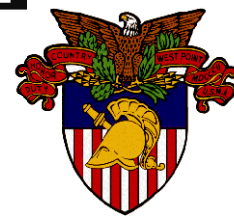




WEST POINT PARENTS' CLUB OF THE TEXAS PLAINS

June 2003



Dear Parents,

Beginning with this edition of the WPPC of the Texas Plains newsletter, I will be serving as your editor. Andy and I extend our most sincere thanks to Jamie Waters for so faithfully, and professionally, producing the newsletter for the past three years. Great job, Jamie!

This is your newsletter and to have it be "all it can be", I need the assistance of all of you. As you know, the activities of your cadets are of interest to us all! So please send me your cadet news, family news, important announcements or even your questions and concerns. I will do my best to include everything in the newsletter!

We are considering publishing the newsletter on our new website (AWESOME job, Reis!!) for you to read, or download, from there. It would save us a bit of money in printing fees and postage. But I would like to hear from you all as to whether or not you would find that an acceptable way to receive your newsletter each month. In addition, I could email the newsletter to the list. Please give me your feedback on this: would you like to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter or would you rather have a printed copy mailed to you? Let me hear your opinions!

You may reach me by email at ashaffer@swbell.net or by telephone (432) 697-0813. We will see you all at the Candidate Party! Until then,

GO ARMY!

Betty Shaffer Admissions Representative USMA

DON'T FORGET TO BOOKMARK OUR WEBSITE AND TO CHECK IT FREQUENTLY! *Reis has done a fantastic job in developing this website. Now your duty is to remember to check for new updates!*

The website address is:

<http://www.west-point.org/parent/wppc-tp/index.html>



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Looking ahead to the upcoming year, we are most excited! The incoming Board, along with current President's Michael and Kathy Navarro, met recently to plan the year's events for our club. We spent a full day reviewing and updating our club's mission, by-laws, donation plan and planned programs and other events for the club. Our first ever club directory will be distributed at the Candidate/Cadet Fiesta on June 7. Watch for exciting things in the future!

The Candidate/Cadet Fiesta will be held on Saturday, June 7 at Dos Amigos in Odessa. We urge all of the cadets and families (even if your cadet is not available) to come out for the Fiesta. It is always good to visit with the cadets and they can give some invaluable advice to the candidates as they begin their adventure at the Academy.

The new Mentoring Program will be kicked off at the July meeting. The parents of new cadets will be teamed with parents of current cadets. We hope that this will make the transition to cadet life an easier task for the parents.

We are looking forward to a great year this year as presidents of the greatest West Point Parents' Club of all!

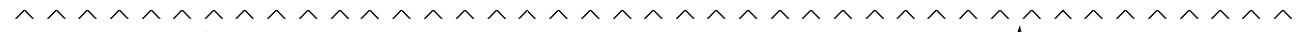
GO ARMY!!

Joe and Carla Haston

TRIVIA FACT!! In 1899, the Academy adopted its distinctive official colors of black, gold and gray. Academy lore states that these colors represent the components of gun powder.

New Cadets Hacker are ordered to report to the Cadet in the Red Sash!!

Aleta and Gary Hacker will be participating as "volunteer New Cadets" in the R Day rehearsal at West Point this year. Word is that Aleta is very worried that she will forget her four responses or will fail to "step up to my line"! If they survive, they will return to West Point for the real R Day and will try to get a picture of Andrew (formerly Andy - he has changed his name!) marching with the Regimental Staff to the Oath Ceremony. They also hope to see Cadet Joel Glover (never hard to spot!) who is slated to be a CBT Platoon SGT. Watch in future editions for the further exploits of our "newest New Cadets"! Good Luck, New Cadets!



CADET NEWS



Andrew Hacker has orders to serve as a member of the Cadet Cadre, First Detail, CBT as a Regimental Supply SGT. Andrew will follow this assignment with Airborne School at Ft. Benning. He is majoring in Geospatial Information Science, which deals with mapping sections of the earth using different forms of technology.

Scott Thornbury will be at Ft. Bliss June 1 - July 1 for CTLT. Scott had an AIAD trip to Taiwan in June which has been canceled (SARS). Rumors are floating around of a stateside event organized by Chinese instructors at West Point to take place in Chinatown NYC, or some other location. But not in San Francisco, as the dialect there is Cantonese instead of Mandarin! Scott plans to expand his cultural horizons in July by traveling to Boston with a buddy to attend a Pearl Jam concert.

Adam Christenson is majoring in International Politics with a Computer Science track. This summer he will be going to CTLT with the MP's in Korea. Following that, Adam will be doing an International Politics AIAD at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India. He hopes to spend a bit of leave time in Italy. Adam was recently accepted into Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society.

Dustin Navarro is majoring in Computer Science. Last summer, Dustin was selected to do an early CTLT and served as a Field Artillery Platoon Leader in a Paladin Battery with the 1st Cavalry Division at Ft. Hood. It was a heady experience to go from being responsible for one plebe to signing for \$8.2 Million of equipment! He also was selected to work at the Invitational Academic Workshop last summer at West Point. Following that, Dustin went to Airborne School at Ft. Benning. This summer, Dustin will be serving as the Regimental S4 for Cadet Field Training. In this capacity he will be the cadet in charge of all service and support operations for the 1st half of Camp Buckner. So everything from the Mess Hall, to MRE's, to weapons, to bullets, to Hummvees, to trucks, to laundry and everything in between will fall under his scope of responsibility.

James Gibson is majoring in Military History and plans to branch Infantry. This summer he is going to Europe to study the Holocaust with the History Department and will visit places such as Nuremburg, Auschwitz and Dachau.

Several months ago I did a presentation at our WPPC meeting and read the following poem entitled "The Military Wife". Since that time some of you have asked me for a copy of that poem. So, presented here by popular demand is "The Military Wife". The author is unknown. Betty

THE MILITARY WIFE

The good Lord was creating a model for military wives and was into his sixth day of overtime when an angel appeared. She said, "Lord, you seem to be having a lot of trouble with this one. What's wrong with the standard model?"

The Lord replied: "Have you seen the specs on this order? She has to be completely independent, possess the qualities of both father, and mother, be a perfect hostess to four or forty with an hour's notice, run on black coffee, handle every emergency imaginable without a manual, be able to carry on cheerfully, even if she is pregnant and has the flu, and she must be willing to move to a new location ten times in seventeen years. And oh, yes, she must have six pairs of hands."



The angel shook her head, "Six pairs of hands? No way."

The Lord continued, "Don't worry, we will make other military wives to help her. And we will give her an unusually strong heart so it can swell with pride in her husband's achievements, sustain the pain of separations, beat soundly when it's overworked and tired, and be large enough to say, 'I understand' when she doesn't, and say 'I love you', regardless."

"Lord," said the angel, touching his arm gently, "Go to bed and get some rest. You can finish tomorrow."

"I can't stop now," the Lord said, "I am so close to creating something unique. Already this model heals herself when she is sick, can put up six unexpected guests for the weekend, wave goodbye to her husband from a pier, a runway, or a depot, and understand why it's important that he leave."

The angel circled the model of the military wife, looked at it closely and sighed, "It looks fine, but it's too soft."

"She might look soft," replied the Lord, "but she has the strength of a lion. You would not believe what she can endure."

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek of the Lord's creation. "There's a leak," she announced. "Something is wrong with the construction. I am not surprised that it has cracked. You are trying to put too much into this model."

The Lord appeared offended at the angel's lack of confidence. "What you see is not a leak," He said. "It is a tear."

"A tear? What is it there for?" asked the angel.

The Lord replied, "It's for joy, sadness, pain, disappointment, loneliness, pride and dedication to all of the values that she and her husband hold dear."

"You are a genius!" exclaimed the angel.



The Lord looked puzzled and replied, "I didn't put it there."

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CANDIDATES AND THEIR FAMILIES!

USMA

- Zach Frisbie
- Zach Oliver
- Terrell Culp
- Andrew Tuegel



USMAPS

- David Guerrero
- Cole White

ASSET SURVEY

Please complete the Asset Survey in this newsletter and bring it, or mail it, to CARLA HASTON. We need to know about you and in what area you would like to contribute to our WPPC!

GOOD LUCK ON R DAY!! You may not see us, but we will all be with you!