Interdisciplinary Research Team Conducts Second Large-Scale Data Collection While Supporting the Cadet Class of 2019 Boot Fit: The research team made up of COL Michael Neary (KACH), Becky Zifchock (CME/CIE), and LTC Donald Goss (KACH), and their staff, along with their collaborators from the New York College of Podiatric Medicine (New York), the Hospital for Special Surgery (New York), Temple University (Philadelphia), Novel (a corporate partner from Munich, Germany), and over eighty student volunteers conducted a research study of the foot structure of the incoming cadet Class of 2019, while simultaneously supporting the Boot Fit on R-Day +1 and R-Day +2. More than 1150 incoming cadets volunteered to take part in the study, which is designed to assess static and dynamic foot structure.

Several measurements of each participant's feet were taken at five discrete measurement stations in Washington Hall, while the cadets waited to be fitted for their boots. This provides information about both static and dynamic foot structure and function for this cadet class. The participants will be tracked throughout their four years at USMA. This will provide prospective data to support research questions such as the relationship between foot structure and susceptibility to overuse injury, and whether intense military training changes foot structure.

This is the second time this research team collected data during Boot Fit. This data collection was also carried out for the incoming cadet Class of 2017 in the summer of 2013. As in previous years, the Center for Innovation and Engineering provided funding to support volunteer travel, but the study and the cadet boot fit could not have been accomplished without major volunteer efforts of the teams from the New York College of Podiatric Medicine, the Hospital for Special Surgery, Temple University, and Novel. POC is Dr. Becky Zifchock, CME/CIE, rebecca.zifchock@usma.edu

Research faculty and volunteers gear up for two days of data collection at Washington Hall

A student volunteer measures the arch height and structure of a study participant

A student volunteer helps an incoming cadet find the perfect boot fit