



ISAM 2025

The yearly Inter-Service Academy Meet (ISAM) between the U.S. Military Academies was scheduled for April 17 – 19, 2025 at West Point, NY. It's a skydiving competition consisting of canopy accuracy, 4-way Formation Skydiving, and 6-way Speed Star events. The function is designed to bring these groups of collegiate skydivers together in the time-honored aerial arena of comparative skills in the parachuting environment. Unfortunately, the primarily 2nd class student representatives from each institution were not able to face off this year.



Mike Davidson observes as Coach Matt Cecala conducts DZ brief with Midshipmen jumpers on the West Point 'Plain' [\(see video\)](#)

Although the competition did not see completion, the experience for some 2/C Midshipmen, and others, was certainly worthwhile. The USNAPT contingent included: Coach Matt Cecala, 2/C Conner Mollberg, Maeve Carrigg, Brody Boggs, Ethan Clark, Henry Borthwick, 3/C Jason Lenning, 1/C Brett Dumais, CAPT-R, USN Bill Boniface, MAJ-R, USA Mike Davidson, & MAJ, USMC Nick Hardesty.

The Army Lakota helicopter arrived, with the entire 3-Academy contingent gathering for an operational briefing by USMA's Tom Falzone and SGT Rucker. [\(see video\)](#) One single accuracy practice load was accomplished, with 2/C Henry Borthwick demonstrating a level of excellence which provided the other academies with a satisfaction that the event did not see any further progress. [\(see video\)](#) During this load, the Lakota experienced rotor transmission problems and had to retire for maintenance.

USMA Coach Tom Falzone salvaged a skydiving event with some on-the-spot logistical dexterity. At his direction, USAFA, USNA & USMA traveled 45 minutes away to The Ranch, in

Gardiner, NY. At that location, a couple of high loads were conducted from their Twin Otter, until squirrely winds put an end to that operation as well. This referenced video is very much explanatory. [\(see video\)](#)

The next day, notice was received that the Lakota would again not be available. Coupled with a negative weather forecast for later that day, and the next, the remainder of ISAM was cancelled. Proceedings concluded with a productive meeting in the Black Knights' loft, discussing what had transpired and why; along with a discussion of the determination to continue this important tradition between academies. A salient conclusion was reached by all parties; to wit, even a truncated affair had significant value in bringing these institutions, separated by geography, military service orientation, and academic curricula together to collaborate as student patriots, each with a similar objective: leadership.

The accomplished proceedings were followed by a sumptuous repast in the West Point mess hall, which was an awesome event in itself. To see 4,400 hungry youngsters devouring a generous offering of a prepared meal, in the voluminous space occupied by all at once, gives evidence to the energy the military academies offer to the future military leadership of our country; and what convocations of this nature provide to the USNA curriculum.

We offer sincere thanks to hospitality, and willingness to host Wings of Blue, for traveling such a and the Sky Goats for a meaningful of the Commander-in-Chief trophy.



USMA and the Black Knights for their this competition, and to USAFA and the great distance to interface with USNA gathering, recognizing the significance