



West Point Society of D.C.

December 2011

www.wpsdc.org

General Cone to Address Winter Luncheon January 18, 2012

General Robert W. Cone assumed duties as Commander, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command on April 29, 2011 after serving as Commander, III Corps and Fort Hood and Deputy Commanding General - Operations for US Forces - Iraq.

General Cone graduated from the United States Military Academy and was commissioned as an Armor Officer in June 1979. His first duty assignment was in the 2d Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas, from January 1980 until December 1984. He served as a Cavalry Platoon Leader and Troop Executive Officer in 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, Aide-de-camp to the Assistant Division Commander, Battalion Motor Officer, followed by command of Combat Service Support Company and then Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 67th Armor. He then attended the Infantry Officer Advanced Course in January 1985.

In July 1985, General Cone began studies at the University of Texas, Austin, earning a Master's Degree in Sociology and upon completion in 1987 was assigned to the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership at West Point. He performed duties as an instructor, and later assistant professor in the department before attending the Command and General Staff College in summer 1990. In May 1991, General Cone reported as the Operations Officer, 2d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment where he deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm. Upon redeployment, he served as the Regimental S3, then Regimental Executive Officer until the Regiment's inactivation in March 1994. General Cone was then assigned as Regimental Executive Officer, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort

Bliss, Texas, and then assumed command of 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment in October 1994. General Cone then attended the Naval War College in 1997 earning a Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

In summer 1998, General Cone returned to Fort Hood and was assigned as the G-3, 4th Infantry Division and then assumed command of 2d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division. In July 2001, he was assigned to the Joint Staff with duty as Military Director, Joint Advanced Warfighting Program, Institute for Defense Analyses. He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003 leading Joint Forces Command's Lessons Learned Collection Team and was subsequently assigned Director, Joint Center for Operational Analysis. In September 2004, General Cone was assigned as Commander, National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California. In June 2007, General Cone deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as Commander, Combined Security Transition Command. Upon redeployment in December 2008, he served briefly as Special Assistant, Commanding General, Training and Doctrine Command before assuming command of III Corps in September 2009. General Cone deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn from March 2010 to February 2011.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal (1 OLC), Legion of Merit (2 OLC), Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (2 OLC), Army Achievement Medal, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge.



General Robert W. Cone
Commanding General
United States Army Training and
Doctrine Command

Executive Director

By John Mitcham, '75

Greetings WPSDC members and potential new members, as you read this newsletter and observe all of the significant contributions your fellow graduates are making towards the WPSDC mission, please consider renewing your membership in your society for another year. Our potential membership is 4000 + members and our annual membership remains around 1300 members.

Over the last year, I have been encouraged by our increased attendance at Founders Day, Job Fairs, Army-Navy events, and Young Grad events; nevertheless, I ask that every West Point Graduate in the National Capital Region open their wallets and pay their annual dues once again. Included in this newsletter is our annual President's letter encouraging your enrollment in your society.

Please spend some time considering your society's continuous service to you, West Point, and the Nation. Then hopefully you will be inspired to join up, pay your dues, and volunteer to help out on one of our committees.

Happy New Year and best wishes for you and your family!

John Preston Mitcham

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WPSDC
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Founders Day Is Fast Approaching

By Pat Kane, '73

Save the Date for WPSDC Founders Day 2012:

March 17th, 2012

- 6:30-7:30 Reception/cocktail hour
- 7:45-10:00 Program and class pictures
- 10:15-1:00 Dancing
- Location - McLean Hilton Inn Tyson's Corner (same as last year)
- Network with your classmates and other graduates from all over the DC metro area
- Receive update on Academy Issues from a member of the West Point Leadership Team
- Enjoy the camaraderie and listen to the Alumni Glee Club performance
- Registration and room reservation details out in our next letter

Note from Treasurer

By Bill DeGraf, '50

It is time to renew your membership with WPSDC. Remember that the dues have been raised to \$40, \$20 for the classes 2002-2011. It is important for us to get the funds for all we do.

Currently we have 327 Life Members, 757 active members, and 214 members that will be dropped shortly if they do not renew their membership. You can check on your dues year by looking at the mailing label. We want it to read "12" or "L". If it reads "10", you will be dropped shortly.

And please remember to include your Cullum Number when you send in dues or make changes to our data base information. It really helps me both in time and accuracy.

Have a great New Year!

Bill DeGraf, Treasurer

December 7th Army/Navy Rally Sold Out Performance Once Again!

Charlie Mitchell, USMA '73 and Lee Geanuleas, USNA '77 put together quite an extravaganza Dec 7th and a terrific turn-out was enjoyed from both Academies. The speakers were a real treat to hear from. Navy's defensive great **Chet Moeller, '76**, a former Navy All American, Marine Corps Officer and a 2010 inductee in the College Football Hall of Fame shared what it was like to play in the Army/Navy game and how much the feeling intensifies as the years pass by. Active duty Army Captain **Matt Hernandez '08** a combat Infantryman, veteran of Afghanistan and member of the Old Guard shared what playing in the Army/Navy game taught him about perseverance, preparation and teamwork. Matt talked about three teammates that inspired him on the field and in the Army, one of whom was in the audience – wounded warrior **1LT Tyson Quink, '09**.

1LT Quink, played center and offensive tackle for the Army football team. His wife **1LT Tera Quink, '09** also attended. Less than one year following his West Point graduation in March 2010, LT Tyson Quink deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division. He was assigned to Field Artillery, with the mission of supporting the Afghan National Army. CPT Hernandez

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President's Letter

Dear Fellow West Pointer,

We are beginning the 2012 membership drive, and I would ask all current members to renew their membership promptly and all others receiving this letter to seriously consider joining their Society. We feel that our Alma Mater is important to the nation, has had a lifetime impact on us as individuals, and deserves our support. Our Society's mission is to do whatever it can to support West Point, your class and you here in the National Capital Region. With more than 1300 members, we are the flagship Society of the more than 130 West Point Societies worldwide. We are also one of the most active, rendering a wide range of support and service. Examples are:

Admissions: Our volunteer National Capital Region Admissions Field Force continued its success in respect to filling the USMA Class of 2017. Locally, more than 70 young men and women accepted and will be admitted to the Academy on R-Day. Demand for admission continues high.

Career Advisory: Our Career Advisory Service has helped a score of local graduates either in entering the civilian work force, or in placement in another position once within the work force. We have grown so successful that we receive numerous solicitations from companies with job offers, looking for graduates.

Social and Professional Gatherings: Annually, we host 3 luncheons, a Founders Day Gala, an Army-Navy Luncheon and Football Rally, three golf tournaments, two Career Networking Sessions and a Job Fair. Our initiative to host events for the younger classes has been very successful, and we continue to expand the effort. For the luncheons and football rally, we feature notable speakers from the top level of the military and government-key lawmakers, distinguished graduates, and officials at the secretariat level, service chiefs, and senior JCS officials.

Awards: The Society presents both the Castle Memorial Award and the Distinguished Member Award to deserving recipients each year at the Founders Day Gala. We look forward to repeating this recognition of service related to the Academy in the tradition of "Duty, Honor, Country" again in 2012.

Cadet Support: Each year, the Society contributes funds to assist cadet clubs or activities which are not now supported by appropriated funds. In addition, annually we

present the Maxwell D. Taylor Leadership Award at the USMA Prep School.

Leadership and Ethics: Annual conference at which high school juniors, seniors and faculty address current challenges ethics, integrity and leadership.

Newsletters and Directory: The Society publishes at least 5 newsletters each year which highlight Society activities. In addition, e-mail through the AOG list serve is used for timely announcements to all alumni in the area with an AOG e-mail address. The 2011-12 Directory went out this Fall.

Website: We have our excellent website www.wpsdc.org. It is current and a great assist in keeping up to date on Society activities. Plus you can use it to recon upcoming activities and sign up for our activities on-line. Give it a try.

In sum, your Society is at the forefront of USMA alumni activities and services. Based on our activities, the Society has been named a Distinguished Society by the AOG each year for the fifteen years the award has been in being. We need your support to continue our efforts. Your dues are the major source of income we have to support our activities and are a modest \$40 per year (classes of 2002 and later - \$20), \$500 for lifetime membership. This mailing includes a flyer and envelope for the Winter Luncheon, January 18th and the membership form. Please complete the form, referring to the codes on the reverse side, and return it with your check in the envelope provided. For current members, remember to check the various listings in the Directory so that you will be accurately covered in the future.

I thank each of you in advance for your support to our Alma Mater.

JOSEPH E. DE FRANCISCO

Lieutenant General, US Army (Ret)
President, West Point Society of D.C.



West Point Leadership & Ethics Conference 2012

By Phil Panzarella '79, Carl P. Cecil '79 & Pat Locke '80

Top of the Line '79 and Pride & Excellence '80 USMA Classes will co-host the fifth annual West Point Leadership & Ethics Conference for DC Metro schools. The event is recognized as one of the premier youth leadership conferences in the country. The two-day conference will be led by co-chairs **Phil Panzarella '79, Carl Cecil '79 and Pat Locke '80**. Phil and Carl served as founders of the West Point Leadership & Ethics Conference for High Schools. Pat served as founder of the Leadership for New Generations Middle Schools Conference, which debuted last year alongside the high school conference. This year our three co-chairs combine the separate Conferences into a larger 2-day effort. Our joint conference objective is to encourage the development of young leaders of character and spread the word of the West Point story in Leadership and Character.

Over 80 schools and 400 plus delegates from the DC Metro will participate on **March 7-8 at George Mason University**. Day One focuses on 8th graders and Day Two on high school juniors. The **Honorable Eric Shinseki '65, Secretary of Veterans Affairs**, is our invited speaker for Day Two, while **Mr. Ronald Johnson, '76, NBA Senior Vice President, Referee Operations**, is the invited speaker for Day One. We have invited West Point Societies from across the US to participate in a half day conference that will offer guidance to societies in "How to Run a Successful West Point Leadership & Ethics Conference." Our intent is to franchise this leadership conference model. Our conference is widely accepted in Virginia as a leadership achievement comparable to selection for Boys State/Girls State. Additionally, student delegates will compete for \$4500 total in scholarships available across both days. The top scholarship will be named after one of our committee's founding members, **Jeff Stonerock '79**, who recently passed away.

Our cadets play a huge role in helping to narrow the field of potential winners. As we have done in the past, West Point cadets on the Cadet Public Relations Council (CPRC) will facilitate and mentor small groups of students, walking them through real-world ethical scenarios and leading discussions on how best to resolve the given situation. Unlike many conferences where there are just speakers talking at the students, the Cadets get students working to solve real ethical dilemmas almost immediately after their arrival. At the end of the conference, each group presents a solution to a dilemma or a best "lesson learned". DC Young AFCEANs are also a signif-

icant part of the yearlong planning process and work with the cadets and students during the High School event to help facilitate the program (High School Students fill this role in the Middle School Conference). One Young AFCEAN is assigned to each group to lend their expertise and guidance, providing insights from their early worklife experiences up to their current professional level.

The conference is a great experience for students that come and learn from the keynote speaker, their cadet facilitator and peers. The conference also affords an interactive leadership experience for our cadets who must lead high school students in ethical decision making throughout the day. We now have multiple cadets that want to come back to be cadet leaders in our conference because of their positive experience. New members to our committee: **Mike Greer '80** will lead our efforts to gain publicity in a number of publications such as AUSA Army Magazine, West Point Magazine and many others. **Mick Sanzotta '85** will lead our video efforts to film and assemble a world class video commercial that captures the essence of the conference. Our conference has become the national example for high school leadership and ethics conferences using cadets to lead the facilitation, and will now expand

to embrace Pat Locke's proven model for Middle Schools.

In addition to leadership conferences that started up in Minneapolis, Tampa and Killeen, TX, Indianapolis as well started their conference based upon our model. We are working with representatives from other societies to start conferences in Connecticut, Georgia and others. West Point Admissions and the Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethics have supported this event providing CPRC cadets and training. Our benefactors include: WPSDC, CPS Professional Services; Lee Technologies by Schneider Electric; AFCEA DC Chapter; AUSA GW Chapter; Boeing; George Mason University; Johnson Controls; Lockheed Martin (IS&GS); Quantum Research, Raytheon, SAIC, Seeds of Humanity Foundation; LifePlan Services, LLC; and Janine Stonerock, the wife of Jeff Stonerock '79. The WPL&E Committee leads the planning effort on behalf of the West Point Society of DC. If you would like to help or sponsor the event, contact Pat Locke '80 (patlocke@aol.com), Phil Panzarella '79 (phil.panzarella@cps-ps.com) or Carl P. Cecil '79 (carl.cecil@cox.net).



Previous Speaker GEN (Ret) Barry McCaffrey, '64 (right) with Herb Shatzen '76 (left) at West Point Leadership & Ethics Conference

GEN McCaffrey twice received the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest medal for valor. He was also awarded two Silver Stars and received three Purple Heart medals for wounds sustained in combat.

December 7th Army/Navy Rally a Sold Out Performance Once Again!

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explained that on June 5th, while on patrol to provide security for an area where three IEDs had been discovered, LT Tyson Quink stepped on one in the dark. He was flown by helicopter to a combat hospital, where he underwent surgery losing his two legs. Matt moved all those in attendance speaking of how LT Quink exemplifies the Army spirit with his remarkable resilience, amazing recovery and can do outlook.

Two other wounded warriors joining Tyson and Tera, and rooting for the Army Team, included **CPT Dan Bershinski, USMA '07** and **CPT (Ret) Derrick Carver (Eastern Michigan '07)** both Airborne Ranger Infantry Platoon Leaders who were leading soldiers in southern Afghanistan when they were wounded. CPT Bershinski then serving with the 2nd ID lost both legs



LTG Christman USMA '65; Chet Moeller USNA '76; CPT Derrick Carver, Eastern Michigan '07; CPT Dan Bershinski '07; 1LTs Tyson and Tera Quink '09; CPT Matt Hernandez '08; VADM Dirk Debbink USNA '77

above the knee and Derrick lost his left leg while serving with the 82nd Airborne Division. VADM Dirk Debbink, USNA '77 who was in attendance shared "...I extended my hand to CPT Derrick Carver and expressed my gratitude for his service to our Nation and for his sacrifice; without missing a beat, CPT Carver thanked him replying "...it was just another day at work". CPT Hernandez's thoughtful words resonated powerfully with this mixed Army/Navy Audience and underscored the significance of the Army/Navy Game.

The 2011 Army/Navy game itself was close but disappointing. With final score Navy 27, Army 21, it was the closest we've come to beating Navy in the 10 straight losses to the Middies that began in 2002. But, no excuse; close doesn't count.

Spring 2011 Special Activities Update

By Dave Rogers, '74

Winter is finally beginning to show some signs of making its presence known, and most of us have put the sticks away for a well deserved rest for a few months. A few of the more hardy have been seen on the links, confirming the "school solution" about cold weather, golf balls and distance.

Fear not, the schedule for our West Point Society of DC's 2012 golf outings is in the works. Plans are to return the Black, Gold, and Gray outing to the Courses at Andrews Air Force Base in the Spring. Our 4th annual Commanders' Trophy outing will be held at Heritage Hunt Golf and Country Club in Gainesville after the 4th of July. And the Army-Navy outing will be at the Courses at Andrews Air Force Base in late September. We should have confirmation from our venues by the time Founders Day rolls around in March. As soon as we get the word, we'll post the dates on the society's on-line calendar.

A few quick notes about the West Point Alumni Glee

Club. Twenty members of the club recently performed at the Army-Navy luncheon, bringing the Army faithful to their feet with Slum & Gravy. During the holiday season, the club made a few calls on our retired brothers in arms and their ladies, raising their spirits and sharing the joy of the season. We were invited to be part of the evening's festivities at the Gala for "The Cause," helping support the fundraiser for America's wounded military. At the other end of the emotional spectrum, we also had the honor to perform at several funeral ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. Every little smile or tear on a cheek hinted at the remembrance of happier times and was worth its weight in gold. If you've any interest in joining this merry band of grads and sharing, please let them know by checking out <http://www.wpalumnieeclub.org>. "No fun without music; no music without fun." GO ARMY!

(e-mail for your coordinator has changed – now it's rog-ers923@verizon.net.)

CAREER ADVISORY SERVICE NEWS

By Carl S. Savino, '78

UPCOMING CAREER EVENTS

The next **Career Networking Night** will be held from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm on March 8, 2012 at the Army Navy Country Club, Arlington. Free to all members of our Society.

The next annual **West Point Job Fair** will be held the first week of December 2012 at the Army Navy Country Club, Arlington. Up to 33 companies are expected. Free and exclusively for West Point graduates seeking civilian employment.

Pre-register through www.WestPointJobFair.com

The next **Service Academy Career Conference** in our area will be held May 24-25, 2012. The SACC is a career fair exclusively for Service Academy grads. For more info, visit www.sacc-jobfair.com.

There will be a **Corporate Gray Military Job Fair** on March 16, 2012 at the Waterford in Springfield, VA. Job Fair hours are 10 am to 2 pm with free employment-related seminars starting at 8 am and 9 am. For more info, visit www.CorporateGray.com.

Tips for a successful Job Fair...

- Research the companies in advance
- Practice your 30-second sales pitch
- Update and polish your resume
- Dress for success
- Firm handshake; strong opening and closing
- Project a professional, confident image
- Meet with all of the employers
- Keep your options open; stay flexible
- Get contact information and follow-up

Company research sites: www.MANTA.com,
www.GlassDoor.com, www.CEOexpress.com

Best site for U.S. Service Academy networking: www.ISABRD.com. Use it to initiate informational interviews with fellow grads already working for your target companies and industries.

JSAJE (www.JSAJE.com) is a jobs database exclusively for Service Academy graduates. Search the jobs database and post your resume. Free service!

GRADUATES SEEKING JOBS

If you're seeking civilian employment and want other West Point graduates to know, send e-mail to SavinoC@aol.com so that we can include your write-up in our next WPSDC newsletter.

COMPANIES OFFERING JOBS

West Point graduates who work for a company with job openings in the Washington, DC metro area are welcome to submit their job opportunities for free. Send a concise description to SavinoC@aol.com. You must be the contact for the position.

2011 West Point Job Fair

The 2011 West Point Job Fair was held on December 2nd and attracted almost 100 West Point graduates and 19 employers. This annual event gives West Point alumni nationwide an opportunity to meet face-to-face with companies interested in meeting and hiring our graduates. This year's event included a Virtual West Point Job Fair, which took place the following week. Here are several photos from the job fair!



**The 2011 West Point Job Fair Attracted Big Numbers
Don't Miss the Next One**

CAREER ADVISORY SERVICE NEWS (continued from previous page)

By Carl S. Savino, '78



**Opportunity to Meet Face-to-Face with Top Companies
Interested in Meeting & Hiring Grads**

Here are the 19 companies that participated in the job fair. If you didn't have the opportunity to attend and are seeking employment, you are encouraged to visit their respective websites for more information.

Amazon, www.amazon.com/military

AMPS Strategies, www.ampsstrategies.com

Boeing Company, www.boeing.com/employment

Concurrent Technologies Corporation; www.ctc.com

CSC, www.csc.com/salutes

Grant Thornton, www.grantthornton.com/publicsector

Ideal Innovations, www.idealinnovations.com

Integrated Communication Solutions, www.icscorp.com

ITT Exelis, www.exelisinc.com

Knowledge International, www.knowledgeintl.com

LMI, www.lmi.org

Logos Technologies, www.logos-technologies.com

MeadWestvaco, www.meadwestvaco.com

Raytheon, www.raytheon.com

Ray Group, www.raygroupintl.com

Scientific and Commercial Systems Corporation,
www.scsc.com

Sordoni Construction Services, www.sordoni.com

Target, www.target.com/careers

U.S. Department of State, <http://careers.state.gov>

CAREER TRANSITION RESOURCES

West Point Society of DC's Career Advisory Services page: www.wpsdc.org/cas.htm.

West Point Society of DC Directory is free to WPSDC members and available via CD or pdf.

West Point AOG alumni career transition services: www.WestPointAOG.org.

PROSPECTIVE MENTORS

If you're willing to mentor fellow grads in job search mode, please send e-mail to SavinoC@aol.com and provide your name, West Point class, home or work phone number, e-mail address, and industry area.

CAS motto and commitment:

Grads Helping Grads!

Young Grads

By Richard Huh '94

The homestretch leading up to the New Year celebration is always packed full of Army football. The Army football team's record did not necessarily reflect their competitive spirit and grit displayed on the field this year. The Army-Air Force game watch this year brought out a large crowd to Velocity Five in the Court-house area of Arlington, VA. A special thanks to **Mr. Chase Guinn '03** for hosting this event this year.

This year's Army-Navy game brought about thousands of alumni, family, and guests to the Washington, DC area. The West Point Society of DC arranged chartered bus service to and from the game. Nearly 100 fans took advantage of the bus service. A special thanks to **Mr. Tom Fergusson '65** for assisting with the coordination as one of the "bus colonels."

Army-Navy games are prime opportunities for classmates and alumni to gather. The annual Association of Graduates sponsored tailgate is a great rally point. Nearly 2500 grads and guests from both USNA and USMA attended the event. Mark your calendars for next year's game and tailgate in Philadelphia. The Senior Director for Alumni Support, **Ms. Maryellen Picciuto '86** (Maryellen.picciuto@wpaog.org) can provide information on not only tailgate information but on nearly all alumni matters.



**Rich Huh'94, Hope Donnelly'86, & Kris Urbauer'86
at Association of Graduates Tailgate**

The West Point Society's annual New Year Kickoff Happy Hour is planned for **Friday, 27 January 2012** again at Sine Irish Pub in Pentagon Row. This popular annual starter should again be a well attended

event. Come by to re-connect with friends and classmates! Iconic Irish appetizers will again be provided.

The West Point Society of DC along with the leadership from our graduate base is constantly working to plan various events and activities for our members. We are currently in the process of refining our membership, event registration, and alumni information access; please be patient as we work to provide you improved services. In the meantime, if you would like to volunteer your time to lead an event or even to suggest ideas, please contact **Mr. Richard Huh '94** at young-grads@wpsdc.org. Visit our West Point Society of DC website or Facebook page for pictures from past events and information on future Society events.

As a reminder, to receive emails from the West Point Society of DC, alumni must update their address with AOG by emailing address@wpaog.org with your name, class year, home address, and contact information. Our Society has no control over the email list.



USMA Class of 1986 at Army-Navy Game



Young Grads (continued from previous page)

By Richard Huh '94

2011 Another Fun Year of Activities for Young Grads and the Young Grads at Heart!

Join Us Again in 2012!



*Bringing Young Grads Together
'94 Grads - Mike Hill, Chuck Howald, Rich Huh*



*Dave Buffaloe'96-Dave Hull'96-Rich Huh'94
at Nats Game*



*Jocelyn & Larry Daley'94
at Kansas Concert on Veterans Day*



Nationals Game - Young Grad Events Provide Fun for the Whole Family



Randy Rotte '85 (WPPC VA, MD, DC President) & Rich Huh'94

The Center for Oral History *Into Harm's Way: The Story of the West Point Class of 1967*

WPSDC members were invited to a special screening of the moving documentary *Into Harm's Way* December 8, 2011. The event was hosted by the Heritage Foundation and **James J. Carafano, Ph.D., '77** of the Heritage Foundation introduced the documentary and led a brief discussion at the conclusion of the film.

846 young men entered the academy **with the West Point Class of 1967** during the heady days of the early 1960s when it appeared that America was destined for a century of unrivaled success. Four years later, when the members of that class were graduated and commissioned as officers in the United States Army, the country was embroiled in a strange and unpopular war in Southeast Asia. The Class of 1967 paid a high price in that war, yet most stayed strong, bonding as brothers and as soldiers in a way that has endured through to the present. Using oral history interviews shot exclusively for **West Point's new Center for Oral History**, *Into Harm's Way* is a ninety-minute documentary, an honest and often painful look at the shadow that war continues to cast long after the guns have fallen silent, and at how this war in particular continues to occupy an unsettled place in the American psyche.



The West Point Center for Oral History (www.westpointcoh.org), which opened in October 2011, is an online archive of videotaped interviews with soldiers and those whose lives intersect with them. The Center is part of the United States Military Academy history department. Produced in a partnership with The Documentary Group, a New York City film production company, *Into Harm's Way* is the Center's first major creative project. After the screening, there was a discussion featuring **Todd Brewster**, former ABC News Producer and the **Don E. Ackerman** Director of Oral History at the United States Military Academy, West Point, **Jordan Kronick**, the film's director and **COL Lance Betros, '77**, Chairman of the Department of History at West Point.

In addition to the production of *In Harm's Way* the COH has interviewed soldiers who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of a comprehensive, anecdotal account of those current campaigns. Researchers are also gathering material from veterans of World War II, Vietnam and the so-called "forgotten war" in Korea. By definition, the Center will be a work in perpetual progress, continuously updated as history unfolds. At its core mission is to capture the personal narratives of those who have lived the military life. As stated on the Center's home page: "Every soldier has a story. Here is where the story is told."

In one vivid excerpt, Lt. Col. Greg Gadson, West Point Class of 1989, recalls the explosion in Iraq that cost him both of his legs: "I saw the flash and I heard the boom and I was ejected from the vehicle. It really is almost like time slows down. I can remember being tossed around inside the vehicle and landing on the ground. That's when time went back to normal, as I came to a rolling stop and I saw the vehicle continue forward."

Other early video segments capture testimony of the many competing observations and feelings unique to soldiering. Marshall Carter, West Point Class of 1962, who went on to become chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, remembers being on one of 12 helicopters hit

by enemy fire trying to land in a Vietnam combat zone. Lt. Col. Kevin Farrell, Class of 1986, recalls facing an insurgent on the streets of Iraq and having to seek permission from a superior officer to "kill this individual to neutralize the threat."

At the same time, interviews dispel any knee-jerk notion of soldiers numb to the moral issues they confront. As one cadet recalls of his own tense confrontation in Iraq, "A big part of my job at that moment is not to freak out – not to emotionally fall apart." Another admits of his time in combat: "Think about what your moral compass is – because you will be challenged with situations that are morally, ethically gray."

Early interviews also reveal the unshakable sense of duty that West Point cadets carry into battle. **Jim Kimsey, '62**, who later co-founded AOL, describes the feeling: "The best lesson I learned was on the first day I arrived at the Academy. They told me immediately that there were three answers to every question – 'Yes, sir; No, sir; No excuse, sir.' You were responsible for your own actions. If you're a platoon leader and you're leading your platoon up a hill and you get half your guys killed, and you're writing letters to their mothers about why they died, there's no excuse. You got them killed."

Much of the credit for creating the Center goes to Col. Lance Betros, who took over as head of West Point's history department in 2005 and marshaled resources to secure initial funding and recruited senior faculty to help develop some of the early content.

The COH joins two other Centers of Excellence on the West Point campus – the Combating Terrorism Center and the Center for the Rule of Law. Each is independently funded and was developed to expand cadets' academic opportunities without adding to the academy's curricular budget.

Col. Betros noted that the Center arrives as the use of oral history plays an increasing role in mainstream teaching. For instance, Columbia University this fall launched the country's first accredited master's degree program in oral history – a one-year multi-disciplinary program focused on the "documentation, preservation and interpretation of historical information based on personal experiences."

GEN (Ret) David Petraeus, '74 shared these thoughts about the COH "Our Army has a proud history, one that is chronicled in innumerable books and films. This Center aims to record our army's history in a different way, through the personal oral histories of our soldiers captured by thorough, thoughtful interviews...This is an exciting prospect."

"Imagine if we had had an oral history center in 1802, when West Point was founded and the first class of cadets arrived," Brewster suggested. "Eyewitness accounts are among the most riveting and telling parts of any history, but especially those surrounding armed conflict," he added. "Very few non-soldiers have been through the heat of battle. Soldiers' personal stories are a largely untapped mine of military insight and historical testimony."

For more info:

Write:
West Point Center for Oral History
Department of History
United States Military Academy
West Point, NY 10996

WEST POINT ADMISSIONS

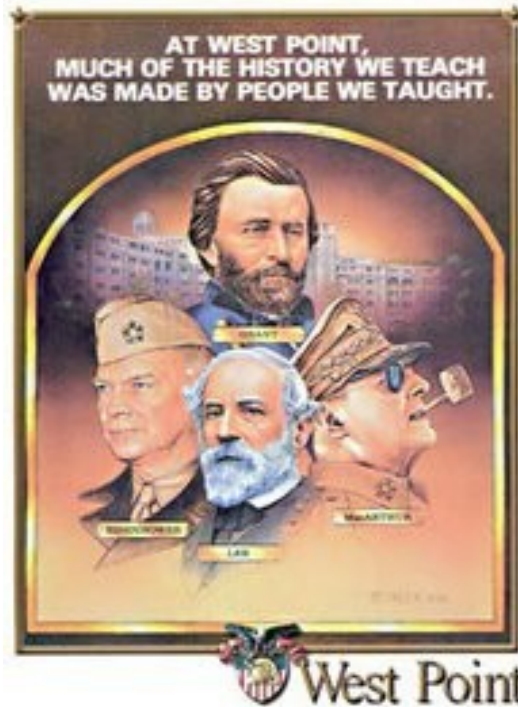
By COL Michael Peffers, '82

In December we hosted a Candidate Brunch at the Ft Belvoir Officers Club for a very select group of candidates – many with offers and several already accepting! **MG Michael Linnington '80**, MDW Commanding General, spoke to the candidates and their families. He was uniquely qualified to speak having been a graduate, a Math Professor, the Commandant, and a parent of a West Point graduate. His very poignant and interesting speech resonated well with both the candidates and their parents. **COL (Ret.) John Mitcham, '75** represented our society at the event. We will host a similar event for candidates and their parents on 17 March prior to Founders Day.

One of the critical steps to get an offer of admission to West Point entails obtaining a nomination. Applicants should apply for a nomination from one or more of the listed sources during the spring of one's junior year. Cadetships are allocated by law to the Vice President, Members of Congress, congressional delegates from Washington, D.C., the Virgin Islands, and Guam, Governors of Puerto Rico and American Samoa, and to the Department of the Army. Nominating officials may select up to 10 young people to compete for each cadetship vacancy they may have. At a minimum, most

candidates are eligible for a Congressional Nomination from their local Congressional Representative, two United States Senators and the Vice President of the United States. Additionally, sons and daughters of career military personnel are eligible for a Presidential nomination. The category "career military personnel" refers to members of the armed forces who are on active duty and who have served continuously on active duty for at least eight years, or who are, or who died while they were, retired with pay or granted retired or retainer pay. Also included are service members currently serving in the reserve component that are credited with at least eight continuous years of service computed under section 12733 of Title 10, United States Code.

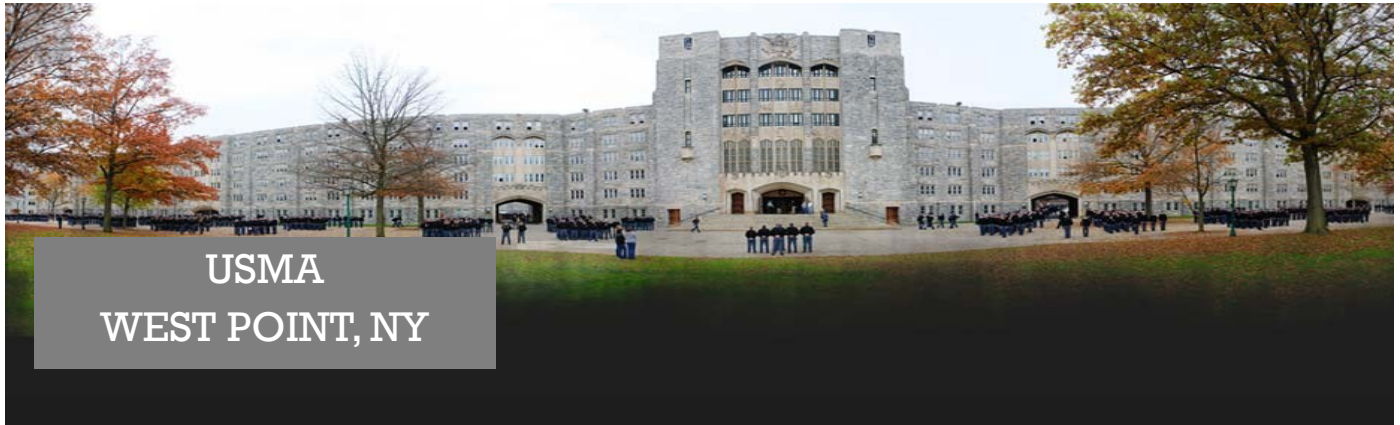
Finally, reservists who would be, or who died while they would have been, entitled to retirement pay except for not having attained 60 years of age are also included in this category. Other Service-connected sources of nomination include: Regular Army and Reserve Army soldiers (85 each), JROTC schools designated as being a Honor Unit with Distinction (20 each), sons and daughters of deceased and 100% service disabled veterans (~15), and children of Medal Honor awardees (unlimited). Unfortunately, every year we witness High School seniors who wait to the last minute to apply for a nomination or think once they have a nomination they have an appointment to USMA!



West Point develops the whole person – academic, military, physical and ethical – all the elements of great leaders. West Point offers an amazing college experience that you will find nowhere else – from the classroom to club sports to drill training and weekend socializing, West Point has it all.

To become a West Point cadet, high school students should start the application process in the early Spring of their junior year. Envision it as putting together pieces of a picture puzzle. The academic piece, the nominations piece, the fitness and medical pieces – keep going until your application picture is complete.

What's Happening at Your Alma Mater!



USMA
WEST POINT, NY

At West Point, A Quiet Place to Honor Warriors

Americans will argue for years over what was won in Iraq. To understand what was lost, come to the U.S. Military Academy cemetery and walk through Section 36, a garden of unrealized potential and thwarted dreams that sits on a windy bluff over the Hudson River.

Separated only by a hedge from a parking lot, Section 36 is the newest and least picturesque part of a cramped old graveyard that lacks the sweeping, aching grandeur of Arlington or the American cemetery at Normandy.

But there is loss and ache here enough.

See the big polished granite stone of **Emily Perez, '05** the highest-ranking minority female cadet in West Point history. On Sept. 12, 2006, she became the first female academy graduate and the first member of the Class of 2005, to die in Iraq.

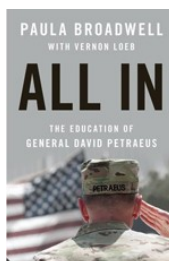


Emily Perez, '05
KIA September 12, 2006
Buried at West Point, NY

All In: The Education of General David Petraeus

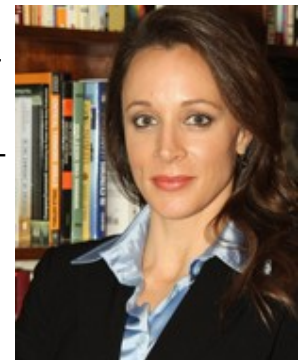
General David Petraeus '74 is the most transformative leader the American military has seen since the generation of Marshall. In *All In*, military expert Paula Broadwell '95 examines Petraeus's career, his intellectual development as a military officer, and his impact on the U.S. military.

When Petraeus assumed command in



Afghanistan in July 2010, the conflict looked as bleak as at any moment in America's nine years on the ground there. Petraeus's defining idea -- counterinsurgency -- was immediately put to its most difficult test: The hard lessons learned during the surge in Iraq were to be applied in a radically different theater. *All In* examines the impact in Afghanistan of new counterinsurgency as well as counterterrorism strategies through the commands of several Petraeus protégés, with special emphasis on those who, like Petraeus, have served with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Afforded extensive access by General Petraeus, his mentors, his subordinates, and his longtime friends, Broadwell (right) embedded with the general, his headquarters staff, and his soldiers on the front lines of fighting and at the strategic command in Afghanistan to chronicle the experiences of this American general as they were brought to bear in the terrible crucible of war. *All In* draws on hundreds of hours of exclusive interviews with Petraeus and his top officers and soldiers to tell the inside story of this commander's development and leadership in war from every vantage point.



Paula Broadwell, '95

To inform this unprecedented reporting of Petraeus's command in Afghanistan, Broadwell examines his evolution as a soldier from his education at West Point in the wake of Vietnam to his earlier service in Central America, Haiti, Kuwait, Bosnia, and Iraq. *All In* also documents the general's role in the war in Washington, going behind the scenes of negotiations during policy reviews of the war in Afghanistan in Congress, the Pentagon, and the White House.

All In will be available January 24, 2012.