



THE FOURTH CLASS SYSTEM

PART ONE
1964-65

THE DEPARTMENT OF TACTICS
United States Military Academy



UNITED STATES CORPS OF CADETS
West Point, New York

1 July 1964

1. With the concurrence of the Commandant of Cadets, the standing regulations contained herein for the operation of the Fourth Class System are hereby promulgated.

2. Policies and procedures contained herein are effective 30 August 1964. Part Two, Administration of the Fourth Class System, will be published at a later date.

3. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as modifying the provisions of Regulations, USCC, or Regulations, USMA.

Mark R. Walsh

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Cadet Captain

Class President

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PREFACE

On 31 August 1964, the Corps of Cadets will welcome into its membership the Class of 1968 in the annual Acceptance Parade. At that time, the New Cadets who have just finished their summer training will receive the reward of two months of hard work-acceptance into the Corps. In order to become a Cadet, the new cadet must meet challenging standards:

1. DUTY: A Cadet has a well-developed concept of duty, which guides his every action throughout a military career.
2. HONOR: A Cadet adheres to his personal code of honor: he does not lie, cheat, or steal.
3. MILITARY: A Cadet has a basic knowledge of individual military skills, tactical principles, and military leadership.
4. PHYSICAL: A Cadet develops and maintains a strong, agile body through continuous participation in a variety of sports.
5. MENTAL: A Cadet works diligently toward a well-rounded education, knowing that he can better serve his country with such an education.
6. APPEARANCE: A Cadet's personal appearance is excellent. He takes pride in maintaining his uniforms, his room, and his equipment in neat military fashion.
7. POSTURE: A Cadet prides himself in his fine posture - head erect, shoulders squared, back straight.
8. DRILL: A Cadet is proud to be a member of one of the finest bodies of marching men in the world. He knows what is expected of him and executes it sharply.

During this Fourth Class Year, the members of the Class of 1968 will be expected to strive for and achieve the above listed standards. But these goals are not short-term targets designed for the Fourth Class alone; they are attributes which every cadet endeavors to maintain throughout his four years at the Military Academy and into his later military career.

THE FOURTH CLASS SYSTEM
PART ONE

SECTION I

OBJECTIVES

A. MISSION OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

The mission of the United States Military Academy is to instruct and train the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate will have the qualities and attributes essential to his progressive and continued development throughout a lifetime career as an officer of the Regular Army.

Inherent in the mission of the United States Military Academy are these objectives:

Mental - To provide a broad collegiate education in the arts and sciences, leading to the bachelor of science degree.

Moral - To develop in the cadet a high sense of duty and the attributes of character, with emphasis on integrity, discipline and motivation, essential to the profession of arms.

Physical - To develop in the cadet those physical attributes essential to a lifetime career as an officer of the Regular Army.

Military - To provide a broad, basic military education.

B. OBJECTIVES OF THE FOURTH CLASS SYSTEM

The Fourth Class System operates in support of the above stated mission of the Military Academy. It is administered by the upper three classes to prepare each Fourth Classman for his role as a cadet and career as an officer. It also provides a meaningful leadership experience for all upperclassmen. The System accomplishes the following objectives.

1. It places cadets from all parts of the country and from varied backgrounds on an equal plane.
2. It develops the ability to perform effectively under pressure.
3. It teaches the cadet to organize his time and effort efficiently.
4. It teaches that a good leader must first be a good follower.
5. It develops self-discipline.

6. It develops and continually tests motivation.
7. It provides a means of learning about the Military Academy and the Armed Forces.
8. It provides a means of identifying those cadets who cannot perform effectively.

SECTION II

RELATIONSHIPS

A. Fourth Classmen will be treated with justice, dignity, and respect. An impartial and impersonal relationship will be maintained by upperclassmen at all times.

B. Forms of maltreatment, ranging from undesirable verbal expressions to physical brutality, result in personal humiliation and indignity. They have no place in the Fourth Class System.

C. The following points will be rigidly adhered to in implementing the Fourth Class System:

1. Upperclassmen will:
 - a. Use the term "Mister" in addressing Fourth Classmen.
 - b. Converse and correct in a military manner, without display of emotion.
 - c. Allow each Fourth Classman to eat his equal share of food delivered to the table.
 - d. Impose no requirements on Fourth Classmen that will preclude their use of evening call to quarters for academic study.
 - e. Require no personal services. (This includes carrying upperclass equipment to formation or to the Cadet Store and going to "Boodlers.")
 - f. Not recognize a Fourth Classman prior to 4 September 1964.
 - g. Not recognize a Fourth Classman within own company; or within the same division of barracks if occupied by more than one company; or within companies occupying East Barracks; or within companies occupying one of the barracks in New South Area.
 - h. Not require Fourth Classmen to write out any knowledge.

2. Upperclassmen will insure that all Fourth Classmen assume the position of attention known as "bracing." This position is corrective in nature and will be assumed subject to the following conditions:

a. Bracing will be conducted in accordance with instructions issued by the Director of Physical Education.

b. Upperclassmen may touch a Fourth Classman only with specific permission of the Fourth Classman concerned.

c. Fourth Classmen will neither be braced individually in public, nor for commercial or press photographers except for official purposes and under the supervision of a commissioned officer.

d. Fourth Classmen will not be required to brace when outside the area of barracks. In this connection, however, see Section III, B, 2, below.

e. Fourth Classmen on crutches will not be required to brace at any time they are in the standing position. They will still observe all other aspects of the Fourth Class military bearing.

3. Fourth Classmen will at all times maintain an impersonal and respectful military relationship and answer questions in a direct and unequivocal manner.

4. Upperclassmen will allow Fourth Classmen sufficient time to answer when asking a question of a reflective nature, and will at no time ask a question or make a statement in such a manner or of such content as to reflect on the integrity, honor, or self-esteem of a Fourth Classman.

SECTION III

CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

A. CLASSIFICATION OF DELINQUENCIES

1. General. Violations of the following Fourth Class Customs and Traditions are considered Fourth Class Delinquencies. They are classified as either Category A, B, C, or D, depending on the seriousness of the offense. The classification of delinquencies for violations of specific customs and traditions is indicated in the following paragraphs:

2. Category A - Minor violations of Fourth Class Customs and Traditions. From one (1) to five (5) Special Inspections will be awarded by the Squad Leader.

3. Category B - Violations of sufficient seriousness as to require a Company Fourth Class Customs Board.

4. Category C - Flagrant violations as to require a Battalion Fourth Class Customs Board.

5. Category D - Violations that are deemed too flagrant to be handled by a Battalion Fourth Class Customs Board, and which therefore justify a Regimental Board; or repeated Category C violations.

B. GENERAL

1. Fourth Classmen will be required at all times to adhere to the highest standards of military decorum and performance.

2. Fourth Classmen will be at attention when proceeding to or returning from class. However, they will be "At Ease" while crossing Thayer Road going to Thayer Hall. They will walk in a military manner and will not talk to their classmates while in this area. Category A.

C. IN BARRACKS. Fourth Classmen are governed by the following customs in barracks:

1. In halls, sinks, orderly rooms and upperclass rooms, Fourth Classmen:

a. Will be at attention from first call for Reveille until Taps (0100 on nights of Saturday Evening Privileges) except when in latrines and showers. Category B.

b. Will talk only when addressed by an upperclassman or in the conduct of official business. Category A.

c. Will not smoke, eat, or consume beverages. Category B.

d. Will walk at quick time at all times in hallways and sinks of barracks except that Fourth Classmen will double time upstairs, and will not skip steps when going up or down stairs. Category A.

e. Will walk on wall side of hallways and yield right of way to upperclassmen. Category A.

f. When reporting to an upperclass room, will knock twice and enter. Category A.

g. Will remove outer garments before entering upperclass rooms except on official business. Category A.

h. Will report on Special Inspection in proper uniform for the next formation unless specifically directed to do otherwise. Category A.

i. Will not use moats or stoops in passing from one division to another unless in performance of official duties. Category A.

j. Will not use the basement to go from one division to another except during evening Call to Quarters. Category A.

k. Will wear beachrobes to go from rooms to the sinks for the purpose of bathing or dressing for athletics, unless in another proper uniform. Category A.

l. Will wear beachrobes when proceeding to latrines after Taps, unless in another proper uniform. Category A.

m. Will not read in sinks or carry reading material to sinks unless specifically authorized by the Company Academic Sergeant or Company Commander. Category A.

n. Will comply with other company and battalion policies on use of latrines. Category A or B.

o. Will not read Company Bulletin Board five minutes before nor ten minutes after a formation unless given authority to do so. Category A.

2. Within their rooms, Fourth Classmen:

a. Will come to attention, and call other Fourth Class occupants of the room to attention, when an upperclassman enters. Category A.

b. Will keep room doors closed at all times except when otherwise prescribed. Category A.

c. Will not lie down until 2135 hrs without permission of the Squad Leader, except from end of academics on Saturday or a day preceding a holiday until Call to Quarters on the evening before academics are resumed. Category A.

3. Except as noted in paragraph 1 k above, Fourth Classmen will be in proper uniform until Taps. Proper uniform in barracks during evening Call to Quarters for study is fatigues. Category A.

D. IN AREA OF BARRACKS. Fourth Classmen are governed by the following customs while in the area of barracks. The area of barracks is defined as comprising all areas enclosed by barracks, and all roads adjacent thereto except Thayer Road. Specifically, Fourth Classmen:

1. Will be at attention at all times except that, when privileges are in effect, they will be "At Ease" on the sidewalks immediately to the east and north of Washington Hall. They will be at attention while using Brewerton Road. Category B.

2. Will confine themselves to the center of the Area and Sallyports except when reading bulletin boards except where modified by battalion policy in certain areas of barracks. Category A.

3. Will talk to classmates concerning official business only with permission of upperclassmen in the vicinity. Category A.

4. Will not pass through another formation while enroute to their own formation. Category A.

5. Will be in ranks by first call for all Corps and Company Formations, except for Reveille in winter, and on those occasions in which a change of basic uniform is required between class and dinner formation, when they will be in ranks two minutes before assembly. In periods of severe winter weather, the First Captain may authorize Fourth Classmen to be in ranks two minutes before assembly for all formations. Category A.

E. IN THE DINING HALL.

1. General Conduct. Fourth Classmen:

a. Will remove their hats at the foot of the steps as they enter, unless it is raining or snowing; and replace them similarly upon leaving the dining hall. Category A.

b. Will double time until they reach their seats. Fourth Classmen will at no time run, and will always give upperclassmen the right of way. They will not double time while wearing overshoes. Category A.

c. Will keep head erect and direct the eyes downward at all times in the dining hall. Category A.

d. Will not use the outer two aisles nearest each wall before "Take Seats" or after "Battalions Rise." Category A.

e. Upon reaching their tables, will stand at attention behind their seats with cap in left hand. Category A.

f. At "Take Seats" will sit erect, keeping the head up and eyes directed below the horizontal unless addressed by an upperclassman. If so addressed, they will cease what they are doing and face the upperclassman speaking to them. Category A.

g. When breakfast is optional, will be "At Ease" in the dining hall and will take seats at the foot of the table and perform their regular table duties. Category A.

h. May remain at the table after "Battalions Rise" when given express permission by the Table Commandant or after attending Chapel prior to breakfast.

i. May sit "At Ease" on such occasions as the First Captain directs.

j. Individual Fourth Classmen may sit "At Ease" with permission of the Table Commandant when they have earned the privilege.

2. Traditional Duties at the Table.

a. One Fourth Classman will be detailed as "Gunner." He is responsible that the table is supplied with food at all times. He will see that the table is properly supplied with dishes and silverware and will call the waiter's attention to any deficiencies. Category A.

b. One Fourth Classman will be detailed as "Hot Beverage Corporal." He will keep the table supplied with the hot beverage being served. Category A.

c. One Fourth Classman will be detailed as "Cold Beverage Corporal" and will keep the table supplied with cold beverages. Category A.

d. The Fourth Classmen will know the beverage preferences of the upperclassmen sitting at their table. Category A.

e. Fourth Classmen will know the waiter's first name. Waiters will be treated courteously. Category A.

f. Before sending serving dishes to the kitchen to be refilled, the Gunner will announce: "Sir, there are _____ servings of _____ remaining on the table. Will anyone care for more _____, Sir?" Category A.

g. When the waiter's table is adjacent to the head of the table, the Gunner will announce: "Serving dish for the waiter's table, please, Sir", and pass the dish by the most direct route. Category A.

h. Upon receipt of extra food, the recipient will thank the waiter and the Gunner will announce: "Sir, the extra _____ is on the table." Category A.

i. Fourth Classmen will ask for additional food only after the upperclassmen at the table have been served, and will determine the foregoing by asking: "Sir, does anyone else care for more _____?" Following which he may request food to be passed to him saying: "_____ please, Sir." Category A.

3. Corps Squad Training and Activity Tables.

Fourth Classmen will be permitted to sit on in-season training and activity tables subject to the following restrictions:

a. Fourth Classmen will be assigned for a minimum of eight (8) weeks at a Company table, not to include Reorganization and June Weeks or New Cadet Barracks.

b. Fourth Classmen at the training and activity tables are governed by the same set of rules as other Fourth Classmen except that they will be "At Ease" at the table after "Take Seats" is given. They will not be permitted to talk or "Fall-Out" prior to the command "Take Seats." Category B.

c. The Company Commander may request authority from the Company Tactical Officer to remove a Fourth Classman from training or activity tables.

F. LIMITS. Locations listed below are OFF-LIMITS to Fourth Classmen.

1. At all times:

a. Flirtation Walk. Category C.

b. Diagonal Walk. Category C.

c. Delafield Pond and Picnic Area except for Company or activity picnic in June Week. Category C.

d. The Plain, except on official business or when engaged in athletics with upperclassmen. Category C.

2. Unless upperclassmen are away from West Point, the Cadet Restaurants in Grant Hall and the Weapons Room. Category C.

3. Unless Escorting:

a. Jefferson Road. Category C.

b. Scott Place. Category C.

4. That portion of Brewerton Road between the East Stairs that lead to Building 720 and the 50th Division of Barracks, except that a Fourth Classman may use Brewerton Road returning from Corps Squad practice or other activity if there is a formation in progress in the area of barracks. Category C.

G. RESTRICTIONS. Listed below are specific restrictions which apply to all Fourth Classmen. Fourth Classmen:

1. Will not talk in the halls of academic buildings, and will not smoke anywhere in academic buildings. Category A.

2. Will attend hops only when specifically authorized. Category C.

3. When there are two showings of the motion picture, may attend the first showing only if escorting, in the hospital, or when authorized by the Company Commander. Category B.

4. Will sit in the balcony of the theater except when escorting. Category B.

5. Will not use the steps adjacent to the Chapel nor the steps behind the New North Barracks unless authorized by the Company Commander. Category C.

6. Will use Barber Shops only at such times as are specified in published schedules, and will use them during non-specified times only with the permission of the Company Commander. Category B.

7. Will not wear rings or identification bracelets. Category B.

8. Will not play golf, tennis, handball, or squash except as members of the Corps Squad, intramural teams or clubs. Category B.

9. Will wear the capes of their overcoats thrown back only when away from West Point or during parades, Chapel formations, and other ceremonies at West Point. Category B.

10. Will not watch the Corps in formation. Category C.
11. Will not be permitted to escort in the Dining Hall except during Christmas and Spring Leave. Category C.
12. Will not take pictures in the area of barracks, except within a Fourth Class room. Category A.
13. Will use only those barracks exits that lead into the area. Category B.
14. Will not use the ramps leading to Thayer Road from New South Area. Category C.

H. When a Fourth Classman is insubordinate or intentionally disobeys a direct order which pertains to a regulation within the Fourth Class System, he will be reported to the Company Commander as a Category C or D offender.

SECTION IV

FOURTH CLASS KNOWLEDGE

A. The purpose of Fourth Class Knowledge is to introduce the cadet to the traditions, customs and language of West Point and the United States Army. The Fourth Classmen will not be required to learn trivia or material failing to contribute directly to this end. The only knowledge Fourth Classmen will be required to recite in the Dining Hall will be the days and the name of the Officer-in-Charge. When a Fourth Classman is deficient in Academics, he will be excused from learning or reciting any Fourth Class Knowledge except the Days, the daily menu, and the name of the Officer-in-Charge.

B. DURING THE FIRST TERM.

1. Verbatim Knowledge:

- a. The Code of Conduct. Category A.
- * b. The Star Spangled Banner. Category A.
- * c. The Mission of the United States Military Academy. Category A.
- d. *Alma Mater; *the Corps; *Benny Havens and Army Blue (They will memorize only those verses contained in Bugle Notes); and the songs and cheers as prescribed by the Head Cheerleader. Category A.

e. That portion of Bugle Notes entitled "Plebe Knowledge." Category A.

f. Schofield's "Definition of Discipline." Category A.

g. Worth's "Battalion Orders." Category A.

2. Complete Understanding of the "All Rights." Category B.

3. General Knowledge.

a. The Days, to include:

(1) Movies and Varsity athletic events for the week.
Category A.

(2) Hops and special programs for the weekend.
Category A.

(3) Number of days until Navy Game, Christmas Leave,
100th Night, Spring Leave and Graduation. Category A.

b. The Officer-in-Charge, daily. Category A.

c. The Marches for Parades and Reviews. Category A.

d. The menu for the day only. Category A.

e. Branch Colors and Branch Insignia. (Only those in Bugle
Notes). Category A.

f. Insignia of Rank of the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine
Corps. Category A.

g. Unit Patches. (Only those contained in Bugle Notes).
Category A.

h. Insignia of Cadet rank. Category A.

i. The Chain of Command from President, USA to Squad
Leader. Category A.

j. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Staff of
the Air Force, Chief of Naval Operations, Commandant of the Marine
Corps. Category A.

k. Heads of Academic Departments. Category A.

1. Corps Squad Captains and Head Coaches. Category A.
- m. Basic military courtesies. Category A.
3. Fourth Classmen will be familiar with the following:
 - a. Locations and significance of Academy's monuments. Category A.
 - b. Current events of major importance. Category A.

C. SECOND SEMESTER.

1. In addition to the required knowledge of the First Term, the Fourth Classmen will be required to learn material as set forth in the History, Legends, and Traditions of the Corps booklet. The material is not verbatim knowledge. The Fourth Classmen will be told to learn something out of the booklet and have until the next formation to do so. Category A.
2. During the Second Semester, the Fourth Classmen will learn such additional knowledge as may be directed by the First Captain. Category A.

SECTION V

DUTIES

A. GENERAL.

1. Fourth Class duties will be performed by all Fourth Classmen in addition to duties performed by the Corps as a whole. Performance of Fourth Class duties in no way excuses a cadet from the performance of his Corps duties.
2. Omissions or improper performance of duties outlined in this section may be either Category A, B, C, or D offenses, depending upon the seriousness of the offense.

B. DUTIES UNDER THE FOURTH CLASS SYSTEM.

1. Dining Hall Duties - Section III.
2. Minute Caller. Fourth Classmen will be detailed as directed by the Company Commander to call minutes for all Company formations.

3. Window Closer. Fourth Classmen will be detailed as directed by the Company Commander to close the windows of upperclass rooms at Reveille, but not before 0545 hours.

4. Special. - Additional duties may be prescribed by the Cadet Company Commander with the approval of the Tactical Officer.

C. REGULATIONS, USCC. All Fourth Classmen will be detailed by Company roster to perform the duties described in Para 10008, Regulations, USCC. Failure to perform the duty specified therein will normally be processed under the disciplinary system. Minor dereliction in the performance of these duties may be processed under the Fourth Class System as Category A offenses.