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Subject: INFORM: West Point Mission Statement-Potential Media Scrutiny
Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 5:26:00 PM
Attachments: [Supe 61 Sends - USMA Mission Statement.pdf](#)

Madam Secretary ma'am, Chief sir,

Following our West Point BOV meeting on Thursday, a member of the public who attended the meeting wrote the following article on Saturday which has gained some traction in West Point alumni social media circles: [REPORT: West Point To Remove 'Duty, Honor, Country' From Official Mission Statement - Armed Forces Press](#)

The mission statement change was an agenda item at the BOV, of which, I presented the approved mission statement from my office calls with you in late February. (b) (5)

(b) (5) However, the member of public, who is a member of an organization called the MacArthur Society, took a copy of the presentation and has proceeded to write a critical article of the mission statement, which in turn has initiated social media churn in various circles. We have been working on a statement over the past 24 hours to distro to the alumni and interested supporters. The statement is below.

Of course, this gained some momentum this weekend as we have dozens of Alumni gatherings in March and April to celebrate Founders Day, the founding of USMA in 1802 by Thomas Jefferson.

The MacArthur Society [Home | MacArthur Society of West Point Graduates](#) is a small but vocal group of Academy alumni who criticize the Academy on our continued transformation efforts. I attached the letter that will be distributed by our Alumni Association. Additionally, I will send it to the BOV members, and send it internally to West Point staff and faculty.

v/r
Steve

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To the Long Gray Line and all USMA Supporters:

Duty, Honor, Country is foundational to the United States Military Academy's culture and will always remain our motto. It defines who we are as an institution and as graduates of West Point. These three hallowed words are the hallmark of the cadet experience and bind the Long Gray Line together across our great history.

Our responsibility to produce leaders to fight and win our nation's wars requires us to assess ourselves regularly. Thus, over the past year and a half, working with leaders from across West Point and external stakeholders, we reviewed our vision, mission, and strategy to serve this purpose. We believe our mission binds the Academy to the Army - the Army in which our cadets will serve. As a result of this assessment, we recommended the following mission statement to our senior Army leadership:

To build, educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets to be commissioned leaders of character committed to the Army Values and ready for a lifetime of service to the Army and Nation.

Both the Secretary of the Army and Army Chief of Staff approved this recommendation.

Our updated mission statement focuses on the mission essential tasks of Build, Educate, Train, and Inspire the Corps of Cadets to be commissioned leaders of character, with the explicit purpose of being committed to the Army Values and Ready for a lifetime of service. [The Army Values](#) include Duty and Honor, and Country is reflected in Loyalty, bearing truth faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit, and other Soldiers. In the past century, West Point's mission has changed nine times. Many graduates will recall the mission statement they learned as new cadets did not include the motto, as Duty, Honor, Country was first added to the mission statement in 1998.

Our absolute focus on developing leaders of character ready to lead our Army's Soldiers on increasingly lethal battlefields remains unchanged.

Go Army!
Duty Honor Country
LTG Steve Gilland
61st Superintendent