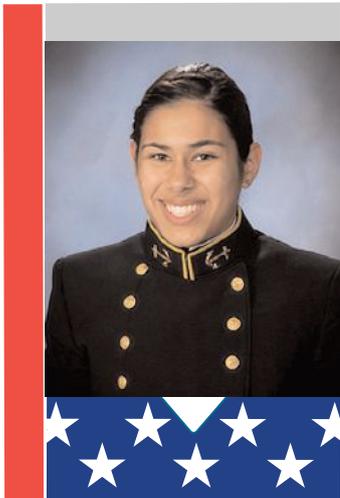


keep moving forward. I developed resilience and confidence that I would not have acquired elsewhere.”

A member of West Point Women's Boxing Team and a two-time national runner-up. Serves as Secretary of Big Brothers Big Sisters Chapter and Vice-President of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Chapter. Her goals are to become a successful Army Officer and pursue a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and Public Policy.



Midshipmen First Class Isabel Krause, United States Naval Academy

Midshipman 1/c Isabel Krause comes from a Navy family and spent most of her childhood in Naples, Italy. Majoring in Systems Engineering and recently completed her minor in Spanish upon return from a semester abroad at the Spanish Naval Academy in Spain, Krause joined the military right out of high school in 2013.

“My motivation for joining stemmed from my desire to serve the country that had blessed me

with an abundance of opportunities and to defend the United States from people who would stand against the freedoms and opportunities we provide,” she shares. “Having grown up in the military, I knew it would be challenging...but I also knew it would be an adventure. My family was not at all surprised that I made a similar choice to theirs; serving is just as much a part of our heritage as being Latina is.”

Self-discipline is a trait she has acquired from the military. “The military engrains discipline into its members very early on in our training pipeline,” she states. “Without discipline, members would not have the integrity to stand their watches.”

Krause is a member of the Navy Women's Track & Field team and competes in the High Jump. She is also a member of the Academy's Gospel Choir and is the Operations Officer for Allies, a group that focuses on Civil Military relations. She is currently a squad leader at the Academy and hopes to one day become a Submarine Officer in the United States Navy.



Cadet First Class Leslie Perez, United States Air Force Academy

Born in Fort Campbell, TN to parents, Carlos and Lourdes Perez, both native Puerto Ricans, Cadet 1/c Leslie Perez' father was a career Army officer.

“My father and my mother are my heroes,” she shares. “As a young girl, I remember looking up to my parent's with the most profound inspiration, but you never fully understand it as a child. You never realize the impact of watching your father leave for work in the morning, proudly...You never

realize the impact until you look down at your own combat boots during Basic Cadet Training and reminisce, “They look like Dad's.” When I was in high school my father was my hero, not only because of his service but because of his character. He showed me what it was to love service and leadership.”

Perez found herself desiring to embody that same character, same leadership, and same service of her father and following her acceptance to USAFA, she began Basic Cadet Training immediately after graduating from high school at the age of 18.

“I saw how dedicated and optimistic the men and women deployed were,” she states. “They realized the importance of their mission, and they all seemed so united because they recognized the importance of being there for one another. I realized then that I loved the mission of the Air Force, but I loved the camaraderie even more. It was after this experience that I began to hope about making a career out of the Air Force.”



Cadet First Class Ruth T. Salvatori, United States Coast Guard Academy

Born in Puebla, Mexico and raised in different parts of Mexico Cadet 1/c Ruth A. Tress Salvatori's father, an Admiral in the Mexican Navy, inspired her to join the Mexican Navy. In 2010, she was accepted to the Mexican Naval Academy forming part of the third generation of women accepted in this honorable institution.

“When I was deciding between going to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy or keep studying at the Mexican Naval Academy. I realized

that there were a lot of things that had to be improved in my service and having the responsibility of being part of the first groups of females meant that I had to set the people coming after me for success. I realized that attending another service academy will give me a different perspective on how things are done. The more and more I think about things I can possibly make a change or an impact on the more I want to stay serving for my country.”

For Salvatori, maturity and leadership skills are the two most important skills she has acquired from the military. “Since day one we are trained to become responsible and after a year we start getting in charge of people,” she shares. “Being able to handle life situations and still keep going on with the mission forced me to mature faster than my civilian friends. Leadership is everyday's menu and the academy is designed to be a training environment to develop leadership skills. More than getting an undergraduate degree, we are being trained to be in charge of people and guide them through the right path. It is a huge responsibility to be in charge of people and sometimes their lives are in our hands, so becoming a good responsible leader is a quality that everyone must develop. I just want to make my family and country proud of me and I want to be a source of inspiration for the young generations.”

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