

**Two West Point Cadets  
Bar Mitzvahed At West Point  
Jewish Chapel  
First To Receive Bar Mitzvah  
Training At Military Academy**



West Point Cadets, David Santo and Robert Paley, both 22, celebrate their Bar Mitzvahs held at the West Point Jewish Chapel on Friday, May 1. The first cadets to be Bar Mitzvahed at the new Jewish Chapel, they are also the first to have ever received Bar Mitzvah training at the U.S. Military Academy under a new program resulting from the recently completed West Point Jewish Chapel. Chaplain (LTC) Marc A. Abramowitz, the rabbi stationed at West Point, has instructed the cadets on a weekly basis in Hebrew and Jewish history and culture. The cadets, both from Ohio, never had any previous formal religious training.

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Two West Point cadets, both 22, celebrated their Bar Mitzvahs at the West Point Jewish Chapel on Friday, May 1. The cadets are the first to have ever received Bar Mitzvah training at the U.S. Military Academy, a new program resulting from the recently completed West Point Jewish Chapel.

David Santo of West Alexandria, Ohio and Robert Paley of Columbus, Ohio, both sophomores, never had any previous formal religious training.

Since October they've had individual training on a weekly basis from Chaplain (LTC) Marc A. Abramowitz, the rabbi stationed at West Point. In addition to learning Hebrew and Jewish culture and history, the two cadets have been active participants in services.

"One of the goals in the creation of the West Point Jewish Chapel was to provide the Jewish leaders of our country's military with the ability to fully participate in their religion. The Bar Mitzvahs of these Jewish cadets are another example of the Chapel's impact and the wide number of functions it is fulfilling," Herbert M. Ames, president of the West Point Jewish Chapel Fund, stated.

The two cadets have become active participants in West Point's Jewish community since they entered the U.S. Military Academy in 1985 as members of the Class of '89. David Santo is the director of the children's Torah School. He is also conductor of the West Point Jewish Chapel Choir. Robert Paley is an instructor at the Torah School and a member of the choir.

The Friday night services, which were attended by their fellow cadets and officers in formal military dress, coincided with the National Week

of Remembrance of the Holocaust. It was a subject that was touched upon by the cadets in their talk to the congregation as was the importance of keeping Judaism alive.

The West Point Jewish Chapel was first opened for baccalaureate graduation services in the spring of 1984. In the Fall of 1986, the culmination of a nearly 20 year effort, the West Point Jewish Chapel Fund, the non-profit group that funded its construction, transferred ownership of the Chapel to the U.S. government.

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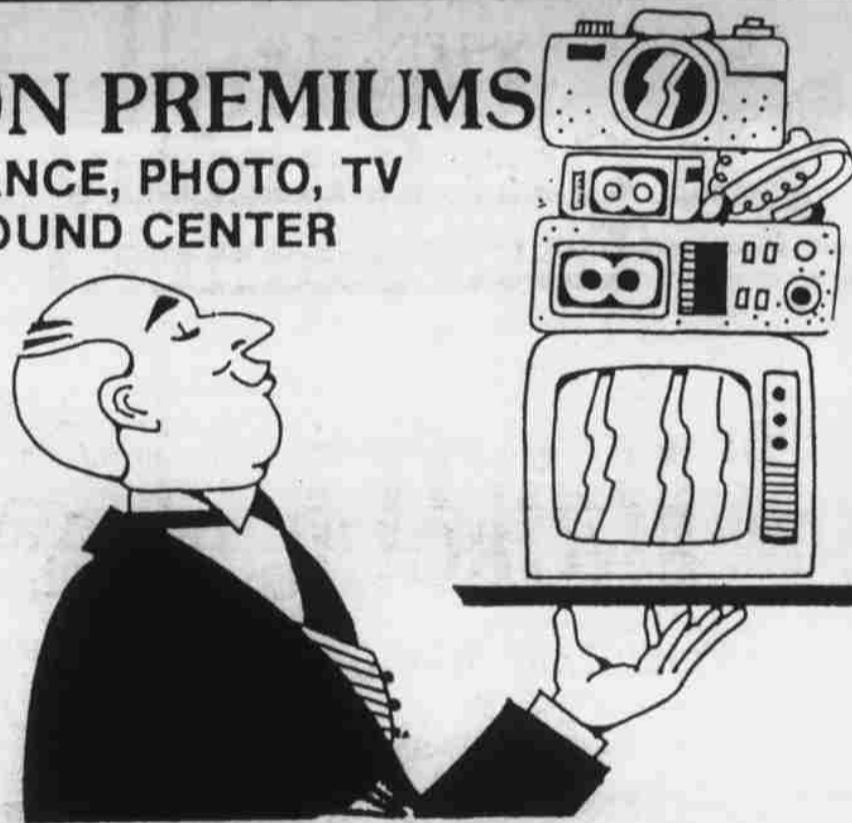
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