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# DOCA

Defense Orientation Conference Association



## US Military Academy West Point Executive Summary April 2016

Our program started Monday evening with a reception at the Thayer where we were joined by Army and civilian faculty and staff members from the academy. The next morning, we boarded the bus early for the short drive to Jefferson Hall, the academy's library, and the beautiful Haig conference room overlooking "The Plain" and the Hudson River. Lieutenant General Robert Caslen, the 59th Superintendent of West Point, kicked things off followed by the Dean (Brigadier General Tim Trainor) and the Commandant of Cadets (Brigadier General Diana Holland).



We took the opportunity to recognize long-time DOCA member (and USMA graduate, Class of 1945) Ric Lessey with a plaque honoring his devotion to DOCA and the military. The Deputy Military Athletic Director and the Associate Director of Admissions rounded out the morning before we walked across the street to the West Point Club for lunch. There we were joined by a number of cadets who related their experiences at the academy. The group included Cadet Virginia Brawley, granddaughter of DOCA member Bill Forti, who is currently a "Yearling" or sophomore. After lunch we received briefings from the

Association of Graduates, (the academy's alumni organization), and from the Diversity Director. Then Mr. Sherman Fleek, a retired Lieutenant Colonel and USMA's historian, led us on a tour of "Trophy Point", the most historic part of the academy grounds, and the beautiful Cadet Chapel. Finally, we enjoyed a visit to the West Point Museum and Visitors Center where we learned even more about the history of West Point and had the opportunity to buy "Army swag." After such a full day members were more than ready for a bit of downtime and dinner on their own in MacArthur's Riverview restaurant at the Thayer.

On Wednesday morning we reconvened in the Eisenhower Room at the Thayer to hear from the Army Cyber Institute and the Army's Counter Terrorism Center, neither of which existed during DOCA's last visit to West Point in 2006. During lunch, professor John Melkon gave a presentation on the "Military-Civilian Gap," highlighting the fact that most Americans have never served in uniform and know little about our armed forces. We wrapped up our program with a tour of the Army Hall of Fame at Michie Stadium, an impressive exhibit highlighting Army's proud sports tradition and most exalted athletes.

