



UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
WEST POINT, NEW YORK

Dear Lindsey + J.I. + Jess + Casey + Everyone,

How do you like my fancy west point stationary?
Yeah, bet you wish you had some. Thanks for the letter by the way, these letters stave off the boredom, at least for a little while. The last few days we've been out in the field for the last few days doing land Nav and it sucked. I walked around in wet socks and boots because I lent my last pair of dry sock to a buddy. My feet hurt so bad right now I can hardly walk, just blisters everywhere. I told the cadre today that I quit and I have to fill out the paperwork tomorrow. I should be back in Thailand by Thursday.

Hah,

got you didn't I? No way I quit that easy. Serious though, my feet hurt so bad. That didn't stop me from passing the land Nav course though. Oh, and I passed the diagnostic P.T. test. 57 push ups 72 sit ups and 15:01 2 mile time. Looks like all that running did me some good. I signed up for portuguese as my language so that should be pretty cool. I've already been issued an M4 rifle which is basically an improved M16 like in the movies. There are many like it, but this one is mine. Just kidding, we get to shoot our rifles for the first time on Monday.

That should be pretty awesome. The scope they gave us is the sickest piece of ~~the~~ technology I've ever seen. Instead of a cross hair it has a little red dot that you use to aim. And its made so that you can aim with both eyes open. Oh, we also did close quarters combat a few weeks ago. In about a 3 hour session I learned 3 ways to kill a person and 4 ways to destroy someones arm. Not kidding, thats seriously what I ~~taught~~ learned. I also learned that to join the sky diving team I have to give up my christmass break. Still, I think I might still do it.

Anyways, things have been going pretty well here, I've run into prior and Jacoby a couple times and me and my squad are already pretty tight. I actually had to give one of them an NPA (a nose tube) and a real life, full on, blood and needle IV as part of my first aid training. I also ~~recieved~~ recieved both of those. Let me go ahead and ~~pass~~ pass off some knowledge, if you've ever broken your nose, having an NPA put in is going to sting. And if your friend tries to pull at the IV needle without first taking the tourniquet off your

arm, get ready to spurt a fountain of blood.

Before you get to thinking the wrong ~~idea~~ idea about this place let me just clarify a ~~few~~ few things first. I guess the most important would be that THIS PLACE SUCKS!! You're always getting yelled at, you're always injured, you're always doing something wrong. ~~I~~ I've had a cold for a solid week and a half and ~~last~~ last night I had to sleep on the cold ground, in a drenched uniform, under the open sky, in the middle of a ~~thunder~~ thunderstorm, I kid you not. I was shivering so much and breathing so hard a cadre member woke me up because he thought I was going into hypothermic ~~shock~~ shock. Then I had to get up and move out in ACU's without any dry clothes (not even socks), eat a cold breakfast, and then ruck march 3 kilometers with a 60lb ruck ~~plus~~ plus rifle, rangel pack, and canteens, to the place where we would take part in a 4-hour land Nav ~~test~~ test spanning 5 km, once again without a change of ~~clothes~~ clothes. And this is after we had spent the night before doing land navigation until midnight, which by the way sucks, especially in the thunderstorm we had to do it in. By the time I actually took the land Nav test my feet were so swollen from water (and still are) that I had to walk around with my boots untied because my feet wouldn't fit with them tied, which, by the way, causes some serious blisters. And even with all that, even ~~knowing~~ knowing that I'm probably going to have a ruckmarch

a day for the next week and there is no way my feet will be healed and no way my blanket will be dry. Even though after this comes a period of hazing worse than anything I've had yet. Even though I can't play video game (yet) there is still no way I will quit. I love this way too much, the challenge, the pain, the training, the motto, the future of possibilities it offers. I've only been here three weeks and I'm already hooked. I can't wait to get the year started, to start playing sports and joining clubs. I can't wait to order pizza and go out and see the city and do all the other things this place has to offer.

So I'm going to leave it at that. Take from it what you will and please, please, everyone, please write me letters, even camryn, who probably can't spell very well, its so boring here. I mean, just look at how much time I had to write this letter. Its nice to hear about things that are going on in the real world (not the t.v. show, the actual world outside west point). You have no idea how much I would rather be playing I spy than doing what I am now. I need you guys to be my link to the outside world. Tell me what movies are coming out, which ones are worth watching. If you have any questions about west point life, send them to me, I guarantee I can answer them or find the answer somewhere.

Alright, here comes the part where I beg for stuff. I've ~~been trying to put it off until the end but here it goes.~~ enclosed a list at the end of the letter.

Anyways there was some other stuff I wanted to tell ^{to} you guys about. The first is the ice cream social, which is this event we had about a week ago. It's where you and a random selection of classmates go ~~to~~ off ~~to~~ with someone who lives nearby to their house in order to relax and take a break from West Point. My host was actually a teacher here who works in systems engineering.

He was a pretty cool guy. He had like 8 computers that he fiddles around on and he let us go on the internet and stuff. His wife made tons of pizza and we ate cartons of ice cream and watched Apollo 13 and pretty much just had an awesome time. The second thing I wanted to tell you about was the Lieutenant Dan band. It's this concert happening up here in a couple weeks, I think I'll get to go to it. Anyways, it's a band starring the guy who plays Lt. Dan in Forest Gump, how cool is that?

Alright, well it's reached that time of the evening. I'm gonna have to close this letter out. Don't expect it to be my last though.

Best wishes,

Sam 

Things Sean needs to continue being awesome:

- Long white athletic socks with no visible logos past the ankle, not like soccer socks, but the ~~kind~~ kind of generic brand socks you would exercise in.
- Green boot socks, not sore if you can find any and its alright if you can't.
- Duck Tape, pretty simple
- bungee cords, like 4 or 5 normal sized ones
- mole skin / blister covers, not actual mole skin, the stuff you put on blisters
- A Leather men / Gerber / whatever you want to call it, just one of these knives that folds into pliers and has screw drivers and ~~other~~ other useful ~~attachments~~ attachments.

I know this is alot of stuff and I feel kind of L.I.C.