



**U.S. Military Academy at West Point - An
Encyclopedic Guide for the 21st Century:
Academic and Athletic Programs, Admissions
Information, History (DVD-ROM)**

Department of Defense, U.S. Army

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This electronic book on DVD-ROM provides an unprecedented encyclopedic collection of documents, official references, and information about the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Coverage includes admissions data, academic program, military program, physical program, athletics, alumni and parents, faculty and staff, visiting West Point, and much more. Topic areas covered: Adjutant General, Admissions and Catalog, Band, Center for Enhanced Performance, Chaplain, Chemistry and Life Science, Chief of Staff, CIO, Civil and Mechanical Engineering, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Classes, Commandant, Counterterrorism - Combating Terrorism Center (CTC), CTE USMA, Deans Corner, Department of Foreign Languages, Digital Library, Directorate of Academy Advancement, Directorate of Operations and Plans, Emergency Services, English Department, Environmental and Geographical Sciences, Geography, Headquarters Company, History Department, History of West Point, Housing, Information and Educational Technology (IETD), Inspector General, Keller Army Hospital, Library, Museum, OPA, Photonics Research Center, Physics, Press Kits, Public Affairs, Public Works, Social Sciences, Superintendent. West Point's role in our nation's history dates back to the Revolutionary War, when both sides realized the strategic importance of the commanding plateau on the west bank of the Hudson River. General George Washington considered West Point to be the most important strategic position in America. Washington personally selected Thaddeus Kosciuszko, one of the heroes of Saratoga, to design the fortifications for West Point in 1778, and Washington transferred his headquarters to West Point in 1779.. President Thomas Jefferson signed legislation establishing the United States Military Academy in 1802. He took this action after ensuring that those attending the Academy would be representative of a democratic society. Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, the "father of the Military Academy," served as Superintendent from 1817-1833. He upgraded academic standards, instilled military discipline and emphasized honorable conduct. Aware of our young nation's need for engineers, Thayer made civil engineering the foundation of the curriculum. For the first half century, USMA graduates were largely responsible for the construction of the bulk of the nation's initial railway lines, bridges, harbors and roads. Eisenhower, MacArthur, Bradley, Arnold, Clark, Patton, Stilwell and Wainwright were among an impressive array of Academy graduates who met the challenge of leadership in the Second World War. The postwar period again saw sweeping revisions to the West Point curriculum resulting from the dramatic developments in science and technology, the increasing need to understand other cultures and the rising level of general education in the Army. In 1964, President Johnson signed legislation increasing the strength of the Corps of Cadets from 2,529 to 4,417 (more recently reduced to 4,000). To keep up with the growth of the Corps, a major expansion of facilities began shortly thereafter. In concert with the increasing role of minorities and women in society and the military over the past three decades, greater numbers of minorities and the first women were brought to the Military Academy and the Corps of Cadets.

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