



2025-2026 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

The reporting period covered in this report represents 2024 endowment distributions and gift funds proffered to USMA for Margin of Excellence programs during Academic Year 2025-2026 or available for WPAOG programs and projects during calendar year 2025.

S400Z-01 CLASS OF 1978 SUPERINTENDENT’S ENDOWMENT

Endowment Performance Report As of 12/31/2025

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 25-26 none *

Endowment Balance\$1,843,124

Distribution Available for AY 26-27\$63,679

* for AY 25-26 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, 2025, the investment returns of WPAOG were favorable to 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 WPAOG Investments Overview.



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

Academic Year
2025-2026

Subject: Class of 1978 Superintendent's Endowment

Dear Class of 1978, Mr. Les Szabolcsi:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am reaching out to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous gift to the Class of 1978 Superintendent's Endowment. The distribution from the Endowment has been reinvested to further the Endowment's growth and preserve funding for future needs. The Endowment contributes to the overall Superintendent's discretionary funds, and your support has been invaluable. Below are some examples of Margin of Excellence programs supported by the endowment.

Bridging Strategic Theory and Frontier Technology

Your contributions directly helped turn academic concepts into real-world experiences. This year, funding fully covered the travel, lodging, and logistics for 19 West Point Cadets to complete a pivotal innovation trip. Leaving the classroom behind, these future Army officers traveled to Massachusetts for a multi-day immersion at the MIT Lincoln Laboratory and the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU). This trip brought the DS345 (Military Innovation) curriculum to life. After analyzing the historical and bureaucratic frameworks of military adaptation in class, Cadets witnessed firsthand how concepts evolve from basic scientific research into ruggedized, field-ready technologies at a premier Federally Funded Research and Development Center. By touring world-class facilities specializing in microelectronics and dual-use radar systems, they learned the critical art of communicating operational military requirements to civilian technical specialists.

Engaging the Strategic Nerve Center

In addition to technological exploration, your philanthropic support enabled seniors to travel to Washington, D.C., for a multi-day immersion in the National Capital Region (NCR) to support their intensive senior capstone coursework. This high-impact trip animated the DS498 (Leadership in Future War) curriculum by embedding Cadets directly within the nation's strategic core. Throughout the academic year, these seniors explored how emerging capabilities—including artificial intelligence, autonomous weapons, and cyber operations—interact to change the character of war. By briefing senior leaders at the Pentagon and collaborating with regional defense agencies like the Joint Task Force-National Capital Region (JTF-NCR), Cadets stress-tested their client-based future-conflict scenarios and operational solutions against real-world geopolitical constraints.

Global Experiential Learning Through AIADs

Beyond traditional coursework, donor contributions to the Margin of Excellence program help expand the horizon for Cadets through the Academic Individual Advanced Development (AIAD) program. Private philanthropy covered vital travel, lodging, and operational expenses for these highly competitive summer internships, allowing future leaders to step away from the traditional 47-month campus routine. Running for two to four weeks between late May and early August, these sessions embedded Cadets within elite defense agencies, global research laboratories, and active military commands worldwide.

These high-impact internships directly reinforced the academy's 2025–2026 academic theme: "Projecting Lethality: Addressing the Multidimensional Challenges in the Indo-Pacific." Working alongside premier organizations such as U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) and the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC), Cadets applied data-driven innovation and systems thinking to active-duty military challenges. Whether modernizing casualty data processes in Hawaii or executing critical strategic studies in Japan and South Korea, Cadets translated abstract classroom concepts into operational field solutions.

Elevating Perspectives and Classroom Collaboration

Your support also enhanced our on-campus academic progression through the Guest Lecture Program. Civilian professionals, scholars, and subject experts were welcomed to share perspectives on modern strategic and policy challenges. Your funding directly supported travel, accommodation, and meals for guest lecturers who were unable to travel under government funding. Furthermore, regular interaction with these experts helps Cadets develop a deeper understanding of the complexities inherent in civilian-military relations across both security and policy frameworks.

Upgrading Tactical Training and Safety Standards

In alignment with our "Projecting Lethality" theme, your contribution will soon transform the Tronsrue Marksmanship Center into a world-class, state-of-the-art training environment. We recently entered into a contract to install InVeris SafeZone Shooting Stalls and advanced Ballistic Panels, elevating Cadet safety to the highest modern standard. By incorporating armor-steel core dividers, integrated blast shields, and anti-ricochet technology, this upgrade will provide our competitive teams and tactical clubs with absolute projectile containment and critical acoustic damping during high-volume live-fire operations. This gift, once installed, will directly protect and empower the Long Gray Line as they hone the lethal marksmanship skills required to lead the nation's soldiers.

Our Deepest Appreciation

The true return on these philanthropic investments will unfold as these Cadets commission as Second Lieutenants into an Army defined by rapid technological change. By exposing them to the peak of the defense innovation ecosystem, your generosity ensures these future leaders graduate with a tech-forward mindset, uniquely prepared to manage communication gaps, champion modernization efforts, and solve complex tactical problems.

We are truly grateful for your support and want to emphasize that your contributions are highly appreciated, well-managed, and profoundly impactful for our community. We remain fully committed to maintaining our facilities and programs in excellent condition so that they continue to inspire, protect, and uplift our community for many years to come. Thank you for your continued commitment to enhancing the intellectual and practical preparation of the Long Gray Line.

LEG,
Thanks for all your
Class does for the Academy!
Tom

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 12/31/2025**

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 25-26 none *

Endowment Balance\$1,443,814

Distribution Available for AY 26-27\$49,582

* for AY 25-26 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

31 March 2026

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.

The subject of this year's Workshop was "Great Power Geopolitics and US Responses to Technological Challenges in the Pacific Region. The Army's current doctrine emphasizes that US military forces will increasingly collaborate with a broad array of other actors, including US and host nation government officials, international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as local leaders and populations.

In the Pacific, China's growing assertiveness is marked not only by its military expansion but also by its use of space, cyber warfare, and cutting-edge technologies to advance its geopolitical goals. In the event we explored how China's strategic ambitions have led to rapid advancements in satellite and space-based systems, posing a significant challenge to US and allied interests in the region.

We continue to be reminded of how the Class of '78's commitment enables CSCMO to organize and provide tremendous opportunities for our community to advance their understanding and application of Civil-Military Operations. None of this capacity is 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 when they can.

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 have enabled this tremendous opportunity for cadets and faculty. We eagerly await the chance to assemble again for this all-important event in 2027.

A handwritten signature in brown ink, reading "John M. Melkon", is positioned above the printed name.

John M. Melkon
Assistant Professor & Director
CSCMO

S800F THE CLASS OF 1978 ARMY WEST POINT RIFLE TEAM ENDOWMENT

Endowment Performance Report As of 12/31/2025

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 25-26 none *

Endowment Balance\$527,756

Distribution Available for AY 26-27\$17,576

* for AY 25-26 the distribution for this endowment was reinvested

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Dear Class of 1978, Mr. Les Szabolcsi,

The mission of the athletics department is to recruit, educate, train, and inspire leaders of character who are committed to the Army values, through an extraordinary Division I athletic experience. Their mission is our mission — and none of it would be possible without the unwavering support of the Army West Point family. That includes you.

Thank you for your generous support of the Army West Point Rifle through contributions to the The Class of 1978 Army West Point Rifle Team Endowment. These gifts are invested to create long-term, sustainable support for the program. The annual spin-off from the endowment provides financial stability that is essential to creating meaningful opportunities for our cadet-athletes in their relentless pursuit of excellence. Simply put, team endowments are the foundation on which great sport programs are built, and your investment is helping secure the future of Army West Point Rifle.

Army West Rifle continued the proud tradition through discipline, resilience, and competitive spirit. The Black Knights placed fourth at the GARC Championships while earning multiple program records. Addison Antwiler earned selection to the NCAA Rifle Championships in smallbore, the first NCAA bid under head coach Leighton Dempster. The growth and development of our cadet-athletes this season reflected the hard work of our coaching staff and the vital support provided by donors like you.

On behalf of the Athletics Department, the West Point Association of Graduates, our coaching staff, and—most importantly—our cadet-athletes: thank you. Your continued support helps us deliver an extraordinary Division I athletic experience, and we are deeply grateful for everything you do to make that possible.

Go Army! Beat Everyone!

Warm regards,
Steven Donohue
Associate Athletics Director, Athletics Development

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

**Endowment Performance Report
As of 12/31/2025**

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.

Distribution Taken in AY 25-26	\$27,692
Endowment Balance	\$824,275
Distribution Available for AY 26-27	\$29,391

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

Dear Class of 1978, Mr. Les Szabolcsi,

On behalf of the West Point Pistol Team, thank you for your generous planned gift in support of our 2025-2026 season. Donations like yours are what allow our cadets to train, travel, and compete at the highest level, upholding the reputation and proud traditions of West Point itself. Without this support, the opportunities that shape these future officers simply would not exist.

Your gift makes these competitions and training possible, covering the equipment, travel, and training that cannot be replicated in a classroom. From the Tactical Defense Institute in Ohio to competitions in Annapolis and to the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, these are experiences

that these cadets will hold onto. Their success and experience are driven by you. You, who grant them the foundation to become outstanding service men and women, and to become even more outstanding as people. These are the next generation of leaders, and I feel blessed to see them grow because of your



Tactical Defense Institute Training



Cadet Charles Goetz and Cadet Nate Carbaugh

contributions. Every day of practice and competition, cannot be given a monetary value because of how important it is for these cadets' growth. Their dedication, shown consistently through the early mornings of travel and late nights of practice and competition; coupled with your donations unlocks untapped potential through experiences, skills, and relationships that will serve them, West Point, and America for years to come.

Led by William Krotee 26', the cadets excelled this season.

Two cadets, Nate Carbaugh 29' and Charles Goetz 28', travelled to Colorado Springs for Olympic training and competed in the Junior Olympics. Both did a great job, obliterating the Navy team. While Nate took 10th in air pistol out of the top junior shooters nationwide, and Charles won 7th in both in sport pistol and Olympic rapid fire events. On a larger scale, the success didn't stop there. The whole team achieved All American, while coming in 2nd in all events in Nationals. This year was a great year for the Army, and a terrible year for the Navy, a fantastic result.

Their skill and dedication are extraordinary, but so is the generosity that gives them the platform to show it. Because of your support, these cadets are not just becoming better shooters. They are becoming better leaders, better teammates, and better people. We are honored by your continued belief in this program, and we look forward to making you proud again next season.

Coach Carl Trompeter
West Point Pistol Team



**2nd Place at National
Championship**



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

Dear Class of 1978, Mr. Les Szabolcsi,

The Visitor's Center is the gateway to West Point. Its purpose is to inspire, educate and inform the public about the Academy. It's more than 60 exhibits demonstrate our Cadets' 47-month experience and offer 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.

This facility opened on Dec. 4, 2017, and welcomed 91,140 visitors through Dec. 31, 2025. Please remember we were closed 1 October 2025 through 12 November 2025, due to the Government Shutdown as well as some snow days.

The Visitor's Center has updated the 2025 Distinguished Graduate Awardees. We have repaired rotating door which has been nonoperational for over a year, repaired several cracks on the screen in the theatre and walls, added a video of Cadets shooting at the range in the range exhibit, incorporated display stands for Visitors to order free historical West Point books, we are in the process of getting some pedal stool signs at certain exhibits to prohibit Visitors to climb, jump or touch displays, did some paint touch ups to walls and trim, repaired leak damage on some ceiling and walls and added another brochure rack with some local area businesses. Of course, there is more to be done many exhibits that need to be updated such as movie footage in National Treasure theater, innovation exhibit needs to be repaired; as well as Projects Day window display updated to current year. We were discussing an intercom system in Cadet Experience to let

Visitors know of closing times and emergencies; as well as updating and repairing a few exhibits to current events and aged materials.

Old Grads remain the most distinguished groups that we welcome. The feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive and appreciative. Some highly attended Grad events include the Ring Melt in January, Reunion activities in early and late May, where over 4,000 visitors passed through during Grad Week alone. We were able to welcome 2,174 Visitors for one football game in August, 2,104 Visitors for one game September and 1,546 Visitors for one game in November. During the winter months, our busy times are Cadet class-related 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.

Old Grads and Cadet families are not the only folks that pass through our doors though. The Visitors Center saw over 3,800 visitors from our local Hassidic community stop by during Passover week. 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. We have also welcomed Congressional visitors, Boy Scouts Troops, Youth Police Department, Asian charters, International Visitors as well as other diverse groups.

Come Springtime, other high-volume events include Projects Day, Sandhurst and Retiree Activity Day. Each of these events saw hundreds of visitors' flock to the facility for days on end.

Recruits for the various Army Athletics teams are another steady group that visits throughout the year, not to be confused with the thousands of Army sports campers, who stop at the Visitors Center for registration throughout the summer months.

Once again, the Visitors Center served as the Cadet Candidate sign-in and boarding spot for SLE 2025, which saw 5,000 CCs start their week-long exposure to life as a Cadet.

The number of foreign visitors was slightly on the rise as we see more foreign families visit, we encountered more of foreign visitors since COVID, Americans continued to return in numbers, to include the return of American Cruise line passengers.

The Visitor Control Center continued its full 8-hour a day, seven day a week schedule: however, we did close for all Federal Holidays this year. The West Point Museum remained open during construction for most of 2025 except for a few months; June - August due to no air conditioning.

The Summer months saw a typical rise in visitor numbers, including families on vacation, and events such as SLE, R-Day, Acceptance Day and Ring Weekend.

We saw only a little more than 91,000 visitors in 2025 as opposed to almost 123,000 in 2024. Which is a significant loss but with the shutdown and weather it was inevitable.

The Visitors Center brochure continues to be very popular. It also includes information about West Point's social media platforms, Admissions, tours and how to get Army West Point sports tickets. We have reached out to more surrounding counties to obtain more brochures, maps and information on what visitors can visit. The Staff has also reached out to the various food establishments in Highland Falls, Fort Montgomery and other local areas for their menus and hours.

For any additional information on this report, please contact Rosemarie Smith at 845-938-2638 or e-mail at rosemarie.smith.civ@army.mil.