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J Kingsley Fink* (j.fink@usma.edu), Department of Mathematical Sciences, United States Military Academy, 646 Swift Road, West Point, NY 10996. *Project Group Student Selection: Using Prior Academic Performance to Improve Group Dynamics.*

Undergraduate courses at the U.S. Military Academy often require group projects. In MA206, Probability & Statistics, two group projects entail approximately 25% of the Cadet's course grade. This large portion dedicated to group work suggests careful consideration be taken in how Cadets are grouped for these projects. A simple poll among Cadets reveals that they prefer to select their own groups, in doing so, better academic performance and more positive, good group dynamic are realized. Most would believe that this would lead to better performance and promote a good group dynamic. Another alternative is to group students based on prior academic performance. Over three semesters, we compare the results of these two types of grouping techniques; allowing the Cadets to select their own partner, and grouping by prior academic performance. We will discuss the pros and cons thus far. (Received September 22, 2010)