

Compilation of notes from the MALO conference and various news letters from other WPS...

I'm going to cover: Admissions, Academics, Physical/Military Development, sports/activities, and nostalgia/changes

"Leaders of Character" is the mission across the board from Supe to the "waiters in the Mess Hall".

Admissions

- A few slides to capture recent class statistics
- Post/branch assignment choice – **slide 11**
- Five years old, offers graduating cadets either the first post of their choice, the branch of their choice, or guaranteed graduate schooling after eight years of service has been effective.
- Class of 2007, 37% of the class elected to add three years of additional active duty service, for a total of eight years active, to receive one of these three choices.

Academics – big changes, reactive to Military changes 5-6 slides that don't relate to my discussion since these changes were implemented post MALO conference

- AY reduced by two weeks beginning this coming August and the summer training period has been expanded to 12 weeks. We'll talk about the why in a bit
- The Dean shortened Re-organization Week to three days; now ends on Wednesday evening – class starts Thursday
- Eliminated some of the holiday time off during the year. Columbus Day, Veterans Day, and Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday.
- Eliminated the January Re-Orgy week so that classes can be substituted there instead
- Plebe Parent Weekend, which was in OCT, has been moved back to the beginning of Spring Break in March. Plebes must stay on post over the first weekend of Spring Break, while the upper classes are permitted to leave on Saturday. Then Plebes will be permitted to take a shortened Spring Break.
- By adding a few minutes here or there to the schedule over the academic year the Dean has managed to cram all the same material into two semesters that are two weeks shorter.

Physical and Military development – drove all the Dean's changes

- Life sport earlier, survival swimming now year
- Don't have to pass IOCT. The Indoor Obstacle Course (IOCT), still run in the old Hays Gym part of the new Arvin Gym, is not an Army wide test. But, cadets are expected to pass this test. If a cadet fails, no privileges.
- Two additional weeks each summer
- Cadets are required to take a minimum of 15 days of leave during the summer but, otherwise, they may fill up the remaining time on individualized schedules. This change was made to allow more individual scheduling for cadets during the summer,

tailored to training that they had already experienced either in actual combat or in the military before coming to West Point.

- 4th class yr: plate is intentionally full – [slide 23](#)
- Camp Buckner training for new Yearlings has been reduced to four weeks - more of a military exercise with no free time for anything else
- Now designated as "FOB Buckner". Cadets are required to have their individual weapons with them at all times and there is a constant cadet guard detail securing the FOB, just as you would find at an actual FOB. There are even IED's planted along the roadways that cadets drive over that are set off randomly giving cadets the experience of a sudden attack. There is still a lot of small unit training and exposure to various branches of service but it's not as long as in the past.
- 180 ROTC cadets are being brought to FOB Buckner to train with the Yearlings. It's to give the ROTC cadets some valuable summer training and to give both groups (ROTC and West Point cadets) some cross cultural acceptance to each other.
- With the additional time in the summer schedule and with a shortened Buckner experience Yearlings are now able to take part in military training at Army military schools such as Airborne, Air Assault, Sapper, etc. during the remainder of their summer. – [slide 28](#)
- 3rd class yr: each yearling gets a plebe – [slide 26](#)
- 2nd class yr: service obligation additional oath ceremony on plain – [slide 29](#)
- Firsties go back to FOB Buckner - big change!
- On par with JRTC/NTC rotation. Intent is to give them some military training closer to graduation.
- Mini-ranger type field training exercise for them.
- In the field that entire time, except for coming in to the post for one night to reorganize and go back out again.
- Extended field training experience to prepare them for small unit leadership. The training is set to mirror the conditions being experienced by the Army in Iraq and Afghanistan. FOBs will be set up, Arabic language actors (some tending goats) are on hand to provide "civilian" experiences, and in general the environment is set to offer a mirror into the life of units in contact in the Middle East today.
- USMA offered Firsties a two weekend course in Combat Life Saving this semester. 200 Firsties gave up these two weekends to take the course. In fact, this course was oversubscribed and sign-ups had to be cut off after 200 cadets were enrolled.

Activities

- The cadet overseas experience is expanding.
 - Exchanges some cadets with the Air Force and Naval Academies for a full semester during Cow year
 - Exchanging has expanded to a semester abroad in other countries institutions. This academic year there were 144 cadets serving a semester abroad somewhere. This is a major increase in this program (up from 4 cadets four years ago) and intended to give cadets a broader world view and appreciation for other cultures and languages.

- During Spring Break 60 cadets gave up their leave to experience a shortened experience at military academies in other countries. This is a voluntary program and, oversubscribed.

Football.

- Recognizing that we were playing teams well beyond our level the academy bought out three teams that were already scheduled for the upcoming 2008 season and replaced them with teams against which we may be able to play competitively.
- Gone: are Ohio State, Georgia Tech, and Tulsa.
- In their place are New Hampshire, Eastern Michigan, and Buffalo. The opening game this season is Friday 29 August 2008, against Temple University.
- Second, be prepared to see the Option Offense again. For the past 10 years we have been running a Pro offense called the “West Coast Offense”. Results have been pretty obvious, so the coaching staff is going back to the Option and we’ll see it later this year in our next season.

Branding.

- Study showed no one west of Mississippi River knew what USMA or Army was. West Point better received
- West Point will be prominently displayed on all merchandizing, uniforms, etc.

Some other tidbits of cadet life:

- Weapons training on Fridays. Cadets can draw weapons and ammunition (M-16, M-4 carbine, pistols) and go out to the range and practice shooting.
- Demerits are back! I wonder if you knew they were even gone? Anyway, for the past few years Article 15's were the punishment of choice for cadets and demerits had been eliminated. This seemed to be too difficult a punishment to administer and too severe for very minor things. Now, cadets and Tac's can again issue demerits for minor infractions. But, as many of us know, get too many demerits and it no longer is minor.
- Every cadet will now eat Breakfast with his cadet company and this includes the Corps Squad athletes. Part of a desire to integrate more closely into the Corps these athletes who, in the past, were effectively isolated on Corps Squad tables elsewhere in the Mess Hall.
- Every Monday, at Lunch formation, a mini-parade takes place on the Plain. Cadets were just not marching in enough parades to maintain march discipline and look good. The Corps forms up for lunch on Monday, marches onto the Plain from two directions (1st and 2nd regiments in one group and 3rd and 4th regiments in the other) and passes in review. And this includes all the Corps Squad athletes. It's an attempt to put a little march discipline back into the cadets with every cadet walking in at least one parade a week.
- Food to Plebes first. Just like the Army
- SAMI's (Saturday AM Inspections of the cadet rooms) have been moved to Wednesday and are now called WAMI's (pronounced Wammy). Why? Because too

many athletes were getting out of Saturday room inspections due to athletic contests. And, if they fail (as one did recently) they can repeat the process on Thursday

- Honor. Cadets now lock their room doors at 2330 hours.
- The scramble is back. For the past four years cadets have been in the same cadet company for their entire four year experience at USMA. The next Academic Year (starting with Re-Orgy week in August) will see the new Cow class scrambled and put into a different cadet company for the last two years of their cadet life.

Facilities.

- The new library, Jefferson Hall, is almost completed. It will be open for the next academic year starting in August.
- The move of the Prep School to West Point is still planned for 2011 but there is some discussion going on at the moment about the extent of facilities that need to be built to accommodate them. As you know, the last Base Realignment and Closing Round authorized by Congress required the closing of Fort Monmouth by 2011 (that's where the Prep School is currently located) and the re-location of the Prep School to USMA at the same time. No physical construction has started so decisions will have to be made soon or there is going to be somewhat of a problem in meeting the 2011 deadline.

Cadet barracks are beginning to show their age and all need to be renovated. Once the new barracks are built the plan is to take one set of older barracks off line at a time and renovate them, rotating through the entire group of cadet barracks buildings.