



# West Point

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## WEST POINT SELECTS NININGER AWARD RECIPIENT

**West Point, NY**--The West Point Association of Graduates announces that Major Matthew A. Chaney has been selected to receive the 2016 Alexander Nininger Award for Valor at Arms.

- Major Chaney will receive the award on September 22, 2016, at West Point, NY.
- Major Chaney is a Special Forces officer currently serving as the Executive Officer for the Commanding General, United States Army Special Forces Command (Airborne).
- Major Chaney received the Silver Star award for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy on 10 September 2007, while serving as the Detachment Commander, Operational Detachment Alpha 083, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), at Samarra, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- Major Chaney is a 2011 graduate of the U.S. Army General Wayne A. Downing Scholarship program.
- Major Chaney graduated from West Point in the Class of 2001 and is from Washington, Illinois.
- The Nininger Award is endowed by the late Mr. Doug Kenna, Class of 1945, and his wife Jean Kenna.
- The Nininger Award is named in honor of Lieutenant Alexander R. "Sandy" Nininger, Class of 1941 on whom the Medal of Honor was posthumously conferred for heroism in combat in the Philippines during the early stage of World War II. The Award recognizes the personal valor of the recipient and also draws attention to the bravery of all West Point graduates who have heroically led soldiers.

### Excerpt From Award Citation

Although wounded, Captain Chaney relentlessly continued to control actions on the objective ensuring that all structures were cleared of enemy personnel. His actions under fire were directly responsible for the killing of eleven enemy personnel, including a high-value foreign fighter that coalition forces had been chasing for over a year. His valorous leadership and successful elimination of these terrorists had a significant impact on Al Qaeda operations in the Samarra area and contributed immeasurably to the security of Salah ad-Din Province in Iraq. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military heroism and reflect distinct credit upon himself, the Special Operations Command Central, and the United States Army

### About the West Point Association of Graduates

Founded in 1869, the West Point Association of Graduates is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to furthering the ideals and promoting the welfare of West Point, and to serving and supporting the "Long Gray Line" of more than 50,000 living West Point graduates. Its philanthropic pursuits maintain a Margin of Excellence for cadets attending the United States Military Academy. For more information visit [www.WestPointAOG.org](http://www.WestPointAOG.org).

### About West Point

The United States Military Academy at West Point is a four-year, co-educational, federal, liberal arts college located 50 miles north of New York City. It was founded in 1802 as America's first college of engineering and continues today as the world's premier leader-development institution, consistently ranked among top colleges in the country. Its mission remains constant—to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the nation as an officer in the U.S. Army. For more information, go to [www.westpoint.edu](http://www.westpoint.edu).

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