

## NSPS payouts averaged 7.6 percent across DOD

By Linda Mastin  
Editor

On Jan. 31 more than 110,000 employees who fall under Spiral 1 of the new Department of Defense National Security Personnel System received their performance-based payouts in their paychecks. The average increase and bonus total was 7.6 percent, which is made up of a 5.9 percent pay increase and 1.7 percent in bonuses.

To receive an increase or bonus, an employee must receive a rating of three, four or five, which 98 percent of the employees received. Of that 98 percent, 57 percent were considered to be "valued performers" -- meaning their rating was a three, while 36 percent were judged to have "exceeded expectations," or level 4; and about 5 percent received the highest rating -- "role model." Those at levels 4 and 5 saw up to 9 percent

and 14.6 percent, respectively.

At West Point Tony Brown, Director of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation, who, while serving as Acting Deputy Garrison Commander, was the pay pool manager for the more than 125 U.S. Army Garrison, West Point employees who became part of NSPS in the spring of 2007 under Spiral 1.3. He gave the following statistics about ratings for payouts for the USAG pay pool:

- 62 percent were level 3
- 33 percent were level 4
- 3 percent were level 5.

These results are in line with the overall DA NSPS rating averages as the following percentages indicate:

- 28 percent - three shares
- 4 percent - four shares
- 1 percent - five shares
- 1 percent - six shares.

The value of a share for USAG employees was 2.1404 percent.

Under NSPS, a share is assigned only to employees who receive performance ratings of level 3 or higher and is a percentage of one's base pay. The number of shares awarded depends on the rules established in each pay pool. In FY2009, West Point will have multiple pay pools.

The NSPS pay raises and the General Schedule pay raises can not be directly compared, primarily because under NSPS there are no "automatic" step increases, but, according to Carol McQuinn, West Point's Civilian Personnel Director and the NSPS Spiral 2 transition team manager said the performance based pay for 98 percent of the employees in NSPS resulted in pay increases equal to, if not greater than, those received by GS employees. There are currently 128,000 non-bargaining unit employees under NSPS. The additional 18,000 joined the program in November

under Spiral 2.1. Another 57,000 are scheduled to convert to the system this spring, with the total to reach 700,000 employees when everyone transitions to the new system.

McQuinn also wants current and future NSPS personnel at West Point to know that DOD has developed a new course to help in understanding how NSPS affects employees and their pay.

Titled *Pay Pools, Performance, and You*, it is an interactive web-based course designed to teach employees how the performance management and pay pool processes interact, the activities that occur during the phases and the important role employees, rating officials and pay pool managers play in ensuring a fair and equitable system.

Modeled after NSPS 101, the course uses virtual employees to illustrate examples of how performance management and pay pool concepts, processes and decisions affect employees. It takes approximately one and one-half hours to complete and can be found at [www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/](http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/).

## Army retires BDUs

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- The Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for G-1 (Personnel) announced in early Jan. that the final wear-out date for the Army Battle Dress Uniform and Desert Battle Dress Uniform will be April 30 for both active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers and cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

"Every cadet in the Corps has been issued Army Combat Uniforms and will have no problem transitioning on the Army timeline," according to U.S. Corps of Cadets Chief of Staff Col. Sam Johnson.

The Army began phasing out the woodland and desert-patterned uniforms on June 14, 2004 with the debut of the digital-patterned Army Combat Uniform.

"Our Army is always looking to constantly improve on everything we do, both on and off the battlefield," said Sgt. Maj. Katrina L. Easley, uniform policy sergeant major at G-1. "We took a look at the

combat usability of what was once a good uniform and based upon feedback from the field, decided to improve it and fix the many problems reported. There were at least 20 changes made and the result is the current ACU.

"Response has been fantastic. Soldiers have adapted well to the new uniform and they tell us they truly appreciate the improvements that were made. This uniform was designed by Soldiers for Soldiers," she added.

All brown T-shirts, black combat boots and green and black jungle boots, woodland and desert-camouflage caps, olive-drab-green name and U.S. Army tapes, subdued-olive-green shoulder-sleeve insignias and the black rigger belt and web belt with open-faced black buckle will also become obsolete on April 30.

Active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers can continue

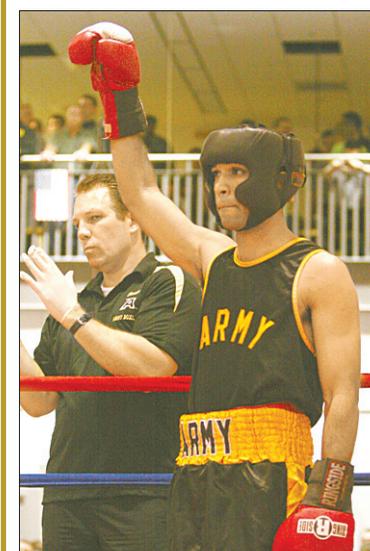
See BDUs, page 3



The official West Point-Royal Military College exchange weekend began here and in Kingston, Ontario, Thursday and goes through Sunday. Last year, the competitions, like the taekwon do match above, were at West Point, but this year will be at RMC. The approximately 90 visitors here follow the schedules of their host cadets, to include attendance at the annual Henry O. Flipper dinner Thursday. Those cadets hosted by members of the USCC 2nd and 4th Regiments will be participating in land navigation training tomorrow.

JOHN PELLINO/DOIM MMB

## INSIDE



See BOXING, page 13

## Community information -- Online reverse telephone books

**Commentary by Paul Scullion  
Director, Directorate of  
Information Management**

Internet search engines like Google, Windows Live, Ask.com and even the online white pages, WhitePages.com, enable users to type a telephone number into the search bar and it returns the person's name and address as listed in the telephone book. This is known as a reverse telephone book.

Some of the search engines add the feature of automatically providing a map of the address associated with the telephone listing.

For those sites that do not

provide it directly there are numerous sites that will map the information when the individual types in an address. Many of these sites offer the option of providing directions from one location to another.

With the Caller-ID feature so common on many phones, an individual's telephone number is more readily available and can easily be used with any of these online reverse telephone book sites.

Individuals may have concerns about the availability of this information and how it can be exploited.

Most telephone companies offer the feature of blocking

outgoing Caller-ID information. Contact your telephone company for additional information. You can test whether your phone number is available by visiting any of the sites mentioned above or other search engines. Type in your telephone number in the search bar (e.g. 555-555-1212) and hit enter.

Thus far Google is the only site that offers the option to block address information associated with a telephone number. This is only for the Google site. To request Google to stop providing your name, telephone number and address, submit the search of your telephone number, click on the link to the telephone number and submit the Removal Form request. The

site states it takes up to 48 hours to process.

Individuals also have the option

not to list their telephone number and should contact their telephone company for more information.

## Make the Army GREEN -- ride the post shuttle

**Commentary by  
Patrick Query  
Assistant Prof.,  
Dept. of English**

Let's make the Army GREEN again. Tired of driving around for 30 minutes to find a parking spot? Or tired of coming in at the crack of dawn just to get one?

Did you know West Point offers free shuttle service every day from 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.?

It's reliable, it's clean, it's comfortable, it's friendly and it's

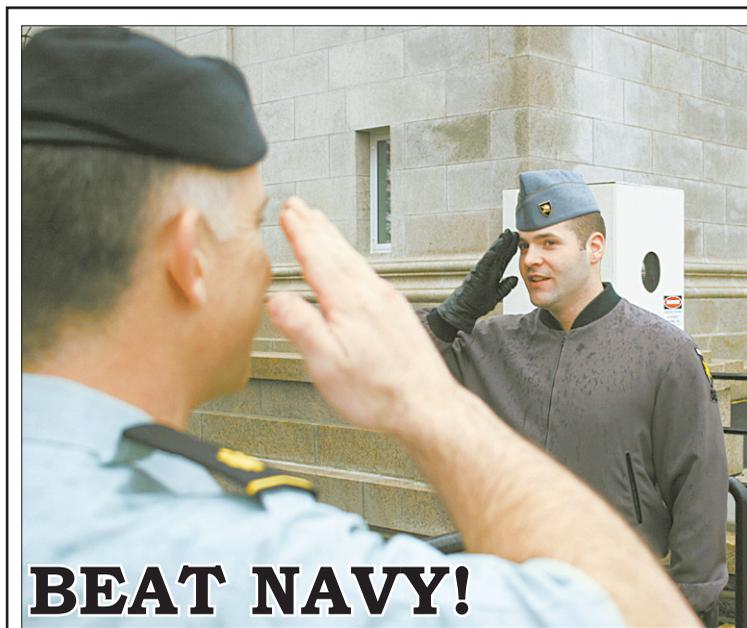
there for your convenience.

This week, if you live in Highland Falls: Try riding the shuttle to work (It stops right in town). If you live farther away: try parking at Buffalo Soldier Field where there's always parking available -- and riding the shuttle from there.

If you live on post: Why not take the shuttle from close to your house? With buses every 30 minutes, there's always one on the way. Just relax and ride! You'll be giving the environment a break

by eliminating unnecessary air pollution. You'll be giving yourself a break by eliminating the hassle of finding a parking spot.

Let's put the GREEN back in the Army.



### BEAT NAVY!

English's Maj. Ray Dillman returns the salute of Cadet 1st Class Tim Donahue with a hearty "Beat Navy," the greeting policy between cadets and officers since the beginning of this academic year.

JIM FOX/PV

## SAPR-P

The members of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program are Col. Jeanette McMahon, Shelley Ariosto (Garrison), Dan Toohey (Victim Advocate), Maj. Maria Burger (USCC), Maj. Kim Kawamoto (ODIA) and Lt. Col. Tasha 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

	7			4	2	6	
	1	9			3		
					4		5
	6		1				
				9			
				2		7	
5		1					
		6			1	5	
	2	7	8			9	

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no

Difficulty: Medium

digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.

See Solution on Page 11

## POINTER VIEW

- Lt. Gen. Buster Hagenbeck**, Superintendent
- Col. Bryan Hilferty**, Director of Communications
- Irene D. Brown**, Chief, Command Info.

- Linda Mastin**, Editor, 938-2015
- Jim Fox**, Asst. Editor, 938-8365
- Eric S. Bartelt**, Sports Editor, 938-3883
- Kathy Eastwood**, Staff Writer, 938-3684



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# Local and National News

## Troops to receive retroactive pay this month

By John J. Kruzal  
American Forces  
Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Active duty troops will receive retroactive earnings this month, followed weeks later by a supplemental payday for non-active personnel, a Pentagon official said Jan. 29.

The National Defense Authorization Act signed into law Jan. 28 by President Bush stipulates a 3.5 percent military pay raise. This hike is 0.5 percent higher than an executive order Bush signed Dec. 28 to increase pay by 3 percent, which took effect Jan. 1.

In mid-February, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will pay active duty troops the extra 0.5 percent raise earned since the start of 2008. Non-active members will receive the supplement "a couple weeks later," said Bill Carr,

deputy undersecretary for military personnel policy.

Carr said the Pentagon is "delighted" with the act and praised cooperation by Congress. Disagreement between the president and Congress over non-defense-related earmarks and controversial language about the Iraq war had delayed the bill's enactment.

"I think it's good news for everybody in uniform," Carr said. "This Congress has been terrific in working with us in terms of providing to the troops the things that they need."

Between 2000 and 2007, private-sector pay increased by 29 percent, while military pay jumped 42 percent during the same time, Carr said. Meanwhile, wages paid to noncommissioned officers, which includes corporals and all grades of sergeant and petty officer, spiked by about 52 percent.

"We've made considerable headway, in terms of increasing the value of military pay, to the point where we're now frankly in about the 70th or 80th percentile of similarly educated American earners," Carr said. He noted that the most recent raise, by virtue of exceeding the current inflation rate, will increase servicemember recipients' purchasing power.

Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell said the retroactive payments ensure "that our forces are compensated commensurate to their service and sacrifice."

In a news conference at the Pentagon Jan. 29, Morrell noted that troops will benefit in various ways by provisions codified in the act.

"It lets us resume offering bonuses to new recruits and re-enlisting troops," he said. The act also includes funding to improve health care and benefits for wounded

troops and veterans.

The bill became law just a week before the next budget cycle begins as Bush sends his fiscal 2009 request to Capitol Hill. That budget proposal, along with a request for \$70 billion in emergency war spending, was delivered to Congress Monday.

February changes [as of 2/6]	
C FUND	- 3.73 percent
I FUND	- 3.89 percent
S FUND	- 2.43 percent

### 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.

### West Point Early Bird goes on the USMA internal Web site Monday

*Beginning Monday, the West Point Early Bird will be accessible through the internal Web site -*

*<http://www-internal.usma.edu/> -- News.*

*This is a compilation of daily news stories about West Point.*

*It is for internal information only and is not intended or permissible for external distribution.*

*The link will open the current day's stories and an ARCHIVE link (just below the West Point Early Bird) will allow access to previously available versions of the document.*

## DPW's Zoffoli, 51, passes

Compiled by Jim Fox  
Assistant Editor

Rudolph "Roy" Zoffoli, a pipefitter in the DPW Utility Power Systems Branch, passed away Jan. 31 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, N.Y. He was 51 years of age.

Zoffoli, who had 26 years of federal service, is survived by his wife Debbie, his son Joseph Zoffoli and daughter-in-law Kori and son Air Force Staff Sgt. Anthony Zoffoli, who is currently stationed at Osan Air Base, South Korea.

Zoffoli worked as a pipefitter

for the Department of the Navy at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard until 1992 when he was transferred to West Point.

Visitation was held Wednesday at the William F. Hogan Funeral Home, Highland Falls, N.Y.

Funeral arrangements will follow in Portsmouth, N.H., with interment in Calvary Cemetery, Portsmouth, N.H.

Condolence cards may be sent to Zoffoli's family at 319 Main Street, Highland Falls, N.Y. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Orange County, N.Y., 253 South Williams St., Newburgh, NY 12550.



"Roy" Zoffoli

### BDUs cont. from page 1

to wear the black-knit cap and the black micro-fleece-knit cap with the cold-weather woodland-camouflage field jacket until Sept. 30.

According to Easley, there haven't been any official surveys to determine how many Soldiers still have the BDUs or Desert BDUs, but she said it's probably hard to find many who aren't wearing the ACU.

But if Soldiers are hanging on to any of these uniforms, they can

save them for posterity. They aren't required to turn them in. The only requirement is that they know the wear-out date and report for duty in ACUs is May 1.

"Thousands of our great Soldiers spent many years defending our country wearing that honorable uniform. I know it means something to them, just as wearing the ACU will mean something to today's Army," Easley said.

(Editor's Note: Elizabeth M. Lorge's story was localized.)

# Troops, Families can get free tax-filing services

WASHINGTON (American Forces Press Service) -- Rather than paying a tax specialist, servicemembers and their families can obtain free assistance to prepare and file their annual tax returns through a special military program, a Defense Department tax advisor said Jan. 30.

The military's tax assistance program processes more than 200,000 returns each year, Maj. John Johnson, director of the Defense Department's Armed Forces Tax Council, said during an interview with Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service reporters.

"It is just one of the benefits military people have," Johnson said of the program. Participants can visit their installation tax

center for free assistance in filling out tax returns, he said, or access the Military OneSource Web site, [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

"You can log on there, online, and also file for free," Johnson said of the Web site. The online tax-filing system on Military OneSource is closed to military retirees, however.

Military members from all service branches sit on the Pentagon's tax council that coordinates the program, Johnson explained.

Members of the West Point community -- active duty military servicemembers, military retirees and immediate family members -- can get assistance with preparing their federal and state taxes from IRS-trained tax preparers at the

West Point Tax Center in Bldg. 626, 2nd Floor, from 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. and from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Mon. through Fri., according to Capt. Lev Jacoby, Officer-in-Charge of the operation. Walk-ins are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, while scheduled appointments are given top priority. Please call (845) 938-5920 to schedule an appointment.

Participants should bring their military-issued identification cards, W-2 Wage and Earnings statements and any other forms or documents required for tax filing.

People who believe they may be eligible for tax refunds also should bring their bank account numbers if they'd like the refund direct-deposited into a specific account, Johnson pointed out.

More complicated tax-preparation work involving itemizing of returns for added tax deductions also can be processed for free, although these returns normally require more documentation, he said.

Military members receive many tax benefits, Johnson pointed out. For example, all allowances, including housing, meals, family separation and others, are tax-exempt, he said, as is all military pay for enlisted military members deployed in overseas combat zones. Officers deployed in combat zones, he added, can exclude about \$7,000 of their monthly pay for federal taxes.

Servicemembers deployed to combat zones have six months to file their taxes after departing the

area, Johnson noted.

Another tax-related benefit for servicemembers deployed to overseas combat zones is the Savings Deposit Program, Johnson said. Under SDP, eligible servicemembers can contribute up to \$10,000 into their savings accounts while they're deployed and earn a government-guaranteed 10 percent return on their money, he explained.

"You're not going to beat that," Johnson said of the SDP program.

People with questions about the military's tax filing assistance program can visit the Military OneSource Web site or their installation tax center, he said.

**(Editor's Note:** American Forces Press Services' Gerry J. Gilmore's story was localized.)

## Army responds to rising suicide rates

By Elizabeth M. Lorge  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- The Army is taking steps to meet the rising suicide rates among Soldiers head-on, the service's top mental-health expert told reporters at the Pentagon Jan. 31.

With 102 confirmed suicides among active-duty and activated reserve-component Soldiers, 2006 had the highest number of cases since 1990. To date, 89 suicide deaths were confirmed in 2007 and 32 cases are still pending.

Suicide attempts have also climbed exponentially since the Army began tracking them in 2002, rising from 350 to approximately 2,100 last year, although some non-suicidal self-injuries and a new electronic medical records system may account for part of the increase, said Col. Elspeth C. Richie, psychiatry consultant to the Army's surgeon general.

"The loss of any Soldier is a tragedy and while we're talking about suicides in this case, Army leadership takes the loss of any Soldier seriously," said retired Col. Dennis W. Dingle, head of the Army well-being branch at the Office of Deputy Chief of Staff for G-1 (Personnel). "The Army is committed to applying the resources and developing the policies and adapting our programs and policies to support Soldiers, civilians and their Families.

"We have targeted our efforts

for suicide-prevention awareness, specifically to Soldiers and leaders as part of our professional military education system. It's become institutionalized during the deployment process. But it goes beyond that. It's an integrated effort across the entire Army."

The majority of 2006 suicides took place among Soldiers in the United States. Seventy-two had either never deployed or been back from theater for over a year, eight had been back from deployment for less than a year, 27 occurred in Iraq and three in Afghanistan.

The vast majority, Richie said, occur among young, enlisted males ages 18-24, but there has been a rising number among older Soldiers. In 2006 the Army saw the highest number ever among females -- 11. Most, 71 percent, involved firearms.

According to Richie, the Army is closely watching for any correlation between the length and number of deployments and the number of suicides, but the most common cause of suicide is strained relationships.

While repeated deployments and post traumatic stress disorder certainly add stress to relationships, she said, it's unusual for them to be the direct cause of a suicide.

Lieutenant Col. Ran Dolinger, a chaplain at G-1, said that while he was deployed one of his Soldiers attended suicide-prevention training and seemed fine, but within an hour had received a call from his wife

and killed himself. He stressed the importance of programs like Strong Bonds in building and maintaining healthy, strong marriages.

As part of the Army Family Covenant, the Army is spending \$1.4 billion this year on quality-of-life programs, including healthcare,

for Soldiers and Families. These programs are crucial, said Dolinger and Dingle, because as the Army makes life better for Soldiers, they will be far less likely to kill themselves.

Richie visited Iraq in October,

**See SUICIDE RATES, page 5**

### Voting Assistance

For the 2008 voting assistance questions, call the West Point Voting Assistance NCOIC, Sgt. 1st Class John Castillo at 938-8450.

## SUICIDE RATES, cont. from page 4

where she led a team assessing the mental health care available to Soldiers, and found that access to mental-health care providers and chaplains was good.

The Army has more than 200 behavioral-health professionals in Iraq and has just added more than 100 in the United States.

After conducting interviews and focus groups with experts and Soldiers of all ranks, the team developed 55 recommendations to improve suicide-prevention training and care.

The team found that previous training attempts, which focused on stateside, garrison environments, were not effective in theater. Soldiers want to know how to recognize problems and what to do to help buddies. Senior leaders are generally supportive and encouraging when Soldiers need help, the team found, but Soldiers are themselves reluctant to face condemnation from their peers.

This stigma, Richie said, is both the most difficult and the most important obstacle to overcome when it comes to getting Soldiers help.

The Army hopes the battle buddy system will help. Based on a decades-old tactic and the Warrior

Ethos' statement "I will never leave a fallen comrade," it shows Soldiers that someone will always look out for them and that it's okay to ask for help.

All Soldiers receive an **ACE** of hearts playing card to carry with them. It is a reminder to Soldiers to care enough and have the courage to find out what's going on, and to never leave Soldiers who might harm themselves alone, even to get help.

**ACE** stands for: **A**sk your

buddy, **C**are for your buddy, **E**scort your buddy.

Battlemind training, which is required both before and after deployment, also reminds Soldiers who may be having a hard time that they are not alone. It tells leaders, Soldiers, Family members and even Army civilians how to recognize Soldiers in distress and how to get them help.

"We've got the multiple portals to care through chaplains, through primary care, through behavioral

health, through leadership. We also need to make sure that Family members know who to call if they're worried about their Soldier. We need to involve the whole

Family and the whole community in this effort," Richie said.

For more information, visit [www.behavioralhealth.army.mil](http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil) or [www.battlemind.org](http://www.battlemind.org).

### West Point AOG e-mail switches addresses

*The West Point Association of Graduates is switching to new e-mail addresses.*

*Old e-mail address -- xy1234@usma.edu*

*New e-mail address -- john.doe@wpaog.org.*

# Community Features and Photos

## Ice rescue training keeps WPFD personnel sharp

By Eric S. Bartelt  
Sports Editor

Drive along Route 293 at this time of the year and you will see ice fishermen out on the Long Pond frozen sheet of ice getting their fill of ice fishing. But, what happens if a fisherman breaks through the ice? And who is called upon to make the prompt decision that can be the difference between life and death.

Those life saving decisions are made by the West Point Fire Department who cover rescue operations for all the West Point Reservation waters and perform annual certification measures to be ready for an ice rescue at a moment's notice.

From Jan. 23-25, the fire department ran the New York State Ice Cold Water Rescue Technician Level Course and had 45 firefighters go through the course on the frozen waters of Lusk Reservoir.

"We had six individuals who took it for the first time and they took the full course," said Mike Reilly, West Point Fire Department Training Officer. "The individuals who re-certified go through an abridged version just for new techniques or anything new that comes about as we review hypothermia and the effects of cold water exposure."

The training involves classroom and practical application training. The refresher course takes eight hours and the full course is 16 hours.

"When we're doing a full course, we go over ice formation, how it forms and the actual physical properties of water when it's ice," Reilly explained. "We hit that quick during the refresher because those guys already have that foundation (knowledge)."

There are many individual specialties that firefighters can train in to include surface water rescue, swift water rescue and advanced ice water rescue. Advanced ice water rescue, in which a number of members of the WPFD are certified, requires success under tough scenarios which may necessitate the use of special equipment, rope extensions of more than 300 feet for a long distance rescue and rescuing multiple victims.

"There are special considerations as you're making rescues of multiple victims. That's part of the basic class where we start assessing the victims," Reilly said. "The victim is assessed based on his or her ability to self-rescue, the person's communication level because a person who's not talking to us is a person who's in serious danger."

"In a rescue scenario, we'll actually pass by someone to go long for someone else, but what we do as we pass is we provide buoyancy for that person," he added. "We'll either give them a personal floatation device, a life buoy or some floatation device that would provide that stability for that person and let the individual know we're going to grab the other person and then we're going to come back."

Currently, 95 percent of all West Point firefighters are certified at the technician level, which means they are suit trained in the water.

The department has three different types of suits it uses in the water: a traditional Stearns cold water immersion suit, sometimes call a Gumby suit; a Mustang suit, which is a hybrid between a dry suit and a cold water immersion suit; and a new and improved version of the Stearns suit, which is similar to

the Mustang suit.

All three suits were used during the training, but it was the first time the new Stearns suit was used in the water at West Point.

"The new and improved Stearns suit gives you more mobility, but with anything there's a lot of give and take because it's about half as buoyant," Reilly stated. The new Stearns suit has about 20 pounds of buoyancy compared to nearly 40 pounds with the older Stearns model. "I'm talking about positive buoyancy, so they'll be able to float. The personal floatation device, or what we call PRDs, that we wear has 26 pounds of positive buoyancy, so when you put it on it's designed



WPFD Lt. Jeff Armitage is pulled/pushed out of the water by WPFD Lt. Mickey Lee.

for the average person to keep his or her head above water."

Part of the practical training application was performing a self-rescue, which is where the firefighter gets into the water and has to self-rescue back onto the ice, according to Reilly They then

perform a reach rescue -- taking what is called a 'noodle' flotation device that slides over the victim so that the victim can be pulled out of the water.

"They also have to approach the victim, get in the water behind

**See ICE RESCUE on page 12**



West Point Fire Department Lt. Kim Reynolds climbs out of a cold water obstacle during ice rescue training at Lusk Reservoir Jan. 23.

PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS ROGER JONES/PAO NCOIC

# Emergency preparedness should be on everyone's mind

Story and photo by  
Kathy Eastwood  
Staff Writer

We are living in an unpredictable world today -- one that is subject to extreme weather and extremists that are capable of inflicting major damages and injuries on any country in the world using terrorist tactics to include bombs. Most of us are very much aware of what can happen and the importance of being prepared in the aftermath of 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina.

"Hurricane Katrina taught us that we can't rely on the government to help us out in any disaster," said Henry Cervantes, emergency plans specialist for the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security here.

"In any disaster, it may take some time before police or the fire department can assist people, especially within the first couple of days of an emergency. People need to be prepared to take care of themselves until help can arrive."

Cervantes and Charles Peddy, director of DPTMS, have established an Emergency Preparedness Web site - [www.usma.edu/Garrison/sites/directories/dptms/cepip/](http://www.usma.edu/Garrison/sites/directories/dptms/cepip/) - to help community members become more aware of what each one of them can do during an emergency situation.

"The Web site is designed for people to gather information on how to prepare for unexpected emergencies and forecasted disasters," Cervantes said. "People should take the time

to go through the site, which has all the information that will be needed in an emergency. We have also produced an emergency preparedness brochure that will be delivered to the quarters on-post and is part of the housing packet (given to people moving into new quarters)."

The Emergency Preparedness Web site includes the booklet *Community Emergency Planning for Indian Point*, which details what to do in case of a radiological accident where radioactive material escapes into the air. In a radiological event, sirens will sound a continuous, high-pitched loud wavering sound for four minutes and will advise people to turn the radio or television to the Emergency Alert Stations that are

nearest to your location, a list of which is also on the site.

Additionally, the Web site includes factsheets on fire escape planning, preparation for a flood, what to do in an explosion, preventing falls and pandemic influenza planning.

In an effort to help the West Point community become more aware on how to prepare for an emergency, the DPTMS will hold the second annual Emergency Preparedness Fair in September.

"The fair last year was a success in that we had a lot of people coming to the information booths staffed with people from Indian Point, Orange and Rockland Electric and other companies that answered questions on the siren system and what steps should be

taken during a blackout," Cervantes said. "We also distributed the KI or (potassium) iodine tablets (through Keller Army Community Hospital) recently to help protect the body against radiation."

The Department of Homeland Security is also involved in an emergency preparedness awareness campaign and recently began the Ready Campaign, which details three easy steps below to prepare for an emergency according to their Web site - [www.dhs.gov/xnews/release/pr\\_119810077473.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/release/pr_119810077473.shtm).

- Prepare an emergency supply kit
- Make a family emergency plan
- Be informed about the kinds of emergencies that can happen

**See PREPARE on page 12**



DPTMS has numerous brochures available either online or at their office located in Bldg. 621.

# ***A brief history on the significance of Valentine's Day***

**Compiled by Kathy Eastwood  
Staff writer**

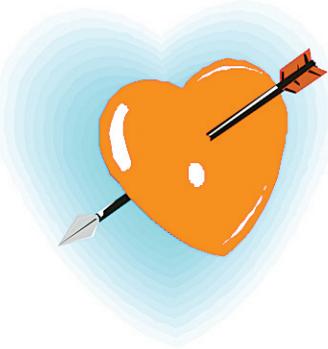
The history of the significance of Valentine's Day as we know it is ambiguous, because there are at least three different martyred saints named Valentine that are recognized by the Catholic Church. One was a priest in Rome; one a bishop in Terni, a region in central Italy and the only thing known about the third is he met his demise in Africa. All three allegedly were martyred on Feb. 14, according to [www.infoplease.com](http://www.infoplease.com).

Most scholars believe Valentine was a priest serving Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II during the third century. Claudius needed men to fight in his wars and decided that warriors should

not be married because single men made better warriors and outlawed marriage for young men.

Valentine thought this was extremely unfair and continued to do what he enjoyed doing, marrying young men and women, in secret, despite the ban. Of course, he was eventually caught and Claudius ordered his death. Valentine's Day is celebrated on the day he died or was buried in 270 A.D. In another legend, Valentine sent the first Valentine's greeting while in jail for defying the marrying ban. He fell in love with his jailer's blind daughter,

who visited him often during his confinement. Valentine's love for her healed her blindness, according to <http://wilstar.com/holidays/valentn.htm>.



Before his death, Valentine sent a letter to her and signed it 'from your Valentine,' which is a greeting still used today.

The first Valentine's Day card was sent by Charles, duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1415.

His card is preserved in the

British Museum.

The precursor to Valentine's Day can be traced back to a Roman pagan celebration of a young man's rite of passage to manhood, which was dedicated to the god Lupercus; the Roman god of agriculture and shepherds. The fertility festival is associated with the twins Romulus and Remus, the legendary founders of Rome, who were raised by a she-wolf. The fertility festival of Lupercalia was celebrated in a cave and involved the sacrifice of a goat, representing fertility, and a dog, representing purification, on Feb. 15. The celebration included a lottery that allowed young men to draw names of young girls from a container.

The girl that was picked would become the young man's sexual

partner for the rest of the year.

This practice did not sit well with Pope Gelasius, elected Pope in 492 A.D., who ordered a change in the lottery. The container would contain the names of saints instead of young girls with men and women participating. The purpose of the game was to behave like the saint they picked during the rest of the year -- much to the chagrin of many young Roman males. Gelasius was

**See VALENTINE's DAY on  
page 12**

# Community Leisure

## What's Happening

### Garrison Awards ceremony

Everyone is cordially invited to attend the Garrison Awards Ceremony Wed. at 2 p.m., at Eisenhower Hall's Crest Hall.

### Protestant Women of the Chapel

PWOC Special Program: Paula Van Antwerp, wife of Army Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, will speak Wed. from 8:45 to 11 a.m. and Thurs. from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Post Chapel about Rahab's scarlet cord and what it means for you and your family.

Refreshments will be served with opportunities for fellowship. All members of the West Point community are invited.

### NCOPD guest speaker

The West Point community is invited to attend a MEDDAC

noncommissioned officer professional development session. It will feature Vietnam-era Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Gary Beikirch speaking on leadership and sacrifice Feb. 21 at 3 p.m., at the West Point Middle School Auditorium.

### Viva! Las Vegas Night

The West Point Women's Club will host their annual fund raiser, Viva! Las Vegas Night, Feb. 22 from 7 p.m. until midnight at the Thayer Hotel.

### Book signings

West Point graduate Bert E. Tucker (USMA '56) will be signing his historical fiction novel "The Blind Quest" (Deceived by Experience) at the USMA Bookstore, located on Thayer Hall's fourth floor Feb. 22 from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

In conjunction with African American History Month John L. Johnson will be signing his book "Every Night & Every Morn: Portraits of Asian, Hispanic, Jewish, African-American and Native-American recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor" Feb. 26 from 9:15 a.m. until 12:15 p.m.

### Military Council of Catholic Women

Nationally renowned speaker Christopher West is coming to West Point Feb. 26 to discuss "Theology of the Body."

Adults, teens and cadets are invited. Join us at 7 p.m., in Robinson Auditorium.

### DUSA grant applications

The West Point Chapter of the Daughters of the United States Army is pleased to announce that the 2008 Community Welfare Grant Season will run until Feb. 15.

Any organization wishing to apply for a grant must complete a 2008 Community Grant Application and return it postmarked by Feb. 15, 2008.

Applications are available at the DUSA Gift shop located in the West Point Museum.

### DUSA Gift Shop job opening

The West Point Chapter of DUSA is hiring a Bookkeeper for its Gift Shop in the West Point Museum.

The bookkeeper will be responsible for payroll, tax reports and monthly reports. Proficiency in excel needed. Retail sales reports and accounts payable helpful. This is a Part Time (15 hours per week) position.

To apply, submit resume and cover letter before Feb. 22 to:

Vicki McPeak, DUSA Secretary, 21 C Wilson Road, West Point, NY 10996.

Any questions can be directed to Ginger Hopkins, DUSA President, 845-567-3643 or [Ginhop1@aol.com](mailto:Ginhop1@aol.com).

### WPWC

Applications are now available for scholarships and community grants offered by the West Point Women's Club.

Pick up copies at the WPWC shop, ACS, or visit the Web site: [www.shopthepoint.com](http://www.shopthepoint.com).

Applications are due Feb. 29, 2008.

### DUSA scholarship applications

Attention all parents of High School Seniors.

It's application time for DUSA Academic Scholarships to assist your child with their collegiate education.

To be eligible to receive this DUSA scholarship, the applicant must be a graduating high school senior and the son or daughter of an active, retired or deceased U.S.

military service member whose family resides at West Point (or within a 35 mile radius of West Point) at the time the scholarship is awarded.

Applications can be acquired through your local high school counselors at James O'Neill HS or Cornwall Central HS.

You can also contact Linda Frey at [gfrey1@hvc.rr.com](mailto:gfrey1@hvc.rr.com). The completed application packet must be postmarked or hand delivered by 5 p.m., March 14, 2008, to:

DUSA Scholarships, c/o Linda Frey, 530B Winans Rd., West Point, NY 10996.

Please do not turn applications in at the DUSA gift shops or your school.

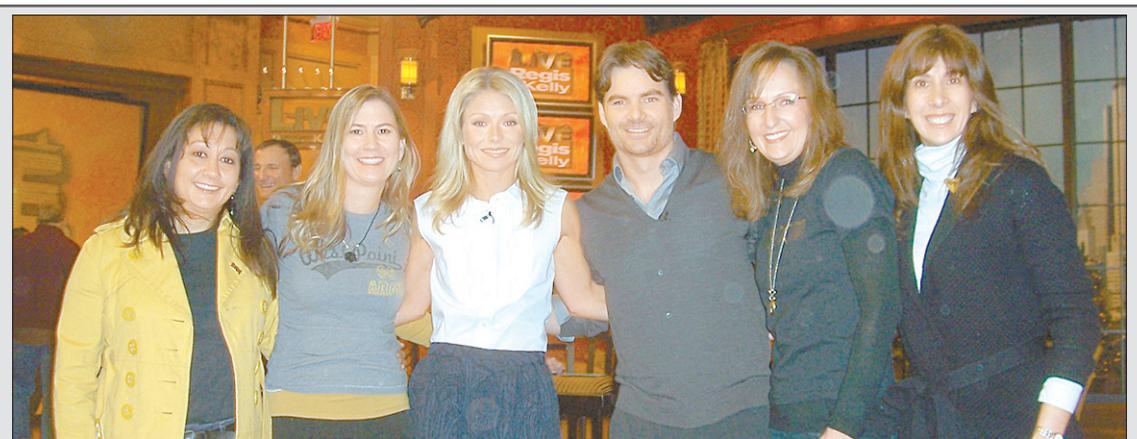
### Supe's semi-annual briefing

The Superintendent's Annual Command Interest Briefing is scheduled for Feb. 28, from 12:50 to 1:50 p.m., in Thayer Hall, Robinson Auditorium.

This briefing is mandatory for all officers, all non-commissioned officers (SFC and above) and civilian employees (GS-9 and above).

Others who wish to attend should coordinate with their activities. All personnel must be seated by 12:45 p.m. The Command Interest Brief will be broadcast live on the Command Channel for the West Point Community to view.

In addition, it will be rebroadcast March 3, at 1 p.m., and March 4 at 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.



### Army Wives vist with Kelly Ripa and Jeff Gordon

Four Army wives from West Point received tickets to the Jan. 25 "Live with Regis and Kelly" show in New York City hosted by Kelly Ripa and guest host Jeff Gordon. (From left to right) Mavis Smith, JoAnna Sperling, host Kelly Ripa, four-time Sprint Cup champion and guest host Jeff Gordon, Maureen Batchelder and Lori Swab were asked to sit in the audience's front four center seats. They had a sign that said "Army Wives love Jeff and Kelly" and thought that is why they were chosen to sit up front and had their picture taken. Kelly then announced to the entire audience that they were Army wives and the audience gave them a round of applause.

PHOTO PROVIDED

# MWR Blurbs

## Sam Adams Night

Samuel Adams Beer Dinner & Dancing will be held tonight at the West Point Club from 6 to 10 p.m.

Each course will be paired with a different hand-crafted Samuel Adams beer selection.

Reservations required. For more info., call 938-5120.

## Valentine's Day Dinner/Dance

There will be a Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance at the West Point Club, Thursday, from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Pierce Dining Room.

Treat your sweetheart to a romantic four-course dinner featuring a tantalizing selection of entrees.

For reservations, call 446-5545.

## NYC Valentine's Day Trip

Enjoy a romantic evening in New York City on Valentine's Day with ITR.

Choose from two destinations: Theater District/Times Square or Little Italy/Greenwich Village.

The ITR van leaves West Point at 5 p.m. and returns at 11:30 p.m.

Call 938-3601 for more information.

## Polar Fest

The 2008 Polar Fest returns to the West Point Ski Area Feb. 23 from Noon until 9 p.m. Bring the whole family for a day of downhill races, kids' crafts, a pig roast, a live band and more.

Tickets are on sale at the Ski Sales Office.

There will be free admission to families of deployed Soldiers.

For more info, go to [westpointmwr.com](http://westpointmwr.com).

## Ballroom dancing classes

Don't miss your chance to take on-post ballroom dancing lessons.

Class registration has been extended, but hurry -- registration closes once classes are filled.

Beginners start Monday and advanced starts Tuesday.

All classes are held in Cullum Hall, one class per week for six weeks.

For more information and to register call 938-6127.

## Kennel special

Morgan Farm is offering a February Kennel Special: three nights for the price of two on any three consecutive nights.

Call 938-3926 for more information.

## Community swim hours

Due to cadet programs, Crandall Pool will be closed for community swim Mon., Wed., Feb. 20, 25 and 27.

## Post Library Spring Story hour

The West Point Post Library's Spring Story Hour will be held Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. from Tues. through April 29.

Open to all West Point community children ages 3-5.

Registration required on a weekly basis. For info., stop by the Library or call 938-2974.

## Iraqi school supply drive

Army Community Services is sponsoring a school supply drive for Iraqi children now through March 3.

Supplies will be distributed to schools in the Sadr City, Baghdad area.

Drop off locations: PX, West Point Elementary School and Army Community Service.

Items should be NEW: backpacks, pencils, colored pencils, spiral notebooks, glue, markers, highlighters, loose leaf paper, etc.

For more information contact

ACS' Galatea Badger at 938-5654.

## MWR running groups forming

Get Ready to Run. The MWR Fitness Center announces two new running groups starting in March.

Beginners will work up to two miles and advanced runners will train for the New Jersey Half Marathon.

The groups will be led by certified personal trainer Andrea Ingram. Call 938-6490 to sign up or for more information.

## CYS registration ongoing

Child and Youth Services currently has instructional registration for: Hapkido, Start Smart, Kindergym, Ice Skating, Tennis, Parent and Me and Musical Theater.

See flyers on our CYS Instructional Web site at [www.westpointmwr.com](http://www.westpointmwr.com) for more

information

## West Point Tax Center open

Federal and state income tax preparation is available free of charge for active duty servicemembers, military retirees, and immediate Family Members at the WP Tax Center.

IRS-trained tax preparers are available to answer your questions and file your tax return from 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. and from 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Walk-ins are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, while scheduled appointments are given top priority.

Please call (845) 938-5920 to

schedule an appointment.

## FCC needs child-care providers

Family Child Care is looking for high quality child-care providers to provide child care in their government quarters for authorized Family members of children from four weeks to 12 years of age.

Call 938-3921 for more information and to begin training.

## Tax help

Military OneSource ([www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)) will provide free tax preparation services to servicemembers and their Families for the 2007 tax season.

## Command Channel

### 8/23

Feb. 8 - 15

**FRIDAY**  
 8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
 NOON RCI MEETING  
 1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
 6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
 7 P.M. RCI MEETING

**MONDAY**  
 8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
 NOON RCI MEETING  
 1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
 6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH

**TUESDAY**  
 8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
 1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
 6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
 7 P.M. RCI MEETING

**WEDNESDAY**  
 8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
 NOON RCI MEETING  
 1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
 6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH

**THURSDAY**  
 8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
 9 A.M. RCI MEETING  
 1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
 6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH

**FEB. 15**  
 8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
 1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
 6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
 7 P.M. RCI MEETING

## NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752

Friday -- P.S. I Love You, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday -- One Missed Call, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday -- Aliens vs Predator, R, 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 15 -- The Water Horse: Legend, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 16 -- The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything,

G, 7:30 p.m.

THE THEATER SCHEDULE CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT

[WWW.AAFES.COM](http://WWW.AAFES.COM).

At Your Leisure

**Keller Corner**

and urgent appointments with behavioral health care providers.

Health Net Federal Services operates TRICARE North's Behavioral Health Provider Locator and Appointment Assistance Center. This special call center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., EST, excluding holidays.

All calls to 1-877-747-9579 are confidential and while staff members cannot provide behavioral health services, they can engage the beneficiary in a conference call with a civilian network provider to ensure that appointment scheduling is satisfactory. Active Duty Servicemembers usually receive their behavioral health services at Keller's Community Mental Health Office. Questions about referral and authorization requirements can be answered by the assistance center staff or Keller's health benefits advisors at 845-938-4838.

same way, some need extra help. If you have concerns with your child's communication skills, motor skills, self-help skills, learning, behavior, and/or social interactions please join us at our Free Developmental/Hearing Screenings.

The screenings will be conducted at the Child Development Center in conjunction with Audiology, EDIS, and West Point School for ages birth to 5 years old March 4, from 8:45 a.m. until 1:45 p.m.

By appointment only -- call to schedule at 938-6868/2698.

**Behavioral Health Provider Locator and Appointment Assistance Center**

The TRICARE behavioral health program is making it easier for Active Duty Servicemembers and Active Duty Family Members to get help finding and making routine

**KACH closure**

All outpatient clinics, laboratory, pharmacy and radiology will be closed Feb. 18. The emergency room will remain open.

**Free Developmental/Hearing Screenings**

Not all children develop the

**Community Mayors needed**

Looking for Community Mayors to represent our communities. Areas in need of Mayors are Biddle Loop, Lee Area, Old Brick, Stony II (Enlisted). Call 938-7731.

**Solution to Weekly Sudoku**

8	7	5	3	1	4	2	6	9
4	1	9	5	2	6	3	8	7
6	3	2	9	7	8	4	1	5
7	6	4	1	8	5	9	2	3
2	5	3	6	9	7	8	4	1
1	9	8	4	3	2	5	7	6
5	4	1	2	6	9	7	3	8
9	8	6	7	4	3	1	5	2
3	2	7	8	5	1	6	9	4

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

present  
A Celebration of African American  
History Month

**February 15 - 7:30 p.m.**

Eisenhower Hall Theatre

Featuring the legendary  
tenor saxophonist

**Benny Golson****Free and Open to the Public**

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

**West Point Gospel Choir and the USCC EO Office  
Presents:****Shout!***Expressing Black History and Culture through Art*

Come join us in our Celebration!

Who: West Point and Surrounding Communities

What: African American/Black History Observance

When: February 8, 2008 at 1900 (7PM)

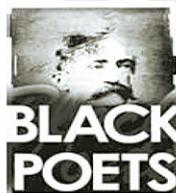
Where: Robinson Auditorium, Thayer Hall

Why: To educate the community on the relationship between Art and Black History

Refreshments will be served at 1800 (6PM)

**\*\*\*Cadets who attend will be exempt from mandatory ESP\*\*\***

Guest Performances by:

**Ms. Jeannine Davis****The ARC Gospel Choir****Harambee Dance Company****BLACK  
POETS**

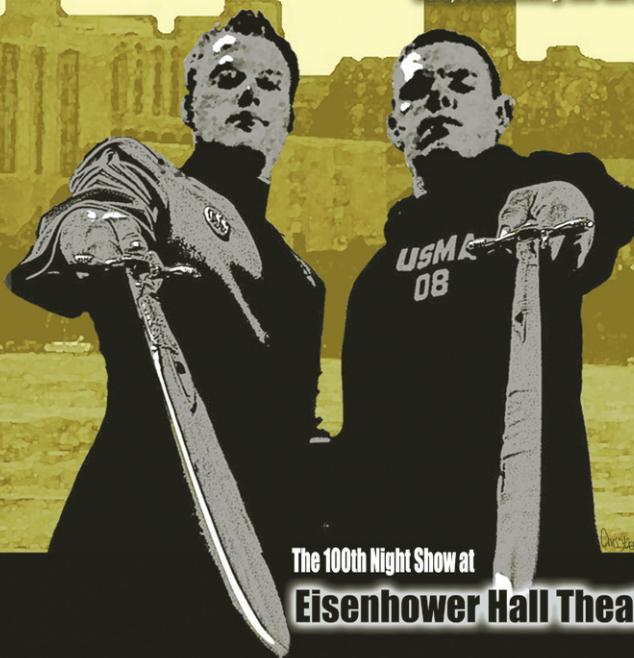
POC: SFC Dotson, EOA, 938-8456

The Class of 2008 Presents

**THE  
SOUTHDOCK  
SAINTS**

Fri, February 22 at 7 pm

Sat, February 23 at 8 pm



The 100th Night Show at

**Eisenhower Hall Theatre**

**ICE RESCUE, cont. from page 6**

the victim and then bring a rope around in front of the person, clip it back and then give a signal (arm bent with fist hitting head three times) which signals the haul team to begin hauling the victim

back to shore," Reilly said. "The rescuer assists the person getting out because everybody may think that it's easy getting out, but the ice shelf is extremely difficult to get yourself up (on to the ice)."

**PREPARE, cont. from page 7**

in your area and their appropriate responses.

The Ready Campaign also issued a checklist of important items that are needed in a basic emergency kit, including water, a flashlight, a radio and batteries, food and personal items. The Ready Campaign kit checklists can be found at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or call 1-800-READY.

In emergency situations such as flash floods, blizzards, terrorist attacks or tornados, things can change quickly. Because of this,

it is important that people take preparedness seriously.

"People should take the time to go through the Emergency Preparedness Web site," Cervantes said. "The site includes links to emergency preparedness in the government as well as information on individual and family preparedness."

For information on emergency preparedness call 845-938-4509.

With the amount of activity that takes place on the waters of West Point such as Lake Frederick, Round Pond and Lake Popolopen, it's important to have these ice rescue safety measures in place.

"Whether it's a recreation activity like skating or ice fishing, it's very important to do this training," Reilly stated. "It's a prevention thing, so we are trained to handle anything with our equipment and our fire apparatus is strategically placed to provide the best coverage."

While there hasn't been an ice incident in the 23 years that Reilly has been here, he cautions those who want to have extreme fun out on the ice surface.

"Two-thirds of all ice-related deaths are machinery related whether it's a snowmobile or an ATV," Reilly said. "If you fall through, you drop like a brick ... it's extremely difficult once you fall through and try to find the hole if you fall deep (into the water) and the thicker the ice the more difficult that becomes."

"Depending on the comfort level the person has in the water and what physical condition the person is in, it still can take a swimmer 60 seconds or less to drown and a non-swimmer 20 seconds or less to drown," he added. "Trauma will take away from that if the person is disoriented, so the odds aren't good."

For the fire department, this

is a great team building exercise, bringing people with different skills together for one common goal.

"This is a team builder and it builds camaraderie," Reilly said. "There are people who have better skills than others, but everyone comes together and supports one another in a favorable manner."

"We have to have people out there to cut (with chainsaws) through the ice and that's a considerable task," he continued. "The entire management, staff who support from a management standpoint, the personnel who support the training, the MPs and the hospital staff who also support -- it's an overall gritty team effort by everyone."

**VALENTINE'S DAY, cont. from page 8**

also looking for a suitable Christian saint of love to take the place of celebrating a date dedicated to Lupercus. He found it in the stories of Saint Valentine.

February 14 was officially designated as Valentine's Day in England during the 18th century when cards and gift-giving became the norm.

The tradition became widespread in the U.S. in 1850 when Esther A. Howland, a Mount Holyoke College graduate from Worcester, Mass., began mass-producing Valentine cards.

Today, according to the Greeting Card Association Web site, [www.greetingcard.org](http://www.greetingcard.org), 25 percent of all cards sent each year are Valentine cards.

Red roses have always been a symbol of love as they were Venus's favorite flower. The color red signifies passionate love, according to [www.dgreetings.com](http://www.dgreetings.com).

The heart sign is also a well-known symbol of love. In Greece, the heart sign, along with a rose depicted the lyre, which is a symbol of Eros, the Greek counterpart to Cupid, the son of the Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite.

Though not a national holiday, Valentine's Day is still celebrated by school children and adults alike by sending cards and giving gifts to people they are fond of, married to or flirting with.

**REMINDER: Valentine's Day is Thursday this year - be prepared.**

# Army and Community Sports

## Taylor juggles boxing, brigade staff position

Story and photos by  
Eric S. Bartelt  
Sports Editor

As the brigade Command Sergeant Major, senior Jarod Taylor has a lot on his mind concerning how the Corps of Cadets is run. Besides that leadership role and the rigorous academic structure of West Point, Taylor's mind is occupied with his most adventurous and elusive goal -- to become a boxing national champion.

Army faced Navy Saturday in boxing at Arvin Gym and came away with a 6-6 tie in 12 fights, and the 139-pound bout featured Taylor versus his nemesis from Navy, junior Antone Aku.

Aku is possibly the only person standing between Taylor and being crowned National Collegiate Boxing Association champion at 139 pounds in 2008. Taylor lost to Aku Saturday in a three-round decision after losing to last year's national runner-up and the 2006 champion during a bout last season.

Taylor believes Aku's strengths match up with his weaknesses, so there are a few things he wants to work on to improve his chances of defeating him.

"My strength is my right hand, but what I have to do better is capitalize on my strengths and get my jab up faster, initiate quicker or start counter-punching so that I can get my left over the top and my right hand down low on the hook," Taylor said. "I didn't get my right hand in enough, not enough to win."

What Taylor wants to do now is strengthen his left hand and get faster, overall, to surprise his Navy opponent next time.

"That's the one guy (Aku) I need to beat," Taylor explained, "because I can beat everybody else all the way to the national championship."

Taylor has grown into his role as a gifted boxer from his boxing infancy after being recruited by Army head boxing coach Ray Barone during plebe boxing to currently being coached by former 1980s All-Army boxer and current Army boxing assistant coach, A-3 TAC NCO Jeffery Mays.

He originally wanted to play rugby, but once he tore his ACL his

plebe year he headed in a different direction.

"I tried to come back (and play rugby), but I couldn't run as fast so boxing picked me up," Taylor said. "I rehabbed myself (during my yearling summer) and came back ready to go. I'm kind of a year behind everybody else in my class, but I guess it worked out okay."

Taylor finished last year as the Brigade Open champion at 139 pounds and also finished with the bronze medal at nationals behind only Aku and last year's champion, Lock Haven's Joshua Mercado.

He credits a lot of his success to his teammate and fellow 139-pounder Alberto Marquez for getting him ready for his bouts.

"We have a really big rivalry going on and we're good friends as well," Taylor said. "But the competition I've had with him has raised me to the next level and that's what got me to where I needed to be last year and this year."

The former 170-pounder, the weight he was when he finished Beast Barracks, makes great sacrifices every week to get ready for his fights.

"Each week, I have to lose 10 pounds a couple of days before a fight, which isn't too bad for a boxer but it's tough when you have a three-day tournament at regionals and nationals when you have to keep the weight off and starve after you win," Taylor stated. "I'm one of the guys who's willing to cut a lot of weight to stay big in the weight class because I'm a tall guy for my weight class."

While he is very proud to have achieved his goal of being brigade CSM, the thing he is most proud of is sticking with the boxing team through his four years.

"A lot of people can't handle the stress of being on the boxing team for that long because of what it does to your body and it messes with your mind too," Taylor said. "The combination of having (CSM duties and boxing) on my plate at the same time and being able to balance school work, friends, my parents and everything else and juggle them at the same time is incredible."

Taylor's experience is unique -- his parents live near West Point. His dad, Sgt. 1st Class Alvin Taylor Jr., is the chaplain's assistant to



Senior Jarod Taylor (right) faced his nemesis from Navy, junior Antone Aku, Saturday at Arvin Gym and lost to him in a three-round decision.

Chaplain John Cook, U.S. Military Academy chaplain, and Jarod tries to see him once a week if possible, although he tries to limit it to that because he wants to focus on his responsibilities.

"The biggest adjustment for me was when they (my parents) got here because they used to live far away in Germany," Taylor said. "I try to see them once a week, either Saturday or Sunday, and I do that only so I can focus on what

I need to do and they understand that now."

The future infantry officer became hooked on West Point when he attended the Invitational Academic Workshop (now known as the Summer Leaders Seminar) during the summer before his senior year of high school. He liked it because he could tell that Army, specifically West Point, was

focused on leadership and people more than the Air Force Academy, to which he also applied.

"I'm a people person when it comes down to it, although I may not seem very personable as the brigade command sergeant major," Taylor said. "But, that's why I choose the infantry branch -- because it was important for me

See TAYLOR on page 15



Senior Jarod Taylor takes his place on the Plain during the Acceptance Day Review.

## Sports calendar

Feb. 8 - Feb. 17

### Corps

- FRIDAY -- MTEN vs. STONY BROOK, LITC, 4 P.M.
- FRI. -- HOCKEY vs. HOLY CROSS, TATE RINK, 7:05 P.M.
- SATURDAY -- WTEN vs. STONY BROOK, LITC, 9 A.M.
- SAT. -- RIFLE @ NAVY, ANNAPOLIS, MD., 9 A.M.
- SAT. -- MBB vs. COLGATE, CHRISTL ARENA, 1 P.M.
- SAT. -- MLAX vs. UMASS (SCRIMMAGE), MICHIE STADIUM, 1 P.M.
- SAT. -- WBB @ COLGATE, HAMILTON, N.Y., 2 P.M.
- SAT. -- GYMNASTICS @ NAVY, ANNAPOLIS, MD., 3 P.M.
- SAT. -- WTEN vs. FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON, LITC, 4 P.M.
- SAT. -- HOCKEY vs. HOLY CROSS, TATE RINK, 7:05 P.M.
- SUNDAY -- MTEN & WTEN vs. UCONN, LITC, 9 A.M. & NOON.
- WEDNESDAY -- MBB vs. HOLY CROSS, CHRISTL ARENA, 7 P.M.
- FEB. 15 -- HOCKEY vs. AIC, TATE RINK, 7:05 P.M.
- FEB. 16 -- MLAX vs. VMI, MICHIE STADIUM, 1 P.M.
- FEB. 16 -- WBB vs. LEHIGH, CHRISTL ARENA, (ESPNU), 2 P.M.
- FEB. 17 -- GYMNASTICS @ ALL-ACADEMY CHAMPIONSHIPS IN LAGUNA, CALIF., 10 P.M.
- FEB. 17 -- WRESTLING vs. LEHIGH, CHRISTL ARENA, 4 P.M.

### Club

- FRIDAY -- PISTOL, COLLEGIATE MATCH, TMC, 4 P.M.
- FRI. -- WOMEN'S TEAM HANDBALL ARMY BLACK vs. ARMY GOLD, 5:30 P.M., ACPDC, 2ND FLOOR
- SATURDAY -- PISTOL, COLLEGIATE MATCH, TMC, 8 A.M.
- SAT. -- WTHB HOSTS LAURA WALKER INVITATIONAL, TWO ARMY TEAMS vs. HOUSTON, UNC AND CORTLAND, ACPDC 2ND & 4TH FLOORS, FROM 8:30 A.M. UNTIL 2:15 P.M. WITH A 3RD vs. 4TH PLACE GAME AT 3:30 P.M. (2ND FLOOR) AND A BRONZE MEDAL GAME AT 5 P.M. (2ND FLOOR).
- SAT. -- BOXING HOSTS ARMY INVITATIONAL (vs. COAST GUARD ACADEMY, LOCK HAVEN, SHIPPENSBURG, MARYLAND AND NAVY), ACPDC BOXING ROOM, 2 P.M.
- SUNDAY -- WTHB LAURA WALKER INVITE CHAMPIONSHIP 2 P.M., ACPDC 2ND FLOOR.

# VOTE ARMY HOCKEY

WEST POINT -- Army Hockey supporters and the entire West Point community have two chances to help our players get recognized in national venues.

Army senior forward Luke Flicek is among the 66 players who have been nominated to participate in the 2008 Frozen Four Skills Challenge, the NCAA announced Monday.

Fans can select the six players and two goalies that will represent the men's and women's East and West teams during the skills showcase. Voting is open until February 14 and can be done online at [www.ncaasports.com/icehockey/mens/fanpolls](http://www.ncaasports.com/icehockey/mens/fanpolls).

The original list of 166 players was trimmed to 66 by a selection committee and the votes for the final 16 participants will be factored in when the final roster is chosen in mid-February, the NCAA said.

The Frozen Four Skills Challenge will be held April 11



Senior forward Bryce Hollweg.

PV PHOTO BY PAUL RADER

at the Pepsi Center in Denver and will be held in conjunction with the announcement of the Hobey Baker Memorial Award winner, the Hockey Humanitarian Award

and the American Hockey Coaches All-American teams.

Three of Army's hockey players -- Flicek, senior forward Bryce Hollweg and sophomore forward Owen Meyer -- are finalists for the Hobey Baker Award at [www.hobeybaker.com/ballot](http://www.hobeybaker.com/ballot).

The first phase of fan balloting runs through March 9. Phase two of fan balloting begins March 20 from the list of Top 10 Hobey Baker finalists. Fan votes account for 1 percent of the total ballot in each phase in the selections process.

The award is essentially the hockey equivalent of the Heisman Trophy for collegiate hockey. There is no limit on the number of votes that can be cast.

Army is 11-12-3 overall and in second place in the Atlantic Hockey Association with an 11-7-2 record. The Black Knights will continue their home stand and host Holy Cross tonight and Saturday at 7:05 p.m., at Tate Rink.

## Army vs. Navy -- Men's Basketball

Feb. 23, 2 p.m., at Christl Arena. Game will be televised nationally on CBS.

**TAYLOR, cont.**

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to take care of people, my Soldiers.”

Taylor is excited about joining the officer ranks and realizes boxing has helped him tremendously toward becoming a mentally strong officer.

“I think boxing is a preparation for it because it builds the warrior mindset,” Taylor stated. “We’re not so focused on winning too much to realize it’s really the mentality that we’re trying to develop to become better future officers.”

Taylor’s coaches, Barone and Mays, see something special in him as Mays sees great leadership characteristics in ‘JT’ and that he’s not afraid to hear criticism and doesn’t shy away from responsibility. Barone, himself a retired Lt. Col., feels that Taylor will one day occupy the same seat currently held by Brig. Gen. Robert Caslen.

“In 20 years, he’ll be the commandant at the academy because he does very well academically, he’s well rounded militarily and physically,” said Barone, who also said Taylor’s tenaciousness is his best quality in the ring. “He’s a good leader and the other guys on the team like him, so he has all the right attributes to do extremely well in the Army.”