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Chasing Excellence

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Author Note: Owen Bailey is senior cadet studying Engineering Management at the United States Military Academy. Upon graduation, Cadet Bailey will be commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the Quartermaster branch. Paul Evangelista is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S Army and currently serving as an Academy Professor in the Department of Systems Engineering and the Director of the Operations Research Center at USMA.

Abstract: This research explores the pursuit of excellence among West Point cadets. Excellence is the topic of many studies as every company and organization continues to search for ways to identify people who can be considered excellent, and West Point is no different. Three separate scales were constructed to analyze cadet performance: measurement based on standards, actual performance versus potential, and change in performance. The data used to construct these measures were cadet high school admission scores, West Point performance scores, and past research on the topics of excellence and mediocrity. Future studies can use the resulting model created to detect both excellent and mediocre cadets.

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