

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

1802 ❖ SESQUICENTENNIAL ❖ 1952

West Point, NY, Nov. 1 -- The United States Military Academy today disclosed plans for the celebration of its forthcoming sesquicentennial. The period January to June 1952 has been designated as a time for special observance of West Point's century and a half of existence. Formal announcements of the occasion have been distributed to institutions of learning, to societies, and to individuals throughout the world.

Major General Bryant E. Moore, Superintendent, in a general order proclaiming the sesquicentennial and directing all personnel at West Point to lend their support to activities connected with the celebration, announced the appointment of Colonel William E. Crist as Sesquicentennial Director. Brigadier General Harris Jones, Dean of the Academic Board, is consultant and advisor. Several committees have also been appointed to plan and carry out activities connected with the coming celebration.

The history of West Point is a long and honorable one. George Washington, in the fullness of his experience as Commander in Chief of the bitterly tried American Armies, early saw the urgent necessity for a national military academy as the only means of assuring a continuing corps of professionally competent Army officers for the young republic's defense. Washington, together with John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, and others, emphatically urged upon the government the establishment of such an institution. It was not until 1802, however, during the presidency of Thomas Jefferson, that the United States Military Academy was founded by Act of Congress. West Point, the site selected, was already identified in the minds of America's leaders, and in those of her people, as the citadel which during the Revolutionary War was strategic in preventing the enemy from isolating New England from the rest of the thirteen colonies.

Since its beginning, West Point has dedicated itself to the task of training young men to be leaders in the Regular Army of the United States. Among its many great soldiers it numbers Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Lee, Jackson, Pershing, MacArthur, Arnold, and Eisenhower.

In peaceful pursuits also, West Pointers, since the foundation of the Academy, have played an important part. They have contributed to the building of our railroads, roads, inland waterways, and in fact to the development of American technology in general. They have also supervised harbor improvements and flood control. The Panama Canal stands as a monument to a later West Point engineer--Goethals.

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1802 - 1902 - 1902

Throughout the years many changes in the curriculum have taken place, but the mission of the Academy remains that of developing in its cadets those personal qualities of integrity, honor, and devotion to duty which must characterize the leader of American soldiers.

The theme which has been chosen for the Sesquicentennial Celebration: "Furthering Our National Security", reflects the consistency with which West Point has remained true to George Washington's conception of a military academy. A series of conferences, to be planned and directed by eminent civilian scholars and leaders from all parts of the country, is contemplated. It is hoped that such conferences will disclose ways and means for the most effective use of our national resources in the service of American democracy. Furthermore, the relationship of civilian education and military education to national defense will be thoroughly examined and discussed.

HEADQUARTERS
United States Military Academy
West Point, New York

MASQ

1 November 1950

SUBJECT: United States Military Academy Sesquicentennial Celebration

TO: All Post Personnel

1. In 1952 the United States Military Academy will complete one hundred and fifty years of service to the nation. United to the Colonial and Revolutionary military tradition by President Washington himself, West Point has grown with the Republic and has become a symbol of the free American's will to defend himself.
2. For a century and a half West Point has played a prominent part in the growth of the United States of America. Her contributions, both in peace and war, have been considerable: directly and indirectly, the Academy has provided knowledge and principle to many of the builders of America.
3. Certainly it is not enough for those connected with West Point today to stand in pride of the past. More fittingly, we of the Military Academy charged with the mission of furthering the national security, should be properly humble in considering the challenge of the future.
4. The Superintendent wishes the individuals, organizations, and activities at West Point to plan to participate actively in the Sesquicentennial. The success of the celebration will depend upon the whole-hearted cooperation of all members of the command.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL MOORE:

/s/ R S Nourse

R. S. NOURSE
Colonel, A.G.C.
Adjutant General

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PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
WEST POINT, NEW YORK

TEXT OF USMA SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The United States Military Academy at West Point, in anticipation of celebrating its Sesquicentennial Year in nineteen hundred and fifty-two, sends greetings to its friends and fellow institutions of learning.

In eighteen hundred and two Thomas Jefferson, following the advice of George Washington, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, and others, established a national military academy on the Hudson River at West Point. From the beginning the academy dedicated itself to the task of training young men to be military leaders imbued with the ideals of integrity of character and unswerving devotion to the nation. The newborn republic, at that time, was engaged in a difficult experiment in popular government, which was giving hope to freedom-loving people everywhere. The success of that experiment has vindicated our faith in the ability of men to reason together to attain their common ends. The United States Military Academy, as it approaches its Sesquicentennial Year, is mindful and proud of its share in the nation's long struggle through peace and war to hold to the ideal of Government by the People.

The problem of our times is how best to preserve and develop this ideal, which has become a tradition for democracies in a free world. Surely all our national resources, physical and intellectual and moral, must be turned to account if our own democracy is to live and grow. West Point has therefore chosen as the theme of its Sesquicentennial Celebration: "Furthering Our National Security." We believe that study and discussion of this theme will disclose ways and means for the most effective use of our national resources in the service of democracy.

The Military Academy has selected the period from January to June, nineteen hundred and fifty-two, as the time for special observance of its Sesquicentennial Year. We hope you will join with us in marking that period of celebration.

/s/ Bryant E Moore

BRYANT E. MOORE
Major General, U.S.A.
Superintendent

United States Military Academy
West Point, New York
November 1, 1950

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