



**WEST POINT ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES ANNOUNCES
2022 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

WEST POINT, NY: February 15, 2022 – The West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG) has named the 2022 recipients of the Distinguished Graduate Award. This annual award is bestowed upon those West Point graduates whose character, distinguished service and stature draw wholesome comparison to the qualities for which West Point strives, in keeping with its motto: “Duty, Honor, Country.” The awards will be presented in a ceremony at West Point on May 17, 2022. The 2022 Distinguished Graduate Award Recipients include a decorated combat surgeon, a Delta Force legend, a former four-star commander of a multinational coalition in Afghanistan, a trailblazing and transformative former Chief of Ordnance, the CEO and Chairman of one of the world’s top-10 companies, and the Army’s first Black female lieutenant general.

Frederick C. Lough Jr. ’70 – COL (R) Fred Lough Jr., MD—soldier, scholar, and surgeon—has spent 50 years saving lives, 30 as a military combat surgeon and 20 more as a civilian heart surgeon. In 1970, while completing Ranger School, Lough was selected for the Army Medical School Scholarship Program. He studied at George Washington University School of Medicine and trained as a general surgeon at Walter Reed. He transitioned to civilian medicine in 1987 and became the chief heart surgeon at the Reading Hospital and Medical Center in Reading, PA, performed several thousand heart operations. In 2005 he was recruited to become Director of the Heart Surgery Program at the George Washington University Hospital but left this post to bring his surgical skills to the battlefields in the Global War on Terror, joining the U.S. Army Medical Corps Reserves at age 59. Lough was assigned to the Uniformed Services University, the military’s medical school, where he was promoted to colonel. In 2010, Lough volunteered to serve in Afghanistan, receiving orders to become the chief surgeon in support of the 4th Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. While assigned to the 628th Forward Surgical Team, the busiest combat surgical team in Afghanistan, Lough’s base was attacked by a truck using a borne IED that killed or wounded more than 45 soldiers and civilians. Uninjured himself, he led the response to the attack, treating the wounded and erecting a new tented operating room within hours of the IED explosion. Lough was awarded the Combat Action Badge, a first in Medical Corps history, and received a Bronze Star Medal for his actions during the attack. “His service is marked by honor, distinction, and singular selflessness,” notes Senator Jack Reed. When Lough retired from active duty in January 2021, he was the longest serving medical officer in uniform.

Lee A. Van Arsdale ’74 – Given his long tenure with the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta, better known as the famed Delta Force, COL (R) Lee Van Arsdale was in the shadows for much of his career, yet his lifetime of devotion to the values of “Duty, Honor, Country” have never been in the dark. Van Arsdale branched Infantry upon graduation and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division after Airborne and Ranger School, where he was an Honor Graduate. He volunteered for Special Forces and was subsequently assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group as commander of an A Team. In 1985, Van Arsdale started the arduous process of training for assignment to Delta, remaining with “The Unit” until 1996, becoming the West Pointer with more time in the Special Forces than any other graduate of the Academy. While with Delta, Van Arsdale played a key role in Operation Just Cause (Panama), including personally holding ousted dictator Manuel Noriega while he was cuffed. He was also part of the Battle of Mogadishu in Somalia in 1993, more commonly known as “Blackhawk Down” from Mark Bowden’s book and the 2001 film. Van Arsdale earned the Silver Star for leading troops through intense enemy fire to the chopper crash site, extracting the bodies of fallen soldiers, and directing the force “back through hostile fire” to safety. Upon retirement, Van Arsdale was CEO of Triple Canopy, a private security company serving military and government clients known for its code of ethics. Van Arsdale is currently the co-chairman of Creative Radicals, a software company supporting the war on terrorism. “One of the characteristics for the Army’s Special Forces is ‘Quiet Professional,’” says Wade Y. Ishimoto, Distinguished Senior Fellow at Joint Special Operations University. “Lee Van Arsdale epitomizes a quiet professional: he is humble, a great mentor and leader, with superb personal and professional standards.”

John F. Campbell ’79 – In his 37 years of service in an Army uniform, GEN (R) John F. Campbell has led or commanded at every echelon, from a platoon in Germany to the multinational coalition in Afghanistan (“Operation Enduring Freedom and Resolute Support Mission”). Prior to becoming a general officer, Campbell had assignments with the 82nd Airborne Division, 25th infantry division and deployed to Haiti in Operation Uphold Democracy as the aide-de-camp for the XVIII Airborne Corps Commander and served as the executive officer to the 35th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. His record is further distinguished by nearly five years of service in combat: 19 months in Iraq as the Deputy Commanding General for Maneuver (DCG-M) for Multi-National Division—Baghdad for both the 4th Infantry Division and the 1st Cavalry Division and as the Deputy Director for Regional Operations for the Joint Staff; 36 months in Afghanistan as the commander of Combined Joint

Task Force 101 for Regional Command East and as the commander International Security Assistance Force and United States Forces—Afghanistan. In addition to his numerous awards and decorations, Campbell was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his service commanding the 101st Airborne Division in 2011, the Distinguished Service Medal for his service as Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army in 2014, and the Defense Distinguished Service Medal for his service commanding both U.S. forces and a multinational coalition in 2016. Throughout his time in uniform, Campbell has not forgotten West Point, supporting cadet projects, speaking at conferences on leadership and ethics, and especially offering recommendations to strengthen the Honor Code. “He [has] rarely missed the opportunity to mentor and develop future leaders and connect beyond organization structures to ensure the success of the U.S. Army and our Soldiers,” says GEN James McConville, 40th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

Rebecca S. Halstead '81 – Reading about the accomplishments of BG (R) Rebecca “Becky” Halstead, one is likely to see the phrase, “The first woman to…” (be promoted to general officer from all of the Service Academies, command in combat at the strategic level, become Chief of Ordnance, and more); yet, for those who worked with and for Halstead, gender had nothing to do with the exceptional qualities which distinguish her from nearly any other leader. As commander of the 10th Mountain Division Support Command (DISCOM), she deployed to Afghanistan as a logistics staff officer for Coalition Task Force Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2005, she deployed to Iraq as the Commanding General of 3rd Corps Support Command (COSCOM) and was responsible for leading over 25,000 military and civilian personnel, located in 55 geographically dispersed bases, covering 168,000 square miles, providing essential supply, maintenance, and transportation support to over 250,000 deployed personnel. A year later, she was assigned as the Army’s Chief of Ordnance and commanded the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. Halstead is known throughout the Army for her “STEADFAST” leadership (“Soldiers, Training, Excellence, Attitude, Discipline, Family and Friends, Accountability, Service, and Teamwork”), principles that she’s conveyed to countless soldiers and adapted for civilians in her book *24/7: The First Person You Must Lead is You*. Her book, along with her 2011 Harvard Business School Case Study, “Steadfast Leadership”, have become integral to leader development training for thousands of college students, corporate leaders, and others. Regarding Halstead, GEN (R) Dennis Reimer, 33rd Chief of Staff of the Army, said “She is a trailblazer, an enlightened leader, a consummate professional and most of all a role model for all—male or female.”

Alex Gorsky '82 – “Alex Gorsky is one of the greatest leaders in contemporary American business,” says Kenneth Frazier, Executive Chairman of Merck & Co. A superb athlete and company commander of E-2, Gorsky graduated from USMA in 1982 and served six years as a Field Artillery officer, earning the Ranger Tab and his Airborne Wings. In 1988, he began his highly distinguished career at Johnson & Johnson as an entry-level sales representative, advancing through positions of increasing responsibility that culminated in being named CEO and Chairman in 2012, one of just seven leaders who have served in this dual role since the company was listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 1944. With Gorsky at the helm, J&J has grown to more than \$90 billion in sales and one of the top-10 global companies today, developing numerous treatments to battle the world’s deadliest diseases: Ebola, Zika, HIV, and COVID-19 (the single-shot vaccine). Using the lessons he learned as a cadet, Gorsky leads J&J according to West Point values, with its “Credo” bearing close resemblance to West Point’s motto: “Duty, Honor, Country.” J&J’s ethical leadership development programs under Gorsky have been profiled in *Military Times* and *U.S. Veterans Magazine*, and he has been a long-time advocate of the veteran community, serving on the board of directors of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and Travis Manion Foundation. Gorsky is also a generous supporter of West Point (a member of the Douglas MacArthur Giving Society) and has participated in multiple speaking engagements at the Academy (including Ring Weekend and 500th Night), and promoted efforts to recruit diverse candidates for West Point. Philip Murphy, Governor of New Jersey, J&J’s home state, said of Gorsky: “His deep commitment to philanthropy and humanitarian efforts has done immeasurable good and uplifted not only fellow New Jerseyans, but people across the nation.”

Nadja Y. West '82 – “LTG (R) Nadja West deserves to be counted among the Distinguished Graduates of our Alma Mater,” says GEN (R) Martin Dempsey, the 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. “[She] exemplifies the balance of technical skill, leadership, and character that we seek in our officer corps.” West followed her brother, Class of 1976, to West Point, entering the Academy two years after service academies opened their doors to women. She initially branched Ordnance then was selected for medical school, training at George Washington University School of Medicine and later serving as a Medical Corps officer at Fort Benning, GA. West deployed with the 197th Infantry Brigade, 24th Infantry Division for Operation Desert Shield and was attached to the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment for Operation Desert Storm. She also deployed to the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo, serving as the Deputy Task Force surgeon for the 1st Armored Division. In 2013, West became the first Black female major general in Army medicine as well as the first Black female major general of the active-duty U.S. Army, a distinction she repeated when she was promoted to lieutenant general in 2015 upon being appointed the 44th Army Surgeon General. West retired from the Army in 2019 yet continued to serve in vital leadership positions. She served as a Hauser Leader at the Harvard Kennedy School Center for Public Leadership for academic year 2019-20, was named to the Johnson & Johnson, Nucor and Tenet Boards of Directors in 2019 and 2020, and is currently a Distinguished Fellow of the Duke University Fuqua/Coach K Center on Leadership and Ethics. Nadja also serves

on the boards of several non-profit organizations including the Bob Woodruff Foundation and Americares. “Nadja has broken new ground at every stage of her career, and she has done so with unblemished integrity, steadfast determination, and unmatched humility,” says ADM (R) James Stavridis, 16th Supreme Allied Commander at NATO.

About the West Point Association of Graduates

The West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG), is among America’s oldest educational alumni associations. Founded in 1869, the Association was established “to cherish the memories of [its] Alma Mater, and to promote the fraternal fellowship of its graduates,” many of whom had recently fought against each other in the Civil War. Today, WPAOG has evolved into a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to furthering the ideals and promoting the welfare of West Point, and to serving and supporting the more than 54,000 living West Point graduates. Its philanthropic pursuits maintain a Margin of Excellence for cadets attending the United States Military Academy. For more information see 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 WestPoint.edu.

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