summary Calendar**  
**For The Period of June 2010 - May 2011**

**2010**

12 June New Cadet Candidate Picnic at The Woodlands  
28 June R-Day  
11 July BEAST Survival Meeting  
9 August CBT March Back  
9-13 August ReOrgy Week  
14 August Acceptance Day Parade  
16 August First Day of Classes  
20-21 August Ring Weekend  
6 September Labor Day (Holiday)  
11 October Columbus Day (Holiday)  
11 November Veteran's Day (Holiday)  
24 November Compressed Class Day – Classes end by 1:00 pm  
25-28 November Thanksgiving Leave  
10 December Army-Navy Game  
13-18 December Term End Exams (TEEs) - Finals  
19 December – 2 January Winter Leave

**2011**

3-5 January ReOrgy Week  
17 January Martin Luther King Day (Holiday)  
23 January 500<sup>th</sup> Night (Class of 2012 event)  
30 January Yearling Winter Weekend (Class of 2013 event)  
21 February President's Day (Holiday)  
26 February 100<sup>th</sup> Night (Class of 2011 event)  
11-13 March Plebe Parent Weekend (Class of 2014 event)  
12-20 March Spring Leave  
May - date to be determined WPPCGH "Hail and Farewell" Luncheon  
7-13 May Term-End Exams (TEEs) - Finals  
21 May Class of 2011 Graduation

## ***The Honor Code***

Your son/daughter should know with USMA offering them an Appointment, USMA believes they have the ethical, moral, mental, academic & physical capabilities to succeed at West Point. USMA wants him/her to succeed!!!

USMA, beginning on R-Day and throughout your son/daughter's forty-seven (47) month tenure at USMA, will challenge the Cadet mentally and physically until they graduate. A Cadet will also be faced with ethical and moral hurdles during his/her career at USMA. USMA does not authorize hazing of a Cadet nor will USMA tolerate hazing of a Cadet.

As a Parent you should know your Cadet's West Point experience will be completely different from yours, your spouse's, their siblings' and their friends' who attend a public or private university. When a Cadet reports on R-Day, he/she is in the US Army. Every Cadet takes an Oath to serve and defend the United States. A Cadet is totally accountable, you as parents are no longer in the equation. A Cadet, under US Tax Code, is no longer your dependent. The US Army pays a Cadet a monthly salary. A Cadet is responsible for his/her financial soundness. The US Army provides a Cadet with life and health insurance the cost of which is deducted from his/her salary. A Cadet solely names any beneficiary(s). The US Army provides for a Cadet's health care and medical needs. If a Cadet is over the age of eighteen (18) years old, the Cadet has to provide written authorization for the US Army and West Point to release to you, as his/her parents, their grades, medical records, disciplinary records, etc. These are initial components of Cadet's leadership training as he/she begins their forty-seven (47) month career at USMA and into five (5) years of active service in the US Army.

As a Cadet prepares to step-off on R-Day and BEAST, each Cadet needs to understand West Point's Honor Code which simply states, "A Cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do."

The Honor System at West Point is the outgrowth of many years of development and experience. The need for the Honor System is implicit in the mission of West Point to develop military leaders of character. The United States' military leaders must have strength of character as well as intellectual and physical vigor.

West Point's Honor System has its roots both in ethical considerations and in practical military necessity which includes respect for others. Honor, as it is understood by West Point's Corps of Cadets, is a fundamental attribute of character. Honor is a virtue which implies loyalty and courage, truthfulness and self respect, justice and generosity. The Honor Systems underlying principle is truth. The Honor System is not a complicated system of ethics, but merely "honest dealing and clean thinking." If a Cadet is true in thought, word, and deed, there is no question about his meeting the standards of the West Point's Corps of Cadets. On the other hand, quibbling, evasive statements, or the use of technicalities to conceal guilt are not tolerated at West Point.



The Honor System is effective at West Point because it has the loyal support of West Point's command authorities and of West Point's Corps of Cadets. West Point Graduates in retrospect regard the Honor System as one of the most important instruments in the shaping of their lives.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower reflecting upon West Point's Honor Code's success said, "... achievement is due to the continuity of the Corps and of the instructional staff we have succeeded early in the Cadet's career in instilling in him a respect amounting to veneration for the Honor System. The Honor System as a feature of West Point seems to grow in importance with a Graduate as the years secede until finally it becomes something which he is almost reluctant to talk about--it occupies a position in his mind akin to the virtue of his mother or his sister."

Cadets who are found guilty of violations of the Honor Code are either allowed to resign from West Point or required to stand trial by court-martial. Cases of trial are comparatively rare, for most erring Cadets prefer to leave USMA quietly. Records of all alleged violations of Honor Code in which the evidence does not warrant trial are kept in a confidential file as long as a Cadet remains at West Point. When a Cadet leaves, this file is destroyed.

The Honor Code is an essential element in the character molding which goes on at West Point. The Honor Code is a vital influence in the day-to-day life of every Cadet. Instances are constantly occurring which show how much the Honor Code means to West Point's Corps of Cadets. Cadets are constantly reporting themselves for unintentional violations of the Honor System. A Cadet may be reported by one of his closest friends for an Honor Violation because the men/women of West Point's Corps of Cadets believe the Honor Code is bigger than any individual or any personal friendship. Hence, it is noteworthy the success of the Honor Code depends more upon West Point's Corps of Cadets than upon the supervision of West Point's command officers.

Parents should understand the Honor Code is a Cadet's life-time commitment to an honest, ethical and moral life-style of character, not limited to geographical perimeters of West Point. For the Cadet influence of this way of life is marked and lasting, and a Cadet's devotion to the Honor System is very real and deeply rooted.

# THE PLEBE YEAR

## ***Things Which 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 items needed for R-Day on the "R-Day Items Checklist" on the following pages. Be sure to travel light – one (1) bag. You can send additional items to your Cadet after A-Day. It will be beneficial to your Cadet Candidate if small items are packed in clear sealable plastic bags. Be sure running shoes are well broken in before R-Day. Do not fret if everything is not perfect as these New Cadets will manage and USMA will provide what they need.
4. If you are accompanying your Cadet Candidate to R-Day, make your hotel reservations early. Cadet Candidate reservations may be handled through the West Point vendor.
5. Make hotel reservations for A-Day and any fall weekend travel to USMA. Hotels fill up early for scheduled USMA events – especially football games. In addition review possible options for hotels in the spring for Plebe-Parent Weekend. For A-Day Weekend try to get a room within the Walking Privilege area (roughly 5 miles of Thayer Gate to south & east). Watch for official announcements from USMA for current regulations. The boundaries of Walking Privileges in the recent 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).

Sometimes the Round Pond area may be included at the discretion of USMA

\*Please note that although the past several years Cadets have been permitted to travel to their parents' hotel beyond Walking Privileges. However, they cannot be seen in public outside of Walking Privileges except in transit to their parents' hotel room.

6. Convince your Cadet Candidate to RUN, RUN, RUN, and then RUN some more. Houston area Cadets are flatlanders. At West Point they will need to become highlanders. Initially, everything at West Point will seem to be uphill. Practice running up hills, stadium ramps, bayou running trails, or office parking garage ramps. PLEASE REMEMBER TO TAKE ALL SAFTEY PRECAUTIONS when running in areas sharing space with autos.
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 they must memorize comes from this little book called "Bugle Notes." Different young people respond differently to this. Some Cadet Candidates find stresses them out to try to memorize ahead of time so

they should not fret over it, but maybe just browse through it. Some will later wish they would have spent a little time learning the Knowledge. Though all will do just fine. 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 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 prospective candidates, and presenting the admissions meetings held in the Houston area.
9. Keep in mind the West Point Parents Club of Greater Houston (WPPCGH), the West Point Society of Greater Houston (WPSGH) which is a West Point Alumni group which 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;
  - Small electric fan;
  - Coffee pot or hot pot for soups, etc. (but no hot plates).

Note: Many companies limit only one per room, so your Cadet may wish to coordinate with their fall roommate(s). Roommates change each semester but Plebes will be only be assigned roommates with other Plebes.

## **R-Day Items Checklist**

\*NOTE: Not all BST Companies will not permit all of the items listed below. Any items not permitted during BST will be returned to the New Cadets during ReOrgy Week. This would include cell phones and chargers.

ITEM	COMMENTS	SPECIAL NOTES
High quality comfortable running shoes – <u>not</u> cross trainers.	Cadets do a lot of running	
Razor/Electric Shaver		
Watch	inexpensive but sturdy (Casio G-Shock is acceptable)	an extra watch with features like compass, etc. for field training??
Compression shorts	significantly reduces BDU chaffing	Black only
Alarm clock	battery operated	
Small penlight with extra batteries	mini-mag is acceptable	Small flashlight with alternative color lenses for field training - optional
Small manicure set	Basic and inexpensive	
Ziploc bags	to keep items (i.e., Bugle Notes) dry	
Soft, lint-free cloths	for shining shoes	
One 8 x 10 picture (collage of pictures)	glass is <b>not</b> recommended	put multiple collages behind each other in a single frame allowing for multiple pictures
Stamps, self-addressed envelopes, pens, pencils and stationary		
Toiletries	Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, small bottle of body wash, deodorant	basic brands/styles are issued
Small camera	disposable recommended	waterproof is good
Multipurpose fold up tool	Leatherman or Gerber recommended	
Bic-type lighters (2)		for polishing shoes
Chap stick		
BAND-AID <sup>®</sup> s and moleskin or BAND-AID <sup>®</sup> BLISTER BLOCK <sup>™</sup> , Antibacterial Ointment, Icy Hot		
Hand Sanitizer	small bottle	
Tide to Go		
All white crew socks	NO logos or color	Blister free styles suggested
Insect repellent (small bottle)	Any brand with DEET	
Additional to be considered by Females		
Feminine Products	Small supply to have on hand	They are supplied in bathrooms
Hair Clips, Bobby Pins & Elastics	Neutral Colors - LOTS	Needs to match hair color
White Sports Bras	Qty of 20 suggested	Changing 2 plus times per day
Underwear	Qty of 20 suggested	Changing 2 plus times per day

## **SIGNIFICANT PLEBE YEAR – USMA EVENTS**

***Be aware, security measures put into place for entry on to Post at West Point after 11 September 2001 include: Require picture ID to enter West Point, and vehicle searches when driving on Post at West Point. During R-Day, A-Day and Plebe Parent Weekend (“PPW”) expect restriction of vehicle parking to outer parking lots from West Point’s Central Area. Wear comfortable shoes and please allow lots of extra time to queue through West Point’s gates [ Thayer Gate & Stony Lonesome Gate] , maintain your sense of humor and realize this is all done for the safety of West Point’s Corps of Cadets, our sons and daughters!***

### **R-Day (Reception Day): June 28, 2010 for the Class Of 2014**

This day marks the beginning of a unique experience for your son/daughter and to some degree for you. We strongly suggest you accompany your Cadet 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/daughter is going for the next forty-seven (47) months.

Parents and R-Day visitors should wear comfortable casual clothes and comfortable walking shoes. Casual dress at West Point is defined for Men as – slacks with collared shirt, sweater or sports coat; and for Ladies as - slacks or skirt with blouse. 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 or handicapped visitors accompany you, it may be a grueling day for them because of the heat and the amount of walking. No matter where you go at West Point, it always seems to be uphill.

With respect to arrival time, we would only suggest you neither be too early nor too late. Follow the schedule prescribed by West Point, which is based on the last digit of your son/daughter’s social security number. Your New Cadet will rapidly learn not to 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 you have 90 seconds ...” This will be the last you see your Candidate until A-Day. 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, **DO NOT** try to talk to them.

After your son/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 Class of 2014 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 2014, and 2014 coffee mugs, hats, etc), visit various exhibits and most importantly

to get your son/daughter's CBT Company assignment and Post Office Box number IF they are not mailed to you before BST. Some parents do not purchase all the special year memorabilia on R-Day, and are later disappointed stock has run out and will not be reordered. 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 is available at the various booths.

Many parents have recommended you process through the various vendor booths at Washington Hall within approximately one (1) hour and then immediately walk to Central Area near Grant Hall where you may catch a glimpse of your New Cadet as he/she and his/her BEAST Squad march over the bridge from Thayer Hall to the barber shop and barracks in Central Area. Again, if you see your New Cadet, do not draw attention to them. As you enter Central Area have your digital camera and video camera ready. You may need to be on "New Cadet watch" for sometimes over an hour. However, the experience and any photographic documentation will be well worth the wait! Cold drinks and restrooms are available in Grant Hall.

After either sighting your New Cadet or retiring from an unsuccessful "New Cadet Watch", lunch is available in Grant Hall or West Point Club. West Point Club's large dining room is air conditioned and has wonderful views of The Hudson River. Grant Hall is cooled by fans. With a little pre-arrangement work on your part, you might arrange to rendezvous with other New Cadet parents of WPPCGH at West Point Club for a relaxing lunch, sharing of R-Day experiences, fellowship and support. Over the next 47-months you will develop lasting relationships.

During the day, you will 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. The large grassy parade area ("The Plain") in front of the bleachers is off limits to pedestrian traffic.

In the past, there has been a VERY important Superintendent's briefing for new parents in Eisenhower (Ike) Hall Auditorium sometime in the mid-afternoon. This will be an uplifting, emotional and very informative introduction to West Point life and an opportunity for you to better understand the various aspects of Cadet Life. In 2014 the venue may be changing due to construction, but rest assured USMA will tell you exactly where you need to be.

In the early evening, there is the R-Day Parade and ceremonial swearing-in ceremony 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 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 clue plus obtaining a position near your New Cadet's Company's Gideon may assist you in identifying your New Cadet as the Class of 2014 marches from West Point Sally Ports to Trophy Point. Yes, they will actually march in uniform and with a great sense of pride and accomplishment.

Once your son/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 they will grow to hate, for the next several weeks. Only after they complete Cadet Basic Training (CBT) and are accepted into the Corps of Cadets at the Acceptance Day Parade, in August, will they become "Cadets".

After the ceremonial swearing-in, 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 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, pre-addressed and stamped 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 within the first forty-eight (48) hours. It will likely be short.

### **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 from 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.

"BEAST" is planned, supervised and lead by Upper Class West Point Cadets ("Cadre") monitored by the Commandant, Tactical Officers and Tactical NCOs. The Cadre in charge and assigned to BEAST leadership commands have spent three (3) weeks of special planning and preparing to lead and supervise New Cadets. The Cadre receives a military grade based upon their performance and the quality of their New Cadets' performance. West Point and the Cadre want New Cadets to succeed on R-Day, BEAST, Plebe Year and during a Cadet's entire career at West Point. HAZING AND CORPORRAL PUNISHMENT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN ON R-DAY, BEAST OR AT ANYTIME AT WEST POINT!

During Beast Barracks, a New Cadet's daily life begins before 5:00 a.m. and will extend well into the evening hours. In the past lights out has been at 10:00 p.m. and has been strictly enforced to ensure New Cadets receive an appropriate amount of sleep. Likewise, the Cadre ensure 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/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 they give it a fair trial. Staying power and the ability to perform well under stress and time-management are the hallmark of a West Pointer.

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 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. Company training schedules dictate the timing of the calls. On occasion 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.

Do not be surprised or concerned if your New Cadet informs you he/she has lost a roommate or members of his/her BEAST Company. West Point is not for everyone and a few new cadets do drop out during CBT. Again, be encouraging and upbeat in pressing your New Cadet to give BEAST and West Point a fair trial. Of utmost importance is to keep those cards and letters coming. Don't be discouraged if another parent tells you 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 New Cadet will be allowed to visit the Cadet Store to purchase necessary supplies. One of the most popular purchases is an electric fan. The rooms in the barracks can get very hot during July, August and September.

Toward the middle 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 opportunity for an extended phone call home, some relaxation and perhaps even a nap and some home cooked 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 detail of BEAST. The last few days (up to a week) they will be spent at Camp Frederick 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 before March Back, the Class of 2014 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.

### **March Back (Monday, 9 August 2010 for Class of 2014)**

The Class of 2014 will step-off for the fifteen (15) mile March Back to West Point’s Central Area at approximately 3 a.m. on the morning after the last night at Camp Frederick. The Class of 2014 will March Back over West Point’s Ski Slope Area and be joined by members of the Class of 1964; (*2014’s Fifty Year Reunion Class*). As the Class of 2014 is tailed by the Class of 1964 along with other West Point Graduates, who have “won” a lottery for the honor to March Back with the Class of 2014 to West Point.

The Class of 2014 will be dressed in ACUs, full “battle rattle” (except Kevlar vest) including forty (40) lb. RUK [backpack], Kevlar helmet, rifle and desert boots. The Class of 1964 and other West Point graduates will be wearing West Point hats or caps, Class T-Shirts, West Point black athletic gym shorts and running shoes. A Banner containing the Class of 2014’s Motto will lead the Class of 2014 as they march behind the West Point Band.

If you plan to attend the March Back Parade, it is recommended you arrive on Post at West Point approximately one (1) hour before March Back Parade is due to arrive on Post at West Point. Recommendation for position to view March Back Parade is on corner of Washington Road and Jefferson Road directly across from the Commandant’s Quarters. Your Cadet is not permitted to speak to you. You should not either greet your New Cadet by name or attempt to speak to him/her. March Back Parade will terminate in front of Washington Hall as the Class of 2014 “rests” while eating a MRE [Meals Ready to Eat]. Fairly promptly after arrival and MRE consumption, the members of the Class of 2014 will

fall-out and form-up in Academic Year Cadet Companies and then march-off to their respective Barracks to begin Reorganization Week.

### **Reorganization Week (August 9 – 13, 2011 for the Class off 2014)**

Reorganization Week (ReOrgy) 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 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 (1) of the thirty-two (32) Companies that make up the Corps of Cadets. This Company will be their home for at least the next year. He/she will also receive a computer and a homework assignment for each class – to be completed BEFORE they report to the first class on Monday, August 16th. 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, permission to use their cell phones and their room phones assigned, they can contact you with their new e-mail address, phone number, etc.

### **Acceptance Day and Parade (Saturday, August 14, 2010 for Class of 2014)**

On the Saturday following March Back from Camp Frederick, the Class of 2014 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 ReOrgy 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/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 2014, this Parade is scheduled for the morning of August 14, 2010 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 son/daughter is now officially a Cadet at United States Military Academy at West Point. Acceptance Day also marks the day when Cadets have enjoyed their first (1<sup>st</sup>) family visitation since R-Day. Typically, Plebes are released from duties around 12:30 p.m. to early afternoon and enjoy walking privileges until approximately 10:30 p.m. on Saturday night, and then again on Sunday until 7:00 p.m. Note some companies have delayed release time for various reasons so do not be alarmed if your Cadet is one of the last to exit. 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 at West Point. 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! They may be quiet and sleep a lot, this too is normal.

The last several years Plebes have been permitted to travel and stay in their parents' hotel room (outside of the walking privilege boundary) once released from duties after A-Day Parade. However, this does mean your Cadet cannot be seen in a public place other than his/her parents' hotel room outside of Walking Privileges. West Point will brief your Plebe before Leave release after A-Day Parade concerning Walking Privileges.

When you first see your son/daughter after Beast Barracks, either on A-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!

### ***Academic Year***

The academic year commences the Monday after A-Day. Classes usually have less than fifteen students and are very challenging to even the brightest students. Encourage your son/daughter not to neglect his/her academics. Academic standing comprises sixty percent (60%) of their Class Rank Grade while Military standing comprises twenty-five percent (25%) and Physical Fitness standing comprises fifteen percent (15%). West Point, 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. West Point offers a short course on this subject for Plebes. Your son/daughter may wish to consider taking advantage of this course.

West Point and its Academic Professors want your Cadet to be successful. Academic Professors will provide your Cadet with his/her office, cell & home telephone numbers as well as his/her email address and encourage your Cadet to contact him/her if your Cadet has a question on material, reading and/or homework assignment and requests tutoring. Additional Instruction (“AI”) for Academic Classes is offered but a Cadet must request AI.

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 which usually creates frustration until adjustments can be made. Many top honor students who have never had a grade below a "B" fail their first few quizzes or WPR's (Written Partial Reviews). This is also normal do not 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/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 you encourage your son/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 West Point for an occasional weekend.

Team Leader - Your Cadet will be assigned a team leader who is a Yearling designated to assist in their orientation to West Point. This will be a positive and non-confrontational relationship. They are available for guidance and support.

Sponsor - Your Cadet will also have the opportunity to be assigned a sponsor. They are a staff person or professor who has volunteered to assist your Cadet and will provide some of the comforts of a home away from home. Typical activities 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 upper-class Cadets. However, each Company's legal commander is US Army Officers, typically a Major referred to as a TAC Officer and assisted by a US Army Sergeant referred to as TAC who are charged with establishing a climate of military standards and for developing leadership.

## ***Passes***

Officially, Plebes are only authorized one (1) 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 or Columbus Day weekend. For many Plebes, Labor Day weekend though early in the semester 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 one of these weekends. Still others will have guard duty, and will not be able to take pass. However, the types 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/daughter decide what works best.

For many Cadets, Labor Day Weekend or any three (3) day holiday weekend is too short a period of time for a Cadet to travel from West Point to Texas. Such a flight schedule will cause Cadet to spend most of his/her three (3) day holiday traveling to the airport, flying and traveling from the airport. However, this is a family decision.

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.

Although neither a pass or nor Leave is required, WPPCGH typically holds a Texas Tamale & Bar-B-Que Tailgate (“Tailgate”) at West Point after a Black Knight Home Football Game in either late September or early October. Hence, even if your Cadet is not able to return home in the fall, WPPCGH will bring a “Little of Texas & Home” to them.

### ***GMK Bus Service***

GMK offers bus transportation to and from all area airports for all major pass weekends and leaves. Their schedules are posted very shortly after the official schedule has been set. They are often a better source of release times than your Cadet. They also list estimated travel times to and from the airports which help when you are purchasing airline tickets. Their schedules and contact information are listed on <http://www.west-point.org/parent/plebe-net/links.htm> under Travel.

### ***The Rest of the First Semester***

From Labor Day on things start to settle down for a Plebe. West Point will continue to be challenging. There will be emotional ups and downs along the way. Always 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. At this time, the challenges may seem like mountains to Plebes who have never had a “C” on a paper before. By the end of the Fall Academic Semester, most Plebes will be able to work things out and will hopefully be doing well by the time End of Term Exams (“TEEs”) roll around. Looking forward to Thanksgiving Leave, Army/Navy Football Game and Christmas Leave keeps all Cadets going.

### ***Army Physical Fitness Test***

Cadets are required twice each Academic Year during Cadet’s career at West Point to take and successfully complete Army Physical Fitness Test (“APFT”). Typically, APFT is given to Cadets in October and April. APFT has three (3) events which are measured: (i) push-ups, (ii) sit-ups, and (iii) a timed two (2) mile run. APFT is a component of a Cadet’s Military Grade.

### ***Thanksgiving Leave (November 25th – 28th, 2010)***

Remember, when your Cadet comes home, be flexible. You may want to discuss family plans in advance. As much as you (and other family members) may want to see and visit

with your Cadet, he/she may be eager to reconnect with his/her old friends, or may just want to sleep or maybe both. While your Cadet will be happy to be home, your Cadet may also seem preoccupied. Your Cadet is fully aware of Academic requirements, looming Term Ending Exams (“TEEs”) and Plebe duties awaiting them upon their return.

As with all travels to and from West Point and Houston, it is always recommended you purchase airline tickets allowing ample travel time from West Point to the airport and then schedule them on the first available flight out of Houston back to West Point. Weather and other travel delays are NOT excuses for being late for their required Report Time.

### ***Army/Navy Football Game (Saturday, December 11, 2010)***

Army/Navy Football Game has been moved from first (1<sup>st</sup>) Saturday in December to second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Saturday in December and will be held in Philadelphia in 2010. Many Plebes will not have earned an additional pass for Army/Navy Football Game Weekend. Most Plebes along with Upper Class Cadets who chose to return in order to prepare for TEEs, or Cadets with “issues” of Academic deficiencies, APFT deficiency or disciplinary deficiency will “Boomerang” via bus on Saturday morning from West Point to the game and back to West Point immediately upon conclusion of the game. Cadets who are chose to take a weekend pass for the Army/Navy Football Weekend will depart West Point for Philadelphia on Friday and return on Sunday. GMK bus service is available – watch for posted bus schedule.

### ***Christmas Dinner***

West Point Corps of Cadets’ celebrate the end of the First Semester of Academic Classes and coming Winter Leave with a Christmas dinner *likely* be on Thursday, December 2, 2010. This historically has been a very memorable evening for all Cadets, especially Plebes. The Plebes will be required to decorate their mess table with Holiday decorations of their choosing and provide cigars. Generally this is a formal steak & lobster dinner concluded with the singing of Christmas Carols before adjourning outside in front of Washington Hall to smoke cigars. Yes, all Cadets to participate in this tradition, even the female Cadets.

### ***Term Ending Exams (December 13 – 18, 2010)***

Academic Term Ending Examinations also know as TEEs, commence on the Monday afternoon after Army/Navy Game. Last year Plebes were scheduled for only morning TEEs. It is recommended you do not purchase airline tickets until your Cadet receives their TEE schedule.

### ***Winter Leave (December 19, 2010 – January 2, 2011)***

Again, just like Thanksgiving leave, you may want to discuss family plans for Winter Leave and remain flexible. Plan to attend the All Academies Military Ball on December 26, 2010 hosted by WPPCGH. Be prepared for a wide range of moods during the leave.

### **Winter Reorganization Week (January 3 - 5, 2011)**

The first few days after winter leave will be spent adjusting to new rooms, new roommates, and new chain of command. They will also be preparing for the first days of their second semester classes. Again, they will have assignments due on the first day of each class.

### ***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.

### ***Plebe Parent Weekend (March 11 -13, 2011)***

Plebe Parent Weekend is an absolute must for all parents who can possibly make it. You will receive a schedule of events from West Point for this special weekend. Your son/daughter will have the opportunity to show off West Point to family and friends. They will be your hosts for the weekend! You will have the opportunity to see your Cadet'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/Hop. Tickets are required for some of these events and some require reservations. Your son/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. They will be released approximately 0930 on Sunday for Spring Break.

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 the Cadets will likely be interested in – dates are welcomed, as long as you, the parent wish them to attend. Many forget 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) which are not open to the public. This is a once in a lifetime experience which you should not miss.

### ***Spring Break (March 12 – 20, 2011)***

Starting with the Class of 2002, Plebes have been given time for Spring Break with the rest of the Corps. The upperclassmen will be released around 1300 on Friday, March 11, 2011 – which corresponds with the beginning of Plebe Parent Weekend. You and your cadet will need to discuss Spring Break plans as they coordinate with Plebe Parent Weekend and return the following Sunday.

Many Plebes have invited their roommate(s) or West Point buddy(s) to travel to “warm” sunny Texas for Spring Break. Non-Texas Cadets find Houston Rodeo & its music

performers to be unique and a lot of fun. Additionally, South Padre Island provides a nice beach excursion for Plebes and their buddies.

### ***After Spring Break***

After March, the weather and the moods begin to improve. 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.

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. A Cadet Private may also be referred to as a Rising Yearling/Yuk. 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 may have returned to the same outgoing child 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, May 21, 2011.

### ***Sandhurst Military Skills Competition (April 9 – 10, 2011)***

Sandhurst Military Skills Competition has been held in various configurations since 1967 at USMA. At its core, Sandhurst is an inter-company competition for USMA. However, West Point teams now compete, not only amongst themselves, but against teams from their fellow United States Service Academies, eight (8) select university ROTC teams, United States Military Academy Preparatory School team, and international teams from Britain's Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS), Canada's Royal Military College (RMC), Afghanistan's National Military Academy and The Chilean Military School.

Each USMA Cadet Company and Visiting Team selects a nine (9) member Squad (at least one (1) member must be female & for USMA one (1) member must be a Plebe) along with two (2) alternates. Sandhurst Squad is required to perform a series of challenging military tasks during a rapid, non-tactical movement along a partly-prescribed seven (7) mile route.

The winning Sandhurst Squad is determined by the total time required to negotiate and complete the Sandhurst Course. Sandhurst Squad's total time is comprised of a combination of the time taken to complete Sandhurst Course from start to finish as well as any time penalties incurred throughout Sandhurst Course along with marksmanship scores. Awards are given to the Sandhurst Squad which negotiates Sandhurst Course in the least amount of time as well as the top Sandhurst Squads in Marksmanship and Orienteering competitions.

### ***Summer Details***

Summer Training and Academic Development are roughly divided into three (3) periods between the End of Academic Term and ReOrgy Week of the following Academic Term.



The Class of 2013 is required to report to Camp Buckner on Saturday, June 25, 2010, for four (4) weeks of training culminating Friday, July 22, 2010. Be sure to review Camp Buckner preparation and program outline in the Yearling Year profile contained later in this handbook.

Beginning the Summer of 2008, Rising Yuks became eligible for (a) Military Individual Advanced Development (“MIAD”), (b) Advanced Individual Academic Development (“AIAD”) and (c) Physical Individual Advanced Development (“PIAD”).

**A Rising Yuk might be assigned:**

- Military Individual Advanced Development (“MIAD”), which includes:
  - Air Assault,
  - Airborne,
  - Pathfinder,
  - Mountain Warfare,
  - S.E.R.E (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, & Escape) training courses.
  - There may be duty at the National Training Center, the Joint Readiness Training Center, or Combat Maneuver Training Center.
  - Northern Warfare,
  - Special Reaction Team Course,
  - Sapper Leader,
- Academic Individual Advanced Development (“AIAD”) which includes
  - White House,
  - Supreme Court,
  - Pentagon,
  - National Security Council,
  - CIA,
  - FBI,
  - Defense contractor, Wall Street and other AIAD assignments associated with Cadet’s academic major or minor. Many Cadets complete AIADs in the United States, while other Cadets participate in AIADs overseas.
  - Homeland Security Agency
  - National Security Agency,
  - FEMA,
  - Capitol Hill
  - State Department
  - Treasury Department,
- Physical Individual Advance Development (“PIAD”). PIAD is an intense physical program designed for Cadets with an interest in total fitness. Corps Division I athletes are primarily found in PIAD assignments.

Summer Term Academic Program (“STAP”) - STAP is a four (4) week session, there are two sessions held each summer. STAP may be required for Cadets who have received a deficient academic grade.

West Point desires to provide each Cadet a minimum of approximately ten (10) days of Summer Leave to visit and relax at their home with family.

## ***Month by Month Plebe Year Reference Guide***

### **June 2010**

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 on 12 June 2010, 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 upper-class 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. Reservations for R-Day should be made if not already done.
  - 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 mailed to you during BST and also available the morning of R-Day 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. Consider completing an application for a major credit card or debit 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](http://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](http://www.usaa.com)) because it has a branch in Highland Falls and when the Cadets become Cows, their Cow loan is done through USAA. There is also a Chase Bank branch location in Highland Falls, but remember, during plebe year there is limited opportunity to leave post so many use one of the financial institutions with locations on

post. Cadets will also obtain insurance and other financial services when they graduate through USAA.

5. You should 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 Superintendent's briefing. They typically are allowed to use Cadre cell phone and room phones or their host family phones during the Ice Cream Social.
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 sit-ups 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 Frederick 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 central area of USMA from Camp Fredrick 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 or Columbus 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 the building after their Cadet Candidates have been escorted away.
  15. If you do not already have it, get your New Cadet's address on R-Day at the location indicated by USMA. The address cards will include P.O. Box Number, your Cadet's Company number, platoon number, and squad number. Use the address format provided to you by USMA. Your Cadet will be a "New Cadet" until the A-Day Parade in August, so ALWAYS use the title "New Cadet Last Name". 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. Also, plain envelopes are usually appreciated by New Cadets.
  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 Superintendent's briefing.
  17. 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.

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*"There is no security on this earth; there is only opportunity." – Douglas MacArthur*

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## July 2010

1. Typically, Cadre require Cadets to write a letter to their parents within the first (1<sup>st</sup>) forty-eight (48) hours of BEAST. You should receive such correspondence within the early days of July. It will be brief.
2. Mail notes of encouragement daily or as often as possible. Be sure to include humor in your correspondence to Cadet. Ask friends, grandparents, cousins, teachers, church members, etc. to write. Provide preprinted address adhesive labels or envelopes, and encourage them to write as often as possible. New Cadets find comics, jokes, and newspaper headlines particularly helpful because they may have to “entertain” the cadre during meals. You might want to send multiple choice or fill-in-the-blank letters, to procure information as well as provide your New Cadet with some humor - i.e., “Where is your roommate(s) from?”, “How many warts does your Cadre Squad Leader have on his/her nose?”, “What’s your favorite MRE?”, “How many hills did you run today?”, etc. There are samples on the West Point Website Parents Page.
3. 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.
4. At approximately the mid-way point of BEAST, during the “Ice Cream Social”, your New Cadet will have an opportunity to call you. You will be given the specific date and approximate time at the briefing on A-Day so be prepared and available. On this day as the Cadre Change-Over, New Cadets will have been invited to the home of a West Point sponsor family for some down time. The hospitality provided may include home-cooked food, snacks, a long hot shower, rest or maybe even a nap, watching TV, listening to music and making telephone calls to parents. Typically, this is the longest and most private telephone call permitted a Cadet during BEAST.
5. Keep a pad and pen by your telephone to record requests made by your New Cadet. Make notes of items you intend to discuss with your New Cadet.
6. 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. Remember you may hear the worst from Cadet. R-Day and BEAST will be physically and emotionally challenging and stressful. You will be your Cadet’s outlet for all of their frustrations. Most times a Cadet will feel much better after the telephone call and his/her “venting”, while your Cadet’s words and mood will linger with you; you will feel worse. Do not hit the panic button if Cadet mentions quitting – most think of it, some say it. During these conversations, practice these techniques:
  - Be a good listener. Use of humor to get through tough times and encourage Cadet to see humor in BEAST;

- Be positive, understanding, encouraging and empathetic;
  - Remind Cadet to “look” for purpose of activities & events of BEAST;
  - Do not ask how he/she likes it. Postpone this question until at least *after Graduation*. USMA several years after Graduation always looks better.
7. 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.
  8. Talk with parents of other Cadets for moral support. Your WPPCGH mentor is willing to provide assistance whenever requested.
  9. Do not send any packages or include anything in your letters (except stationary and stamps) until your New Cadet tells you packages are allowed. This will likely be after A-Day. Note this may be different from one BEAST Company to another.
  10. 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.
  11. Be sure you do not do anything which 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.
  12. 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 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.
  13. Plan to attend the WPPCGH BEAST Survival Meeting in July. This will be a time to compare experiences with other 2014 cadet families as well as with upperclassmen families.
  14. If you have not already done so, save this link in your Favorites as it will be a valuable resource throughout your West Point experience - <http://www.west-point.org/parent/plebe-net/links.htm>.

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*“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

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## August 2010

1. Keep sending notes of encouragement. Your New Cadet will appreciate every letter they receive! The best answer to the question on how your Cadet is doing is, "He/she is still there." This in itself is a major accomplishment.
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, again remember to practice the techniques given below:
  - Be a good listener.
  - Encourage the use of humor to get through tough times;
  - Be positive, understanding, encouraging and empathetic;
  - Do not ask how he/she likes it. Postpone this question until *after graduation*.
3. Talk with other Cadet parents for moral support.
4. Attend Parents Club meetings – typically there are five regularly scheduled meetings a year, usually in February, April, August, October and December. The meetings are usually held at 1400 on a Sunday afternoon at St. Thomas University.
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 "boodle". These boxes can be found at large discount stores and also can be obtained at the PX at USMA if you are planning to attend A-Day. You know your child best, so send them whatever they will most enjoy and have most missed during BEAST. See list of Boodle Ideas at the end of this handbook.
7. Currently all packages delivered go through the mail room. Consult recent information from USMA on mailing via common carriers - <http://www.west-point.org/parent/plebe-net/links.htm>.
8. Prepare for another "downer" communication – ReOrgy 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).
9. New Cadets receive their laptop computer typically by Wednesday of ReOrgy week; anticipate an email from your New Cadet during this time-frame; possibly prior to a telephone call. Hence, check your email. Use email to re-establish contact with your

New Cadet. Be sure during these email exchanges to establish a rendezvous point, i.e. Thayer Statue, MacArthur Statue, Grant Turnaround, Doubleday Field, etc., at West Point to meet Cadet after A-Day Parade. This is also a good time to reconfirm Cadet's junk food orders and their preference of A-Day weekend activities.

10. During email and telephone communications with your New Cadet determine if your New Cadet has roommate or friend whose parents are unable to attend A-Day and offer for this or these Plebes to join you for A-Day Weekend activities. All Plebes need the opportunity to "get away" at least a couple of hours.
11. If you are planning to attend A-Day:
  - A. Do not expect to get to visit with your Cadet until after the parade.
  - B. Plan to arrive in the stands on The Plain approximately one (1) hour prior to A-Day Parade. Bring a seat cushion or towels from your hotel to sit on as often the metal bleachers are hard and may be wet from heavy dew. Check the weather as conditions can vary widely.
  - C. Wait at your designated rendezvous spot for your Cadet. Do not be alarmed if your New Cadet is very slow to immerge from their barracks. Some Companies have stricter requirements for release.
  - D. There will be a lot of families who remain on the grounds (below The Plain) for picnics as not all parents secure lodging within walking privileges.
  - E. If you are unable to attend A-Day, be assured families will "adopt" the Cadets for the weekend. Please communicate with your WPPCGH Class Representative and they will ensure your Cadet is "adopted" by a Houston family.
  - F. Send or take one set of "civilian clothes" IF your Cadet requests them. You may want to take another pair of their favorite running shoes as they likely will need a new pair after BEAST.
  - G. Consider having your Cadet purchase a fan from the Cadet Store for his room to help survive the hot summers at West Point. Purchase school supplies and plastic boodle box from PX.
  - H. Know your Cadet will want to most likely eat mass quantities of "comfort" and favorite foods A-Day Weekend. When your Cadet is not eating he/she will want to sleep. Be sensitive to your Cadets desires and needs. Let your Cadet dictate your schedule and activities during A-Day Weekend.
  - I. Be prepared for your Cadet's feet to be in need of care. Address your Cadet's foot care needs.



- J. Cadets are generally not allowed to stay overnight on Saturday in your hotel room be must return to USMA and his/her barracks' room before Taps on Saturday evening.
  - K. Remember your Cadet has Academic Classes on Monday; and will already have been assigned via email from his/her professors readings & homework to complete before attending Monday's classes. It is recommended to not linger much past 1400 on Sunday of A-Day Weekend before saying "Goodbye" to your Cadet.
  - L. Be prepared for a "let down" feeling after seeing Cadet and departing USMA – it's NATURAL!
12. Soon after ReOrgy, your Cadet will have an opportunity to review USMA clubs, encourage your Cadet to join at least one (1) USMA club of his/her interest. USMA clubs frequently have weekend field trips which provide Cadets with an opportunity to "get away" from USMA. Most Cadets find looking forward to special times away from USMA to be very helpful. Note some of the clubs are very competitive and/or have limited membership sizes, so encourage your Cadet to look into several clubs!
13. 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 which 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 those who rank highest academically have used AI extensively.

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

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## September 2010

1. Your Cadet may be able to take a pass for the Labor Day or Columbus 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.
  - 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. Be sure your Cadet has registered to vote. Telephone your County Clerk's Office 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.
3. 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.
4. Be prepared for a "let down" feeling after seeing your Cadet – it's NATURAL!
5. Make hotel reservations for PPW if you have not already done so. Though PPW is in the spring, lodging will fill quickly. The closer your lodging is to West Point, the less time you will spend travelling to PPW activities and the more time you will spend participating. Your Cadet may be permitted to travel within a 75 mile radius of West Point during PPW. Your Cadet will be provided with specifics likely in February 2011.
6. 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.
7. Attend WPPCGH's USMA Football Season Kick-Off Watch Party of USMA vs. Eastern Michigan University Football Game on Saturday, 4 September 2010, at a Sports Bar to be determined. Come to make friends with WPPCGH members including other Plebe parents and cheer USMA to victory.
8. Follow & support USMA Corps Teams. [www.GoArmySports.com](http://www.GoArmySports.com) Football games serve as a good conversation starter. Follow & support USMA Club Teams. <http://www.westpoint.edu/dpe/competitivesports/csclubs.htm> All extra curricular activities are important to your Cadet's educational experience
9. Consider volunteering to help with the WPPCGH's Texas Tamale/Bar-B-Que Tailgate which is tentatively scheduled for 2 October 2010. Understand your Cadet may or may not be available to spend much time with you over the weekend because of

duties, club activities, studies, and other Company related responsibilities. But, they will greatly appreciate any time they do have with you. You will want to purchase tickets to attend the Army Football game.

10. Whether you are attending or not, inform your Cadet of the Texas Tamale/Bar-B-Que Tailgate and encourage him/her to attend and invite his/her roommate(s).
11. Consider volunteering to participate in preparations for the Houston Joint All Military Academy Ball to be held at Moody Gardens on Sunday, 26 December 2010. Responsibility for complete execution of the Joint All Military Academy Ball and procurement of speaker rotates between USMA, Annapolis and Air Force Academies. West Point is responsible for 2010's Joint All Military Academy Ball, so your active involvement will be greatly appreciated.

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*“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*

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## October 2010

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](http://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 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. 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 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. Also bad weather can have detrimental affect on air transportation and your Cadet will not want to return to West Point late!
7. Discuss Houston's Joint Service Academies Ball with your Cadet and make plans to attend which is scheduled for Sunday, 26 December 2010, at Moody Gardens in Galveston. Some Cadets take a date to All Academies Ball. Parents attend with Cadet & his/her date.

## November 2010

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. Finalize plans for the Joint Service Academies Military Ball on Sunday, 26 December 2010 hosted this year by West Point in Galveston.
4. Continue sending notes of encouragement.
5. Your Cadet will have Written Partial Reviews ("WPRs") in all his/her academic classes during the seven (7) days prior to Thanksgiving Leave; stressful period.
6. Consider volunteering to participate in execution, either set-up preparation, food serving or clean-up of AIM usually held the Saturday before Christmas.
7. During Thanksgiving Leave, your Cadet will appreciate the purchase of warm articles of clothing like Under Armor and/or silk or polypropylene long johns, Under Armor Skull Cap, SEAL Gloves, battery powered socks, hand and foot warmers, etc to keep Cadet warm at Army/Navy Game in Philadelphia on Saturday, 11 December 2010.
8. 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. Another gift idea is cleat/traction device for running shoes' outdoor use during winter at USMA – i.e., [www.yaktrax.com/products.aspx](http://www.yaktrax.com/products.aspx).
9. Consider having your Cadet purchase a small electric heater from the Cadet Store for the COLD West Point winter.
10. Talk with your Cadet about sending cigars, decorations and/or Santa Hats for their Cadet Christmas Dinner Mess Table. It will likely be held on Thursday, 2 December 2010 and has typically been a formal meal of steak & lobster. Cadets are not permitted to smoke in Washington Hall, so they retire to outside Washington Hall in front of statue of Washington on his horse to smoke their cigars.
11. If you have not already, then immediately make your reservations for Houston's Joint Service Academies Military Ball on Sunday, 26 December 2010; WPPCGH is in charge of this year's Houston Joint Service Academies Military Ball which will be held again at Moody Gardens in Galveston.
  - Tell your son to bring his FULL DRESS GREY OVER WHITE uniform and your daughter to bring her MESS DRESS (long skirt). They need to make sure they

bring their shoes, gloves, buttons for jacket and pants, cuffs, links and collars. It is highly recommended you tell your cadet to purchase several extra buttons for their jackets – all parts and both styles. They will know what you are talking about.

- Details of the Houston's Joint Service Academies Military Ball will be announced at the October WPPCGH meeting.
- Cadet is encouraged to invite a date;
- Parents, family, and friends are encouraged to attend;

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*“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*

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## December 2010

1. Immediately send your Cadet monthly Boodle after their return to USMA from Thanksgiving Leave and send another Boodle shipment again the week before TEEs commence. Remember this Boodle replenishment will be used by Cadet as he/she completes papers and prepares & takes TEEs.
2. Set your television recorder for and if you are unable to attend in person, make plans to watch the Army/Navy football game with other West Point parents on Saturday, December 11, 2010, at a Houston sports bar to be determined
3. Term Ending Exams (“TEEs”) of academic classes began on Monday afternoon, December 13, 2010, continue for the next five (5) or six (6) days; stressful period.
4. Make reservations for the Joint Service Academies Military Ball in Houston and see November notes about what uniform your Cadet needs to bring home with them.
5. Encourage your Cadet to attend the Houston Admissions Information Meeting (“AIM”) sponsored by the West Point Military Academy Liaison Officers (MALOs/MARRs). The AIM will be held to provide information about USMA to Prospective Cadet Candidates and their parents. AIM is usually held the Saturday before Christmas. Last year each cadet was asked to attend in a certain uniform to ensure all are represented. It is important ALL Houston Area Cadets attend and make themselves available to visit and share USMA experience with Prospective Cadet Candidates and their parents; as well as answer their questions. Remember Cadets and WPPCGH were there for your Cadet and you when your Cadet was evaluating, applying and to USMA. Dedicate several hours at the beginning of Cadet’s Winter Leave to serving others by attending and being “welcoming” Prospective Cadet Candidates at the AIM.
6. Remember, Cadets have been assigned new roommates for the spring semester.
7. Be aware most Plebes will be feeling a lot of stress right before going back to USMA after Winter Leave and may be unusually irritable. Plebe’s high school buddies attending public or private universities will not have to return until mid-January.

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

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## January 2011

1. Be aware January is the beginning of the “gloom” period when the weather is continually gray and your Cadet may experience an emotional roller coaster.
2. If you desire, you and your spouse may park and escort your Cadet to his/her airline flight’s departure gate. Cadet, as member of US Army, may be allowed to have you accompany him/her to their airline flight’s departure gate. Although you MAY be permitted to accompany your Cadet, some parents reserve this right to the parents of deployed soldiers. Also, be aware your Cadet may prefer you drop them at the door as they have become very independent and may resent your well intended desire.
3. Cadet will be assigned a new barracks’ room and new roommate(s) for second semester. Understand adjusting to new roommate(s) may cause additional stress for your Cadet.
4. Be on the lookout for special airline fares for Plebe Parent Weekends and spring break.
5. Replenish the “boodle” box.
6. Keep up with the correspondence.
7. 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.
8. It’s Super Bowl time. Your Cadet’s sponsor will most likely have a Super Bowl party. If your Cadet receives an invitation to attend encourage them to attend.

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

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## February 2011

1. Attend the WPPCGH meeting.
2. February continues to be “Grey/Gloom Period” when USMA’s weather is continually gray, i.e. hazy fog blankets, heavy snow blankets, coupled with USMA’s Gothic granite architecture. Your Cadet may experience an emotional roller coaster during February into March.
3. Remember the “boodle box”.
4. Keep up with the correspondence.
5. Your Cadet will most likely receive his/her Summer Detail Assignment(s) during February. For sure your Cadet will be assigned Camp Buckner for four (4) weeks during the summer. The Class of 2013 dates are 25 June 2010 – 22 July 2010.
6. Consider volunteering as a Mentor Family to a Cadet Candidate family. As a Mentor Family be sure to contact early the Cadet Candidate family to offer support and answer those inevitable questions about R-Day, BEAST, March Back, ReOrgy Week, A-Day and Plebe Year. And, of course, airline travel to and from USMA and lodging near USMA. Invite the Cadet Candidate family to your home or meet them at a mutually convenient casual restaurant to discuss USMA experience, share your and your Cadet’s experiences and answer their questions. Provide the Cadet Candidate family with guidance, support and fellowship. Encourage the Cadet Candidate family to be active participants in WPPCGH. Invite the Cadet Candidate family to attend Hail & Farewell Luncheon and New Cadet Picnic. Explain the importance of these two (2) events.

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*“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*

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## March 2011

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 which you are invited to attend. It is usually held the first Saturday in March.
2. Cadets will have WPRs in all his/her academic classes during the seven (7) days prior to Spring Break Leave; stressful period.
3. Spring Break Leave begins Friday, 11 March 2011 at conclusion of academic classes for all Cadets except Plebes who are not released for Spring Break until Sunday morning, 13 March 2011, at conclusion of Plebe Parent Weekend ("PPW").
4. Plebe Parent Weekend - It is recommended you travel to USMA for arrival at USMA not later than Thursday evening, 10 March 2011, before commencement of PPW. Typical PPW activities and events you will want to attend include:
  - Tour USMA's Uniform Factory. West Point is the only US military academy to make its own uniforms. Except for ACUs, USMA's Cadets uniforms are not worn by other US Army soldiers. If you desire, you can purchase a Parka and have "Class of 2014" – location of sale will be provided by USMA. The Parka is the same as the ones worn by USMA Cadets;
  - Tour Superintendent's Quarters;
  - Lunch in Washington Hall Mess with your Cadet;
  - Tour Kimsey Center's Sports' Hall of Fame and Jefferson Library;
  - Attend Dean's Open House, tour Cadet's academic classrooms and visit with Cadet's professors;
  - Attend Plebe Parent Cadet Parade Review;
  - Tour Thayer Award Room;
  - Attend Comm's Welcoming Brief with questions and answers;
  - Attend Comm's Open House at Arvin Gym;
  - Attend Department of Physical Education's ("DEP") Physical Program Demonstration;
  - Attend Simon Center for Professional Military Ethic Brief;
  - Tour Cadet's Barracks and room;
  - Attend Tactical Officer Orientation and Briefing;
  - Attend Plebe Parent Banquet at Washington Hall Mess;
  - Go through USMA Staff's Receiving Line at Eisenhower Hall immediately after Plebe Parent Banquet;
  - Enjoy the Plebe Parent Hop in Eisenhower Hall after going through Receiving Line;
  - Sit for professional photograph with Plebe.

This summary of activities and events of PPW is offered as a glimpse. USMA will issue a formal schedule of activities and events prior to the weekend. PPW is the only formal time to which Cadet parents are invited other than activities & events during Graduation Week. Some Cadets invite dates for PPW.

Understand your Plebe may be “antsy” to leave USMA and begin Spring Break from the moment he/she visualizes all Upper Class Cadets have begun Spring Break while your Plebe along with his/her Class of 2014 Classmates remain at USMA for PPW. At the same time your Plebe may want to hang around the barracks and enjoy being “free” of the watchful eyes of the upper classmen. They may also have “new” duties to perform normally handled by the upperclassmen.

Be sure to take warm clothes and comfortable shoes to PPW. Plebe Parent Banquet in Washington Hall Mess is a formal dinner, dress accordingly. Plan to change into formal clothes for Plebe Parent Banquet either in Cadet’s barracks’ room or Arvin Gym to prevent having to return to hotel; spending too much time in travel transit rather than attending events & activities of PPW.

After Plebe Parent Banquet Plebe parents will be welcomed to take stemware of their party; stemware has Cadet’s Class Year etched on them. Bring canvas tote bag with names of Cadet’s entering USMA’s 2014 Class to carry bubble wrap to secure stemware. Additionally, Cadet’s Mom’s comfortable shoes can be carried in canvas bag to facilitate changing of Mom’s formal footwear for long walk to Eisenhower Hall for Receiving Line, Plebe Parent Hop and taking of commercial pictures by Academy Photo. Cadet’s Mom can change back into her formal footwear when she reaches Eisenhower Hall.

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

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## April 2011

1. Attend the WPPCGH meeting.
2. Second Academic Semester is in “full swing”. Encourage your Cadet to seek AI in academic classes as required. Remember all USMA professors want your Cadet to succeed but a Cadet has to take the initiative to seek assist.
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) 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.

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*“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*

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## May 2011

1. Attend the WPPCGH Hail and Farewell luncheon meeting. Talk with Cadet Candidates and their parents to assist them with making their transitions easier.
2. Keep your Cadet focused. Making summer plans can be exciting; however, the academics must come first.
3. Send notes of encouragement – TEE time is tough!
4. TEEs' period will commence on Saturday, 7 May 2011, and conclude on Friday, 13 May 2011.
5. Consider sending a "survival kit" to help your Cadet through those TEE study sessions.
6. Cadets after completing TEEs typically will have about two (2) to three (3) days of Leave, prior to commencement of his/her duties during Class of 2011's Graduation. Hence, your Cadet will not be released for Summer Leave or Summer Detail Assignment until conclusion of Graduation. However, many Cadets during TEEs' Leave, prior to Graduation Week duties' commencement, usually visit families of Cadet buddies in Northeast or "explore" (i) New York City, (ii) Martha's Vineyard, (iii) Boston, (iv) Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, (v) New Jersey Shore, i.e. beach, (vi) Philadelphia, (vii) Washington, DC, (viii) Williamsburg, etc.
7. BREATHE A GREAT BIG SIGH OF RELIEF; Your CADET HAS SURVIVED PLEBE YEAR AT USMA!!! Your Plebe is now officially a Rising Yuk! Only thirty-five (35) months until Cadet's Graduation in May 2014!!!

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*"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 2011

1. If in Houston, encourage Cadet to attend WPPCGH, MALOs/MARRs and WPSGH's New Cadet Picnic held at a public park in The Woodlands. The New Cadet Picnic is important because it affords an opportunity for Cadet Candidates to meet and receive guidance from Upper Class Cadets. It is especially helpful for Rising Yuks to meet, visit, provide advise and answer questions of Cadet Candidates as they prepare for R-Day and BEAST
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 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.

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*"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*

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## THE YEARLING YEAR

### ***Camp Buckner (Class 2013 – approx. June 25, 2010 to July 22, 2010)***

Most Cadets remember and describe Camp Buckner as his/her “most memorable & fun” experience at West Point.

Yuks will have moved everything to Camp Buckner prior to leaving West Point after Class Of 2011’s Graduation. Yuks will have all the creature comforts of “home” at Camp Buckner, will live in wooden barracks, have access to a Cadet store (“C-Shack”), self-service washers & dryer, West Point’s laundry service and Post Office, large mess hall and communications via their own cell telephones [as permitted by USMA & USCC Command],. Reception for cell telephone services is very sporadic at Camp Buckner. Cadet many find it necessary to climb to the top of the hill at Camp Buckner to have cell telephone access. Know there are electronic attachments for cell telephones which will greatly boost reception and its quality.

Camp Buckner in Summer of 2009 was reduced from eight (8) weeks of military field training to four (4) weeks during YUK Summer with another four (4) weeks during Firstie Summer. During Camp Buckner Cadet will learn and conduct (i) Land Navigation, (ii) Advance Rifle Marksmanship, (iii) Bayonet Training & Assault Skills, (iv) small unit movement skills and (v) emergency medical skills & care plus Cadet will travel to Fort Knox for Mounted Mobility Training (“MMT”). MMT will teach Cadet to man, drive & command an A1M1 Abrams Tank and Striker Combat Vehicle. Cadets will get to fire all weapons of Abrams A1M1 and Striker MMT will be initially in simulators before assigned A1M1 and Striker.

Camp Buckner cumulates in one of the most challenging exercise called “Operation Highlander Warrior”. Operation Highlander Warrior has two (2) Cadet Companies opposing each other as enemy forces and involves a week of 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. Cadets bivouac [remember, that’s camping-out for us civilians] during Operation Highlander Warrior.

Camp Buckner concludes with Illumination Dance which is a formal dance. Cadets wear their India Whites’ uniform for the first time. Some parents attend Illumination Weekend but parents are not encouraged nor welcome to attend Illumination Dance.

As a parent, remember when your Cadet is at Camp Buckner, you will suffer \*some\* of the same pangs of feeling out of touch as you did during Cadet’s BEAST. Although they will likely not be anywhere as extreme as those feelings you experience during BEAST. Cadets do not have computer access but typical have access to this/her cell telephone. Also, begin sending those letters and “Greeting Cards” to your Cadet again. Camp Buckner DOES have a mailroom. Your Cadet will be looking for and anticipating correspondence and Boodle packages from home.

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

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 in between moving their gear to Buckner before graduation and reporting a few weeks later. Apparently, lock cutters are not readily available.

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 which 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 Ziploc® bags (more than one box)
- laundry detergent tablets

Remember, 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 of this and they can go do all this shopping for themselves. 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).

Particularly with the military items listed, please remember 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 are washing machines/dryers out at Buckner, which get a great deal of use. The reality is 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. Often times, 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!

**Parents are not invited or welcome at Camp Buckner as in past years prior to Summer 2008.** With Camp Buckner's compressed schedule Cadets will train continuously and have very, very limited free time.

### ***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 is 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 which 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 first test of leadership, certainly as Cadets. Is it 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 West Point grind. Remind them of the counseling support which 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***

Each Cadet will graduate with a B.S. with core courses in engineering regardless of their major or field of study. There are currently 6 engineering programs. 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 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. Parents have been known to ask to visit West Point 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 information from your Cadet in a positive way. In the end what counts most is that they pick a major which 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 who 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 which 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 upper-class 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 its 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***

Beginning with Yearling Year Cadets based upon Class Rank have an opportunity to participate in Cadet Public Relations Tour ("CPRT"). Encourage your Cadet's participation in CPRT. Cadet must indicate/request a desire to his/her West Point Admissions to participate in CPRT and his/her TAC Officer must approve. As parents you may be asked to help coordinate scheduled CPRT visits for your Cadet, but MALO/MAARs still have primary responsibility for CPRT.

### ***Summers Following their Yearling Year***

As a Second Classman, or Cow, Cadet receive leadership experience in active US Army units, serve as squad leaders, platoon leaders or Company Commanders at Cadet Basic Training/BEAST and Cadet Field Training/ Camp Buckner, or participate in military specialty training schools. A portion of the Rising Cow participates in Drill Cadet Leader training ("DCLT") at US Army training centers, guiding new US Army recruits. Another group participates in Cadet Troop Leader Training ("CTLT") at US Army posts and in locations around the world. This training allows Cadets to go to a regular Army unit and serve "shadowing" as a squad leader or platoon leader. This is also a requirement for Graduation. The remainder of Rising Cows participate in Cadet Basic Training/BEAST at West Point or Cadet Field Training/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, Sniper 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 (1) 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 including travel abroad associated with various academic disciplines. Many Cadets complete AIADs in the United States, and others participate in AIADs overseas. Some Cadets work in military and government agencies while other Cadets provide community services and support. Still other Cadets 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 Second Class Cadet or Cow takes another Oath the day before the academic year following ReOrgy Week. Some families attend the Affirmation ceremony which lasts about one (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 at West Point.

## ***500th Night Weekend***

The occasion marking the 500th Night before Graduation prompts a January weekend of festivities for Cows. This milestone in a Cadet's career is typically celebrated with a Saturday night dinner 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 approximate 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 Cadets use their Cow Loan to purchase their West Point Class 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 or September 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.

In 2000 families of deceased Old Graduates and even some living Old Graduates began donating their Class Rings to be melted down so the gold of their Class Rings could be used to make Graduating Class Rings. Many of these Old Graduates' families and Old Graduates attend Ring Weekend Ceremony awarding Class Rings; making Ring Weekend Ceremony of awarding Class Rings even more special and emotional.

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 Cadet will need to decide what quality of gold to buy, and what kind of stone or stones to place in their Class Ring.

There is a large variety of stones which can be put into the Class Ring and it really is just the Cadet's preference. Some parents have indicated 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. Hence, 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. This was recently done by a 2007 Graduate.

In the past, some Cadets have originally planned to have their own family stones placed in the Class Rings but decided against it because of the extra costs from the ring companies. One parent also has advised 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 West Point 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 USMA Crest closest to the heart signifying closeness with West Point. 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 they were very noticeable and they received a lot of compliments 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 which have the West Point crest of one side of the chain and the class crest on the other side.

## ***Vehicles @ West Point “Cow Parade”***

After Spring Break, Cow Cadets for the first (1<sup>st</sup>) time since arriving for R-Day are permitted to have a vehicle at West Point. Hence, return of Cows in his/her vehicle is referred to as “Cow Parade”.

## ***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 the person reading it would accept the writer as a lieutenant in his/her Army 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/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.

## ***Summer Details***

During Summer Rising Firsties will be required to participate and successful complete four (4) weeks of field training at Camp Buckner. These four (4) weeks of training will primarily focus on small unit movements honing the skills of (i) Land Navigation, (ii) ambush, (iii) ambush recovery and (iv) emergency medical skills & care. This training at Camp Buckner has been described a US Army Ranger School Lite.

Additionally, Rising Firsties might also participate in MIAD training courses such as (i) Air Assault, (ii) Airborne, (iii) Pathfinder, (iv) Mountain Warfare, (v) Northern Warfare, (vi) Special Reaction Team Course, (vii) Sapper Leader, and (viii) S.E.R.E (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, & Escape) 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 (1) MIAD during their time at USMA.

Rising Firsties also have the opportunity to participate in AIAD which can include internships (i) White House, (ii) Supreme Court, (iii) Pentagon, (iv) National Security Council, (v) CIA, (vi) FBI, (vii) Homeland Security Agency, (viii) National Security Agency, (ix) FEMA, (x) Capitol Hill, (xi) State Department, (xii) Treasury Department, (xiii) defense contractor, (xiv) Wall Street and other AIAD assignments associated with Cadet's academic major or minor. Many Cadets complete AIADs in the United States, while other Cadets participate in AIADs overseas.

There is also PIAD which is an intense physical program designed for Cadets with an interest in total fitness. Corps Division I athletes are primarily found in PIAD assignments.

STAP for four (4) weeks each summer, two (2) sessions are offered, are available for Cadets who have received a deficient academic grade.

West Point desires to provide each Cadet approximately ten (10) days of Summer Leave to visit and relax at their home with family.

## 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 US Army includes courses in the profession of arms. These courses educate Cadets on military justice issues, ethics, US Army organization and standard operating procedures. The courses are designed to show a Cadet how a US Army junior officer takes charge and leads a platoon, protects against terrorist measures and develops a professional military role with noncommissioned officers.

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

### ***Ring Weekend***

Ring Weekend, held at the 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 Ring Weekend.

Cadets select, order, and purchase their Class Ring in February of their Cow Year. It is received in a simple, but very moving ceremony involving just for Cadets. Traditionally, the ceremony takes place at 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 it 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 the Class Ring Ceremony. 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.

### ***Active Duty Obligation (“ADSO”)***

Branch Selection Award, Post Selection Award, and Graduate School Award are made based upon Class Rank. Firstie can commit to Active Duty Service Obligation (“ADSO”) turning his/her three (3) years of Reserve Duty into Active Duty to procure (i) branch, (ii) post or (iii) graduate school assignment of his/her selection. Typically, seventy-five percent (75%) of branch slots, post slots and graduate school slots are awarded to Firsties based upon Class Rank. Remaining twenty-five percent (25%) is reserved for ADSO commitments awarded based upon Class Rank of those ADSOing.

### ***Branch Selection***

Throughout the first three (3) years at West Point Cadet receives information from the US Army branch representatives and faculty members as to the merits of each US Army branch along with the particular talents required by each respective US Army branch. In early October each Firstie submits a selection of three (3) branches ranked in order of preference.

### ***Ordering of US Army Uniforms***

Additionally, in October after Branch Selection Night, Firsties order his/her US Army uniforms. Cadets go to Eisenhower Hall where four (4) or five (5) uniform companies display uniforms and Firsties order Blues. Greens will be eliminated in fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Quarter 2014 replaced by ACUs. Hence, West Point Classes beginning with Class of 2012 will no longer order US Army Green Uniform. Firsties spend in excess of twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200.00) for US Army Blues, ACUs and required patches & ribbons.

Blue uniform is the “Dress Mess” for formal occasions. Green uniform was considered the “Class A.” Dress Mess is used frequently (all formal occasions) and “Class A” is rarely used. Again, Firsties will order ACUs rather than Class As beginning with Class of 2012.

### ***Branch Notification***

In early December, the Firstie Class goes to Eisenhower Hall and is given their envelopes with their respective Branch assignments enclosed along with Branch Insignia. A short reception by each US Army Branch follows Branch Notification Ceremony. It is an evening for Firsties to celebrate, and they do!

Traditionally, the majority of Firsties receive his/her first (1<sup>st</sup>) choice, but are required to submit three (3) choices, from among the eighteen (18) US Army branches offered to Firsties for his/her service obligation. Firstie may choose from among a variety of Combat Arms, Combat Support Arms, Combat Service Support or Medical Service Corps Branches. The most popular choices by far are in US Army's Combat Arms Branches\ that of the "foot soldier," more traditionally known as Infantry the most sought after. Acquiring

a slot in US Army Infantry has been very competitive since 9-11. Other popular Combat Arms Branches are Air Defense, Artillery, Armor, Aviation, Engineers, and Field Artillery.

Female Firstie Cadets may not Branch Combat Arms; female Cadets are only permitted to Branch Combat Support Arms, Combat Service Support or Medical Services Corps.

There is an additional US Army Combat Arms Branch, which no Firstie can elect to enter directly after Graduation from USMA, it is Special Forces ("The Green Berets"). Green Berets requires application and qualification selection along with additional training and experience before one is considered for service as a Green Beret.

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.

Typically, on this very special milestone night, members of the graduating class assemble in Eisenhower Hall, and with traditional West Point fanfare, as one, they ceremoniously open the envelopes that contains their respective Branch Insignia that reveals how, in only a few months from then, these young soldiers will begin their US Army careers. A soldier's Branch of service is dear to his/her heart, for it spells out the special skills and duties to which the new Officer will dedicate himself/herself for at least the next five (5) years.

Many 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, Combat Support Arms and Combat Service Support 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 US Army Branches shown along with their respective insignia:

### **(AD) Air Defense Artillery –[Combat Arms]**

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. Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic Course (“OBC”) is conducted at Fort Bliss, Texas.

### **(AG) Adjutant General's Corps –[Combat Arms]**

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 US Army. Branch is charged with improving the efficiency, effectiveness and morale of US Army. Its insignia is the red, white, and blue stars and stripes shield. Adjutant General's Corps' OBC is conducted at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

### **(AR) Armor –[Combat Arms]**

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 Fort Knox, Kentucky; to be moved to Fort Benning, Georgia by 2012.. The "new cavalry" has been effectively instrumental for the U.S. Army in fighting wars since WWI right up to and including Desert Storm (1991) and Operations Iraqi Freedom (2003). Although less effective in Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom – 2001) due to terrain/topography.

### **(AV) Aviation – [Combat Arms]**

Following the establishment of the U.S. Air Force as a separate service in 1947, US Army began to develop its own aviation assets (light fixed-wing planes and rotary wing aircraft) in support of Infantry 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 Fort Rucker, Alabama.

### **(CM) Chemical Corps –[Combat Arms]**

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 (5) 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. Chemical Corps OBC is conducted at Fort Leonard Wood, Kansas.

### **(EN) Corps of Engineers –[Combat Arms]**

The Corps of Engineers was established on June 16, 1775, when by Continental Congressional Authority, a Chief Engineer for US 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, 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 operations support in such areas as mobility, counter mobility, survivability, sustainment and topographic engineering, and ground combat, i.e. Infantry. EN's insignia is the familiar castle whose design all USMA visitors should recognize whenever they pass by Pershing Barracks on the Thayer Walk Area. Corps of Engineers OBC is conducted at Fort Leonard Wood, Kansas.

### **(FA) Field Artillery “King of the Battle” –[Combat Arms]**

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. FA's 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 Field Artillery's new officers is conducted at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

### **(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. Finance Corps' OBC is conducted at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

### **(IN) Infantry –[Combat Arms]**

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 Branch Infantry receive their OBC at Fort. Benning, Georgia.

### **(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. Military Intelligence's OBC is conducted at Fort Huachuca, 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. Military Police's OBC is conducted at Fort Leonard Wood, Kansas.

### **(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. Ordnance Corps' OBC is conducted at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Edgewood, Maryland.

### **(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." Quartermasters Corps' insignia is a brass eagle with wings spread atop a wheel with a blue rim overlaid by brass crossed swords pointing down. Quartermasters Corps' OBC is conducted at Fort Lee, New Jersey.

### **(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. Signal Corps insignia are brass crossed signal flags, one white with a centered red square & one red with a center white square, a brass torch insects flags. Signal Corps' OBC is conducted at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

## **(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. Transportation Corps insignia is a brass wheel with seven (7) outer spokes. TC's OBC is conducted at Fort Leonard Wood, Kansas. "Transpo" officers receive tactical and logistical training during Transportation Officer Basic Course ("TOBC"), which culminates in a Field Training Exercise ("FTE") with "students" serving in leadership positions of a typical truck company.

### ***Post Selection/Post Night***

Firsties based upon Class Rank requests in early December their first (1<sup>st</sup>) Branch Post location for reporting after completion of his/her respective OBC. However, typically, Firsties' Post Night occurs in February of their Firstie Year. Each Branch meets separately with Firstie's of its Branch on this evening at a pre-arranged location to award Post assignments.

### ***Ordering Graduation Announcements***

Soon after Thanksgiving but before Army/Navy, the Firstie Class will receive notice through email they needed to order announcements for graduation. The "Ring and Crest" rep from each company takes the orders. Remind your Cadet 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 you have enough ordered because it is hard to get additional items after order has been placed.

### ***Graduation Photo***

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, tar bucket in hand along with Cadet sword and red sash. Remind your Cadet to have the proofs sent home (so 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. Shortly after Spring Break, Firsties gather for a panoramic Class Picture also.

Academy Photo

[www.academyphoto.com](http://www.academyphoto.com)

PO Box 102

West Point, NY 11996

845-938-3448

### ***Memorabilia***

There is a lot of memorabilia to purchase to commemorate your Cadet's Graduation from West Point, i.e. photographs, West Point prints, Firstie Sword, Sword Case, Red Sash & Belt, Plume for Tarbucket, Diploma & Commission Frames, pewter plates, watches, etc.

Be sure to tell your Firstie which of his/her West Point uniforms you want him/her to give you after Graduation. You might want his/her rope, Tarbucket, Cover, Cap, West Point Atlas's of Military Campaigns. Many Firsties throw-out his/her West Point uniforms during Graduation Week.

### ***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<sup>ND</sup> 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.

**REMIND AND/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 West Point graduating classes have a web site. Access <http://www.usma.edu> and click on the highlighted words: **Alumni** and then **Association of Graduates ("AOG")** and then find the Class and check out the home page for Cadet's 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 West Point.

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 West Point, 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 West Point experience will soon end.

### ***Designation of Graduation Leave***

Firsties in early March make selection of either a thirty (30) or a sixty (60) day Graduation Leave for period after West Point Graduation and before reporting to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant's next assignment as a new 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant.

### ***Graduation Week***

Graduation Week commences on Sunday evening and concludes with the Graduation Ceremony at Michie Stadium on Saturday morning. But 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; like RIGHT NOW!!!! USMA will issue in April prior to Graduation a Guide to Graduation Week.

During Graduation Week you will want your Firstie to take you at least one evening to Firstie Club. Typically the WPPCGH plans one event for Firsties and their parents. Sups Yacht has been a popular activity in the past few years.

Immediately after Firsties toss their Covers at Graduation, they retire to their barracks to change into their Blues and then to various locations about West Point to take their Commissioning Oath and Pin-On their 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant bars.

## Glossary of Cadet Terminology

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

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

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

## 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
- Keller Hospital 845-938-5169
- 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 Tours 845-446-4724
- 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. Misc

- Taxi 845-446-8294
- USAA 845-446-4931
- Vasily's Souvenirs 845-446-5918 or 800-238-9969

## Contact Information – West Point Area Hotels / Motels

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	Internet
The Thayer Hotel	674 Thayer Road West Point, New York 10996	800.247.5047 845.446.4731 Fax	<a href="http://www.thethayerhotel.com">www.thethayerhotel.com</a>
Holiday Inn Express	1106 Route 9 West Ft. Montgomery, New York 10922	845.446.4277(phone) 800.HOLIDAY(465.4329) 845.446.4288 Fax	
Holiday Inn Express	2 Bryle Place Chester, New York 10918 Route 17 West, Exit 126 right@1st light, left @ 2nd light	845.469.3000 800.HOLIDAY(465.4329) 845.469. 5242 Fax	<a href="http://www.hichester.com">www.hichester.com</a>
Hampton Inn Harriman Woodbury	60 Centre Drive Central Valley, New York 10917	845.782.9600	
Holiday Inn	Middleton, New York	845.343.1774	
West Point Motel		845.446.4180	
Bear Mountain State Park Inn & Lodges		845.786.2731 845.786.2731 302.423.7573 (cell)	<a href="mailto:morrism@guestservices.com">morrism@guestservices.com</a> <a href="http://visitbearmountain.com">visitbearmountain.com</a>
Storm King Lodge	100 Pleasant Hill Road P.O. Box 325 Mountainville, New York 10953	Hal & Gay Janks 845.534.9421	<a href="http://www.stromkinglodge.com">www.stromkinglodge.com</a> <a href="mailto:stormkinglodge@gmail.com">stormkinglodge@gmail.com</a>
Painter's Inn	266 Hudson Street Cornwall on the Hudson, New York 12520	(845.534.2109)	
Palisades Motel		845.446.9400	
Clarion Inn	90 Rt. 17 K Newburgh, New York	800.221.2222 845.564.9020	
Hampton Inn	Newburgh, New York	845.567.9100	
Marriott	Newburgh, New York	845.567.4800	
Holiday Inn Express	Poughkeepsie, NY	845-473-1151	
Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel	Poughkeepsie, NY	845-485-5300	
Days Inn	Newburgh, NY	845-564-7550	
Ramada Inn	Newburgh, NY	845-564-4500	
Comfort Inn	Newburgh, NY	845-567-0567	
Quality Inn	Newburgh, NY	845-564-9020	
Howard Johnson	Newburgh, NY	845-564-4000	
Super 8 Motel	Newburgh, NY	845-564-5700	
Holiday Inn	Fishkill, NY	845-896-6281	
Five Star Inn – Military Lodging	For more information go to web site	845-446-5943	<a href="http://www.usma.edu/mwr/ACTIVITY/5STAR/5star.htm">www.usma.edu/mwr/ACTIVITY/5STAR/5star.htm</a>

## Restaurants – West Point Area

### **The Bagel Café**

1048 Route 9 West @ Montgomery Road (NE “hard” corner)

Fort Montgomery, New York

845.446.4638

No Reservations Required - but donuts, croissants & bagels go quickly

### **Barnstomer Barbeque Restaurant**

1076 Route 9 West

Montgomery, New York

845.446.0912

No Reservations Required - but gets busy during lunch & dinner

Ok, bar-b-que but do not expect Goode & Co. quality

### **Fiesta Cancun Restaurant**

90 South Liberty Drive (Route 9 West about twenty (20) minutes on the Southside of  
Bear Mountain Traffic Circle)

Stoney Point, New York

845.429.9363

Reservations Recommended

Best Mexican Food - found in Northeast

### **Stadium Restaurant**

1308 Route 9

Garrison, New York

845.734.400

[www.stadiumbarrest.com](http://www.stadiumbarrest.com)

The sports' memorabilia collection at Stadium, outside a sports' museum, is UNPRESENDERED, i.e. a Heisman Trophy, Mickey Mantle's Triple Crown, Stanley Cup, etc. with ALL sports represented. If you are looking for Roger Stauback's signed jerseys & "Stuff", it is located outside of Men's Toilet; Roger an Annapolis "Squid".

### **Cosimo's Brick Oven Restaurant**

100 State Route 32

Central Valley, New York

845.928.5222

<http://www.cosimosrestaurantgroup.com>

Reservations Accepted

### **The Copper Bottom**

162 North Main Street

Florida, New York

845.651.5700

Recommend Reservations



**Friendly's Restaurant & Ice Cream**

three (3) nearby locations to West Point.

(a) 31 Matthews Street

Goshen, New York

845.294.6227

(b) 15 North Airmont Road

Suffen, New York

845.357.7444

(c) 1401 Route 300

Newburg, New York

845.564.5631

Inside a Mall - Friendly's is a franchise out of Boston. Friendly's has GOOD SOLID hamburgers & salads and WONDERFUL ice cream "treats". A last chance for a GOOD hamburger and ice cream before stepping-off for R-Day & BEAST.

**Painter's Inn Restaurant**

266 Hudson Street

Cornwall on the Hudson, New York 12520

845.534.2109

Reservations Recommended

**Tony's Pizzeria**

20 Main Street

Highland Falls

845.446.4000

Always busy.

**Andy's Restaurant**

281 Main Street

Highland Falls

No Reservations Accepted

**Park Restaurant**

451 Main Street

Highland Falls

845.446.8709

[www.parkrest.com](http://www.parkrest.com)

No Reservations Accepted

**Schade's Restaurant**

457 main Street

Highland Falls

845.446.2626

## Web Addresses

### Travel

**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

**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>

**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

- **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.
- **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.
- **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).
- **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

- **Bates Shoes** – [http://www.nationalfootwear.com/bates\\_shoes\\_online.htm](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.
- **L. L. Bean** – <http://www.llbean.com>  
You will be hearing about the silk and polypropylene long johns which 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. They also carry sturdy duffle bags.
- **Lands End** – <http://www.landsend.com>  
Another good source for silk long johns. Track your order via the internet.
- **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)!
- **West Point Gift Shop** – <http://goarmysports.collegesports.com/store/>  
The official online store of ARMY athletics.
- **Under Armor** – <http://www.underarmour.com>. Hot and cold undergarments gear.
- **Ranger Joe's** -- <http://www.rangerjoes.com>  
Good source for military shoes and boots. Military equipment your Cadet will need for BEAST, Camp Buckner and various US Army military schools.
- **Brigade Quartermaster** - <http://www.brigadeqm.com>  
Good source for military shoes and boots. Military equipment your Cadet will need for BEAST, Camp Buckner and various US Army military schools.
- **Casio Watches** – <http://www.casio.com/products/Timepiece/Pathfinder/>
- **Leatherman Multi-Tools** - <http://www.leatherman.com/>
- **Army Gear Online** - <http://www.armygearonline.com/USMAClothing.html>
- **Association of Graduates' Gift Shop** - <http://www.westpointgiftstore.com>
- **West Point's Women's Club** - <http://www.shopthepoint.com/wpwc/site/index.cfm>
- **Association of Graduates' Gift Shop** - <http://www.westpointgiftstore.com>
- **Shades of Gray Purses** [Old Grad's wife's business using material from West Point Uniforms) - <http://www.sumnerstudios.com/photos/>
- **Daughters of United States Army** - <http://www.dusagiftshop.org>
- **Cadet Store** (Rear of Building 606 @ Grant Turnaround) & USMA Bookstore (Thayer Hall, Level 4, i.e. street level with Thayer road)  
<http://www.usma.edu/USCC/DCA/stores/academystores.htm>
- **Vasily's, Inc.** - <http://vasily.com> - located in Highland Falls directly across Main Street from West Point Museum & Gift Store. Vasily's does great embroidery work of West Point Crest and West Point Class Crests.
- **Super Stop & Shop** – <http://stopandshop.com> – grocery store in Newburgh.
- **Hannaford Supermarket** – <http://hannaford.com> – grocery store in New Windsor.

## **Boodle**

**You will soon find this word a favorite in your Cadet's vocabulary. And, you as a parent have your one opportunity to "spoil" your Cadet. Boodle can make a hard day/period much easier to handle. Below is a list of some Boodle ideas when you're looking for something outside the ordinary. Be creative – Think Outside The Box!**

**Suggestions** – Sturdy water bottle, microwaveable Warm Delights Desserts, Powder Sports Drinks, hot wheels cars, paper airplanes, parachute soldiers, yo-yo, stress balls, mini magic trick kits, gift card to Amazon.com, toothbrush, note cards/stationary and stamps, magazine subscription, foot powder, pens, comics, jokes, roll of quarters, individual load laundry soap packets, Tide To Go Pen, Shout it Out Wipes, Chapstick, sunflower seeds, sewing kit, batteries, Nerf football/Frisbee, individual boxes of cereal and dried fruit snacks.

### **Send a piece of Texas to West Point:**

- Premium Beef Jerky - New Braunfels Smokehouse - <http://www.nbsmokehouse.com>
- Premium individual fried pies - Mindy Lu Pie Company - <http://mindylupies.com>
- Premium oranges and grapefruit - Pittman & Davis - <http://www.fruit@pittmandavis.com>

### **Themed Boodle Boxes**

Include in each box – a movie to match the theme, food/candy, homemade cut-out sugar cookies with frosting theme related, a few room decorations, a large holiday greeting card signed by all family members.

- **Ground Hogs Day** (2/2) – movie with the same name starring Bill Murray is perfect
- **Valentines Day** (2/14) – hearts, of course
- **Mardi Gras** – Hurricane powdered drink mix (alcohol free from the liquor store); gold wrapped chocolate coins; pre-packaged ready to heat red beans and rice or jambalaya; kings cake with a 2" baby hidden inside (buy a cinnamon roll pan, hide baby, drizzle green, yellow and purple frosting); a few party favors, noise makers, beads – of course, New Orleans type music CD, and a little history about Mardis Gras and Kings Cake.
- **St. Patrick's Day** (3/17)
- **Easter**
- **Movie Night** – Two new movies, microwave popcorn (the movie rental places even have theater popcorn boxes), movie theatre candy, and a new fleece blanket.

### **Items with sayings**

Soup or soup mix – Wishing you a "souper" Day

Popcorn Balls – Hoping you have a "Ball"

Loaf of Bread – For being there when you were "kneaded"; For "rising" to the occasion; For never "loafing" on the job; For helping others to "heel" with TLC; No matter how you "slice it", you do a terrific job.

Rootbeer – We're "root" in for you.

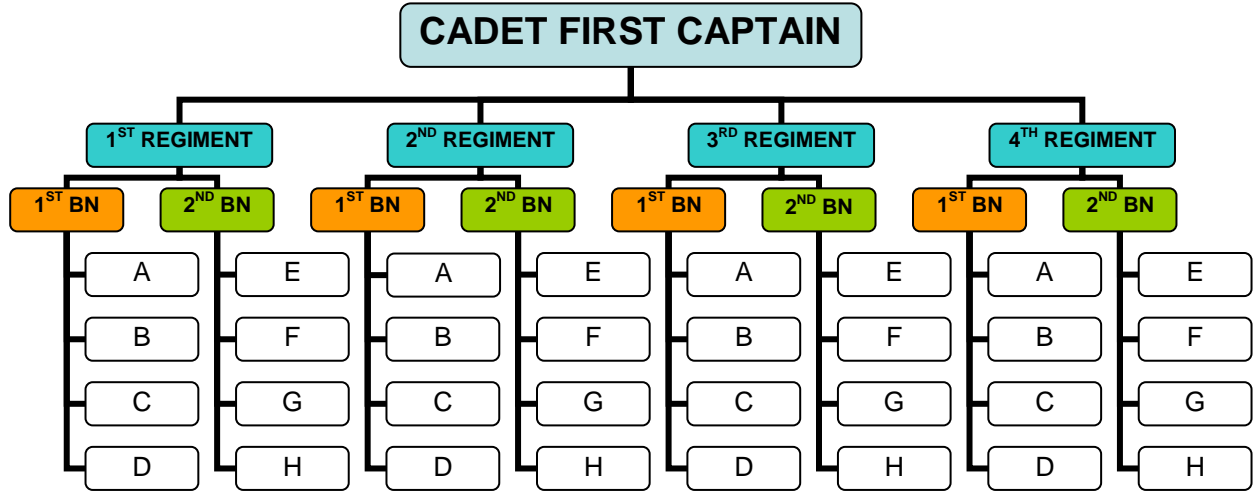
Nuts – We're nuts about you.

Hershey Hugs – A friend always knows when you need a little hug!

Salsa – Add a little spice to your days!

Popcorn or Carmel corn – Just "Poppin" in to say hi!  
Chocolate Orange – Orange you glad we sent this treat basket?  
Snickers Bar – Don't "snicker", just be glad you got something!  
Mints – You are worth a "mint" to us!  
Animal crackers – It may seem like a circus sometimes...but we want you to know we love you!  
Bubble Gum, Bubble Bath or Bubble Gum – May your days "bubble" over with fun!  
Notepad – From our pad to yours!  
Rice Krispie Treats – "Snap, Crackle, Pop" we think you're really tops.  
Donuts – "Donut" you know we love you?  
Tootsie Roll – Let's roll on through this year.  
Gummy Worms – Let's wiggle our way through this test.  
Starburst – You are the star, we know you can do it!  
Chocolate Gold Coins – Go for the gold; You are more precious than gold!  
Milky Way – You are out of this world.  
Extra Gum – Go the "extra" mile.  
Nutrageous – Go nuts!  
Whoppers – Here's something for that "whopper" of a test!  
Uno game cards – Don't "uno" how much we love you?  
Treasure Candy – Treasure the moments.  
Pop Rocks – We think you "rock"!  
1000 Grand Candy Bar – You're worth even more to me!  
Mini Flashlight – You light up our life.  
Skor Candy Bar – You score an A+ with me!  
Lucky Charms – We're lucky to have such a great cadet!  
Deck of Cards – You're one of a kind.  
Battery operated mini fan – We're your #1 fan!  
Individual packaged cookies – Here's for those crummy days.  
Kudo Candy Bar – Kudo's for making it this far. You can do it!  
Snack bag of chips – You're all that and a bag of Chips.  
Snack pudding – Here's to "pudding" up with all you have to!  
Small mirror – You look good in that uniform; You're looking at someone we are really proud of.  
Bit of Honey Candy – Just a little bit of home.  
Heart Shaped Candy – You may be far away but you are close at heart.  
Poker Chips – I'm betting on you!  
Tory Frog or Stuffed Animal Frog – Don't you wish you could eat what bugs you?  
Crazy Straw – For when things get crazy for you.  
Tootsie Roll – Just "roll" with the punches.  
Fun Dip – Dip into something fun.  
Nerds Rope – Rope up some friends for a game of Nerf football or a movie.  
Reese's Pieces – Don't fall to pieces...it will be better.  
Hot Tamales – Get fired up and tackle any challenge!

# 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)...

<u>CO</u> <u>Phone</u>	<u>CO</u> <u>Phone</u>	<u>CO</u> <u>Phone</u>	<u>CO</u> <u>Phone</u>
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 West Point 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 which 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 requiring 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 protecting the confidentiality 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 West Point 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 your Cadet can depart West Point 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.

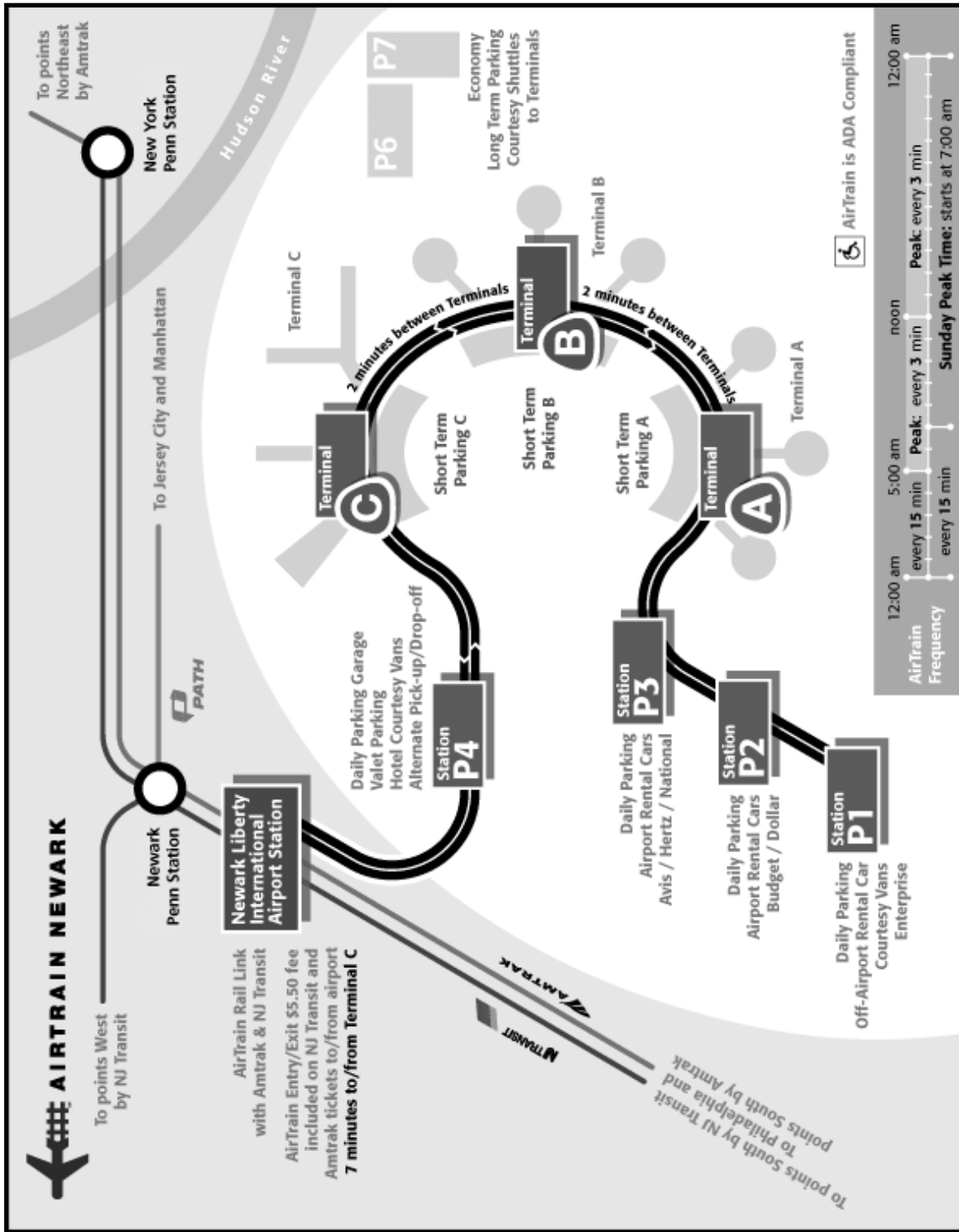
### **Albany to West Point**

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 Newark Liberty International Airport



# Map of Area

