



West Point

NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996
(845) 938-2006/4261 FAX: (845) 446-5820

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASE NO. 40-04

CLASS OF 2008 ENTERS ACADEMY – June 21, 2004

WEST POINT, N.Y. -- Approximately 1,235 cadet candidates, to include more than 270 ethnic minorities, 17 international cadets and 20 combat veterans who served in Afghanistan, Iraq or both, are expected to report to West Point on Monday, June 28, Reception Day (R-Day), for the Class of 2008.

The incoming class was selected from a pool of nearly 12,000 applicants. There are 198 women, or approximately 16 percent of the class. Minority enrollment includes 72 African-Americans, 94 Asian Americans, 79 Hispanic Americans and 12 Native Americans.

West Point Admissions Director Col. Michael Jones said this class is more than equal to the tasks their futures hold.

“This class includes some of the best and brightest young men and women in the country,” Jones said. “Their overall performance in academics, leadership and athletics is outstanding and provides the necessary foundation for successfully completing the challenging West Point experience.

“In these times of uncertainty and conflict,” Jones continued, “this patriotic group of citizens left the comfort and safety of civilian life to devote themselves to becoming guardians of Duty, Honor, Country and our U.S. Constitution.

-more-

CLASS OF 2008 ENTERS ACADEMY – 2/2/2

“They are beginning a life of service during which they will face some unique challenges,” Jones said. “They will be tasked with providing leadership for their soldiers, performing challenging missions and understanding the ever-changing, high-tech Army in a world environment fraught with danger.

“Their mission will ultimately be to win our Nation’s war against terrorism and other foes as they defend democracy around the world,” he added.

Members of the Class of 2008 include cadets from every state in the nation and 17 international cadets entering the class under the sponsorship of their respective countries. The countries represented include Albania, El Salvador, Cameroon, Columbia, Korea, Kyrgyzstan (2), Lithuania, Philippines (2), Romania (2) Singapore, Sri Lanka (2), Taiwan and Tunisia. Upon graduation these cadets will return to their country as officers in their armed forces.

During R-Day, the new cadets begin the process of becoming U.S. Military Academy 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 2008 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 Brig. Gen. Leo A. Brooks Jr.

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, long foot marches, rappelling and tactical maneuvers. New cadets will qualify in rifle marksmanship and 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 are formally accepted into the Corps. The Acceptance Parade for the Class of 2008 is scheduled for Saturday, August 14, at 10 a.m.