



UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

West Point, New York 10996

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

January 31, 2004

Department of Social Sciences

Dear Friends,

Greetings from chilly West Point where two back to back snowfalls created just the right atmosphere for the holidays. Our Sosh staff and faculty have recharged their batteries over the holidays and are ready for an exciting spring semester.

Teaching remains the Department's first priority, a fact not lost on cadets who continue to flock to our programs. Econ and IR remain the two most popular majors at the Academy. Looking at the numbers, approximately 20 percent of cadets in the upper three classes are Sosh majors. Another unchanged priority is the hiring of talented rotating faculty. This year, 196 officers applied to teach in Sosh, up from 128 last year. Of these applicants, sixteen were selected, three of whom will attend PhD programs. Twelve of this year's selectees are currently serving in Iraq and most of the others have served in either Afghanistan, the Balkans, or Haiti. Two of those selected served as enlisted soldiers during the first Gulf War. We very much look forward to receiving this group in 2006 after they complete their graduate training.

The Academy is evolving its academic programs by eliminating the Field of Study, and changing our majors to be more similar to other leading undergraduate colleges and universities. The new program will be approved this spring and offered for the first time to the class of 2007, the current plebe class, when they choose their majors next fall. For its part, the Department works diligently to keep its programs relevant, interesting, and among the best in the nation. Sosh now teaches more than 100 courses each year, highlighted by the newest additions, SS474 Terrorism-New Challenges for Security Professionals and SS476 Conflict and Negotiation. In fact, MAJ Reid Sawyer, who developed our Terrorism seminar was awarded the AY 2003 APGAR Award for Excellence in teaching, an Academy-wide annual award given to the one teacher who best demonstrates commitment to using innovative concepts in and out of the classroom. His win represents the great efforts of all of our instructors both past and present.

The Department continues to support and learn from worldwide combat operations in multiple ways. Deployments continue in support of operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Bosnia, where Sosh faculty provide strategic and economic planning support as well as efforts to reenergize Baghdad University. Here in the U.S., our instructors and cadets have been heavily engaged with diverse organizations such as Department of Homeland Security, USSOCOM, Picatinny Arsenal, and the New York Fire Department.

We are excited to report that, due in part to the superb work of our Scholarship team, USMA won two Rhodes Scholarships and a Marshall Scholarship this year. The Academy's newest Rhodes Scholars are Dan Helmer and Amber Raub, and the Academy's newest Marshall Scholar is Joe Wells. Dan is a 2003 graduate and will join the 4th ID in Iraq before beginning graduate work in International Relations at Oxford. Amber, an Aeronautical Engineering major and future Signal Corps Officer, will pursue an MSc in Engineering Science at Oxford. And Joe, an International Relations major and future Infantry Officer, will study for an MA in Peacekeeping at the University of Birmingham.

Speaking of success, SCUSA 55 proved to be the best ever. In November, over 200 students from approximately 185 colleges and 27 countries and universities participated with 100 cadets in a three day exchange of ideas on the theme, "U.S. National Security: Balancing Self interests with International Responsibilities." Mr. Brian Williams of NBC News gave the keynote address. Thanks again to the USMA Class of 1971 and the Olmsted Foundation for their continued financial support for SCUSA.

Our two Centers of Excellence, the Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) and the Office of Economic and Manpower Analysis (OEMA) continue to steadfastly support Army and joint initiatives. The CTC's education, outreach, and policy analysis mission grows by leaps and bounds. Examples of current efforts include studies related to al Qaeda tradecraft and counterterrorism policies in democratic regimes as well as work with government agencies such as the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the Joint Staff. As always, we are tremendously in debt to Mr. Vinnie Viola for his continued support of the CTC. OEMA, in addition to its tremendous work on America's Army (www.americasarmy.com), is currently analyzing the impact of longer and more frequent deployments on soldier retention and working a project aimed at improving USMA officer continuations.

Donors who contribute to the Department's programs get a "special" thank you this year. Academy-wide budget cuts have had a negative impact on all of the Department's summer, extracurricular, and research programs. Without "outside help" the Department would have had to drastically cut many of its cadet and rotating faculty initiatives. Because of the generosity of folks such as Bob Baldwin, Brent Scowcroft, Dana Mead, Bill Murdy, Carolyn Osborn, Walt Lincoln, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Whitfield, Patrick and Anna Cudahy, Ken Hicks, William Bowen, Tom Petrie, Swanee Hunt, and the McCormick and Olmsted Foundations, the Department's programs remain viable despite the budget cuts. We can't thank you enough.

We appreciate all of our alumni's support and would like to thank all of you personally by inviting you to come and meet old friends and catch up on all things Sosh at the Department's 2004 Spring Reunion which will be held at the Army-Navy Country Club (www.anc.org) in Arlington, Virginia, on Friday, April 16, 2004, from 1800-2000. This year we will have a diverse assortment of hors d'oeuvres, wine, and beer. We will post details on the Department website and provide a formal invitation with the Department's spring newsletter. For those who want to RSVP early, please contact MAJ Tino Perez (celestino.perez@usma.edu).

Wishing you all the best in the new year from West Point!

Russ Howard
Professor and Head
Department of Social Sciences