

2018 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dana G. Mead '57 – Soldier, educator, businessman, and national policymaker, COL (R) Dana Mead has accomplished much in his nearly seven decades of service. Commissioned Armor upon graduation, Mead served in the 82nd Airborne, Third Armored Division in Germany and at Fort Knox, KY where his company had the alert security mission for the Gold Depository. After receiving a doctorate from MIT, he taught in West Point's Department of Social Sciences, designing the National Security Seminar. While at West Point he served on Pentagon teams preparing the Westmoreland Report on the War in Vietnam and writing the last volumes of the Pentagon Papers. He was then assigned to be Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans, for the III Marine Amphibious Force, writing the plans and coordinating withdrawal of the Marines from Vietnam. Returning stateside, Mead was chosen as a White House Fellow and served there three more years as the Deputy Director of the Domestic Council.

After a second tour with USMA's Social Sciences Department (as Deputy Head), Mead retired from the Army and began a business career, first at International Paper and then as President, Chair, and CEO of Tenneco, a financially troubled conglomerate. He and his team quickly restored it to profitability; Industry Week named Tenneco one of the "100 Best Managed Companies" in the world three years running. Three notable chairmanships followed: the Business Roundtable, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the MIT Corporation. GEN (R) Barry McCaffrey '64 sums up Mead's career by saying, "Dana is one of the most accomplished and brilliant leaders that West Point has produced in the post-WWII era."