

The West Point Museum: A Guide to the Collections by Richard E. Kuehne and Michael J. McAfee, Association of Graduates, USMA, West Point, NY, 1987

WEST POINT AND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY



**United States Corps of Cadets
Full Dress Cap**
Museum Purchase, No. 12,886

In 1899, the full dress uniform of the Corps of Cadets was redesigned to retain the traditional features of the uniform from earlier in the century. This full dress uniform has remained in use to the present day, with the shako or full dress cap, nicknamed the

"tarbucket," being a key element of the entire uniform. The tall feather plume is worn only by Cadet Officers. Other ranks wear the black wool pompon.

Cadet Full Dress Coat, c. 1845
West Point Museum Fund, No. 14,316

By the 1840s the gray-tailed full dress coat had become the traditional dress of the United States Corps of Cadets. Throughout the 19th century the tailed coat and shako or uniform cap of the cadet was recognized and copied by other military corps. Traditionally, the gray cadet uniform

copied the dress of US Regular infantrymen of the War of 1812, but it was officially adopted in 1816 because gray "looks well" and "better suits the finance of the Cadets." The original wearer of this uniform is unknown.

