



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996-1602

SEP 30 2019

To the Class of 1960,

I am writing to you regarding the Class of 1960 Period Room in 1st Division Barracks. In short, the 1st Division Barracks underwent significant renovations to accommodate an expanding Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic. The Simon Center was established in 1998 and has grown and evolved over the years. It now operates as a separate directorate within the Corps of Cadets, responsible for the stewardship of the Cadet Honor Code, the cadet character education program, and the study of Officership that includes my capstone MX400 course that all Firsties must take. As part of these renovations, the Period Rooms in 1st Division Barracks were repurposed for additional office space. Before beginning this project, the Simon Center consulted with the West Point Museum, the Special Collections and Archives Division of the library, the Directorate of Academy Advancement, and the Association of Graduates. However, it has been brought to my attention that this decision was never properly communicated to your class.

I want to express my sincerest apology for the manner in which this decision was handled. Simply put, the Academy failed to properly communicate with your class and hear your concerns. We did not suitably acknowledge your class history, generosity, and memorialization to your fallen classmates. For this, I am deeply remorseful.

Additionally, I am a firm believer that bad news does not get better with time. During the renovation process, the donated items located inside the Period Rooms were inventoried, boxed, and stored in the basement of the 1st Division Barracks. Unfortunately, these items were severely damaged by mold due to a steam pipe leak this summer. These items had to be immediately disposed of due to serious health concerns.

Currently, your class dedication plaque and memorabilia case are displayed in the 1st Division Barracks. The Director of the Simon Center, LTC Scott Virgil, will contact you to discuss the future plans for these items.

I am deeply grateful for the continued commitment and generosity of your class. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns, and as always, Beat Navy!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darryl Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Darryl A. Williams
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Superintendent

Go Army!