

U.S. Military Academy: Contemporary and Historical Information Resources - Transcript

Please stand by for real time captions. good afternoon everyone. We have a great webinar for you today. My name is Joe Paskoski and I'm with my colleague Cori Holder . Today we have U.S. military Academy rank: Canterbury and historical information resources. With us is our longtime presenter, Bert Chapman. Bert is the government information history and political science librarian at Purdue University libraries. Before we get started, I will go through a few housekeeping reminders. If you have any questions that you would like to ask or any technical issues please feel free to use the chat box. On the desktop computers it's located in the bottom right-hand corner of the screen. I will keep track of the questions that come in and at the end of the presentation, I will read them back to Bert and he will respond. We also are recording the session and we will email a link to the recording and slides. Will also send a certificate of participation using the email you used to register for the webinar if anyone needs additional certificates because multiple people watch the webinar with you, please email the outreach and include the title of today's webinar along with the names and email addresses of those needing certificates. Desktop computers or laptop users can zoom in on the sides being presented, click on the full-screen button in the bottom right side of your screen to exit the full-screen mode. You can mouse over the blue bar so that it expands and then click on the blue return button to get back to the default view. We will also be sharing a webinar satisfaction survey with you and we will let you know when that survey is available in the URL will appear in the chat box. We appreciate your feedback after the session including comments on presentation style and value of the webinar. If Bert decides to screen share any of his presentation that means once he starts talking you will not be able to see the chat box. In that case, if you want to ask a question, just watch the chat traffic as Bert is presenting. Once screen sharing begins, mouse over the blue bar and Emmanuel drop down on the chat. With that, I will hand the virtual microphone over to Bert who will take it from here.

Thank you, good afternoon and morning everyone. I would like to introduce you to the rich variety of information resources that are available. One thing I thought I would mention since we are all in the pandemic, how West Point is coping with it. They are adhering to the New York State requirements and according to an August 14 letter to parents of cadets from their Dean they are conducting courses using a combination of in person, hybrid and remote learning options. They are following the six-foot physical distancing requirements . This is the homepage for the military Academy at West Point. West Point.edu. Obviously, they have information about COVID-19 vaccine information. Some background about the military Academy. It's located at West Point New York and each graduate [Indiscernible] prepare for careers in the military Army officer. It important dates back to the Revolutionary war when George Washington transferred headquarters to the strategically important location in 1779. The map gives you a partial idea of where it is. It's on the Hudson River in New York. In 1802, President Thomas Jefferson signed legislation establishing the military Academy. One of the important early leaders in Western history is so manus they are. He served as superintendent for 16 years, he upgraded the academic standards he made civil engineering the foundation of the academies curriculum. Here is his picture. After the war he went on a two year inspection tour of European military schools before returning to become the superintendent. He is regarded as the father of the military Academy. He has had an active life. He remained an Army engineer and worked on harbor improvements in New England and he retired in 1863 with the rank of Brigadier General. In 1867 he endowed the Thayer school of engineering at Dartmouth College and designed the schools new curriculum. Military Academy graduates are largely responsible for constructing rail lines, bridges and roads. There have been numerous prominent graduates since it existed. Ulysses Grant Scott Robert E Lee, Stonewall Jackson, William Sherman and

they said hi military leadership standards and domestic and foreign wars. After the Civil War the development of other technical schools saw the curriculum running to other areas. The Department of the Army postgraduate command and staff colleges. West Point is the first step in continuing Army education PIC during World War I Academy graduates established themselves on the battlefield. Superintendent Douglas MacArthur sought to strengthen the athleticism of the cadets. Academy graduates such as Dwight Eisenhower and George Patton provided major leadership during World War II. After World War II they broadened and revised the curriculum to understand other cultures and rapid science and technology developments. In 1954 President Johnson signed legislation increasing enrollment from over 2500 to 4400. A key event was in 1976 when enrollment was open to women. 62 women graduated in 1980 which was the first class. Humidity majors have also increased. Admission requirements. Don't just write a check and apply to the U.S. military Academy. You have to fill out a candidate questionnaire in mid-January of your high school junior year. Be at least 17 and not older than 22 of July 1 of the year you enter. Be a U.S. citizen and meet other requirements. You also have to contact the volunteer Academy support personnel in your area. I typed in my ZIP Code in Indiana it comes up with this individual who is the area representative, support volunteer. Admission requirements, you have to attend a summer leaders experience which is an optional weeklong immersive experience of the four pillars of West Point. Academic seminars, military training, physical fitness and character development. It is strongly encouraged to attend this expense. The application Porter for high school juniors is open between January 15 and March 15. You have to apply for nomination by contacting your U.S. Congressional representative or your states U.S. senators. The vice president can also make nominations. Apply in the spring of your junior year of high school and additional nomination options are available if you are a veterans child a medal of honor recipient or enrolled in a reserve officer training program . Academic requirements. You have to have an above average record with transcripts and test scores. They recommend you have a strong balanced background in the humanities, sciences, social sciences and basic computing. This is the first page of the service Academy nomination questionnaire representing Jim Baird from the fourth Congressional District. There are a lot of things to fill out and this applies to all nominations for all service academies. Service academies decide which nominees to accept. They are's a bit about members of Congress and the candidates are notified of their admission status in February of their high school senior year and the appointment officer is sent out in May of the senior year of high school. Let's take a look on the next slides for academics at West Point. They mentioned the curriculum is designed to meet the needs for leaders to serve the Army and nation. These are the subject categories you have to choose from and they will encompass a wide variety of area, geospatial science is a newer one. This is the course catalog for the U.S. military Academy. There are a variety of courses you can take. It begins with the background in civil engineering. This deals with structural analysis and you learn about basic structural forms in buildings and buildings like beams, trusses and frames and various other things. They mentioned different requirements. This is foundations and geography from a geography and environmental engineering. Geography becomes very important to you. This is history of the military arts. This comes from the Napoleonic era to 20th-century wars may also include a prerequisite in here is China Empire Republic and now pick this goes back 1000 years up to the present. Here is another one called military innovation. Military sciences having to cope with all kinds of innovations as other fields of academics. Here is a contemporary level related to China Hong Kong, Taiwan, changes in central Asia and China's emergence as a major economical and military player. A more scientific and technical one is nuclear reactor engineering, this talking about nuclear reactor systems and then the Academy has a depository library and that is the number. [Indiscernible] you can find those various resources through the Academy library website. They have a number of different digital collections. You can take use for all kinds. You can find out information about individual cadets or personality Academy. Some cadets might possibly be relatives or friends of yours. It can be a good source to find genealogical information. Here is

the 1899 annual report of the superintendent of the Academy. This is about how many personnel there were at the Academy, to the various leaders and an affirmation on the Cadet Corps. 357 cadets at the time, most were from the U.S. but there were three international cadets, one from Costa Rica, one from Venezuela and one from San Salvador which we now call El Salvador. Then here is who the superintendent was, this is some of the major staff and leaders of different departments. A senior instructor of Calvary, tactics and artillery tactics, there is also various engineering professionals. This gives you some budgetary information on different funds. For instance, there was \$21.80 in damages from ordinance. You can also find how much money was spent on periodicals, a beer expenditure of some kind, you get into the nitty-gritty details and if you want to find out how much that is today, there are a number of different websites. I like the website measuring work.com. If you want to find out what the \$189.50 for the photographer was in 1899 color cost today. Here is a picture of a cadet named Adam Cassatt from Kansas in 1902. This is a class ring from the class of 1984. I want to tell you about a friend of mine in the class of 1984. His name was Troy Overton. We grew up in the same community together in Indiana and we graduated from high school the same year. Our families also went to the same church. I got to know Troy very well. He was appointed to West Point by longtime Indiana Senator and he had a biography of him. There is an alumni Association and Troy served in the operation in Panama and he went to law school at Sinclair University. He was in the Jag core and had a civilian Lockyer. He eventually worked for the general attorney in San Francisco. He got married and he and his wife had a daughter, the last time I saw Troy alive was in 2010 at a class reunion. I had done some publishing in the areas of military literature and I found a couple books that I had written. He was impressed with them. It was nice to see him but tragically he came down with brain cancer a few years after that and he died in late 2016. A couple years ago I was fortunate enough to be involved in an effort with my high school classmates to get Troy inducted into our high school class of distinguished alumni. This is connected to the genealogical template. This is a letter from a cadet to his father. Is handwritten and has good penmanship. This is a nice way of learning more about individual experience of various cadets. This is a continuation of that letter. You can also find a number of nice works of art available in various sections of the West Point website. This is a 1795 view of the Hudson River area before the Academy was established. I have not personally been to West Point but I heard it's incredibly beautiful and you can possibly see how artists such as Thomas Cole and Frederick Churchwell were inspired by the beauty of the region and their artistic works. They have become famous in American art history. Here is a picture of the parade ground at West Point looking north on the Hudson River. You can see the cadets are at attention ready to construct conduct drill. This is another view of the Hudson River Narrows from Ft. Putnam. You may also find a lot of pictures of prominent people as well. This is Winfield Scott, he served as a general in the U.S. Army from 1814 to 1861. He was involved in a number of military campaigns. Another important individual in the history of West Point is Professor Dennis Mahone on the left. He was a professor of engineering from 1824 to 1871. He wrote a number of influential publications and he was a father of a naval historian and serious Alfred Thayer Hahn. The individual on the right is William Stockbridge who was a photographer who took the photo on the left. There are all sorts of postcards you can find of West Point. This is an aerial view in 1930. You can see how firm and rugged the buildings look. This is a 1941 postcard of cadet information. One of the first information resource I became familiar with the West Point were the military atlases. They were in print format for a long time and now they are digital. I would say they are must use resources if you're doing significant military history. They are broken down by geographic regions. The U.S. has been involved with them in the military activity. Here is some listed here. These are just some of the selections you get to choose from in the Revolutionary war. This is a map of the battle of Saratoga in October 1777 which is a crucial turning point for the American cause during this conflict. You see the Hudson river turns and the location of the camps and it has a high resolution. These are some of the maps available for the Civil War. This is a map showing Confederate states railroads covering different regions. This is a map of the battle of cold

Harbor in Virginia near Richmond. That was the bloody Overland campaign in 1864. You can see the positions of the Confederate forces led by Lee, those were their approximate numbers and the position of the Union forces led by Mead with approximate numbers. More recently, this is a map of the isolation of Baghdad and southern Iraq during the first stages of operation Iraqi freedom in 2003. The Academy also has a number of research centers and many of them put out a lot of information and it's freely available. It's a multidisciplinary variety of topics. I will show you a couple examples. There is the combating terrorism Center. This was established just after the 9/11 terrorist attack and they seek to educate, advise and conduct research to help leaders deal with the challenges of terrorism and counterterrorism. One of the things they've done is this militant imagery project which is how various terrorist organizations use visual themes to promote their beliefs and causes and this has gone on for several years. It includes textual analysis of the imagery, translation of text and a search engine. This is an example of the work. This is an image of the former head of Al Qaeda shooting an American flag and it mentions how this is used in a jihadist propaganda. There is also a monthly publication called the Sentinel which the counterterrorism produces and they use a variety of scholars affiliated with the Academy and elsewhere. From November to December 2020 issues there was an Afghanistan story and a story in Africa. Here is an article of bio security in the wake of COVID-19. The urgent action needed. There is various analysis and recommendations included and one of the conclusions from this article is the risk of future destructive biological attack or another global pandemic should no longer be seen as low. Then the terrorism Center does a number of more in-depth reports on topics in relevance to terrorism and counterterrorism. There's some examples from the later part of last year. This is on the counterterrorism designation efforts to the terrorist list. This looks like it's 20 pages long. There are categories available. They will include charts, graphs, various analysis. Here is a question, are counterterrorism sanctions effective? They say there is no easy answers they provide more detailed analysis and subsequent paragraphs. There is also a martyrdom. Modern war Institute. I think it's been established in the last decade or so. It generates knowledge for the profession, enhances the curriculum and gives the Army and nation the resources for solving military problems. This is a report they did called analyzing the Russian way of war, evidence from the 2008 conflict with Georgia. Here is the table of contents. In the bottom it says Russia's use of cyber attacks and psychological warfare in Georgia. There is a section called lessons from Georgia and Ukraine, deceptive use of information has become a big topic in our public policy debates. You can find lots of resources here on military implications. There are plenty of other resources on deceptive uses of information and other government lecture as well. Here it's talking about rural hackers and what they did in the Russia Georgia conflict and how the operations enable Russian politicians to establish [Indiscernible]. This is another report they did called the Tiger and the Dragon, India, India as a counterbalance to China and the Indo Pacific. They don't just limit their analysis to land forces. All military operations are interconnected with other branches of the armed services. There is an acute emphasis on conduct of military operations. Here is a report about that. There talking about how China is challenging claims in the region of the age of Asia Pacific and Indian oceans. Dimension some of the factors involved in. [Indiscernible] there also are podcasts on the website. This is a podcast called security in high latitudes. This is covering the Arctic and Antarctic. These are done by West Point and other institutions. You can connect directly to them from the military County website or use spotify or other podcast applications. There will be links to them from the site. This is more of a description of the podcast. You can see the link to it at the bottom. And other podcast that came out a couple months ago, it was released in 2017 and then re-released called the brain and the battlefield. They have somebody from the modern wherefore Institute talking to a professor at Georgetown University the military medical ethics program. There talking about some of the implications of artificial intelligence and the role it plays. I also want to mention athletics. West Point has intramural and competitive sports teams that compete and they want to become top-flight athletes as well as enhance the development as future military officers. West Point has played college football since

1890. They compete with the Naval and Air Force Academy for the Commander-in-Chief trophy. They've had some notable players over the years. 23 cadets have been inducted into the college law Hall of Fame. Dwight Eisenhower and Omar Bradley were on the 1912 football team. They've had three Heisman Trophy winners. The football team is not affiliated with a conference. In the past couple years the football team has been on an uptick and they took Oklahoma and Michigan to overtime on the road. They've had some notoriety with best coaches in the past. One of the coaches Bob Knight coached for a few years and he later became the long time famous and controversial Beth Bokoshe Indiana University. They also had the head coach that went to Duke University. He was also a 1969 West Point graduate. Plenty of things to look for out there that you can read about. This is just one book. There are plenty of other examples. There are a number of different benefits that we can garner from using the military Academy information resources. Obviously learning how to be appointed to the U.S. military Academy, gaining an enhanced understanding of the historical and contemporary significance in the American life and culture. Learn about the current educational and research activities. Gaining an enhanced understanding and appreciation of an individuals who attended and graduated. We learn about the experiences of relatives and friends who attended here. Understanding the unique physical environment surrounding the Academy and learning how the units are contributing to the debate on emerging military and national security topics in manpower and with that, I am ready for questions.

The thank you Bert, great webinar as always. Any questions for Bert? Let me just chime in, in this day and age, I'm guessing West Point, I'm looking at domestic terrorism. Are they looking at that?

They are doing the whole thing both domestic and international. Military conduct has good order and discipline, that has domestic as well as international implications.

I'm sure cyber also.

Yes. Buckets and discussions everywhere.

Yes. I'm hoping to later do a webinar on the Naval and Air Force academies and postcard and merchant Marine Academy's.

That sounds terrific. Any questions for Bert? Can you put the satisfaction survey in the chat? Wait a minute I did not give it to you. My apologies. Let me put that in. Okay. [Multiple speakers] there is a satisfaction survey. We have a question? I did not notice it.

Somebody ask when African-Americans were first admitted. I am not sure on that. Maybe email me I can look that up.

I don't see the question in chat.

Marie. It's above the link in the survey.

I don't see that, sorry. The question is when was the first African-American admitted?

Yes. I have a connection to the Academy got no I don't. National security information is a special interest of mine.

There is a satisfaction survey. There are also links to the past webinars. You will find about all of his webinars listed. Can you check for questions Corey? I might not see them in my chat for some reason. Any other questions? I noticed the various institutes, are you able to tap into those places and get information, documents and downloads?

Yes, one of them you can, some of those resources I showed her freely available on websites. I know I submitted a few things.

Here we go, now I see questions. Sorry. John said he could not send the question to all participants, it was great out. I don't want to miss anybody here. Okay. [Multiple speakers]

I'm sure there is a significant number of public domain, I wouldn't have any way of calculating that. The video resources, most higher education resources have social media channels or YouTube channels., Check and see what you can find.

Are most of the instructors at West Point mostly military or civilian?

There is a mixture. I'm not sure what the percentage would be.

I wonder if they have tenure and have the regular academic ways.

I know at they were colleges they have academic freedom, I believe they can publicly criticize government officials, I think they have to distinguish between personal opinion or institutional opinion.

Are they were colleges like a graduate school?

Yes. West Point, unable and Air Force are undergraduate.

Okay. Were colleges, I forget , to the issues Masters and PhD?

Yes, some might do PhD degrees. They were colleges are accredited by regional accreditation institutions and sure that's the case with West Point. I'm not sure if there is a northeastern, it'll be geographically regional in scope.

Any more questions for Bert? We plan on a 45 minute webinar. We have some time. Let me add a few comments. Let me also thank Bert for another perfect webinar and my colleague for tech support. The next webinar, we have more coming up as we always do. Three more are scheduled for February. The next one is Tuesday, February 9. If you have not used the GPO yet please tune in. You will receive notice of all of the webinars when they are announced if you sign up you have a link at the bottom on the homepage where you can view the calendar of upcoming webinars and other events linked . Also linked to a webinar form to volunteer to present I'm sure many do a great webinar. It can be about any topic, and agency, how you run the depository, local presentation that you think might be good for all of us to hear. Contact us and we'll be happy to work with you anything related to government information. Any other questions? If I'm missing any, let me know.

I don't see anything else.

Okay.

I don't either.

I will give it a couple more minutes. We have a whole series of webinars coming up with Bert and others and they will come up in the future months. Please keep your eyes out for that. Sometimes when I think there is a few question it means he presenter was so thorough. I think all the questions were answered.
[Multiple speakers]

1976 and the first class for women to graduate was 1980.

I wonder what the percentage of women is now?

I'm not sure. Probably a minority but I have to look it up. They probably have a data digest on their website that would tell that.

I wonder if they've opened up every command to women now or other any restrictions? I know Kombat was restricted.

They've opened up quite a few , I'm not sure if there are any restrictions.

Overtime they would list what was restricted. Okay. Okay. One more minute. Now is the time for question if you have one for Bert. Please put it in the chat. I don't see anything. What a second.

He mentioned the link to a Wikipedia story to Henry Flipper it was maybe the first black or African-American cadet at West Point. A lot was written on him. He went to some tough stuff.

I imagine it was rough to be the first. Okay. It is to: 35 and another terrific webinar. [Multiple speakers] great webinar. Thank you Cori Holder , he is moving onto another position but he's been a great over the years and we appreciate him. Thank you audience. Come on back to the Academy for more great webinar's. Have a great rest of the day.

Thank you. [Event concluded]