



## 2023-2024 Annual Report for Class of 1978

- Class of 1978 Superintendent's Endowment
- Class of 1978 Student Conference Endowment for the West Point Center for the Study of Civil-Military Operations
- The Class of 1978 Army West Point Rifle Team Endowment
- The Class of 1978 Endowment for the Pistol and Combat Weapons Team
- Frederic V. Malek West Point Visitors Center

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The reporting period covered in this report represents 2022 endowment distributions and gift funds proffered to USMA for Margin of Excellence programs during Academic Year 2023-2024 or available for WPAOG programs and projects during calendar year 2023.

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# S400Z-01 CLASS OF 1978 SUPERINTENDENT’S ENDOWMENT

Endowment Performance Report  
As of 12/31/2023

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### 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 23-24** ..... none \*

**Endowment Balance** .....\$1,497,873

**Distribution Available for AY 24-25** .....\$56,761

\* for AY 23-24 the distribution for this endowment was reinvested

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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, 2023, the investment returns of WPAOG were lower than our related benchmarks, while the cumulative three years and five years returns were favorable to those benchmarks. For more information on how WPAOG manages and invests endowments, see the WPAOG Investments Overview.

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

Academic Year  
2023-2024

Subject: Class of 1978 Superintendent's Endowment

Dear Class of 1978, Mr. Les Szabolcsi:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express our deepest gratitude for your generous gift to the Class of 1978 Superintendent's Endowment. The Endowment supports 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 called the Margin of Excellence and benefit every cadet. In the 2023-2024 academic year, your support was most appreciated. The following are some examples of how you have helped us.

### **New Targeting System**

Your contribution has enabled us to purchase advanced 3D Target Units for Smallbore & Air Ranges and Target Monitors at the Tronsrue Markanship Center. The project replaced the outdated targeting system at Tronsure Range, which included both the target units and the monitors. We replaced 40 MegaLink Target Units with the new Megalink 3D Target Units in Tronsrue Marksmanship Center on the Small Bore and Air ranges for use by the Army Rifle Team. In addition, we replaced the final 20 Monitors on the Small Bore range with new color monitors for use by the Army Rifle Team. This improvement brought the range facility up to the standards of a Tier 1 university in support of our NCAA Rifle program. In addition, these improvements benefited the Cadet Pistol Team since it is a shared facility.

### **Glee Club**

The Glee Club is one of the most visible outreach opportunities West Point Cadets have for the general public and alums' awareness. The Glee Club (80 plus members) represents West Point and the Army with performances throughout the country, on television, and occasionally traveling overseas. The Glee Club operating expenses are more than funding provides and must be supplemented to continue the growth and public expansion of the program as it represents the Academy.

### **Academic Individual Advanced Development (AIAD)**

AIAD and Spring Break opportunities offer cadets diverse experiences, from cultural immersion opportunities in foreign countries to firsthand explorations of historical or unique geographical sites to internships in other governmental agencies.

## **Guest Lecture Program**

Guest Lecture Program USMA has always been able to attract great speakers to motivate thought, stimulate reflection, and underscore the relevance of their studies to the Field Army. The speakers come not for large stipends but out of respect for USMA and the cadets. This small amount of money pays for travel and lodging. Lecturers have included company, battalion & brigade commanders back from Iraq & Afghanistan, astronauts, Supreme Court Judges, and retired DoD leaders.

## **Cadet Conference Travel**

This travel is necessary for rotating and permanent faculty to present papers and other research findings at conferences and symposiums that add to the professional development of faculty as well as the reputation of the Academy.

## **Research and Capstone Programs**

Gift monies currently provided for research and capstone projects have yielded highly successful collaborative research. Participating in these presentations is a tremendous learning experience for cadets.

Your support means the world to us. Through the generosity of individuals like you, we can continue to improve and provide the best possible experience for those who rely on our services.

We are truly grateful for your support and want to assure you that your gift is being cherished and well taken care of. We are committed to maintaining the monument in the best possible condition so that it continues to inspire and uplift our community for many years.

Once again, thank you for your generous gift. Your support makes a significant difference in our community.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Oakley  
Director, Academy Advancement and  
Alumni Affairs









**S800E CLASS OF 1978 STUDENT CONFERENCE ENDOWMENT FOR THE WEST POINT CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF CIVIL-MILITARY OPERATIONS**

Endowment Performance Report  
As of 12/31/2023

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**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 23-24** ..... none \*

**Endowment Balance**.....\$1,151,229

**Distribution Available for AY 24-25** .....\$45,140

\* for AY 23-24 the distribution for this endowment was reinvested

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REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

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

Academic Year 2023/2024

**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.

On March 5, CSCMO held the Student Workshop on Civil-Military Operations at Eisenhower Hall at West Point. The purpose of the Student Workshop is to create a focused venue for student development and learning within the realm of Civil-Military Operations. It is an opportunity to bring together leading scholars and practitioners on topics of Civil-Military Operations to debate and discuss recent developments that contribute to Cadet learning and professional development.

This year's keynote speakers were LTG John Braga, Commander US Army Special Operations Command and Dr. Joseph Asunka, the CEO of Afrobarometer, a pan-Africa, non-partisan survey research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, the economy, and society. Both spoke of the challenges of Great Power Competition for the United States on the continent of Africa and the prospects for success. Through a series of other informative panels, we examined how the manipulation of information and disinformation perpetuates narratives of authoritarian influence by Russia and China to the people of Africa. Feedback from the participating cadets reflected positive learning for all.

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 and spend several days with us here at West Point.

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 brown 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**

Endowment Performance Report  
As of 12/31/2023

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## **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 23-24** ..... none \*

**Endowment Balance** .....\$402,472

**Distribution Available for AY 24-25** .....\$15,225

\* for AY 23-24 the distribution for this endowment was reinvested

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# ARMY WEST POINT<sup>®</sup>

ATHLETICS

Dear Class of 1978, Mr. Les Szabolcsi,

Thank you for your continued investment, dedication, and support of The Class of 1978 Rifle Team Endowment. The purpose of the endowment is to support the team's needs and enhance the cadet-athlete Division I athletic experience. The endowment provides lasting financial stability, supporting facility enhancements, player development, recruiting, team travel, technology improvements, and administrative expenses associated with supporting an outstanding Division I athletic experience.

Under second-year head coach Leighton Dempster, the Army Rifle program saw much improvement, finishing 2023-24 with an 8-5 record compared to a 2-8 record from the season before. The major improvement led Dempster to be named the Great America Rifle Conference Coach of the Year, becoming just the second Army coach to earn this prestigious award, joining former coach Ron Wigger, a three-time selection who earned honors in 2002, 2004 and 2005.

Dempster led Army to its first winning season since 2014-15, authoring an 8-5 mark and posting its most wins since 2012-13. The team was led by senior shooter Anusha Pakkam who earned All-GARC honorable mention in smallbore and was also named Army's Scholar-Athlete of the Year recipient. Pakkam ranked among Army's top shooters in smallbore, air rifle and aggregate scoring throughout her final year. One of five shooters selected for honorable mention in smallbore, Pakkam is the first Black Knight named to that unit since 2019.

Once again, we extend our sincerest appreciation for your investment in our cadet-athlete development. The Army West Point rifle team will return ready to compete for a Great America Rifle Conference championship in 2024-25.

**Steven Donohue**  
**Assistant Athletic Director, Major Gifts**  
**Army West Point Athletics**

# **S800G THE CLASS OF 1978 ENDOWMENT FOR THE PISTOL AND COMBAT WEAPONS TEAM**

Endowment Performance Report  
As of 12/31/2023

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### **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 23-24</b> .....	\$27,178
<b>Endowment Balance</b> .....	\$694,756
<b>Distribution Available for AY 24-25</b> .....	\$27,970

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

Academic Year 2023/2024

Dear Class of 1978, Mr. Les Szabolcsi,

On behalf of the West Point Pistol Team, we would like to thank you and the Class of 1978 for your generous endowment. Without your generosity our team would not have been able to facilitate training and achieve all our great accomplishments during the 2023-2024 season. To start the season, we unfortunately lost a true legend, selfless servant, role model, mentor, and friend in LTC (R) Duston Saunders. A pivotal leader of the team for 31 years. It was the spirit of Coach Saunders the team carried forward this year and fought hard to honor his memory and legacy.

This season, our club of 23 cadets faced formidable opponents from esteemed teams across the nation. Our most notable opponents were the Ohio State University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the United States Naval Academy, Citadel, the United States Coast Guard Academy, the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and Purdue University. These matchups tested our resilience and showcased the caliber of competition we encountered throughout the season. With your generous donations, the team was able to travel to four sister universities in Columbus, OH, Charleston, SC, Boston, Massachusetts, and Annapolis, MD and host two home matches at West Point. Additionally, the team was able to travel to Fort Moore, GA for our annual National Championships and West Union, OH to train with the Tactical Defense Institute post season.

The team maintained an impressive performance this year, with season averages of 2,134 points in air pistol, 2,177 points in sport pistol, and 2,094 points in standard pistol. Our dedication and skill were further highlighted at the Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP) 2024 Collegiate National Championships, where the Army West Point Pistol team secured a commendable 3rd place overall finish. Cadets Jaden Beauchamp '25, Jerry Vesey '24, and Jack Hager '24 played pivotal roles in this success, contributing significantly across all three events scoring teams. Additionally, individual achievements shone brightly, with Cadet Caden Marley '26 achieving a season-high and personal record of 542 points in the collegiate national air event, securing a commendable 14th place overall ranking. Furthermore, Cadets William Krotee '26, Jaden Beauchamp '25, and Jerry Vessey '24 showcased their prowess by placing in the top 15 nationally in the standard pistol event, while Cadets Ian Dooley '26, Jaden Beauchamp '25, and Jerry Vessey '24 achieved similar recognition in the sport pistol event. Cadet Jack Hager '24 placed in the top 10 in both the sport and standard pistol events, earning him well-deserved recognition as an All American (Honorable Mention) in both categories. Similarly, Cadet Jerry Vesey's '24 overall season performance earned him All American (Honorable Mention in Sport Pistol), while Cadet Jaden Beauchamp's '25 overall season performance secured him spots on both the All American (2nd Team in Air and Sport Pistol) and All American (1st Team in Standard Pistol). These achievements not only underscore the individual talents within our team but also epitomize our collective dedication to excellence in collegiate shooting sports

all of which would not be possible without your generous support. Not only will your generous donation enable team travel and competition, but it will play a crucial role in helping us maintain and purchase new equipment and uniforms helping the West Point Pistol Team to remain in the top tier of all collegiate pistol teams across the nation.

*Victoria L. Gramlich*

VICTORIA A. GRAMLICH  
CPT, LG  
West Point Pistol Team OIC



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

MACC-Q

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Combat Weapons Team Stewardship Report, AY24

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, the Royal Military College of Canada, and the senior military colleges to include Norwich, Citadel, VMI, Texas A&M, and Virginia Tech. Our cadets dominated this year's competition. In addition to the team win, our cadets took three of the top five individual honors (including first and second place).



2. The team also hosted our third annual West Point 2-gun Match. This year the event was rescheduled from the Spring to the Fall to deconflict match preparation and execution from our Relentless Warrior training progression. The match was an incredibly popular event, with local clubs and CWT associates making the trip to

MACC-Q

SUBJECT: Combat Weapons Team Stewardship Report, AY23-2

compete. Our cadets designed each of the competition's eight stages and served as Range Safety Officers on West Point's premier range complexes. This competition was both a public relations outreach function and a fundraiser for the Team. Based on its success, we will begin planning for the AY25 2-gun Match as soon as the fall schedule is published.



3. This past fall, the team began participating the Black Rock Rod and Gun club's USPSA matches. Their club, situated just down the road in Cornwall, NY, began hosting monthly USPSA matches this year and graciously offered to reserve slots at the matches for our cadets. These matches provide an exceptionally convenient opportunity for our team members to gain experience in competitive shooting.

MACC-Q

SUBJECT: Combat Weapons Team Stewardship Report, AY23-2

4. In April, during our train up for Nationals, we hosted the Combat Weapons Team from the Royal Military College of Canada for a week to train and compete on USMA's world class range facilities. The knowledge shared and bonds built will continue to benefit our cadets as they will continue to work with foreign allies and partners throughout their careers.



5. CWT is a very selective team, and our cadets are some of the top performers in the Corps. Our cadets have a well-earned reputation for being one of the most-physically fit teams at West Point, with several cadets on the Sandhurst winning USMA Black team and others competing with their respective company teams. CDTs Will Cooper and Megan Cooper are finishing the train up for Special Forces Combat Diver Qualification Course, with the intent of completing the school this summer. CDTs Andrew Fratini and Wojciech Wardecki were selected for their physical and military prowess to represent USMA at the UK's Sandhurst field training event, Exercise Dynamic Victory, this summer. Our cadets also hold key leadership positions within the Corps, and are regularly selected for academic, athletic, and military honors.

6. During the fall semester CDT Megan Cooper put her shooting skills on display while studying abroad at the Saint-Cyr Military Academy in France where she outscored her entire platoon in pistol marksmanship. Filling her roster spot here at USMA was CDT Hans Wimmer, an Austrian cadet on a semester exchange. Hans embodied the CWT ethos, distinguishing himself during our physically demanding tryouts and his quiet confidence at practice.

7. We normally have between 20-22 members on 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 the team trained the

MACC-Q

SUBJECT: Combat Weapons Team Stewardship Report, AY23-2

USMA Black Sandhurst team in preparation for a military skills competition in Mexico. They also trained several other teams in preparation for the annual Sandhurst military skills competition. For the second year in a row, the team trained members of the Football and Sprint Football teams 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 helped our cadets further develop training and personal interaction skills that will be useful to them when they become officers.

8. 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 tried-and-true formula ensures that our students leave USMA as leaders of character and a base of skills that will serve them well within the profession of arms.

9. 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. At the ceremony, 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.

10. 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, the Old Bridge Rifle and Pistol Club in New Jersey, and our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual spring break trip to the Sig Sauer Academy. At the Sig Academy the team received world class instruction in both tactical and competitive shooting. 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.

11. The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned, at [sean.marquis@westpoint.edu](mailto:sean.marquis@westpoint.edu).

*Sean Marquis*

SEAN G. MARQUIS  
MAJ, IN  
Combat Weapons Team OIC



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

**January - December 2023**

Dear Mr. Les Szabolcsi, Class of 1978,

On behalf of the United States Military Academy at West Point, I would like to express my appreciation for your generosity and support of the Visitors Center and update you on the activities during 2023. The Frederick V. Malek Visitors Center continues to be the gateway to West Point. Its purpose remains to inspire, educate and inform the public about the academy and our mission.

The Visitor Center features more than 60 exhibits demonstrating our cadets' 47-month experience and offers 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, the Army West Point Gift Shop and is next door to the West Point Museum.

In 2023, the Visitors Center underwent several improvements, including a new sunshade inside and above the front entrance of the atrium; the addition of the new Army Green Service Uniform to the commissioning display; updating the 2023 Distinguished Graduate Award recipients; installing new projectors in the Shared Experience Theater, and adding Morale, Welfare and Recreation information in the atrium.

The most popular improvement this year may be the addition of the Army West Point Athletics Gift Shop by Fanatics, which now operates seven days a week. Two years in the making, the store required a six-week re-set this summer and emerged as the newest gift shop in the area.

The West Point Band also hosted a summer concert outside the Visitors Center on Aug. 19, drawing hundreds of local community members for a beautiful summer evening of music under the stars.

Since the facility opened on Dec. 4, 2017, it has welcomed 833,407 visitors (as of Dec. 31, 2023). This year saw a modest increase in visitors to 120,000, up from 119,000 in 2022. This is despite inclement weather throughout the year that curtailed visits on some of our more popular weekends.

Old Grads remain the most distinguished groups that we welcome. The feedback we have received from graduates has been overwhelmingly positive and appreciative. Our most popular events for graduates include the Ring Melt in January and spring and fall reunions, especially on home football weekends.

Some additional statistics you may find interesting:

During the winter months, our busy times are cadet class events from late January to mid-February, including 500th Night, Yearling Winter Weekend, 100th Night and Post Night, followed by Plebe-Parent Weekend in March.

In the spring, visits surge during Projects Day, Sandhurst and Retiree Activity Day. Each of these events saw hundreds of visitors flock to the facility for days on end. The Visitors Center welcomed more than 800 daily visitors from our local community on Passover in April.

The summer months saw a typical rise in visitor numbers, including families on vacation, and events such as Reception Day (R-Day), Acceptance Day and Ring Weekend. We again used the Visitors Center as the reception location for Summer Leadership Experience 2023, which saw 1,000 cadet candidates start their week-long exposure to life as a cadet. Thousands of Army sports campers stopped at the Visitors Center for registration throughout the summer.

The fall is always busy because of home football games, fall foliage tours, and class reunions. This October saw 21,792 visitors, including the Prep School Cadet Candidates followed by thousands of cadet family members during Family Weekend (4,135 visitors in three days!). We also welcomed military visitors from Brazil, India, Columbia and other countries.

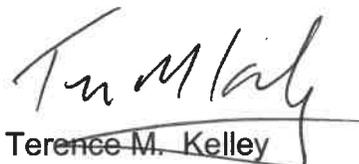
While the Visitors Center remains popular with foreign visitors, we have not seen their numbers return to pre-pandemic levels. We have seen the return of fall river cruises, which also bring thousands to our doors.

Throughout the year we enjoyed visits from JROTC units from around the region, but also from as far away as Texas, Ohio, and Illinois. School-age groups were mostly from the northeast, but also from as far away as California. Other groups who made sure to include the Visitors Center in their itinerary were Boy Scouts Troops, the Pennsylvania and New Jersey State Police, and a variety of local Orange County and New Jersey Junior Police Academies.

In summary, the West Point Visitors Center is vital to welcoming tens of thousands of visitors to the U.S. Military Academy and educating them on our history and mission. It serves as a vibrant community hub and world class entry point to our cherished institution.

For more 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).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terence M. Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that underlines the name.

Terence M. Kelley  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Director of Communications