

West Point Cadets continue journey at USAWC

Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College Public Affairs Office

West Point Cadets continue journey at Carlisle Barracks

West Point Cadet Maggie Fountain was present for the Army War College's Army birthday celebration outside Root Hall June 15. Fountain spent her summer as an intern at the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute. Photo by Spc. Jennifer Rick.

June 16, 2009 – The Army War College is considered the home for future strategic leaders, but it has also been home to future leaders who are just beginning their journeys when they will depart to resume their educations at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Cadet **Maggie Fountain**, an intern at the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute, will depart Carlisle Barracks this week before returning to West Point July 4 to begin Air Assault School and, in the Fall, begin her 'first year' at the U.S. Military Academy.

"Being here has been a great opportunity to learn about the element of military power at the strategic level," said Norris. "I've loved my time here and wouldn't trade it for anything or any other experience in the world. What I've learned here will not only help me in my next year at the academy but in my career as an officer."

Fountain said that her experience at PKSOI will help her when she competes for a scholarship as part of a West Point program to pursue a civil-military relations degree in graduate school as well as in her military career.

"I received some great practical experience conducting research in interagency operations, she said. "I wrote a ten-page research paper for PKSOI that will likely be published in the next bulletin."



Joining the Army has always been her goal, she said.

"I always wanted to be in the Army from an early age," she said. "I wanted the lifestyle, and West Point had academic and leadership qualities that I liked. They develop character and ethics for good officers. I want to be a part of the environment and contribute to it." She said she hoped to join the military intelligence branch but wouldn't make her final decision until October.

Coming from a military family also made the choice easy. Her father, Col. Darrell Fountain, is a 2007 Army War College graduate now stationed at Fort McPherson, Ga.

"I want to give back for what this country has done for me and my family and what it will do for my children in the future," she said. "Everyone should give back in some way, not necessarily in the military, but in some way. I think that I can make the biggest impact by serving my country in the Army."

She said that being a cadet is at times tough, but that's the way it's supposed to be.

"It's very challenging but it is designed to be challenging," she said. "It causes stress both mentally and academically and has a regimented and disciplined schedule. If you don't manage properly it can be a daily grind and you can feel bogged down by the little things."

"The best thing to do is, step back and look at the big picture. Everyone has problems like yours. Time management is definitely the hardest thing. Learn to do it effectively so you can reduce stress and learn to juggle your requirements."

When asked if she had advice for others looking at West Point she said to make sure they are going for the right reasons.

"Those who feel pressured to go are the ones who look miserable day after day, so be there for the right reasons," she said. "Make sure it's what you want to do for yourself and what kind of officer you want to be."

Fountain is one of four USMA cadets to be assigned at the Army War College's institutes this year.

"They have completed their third year at the academy and are part of the Cadet Summer Training Program," said **Arthur Bradshaw**, Center for Strategic Leadership. The program sends 20 cadets into academic placements all over the country.

"The purpose is for them to learn about the use of the military element of power at the strategic level, the interagency process, and the combatant commands. We work them in to projects related to these fields." Cadet **Adam Norris** will depart CSL this week and will be followed by cadets **Chris Gaulin** and **Jason D'Elosua**.

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