

Robert L. Gordon III
Colonel, US Army
Biography

Colonel Robert L. Gordon III is currently the Director of the American Politics Division in the Department of Social Sciences at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He oversees the administration, conduct, and teaching of the core course on American Politics and Policy, and fifteen elective courses taught to over 1,100 cadets. He teaches the advanced course in American Politics and the Public Policymaking Process.

As a 1992 –1993 White House Fellow, he served in the White House as the Director of Special Operations for the Office of National Service. In this position he was a member of the President's staff that founded the AmeriCorps program. Before serving in the White House, Colonel Gordon was the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Prior to the White House Fellowship, he was the executive officer of and an assistant professor in the Department of Social Sciences at West Point. Colonel Gordon has held a number of field artillery command and staff positions, including two tours in the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado and a tour in Germany. He also has taught the interagency process and national security at the National War College in Washington, D.C. and the Federal Executive Management Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia; and served as a Center for Public Management Fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Colonel Gordon has stayed active in the national civilian service sector. He is the co-founder of *Service America*, a program that brings together cadets at West Point and AmeriCorps members to address unmet needs in distressed communities and share ideas on public service, leadership, team building, and conflict resolution. He has spent considerable time abroad researching national service systems, and was a member of a U.S. citizens' delegation to Italy in 1997 to assist in reforming Italy's national service system. Colonel Gordon served as a distinguished judge of the President of the United States' 1998 Service Awards and serves on numerous boards focused on national and community service.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, five awards of the Army Commendation Medal, the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, two awards of the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara, the Parachutist Badge, and the Ranger Tab. He is a member of the French American Foundation and selected to its Young Leaders Program. He is also a former President of the West Point-Highland Falls Rotary Club and the recipient of Rotary's Distinguished Presidential Citation.

Colonel Gordon holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he concentrated on public policy and national security. He is a graduate of the National War College, the Army Command and General Staff College, and has a Masters Degree and has completed coursework and preliminary examinations toward a doctorate in public affairs from Princeton University. He is married to the former Millie Pacheco and they have two children.