



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY  
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996-5000

MAR 19 2020

West Point Teammates,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones well and healthy as we deal with the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation.

I know many of you have been following the actions we've taken against the global coronavirus pandemic – all to limit the spread of the virus and to ensure the health and safety of the entire West Point community.

The entire team – the USMA staff and faculty, Garrison, Keller Army Community Hospital, and many other mutual aid partners have been working nonstop to protect the entire community, to continue our mission as effectively as possible, and to plan for the safe return of the Corps of Cadets. They have done, and continue to do, incredible work both on the front lines and behind the scenes as we navigate the many challenges associated with this pandemic. I thank you for your hard work and determination.

Many of you have asked about when the Corps of Cadets will return to West Point. After a deliberate planning process, across the USMA enterprise, I decided that the Corps of Cadets **will not return to West Point on 29 March as originally planned.** Keeping the Corps at home will better ensure the safety of the Corps, staff, faculty, and the West Point community. I do not know when the Corps will return at this point. Our deliberate and robust planning effort is focused on how to best continue our mission while fighting this virus – this process will identify the best time for the Corps to return.

My number one priority as Superintendent is the health, safety and security of every member of the Corps of Cadets and the West Point community. The decision to delay the return of the Corps was not made lightly – we are taking this action to ensure we continue to protect the force.

For the Corps of Cadets, I hope you had a productive first day of remote education. Your tactical officers, faculty members, and coaches will do everything possible to ensure your continued success. The Dean, the Commandant, the Athletic Director, and their teams have been fully engaged in setting you up for success as you continue the semester remotely. If you have any issues, please inform your TACs, TAC NCOs, faculty members, and coaches for assistance as needed. Your chain of command will communicate additional details and information in the days ahead as our course of action solidifies.

Corps... let me also repeat what the Commandant said to you this week. This is not an extension of your spring break. I expect you to conduct yourselves as future professionals of the United States Army.

In the meantime, please continue to practice good personal hygiene and follow the guidance of your state and local officials.

**No decision has been made yet about graduation and commissioning for the Class of 2020, and we will continue to conduct a thorough planning process to ensure the safe return of the Corps at the right time.** We will continue to plan for the commissioning of the Class of 2020 to meet the needs of the Army. Our decision on the timing and scope of this event is based on the safety of our Cadets and the community.

For the West Point community, I'd like to thank you for your patience and understanding over these past several days. This has been, and will continue to be, a very fluid situation filled with a lot of uncertainty. I know you have questions and we are working diligently to give you timely and accurate answers. We will continue to relay information via social media channels and our website: [www.WestPoint.edu](http://www.WestPoint.edu).

I need your support in defeating this invisible enemy. **This is not the time to socialize with friends and neighbors. It is not the time for backyard barbeques and children's playdates.** I expect everyone's disciplined practice of social distancing and adherence to the additional mitigation measures that we continue to implement across post.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding during these challenging times. One of the hallmarks of the Long Gray Line is our strength and resiliency. Ultimately, it is that strength and resiliency that will ensure we continue to thrive as a West Point community.

Sincerely,



Darryl A. Williams  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army  
Superintendent

