

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY  
**WEST POINT**®

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**GRADUATION AT THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY  
CLASS of 2017**

The U.S. Military Academy Class of 2017 will graduate and be commissioned May 27, 2017. Those graduating today represent approximately 78 percent of the cadets who entered West Point almost four years ago.

Secretary of Defense James Mattis is the graduation speaker for the Class of 2017.

There are 936 cadets expected to receive their diplomas today. Among them will be 10 international cadets. The class also includes 151 women, 72 African-Americans, 60 Asian/Pacific Islanders, 102 Hispanics and 6 Native Americans. There are 133 members of the class who attended the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School (114 men and 19 women). This class also includes 21 combat veterans (20 men and 1 woman).

The 10 international cadets, who represent Afghanistan, Jordan, Latvia, Moldova, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, and Thailand, will return to those nations for service.

Almost all of the graduating cadets will be commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army. However, three cadets will be commissioned in the Air Force, three cadets will be commissioned in the Marines, and two cadets will be commissioned in the Navy.

The Class of 2017 has 65 cadets who are sons or daughters of West Point graduates. Six of these cadets have parents who are both graduates.

The Class Motto is "*So Others May Dream.*"

The First Captain is Cadet Hugh P. McConnell, Newton, Kansas.

The Class President is Cadet Mario A. Contreras, Southern Pines, North Carolina

The highest cumulative Academic Quality Point Average (Valedictorian) was earned by Cadet Samuel R. Ruppert, Fairfield, Pennsylvania

The highest cumulative Cadet Performance Score (overall), the highest cumulative Military Program Score, and the highest cumulative Physical Program Score was earned by Cadet Hugh P. McConnell, Newton, Kansas.

The scholarship recipients are:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>City, State</b>
Gabriela C. Barrera Gutierrez	Lincoln Laboratory Military Fellowship National Science Foundation	Lodi, NJ
Alexandra M. Bell	Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship	Houston, TX
Jacob A. Bishop	Yenching Scholarship	Washington, DC
Travis G. Chewning-Kulick	National Science Foundation	Liverpool, NY
Liam J. Comidy	Lincoln Laboratory Military Fellowship	Seattle, WA
Don Stanley C. Dalisay	Schwarzman Scholarship	Batangas City, Philippines
Patrick W. Dancer	Yenching Scholarship	Glencoe, IL
Ezra M. Engel	Lincoln Laboratory Military Fellowship	Millburn, NJ
David T. Farr	Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship	Cornwall, NY
Jarrett M. Guyer	Lincoln Laboratory Military Fellowship	Redmond, WA
John F. Hadley	Fulbright Scholarship	Manhattan Beach, CA
Natalie A. Herbert	Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship	Washington, DC
Leonard R. Kosta Jr.	Draper Laboratory Fellowship	Fairfax, VA
Adam B. Kratch	Draper Laboratory Fellowship National Science Foundation	Long Valley, NJ
Samuel A. Mahle	Draper Laboratory Fellowship National Science Foundation	Springboro, OH
Mark J. McGinnis Jr.	Schwarzman Scholarship	Detroit, MI
Timothy B. McLaughlin Jr.	Schwarzman Scholarship	Millville, MA
Christopher C. Monroe	GEM Fellowship	Jackson, MS
Christian E. Nattiel	Rhodes Scholarship	Medeira Beach, FL
Collin J. Parker	Schwarzman Scholarship	Warsaw, IN
Adam F. Reynolds	Draper Laboratory Fellowship	Valrico, FL
Matthew M. Rodriguez	GEM Fellowship	Mission Viejo, CA
Samuel R. Ruppert	Marshall Scholarship	Fairfield, PA
Bethany G. Russell	Schwarzman Scholarship	Bristol, TN
Nathanael R. Thomas	Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship Fulbright Scholarship	Asheboro, NC
Bryce D. Wilkins	Draper Laboratory Fellowship	Boalsburg, PA
Jessica H. Zhu	Lincoln Laboratory Military Fellowship Draper Laboratory Fellowship	Chandler, AZ

This year, 33 members of the class earned the recognition as Honor Graduates. This award reflects overall excellence in cadet performance – Academic, Military, and Physical. Those honored will graduate in the order of their Cadet Performance Rank within the class. All other cadets, with the exception of the First Captain and Athletic Association award winners, will graduate in alphabetical order within their companies.

The top 10 Honor Graduates are:

<b>Name</b>	<b>City, State</b>
Hugh P. McConnell	Newton, KS
Samuel R. Ruppert	Fairfield, PA
Edmund P. Mullin III	Cedar Rapids, IA

Quinn R. Carlson	Mukilteo, WA
Madison T. Crum	Boca Raton, FL
Collin J. Parker	Warsaw, IN
Jett A. Dipalma	Fort Montgomery , NY
Adam B. Kratch	Long Valley, NJ
Taler J. Brazell	Las Vegas, NV
Travis G. Chewning-Kulick	Liverpool, NY

This year, there are 51 Superintendent’s Award for Excellence recipients. This prestigious award is only given to the top five percent of each class, and is based on the Cadet Award Score (CAS), which is a combination of the three programs in Academic, Military and Physical.

For those Cadets earning a CAS that falls into the next 15% (the top 6-20% of the class), they earn the Superintendent’s Award for Achievement. The Class of 2017 has 147 recipients of this award. There are also 166 Gold Star recipients, which is awarded to cadets who have an Academic Grade Point Average of 3.67 or higher.

Women account for 24 percent of the honor graduates, 17 percent of the Gold Star recipients, 25 percent of the Superintendent’s Award for Excellence, and 19 percent of the Superintendent’s Award for Achievement. Women make up 16 percent of the graduating class.

The Class of 2017 will serve in the following branches of the active Army:

<b>Branch</b>	<b># Men</b>	<b># Women</b>
Infantry	190	4
Armor	69	4
Field Artillery	98	13
Air Defense Artillery	36	5
Aviation	83	11
Engineer	96	26
Signal Corps	37	6
Cyber	14	1
Military Police	7	6
Military Intelligence	46	22
Adjutant General's Corps	8	16
Finance	8	1
Chemical	8	2
Transportation	16	10
Ordnance	27	6
Quartermaster	13	10
Medical Service	19	8
Medical School	14	8
Interservice Transfers	8	0

This year’s graduating class will have 63 women commissioned into the Combat Arms Branches of the US Army include Air Defense Artillery, Armor, Aviation, Engineers, and Infantry.

This year's graduating class has 157 graduates (16 percent) that have committed to additional service obligations and thereby gained significant control over key aspects of their careers. Through their dedication to service in the Regular Army, these officers secured either the branch of their choice or their initial permanent duty station of choice.

The Class of 2017 has cadets graduating from all 50 states, with the exception of North Dakota. The top five states are California (87), Texas (79), New York (61), and Florida (53).

This is West Point's 219th graduating class and the 38th class to graduate women. (There were no classes that graduated in 1810 or 1816 and there were two graduating classes each in 1861, 1917, 1918, 1922, and 1943).