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NEWS RELEASE

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CLASS OF 2020 TO ENTER WEST POINT – June 17, 2016

WEST POINT, N.Y. – Almost 1,300 cadet candidates, including 282 women, 425 minorities, 15 international cadets and 13 combat veterans will report to West Point June 27, Reception Day, for the West Point Class of 2020.

The incoming class was selected from a pool of nearly 16,000 applicants. There are 282 women, who comprise 22 percent of the class. Minority enrollment, roughly 33 percent, includes 180 African-Americans, 122 Asian-Americans; 123 Hispanic Americans and 14 Native Americans.

“The quality of the students entering West Point with the Class of 2020 is exceptional,” said Col. Deborah McDonald, director of admissions.

“Their outstanding performance in academics, leadership, athletics, and in the Army provides them the foundation for successful completion of the challenging 47-month West Point experience and for service to our nation as a future commissioned leader of character” McDonald continued.

The Class of 2020 includes cadets from every state in the nation and 15 international cadets entering the class under the sponsorship of their respective countries. The countries represented include Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, Honduras, Kosovo (two), Moldova, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and Turkey. Upon graduation, these cadets will return to their respective countries as officers in their armed forces.

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 2020 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. Diana M. Holland.

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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 2020 is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 13, at 10 a.m.

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.