A Tour of the US Service Academies
Class 4
US Military Academy

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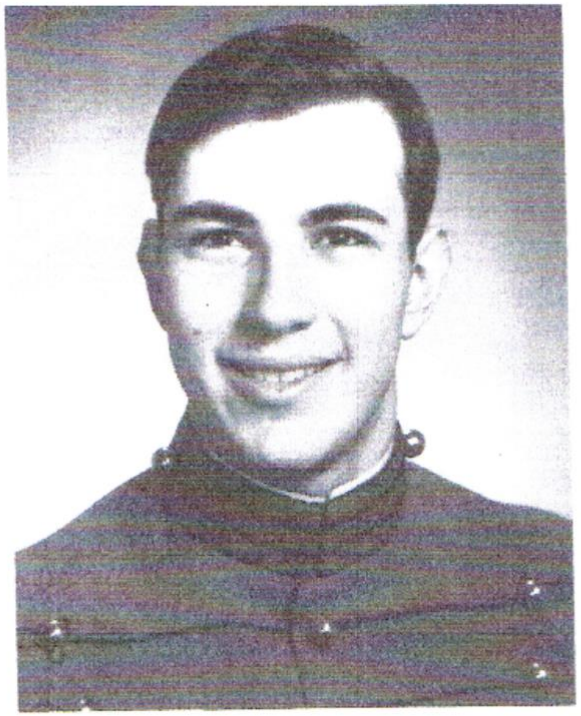
But First…..

Your instructor (disguised with hair!)



JAMES JOSEPH DUNPHY JR. F-3
Brooklyn, New York

Brooklyn and West Point have never seen the likes of James J. Dunphy. Among his accomplishments "Dunph" was a charter member of the "Grant Hall Boys," and confused the Class Committee to no end. A man of constant humor, he'll be remembered as a true friend.

Class Committee 2, 1; Vice-Chairman, Activities Committee; Chairman, 1974 Homecoming Committee; Information Detail 4, 3, 2; Fine Arts Forum 3, 2, 1; SCUSA Secretariat 4, 3, 2, Chairman 1.

LIEUTENANT

Overture

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-Tkxk6_PYc

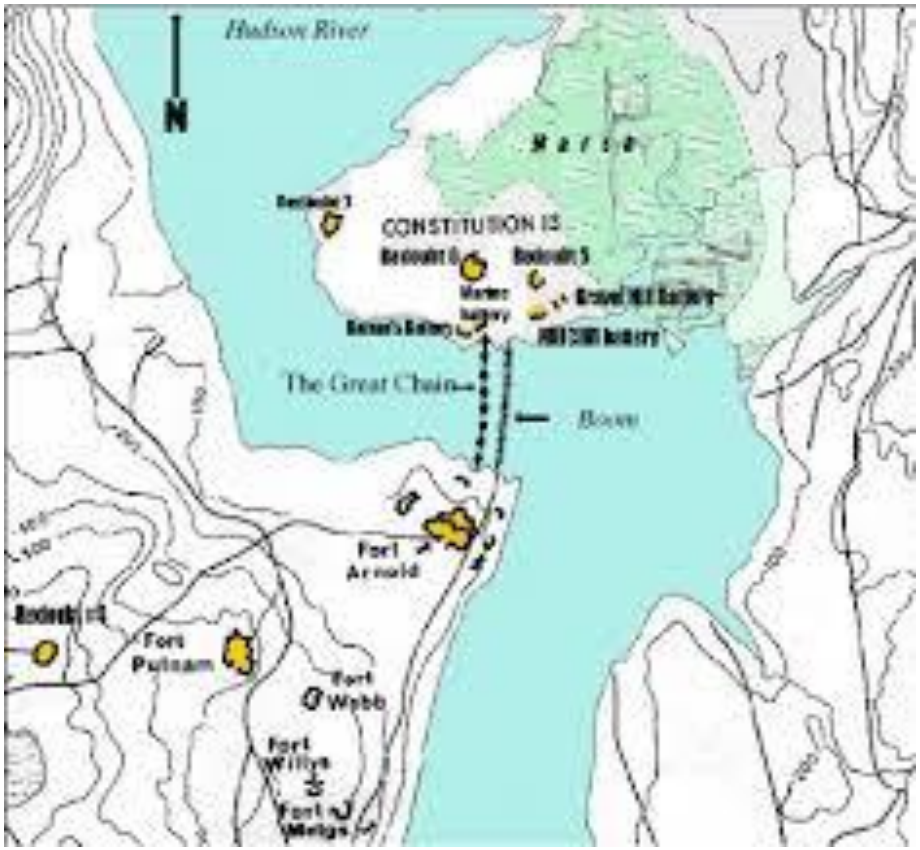
(When told, follow along with both the official words and the unofficial cadet slang words)

History

- During the Revolutionary War, a key British goal was to cut off radical New England from the rest of the colonies
- To do so, the British needed to secure the Hudson River
- Numerous attempts in 1776 and 1777 by the British were unsuccessful

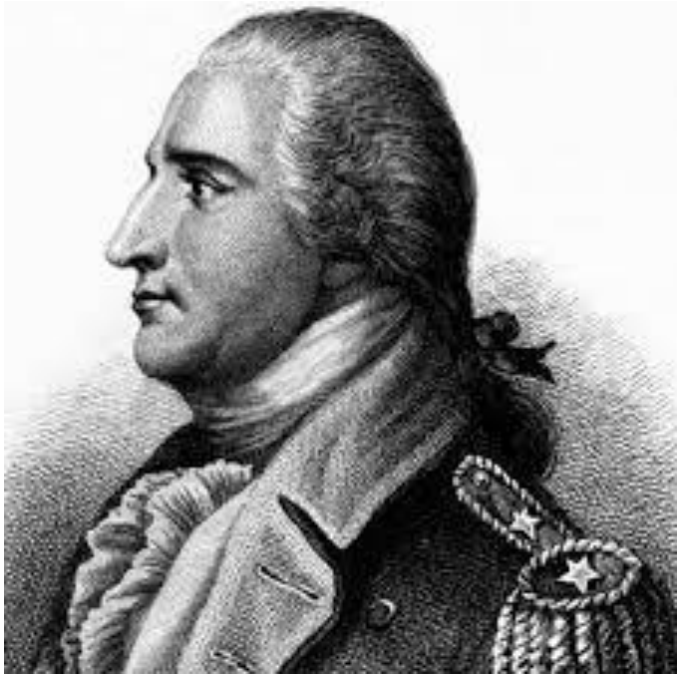
History

- To block further attempts, the Continental Army needed a secure location on the Hudson
- West Point was chosen due to the hills around the river
- More importantly, the Hudson took a hairpin turn, so the river could be blocked by a chain



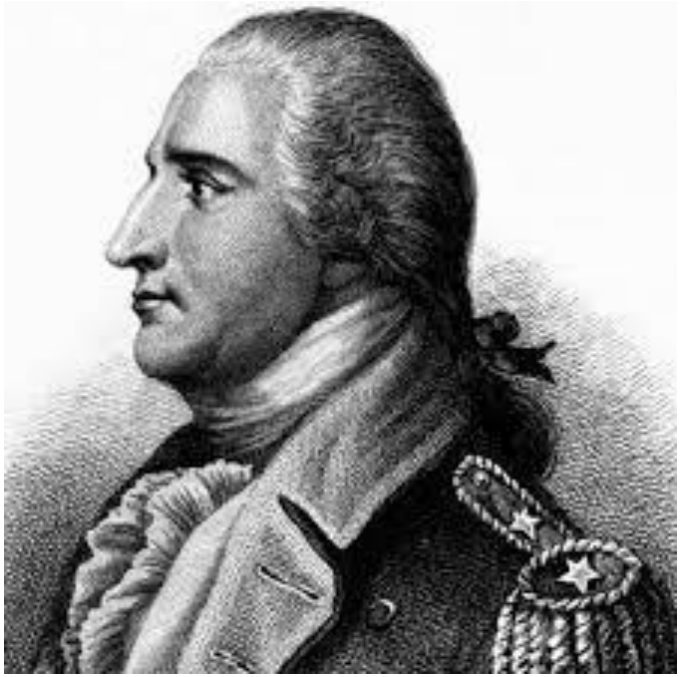
History

- Benedict Arnold, a hero of the Battle of Saratoga, was grievously wounded there.
- After not receiving the recognition he thought he deserved, and being court martialed for shady dealings, he opened up communications with the British



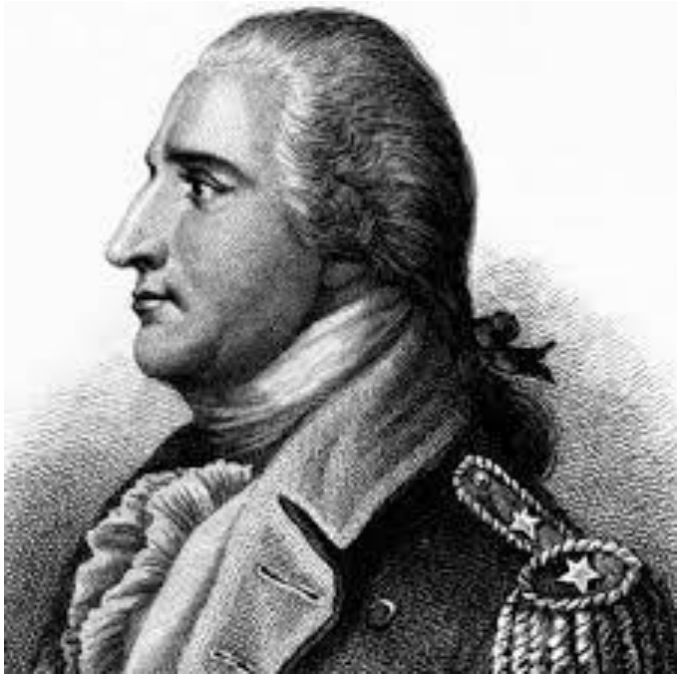
History

- Offered an active role in the Continental Army, he instead asked for command of West Point, with the plan to betray it to the British
- After his contact, Major John Andre was captured, he realized the jig was up and fled to the British lines



History

- The same day, Washington arrived at West Point, learned about the treason, and strengthened the defenses
- Andre was hung, and Arnold became a BG in the British Army.



History

- With the end of the war in 1783, and the complete demobilization of the US Army on June 2, 1784, the only two posts still manned were Fort Pitt (25 men) and West Point (55 men)
- “Cadets” were assigned to West Point from 1794 to receive instruction in artillery and engineering, but there was no formal curriculum

History

- George Washington and Alexander Hamilton, among others , recommended a Military Academy
- Shortly after his inauguration, Thomas Jefferson looked to change the Federalist military.

History

- The Military Peace Establishment Act , among other things, created USMA.
- It was signed on March 16, 1802, which is now celebrated at USMA as Founder's Day

History

- The first official graduate, Joseph Swift, graduated in October 1802 after less than 7 months
- Swift would later become the Chief of Engineers for the US Army within 10 years of graduation
- As such, he was also Superintendent of West Point

History

- CPT Alden Partridge (right) served as the Superintendent in Swift's absence
- However, there was still no regular curriculum, and discipline was lax
- In 1817, President Monroe replaced Partridge with Sylvanus Thayer

History

- CPT Partridge refused to relinquish command
- After being court martialed, he resigned his commission
- He would later found Norwich University, the first private military college

History

- COL Thayer, during his 16 years as Superintendent implemented many reforms, some of which remain
- ➢ 4 year course of studies
- ➢ Increased discipline
- ➢ Recitation and grading every class

History

- COL Thayer has rightly been called “The Father of the Military Academy”, and as a result, at West Point there is
  - Thayer Road
  - Thayer Hall
  - Thayer Statue
  - Hotel Thayer

History

- By the time of the US Civil War, the armies were completely led by West Pointers.
- Of the 60 major battles of the war, in 55 West Pointers commanded both sides
- In the other 5, West Pointers commanded one side or the other.

History

- During World War I, the need for junior officers greatly shortened the course.
- The class that entered in 1913 graduated in April 1917
- The class that entered in 1914 graduated in August 1917
- The class that entered in 1915 graduated in June 1918

History

- The class that entered in 1916 graduated on November 1, 1918
- The class that entered in July 1917 also graduated on November 1, 1918, then was recalled as student officers in December 1918 and graduated in June 1919
- It was not until the class of 1923, which entered in July 1919, that the Academy was back on a four year program

History

- After World War I, 38 year old BG Douglas MacArthur was sent to West Point to modernize the curriculum and help the Academy recover from the war years
- He instituted mandatory intramurals and included current events and the study of World War I as compared to the Civil War
- The DOGs (Disgruntled Old Grads) rose up against him and he departed a year early

History

- Classes graduated early during World War II, but not to the extent as in WWI
- Normal 4 year enrollments were in place during both the Korean and the Vietnam War
- During the Vietnam War, West Point had a difficult time with recruitment and was afflicted (though obviously not as much) with the drug culture in other campuses

A Tour of USMA

West Point Museum

The old academic building for Ladycliff College, currently the largest Army museum

Hotel Thayer

Private hotel, located just inside the front gate of the Academy

Mahan Hall

Academic building, named for Dennis Hart Mahan, father of Alfred Thayer Mahan

Grant Hall

Meeting place and snack bar in the central area

Bartlett Hall

Science Building

Washington Hal/Ike – MacArthur Barracks

WH – mess hall, Ike MacArthur barracks dating from late 1960's

Doubleday Field

Home of the Army Baseball team, named after the “inventor” of baseball

Jefferson Library

Recently opened main library, named after President who founded the Academy

Original Library

Source of Corps of Engineers insignia for US Army

The Plain

Location of parades and other ceremonies

Battle Monument

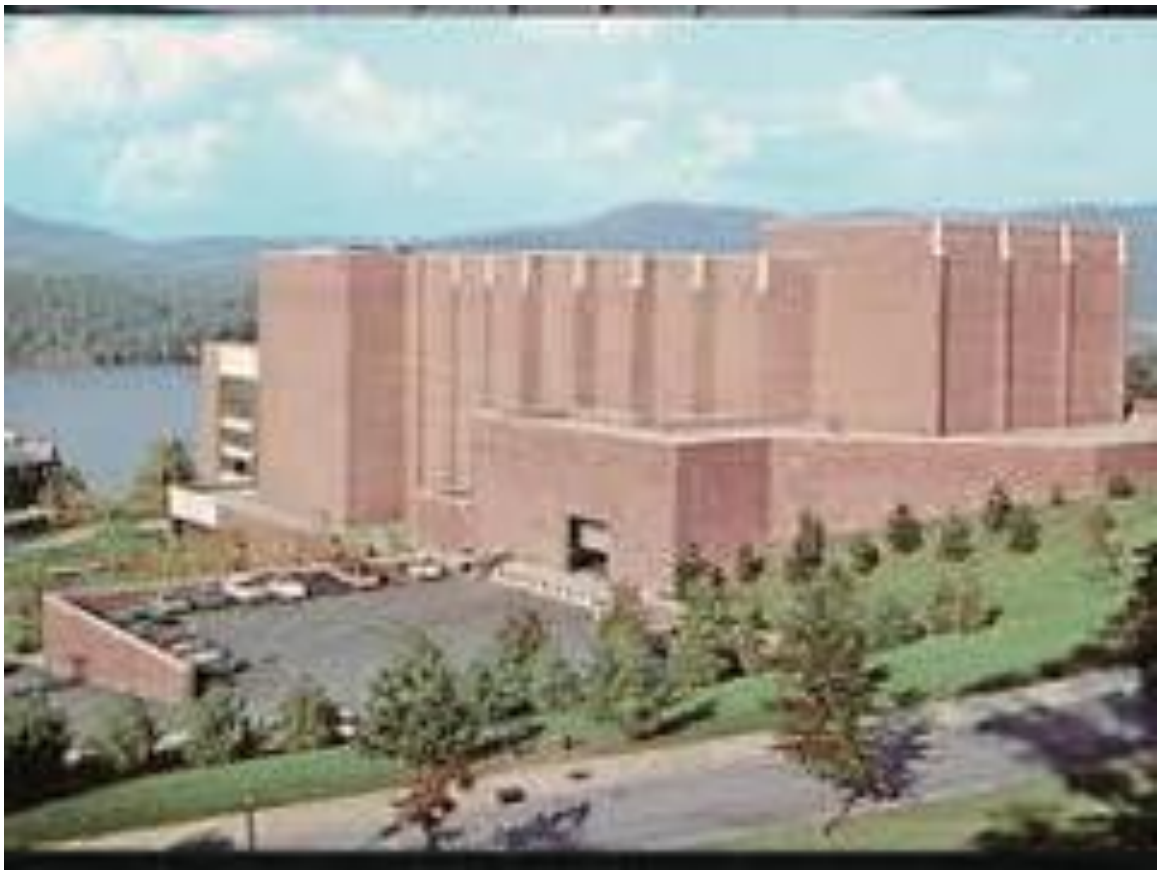
Memorial for US Regular Army deaths in the Civil War, nicknamed the Confederate Marksmanship monument

View from Battle Monument

Hudson River and Storm King Mountain

Superintendent's House

Oldest building on post, dating to 1819



Eisenhower (Ike) Hall

Student union, opened in 1974

Catholic Chapel

Church of the Most Holy Trinity

Jewish Chapel

Opened in 1984 with private funds

Cadet Chapel

Largest of the chapels, used for Protestant services

Michie Stadium

Home of the Army football team, and ranked as one of the top ten stadium locations

Cemetery

- Small cemetery on post, but many famous individuals buried there
- At the gate to the cemetery is the Old Cadet Chapel, originally built in 1836
- When the current Cadet Chapel was built in 1910, the Old Chapel was dismantled brick by brick and moved

Cemetery

- Inside are plaques honoring all the MGs of the Revolutionary War by name
- One exception – Major General, born 1740
- And that MG is?

Cemetery

- Among the people buried in the Cemetery:

➢George and Libby Custer

➢George Goethals

➢David Marcus

➢Frank Merrill

➢Winfield Scott

Cemetery

- Among the people buried in the Cemetery:

➢ Joe Stillwell

➢ Edward White

➢ Sylvanus Thayer

➢ Red Blaik, Maggie Dixon

➢ John Schofield

➢ Dennis Michie

Leadership

Superintendent - LTG Robert Caslen (my classmate)

Commandant –

BG Steve Gilland

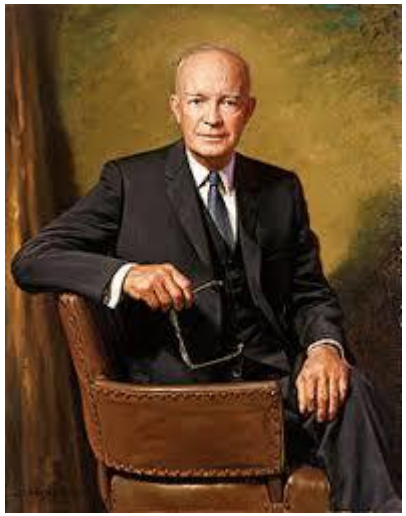
Faculty

- Each department is headed by a permanent professor in the grade of COL, who will remain at West Point until retirement at age 64
- There are a number of permanent assistant professors, and about 25% of the faculty are permanent civilians
- The remaining members of the facility are officers in the grade of CPT or MAJ, fresh from graduate school and on a three year assignment

Alums – US Presidents

Ulysses Grant – 1843

Dwight Eisenhower – 1915



Alums –
Heads of State of Other Countries

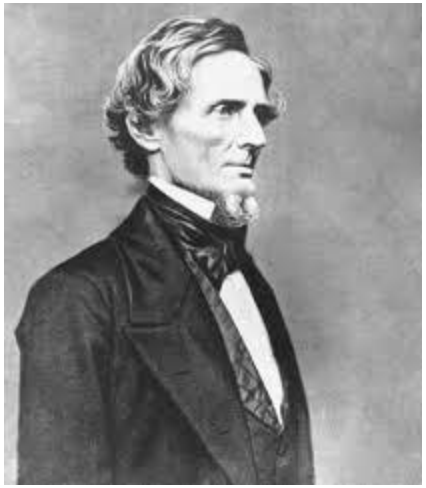
Anastasio Somoza – Nicaragua

Fidel Ramos – Philippines

Alums –
Heads of State of Other Countries

Jose Figueres – Costa Rica

Jefferson Davis – CSA *



Alums –
Did you know

George Goethals – builder of the Panama Canal

Henry Robert –

Robert's Rules of Order

Alums –
Did you know

John Bel Edwards –
current Gov of LA

Jack Reed -
Current Senator from RI

Alums –
Did you know

Roy Moore (yes, that one)

Almost Senator from AL

Paula Broadwell - Biographer (and girlfriend) of GEN Petraus (Petraus is class of 1974 and married to the daughter of the then Supe)

Alums –
Did you know

Leslie Groves – built the Pentagon and headed the Manhattan Project

Edward A Murphy – inventor of Murphy's Law

Alums –
Did you know

Buzz Aldrin – 2nd Man to walk on moon

Michael Collins – flew Columbia during moon landings

Alums –
Did you know

Bob McDonald – CEO of P & G,
Secretary of VA (also my classmate)

James Kimsey – founder of AOL

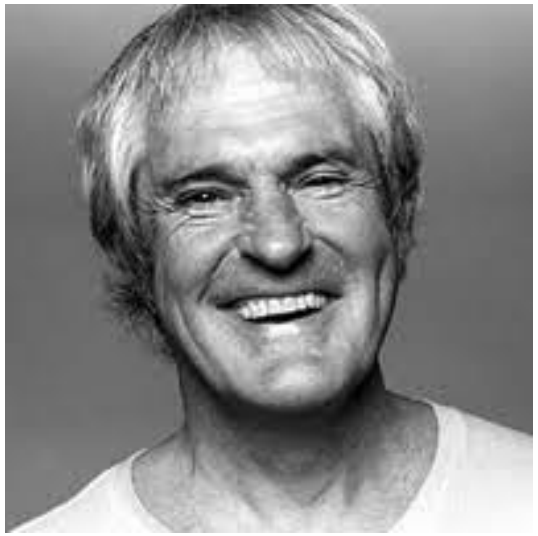
Non Alums

Edgar Allen Poe – x 1834

James McNeil Whistler – x 1855

Non Alums

Timothy Leary – x 1943



Adam Vinatieri – x 1995

Fictional Grads

Paladin

Jason McCord (Branded)

West Point TV show (1956-57)

- Cadets included:
  - Cadet Leonard Nimoy
  - Cadet Dick Sargent
  - Cadet Richard Jaeckal
  - Cadet Martin Milner
  - Cadet Robert Vaughan
  - Cadet Clint Eastwood
  - Cadet Rod McKuen
  - Cadet Edward Platt

West Point TV show (1956-57)

- Officers included:
  - Major Chuck Connors
  - Coach RG Armstrong

- Girlfriends included
  - Miss Barbara Eden
  - Miss Gloria Talbott

Issues

- Honor scandals
- The commie cadet

Honor Scandals

- The cadet honor code is simple:

  A cadet will not lie, cheat or steal

  Or

  Tolerate those who do

- Despite this, there have been a number of honor scandals

1951 Honor Scandal

- The 1951 scandal largely involved the football team, including the son of legendary football coach Red Blaik
- At that time, Army was still a football powerhouse, just a few years removed from a national championship
- However, to maintain this level, Coach Blaik began recruiting players who could not keep up with the academic requirements

1951 Honor Scandal

- To keep the cadets eligible, a “tutor” was assigned – who actually passed out “the poop” – information about tests
- By the time the scandal was completely investigated, 83 cadets were dismissed.
- Most of the 83 were football players, some of whom did not cheat but were aware of the situation

1951 Honor Scandal

- Joseph P. Kennedy, the father of JFK, got many of the football players slots at Notre Dame
- Ray Malavasi, later head coach of the LA Rams, was one of the players caught up in the scandal

1976 Honor Scandal

- On a take home assignment from the Electronic Engineering Department, a cadet indicated that he received help on the assignment (hence a clear honor violation)
- When his answers were checked against others, it appeared as if many students got the same help – without reporting

1976 Honor Scandal

- 117 cadet answers were found suspicious
- 101 cadets were referred for investigation (the other 16 resigned)
- 52 were found guilty in the cadet investigation and referred for further action
- Further investigation showed the scandal was more widespread, eventually ensnaring 234 cadets (out of about 900)

1976 Honor Scandal

- Given the breadth of the scandal, some cadets were given the opportunity to petition for readmission to the next class
- The scandal was not universal or equal – some companies had no cadets involved, and some companies lost an entire class
- As a result, the Corps was rescrambled and reassigned.

The Commie Cadet

- In September 2017, a WP grad tweeted a picture from his 2016 graduation, with a Che Guevara t shirt under his full dress grey uniform
- He stated this was in support of the NFL players kneeling, and ended with “hasta la victoria siempre”

The Commie Cadet

- Needless to say, all you know what broke loose
- Jason Altmire, the Congressman who provide Rapone with an appointment of course disavowed the appointment

The Commie Cadet

- It was later reported that Rapone had served in Afghanistan with the 75th Ranger Battalion
- From there he went to WP

The Commie Cadet

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- From there he went to WP

The Commie Cadet

- The Army's response was that Lt Rapone could legally be a member of the Communist Party
- However, the issue was making a political statement in uniform

The Commie Cadet

After the original hubbub, there was an investigation, and the now 2LT remains on active duty

Traditions

Sedwick's statue

- General John Sedgwick was killed at the Battle of Spotsylvania in the Civil War.
- His purported last words to soldiers cowering under sniper fire was "They couldn't hit an elephant at this dis…"

Traditions

Sedgwick's statue

- His statue is near the Plain
- Tradition is that if a cadet is in academic trouble, he needs to don his full dress uniform and spin the spurs on Sedgwick's statue precisely at midnight

Traditions

Class rings

- West Point was the first school to furnish class rings to graduates
- Grads are known (not affectionately) as “ring knockers” for their purported habit of banging their rings on tables to announce their source of commissioning

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Traditions

Goats

- The last student in order of merit is called the goat
- At graduation, all of the students chip in a silver dollar each for the goat
- Cadets are repeatedly reshuffled into sections based on their grades in a particular course
- The last section is known as the “ejection section” and since cadets are ranked within the section, the cadet in the last seat is said to be in the “ejection seat”
- Since they are so close to being “ejected” from the Academy for failure

Two famous Goats

George Armstrong Custer,
Class of June 1861

George Pickett
Class of 1846

Traditions

Goats

- Every fall, first class (senior) cadets play the Goat (bottom half) Engineer (top half) football game
- In recent years, a second flag football game is played between female cadets

Traditions

Mascot

- As noted, the Army mascot is a mule
- While the mule first appeared in 1899, the first official mule, Mr. Jackson, (named after Stonewall Jackson) appeared in 1936

Traditions

Mascot

- Given the mule's history as a transport for the Army, a good fit
- There are currently three mules serving as mascots

Traditions

Mascot

As with the Navy Goat, there are both actual mules and cadets dressed as a mule mascot

Summary

- The 5 Federal Service Academies have had their difficulties over the past 200+ years
- But it is clear that each of them serves as the bedrock of their respective service
- While the cost of providing officers through this method is much more expensive than OCS or ROTC, there has never been any thought for over 150 years to close any or all of the academies