



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
West Point, New York 10996

December 21, 2007

Department of Social Sciences

Dear Friends,

Holiday greetings from West Point! We already had our first snow fall (actually it is freezing here), and we are in the middle of Term End Exams. Ramona and I enjoyed seeing many of you at the fall reunion, which was a great way to come back after my “summer vacation” in Iraq. We had a great time tailgating, and if memory serves, watching Army win—one of three home wins this year. Next year will prove to be a better football year with a new “improved” schedule, revamped offense, and the eternal hope for success on the gridiron.

Once again, we have some personnel changes. First, we are delighted that General John Abizaid has accepted our offer to serve as the Distinguished Chair of our Combating Terrorism Center. We look forward to working and collaborating with him in the classroom and on new research projects. Dr. Kori Schake has been called upon by the Department of State to work as the Deputy Director of Plans and Policy, so she will be in Washington and we hope to have her return to complete a final semester as our International Security Chair in Spring 2009. The longest currently serving member of our faculty, Dr. Damo Gujarati, will also retire at the end of this semester after over fifteen years with the Department. COL Maggie Belknap will be retiring this Spring after over almost 27 years of service in the Army. Dr. Dean Dudley will direct the Economics Stem during the spring semester and attempt to fulfill the significant void left as Maggie and Damo retire. We will miss them both very much. Also, we just farewelled our computer expert, Nick Pollarine, who is headed to Germany, but hopes to return in the future. Continuing the Department and Academy’s active engagement “downrange,” LTC Suzanne Nielsen will spend next semester in Iraq, which will probably lead GEN Petraeus to ask why I did not send Suzanne instead of me last summer! Finally, the Department has three new Colonels: LTC(P) Jeff Peterson, expected this summer as the Economics Academy Professor; LTC(P) Jamie Gayton, finishing his PhD; and LTC(P) Joe Felter soon to leave us as the CTC Director. We expect Joe to do great things as a foreign area officer, and we will visit him often!

Teaching remains the most important thing we do, and the cadets respond. We continue to attract the top cadets in our majors and the largest totals at the Academy with a total of 210 in economics, 124 in international relations, 38 in comparative politics, and 74 in American politics. Our new cohort of officers and civilians excel in the classroom. They bring great energy, experience (nearly all with combat tours), and intellect to everything they do. The quality of our faculty members continues to increase and we continue the creative accounting so the Dean allows us to hire as many great officers as possible—to teach cadets and retain great Army officers. It is great to get recommendations from the field about super officers who should come to the Department and teach. Please keep those recommendations coming!

We not only got off to a fast start in the classroom, but also in activities outside the classroom. Our 59th Student Conference on US Affairs (SCUSA), *Uncertain Future: Freedom, Security, and Responsibility* -- led by MAJ Jon Dunn and our new conference secretary Ms. Joy Pasquazi -- had a terrific line-up. The panel, moderated by our own Jack Jacobs, included Ms. Pamela Aall from the US Institute of Peace, Philippines General Victor Corpus, former British diplomat Dr. Ray Raymond, and me. The students were impressed by the wide spectrum of views, which led to an intelligent and lively exchange with the students. Both keynote speakers, Gen John Abizaid and Dr. Kori Schake were magnificent. We greatly appreciate the continued support of the USMA Class of 1971, the Olmsted Foundation, and the Association of Graduates, which make SCUSA possible.

Model UN, led by Dr. Scott Silverstone, sustained its winning tradition this fall with its sixth consecutive "Best Delegation" victory at Georgetown, a first place win at the University of Pennsylvania, where the cadets were awarded the Benjamin Franklin Cup, and a second place showing at Yale. This year's team is heavy with yearlings and plebes, whose success so far promises to yield great success in the years to come. After the holiday break, the team will jump into its hectic spring schedule, with competitions at McGill University, the University of California at Berkeley, Harvard Nationals, and Princeton. They will wrap up the season this year at the World Model UN conference in Puebla, Mexico.

Debate, led by MAJ Bill Skimmyhorn and MAJ Nick Ayers (debate partners from 1995-1997), currently ranks in the Top 10 nationally as they debate: *Resolved: that the United States Federal Government should increase its constructive engagement with the government of one or more of: Afghanistan, Iran, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and Syria, and it should include offering them a security guarantee(s) and/or a substantial increase in foreign assistance.* The team won championships at Liberty University in the JV Division and at the University of Rochester in the Novice Division, while compiling a record of 2-0 against Navy this year. (We know the team that can beat Navy!) The team is off to a great start and looks for some great regional, national, and international (Beat RMC!) competition in the second semester.

The USMA Scholarships Program, ably led by MAJ Bill Bundy with the support of over 20 Department mentors, got off to another strong start. The Class of 2008 succeeded in earning two Marshall and one Rhodes Scholarships so far. Additionally, two Social Sciences majors, Brad Wilson and Tyler Jost, earned opportunities to study abroad through the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship Program. We appreciate the efforts of numerous alumni who continue to support this important program through their participation in the annual Manhattan cocktail party and through various other forms of mentorship. Among those who visited the classroom this fall or otherwise mentored scholars are Dan Kaufman, Ray Raymond, Rick Waddell, Steve Daffron, John Tien, Jen Easterly, Mike George, and others. Thanks to all!

The faculty's research and publications continue to impress. Thanks to Jim Smith, INSS continues to provide great ideas for research and (more importantly) funding for scholarly work (and the occasional boondoggle—all research related, of course). In fact, we just learned that MAJ Rick Wrona won the prestigious Linhard INSS research award for this year! Dr. Dean Dudley and recent USMA graduates, Lieutenants Mark Adams, David del Cuadro-Zimmerman, and Ted Steliga published their "Commissary as Compensation" paper in the Tenth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation. Capt. Amanda Gookins' article, "The Role of Intelligence in Policy Making," will be in the upcoming *SAIS Review*. MAJ Paul Oh's article, "Management

and Leadership Performance in the Defense Department” is forthcoming in *Armed Forces and Society*. COL Cindy Jebb has a book chapter in *Environmental Change and Human Security*. Dr. James Forest published the 3-volume anthology, *Countering Terrorism and Insurgency in the 21st Century: International Perspective*; and LTC Ike Wilson’s book *Thinking beyond War: Civil-Military Relations and Why America Fails to Win the Peace* is now in bookstores. Finally, Don Snider’s book, *Forging the Warrior’s Character: Moral Precepts from the Cadet Prayer*, has been published. Taken together, the Department has an exceptional record of scholarship which both sharpens the minds of our faculty and cadets and improves the quality of knowledge in academic and policy circles.

The Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) has expanded the terrorism studies program with a new advanced seminar on weapons of mass destruction. In this course, cadets explored the basic principles of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons and examined the intentions and capabilities of various terror groups acquiring these weapons. Through the CTC’s FBI partnership, we have taught courses and seminars in the New Agent Training program at Quantico, Virginia and at Joint Terrorism Task Forces throughout the country. The CTC has published several new reports, including *Cracks in the Foundation: Leadership Schisms in al Qaida, 1989-2006*, an assessment of the information maintained on the detainees Guantanamo Bay, and a report on the background of foreign fighters that traveled to fight in Iraq. The CTC launched a monthly online journal in December, the *CTC Sentinel*. Finally, CTC faculty appeared in a number of print and televised media outlets and also testified before various committees of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate on counterterrorism related issues in support of the CTC’s goal of providing relevant and objective policy expertise.

OEMA continues to be a favorite of the USMA leadership, Army policymakers and holiday shoppers. The America’s Army game was just released on Xbox360 and Toys-R-Us carries the top selling Real Heroes action figures – get them while they last. Beyond these recruiting projects, OEMA is the analytical resource of choice for the Army Staff. Recent projects have identified substantial efficiencies in officer accessions and innovations in recruiting. The pre-commissioning incentive programs remain extremely popular among cadets with this year’s ROTC and USMA cadets choosing to increase their obligation to get their branch of choice, post of choice, or a guarantee of graduate school, which will significantly increase Army retention.

Intramurals remain a competitive and friendly activity that we sometimes take too seriously. This year, the Ultimate Frisbee team fought hard, and we are looking forward to a winning B-Ball season. As Dick Hewitt used to say, “You have five fouls, use them.” Finally, our Chili Cook-off not only helped support our holiday festivities, but, more importantly, it allows us to continue our support of our local Big Brothers/Big Sisters club.

We plan to hold the Spring Reunion on 25 April, probably at a location on Fort Myer. We will post details on the Department website and provide a formal invitation with the Department’s Spring Newsletter. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the event or the Department please let me know (michael.meese@usma.edu or (845) 938-2800).

Wishing you all the best for the holidays and the New Year!


Mike Meese