Bar Pinning Standards (as of 5 May 2016)

- A commissioned officer in uniform (active or retired) must administer the oath
- Cadets must gain approval from their Tactical Officer/NCO for bar pinning plans (officer and location)
- Cadets must complete all administrative actions (“clear post”) prior to bar pinning ceremonies with rare exceptions approved at the Tactical Officer/NCO level
- Uniform:
  - Officer: ASU As with Army Service Cap (if assigned to USMA) or beret (if assigned outside of USMA)
  - 2LT: ASU As with beret or Service Cap
- The American flag must be prominently displayed during the ceremony
- Optional: “First Salute” should be a current/retired/veteran enlisted Soldier rendering a salute and then given a silver dollar. First Salute signifies someone important to the development of the brand new officer. Cadets should not be considered for a first salute.
- Location: Anywhere on the West Point Military Reservation unless rare exception from Tactical Officer/NCO. Regiments can designate areas, exceptions are permitted with Tactical Officer/NCO approval for alternate locations.

Recommended Script:
The host explains the significance of the event to the audience (the host can be anyone that the Commissioning Officer designates). The US flag must be appropriately displayed:

(This is an example of an introduction) The Bar Pinning Ceremony is a time honored tradition that signifies a new officer joining the profession of arms. This ceremony is the visible transformation from cadet to officer. A commissioned officer must administer the Oath of Office to the new Lieutenant and swear them to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. As such, each newly commissioned officer becomes an agent of the executive branch of the government, appointed by the President. The pinning of the 2LT rank is a visible sign of this appointment and of the commitment made by the officer. Please maintain proper decorum and respect as we proceed with the ceremony.

Promotion narrative is read while the 2nd Lieutenant bars are pinned on the Class A uniform:

Attention to Orders.
The President of the United States has reposed special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity, and professional abilities of: (FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME, LAST NAME). In view of these qualities and his/her demonstrated potential for increased responsibility he/she is, therefore, promoted in the United States Army to the rank of SECOND LIEUTENANT, effective 21 May 2016.

By order of the Acting Secretary of the Army.

-Signed –
Patrick Murphy

Oath of Office is Administered by a Commissioned Officer (active or retired) in Military Uniform:
I, (First Name, Middle Name, Last Name) HAVING BEEN APPOINTED AN OFFICER IN THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES, IN THE GRADE OF SECOND LIEUTENANT, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AGAINST ALL ENEMIES, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC; THAT I BEAR TRUE FAITH AND ALLEGIANCE TO THE SAME; THAT I TAKE THIS OBLIGATION FREELY, WITHOUT ANY MENTAL RESERVATION OR PURPOSE OF EVASION; AND THAT I WILL WELL AND FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE UPON WHICH I AM ABOUT TO ENTER; SO HELP ME GOD (the term GOD does not have to be used).

Appointment Certificate is presented if available

Remarks by Lieutenant

End of Ceremony