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CADETS WIN COMMANDER-IN-SPEECH-DEBATE COMPETITION – March 21, 2017

WEST POINT, N.Y. – Three cadets from U.S. Military Academy’s Debate Team will be awarded the Commander-In-Speech trophy from Speaker of the House, the Honorable Paul Ryan in his office Wednesday, March 29 at 5:30 p.m.

The U.S. Military Academy team won the Commander-In-Speech Debate Competition in the fall debating the topic, “*The Department of Defense should substantially increase its offensive cyber capabilities*” against both the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

“We are honored to receive the first ever awarding of the Commander-In-Speech trophy from Speaker Ryan and believe that this presentation not only demonstrates Congress' unrelenting support of the military, but the military's unrelenting dedication to creating informed and impassioned leaders,” said Debate Team Captain Cadet James Hickey.

Accepting the award on behalf of the team are: James Hickey, Falls Church, Virginia, Matthew Watts, Yorktown, Virginia and Quanzel Caston, Houston, Texas.

The U.S. Military Academy Debate Team has a rich history of excellence within the Corps of Cadets and the debate community. Known as the “Dean’s Team,” the Policy Debate team fosters an environment of military and academic prowess that develops leaders of character. This leadership has transitioned into the debate community where the team has become renowned for its success and dedication to the sport. The West Point Debate team hosted the East Coast’s first major debate tournament in 1945 and created the National Debate Tournament, the Nation’s premier tournament, in 1947. The Policy Debate team has since gone on to produce numerous National champions while graduating esteemed officers based in ethical leadership. The team has produced three Novice and Junior Varsity National Champions in the last 20 years while capturing nine bids to the NDT.

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.