



# West Point

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

June 16, 2022

Class of 1978  
c/o Mr. Les Szabolcsi  
4386 Oglethorpe Loop NW  
Acworth, GA 30101-9533

Dear Mr. Szabolcsi: *Les,*

On behalf of the West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG), I am pleased to present the Class of 1978 with the **2021-2022 Annual Report** for the **Class of 1978 Superintendent's Endowment, Class of 1978 Student Conference Endowment for the West Point Center for the Study of Civil-Military Operations, Class of 1978 Army West Point Rifle Team Endowment, Class of 1978 Endowment for Pistol and Combat Weapons Team, and Frederic V. Malek West Point Visitors Center.**

The reporting period covered in the enclosed report represents 2020 endowment distributions and gift funds proffered to USMA for Margin of Excellence programs during Academic Year 2021-2022 or available for WPAOG programs and projects during calendar year 2021, and includes the year-end endowment performance report as of December 31, 2021.

Endowment gifts ensure a long-term source of funding to sustain programming and support for the Academy and our graduates, and provide the means to support future opportunities and growth, ensuring that West Point maintains its level of excellence in all endeavors.

Please feel free to contact Julie Cuthbert, our Stewardship Manager, at (845) 446-1570 or via email at [Julie.Cuthbert@wpaog.org](mailto:Julie.Cuthbert@wpaog.org) if you have any questions pertaining to the enclosed report.

I encourage you to share this report with your classmates and I hope that you take pride in the impact your class has made at West Point. Thank you for your commitment.

Sincerely,

*Proud and Great!*

  
Kristin E. Sorenson  
Vice President of Development

*Serving West Point and the Long Gray Line*

## West Point Association of Graduates Investments Overview

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While all gifts to West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG) and the United States Military Academy (USMA) make a real difference in the lives of West Point cadets, faculty, and staff, an endowment gift is especially meaningful because it provides a long-term source of support. Endowment donors have the opportunity to have a lasting influence on programs and to honor or memorialize loved ones, friends, or other individuals.

Of course, gifts other than endowments are also critical to the operations of USMA and WPAOG in providing specific program support and/or unrestricted gifts for use by the USMA Superintendent or the WPAOG CEO.

### **What are WPAOG's responsibilities with regards to my endowment and other gifts?**

- Managing endowments and other gifts to maximize total return within prudent risk guidelines as established by the Board of Directors
- Ensuring proceeds are provided and utilized for the intended purpose
- Prudent spending of endowment earnings to provide an income stream sufficient to support the activity designated, in perpetuity
- Providing an annual endowment report outlining the financial performance along with the Academy's report of the activity as supported by the endowment

### **Will or can WPAOG spend the principal of my endowment?**

WPAOG follows New York State non-profit law, which requires standards of prudence in developing spending policies, and **may** permit spending into the original gift value (principal). Spending policy is considered imprudent if the spending rate is greater than 7% over a trailing 5 years average. WPAOG current policy is **not** to spend into the principal and to spend 4% of the average balance of the prior 12 quarters. However, there may be times when some or all of the annual distribution is not required by the Academy due to various reasons. Any unused distribution remains in a deferred account in the endowment to support future needs; these funds are available to the Academy when requested.

### **How are endowments managed at WPAOG?**

The primary investment objective of WPAOG is to maximize total return within prudent risk guidelines. The secondary objective is to preserve capital—less risk will be assumed for funds intended for near-term use; greater risk may be assumed for longer-term funds including endowments.

The WPAOG Board of Directors (BOD) has overall responsibility for the endowments. The BOD assigns the operating and supervisory responsibility for endowments to the Investment Committee. The Investment Committee provides advice and recommendations to the BOD and is comprised of volunteer graduates who are professionals in the field. WPAOG also utilizes an Investment Consultant, LCG Associates, and Cliffwater LLC, an Alternative Investment Consultant, to work with the WPAOG Chief Financial Officer and the Investment Committee to implement policy and to manage the day-to-day operations of the portfolio, in line with the Investment Policy, the BOD, and Investment Committee. The Investment Committee meets at least quarterly to review financial performance, ensure compliance, and make recommendations for change.

### **How are funds invested?**

In order to ensure maximum liquidity to meet our cash needs, WPAOG segregates funds into three investment pools. This segregation is based on WPAOG liabilities and the related anticipated cash need. Each pool takes on a different risk/reward profile in order to best protect the principal while ensuring liquidity in line with the needs of the funds.

The three pools are:

- Current Pool: Anticipated spending within one year
- Short-term Pool: Anticipated spending between one and three years
- Long-term Pool: Anticipated spending is beyond three years; the majority of our endowments are in this pool

The BOD-approved investment vehicle for the Current Pool is a portfolio of short duration bond funds which seeks to provide a conservative approach to earning a higher level of income than is generally generated through money market funds, the vehicle for the Short-term Pool is a bond portfolio, and the long-term pool is a well-diversified portfolio as directed by the Investment Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. The Investment Committee is committed to preserving capital, generating income, and providing reasonable principal growth.

## S400Z-01 – Class of 1978 Superintendent’s Endowment

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Endowment Performance Report  
As of 12/31/2021

### Endowment Description

Earnings from the endowment can be used for Margin of Excellence programs for the benefit of the Corps of Cadets.

Distribution Taken in AY 21-22..... none \*

Endowment Balance.....\$1,553,229

Distribution Available for AY 22-23.....\$52,283

\* for AY 21-22 the distribution for this endowment was reinvested

The endowments of WPAOG are invested under the direction of the Association’s Investment Committee, using policy guidelines established by the Board of Directors. The Committee retains professional investment management consultants and allocates assets to various investment managers and asset classes to minimize risk. For the year ending December 31, 2021, the investment returns of WPAOG were higher than our related benchmarks, while the cumulative three years and five years returns were also favorable to those benchmarks. For more information on how WPAOG manages and invests endowments, see the enclosed Investments Overview.

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
DIRECTORATE OF ACADEMY ADVANCEMENT  
698 MILLS ROAD  
WEST POINT, NY 10996-1514

June 7, 2022

Subject: The Class of 1978 Superintendent's Endowment for Academic Year 2021-2022

Dear Mr. Les Szabolcsi, Class of 1978:

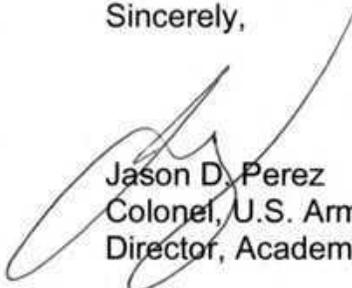
The Class of 1978 Superintendent's Endowment aims to support the United States Military Academy through unrestricted gifts. Funding is used at the Superintendent's discretion for programs that go above and beyond the core elements supported by the government. These programs are referred to as the Margin of Excellence, and they benefit every cadet.

In the 2021-2022 academic year, the available distribution from the Class of 1978 Superintendent's Endowment supported cadet programs, projects, and clubs. In addition, due to the ongoing public health emergency, we reinvested funds for future Margin of Excellence efforts as restrictions return to normal. Here are some of the ways the cadets have benefited:

- Guest Lecture Program
- Academy Scholar Program (ASP)
- Advanced Individual Academic Development Program (AIAD)
- Academic Enrichment Program (AEP)
- Cadet Conference travel
- Research and Capstone Programs

Thank you for providing the Academy the greatest flexibility to respond to changing priorities and support emerging needs. With your support, we can ensure that West Point remains one of our Nation's most outstanding institutions.

Sincerely,



Jason D. Perez  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Director, Academy Advancement

**S800E – Class of 1978 Student Conference Endowment for the West Point  
Center for the Study of Civil-Military Operations**

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Endowment Performance Report  
As of 12/31/2021

**Endowment Description**

The purpose of this endowment is to support the Student Conference for the West Point Center for the Study of Civil-Military Operations. Funds from this endowment may be used to support, but are not limited to, costs associated with hosting guest speakers (e.g. honorarium, travel, lodging, etc.) as well as the staffing, administrative expenses, meals, and technology associated with this conference.

**Distribution Taken in AY 21-22**.....none \*

**Endowment Balance**.....\$1,264,284

**Distribution Available for AY 22-23**.....\$41,058

\* for AY 21-22 the distribution for this endowment was reinvested

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING  
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996 - 1695

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

16 May 2022

**Class of 1978 Student Workshop on Civil-Military Operations**

The CSCMO continued to make substantial contributions to cadet and faculty education and development in the realm of Civil Military Operations during this academic year through its planning and execution for the Student Workshop on Civil-Military Operations (SWCMO). The generous endowment of the Class of 1978 has enabled the Center and its hosting Department of Geography, Environmental Engineering, Environmental Sciences and GIS to make these contributions in several of the four main lines of effort: Syllabus Integration (Guest Lecturers and Course Development); Service Learning (AIADs, Cadet Club and Training); Scholars and Scholarship (Cadets and Faculty USMA & Beyond); and most cogently Symposia and Sharing.

In response to a fortuitous relaxation of COVID-19 response, the 8th annual Student Workshop on Civil-Military Operations was revived for full attendance in 2022. The event was focused on Great Power Competition with Russia and the Ukraine Conflict, and featured a live keynote by former Commanding General of US Army Europe, LTG (R) Ben Hodges. The event also featured panels on Humanitarian Response from members of the Army Civil Affairs community, a Humanitarian and Disaster Response Organization and experts on Ukraine political affairs and Urban Warfare operations. The Workshop featured over 100 cadets engaging in live classroom participation with other invited guests including many members of the Class of 1978.

We continue to be reminded of how the Class of '78's commitment enables CSCMO to organize and continue to provide tremendous opportunities for our community to advance their understanding and application of Civil-Military Operations. None of this capacity would have been possible without the generous contributions of the class, particularly those that take time out of their busy schedules to travel spend several days with us here at West Point. We are excited about all of the time and effort we are prepared to invest for next year to design and positively evolve our event that will reap benefits in AY 23 and beyond.

We at the Center would like to personally thank every member of the Class of '78 for their vision and support, but more importantly, the interest and energy of those that has enabled this tremendous opportunity for cadets and faculty.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Melkon".

John M. Melkon  
Assistant Professor & Director  
CSCMO

## S800F – The Class of 1978 Army West Point Rifle Team Endowment

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Endowment Performance Report  
As of 12/31/2021

### Endowment Description

The purpose of the Class of 1978 Army West Point Rifle Team Endowment is to support the team's needs to enhance cadets' Division 1 athletic experience. This endowment may cover, but is not limited to, the costs of equipment, uniforms, practice and competition expenses, team-specific facility enhancements, staffing, recruiting and team travel, technological infrastructure, as well as the administrative expenses associated with this team.

Distribution Taken in AY 21-22.....none \*

Endowment Balance.....\$416,484

Distribution Available for AY 22-23.....\$13,526

\* for AY 21-22 the distribution for this endowment was reinvested

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# ARMY WEST POINT®

ATHLETICS

Dear Mr. Les Szabolcsi, Class of 1978,

Thank you for your continued investment, dedication, and support of Army West Point Athletics and the Rifle program. Because of your generosity, The Class of 1978 Army West Point Rifle Team Endowment will continue to play a vital role in the program as it provides our coaches and cadet-athletes with the necessary support and security to continue competing at the highest level.

The Army West Point rifle team battled through a difficult 2022 season. The team finished with signature wins over North Carolina State University, and Memphis.

The team went on to defeat the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the NCAA qualifying match. The Army West Point rifle team set a program record in its 4695-4329 win over MIT. The Black Knights set the record in aggregate score by three points while tying the record in the smallbore.

The Black Knights went on to place 6<sup>th</sup> at the Great America Rifle Conference (GARC) championships. Kyle Kutz won the overall prone with a 200-17x score in the position. He won on a multiple tie-breaker with a 10.6 on his last shot. Kutz was one of five Black Knights to score over a 580 in smallbore. In air rifle, Lauren McMahan led the way for Army, placing 14<sup>th</sup> with a score of 595. The Black Knights were awarded the Sportsmanship Award as voted by the head coaches of the participating teams.

Claudia Sigel represented the Army West Point rifle team in smallbore at the 2022 NCAA Rifle Championships. Sigel finished top 25 in smallbore with a score of 583.

We thank you immensely for your generosity and the impact you have on our cadet-athletes in helping them develop into leaders of character committed to the values of duty, honor, and country. The Army West Point rifle team will continue to improve off the 2022 season and will return ready to compete for a Great America Rifle Conference championship in 2023.

**Steven J. Donohue**  
Assistant Athletic Director, Development  
Army West Point

## S800G – The Class of 1978 Endowment for the Pistol and Combat Weapons Team

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Endowment Performance Report  
As of 12/31/2021

### Endowment Description

The purpose of the Class of 1978 Endowment for the Pistol and Combat Weapons Teams endowment is to support the operations and activities of the Pistol and Combat Weapons Teams. This endowment may cover, but is not limited to, the costs of equipment, uniforms, practice and competition expenses, team-specific facility enhancements, staffing, team travel, technological infrastructure, as well as the administrative expenses associated with these teams.

<b>Distribution Taken in AY 21-22</b> .....	\$24,188
<b>Endowment Balance</b> .....	\$784,927
<b>Distribution Available for AY 22-23</b> .....	\$26,493

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REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
**UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY**  
West Point, New York 10996

June 1, 2022

**The Class of 1978 Endowment for the Pistol and Combat Weapons Team**

**TO: Class of 1978, Mr. Les Szabolcsi**

The purpose of this letter is to outline the accomplishments and activities conducted by the Pistol Team during AY21-22 and to provide the Stewardship Report for The Class of 1978 Endowment.

The primary purpose of the Pistol Team is to compete and win at the highest levels of intercollegiate pistol competition and, in so doing, develop Pistol Team members into outstanding leaders of character for the U.S. Army. The Team competes in three venues: International Bullseye Pistol, the Scholastic Action Shooting Program (Action Pistol), and Conventional Bullseye Pistol (Presidents Hundred).

International Bullseye Pistol is our main effort and the Team finished 2nd overall at the National Intercollegiate Pistol Championships in March 2022. Nationals this year were held at the Civilian Marksmanship Program Marksmanship Park in Talladega, Alabama. The Team also participated in Scholastic Action Shooting Program National Championships where our two scoring teams finished 5th and 7<sup>th</sup> out of 16 collegiate teams. The Presidents Hundred Match is held at Camp Perry, Ohio each July. Pistol Team member participation is largely based on USCC summer training commitments. This year, three Pistol Team members will be able to participate in this very prestigious match.

Each April, the Pistol Team travels to West Union, Ohio to train at Tactical Defense Institute. Here the Team members receive three days and two nights of very intensive tactical live-fire training. This critical training is designed to prepare the cadets, regardless of branch, with tactical marksmanship skills and proven tactics that will enable them to fight and win on future battlefields. This year the Team endured lots of rain, sleet, and snow but, as expected, the cadets displayed the mental and physical toughness needed to excel.

The Team members also serve as subject matter experts for the Corps of Cadets on small arms marksmanship. This involves training individual cadets for the pistol marksmanship portion of the German Proficiency Badge test and training cadet teams for the annual Sandhurst Competition. As such, Pistol Team members are not only expert marksmen, but are experienced trainers and coaches.

The Pistol Team hopes to build upon this year's success with an aggressive competition schedule in all three venues. Our primary expenses are travel related (airfare, lodging, and rental vehicles) and supplies (ammunition, pellets, targets, and cleaning supplies). Your generous support will allow us to compete and win at the highest levels of intercollegiate competition and continue to develop expert marksmen, excellent instructors, and leaders of character for the Army. Thank you for all the Class of 1978 does to support the outstanding men and women on the Pistol Team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "E. Duston Saunders '72", is located below the word "Sincerely,".

E. Duston Saunders '72  
Lieutenant Colonel, USA (Retired)  
Officer-in-Charge & Head Coach



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY  
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996

25 May, 2022

Dear Mr. Szabolcsi, and the Class of 1978—

Greetings from West Point! I am LTC Charles Faint, the new Officer in Charge of the Combat Weapons Team (CWT). I work in DMI, where I am the Deputy Director of the Modern War Institute, and I am writing you today to express our gratitude for your continued support of our Team and to give you an update on our activities and accomplishments over the last year.

Of the Team's many accomplishments this past academic year, the one we are most proud of is repeating as National Champions in this year's Relentless Warrior competition. This event is hosted annually by Sig Sauer, and features teams from all of the service academies as well as schools such as Texas A&M, Virginia Tech, Virginia Military Academy, the Royal Military Academy of Canada, and many others. Our cadets dominated this year's competition, taking seven of the top ten individual honors (including First, Second, and Third), and placing First overall as a team. The next time you visit USMA, look for the Team's name listed among the Academy's National Champion teams on the sign just inside the front gate.

This year for the first time since the outbreak of COVID-19, we were able to host our own Home Match. This was an extraordinarily popular event, with recreational and professional shooters traveling long distances to compete in our match. This competition, held on six of West Point's outdoor ranges, was both a public relations outreach function and a fundraiser for the Team. Based on its success, we will most likely conduct a Home Match in each semester in the upcoming academic year.

CWT is a very selective team, and our cadets are some of the top performers in the Corps. As an example, at this year's Graduation, we commissioned six CWT members into their branch of choice, the Infantry. A seventh graduating member of the Team is from Poland, and he departed immediately after graduation to return home and help prepare his country from any additional threats from Russia. Our cadets have a well-earned reputation for being one of the most-physically fit teams at West Point, with several of our cadets competing in the top Sandhurst teams, and also completing physically-intense schools such as the Combat Dive Course. Four of last year's CWT graduates recently completed Ranger School, and one of our cadets competed in the Best Sapper competition. MAJ Matt Snyder, our outgoing OIC, set the example for the Team by placing in the top ten of this year's Best Ranger competition. Our cadets also hold key leadership positions within the Corps, and are regularly selected for academic, athletic, and military honors.

In addition to our departing Firsties, we also said farewell to Major Snyder, who is leaving USMA to return to an operational assignment in the Special Forces, as well as Sergeant First Class Dominador Rubang, who retired and is moving to California to teach Junior ROTC. We currently have three volunteer civilian coaches to train our cadets in shooting, and five commissioned and noncommissioned officers to develop them in character, competence, and commitment and to role model Officership for the Team.

We normally have between 22-24 members of the Team, with assessments and selections taking place early in the Fall semester. CWT also regularly trains the Corps in basic weapons handling and advanced fundamentals. This year they also trained a group of visiting Yale University students in handgun and rifle fundamentals, and supervised them while they conducted familiarization fire on the indoor range. This event helped promote civil-military relations and also helped our cadets further develop training and personal interaction skills that will be useful to them when they become officers.

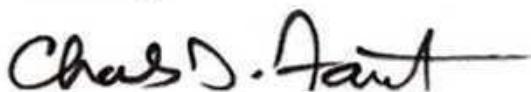
My plan for next year is to continue to refine our Team's selection and training programs, with the intent of winning Relentless Warrior again and defending our National Championship. However, I always stress to cadets that my top priorities are making them 1) better people, 2) better officers, and only then 3) better shooters. This is a formula that has worked very well for us in the past.

To me, the best testimony about the value of CWT comes from the cadets themselves. Each year, the graduating Firsties conduct a joint commissioning ceremony at Tronsrue Range, which in and of itself says a lot about the cohesion and camaraderie of the Team. This year, each of the newly-commissioned lieutenants told the large gathering of friends and family who came to their ceremony how important the Combat Weapons Team was to their USMA experience. I could not ask for a better endorsement of what we do.

We could not have the Team we have today without your support. Competitive shooting is a very expensive sport, and the Class of 1978's very generous gift allowed us to purchase the weapons, ammunition, equipment, and supplies we needed to train to defend our National Championship. It also allowed us to travel to different matches, such as the ones hosted by the Long Island Practical Shooting Association in New York City, and the Fort Benning Multi-Gun Challenge in Georgia. These competitions pit our cadets against nationally-ranked professional shooters, which helps hone their skills and prepare them for Nationals. Your support is greatly appreciated by our entire Team—coaches, OICs, and individual members. Once again, thank you.

My email address is [charles.faint@westpoint.edu](mailto:charles.faint@westpoint.edu), and I am happy to follow up with any questions you may have about the Combat Weapons Team. The next time you or any of the members of the Class of 1978 are at USMA, I would love to show you our facilities and introduce you to our cadets. I am very proud of this team, and I think you would be too.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles D. Faint". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

CHARLES D. FAINT  
LTC, MI  
Deputy Director, Modern War Institute  
Combat Weapons Team OIC



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY  
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996

MACC-Q-DMI

25 May, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Combat Weapons Team Stewardship Report, AY22-2

1. Of the Team's many accomplishments this past academic year, the one we are most proud of is repeating as National Champions in this year's Relentless Warrior competition. This event is hosted annually by Sig Sauer, and features teams from all of the service academies as well as schools such as Texas A&M, Virginia Tech, Virginia Military Academy, the Royal Military Academy of Canada, and many others. Our cadets dominated this year's competition, taking seven of the top ten individual honors (including First, Second, and Third), and placing First overall as a team.
2. This year for the first time since the outbreak of COVID-19, we were able to host our own Home Match. This was an extraordinarily popular event, with recreational and professional shooters traveling long distances to compete in our match. This competition, held on six of West Point's outdoor ranges, was both a public relations outreach function and a fundraiser for the Team. Based on its success, we will most likely conduct a Home Match in each semester in the upcoming academic year.
3. CWT is a very selective team, and our cadets are some of the top performers in the Corps. As an example, at this year's Graduation, we commissioned six CWT members into their branch of choice, the Infantry. A seventh graduating member of the Team is from Poland, and he departed immediately after graduation to return home and help prepare his country from any additional threats from Russia. Our cadets have a well-earned reputation for being one of the most-physically fit teams at West Point, with several of our cadets competing in the top Sandhurst teams, and also completing physically-intense schools such as the Combat Dive Course. Four of last year's CWT graduates recently completed Ranger School, and one of our cadets competed in the Best Sapper competition. MAJ Matt Snyder, our outgoing OIC, set the example for the Team by placing in the top ten of this year's Best Ranger competition. Our cadets also hold key leadership positions within the Corps, and are regularly selected for academic, athletic, and military honors.
4. In addition to our departing Firsties, we also said farewell to Major Snyder, who is leaving USMA to return to an operational assignment in the Special Forces, as well as Sergeant First Class Dominador Rubang, who retired and is moving to California to teach Junior ROTC. We currently have three volunteer civilian coaches to train our cadets in shooting, and five commissioned and noncommissioned officers to develop

MACC-Q-DMI

SUBJECT: Combat Weapons Team Stewardship Report, AY22-2

them in character, competence, and commitment and to role model Officership for the Team.

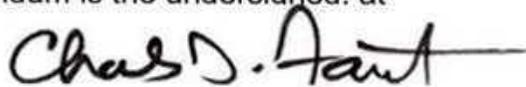
5. We normally have between 22-24 members of the Team, with assessments and selections taking place early in the Fall semester. CWT also regularly trains the Corps in basic weapons handling and advanced fundamentals. This year they also trained a group of visiting Yale University students in handgun and rifle fundamentals, and supervised them while they conducted familiarization fire on the indoor range. This event helped promote civil-military relations and also helped our cadets further develop training and personal interaction skills that will be useful to them when they become officers.

6. As OIC, my plan for next year is to continue to refine our Team's selection and training programs, with the intent of winning Relentless Warrior again and defending our National Championship. However, I always stress to cadets that my top priorities are making them 1) better people, 2) better officers, and only then 3) better shooters. This is a formula that has worked very well for us in the past.

7. To me, the best testimony about the value of CWT comes from the cadets themselves. Each year, the graduating Firsties conduct a joint commissioning ceremony at Tronsrue Range, which in and of itself says a lot about the cohesion and camaraderie of the Team. This year, each of the newly-commissioned lieutenants told the large gathering of friends and family who came to their ceremony how important the Combat Weapons Team was to their USMA experience. I could not ask for a better endorsement of what we do.

8. Competitive shooting is a very expensive sport, and the Class of 1978's very generous gift allowed us to purchase the weapons, ammunition, equipment, and supplies we needed to train to defend our National Championship. It also allowed us to travel to different matches, such as the ones hosted by the Long Island Practical Shooting Association in New York City, and the Fort Benning Multi-Gun Challenge in Georgia. These competitions pit our cadets against nationally-ranked professional shooters, which helps hone their skills and prepare them for Nationals. The support of the Class of 1978, along with that of the Department of Cadet Activities, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and the Department of Military Instruction is greatly appreciated by our entire Team—coaches, OICs, and individual members.

9. The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned. at [charles.faint@westpoint.edu](mailto:charles.faint@westpoint.edu).



CHARLES D. FAINT

MACC-Q-DMI

SUBJECT: Combat Weapons Team Stewardship Report, AY22-2

LTC, MI

Deputy Director, Modern War Institute







## Visitors Center Stewardship Report

The Visitors Center is the gateway to West Point. Its purpose is to inspire, educate and inform the public about the Academy. Over 60 exhibits demonstrate a cadet's 47-month experience and a unique perspective into how the Academy develops leaders of character for our Army and nation. It is also home to West Point Tours, the Visitor Control Center, Army West Point Gift Shop and next door to the West Point Museum.

Despite the enduring global pandemic the Visitors Center remained open to the public throughout the period in question, October 2020 to Sept. 2021.

The Visitors Center remained one of the few opportunities for the public to experience West Point until the Academy slowly reopened to visitors during the summer of 2021.

West Point Tours resumed limited operations in late July 2021 after a hiatus since mid-March 2020 due to the pandemic.

This state-of-art facility, the Frederic V. Malek West Point Visitors Center, opened on Dec. 4, 2017, and through Sept. 30, 2021, has welcomed 557,000 visitors.

A number of the scheduled events that the Visitors Center would have helped host had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, to include helping serve as the reception area for the annual Summer Leadership Experience, which was virtual in 2021, but Purple Heart Mission #2 visited on Sept. 30 with guests from 44 of the 50 states.

Though the number of foreign visitors dropped to next to nothing since the pandemic, Americans started to slowly venture out in the summer of 2021. When they did, they found that the Visitors Center was one of the few options in the Hudson Valley that was actually open at all.

The West Point Museum was closed to the public from October 2020 until early May 2021 leaving the Visitors Center as the only building the public could visit when the Academy was still closed to outside visitors.

The biggest event that welcomed West Point Cadet Parents and their families back to the Academy in 2021 was a six-day event during Graduation Week that centered around a Welcome Center at the Visitors Center so that family and friends of the class could be properly screened and given their Graduation Parade and ceremony tickets.

That event proved so successful in helping screen access to post that it was followed up in July with another three-day Reception Day Welcome Center experience for the Class of 2025. Parents, still not allowed on post at that time, quickly dropped their New Cadets off at Buffalo Soldier Field and then swung by the Visitors Center area to get access passes and visit the West Point entities that set up shop in another street-fair type atmosphere.

The pandemic still kept many of the VIPs away, but Protocol sent as many as possible by the Visitors Center so they could get a quick glimpse at what Cadet Life was like at West Point.

Last but not least, was Admissions' continued use of the Visitors Center in lieu of on-post campus visits, to host, at first limited, but then as many Cadet Candidate visits at the Visitors Center as possible, from the Fall of 2020 until September 2021 when they were finally able to resume on-

post visits with Cadets. This enabled prospective Candidates and their families to meet face to face with Admissions personnel before making their college decisions.

For any additional information on this report please contact Jim Fox at 845-938-8365 or e-mail at [Jim.Fox@westpoint.edu](mailto:Jim.Fox@westpoint.edu) or LTC Beth Smith at 845-938-8832 or e-mail [Beth.Smith@westpoint.edu](mailto:Beth.Smith@westpoint.edu).

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