



West Point

NEWS RELEASE

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CLASS OF 2012 TO ENTER WEST POINT -- June 23, 2008

WEST POINT, N.Y. – Approximately 1,300 new cadets, including more than 280 minority candidates, 14 international cadets and 26 combat veterans, who served in Afghanistan, Iraq or both, are expected to report to West Point on Monday, June 30, Reception Day for the Class of 2012.

The incoming class was selected from a pool of more than 10,000 applicants. There are 192 women, who comprise 15 percent of the class. Minority enrollment, roughly 22 percent of the incoming class, includes 82 African-Americans, 78 Asian-Americans, 119 Hispanic-Americans and nine Native Americans.

West Point Admissions Director Col. Deborah McDonald said the entering class represents the promise of the future.

“Once again, our entering class is comprised of stellar young people,” McDonald said.

“Their overall performance in academics, leadership and athletics is outstanding and provides the foundation for successful completion of the challenging West Point experience.

“These young patriots are coming here to devote themselves to becoming guardians of Duty, Honor, Country and our United States Constitution. They represent our nation’s promise of the future,” McDonald continued.

Members of the Class of 2012 include cadets from every state in the nation and 14 international cadets entering the class under the sponsorship of their respective countries. The countries represented include Taiwan (two), Korea, Columbia, Jordan, Romania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Singapore, Paraguay, Slovenia, Serbia, Lithuania and El Salvador. Upon graduation, those cadets will return to their respective countries as officers in their armed forces.

During R-Day, the new cadets begin the process of becoming West Point cadets and future U.S. Army officers. They undergo administrative processing, are fitted with their initial issue of military clothing; receive haircuts, medical and physical evaluations; and begin their first lessons in marching, military courtesy and discipline. As their first day ends, the Class of 2012 will stand before many of their parents and friends at Trophy Point to take the Oath of Allegiance from the U.S. Military Academy Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Michael S. Linnington.

New cadets will complete six and one-half weeks of Cadet Basic Training, learning the basic skills of the Soldier. They will participate in rigorous physical training, small-unit tactical training and rifle marksmanship; they will learn to respond quickly and accurately to their commanders under conditions of mental and physical stress. At the end of this initial training period, new cadets will be formally accepted into the Corps of Cadets. The Acceptance Day Parade for the Class of 2012 is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 23.