CLASS OF 2017 TO ENTER WEST POINT – June, 24 2013

Approximately 1,200 cadet candidates, including more than 337 minorities, 17 international cadets and 31 combat veterans will report to West Point July 1, Reception Day, for the West Point Class of 2017.

The incoming class was selected from a pool of more than 15,000 applicants. There are 194 women, who comprise 16 percent of the class. Minority enrollment, roughly 28 percent, includes 116 African-Americans, 85 Asian-Americans; 128 Hispanic Americans and eight Native Americans.

“The Class of 2017 is one of the most competitive classes to enter West Point in recent history,” said Col. Deborah McDonald, director of Admissions. “Their overall performance in academics, leadership, athletics and in the Army has been exceptional and provides the foundation for successful completion of the challenging West Point experience and for service to our nation as a commissioned leader of character.”

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

The Class of 2017 includes 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 Afghanistan, Botswana, Cambodia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Malaysia, Moldova, Mongolia, Nigeria (2), the Philippines, Rwanda, United Arab Emirates, South Korea and Thailand (2). Upon graduation, these cadets will return to their respective countries as officers in their armed forces.

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During Reception 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 2017 will stand before many of their parents and friends on the Plain to take the Oath of Allegiance from the U.S. Military Academy Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Richard D. Clarke.

New cadets will complete six 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, as well as learning 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 2017 is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 17, at 10 a.m.

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