WEST POINT TO HOST SANDHURST COMPETITION – April 6, 2015

WEST POINT, N.Y. – More than 500 cadets from military academies and universities around the world will compete in the 49th annual Sandhurst Military Skills Competition Saturday, April 11, on West Point, starting at 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The competition is free and open to the public. Visitors should head to Eisenhower Hall’s information center, 4th floor ballroom as early as 6 a.m. to receive a spectator handbook that will list the designated areas to view the competition.

Parking at West Point is limited. Parking alongside any highway is prohibited. The competition areas will be monitored for the safety of our competitors so please use caution while driving on the military installation and note the 25 mph speed limit, traffic signs and parking restrictions before departing your vehicle. Authorized parking areas include: Along Thayer Road; North Dock; Trophy Point; and areas around Eisenhower Hall.

Teams are comprised of eight men and one woman. The competition consists of 11 different events ranging from marksmanship to grenade throwing. It tests individual and team military skills as well as leadership abilities and athletic proficiency. Teams accumulate points during the rigorous competition, and have the opportunity to earn up to 1000 points throughout the course.

The defending champion team from the United Kingdom’s Royal Military Academy Sandhurst will attempt to retain the title against teams from: U.S. Naval Academy; U.S. Air Force Academy; U.S. Coast Guard Academy; eight select university ROTC teams; U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School; 36 teams from West Point; Canada’s Royal Military College; Chilean Military School; as well as teams from Germany, Japan, Korea, and Qatar.

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WEST POINT TO HOST SANDHURST COMPETITION 2/2/2

The competition originated in 1967 when the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst presented a sword to the U.S. Military Academy. The inscription on the sword reads: “To provide the Corps of Cadets with a challenging and rewarding regimental skills competition, which will enhance professional development and military excellence in selected soldier skills.” From then on, an annual event has been held to do just that.

About West Point
The U. S. Military Academy at West Point is a four-year, co-educational, federal, liberal arts college located 50 miles north of New York City. It was founded in 1802 as America's first college of engineering and continues today as one of our nation’s premier leader-development institutions, consistently ranked among top colleges in the country. Its mission remains constant—to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the nation as an officer in the U. S. Army. For more information, go to www.westpoint.edu.

-30-