HAGEL TO SPEAK AT USMA GRADUATION – May 17, 2013

WEST POINT, N.Y. – Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel, will be the graduation speaker for the U.S. Military Academy’s Class of 2013. The ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 25, at 10 a.m. in Michie Stadium. Approximately 1,000 cadets will receive Bachelor of Science degrees and be commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army.

The event is open to the public and all are welcome to attend. Tickets for general admission will be provided at the stadium gates. Parking is available in many locations with free shuttle bus service to Michie Stadium.

Attendees should enter through Thayer or Stony Lonesome gates off of Route 9W. Thayer Gate (preferred) is located in the Village of Highland Falls. The public may enter the stadium beginning at 7 a.m. at Gates 6, 6A and 7. Handicapped access (wheelchairs only) is at Gate 6. Access will be restricted at 9:30 a.m. Please plan to arrive early. Photo identification for those 16 years and older is required upon entering academy grounds and all vehicles are subject to search.

In order to expedite security checks, the following items are not permitted into the stadium: no weapons, cans, umbrellas, signs, food, backpacks, noise makers, laser pointers, coolers, large bags (except diaper bags), and animals (except service animals for the handicapped).

Additionally, the graduation exercise will be streamed live beginning at 9:40 a.m. on Saturday. Please visit www.pentagonchannel.mil for more information.

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Editor’s Note: Those interested in covering this event must contact the Public Affairs Office at 845-938-2006 before May 23 to obtain required credentialing information prior to the ceremony.