NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLASS PRESIDENT NAMED 2016 FIRST CAPTAIN – Aug. 10, 2015

WEST POINT, N.Y. – Cadet Eugene Coleman of Alexandria, Virginia, has been selected First Captain of the U.S. Military Academy’s Corps of Cadets for the 2015-2016 academic year, achieving the highest position in the cadet chain of command. He will assume his duties today.

As First Captain, Coleman, an economics and management major, is responsible for the overall performance of the approximately 4,400 member Corps of Cadets. He currently holds the position of Class President. According to official records, this is the *third time a cadet has held these two positions simultaneously. John J. Pershing (USMA 1886) and Pete Dawkins (USMA 1959) were the only two others to have shared in dual roles. Additional, he is the fourth African-American to be named to this post. He follows in the footsteps of other notable First Captains such as Douglas MacArthur, William Westmoreland and Kristin Baker.

The First Captain, a senior who is also called the Brigade Commander, is similar to a student body president. His duties include implementing a class agenda and acting as a liaison between the Corps and the administration. In addition, Coleman is at the top of a pyramid of cadet commanders who make up the chain-of-command for the Corps of Cadets at West Point.

Coleman graduated from Mount Vernon High School, Alexandra, Virginia, in 2012 where is also held the position of class president.

-30-

*Update: Additional information confirms that Cadet Coleman is the eighth to hold both positions simultaneously while Charles P. Otstott, Class of 1960, held this distinction and was the only one to graduate as Valedictorian.