

WEST POINT CADETS LEARN AT GE (09 JUL 12)

In a program initiated by GE Chairman and CEO Jeff Immelt and launched three summers ago, West Point cadets spent three weeks at GE recently. They learned corporate management practices to complement their military leadership coursework. The program has been so successful for GE and the U.S. military that GE will expand the program next summer to welcome students from the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Nine cadets from West Point's Advanced Individual Academic Program chose to serve at GE this summer and were assigned to GE offices either in Fairfield, CT, Crotonville, NY, or Evendale, Ohio. Assignments included data analysis for Corporate Security and Facilities, and integrating digital solutions to monitor GE suppliers at Aviation Systems,

Program leader Leonard Green of GE Aviation Military Systems explains that when GE expands its externship program to the Naval and Air Force Academies next summer, it also plans to expand the number of GE businesses and functions participating. Transportation, Energy and Global Research Centers have offered to participate, with available function areas expanding to engineering disciplines, IT, finance, and more.

"The externship program allows GE to provide our future military leaders with ways to apply private sector efficiencies to public sector service," Green says. "Additionally, GE is able to build on-going relationships with some of the most respected institutions in the country, this is truly a win-win relationship."

On June 15, four cadets met with Mr. Immelt for more than an hour. They discussed leadership and a variety of topics. Additionally, Mr. Immelt expressed his respect to the cadets for their service to country. Cadet Jacob Severn, West Point Class of 2014, commented, "Meeting the Chairman was an amazing experience. He was very knowledgeable on current events and leadership. His personal approach to leadership struck me as being the most successful type of leadership, the kind I would like to implement."

The Department of Behavioral Sciences & Leadership helps cadets to identify internship opportunities within a myriad of military, public, non-profit, and private sector organizations each summer. Immersion experiences, like the GE internships, are a valuable part of the West Point experience. The Department's intent is to provide cadets the broadest possible exposure to the challenges leaders face in all contexts around the globe.

