

May changes [as of 6/13]	
C FUND	- 0.94 percent
I FUND	- 1.54 percent
S FUND	- 1.58 percent



**1/1 Redesignation**

Outgoing 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Reg. commander Lt. Col. Paul Sarat [with flag] relinquishes command to Garrison Commander Col. Brian Crawford Tuesday. The Re-designation and Relinquishment of command ceremony was held in Eisenhower Hall's Crest Hall due to inclement weather. The 1/1 was re-designated as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison, West Point, N.Y.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

## Zedalis promoted to SES level

Story and photo by  
Eric S. Bartelt  
Sports Editor

Agency.

It was a big step at the time because of the years she had spent in Europe, but it's a move she will never regret because of the great people she met at the U.S. Military Academy.

The cream always rises to the top, and for those who serve in the government as a civilian the apex is being promoted to the Senior Executive Service.

Debra Zedalis, former deputy garrison commander at West Point, has realized that dream as she was promoted and appointed to SES and to the position of director, Installation Management Command, Pacific Region, Wednesday during a ceremony at Trophy Point.

"The workforce here is excellent and it's not just in terms of their skills, but their commitment," Zedalis explained. "I once told [retired Lt. Gen. William J. Lennox, Jr.] that if you cut them that they would bleed Black and Gold."

Since Congress passed the 1978 Civil Service Reform Act creating the SES, which was brought about to look for government executives who could provide strategic leadership, a commitment to service and a possession of executive skills, Zedalis is the first person from West Point to take on an SES role.

"They are supporting cadets, working with the athletic teams and volunteering beyond their jobs here on post," she added. "Folks, be it garrison or mission, are very committed to West Point and the military academy."

One of the most committed

**See ZEDALIS on page 3**

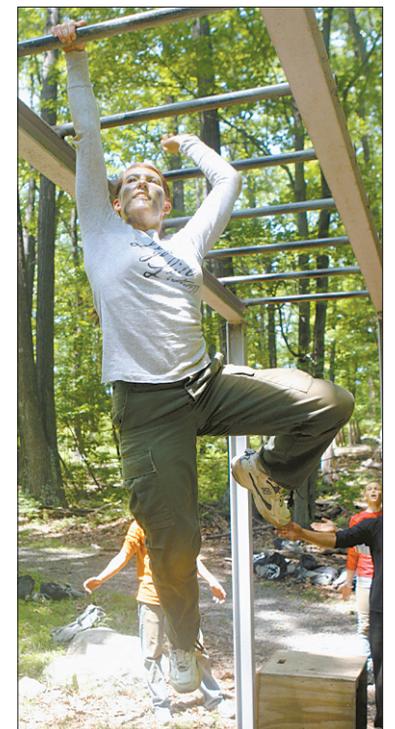
## INSIDE

More than 30 years after she began as a Program and Manpower analyst intern at the U.S. Army Armor Center at Fort Knox, Ky., Zedalis has gone from her humble beginnings to a prime place in government service.

"It's amazing, humbling and satisfying to receive this job," Zedalis said. "To me, it's a capstone in many ways. I couldn't have imagined it more than 30 years ago when I was a GS-5 as an intern."

"Again, what it brings to all of us is the vision that we can do as much as we want," she added, "and the Army is a wonderful organization that provides you the opportunities if you want to take them."

Zedalis came to West Point as the deputy garrison commander in September 2004 after spending a year at the U.S. Army War College. Prior to that, she spent 16 years in Europe with her last job being the Chief of Staff, Europe Region, of the Installation Management



**SUMMER LEADERSHIP SEMINAR, pages 8-9**

## Passport requirements relaxed for U.S. neighbor's region

Compiled by Irene Brown  
Chief, Command Information

The Bush administration June 8 temporarily lifted the requirement that U.S. passports be used for citizens flying to and from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda.

The suspension will allow the State Department to catch up with the thousands of passport applications that have flooded in since the rule took effect this

year. The resulting backlog has caused up to three-month delays and disrupted the travel plans of thousands of Americans.

State Department officials said there will still be some requirements that travelers will have to satisfy.

"Travelers will have to present a State Department receipt, showing they have applied for a passport," officials explained. "They will also still need to present a government-issued identification, such as a driver's license."

Those without passports would receive additional security scrutiny, which could include extra questioning or bag checks, they added.

The state department issued more than 4.5 million passports between March and May and still has millions to process.

Homeland Security signed off on the temporary suspension June 7 after consultations with the State

**See PASSPORT on page 4**

# 'Dark Horse' leader reflects on being a Dad

Commentary by  
Spc. Alexis Harrison

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PROSPERITY, Iraq -- [Army News Service] -- In the movie "We Were Soldiers" a young lieutenant who'd recently become a father asks Mel Gibson's character, Lt. Col. Hal Moore, what he thought about being a Soldier and a father.

"I hope that being good at one makes me better at the other," Moore replied.

Moore's words spoke volumes about the relationship a father has with his children and the relationship a leader has with his Soldiers. For one senior noncommissioned officer, the word leadership is synonymous with fatherhood.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Daniels, the top noncommissioned officer for the 4th "Dark Horse" Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, has been in the Army for more than two and a half decades. Although his military career is long and, according to him, nowhere near close to an end, it's only about a year longer than he has been a father.

Twenty-five years ago, Daniels enlisted into the military with the full support of his family. Two of his brothers were already in, so

they knew what to expect. More importantly, his father, a pastor at the time, gave him his blessing.

"He was a great mentor," he said. "He told me, 'Cherish your family,'" Daniels recalled. "They will always be there for you through thick and thin. You will always have your family to fall back on. The closer you are to your family, the stronger the bonds are and no one can break those ties."

Shortly after having his first child, Daniels was assigned to a station in Germany where his dependents weren't allowed. This was his first test as a father in the military.

"The deployment taught me that being away and still having that bond, you really don't lose anything," he said.

Early in Daniels' career, things like mid-tour leave didn't exist. He and his family had to rely on the bonds created from triumph and tragedy.

His first child was killed in a motor vehicle accident when he was only 18 years old. Although the pain was great, Daniels said it made his family even stronger.

"It strengthens you," he said. "It makes you closer as a family to lose a loved one, much like during a deployment."

This isn't the first time away

from their families for most fathers currently serving in Iraq. Although the many veterans are well-honed warriors, they admit that leaving their wives, daughters, sons and friends doesn't get easier with time.

To help his Soldiers, Daniels assumes the role of a father figure every time he sees them. He said that many of the little things like a pat on the back or a few words of encouragement can make all the difference.

The origin of Father's Day can be traced back as far as 1909, when

Sonora Smart-Dodd first came up with the idea to honor her father for what he'd done. William Smart was a Civil War veteran who was widowed and left to raise his six children on a farm near Spokane, Wash.

Ms. Dodd was at a Mother's Day sermon when the idea came to her. About a year later, the mayor of Spokane chose the month of June to celebrate the American father because June was the month of William Smart's birthday.

It wasn't until 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson

declared the third Sunday in June to be considered Father's Day for a national observance.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon signed the bill making it law declaring Father's Day a national holiday.

For people like Daniels, it's more than just a holiday, especially while he's deployed. It's a time for him to reflect on not only his accomplishments, but those of his children and his Soldiers.

[Editor's Note: Harrison writes for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs.]

## SAPR-P

The members of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program are Col. Jeanette McMahon, Shelley Ariosto [Garrison], Maj. Samantha Ross [USCC], Maj. Kim Kawamoto [ODIA] and Lt. Col. Robbie Williams [Dean]. Community members can e-mail McMahon at [Jeanette.McMahon@usma.edu](mailto:Jeanette.McMahon@usma.edu) for advice or to offer any recommendations on the program here.

Cadets can also call the sexual assault support helpline at [845] 591-7215.

West Point Soldiers and civilians needing assistance can call [845] 938-3369.

### Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

3			6			8	2	
1					2	3	4	
2								
	2					1		
		1		2		4		
		5					6	
								7
	3	4	7					5
	1	2			3			4

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.

Difficulty: Hard

See Solution on Page 11

## POINTER VIEW®

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# Local and National News

## ZEDALIS, cont. from page 1

people she worked with was the garrison commander, Col. Brian Crawford, who she grew fond of during her 2 1/2 years here. She said she had never met anyone quite like him during her more than 20 years of experience in base operations.

"Col. Crawford is probably the best commander I've ever seen," Zedalis stated. "He works extremely hard. The DPW said he is omnipresent on the installation, which is very true. He was very good at providing a vision and knew where he wanted us to go.

"Having a good leader who is smart, gets along with people and can articulate to everyone where he wants us to go is primo," she added. "That's when you have a great leader and I think all the [garrison] directors would agree."

The admiration goes both ways as Crawford commended Zedalis on her service here and talked highly of his deputy as a leader on many projects that included the NSPS implementation, Lean Six Sigma, the Residential Communities Initiative and her work with the USMA Memorialization Committee.

"Her intense work ethic and integrity, experience in base operations, great personality and desire to continuously improve and not be content with the status quo was an asset for us," Crawford said. "Her departure is bittersweet. On one hand, she'll certainly be missed, but her selection as a member of the Senior Executive Service is a great choice for all of us. She possesses great vision and knows how to lead an organization to achieve great results -- exactly what senior leaders are supposed to do."

Saturday will be Zedalis' first day as the IMCOM Pacific Region director, one of only seven director positions [including the executive director] in IMCOM. Zedalis said she will enjoy the opportunity to take on a job from a broader perspective.

"As the regional director in the Pacific Region [stationed at Fort Shafter, Hawaii], I will oversee garrisons in Hawaii, Alaska and Japan," Zedalis said. "At the regional level, we have resource management, which is always an issue -- trying to get the people the money they need.

"All the planning, programs,

stationing, logistic support, engineer support, military construction and all the base operations services we enjoy [at West Point]," she added, "I will help the garrisons in the Pacific Region obtain them and put it to good use."

Zedalis is excited by the opportunity to succeed at the highest level of service and is very thankful for the opportunity. She has been mentored along the way by Diane Devens, IMCOM's Northeast Region director, who has helped both the military and civilians at the garrison and deputy garrison commander positions.

Her career was influenced by a couple of people, Julie Poore and Guy Cobb, back when she was at Fort Knox. Poore, who was the chief of the program analysis office in combat development, was her first boss when she interned and Cobb was her boss when she went through the Army Comptrollership Course.

"Julie was the person who began my development and gave me the education opportunities and experiences that I needed," Zedalis said. "I've been truly blessed with having great bosses and supportive colleagues, both in green suits and civilian suits."

Cobb was probably her biggest influence in that he convinced her to leave Fort Knox, where she had spent 13 years up until that point in her career, for greener pastures which led to serving in Europe for 16 years.

"He said 'You've been here a long time, Deb. This is your home, but I think you're bigger than Fort Knox,'" Zedalis explained. "He believed I ought to consider putting in for the [Army Comptrollership Course], which was offered for the first time for GS-11s.

"I wouldn't have done it without his push. It's important to be a role model to others," Zedalis continued. "At this level, we provide a vision to all the folks here. ... Try your best to help folks find the training and educational

experiences they need to grow. That's really the most fulfilling part. It's not building a building or fixing a roof. It's building the foundation of the Army, which is its people."

Lieutenant Gen. Robert Wilson, commander of the Installation Management Command, spoke at Zedalis' SES appointment ceremony about her extraordinary accomplishment -- her promotion to SES. He felt her sustained exceptional duty performance and potential as a senior leader were key to her becoming the IMCOM Pacific Region director.

"I have full confidence [she'll] be up to this challenge as well as the many others [she'll] face in the Pacific Region," Wilson said, "to ensure the readiness of our Soldiers, civilians and Families and a quality of life that matches the quality of their service to the Nation."



IMCOM commander Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson and Deb Zedalis Wednesday at Trophy Point.

### Delivery problems?

For PV home delivery problems contact Valerie Mullane at the Poughkeepsie Journal at [845] 437-4730 or by e-mail at [vmullane@poughkee.gannett.com](mailto:vmullane@poughkee.gannett.com).

## Interim policy allows Soldiers to retain ACUs following redeployment

By J.D. Leipold

WASHINGTON [Army News Service] -- A temporary change to Army uniform policy now allows active-duty Soldiers to retain the Army Combat Uniforms they were issued prior to deployment into combat zones.

Legislation is presently on Capitol Hill for consideration

by Congress which would allow the interim change to become permanent.

A final decision is expected by the end of September.

According to Col. Rebecca Samson, chief, Troop Support Division, Army G-4: "Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment is the property of the Army, not the

individual Soldier, so the Army cannot give OCIE-issued ACUs to Soldiers because it's prohibited without proper authority.

"If Congress approves the proposed legislation, then deploying Soldiers can retain OCIE-issued ACUs worn in combat," she added. "The benefit is that Soldiers won't have to go through the turn-in procedures of OCIE-issued

ACUs they wore in the combat environment."

Active Army Soldiers may retain their ACUs issued through OCIE guidance as listed on their OCIE clothing record until permanent change of station, expiration of term of service or retirement, whichever occurs first.

Redeploying Soldiers from all components who will end their term of service must turn in ACUs -- including coats, trousers and the infrared flag, regardless of condition -- to their home station, or demobilization clothing issue points.

Reserve and National Guard Soldiers are allowed to retain ACUs issued as OCIE when the mobilization stations perform a lateral transfer to their unit's

property book officer.

Clothing records of individual Soldiers from all components deploying through the continental United States replacement centers will be maintained by the center's PBO until they can be transferred.

Upon redeployment through the centers, Soldiers will be allowed to retain one set of ACUs for up to 120 days for ceremonial purposes, then they must be returned to the clothing issue points or sent to the Soldiers' property book officers.

Questions on OCIE-issued ACUs may be addressed to Shirley Bryant-Harper at [703] 614-0956, e-mail: [Shirley.bryant-harper@hqda.army.mil](mailto:Shirley.bryant-harper@hqda.army.mil), or Col. Rebecca Samson at [703] 693-9957, e-mail: [Rebecca.samson@hqda.army.mil](mailto:Rebecca.samson@hqda.army.mil).

## Survey finds increased satisfaction with federal benefit programs

By Brittany R. Ballenstedt  
GovExec.com

Federal employees are more pleased with their benefits and view them as more valuable and competitive with the private sector than they did several years ago, according to new survey results released by the Office of Personnel Management.

The 2006 employee benefits survey, released June 8, indicated that employees' satisfaction with benefits has increased overall since 2004, when the first such questionnaire was distributed.

The latest survey was administered to a random sample of 2,000 federal employees in August 2006, and sought to assess attitudes about the importance, adequacy, value and competitiveness of federal benefit programs. The target population included almost equal numbers of employees with three or more years of federal service and new hires who had less than three years of service. Of the 2,000 canvassed, 850 participated.

Respondents answered a 59-item questionnaire regarding the government's 10 benefit programs, including its 401(k)-style Thrift Savings Plan, employee health benefits, retiree health benefits, retirement annuities, life insurance, long-term care insurance and flexible spending accounts.

The portion of respondents

who rated benefits as important increased by an average of 3 percentage points since 2004 across all programs. Those who said benefits are adequate increased by 4 percentage points; the portion grading benefits as valuable increased by 5 percentage points; and the group that said benefits are competitive with the private sector increased by 7 percentage points.

"This survey reinforces the importance of providing quality benefits to employees to ensure the federal government can continue to attract an effective civilian workforce," said OPM Director Linda Springer.

The TSP, employee health benefits, retiree health benefits and retirement annuities consistently received the highest ratings in importance and value. Additional programs that are not available to

all employees -- telework, child care subsidies and health and wellness -- received lower ratings for importance and value.

"Just as OPM believed it was important to launch a new dental and vision benefits option last year to meet employees' needs, we are committed to continuing to search for ways to help the federal workforce better manage their overall health care, plan for their financial futures and assist in other areas," Springer said.

The benefits survey was similar to portions of OPM's federal workforce survey, designed to gauge employees' perceptions of their jobs and views on management challenges. That broader survey also measured employees' satisfaction with pay and benefit programs and found the government's time-off policies among the best-liked.

## PASSPORT, cont. from page 1

Department, the White House and members of Congress, who have been deluged with calls from angry constituents seeking help with their passports.

[Editor's note: Some information from *Government Executive Magazine*.]

# Community Features and Photos

## Troop 23 Boy Scout earns eagle rank

Submitted by  
Cathy Gilewitch

Saturday West Point Boy Scout Troop 23 awarded the rank of Eagle Scout to Tom Gilewitch in a ceremony held in Cullum Hall here.

Gilewitch's Eagle Project consisted of the renovation and restoration of two outdoor courtyards at the West Point Elementary School. He arranged funding, coordinated for materials to be donated, and organized and led Scouts and volunteers in the work.

Volunteers pulled weeds, trimmed plants, spread more than 50 bags of mulch and generally cleaned up the areas. They planted perennial shrubs and installed bird feeders. The courtyards looked like new at the end.

A highlight of the congratulatory mementos and letters that Gilewitch received was from Lt. Col. Ken McDonald, a Civil and Mechanical Engineering assistant professor here,

who is deployed as the commander of Camp Blackadder in Iraq.

McDonald sent an American Flag inscribed "Flown in Honor of Eagle Scout Thomas Gilewitch."

Gilewitch's grandfather, Jack Mutchler, a member of the Monroe-Chester Sportsman Club, awarded the Club's 2007 Youth Award to him for outstanding youth achievement in recognition of his advancement.

Tom is the son of Lt. Col. Dan and Cathy Gilewitch, of West Point. Lt. Col. Gilewitch is an associate professor in the Geography and Environmental Engineering department here and will deploy to Iraq in July. Tom is a sophomore at James I. O'Neill High School in Highland Falls, where he is on the honor roll and is a member of the Crew Team and the JROTC unit. Tom's older brother, Nick, is also an Eagle Scout and is attending the Barrett Honor's College at Arizona State. Nick administered the Eagle Charge and Eagle Pledge to his brother during the ceremony.



West Point Boy Scouts helped Eagle Scout Tom Gilewitch [right foreground] restore two outdoor courtyards at the West Point Elementary School last August. They are [left to right] Tyler Christensen, Peter Nelson, Skyley Hoff, Gilewitch, Tyler Knots, who is behind Gilewitch, and Aaron Knotts.

PHOTO BY LT. COL. DAN GILEWITCH/C&ME

# Precautions make motorcycling fun, not fatal

By Lori Yerdon  
U.S. Army Combat  
Readiness Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. - Although May was National Motorcycle Safety Awareness month, Soldiers, Family members and DOD civilians need to keep in mind that safe motorcycle practices are a year-round responsibility.

Last month, in support of the national campaign, the Army increased awareness of motorcycle safety in an effort to help its riders prepare for peak riding months and increase safety awareness. However, three Soldiers were still injured and one killed in motorcycle accidents.

While more bikes than ever are registered on Army installations -- about 35,000 -- safety officials expect the number of accidents to increase proportionately. However, "accidents can be reduced and many times prevented, by choosing the correct motorcycle and having the proper equipment and training," stated Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston in his Leader's Book Notes for April 2007.

In fiscal 2006, 49 Soldiers were killed in motorcycle accidents. Two-thirds of those fatalities were sergeants or above over the age of 25. This shows that no matter what a person's rank or riding experience level might be, they can be placed in a bad situation, Brig. Gen. Doyle D. "Don" Broome said.

Broome, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Cadet Command, was involved in an accident while riding his motorcycle last year. The general credits his survival of the accident to training, while others credit the wear of [personal protective equipment].

"I slid down the highway at about 35 mph, but was wearing all of my PPE and survived the accident," Broome said. "The same cannot be said for those who died in motorcycle accidents last year, many of whom were not wearing the proper PPE."

Preston also pointed out, that the Motorcycle Mentorship Program is another way leaders can set the example for younger, less experienced Soldiers, Family members and DOD civilians. Though Broome has been riding motorcycles since he was a 14-year-old, he's taken the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Course twice.

The MMP is a focused effort where more experienced riders can mentor those who are new to motorcycling, creating a positive environment for conduct and behavior while riding, Preston said.

Many posts and units have established mentoring organizations which Soldier riders can get involved in. Additionally, all Soldiers are required to attend a Motorcycle Safety Foundation course prior to riding a motorcycle.

MSF courses are free of charge and can be scheduled through installation safety offices.

Don't become a statistic -- prepare to ride by following these simple guidelines:

■ Make sure drivers' licenses have motorcycle endorsements. Motorcycle Safety Foundation courses are required and

policies.

■ Wear a helmet and other protective gear to include proper eye protection, full fingered gloves, long trousers, long-sleeved shirts or jackets, high visibility garments [bright color for day and retro-reflective for night] and leather boots or over-the-ankle shoes. These requirements for PPE apply to Soldiers at all times, whether riding on or off post.

PPE not only provides comfort and protection from the elements, but also prevents injuries and is a means for other motorists to see a rider who's wearing reflective material.

■ Don't drink and then drive. Consuming alcohol and driving a motorcycle or any motorized vehicle greatly enhances your chances of having an accident. Alcohol affects those skills essential to operating a motorcycle -- balance and coordination.

■ Preventive maintenance checks and services aren't just for military vehicles. T-CLOCS was developed by the Motorcycle

Foundation to assist riders with the inspection of their motorcycles. The inspection covers the areas that should be checked before operating or purchasing a motorcycle such as tires and wheels, controls, lights, oil, chassis and lights.

For the complete inspection list visit the USACRC Web site.

■ Consider joining a motorcycle club. The USACRC MMP Web site has information on clubs Army-wide as well as safety tips, events and best practices for Soldiers.

Currently there are 56 organizations.

At West Point, contact the newly established Road Knights of West Point Club by calling Amber Squire in the Safety Office at 938-3717.

For more information on motorcycle safety, visit one of the following Web sites:

■ U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center - - <https://crc.army.mil>

■ U.S. ACRC, Motorcycle Mentorship Program - - <https://crc.army.mil/mmp>

■ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration - - [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)

■ Motorcycle Safety Foundation - - [www.msf-usa.org](http://www.msf-usa.org)



provided by U.S. Army installations to Soldiers and DOD civilians free of charge. Consult the installation Safety Office for local classes and

# Cadets send '79 grad into space, gather data for Moon mission

By Lt. Col. John Graham  
Engineering Psychology  
BS&L

As Astronaut Patrick Forrester [USMA '79] headed into space June 8 on the space shuttle Atlantis, Cadets 1st Class Tad Lefler and Marcus Millen were on hand to support the launch.

Stationed at Kennedy Space Center for the summer, the two cadets were busy monitoring the launch floor activities and collecting data to prepare for the Constellation series spacecraft mission to the Moon.

Forrester flew on STS-105 [2001]. He has logged over 285 hours in space, including two spacewalks totaling 11 hours and 45 minutes of EVA time. Currently, he is assigned to the crew of STS-117 [Atlantis] as a mission specialist.

When asked how West Point and the Army got him into space, Forrester responded, "I definitely learned a lot of lessons along the way. I did graduate from high school in Virginia and probably didn't need to work that hard and went off to West Point, to the military academy. And from the day that I got there I wanted to be an infantry lieutenant, and it didn't matter if I graduated first in the class or last in the class. And so I began to focus my attention a little bit more on my military training and some of the friendships that I was forming there, and didn't worry that much about my academics."

"That worked well for me until I got the astronaut bug and knew one of the first things I needed was graduate school," Forrester explained. "I applied to the University of Virginia in Charlottesville for my graduate work and they took a look at my transcripts from West Point and said, 'Wow, I'm not so sure you're what we're looking for here.'

"I assured them that I had not applied myself very well at West Point, and they agreed to allow me to come in on probation, and as a little bit more mature captain and father of two, I took a different approach to my school work and, and graduated from the University of Virginia," he said.

"It was because of that, those academics, and those opportunities, that I'm able to do that now. And that's one of the lessons I always try and give," Forrester said. "You

just don't ever know what you're going to do, so always apply yourself."

The cadet team has taken that lesson to heart and has been intensely applying themselves.

"Our work for NASA at Kennedy Space Center is in the Simulation and Analysis of the Launch Team," Lefler said.

"We are working to find the causes and effects of human error within a launch. Right now, 78 percent of the Shuttle ground-support operations incidents resulted from human error."

According to Maj. Jen Bower, Engineering Psychology Assistant Professor and Human Error Course Director at USMA, "Human error often results when complex coupling between organizations,



**Astronaut Patrick Forrester [USMA 1979] is a mission specialist on the Atlantis.**

technology and individual cognition occurs.

"In the Engineering Psychology Program, we study human error to produce more resilient organizations and reduce bad decisions and errors such as fratricide," she said. "As the battlefield is often too dangerous to conduct research, NASA provides a unique way to study humans operating a very complex system."

At NASA, the SALT effort is a project to simulate humans and reduce human error, especially for the next spacecraft, the Constellation.

The Constellation series spacecraft and launch operations floor are being designed to return to the Moon by 2015.

"We analyze the performance of launch teams and determine where problems can and do occur," Millen said. "To do this, we look at bottlenecks in communication, job requirements of varying personnel and limitations of personnel due to flight requirements and NASA policies.

"Throughout the past two weeks, we have been able to tour several facilities. We have been to the Launch Control Center, Launch Pad 39A, which houses the Atlantis Shuttle, and the Space Station Production Facility," he explained. "We have been able to experience many events at NASA and will continue to enhance our learning over the next four weeks.

The two cadets traveled to Florida under a grant provided by Lt. Col. Tom Meyer, Department of Mathematics. Meyer heads up a liaison office for the Army Research Laboratory that funds high payoff research by USMA.

"We think the cadet-collected data will give insights to human error that can help us understand complex command and control activities in the military," Meyer explained.

Meyer will host a symposium in November 2007 and these two

cadets are already slated to speak.

While the cadets still have four weeks and two more space launches to go, they are already inspired. Lefler is interested in entering the astronaut program as soon as he is able.

Millen has a shorter term goal - - to use the data for his senior thesis and find a launch floor design that will get the United States to the Moon.

Both are reaching for the stars.



**The Atlantis space shuttle moves into position prior to its launch June 8 from Cape Canaveral, Fla.**



**Cadets 1st Class Marcus Millen and Tad Lefler in front of the Vehicle Assembly Bldg. at Kennedy Space Center. PHOTOS PROVIDED**

# Reaching a New Level

## Summer Leaders Seminar gives 800 participants a leg up on West Point

Story and photos by  
Eric S. Bartelt  
Sports Editor

Their voices reign loudly as they march to an Army cadence through the heart of Central Area as though they are seeking approval from their cadet mentors. However, these are not plebes looking to impress their cadet cadre, they are high school students who just completed their junior year and seek the experience of cadet life before making one of the biggest decisions of their lives.

The annual Summer Leaders Seminar is a U.S. Military Academy program, sponsored by the Office of the Dean, Commandant and the Directorate of Admissions here, that allows 800 high school students [400 per session] from around the country to gain first-hand knowledge of West Point in two, one-week sessions from June 2-15.

Evolving from the Invitational Academic Workshop, the SLS now provides a well-rounded look at the academy to prospective candidates.

"The evolution from the IAW to the SLS [happened because]

we wanted to make sure [the cadet candidates] understood what the M stood for in USMA, which is military" said Lt. Col. Joseph O'Connell, SLS operations officer. "So we created a series of opportunities throughout the week, especially Thursday of each week, where they come out to do military day."

Military day consists of four sites for the high school students to explore -- the Marne Confidence Course, the Leadership Reaction Course and the Parade Field site [which is made up of a series of seven round-robin stations at Camp Buckner] and Cullum Hall, where the Department of Military Instruction teaches war gaming simulation using the America's Army game and the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000.

"It's a fun, hands-on way for these kids to understand what the different weapons are and they get to shoot them in a gaming-like environment," O'Connell said.

The Parade Field site offered a glimpse into what it's like in the real Army. Static displays presented by Task Force Mountain Guardian, consisting of members from the 10th Mountain Division from Fort

Drum, N.Y., exhibited a Blackhawk helicopter, a medical station, a K9 unit demonstration and the 511th Military Police Company conducted mounted and urban operations.

Students who surrounded the Blackhawk display got to talk to a pilot who had walked in their shoes almost 10 years ago as a part of the IAW.

Captain Jonathan Schloicka, Blackhawk pilot for 2-10th Aviation Regiment and a 2003 USMA graduate, wanted to give back to the academy while giving the students information to help them make an informed decision on their future -- whether or not to become a part of the next generation of Army leaders.

"West Point definitely had a huge part in playing a role in who I am today," Schloicka said. "All my life I had a tendency to want to lead and West Point gave me the tools to do it successfully."

Schloicka's visit to West Point in 1998 was only to get an idea of the academics aspect of the academy through the IAW.

Academics is still a big part of the SLS program and encompasses

See SLS page 9



Nathan Wall, a 16-year-old from Salt Lake City, Utah, takes a look out of the scope of a M-4 rifle during "Military Day" of the Summer Leaders Seminar.



A female Summer Leaders Seminar participant scales the Tarzan Climb at the Marne Confidence Course. The SLS allows 800 high school students to experience cadet life for one week to help in their decision to come here in 2008.



Spc. Douglas Clifford, MK19 gunner for the 511th Military Police Company from Fort Drum, N.Y., shows 17-year-old Ceon Harris how to properly feed the MK19 with rounds during Mounted Operations. Clifford is part of Task Force Mountain Guardian of the 10th Mountain Division that is here to support Cadet Basic Training and Cadet Field Training throughout the summer.

## SLS, cont. from page 8

three days of the week's events, but it's the military aspect that has been a hit since its inception five years ago.

"When I was a candidate, all we did was academics," Schloicka explained. "I think it's great that they have done this, so the candidates not only get to see what they'll be doing at West Point, but what the real purpose of the academy is -- to educate, train and inspire the Corps of Cadets into commissioned leaders of character."

A record number of applicants [3,468] applied to be a part of this summer's program, and, of the 800 that were chosen to participate, about 50 percent, according to O'Connell, will be arriving R-Day in 2008.

One of those lucky 800 is Nick Dominguez, a 16-year-old from Chicago, who grew up wanting to be a Marine because his father, Lou, was a Marine. He came here to make an educated choice on his college decision because the first choice in his heart is to go the U.S. Naval Academy.

"The experience, as a whole,

has been great," Dominguez said. "The confidence course was a blast. I really like this place and I can see myself here in a year, but right now the Naval Academy is still top on my list."

Maybe those who can persuade Dominguez into coming to the academy are the 43 cadets who are assigned to the SLS as part of their summer detail, which allows them to gain valuable leadership experience as platoon sergeants, platoon leaders and squad leaders.

Cadet 1st Class Caleb Campbell is the third platoon leader in charge of 104 candidates and was highly motivated by the candidate's high spirit.

"It's inspiring to see such young individuals who are so motivated, so dedicated to want to serve their country," Campbell said. "They came here in awe, but it is motivating to know that we are in charge of them and can have an influence on them on their knowledge of the Army and their perspective of West Point with how we deal with them ... it's a

big challenge, but so far it's been great."

Colonel Walter Rant, SLS officer-in-charge, and Lt. Col. Dean Batchelder, Admissions associate director, lead SLS to fruition every year and are appreciative of everyone's involvement from the Task Force to the cadet cadre.

According to Batchelder, having everyone working together feverishly to make this work is critical because this is the largest recruiting tool that West Point has with the 800 students who are hand-picked to come to SLS.

Rant enjoys every moment he gets to spend observing the SLS because of the influence that the Task Force, cadets and officers make upon the candidates.

"Being a part of this is tremendously important because we are, in fact, the first stop along these young people's way of becoming a commissioned officer," said Rant, who has been a military academy liaison officer for 12 years. "They get an opportunity to see what West Point is like in the week they

are here and we are showing them the four pillars of the academy -- academics, ethical/moral, athletics and military."

Rant has taught at the academy and ROTC, and there was a time when he left the field Army that he was disappointed that he was going to teach ROTC.

That disappointment went away after his brigade commander in Germany told him something that has stuck with him all these years, especially with his involvement in the SLS.

"He told me to remember one thing, 'Whether you are dealing with West Point cadets or ROTC cadets, it doesn't matter. You are affecting the future leadership of the Army and you have a direct impact on who and what that quality is,' and that stayed with me" Rant stated. "That has been my driving force. It's why I still do this, because I not only enjoy it, but I feel I'm having an impact on my Army by bringing these great young Americans into the system."

## What's Happening

### SJA closed this afternoon

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate will be closed today from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. for an official function.

### PWOC

Summer playground fun sponsored by the Protestant Women of the Chapel is Wed. at the Stony II playground.

Everyone is welcome. We will meet from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Look for the balloons and bring water and sunblock for your child.

### WPWC

The WPWC Gift Shoppe, located next to the MWR Fitness Center, is open on the Web at [www.shopthepoint.com](http://www.shopthepoint.com) and is open every Wed. in June from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Shoppe will be closed in July and August.

The Shoppe is always open by appointment by contacting Julie at 446-2950 or Pam at 446-2517.

### Cannon practice

The USMA Honor Guard will have a live fire cannon practice June 26 from 9 to 11 a.m. at North Athletic Field in preparation for the Independence Day Concert July 7 at Trophy Point.

### Fort Putnam open this summer

Historic Fort Putnam will be open throughout the summer on Fri., Sat. and Sun. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Vacation Bible School

West Point Vacation Bible School this year is June 25-29, from 9 a.m. to noon daily.

VBS needs volunteers in all areas: crafts, games, drama, kitchen, crew leaders, set up/clean up, decorating and registration.

Call Jen Lyle to volunteer at 446-5542.

Registration runs until June 22 and forms are available at any church on post or at the Post Chapel Annex.

Call 938-2003 for more information.

### American Red Cross Youth Leadership Conference

The American Red Cross is hosting a Youth Leadership Conference in New York City June 29 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Anyone interested should call 938-4100 for more information.

### Free summer camp for kids

Operation Purple offers free summer camp for military youth.

Camp Deer Run, located in Pine Bush, N.Y., runs July 1 to 14 for children ages 13-15 and from July 16-22 for ages 10 to 12.

All applicants must go online [[www.operationpurple.com](http://www.operationpurple.com)] to register.

### Upcoming Triathlons

The 3rd annual Kid's Triathlon is Aug. 18 and the 18th Annual West Point Triathlon is Aug. 19 at Camp Buckner. Register for both at [active.com](http://active.com).

### BOSS resale lot moved

Are you looking to sell your automobile, van, truck, motorcycle, boat, trailer, or small motor home? Are you an Active Duty service member, DOD civilian, retiree or

a family member?

For \$20 a month, the BOSS Resale Lot has slots available for rent. The BOSS Resale Lot is now located on the left side of the Commissary parking lot.

All vehicles, boats, trailers and motor homes must be less than 24 feet.

For more info., call 938-6127/6497.

### Harry Potter reservations

Come by the USMA Bookstore at Thayer Hall to put in your reservation for the newest Harry Potter book "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" by J.K. Rowling. The book is due out July 21.

Anyone interested should complete a form at the cashier's

booth.

The USMA bookstore, located in Thayer Hall on the fourth floor, is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### Mine Torne Road closures

Mine Torne Road will be closed at various times this summer during Cadet Summer Training.

Field artillery will be firing now until June 30 and July 1. On those days MTR will be closed from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Convoy training will be conducted July 5, 7 and 8, as well as from July 16 to 27 and from July 30 to Aug. 3 and Aug. 7 and from Aug. 9 to 11. On these days MTR will be closed from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.



### Yard of the Month winners

The June Yard of the Month winner for Lee Area [Quints] was the Maj. Ron Wigger family [left]. The Old Brick winner was the family of Maj. Ryan Morgan [right]. Other winners not pictured were: The families of [Lusk Area] Col. John Smith; [Stony I] Sgt. Stokes and Capt. Troy Sullens; [Stony II] 2nd Lt. M. Heberer; Maj. Robert Kutschman; [Lee] Lt. Col. Russell LaChance [Doubles]; [Bailey Loop - Band] Staff Sgt. William Calohan; [Gray Ghost] Lt. Col. Robert Kewley; [New Brick] Maj. D. Phillips and [Old English] Col. David Bedley.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

# Keller Corner

## KACH closures

All outpatient clinics, laboratory, pharmacy and radiology will be closed July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

The emergency room will remain open.

## Make the most of your appointments

**Arrange your priorities** -- Make the most of the time. If you have several things to talk about, let the provider know that at the beginning of your visit. Concentrate on those questions which are most important to you.

**If it's an embarrassing issue to you** -- Sometimes it's hard to talk about certain subjects. But don't wait until the end of the visit to finally get up the nerve to discuss them. No matter how embarrassing your problem, you're not the first person in the world to have it.

**Give the provider relevant information** -- Be prepared. You will probably be asked about your symptoms, medical history or things that may have caused your problem. This could include things you ate, strenuous or unusual exercise, places you have traveled or medications you've been taking.

**Tip** -- Write down your problem, your symptoms, where it hurts,

how it hurts, when it hurts and other information at home when it's fresh in your mind. Also, write out your questions and uncertainties from your last visit.

## What is the Care Coordination Team?

The Care Coordination Team is a multidisciplinary team of selected health professionals who assess and review the health care needs of the high risk patient.

Referrals to the CCT are voluntary and must accompany the verbal consent of the patient.

Any health care professional may refer an identified high-risk patient to the CCT.

## Who does the Team Serve?

The team serves identified high-risk patients who have multiple issues complicating their medical care and daily life.

High-risk patients are defined in many ways and include, but

are not limited to care cases involving emotional/psychological/physical difficulties complicated by any number of factors such as deployment, single-parent status, adoption, family violence, multiple births, terminal illness or fragmented medical care.

The CCT exists with the primary goal of meeting the coordinated health care needs of the individual patient and family.

The CCT applies established Keller Army Community Hospital business practices to link financial resources and specialty care expertise with the patient and or family needs.

For more information, ask your Primary Care Manager or call 938-5874.

## Call 911 ...

If you need emergency care, go to the nearest hospital ER or call 911 for an ambulance. This simple rule applies to emergencies on and off West Point.

**U. S. Military Academy Band**  
West Point, New York

**Music Under the Stars**

Jazz Knights, *Hello and Goodbye*, June 17, 7:30 p.m.

Hellcats, Jazz Knights and Concert Band, *Alumni Showcase*, June 24, 6:30 p.m. (Incllement site Eisenhower Hall).

Concert Band, *Great American Classics* with guest soloist Joseph Alessi, principal trombonist of the New York Philharmonic, July 1, 7:30 p.m.

Concert Band, *Independence Day Concert*, July 7 (Rain date July 8), 8:00 p.m.

Trophy Point Amphitheatre

**Free and Open to the Public**

See schedule at [www.usma.edu/band](http://www.usma.edu/band) or call 845-938-2617

## Command Channel 8/23

June 15 - June 22

Friday  
8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch  
1 p.m. Army Newswatch  
6 p.m. Army Newswatch

Monday - June 22  
8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch  
1 p.m. Army Newswatch  
6 p.m. Army Newswatch

Solution to Weekly Sudoku								
3	5	9	6	4	7	8	2	1
1	6	7	8	5	2	3	4	9
2	4	8	1	3	9	5	7	6
6	2	3	4	7	5	1	9	8
8	7	1	9	2	6	4	5	3
4	9	5	3	8	1	7	6	2
5	8	6	2	1	4	9	3	7
9	3	4	7	6	8	2	1	5
7	1	2	5	9	3	6	8	4

## NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752

Friday -- Next, 7:30 p.m., PG-13

Saturday -- Spider-Man 3, 7:30 p.m., PG-13

June 22 -- Spider-Man 3, 7:30 p.m., PG-13

June 23 -- Lucky You, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

June 29 -- 28 Weeks Later, R, 7:30 p.m.

June 30 -- Shrek the Third, PG, 7:30 p.m.

July 6 -- Shrek the Third, PG, 7:30 p.m.

The theater schedule can also be found at [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com).



## Commissary Awareness Month

Specialist Lakenia Choates plays the "Where am I?" game at the West Point Commissary June 8 as part of events to help inform single Soldiers about their Commissary benefits. Game-show type events such as "Prize is Right" and the "Memory Shopping Game" entertained more than 70 single Soldiers at the afternoon event.

PHOTO BY SPC. TANYA DAVILA/GC



## AFCEA supports local schools

The Education Foundation of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association provides \$1,000 annually to each AFCEA local chapter to support science education in the local community. Here Maj. Jeff Gribshaw (left), AFCEA chapter Treasurer, presents the West Point Middle School with its check June 7. Also pictured (left to right) are WPMS teachers Tricia Willis, Charles Davis, Beth Wackerhagen, Tom Robinson and principal David Rudy. Gribshaw also presented the same amount to O'Neill High School June 8.

PHOTO BY PAM GRANGER/WPMS

# MWR Blurbs

### Father's Day Brunch

The West Point Club will host a Father's Day Brunch Sunday in the Pierce Dining Room. There will be two seatings -- at 10 a.m. and Noon.

For reservations and for more info., call 938-5120.

### Summer Reading Rodeo

The West Point Post Library will conduct a "Summer Reading Rodeo" from June 18 until July 28.

The program is open to all West Point community children ages 3 to 12. Registration ends today.

To sign up, stop by the Post Library, Bldg. 622 or call 938-2974.

### BOSS Aloha Cruise

The cruise is June 30 from 4 to 7 p.m. on the Supe's ferry at South Dock.

The event is open to the entire West Point community ages 18 years or older.

There will be food, beverages and a DJ.

Contact Connie Woodley at 938-6127 for more info on any of these BOSS events.

### Vendors needed

Come help us celebrate the spirit of Oktoberfest Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Round Pond.

Vendors are welcome on a first come, first served basis. Be sure to get your applications in by Aug. 1. Call April Anderson at 938-8185 for more info. and to register.

### Junior Golf Clinic

Registration runs until June 22 for the Junior Golf Clinic June 25-29 at the WPGC. The event is for children 8 years and up.

Call 938-2435 for more info.

### Executive Transition Workshop

Register now for the upcoming Executive Transition Workshop being held July 9-11 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. [attendance is required at all three days of the workshop] at Army Community Service [Bldg. 622].

Seating is limited, so reserve your spot today.

Attendance at this workshop will meet the requirement for

Pre-separation Counseling [DD2648].

For more information, contact Jan Meert, ACS Employment Readiness Program Manager, at 938-5658 or [janeatta.meert@usma.edu](mailto:janeatta.meert@usma.edu).



## Last Day of School for WPS

Six-year-old Dawson Batchelder [right] signs a poster of the West Point elementary school for seven-year-old Andrea Cubberley on the last day of school June 7. Youths in the middle school and elementary school were let out early to enjoy the beginning of their summer vacation.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

Open to the West Point Community

BOSS Poker Tournament

Friday, June 15th

at Buffalo Soldier Pavilion  
for entertainment only

6:30 - 11pm

Prizes for 1st & 2nd place winners  
No Charge

Limited seating! Reservations are encouraged.  
Refreshments sponsored by BOSS

For more information, please contact  
SSG, J Malone at 938-8063  
([jermaine.malone@usma.edu](mailto:jermaine.malone@usma.edu))  
or Ms. Connie Woodley at 938-6497

## **Fraud, Waste & Abuse Hotline**

To report suspected Fraud, Waste and Abuse, call the Internal Review & Audit Compliance [IRAC] Office Hotline. Reports are confidential and callers do not have to identify themselves, but if they provide names, they can remain anonymous. To report suspected abuse of equipment/supplies accountability, travel/pay and cash accountability, call extension **938-8082**. Please provide all pertinent information.

## ***R-Day rehearsal volunteers needed June 29***

Volunteers should be at Eisenhower Hall's Crest Hall no later than 9:45 a.m. June 29.

Parking is available at Eisenhower Hall, Gillis Field House and Buffalo Soldier Field.

The rehearsal starts promptly at 10 a.m. and concludes at approximately 1 p.m.

Lunch will not be provided; you are welcome to bring a snack and carry it in your bag along with a bottle of water if desired.

Volunteers must be between ages 14 - 55. It is guaranteed to be a fun-filled day you will enjoy for generations to come. To register call [845] 938-2825/2826.

# Army and Community Sports Hill, Dinga make splash in MLB Draft

ORLANDO, Fla. -- Although neither has thrown a single pitch in an Army uniform in nearly a month, new 2nd Lts. Nick Hill and Milan Dinga continue to rewrite the Black Knights' baseball annals.

Prior to this year, Army never had one of its baseball players selected in the top 10 rounds of Major League Baseball's First-Year Player Draft. All of that changed June 8 as standout pitchers Nick Hill and Milan Dinga were chosen in the seventh and 10th rounds, respectively, by the Seattle Mariners and Los Angeles Angels during the second day of the two-day selection process.

After establishing or tying 46 school and Patriot League records at game, season and career levels across a brilliant four-year collegiate career, Hill was chosen with the 11th pick of the seventh round [225th overall] of the MLB 2007 First-Year Player Draft by the Mariners. It marked the highest spot in which an Army player has ever been chosen in the draft.

"It's really an honor to be selected by the Seattle Mariners in

the draft," Hill explained from his home in Bluff City, Tenn., where he watched the results of the selection process unfold online. "This is just the first step of where I want to be. Hopefully, some day I can make it to the Major Leagues.

"I'd like to thank my family and everyone at West Point, from my coaches and teammates to all the officers at the [U.S. Military] Academy, for all their support over the years," he added. "I've been blessed to be surrounded by great people."

Dinga authored a similarly impressive resume during his tenure at the academy, establishing or tying 30 Army and Patriot League records at game, season and career levels.

The dual-position standout earned four All-Patriot League certificates, starring both at the plate and on the pitcher's mound. Selected with the 24th pick of the 10th round [328th overall] by the Angels, the hard-throwing right-hander will focus his efforts as a relief specialist.

"This is just a dream come



**Nick Hill [left] and Milan Dinga celebrate after graduation, and are now focused on beginning their baseball careers after getting drafted in the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft June 8 by the Seattle Mariners and Los Angeles Angels, respectively.**

ERIC BARTELT/PV

true," stated Dinga, who followed the developments of the draft online from his brother's home in Orlando, a short distance from where it was held. "When I saw my name pop up on the computer, it was one of the greatest feelings in the world.

"To be thought of so highly by the Angels is quite an honor," the Tampa, Fla., native added. "I'd like to thank my family and friends and everyone at West Point for all they have done to support me over the years. None of this would be possible without their help."

Hill concluded his West Point baseball tenure at the Patriot League Tournament last month as the most decorated player in the program's history. A two-time All-America choice and the first player in Patriot League history to win conference pitcher of the year honors outright three times, Hill also stands as the first player since the league's inception to earn first team all-conference honors four consecutive years.

Last summer, he became the first Army player since Steve Reich in 1993 to earn a spot on the USA National Baseball Team. Hill fashioned sterling numbers in helping Team USA win the gold medal and a second straight FISU

(International University Sports Federation) World Championship.

He posted a 4-0 record with one save and a sparkling 1.48 earned run average in seven appearances for the Red, White and Blue. He allowed just 15 hits and four earned runs in 24.1 innings pitched, while striking out 26 and walking only nine.

Army's all-time pitching victories leader in the modern era, Hill authored a spectacular career record of 33-12 and stands fourth on Army's career list in ERA [2.20] and fourth in winning percentage [.733].

He ranks as the Patriot League's career and single-season record-holder in both victories and ERA and earlier this year became both the conference and school career leader in strikeouts and innings pitched.

The standout southpaw piled up 336 strikeouts over 327.2 innings pitched during the course of his Army career. He also boasts seven career shutouts, a mark that tops both Army and the Patriot League.

A four-year letter winner and the ace of the Black Knights' pitching staff since his arrival as a freshman, Hill pitched in 51

contests [50 starts] during his West Point career, allowing two or fewer runs in 33 of those outings. He did not yield more than three runs in any of his 13 starts this spring, finishing 7-3 with a 1.91 ERA. He struck out 100 and walked only 18 in his final campaign.

Despite being ineligible to sign a professional contract last year, Hill was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the 47th round of last year's First-Year Player Draft as a show of respect.

After not being selected through the first five rounds of the draft which were held June 7, Hill turned on his computer at the start of the second day's activities at 11:30 a.m. June 8. Shortly thereafter, he received a phone call from a representative of the Mariners telling him that Seattle would use its seventh-round pick to select him if the record-breaking left-hander were still available at that point. The scenario unfolded moments later.

Dinga learned of his professional fate in a similar manner at about the same time, as he received a call from a Los Angeles Angels scout shortly after the selection process

**See MLB DRAFT on page 15**

**MLB DRAFT, cont. from page 14** —————

resumed. Dinga was told he would be chosen by the Angels early during June 8's action. Less than 30 minutes after Hill's selection by the Mariners, Dinga was grabbed by the Angels in the 10th round.

The finest closer in Army history, Dinga successfully converted a school- and Patriot League-record 27 career saves. He regularly dominated batters during the late innings for four consecutive years while at the academy, blossoming into one of the nation's top relief specialists.

Dinga successfully converted 27 of 29 career save opportunities, including 23 in a row during a three-year span that ended in his next-to-last collegiate appearance this spring.

He was scored upon just five times in 61 career appearances, registering a microscopic 1.14 ERA during that time. In all, he did not yield a triple or a home run en route to posting a 4-1 record with 27 saves.

A four-year letter winner, he fanned 71 and walked only 10 for a remarkable 7:1 strikeout-walk ratio, allowing just 43 hits in 63.1 innings pitched.

Scored upon just once during both his junior and senior campaigns, Dinga scripted a school record consecutive scoreless appearance streak of 32 that spanned his junior and senior years, before yielding two runs during his next-to-last career outing. In six career pitching performances against arch-rival Navy, he went 1-0 with three saves and did not allow a single run. He struck out four, did not walk a batter and yielded just three hits in 5.1 innings of work versus the Mids.

Dinga was selected a third team All-America relief pitcher by the National Baseball Writers Association last season and a preseason first-team choice by the same organization this winter. He remains a strong candidate for this year's national Stopper of the Year Award after posting a 2-0 record with six saves and a 0.92 ERA this spring.

Should Hill and Dinga be accepted into the U.S. Army's Alternative Service Option program, they will owe two years of active service in the Army, during which time they will be allowed to play baseball in the player development systems of their respective organizations and assigned to recruiting stations.

If they remain in professional baseball following those two years, they will be provided the option of "buying out" the remaining three years of their active-duty commitment in exchange for six years of reserve time.

Former Army standouts Josh Holden [baseball], Brad Roberts [hockey] and Pete Bier [football] are currently involved in the program.

Schuyler Williamson, the most recent Army graduate to be selected in Major League Baseball's First-Year Player Draft when he was chosen by the Detroit Tigers in 2005, participated in the program for one year, before retiring from the sport in order to pursue his Army career.

Along with Hill last year and Williamson in 2005, Mike Scioletti is the only other Army player to be selected in the professional baseball draft. He was chosen in the 43rd round by the Chicago White Sox in 1998. Scioletti did not elect to sign a contract with the major league club, entering the Army instead.

After signing contracts with their respective clubs in the next few days, both Hill and Dinga will be assigned to minor league teams and begin their professional careers in the weeks ahead.