



WEST POINT SOCIETY OF NAPLES

SUMMER 2024

SOCIETY NEWS

*Serving Graduates throughout
Southwest Florida*

Welcome!

Upcoming Events

Parents Club Hail & Farewell

When: Monday, June 3

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: The Landings Yacht,
Golf & Tennis Club, Fort
Myers

Save the Dates!

Future Events

- Oct 12th – SWFL Parents Club tailgate at USMA
- Nov 2nd – Army A/F
- Nov 14th – Fall Luncheon
- Dec 14th – Army/Navy
- Jan 23rd – Annual Meeting and Luncheon
- March 15th – Founders Day
- April 23rd – Spring Luncheon

Dear Members and Friends -

Welcome to our Summer newsletter, where we will share highlights of all our spring activities – from Founders Day to supporting the local community JROTC events. Be sure to save the dates for all our upcoming fall events!

WPSN: Supporting Local JROTC Units



The West Point Society of Naples (WPSN) has been a steadfast supporter of Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) units in Southwest Florida, significantly impacting the lives of many young cadets. The Society extends its support to 16 schools in Lee County and 8 schools in Collier County, fostering the development of future leaders and scholars. This year, the WPSN has generously contributed over \$3,100 in supporting funds to various JROTC programs.

One of the standout contributions of the WPSN is our active involvement in the annual Drone Competition in Lee County. Not only do we provide judges for this event, but we also help sponsor the competition, ensuring it continues to be a highlight for JROTC cadets. Our involvement provides cadets with invaluable feedback and encouragement. Moreover, the WPSN's sponsorship of the competition and other activities underscores the commitment to fostering technical and leadership skills among the cadets.

The WPSN also sponsors two prestigious awards: the Lamp and the Torch. The Lamp award recognizes an outstanding freshman cadet for exceptional scholarship, while the Torch award honors a junior cadet for distinguished leadership. These awards not only highlight the achievements of individual cadets but also motivate their peers to strive for excellence in academics and leadership.

Volunteers from the WPSN attend other events such as Raiders competitions and the Lee County JROTC Hybrid Camp Capstone event, and they also participate in county and local high school award ceremonies, representing both West Point and the U.S. Army, further inspiring the next generation of leaders. The West Point Society of Naples continues to play a vital role in supporting and nurturing the potential of young cadets in Southwest Florida, reinforcing the values of scholarship, leadership, and service.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As we head into summer, I want to extend my deepest gratitude for your continued support and dedication to the West Point Society of Naples. Your contributions make a significant impact, enabling us to host great events and serve our current cadets, cadet candidates, and members throughout SWFL.



Social event highlights of the year included a fabulous Founders Day event, featuring inspiring talks from the President of the West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG) and the USMA Commandant of Cadets. The event was a resounding success, well-attended by graduates, cadet candidates, and their families. This was shortly followed by our Spring Luncheon, which included a condensed version of a West Point admissions brief and the awarding of the Eberhard Award. Please join us in congratulating Pete Lilly on earning the 2024 Eberhard Award. Pete's selfless contributions to the Society span decades.

Cadet support highlights include The West Point Parents Club of Southwest Florida providing pizza for all current cadets as they kicked off TEE week, bringing encouragement during a critical time. Our commitment to local JROTC communities and their cadets has been unwavering, sponsoring various awards and events, and representing West Point and the U.S. Army at local ceremonies, fostering leadership and academic excellence among young cadets. At the heart of our mission is the belief that promoting leadership and virtuous self-service benefits our country immensely. By nurturing these qualities, we cultivate a generation of leaders committed to duty, honor, and country, ensuring a brighter future for all.

Special thanks to the West Point Field Force for their tireless efforts in supporting cadet candidates as they compete for admission to the Class of 2028. Your generous donations have also enabled us to send two cadet candidates in need to the Summer Leadership Experience (SLE), ensuring they have the resources and opportunities to succeed.

Your continued involvement and support are crucial to our mission, and together, we will achieve even greater heights in the coming year. If you are interested in sponsoring or donating to any of these events, please visit our website for more information. The Board is already planning a fantastic lineup of events for the fall, and we look forward to seeing everyone.

Chris Williams, WPSN President

The Eberhard Award is named for Dr John Eberhard, class of 1959, one of the founding members of the West Point Society of Naples. It is presented annually to a member who has made a noteworthy and outstanding contribution to our Society.

Job well done!



The 2024 Eberhard Award went to Peter Lilly whose selfless and tireless contributions to the society spanned decades. Pete was a long-time member of the Board of Directors and the WPSN President 2015-2018. Under his leadership, the Society instituted a disciplined budgeting process and extended activities to reach a greater number of graduates and candidates throughout SWFL. Pete is now an Emeritus member of the WPSN Board of Directors.



SPRING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Founders Day 2024

Founders Day, held at Grey Oaks Country Club in Naples on March 14th, was an unforgettable gathering. Graduates, cadet candidates, and families came together to commemorate the rich heritage and traditions of West Point. Adding to the prestige of the occasion was guest speaker Major General Lori L. Robinson, the 80th Commandant of Cadets, and Mark Beiger, AOG President. This gathering will undoubtedly be remembered as a cornerstone event of the year, reinforcing the values and traditions that underpin our shared heritage.



SPRING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Spring Luncheon

Speaker:
LTC (R) Russ Schott



WPSN held its Spring Luncheon at the Landings Yacht Golf and Tennis Club in Fort Myers at the end of April, featuring LTC (R) Russ Schott, Class of 1991, as the speaker. Russ is one of our local USMA Field Force Representatives and his briefing provided valuable insights into the current West Point admissions process and highlighted the crucial work of the Field Force in supporting cadet candidates. Attendees, which included several school counselors and JROTC representatives, left with a deeper understanding of the admissions process and the invaluable support system available to future leaders. WPSN also presented Pete Lilly the 2024 Eberhard Award and Vietnam Commemorative Pins to local attending veterans.

West Point Society of Naples has recognized over 330 VN Veterans through both WPSN and community activities.



In 2008, Congress authorized the Vietnam Commemoration to recognize all who served on active duty at any time during the "Vietnam War Period": 1 November 1955 to 15 May 1975. WPSN is a Commemorative Partner to the Vietnam War Commemoration and recognizes Vietnam Veterans during all of our luncheons and community activities and events.



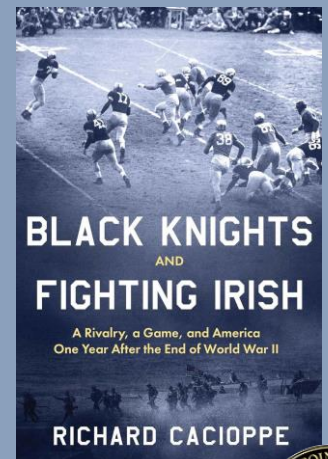
UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL LUNCHEON

When: Thursday, November 14th
Time: 11:30 AM
Place: The Landings Yacht, Golf, and Tennis Club, Fort Myers
Speaker: Richard Cacioppe, Class of 1962

**R.s.v.p. will be through the
WPSN Website**

Join us in November with speaker Rich Cacioppe as he shares the history of the Army-Notre Dame rivalry and the "Game of the Century" in 1946 - just in time for Army vs Notre Dame match up scheduled for November 23rd at Yankee Stadium.



FIELD FORCE UPDATE

Supporting Cadet Candidates

This month the Field Force represented West Point and the U.S. Army at award ceremonies around SWFL – a few pictures below!



The 2024 Major General James L. Dozier JROTC Awards Ceremony

WPSN member, GEN Dozier, and COL Robinson preside over Lee County JROTC Awards Ceremony and Change of Command for Area Commander



COL Robinson, Director of Lee County JROTC invites you to attend the final day of the JROTC Hybrid Camp on 14 June at FGCU, 1030 - 1245. If you would like to attend, email Russ Schott (russ.schott@gmail.com) and indicate your USMA Class year.



(left) Russ Schott presenting Will Brockmeier his Cert of Appt to USMAPS at the Gulf Coast HS Award Ceremony. Will will play Division I football for Army!



Marty Bowling awarded Justin Rodriguez his Certificate to USMAPS at his high school senior awards event. Justin also attended our Founders Day.

Cadet Candidates in the news!

Click on the link below for a great article about Gateway High School JROTC leader Justin Rodriguez as he begins his West Point journey at the USMA Prep School

<https://www.fox4now.com/gateway/military-appreciation-month-gateway-high-jrotc-senior-heads-to-west-point>



(above) Russ Schott presenting Sophia McCartney her Cert of Appt to West Point at the St John Neumann HS Award Ceremony. Sophia will play Division I basketball for Army!



(left) Class of 2024 USMAPS grad and Dunbar HS JROTC alum Fedrick Harris with his Cert of Appt to West Point

JOIN THE SWFL FIELD FORCE - BUILD A LEGACY OF SERVICE TO THE CORPS

Mr. Marty Bowling coordinates field force activities in Charlotte and Sarasota Counties (Congressional District FL17) and serves in Manatee, Glades, and Hendry Counties (Congressional Districts FL16 and FL18). To join the team in this area, email Marty at the_bowlings@comcast.net

LTC(R) Russ Schott coordinates field force activities in Lee and Collier Counties (Congressional Districts FL19 and FL26). To join the team in this area, email Russ at russ.schott@gmail.com.

The field force is a team of volunteers whose goal is to help identify SWFL's most promising students and mentor them in achieving the exceptional honor of being accepted for admission to West Point.



SUPPORTING CADETS

West Point Parents Club of Southwest Florida



Spring Get Together

We had a great afternoon welcoming Cadet Candidates and parents from the Class of 2028 and catching up with parents from the Classes of 2023, 2025, 2026, and 2027!

Hail and Farewell 2024

Join us as we congratulate 2024 West Point Graduates and welcome 2028 New Cadet Candidates. This is another opportunity to visit with other graduates, welcome the new 2LTs into the Long Gray Line, and wish the New Cadet Candidates good luck as they start their 47 month journey at USMA!

- **DATE:** Monday, June 3, 2024 @ 6PM
- **TIME:** 6pm Benny Havens (Cash Bar), 6:30pm Dinner
- **LOCATION:** The Landings Yacht, Golf, and Tennis Club, 4420 Flagship Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33919
- **COST:** \$30 per person; **ALL Cadets and Candidates are our complimentary guests**
- **DRESS:** Smart/Business Casual (Jacket optional)
- **R.S.V.P.:** <https://westpointsocietyofnaples.com/rsvp/>
- **BOARD CONTACT:** Craig & Patty Holston, West Point Parents Club of Southwest Florida

Cadet Term End Pizza!

On May 12th, WPPCSWFL sent pizzas to all SWFL cadets as they started TEE Week! It was a much appreciated way to start the week.



<https://www.facebook.com/wppcswfl>



For more information about the Parents Club, follow us on Facebook or contact Patty Holston pattymholston@gmail.com



SUPPORTING CADETS

West Point Parents Club of Southwest Florida



OUR SWFL GRADS ARE DOING AMAZING THINGS!

2LT Cole Breton, USMA 2023, was the Distinguished Honor Graduate of his Cyber BOLC Class. In addition to his being first in the class academically, he was 2d overall physically. He will now be assigned to the 11th Cyber Battalion at Fort Eisenhower (formerly Fort Gordon) which primarily does expeditionary Cyber and supports the majority of the Army at the training centers, multi-national training events, and deployments.



Rangers lead the way!

2LT Noah Sheffield, USMA 2023, graduated Ranger School on 14 April and received the Leadership Officers Award in recognition of COL (R) Christopher Stone. This award recognizes the top commissioned officer throughout the course based on scoring while never receiving any negative spot reports throughout each phase. His recognition is considered the second highest award for a Ranger Class.



1LT Andrew Mizell, Class of 2021 (left), and 1LT Patrick MacLean (right), Class of 2022, both earned their Ranger tabs in April!



Giving back over Spring Break

SWFL Cadet Logan Ryan, Class of 2024, did a fantastic job at a West Point Admissions Information Briefing and Question and Answer session for prospective candidates in March as part of Cadet Public Relations Council. He provided attendees with invaluable information about the application process, his experiences as a cadet, and West Point in general.



MEET A SWFL CADET

CADET JOHN Q. MCINTYRE

Class of 2024

Company F-1/I-3

Academic Major: Defense Strategic Studies

Branch: Armor



John McIntyre's academic and military career began at Florida SouthWestern in Punta Gorda, where he attended his freshman year of high school before transferring to the New Mexico Military Institute. He graduated from the Institute in 2020 and immediately entered West Point, setting himself on a path toward a career in the military.

At West Point, John took a keen interest in company intramurals, participating actively in flag football and flickerball. His passion for these sports led him to serve as coach for both teams during his junior and senior years.

John also pursued language studies during his time at the military academy, continuing his education in Arabic which he had begun in high school. One of his notable academic experiences was an internship with Lockheed Martin in Orlando, where he delved into research on hypersonics and their future applications in military technology. This experience complemented his Capstone Project, which investigated future warfare scenarios with a focus on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the strategic interests of foreign actors in Africa.

In addition to his academic pursuits, John excelled in military training. He graduated from Air Assault School and participated in a Cadet Troop Leadership Training (CTLT) program in a Cavalry role with the 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado. His leadership skills were further honed during his Cow summer, where he served as a First Sergeant in Beast Barracks, and he later became the Company Military Development Officer. As of his last semester, he has been serving as a Platoon Leader.

Upon graduating from West Point, John, branched Armor, will attend the Armor Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) at Fort Moore, Georgia and then be assigned to the 3d Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Cavazos, Texas. John's journey from a high school student in Florida to a platoon leader in Texas showcases his dedication and ability to adapt and succeed in challenging environments.



MEET A SWFL CADET

CADET AERYN SACHS

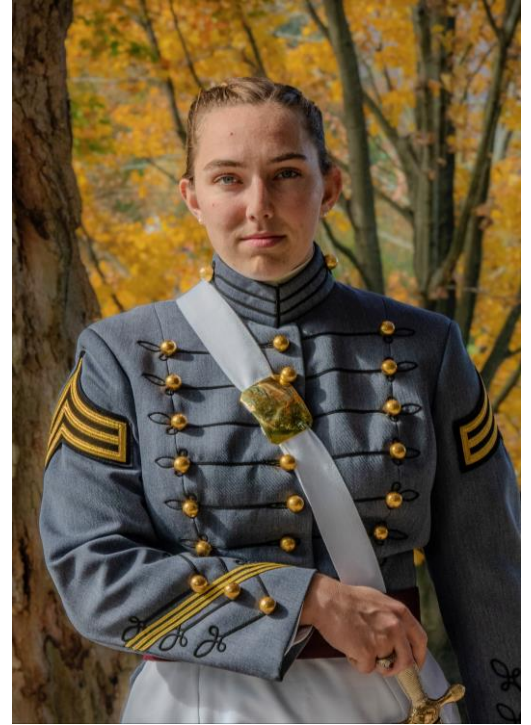
Class of 2024

Company I-2/A-3

Academic Major: Mechanical Engineering

Branch: Field Artillery

Aeryn Sachs graduated from Sarasota Military Academy in 2020 with an appointment to West Point entering that summer. Originally in Company I-2 before scrambling to Company A-3, Aeryn's primary activity throughout her four years has been the Mountaineering Team. They learn climbing and alpine techniques which are then used to train other groups ranging from Boy Scout troops to US Coast Guard Academy Cadets.



She has been a member of the West Point Church of Christ for all four years and has also participated in Sandhurst and the Gospel Choir. Among her various intramurals, she participated in Flickerball, Funky Fit, and Combatives.

During summer training, Aeryn visited Morocco in an Academic Individual Advanced Development (AIAD) that focused on community outreach and has also graduated from Air Assault School. Her leadership assignments include being a squad leader at the Yearling's Cadet Field Training (CFT) at Buckner, company executive officer during first semester Firstie year, and currently Aeryn serves as a section leader.

Academically, Aeryn has participated in independent studies that include research on 3D printing biological materials and using finite element analysis to model and test material responses to real world forces. Her capstone project focuses on improving the connectivity from the Fire Control Center (FCC) to the M777 and M119 Howitzers to address issues of vulnerability with the cable that connects the two because when broken the cable is very costly to replace. The current project solution is to provide both an outer protective sleeve for the cable which can be 3D-printed within the brigade combat team and suggest improved connectors for an updated system. Soldier feedback on connector usability and prototype integration is being received from soldiers in the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum.

Her CTLT was with 1st of the 319th Field Artillery in the 82d Airborne at Fort Liberty. Aeryn branched Field Artillery with an initial duty assignment in the 2d Brigade Combat Team of the 11th Airborne Division at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, following Field Artillery BOLC and Airborne School.





DID YOU KNOW?

Highlights of West Point's Academic Pillar – Projects Day

...Projects Day showcases more than 400 cadet projects?

<https://www.westpoint.edu/research/cadet-faculty-research/projects-day>



West Point's Projects Day Research Symposium showcased more than 400 research projects by over 1,000 cadets across all thirteen of the Dean's Academic Departments, the Department of Military Instruction, and the Department of Physical Education! USMA welcomes and celebrates over 80 external partners and West Point faculty who contributed to these cadet-led projects.

West Point's Projects Day Research Symposium, 2 May 2024 Highlights of Southwest Florida Cadets Projects

Cadet Darby Horne, Class of 2024, Aviation, Cyber Visualization in Mission Planning: A variety of cyber threats have emerged from the progression of technology and are shaping the battlefield in warfare today. In this study, the team analyzed how the depiction of physical connections between cyber assets will increase the salience of these assets during mission planning, how the visual mapping techniques of the cyber assets impact their salience, and how frequently cyber assets are currently being considered during the planning process.



Cadet Thomas Kochevar, Class of 2024, Cyber, Adaptable Resilient Manufacturing Operations Research (ARMOR): His project focused on protecting critical manufacturing infrastructure with Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machine as the system of study. Specifically, the team designed and developed software tools for injection of power quality issues on CNC manufacturing processes and monitoring CNC machine operation in real-time.

Cadet Ryan Logan, Class of 2024, Aviation, Army Astrobotics: The team designed and built a robotic system capable of navigating a simulated lunar surface and harvesting and transporting regolith to create berms for the NASA Lunarbotics Competition later in May.



Cadet John McIntyre, Class of 2024, Armor, Geographic Assessment of the Operational Environment: Democratic Republic of the Congo: The multi-disciplinary team analyzed and assessed the geographic factors of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) using the Environmental Matrix as a framework to determine the most significant factors that could result in conflict by 2030, and an analysis of the outside actors likely to be involved.





DID YOU KNOW?

Highlights of Southwest Florida Cadets Projects Con't

Cadet Aeryn Sachs, Class of 2024, Field Artillery, Additive Manufacturing for the Howitzer: There is a high incidence of damage to the W16 Cable and connectors the goes from the Artillery Fire Control unit on its Howitzer (M119 & M777). The cable replacement costs \$16,500 and has a long lead-time. The team redesigned the cable connector and designed an outer sleeve that can be 3D-printed within the division to protect the cable at the connectors.

Cadet Anthony Tinerella, Class of 2025: Briefed the WPAOG Projects Day audience on his summer Individual Academic Individual Advanced Development (AIAD) experience last summer. He studied severe weather events, indicators, and warnings with the National Weather Service and how that could assist Army installations and units.

Cadet David Liu, Class of 2026, FRACTILE - Tiling of Binary Fractal Trees: His project provides a framework for describing ways in which periodic tilings of the 2D plane can arise from the crown of a symmetric binary fractal tree (BFT). He generated BFTs of various types through an algorithm that utilizes a complex-valued geometric sequence and used those images to develop a mathematical formula relating the parameters that are used in the construction. Those formulas, along with geometric arguments, are used to prove that certain types of BFTs can tile the 2D plane.

Cadet Aravind Rajeev, Class of 2027, Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus Type 2 (PRRSV-2): a RNA Virus Model for Infectious Disease Research: His project sought to establish the protocols and procedures to sustain a robust RNA virus research portfolio investigating PRRSV as a safe model for other pathogenic, vaccine evading RNA respiratory viruses.



<https://www.westpoint.edu/news/west-point-news/intellectual-capital-display-during-annual-projects-day-research-symposium>

Working with Today's Leaders

Key leaders, researchers, and benefactors from across various academic institutions, industry, and government converge on the Academy to witness the outcomes of our cadets' hard work.

Developing Leaders of Tomorrow

The work performed by our cadets on these projects is instrumental in helping them become leaders of character. The work is also part of the intellectual capital generated by West Point - supporting some of the most pressing issues facing our Army and the Nation.

A Research Evolution

West Point's Projects Day Research Symposium has evolved to feature the results of cadet work across a variety of disciplines.

Demonstrations include posters, presentations, static and dynamic displays, and question-and-answer sessions that take place across the Academy grounds.



How to Get Involved – and Different Ways to Donate

- Sponsor JROTC Awards
- Sponsor a Cadet Candidate to attend the Summer Leadership Experience (SLE)
- Sponsor a Cadet Boodle Run
- Sponsor a Cadet and/or Cadet Candidates attending Founders Day
- Represent WPSN at an award ceremony or an event
- Visit a local High School
- Attend our events
- Bring a guest to an event
- Sponsor a guest speaker
- Donate money, stocks, or bonds

• *Become an active member!*

To join/renew active membership:

<https://westpointsocietyofnaples.com/joinrenew>

To make a tax-deductible Donation:

<https://westpointsocietyofnaples.com/make-a-donation/>

Meet your WPSN Board of Directors

President –

Chris Williams '87

Vice President/Events –

Evan Blanco '80

Secretary –

Cathy Speer '72 Spouse

Treasurer –

Matt Shanahan '99

Arnie Haake '69

Jodie Glore '69

Pete Lilly '70

Mike Zolidis '70

Gary Speer '72

Garrett Dietz '73

Mike Kostoff '79

Doug Whitehead '85

Russ Schott '91

Libby Schott '91

Derek DeVecchis '13

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITORS

We are excited to launch our new newsletter and would like to invite you to be an integral part of it. Your ideas, experiences, and insights matter to us, and we want to hear from you. Whether it's a topic you're passionate about, a

story you think deserves attention, or even your personal experiences related to our newsletters' themes, we are eager to include your input.

Please share your suggestions, thoughts, and content ideas with us so that we can create a newsletter that truly resonates with our readers.



Serving Graduates throughout Southwest Florida

2023-2024 RAFFLE

"Duty-Honor-Country" by Paul Steucke
Year Printed: 1993

The winning ticket was drawn at the Spring Luncheon.

Glenn Wittpenn was the lucky winner.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the raffle - we appreciate your support!

We have a winner!



Membership Info

Your dues and donations help support the many activities sponsored by the WPSN. The rates for active membership:

- Annual \$35
- Three-year \$100
- Lifetime \$400

Celebrate lifelong friendships

Support cadets from SWFL

Engage the next generation of officers in the US Army



The membership year runs from July 1st to June 30th.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the West Point Society of Naples, an exclusively non-profit organization, is to:

- (1) further the principles and welfare of the United States Military Academy;
- (2) provide an organization with activities for its members to associate in order to foster the aims, ideals, standards and achievements of the United States Military Academy;
- (3) promote a better understanding of the Military Academy by the public throughout Southwest Florida; and
- (4) inform, encourage and assist talented young men and women of the admissions process of the Military Academy.



We are based in Naples, but our membership area covers all of Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Glades, Hendry, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties.

West Point Society of Naples is a 501 (c)(3) / tax exempt organization

[West Point Society of Naples](http://www.westpointsocietyofnaples.com)



LINKS

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