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TO: CADET PARENTS


SUBJECT: THE "CADETS OF WEST POINT" WEB SITE

The Cadets of West Point web site (www.westpointcadets.org) is designed to help young Americans learn about a unique national resource - today's West Point cadets. These outstanding young men and women are being groomed to become tomorrow's "leaders of character" for the United States Army. Each is a role model for future potential West Point applicants, having been thoroughly and objectively evaluated – and nominated - before being offered an appointment. They are truly America's best and brightest.

The web site is used by high school students, serving soldiers, West Point's Admissions Field Force, Congressional Staffers, Guidance Counselors, Army Recruiters, members of the Long Gray Line, West Point Societies and Classes, Veterans, Cadet Parents and members of the Cadet Public Relations Council. A PowerPoint slide show is available for display at local high schools, Founders Day Dinners and West Point Parents Club events. To see the current version of the slide show, go to www.westpointcadets.org/SlideShow.htm.

The site includes cadets from all over the nation and the world. Many have provided detailed information about their:

- High Schools
- High school activities and achievements
- Academic Majors
- Military Awards
- Cadet Achievements and Awards
- Extra-curricular activities
- Varsity Sports
- Branch preferences
- Prep School attendance
- Prior Service
- General Comments
- Photos
- Email addresses

Content is organized geographically. A “Cadet Map” provides links to cadets from each of the 50 states as well as US cadets whose hometowns are overseas and International (foreign) cadets. Each state list is sorted by hometown and lists only those cadets from that state who have agreed to participate. The list can be resorted alphabetically by name or by class by clicking on the column header, “Name” or “Class.” If an “Athena’s helmet” () is displayed beside the cadet’s class, then by clicking on the helmet you’ll be redirected to that cadet’s individual web page.

Since many Americans are not very familiar with West Point class crests and military and cadet awards, each of those images is linked to a description of that crest or award. For each international cadet, there is a link to a map showing the location of that cadets’ country. Following Branching (in November) First Classmen who advise me of their branch assignments will have the branch insignia displayed below their names with a link to a page describing that branch.

The “Frequently Asked Questions” section includes answers provided by current cadets. Here a reader can learn a lot about the background, experience, and hopes and dreams of this collection of special young Americans.

Since this effort began some 10 years ago there have been more than 160,000 visits by people all over the world. How many of those actually used this site to start a dialogue with a cadet is unknown, but many cadets tell me they’ve been contacted with questions about their West Point experience.

What can you, as a cadet parent, do to help?

1. Encourage your cadet to fill out and submit the form at www.westpointcadets.org/cadetinput.htm.
2. If your cadet has given me permission to post a photo but hasn’t sent one to me for posting, please send me a copy of your cadet’s photo – preferably in cadet uniform and preferably one taken by Academy Photo.
3. Encourage your cadet to periodically revisit his/her individual web page and let me know if anything should be changed.
4. Share this message with other members of your local West Point Parents Club.

5. Encourage your local high school counselors, faculty and congressional representative to refer promising young men and women to this site.

6. The site is hosted by West-Point.Org which conducts modest semi-annual fund raisers to support hosting this site as well as a variety of other sites and services for the Long Gray Line and cadet parents. You are encouraged to offer your support.

Thank you for your personal commitment to our nation, its security and its future. Thank you also for raising, inspiring and supporting a very special son or daughter.

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