



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

April 1, 2008

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Department of Social Sciences

Dear Friends,

Greetings from a still cold and blustery West Point. The Class of 2008 is gearing up for their graduation just “58 and a butt” days from today, and they continue to impress us with their drive, determination, and sense of commitment. This class entered West Point the year after the war in Iraq started; knowing that they will likely deploy within the next year has helped concentrate their attention and focus. It continues to be a great privilege for all of us in the Department to teach and serve with such great young men and women.

The Department continues to stay engaged in ongoing operations. Our Director of International Relations, LTC Suzanne Nielsen joined General Petraeus’s staff in Baghdad in January and is assisting in the preparation of General Petraeus’s testimony next week before Congress and other key strategic issues. Our Not-Head, COL Cindy Jebb, led a team of three other officers, Majors Chris Springer, Tom Greco, and Bill Skimmyhorn during Spring Break to conduct an assessment with 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division in Northern Iraq in preparation for a longer deployment this summer to assist with political and economic development. Interestingly they were there at the same time as Senator John McCain and had pictures taken with him—but there is no truth to the rumor that it was Cindy’s comparative politics lessons that got him confused on that whole “Shia-Sunni thing.” Most officers departing the Department find themselves heading down range quickly and making an immediate and significant difference in battalion, brigade, or higher-level staff positions.

I know the world has been shocked by the devastating economics news—not that Bear Stearns has collapsed, but that both Colonel Maggie Belknap and Dr. Damo Gujarati retired from the economics faculty. Maggie completed a nearly 27 year career, including ten years on the West Point faculty in Systems and the Social Sciences Department, and Damo finished over fifteen years in the Department of Social Sciences. We all miss them, but no one misses them more than Dr. Dean Dudley, who is serving as interim economics director, until LTC(P) Jeff Peterson arrives this summer.

This summer we will also bid farewell to Dr. Don Snider, who has taught for the past twelve years in the Department—first as our Olin Distinguished Professor—and then as a Professor of Political Science. Don has contributed more to the revitalization of the Army as a Profession than anyone in recent memory and is unquestionably one of the leading scholars on civil-military relations. (In fact his latest monograph on leaders and dissent is at: <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdf/files/pub849.pdf>) It has been a privilege for us to watch him change the ethos of the Army through clear thinking, effective communication, and dogged determination. We will miss him and Caroline as they move to Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

When asked about what has changed in the Department, I think the most common answer that I give is that the tempo and diversity of experiences of our faculty and cadets have picked up substantially. While I suspect that was probably the same thing that General Lincoln said to General Beukema, it really does seem that we are engaged more frequently and more often than ever before. For example, in addition to several deployments to combat zones (with a total of 50 officers and one civilian deployed so far), many others are participating with Defense, Army, and other agencies on a wide range of projects. Virtually every faculty member presents a paper at a major academic conference at least once in their tour, so we had eight faculty members in San Francisco last week at the International Studies Association Conference; another group will travel in September to the American Political Science Association; and I have the tough job of taking four faculty members this July to the Western Economics Association in Hawaii. Continuing the Department's tradition of excellence, we find that these papers are among the best and most relevant at nearly every session. I am also thrilled to report that the Council on Foreign Relations just announced that Majors Stephanie Ahern and Darrell Driver are its latest International Affairs Fellows. Moreover, the National Defense University just selected Captain Amanda Gookins and Major Scott Taylor for its prestigious Emerging Leaders Program.

Beyond the research, we are also immersing cadets during their summers with life-changing experiences. Thanks to the extremely generous contributions of Brent Scowcroft, Bill Murdy, Dana Mead, Ken Hicks, as well as the Olmsted and MacArthur Foundations, the Department will send over 159 cadets to internships this summer—that is a long way from five cadets in the Crossroads Africa program and five interns in Washington when I was a cadet. Dr. Ruth Beitler expertly coordinates this program, which includes international relations and comparative politics cadets traveling to 30 different nations ranging from Rwanda to Latvia and from Cambodia to Peru. In fact, with the MacArthur gift, we have initiated our Conflict and Human Security Studies (CHSS) program, which not only provides research support, but it primarily places cadets with NGOs overseas. It has been a terrific program, and it works directly with four courses: Winning the Peace (led by Major Rebecca Patterson who is currently in Jersey City with her cadets conducting their capstone exercise with the city's multi-cultural communities), International Security Seminar, Conflict Negotiations, and Cultural Anthropology. We also place American Politics cadets in Congress, the Pentagon, the State Department, and the White House. Economics cadets will work with Army and Air Force Mutual Aid Association (thanks to Walt Lincoln), with RAND, in the Treasury Department, with CBO, and with the Council of Economic Advisors. And the Combating Terrorism Center will support two dozen cadets working with the FBI, ICE, DIA, ATF, and the NY Police Department. One might say that these are merely “boondoggles” (and you could be right!), but these experiences in a challenging interagency or international environment exposes cadets to academic and leadership lessons that pay huge dividends at West Point and throughout their careers.

In spite of all of these activities, the heart of the Department remains its junior rotating military faculty and the engaging teaching that they conduct every day. That is reflected every day in the classroom, but was interestingly reinforced in the 24 March 2008 *Sports Illustrated* magazine. In an article about one of Army football's stars, firstie Caleb Campbell, the author reported the following, "Recently his Politics of Latin America professor, Major Lorenzo Rios asked him to analyze ideological hegemony and the motivations behind Venezuela's Hugo Chavez...." Now cadets are buying *Sports Illustrated* not for the NFL draft and the swimsuit issue, but for the international relations theory!

To help support the junior faculty teaching, we have good news in that we have finally won a minor victory with the Dean's office to add four new faculty members to the Department—the bad news is that their offices may double as the coffee and copier rooms—but we are working that too! We continue to be on the look out for great officers, so please send them our way and have them select the "prospective faculty" link at <http://www.dean.usma.edu/departments/sosh/>.

For Senior Conference this June, we have linked up with the Army's newly designated Center of Excellence for the Professional Military Ethic at West Point to focus on the topic, *The Professional Military Ethic in an Era of Persistent Conflict*. Just as the Department in the past has helped the Army adapt as an institution during times of long-term strain, we think that our work at this year's Senior Conference will provide important insights for the Army in the future.

The Office of Economic and Manpower Analysis, under the leadership of COL Casey Wardynski, continues to be the analytical arm of choice for the Army's leaders. Not only has America's Army continued to be one of the most effective recruiting tools and the most popular video games in the nation, but its Army Game Project has expanded to improve training in many different commands and agencies where realistic, adaptable, and reliable simulations are important. To assist with officer retention, OEMA is working to help the Army leverage the obvious, but frequently untapped linkages between USMA and ROTC to improve the overall quality of officer candidates.

General John Abizaid has joined the Combating Terrorism Center and is already off to a great start. He has been fully engaged in teaching cadets, guiding our research program, speaking on behalf of the Center and the Academy, and providing great counsel and advice to our work. The Center's Director, LTC (P) Joe Felter continues to lead the best team of terrorism experts in the nation as they educate cadets, contribute to policy analysis, and provide insightful research. In fact you can see much of their research in what is becoming one of the leading monthly terrorism journals—the *CTC Sentinel*, which is available on line monthly and is at <http://www.ctc.usma.edu/sentinel/default.asp>. If you want to be added to the CTC's mailing list, just let Joe Felter know at [joseph.felter@usma.edu](mailto:joseph.felter@usma.edu).

The Social Sciences Teams have continued to do well enriching cadet development in many ways. The Army Debate Team continued its great success completing the season ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation in sweepstakes standings. The team took championships at Liberty

University, the University of Rochester, and at the CEDA East Regional Championships. Three team members earned National Academic All-American honors and the team hosted the largest tournament in the nation that offered competition at the Novice, JV, and Open levels. The Army Model United Nations Team just returned from the International Model United Nation's competition in Mexico City, where they finished with the strongest winning record of any university. This year they took first place at Georgetown, McGill, Princeton, and the University of Pennsylvania.

The most important team, of course, is the Social Sciences Basketball Team. They won the Academic division and lost the post championship on a last second shot that was in and out of the basket. We look forward to volleyball in the spring and the coveted championship T-shirt!

I hope that you will be able to join us at the Spring Reunion to hear more about what has been happening. Based on many of your comments from last year, we have decided to move the location for this year. This year's reunion will be held at the **Fort Myer Spates Club** in Fort Myer, Virginia on **Friday, April 25, 2008 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.** The Spates Club is just down the hill from the officers club (in between the officer's club and the Post Exchange) at Fort Myer. The details are on the attached flyer. Please register with Ms. Joy Pasquazi at 845-938-6401 or [joy.pasquazi@usma.edu](mailto:joy.pasquazi@usma.edu). We hope you can join us and our fellow alumni.

With best wishes from West Point,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a prominent loop on the 'M' and a trailing flourish on the 'e'.

Mike Meese