

Proposed revised NSPS regulation

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Department of Defense and the Office of Personnel Management have issued proposed regulations revising the National Security Personnel System.

Within two years, more employees, more than 181,500, have transitioned to NSPS than are employed by any government agency except the Department of Veterans Affairs.

NSPS was authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 and amended further in the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2008 signed into law on Jan. 28, 2008.

"Since January, the Program Executive Office, NSPS has been working diligently to update the regulations," said Brad Bunn, Program Executive Officer, NSPS. "These updates align regulations with NDAA 2008, as well as adjust and clarify regulations to ensure uniform and consistent application of NSPS program principles."

While Congress made significant changes to the underlying NSPS statute, the core features of NSPS that the Department has implemented to more than 181,500 employees remain essentially intact, including the pay banding and classification structure, compensation flexibilities and pay for performance system.

NDAA 2008:

- Brings NSPS under government-wide rules for:

- labor-management relations
- disciplinary actions and employee appeals of adverse actions

- workforce shaping (reduction in force, furlough and transfer of function)

- Excludes Federal Wage System (blue collar) employees from coverage under NSPS

- Extends and expands exclusion from NSPS coverage for

certain DOD laboratories through Oct. 1, 2011

- Requires DOD to collectively bargain procedures and appropriate arrangements for bringing DOD bargaining unit employees under NSPS prior to conversion of these employees

- Requires advanced Congressional notification for OPM/DOD jointly-prescribed NSPS regulations

- Mandates that all employees with a performance rating above "unacceptable" or those who do not have a current performance rating receive no less than sixty percent of the annual Government-wide General Schedule pay increase (with the balance allocated to pay pool funding for the purpose of rewarding employees for their performance)

- Requires that all NSPS employees with a performance rating above "unacceptable" or who do not have a current performance rating receive locality pay in the same manner as GS employees.

In addition to making regulation changes resulting from NDAA 2008, additional updates that adjust and clarify other NSPS principles include:

- Enabling NSPS coverage for employees appointed for less than 90 days

- Provision of Conversion/Movement Out Process for employees moving to GS positions, to ensure consistent pay setting practices for NSPS employees

- Allowing employees to request reconsideration of an individual job objective rating, in addition to the ability to request reconsideration of the overall final rating of record

- Grandfathering GS pay retention timeframes for employees covered by GS grade or pay retention rules at the time of their conversion to NSPS

In January 2008, the PEO NSPS

See NSPS, page 4



Taking the oath

Members of the U.S. Military Academy Class of 2008 receive the oath of office from the Commandant of the U.S. Corps of Cadets, Brig. Gen. Michael Linnington. Of the class of 972 graduates, 958 took the oath today. The other 14 graduates are foreign cadets, who will return to their respective countries to serve. The class included 148 women, 57 African Americans, 69 Asian/Pacific Islanders, 56 Hispanics and 12 Native Americans. There are 138 members who also attended the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School, Fort Monmouth, N.J. -- 114 men and 24 women.

SPC. VINCENT FUSCO/PAO

R-Day Rehearsal Volunteers Needed BE A CADET FOR A DAY

June 27 from 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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

The rehearsal starts promptly at 10 a.m. and is scheduled to continue until approximately 1 p.m.

Buses will transport volunteers from Eisenhower Hall to the Cadet Central Area.

All volunteers must be between the ages of 13 and 55 and dressed in proper seasonal attire.

They should bring one piece of luggage or a duffel bag.

Lunch will not be provided, but volunteers may bring a snack and a bottle of water.

After the rehearsal, volunteers will be offered light refreshments and awarded personalized certificates.

To register, call George King or Don Mercier at 845-938-2904/4117.

INSIDE



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What is child abuse?

By Shelley Ariosto
Family Advocacy

Most adults can agree that child abuse (physical, emotional, sexual and child neglect) occurs all too often and sometimes with deadly results.

There is less agreement about the fine line between discipline and abuse. This article is intended to provide the community with some basic guidelines.

Discipline is designed to help children learn, control and change their behavior. The purpose is to encourage and guide moral, physical and intellectual development and a sense of responsibility. Parents and other significant adults in a child's life teach this purpose through their words and their actions, the consistency of family routine and natural/logical consequences that are a part of our daily lives.

This results in a trusting, mutually respectful relationship between a parent and a child. Children will do the right thing because they have internalized a standard presented and reinforced by their parents. Misbehavior is an opportunity to teach appropriate behavior, as well as provide meaningful consequences.

Abuse is characterized by its orientation toward expressing the

negative feelings of the parent through excessive physical and/or verbal actions towards a child's behavior. Abuse scares a child into submission, briefly stops an unwanted behavior and teaches a child what NOT to do instead of what to do.

Often, parents will use physical abuse because they do not know what else to do. Examples of physical abuse are hitting a child with a belt, slapping, grabbing and shoving, etc. Emotional abuse takes the form of name calling, threatening, berating or violent acts that may not cause observable injury. These can all lead to more serious abuse.

What can you do? Put yourself in a timeout. Take a deep breath and think before you say or do anything. Ask yourself, "Am I the kind of person I would like my child to be?" Listen to the child.

If you suspect child abuse/neglect, call the MP Desk at 938-3333 and report what you see and hear. If you would like more information on child discipline, child development or other parenting questions, contact Family Advocacy, 938-3369, or contact Military One Source at 1-800-342-9647.

Remember, kids are people too and they deserve our best.

Come Celebrate the Army's 233rd Birthday!

On June 13, the West Point Community will celebrate the Army's 233rd Birthday with a ceremony starting at 3 p.m. at the FMWR Child Development Center to include a presentation of the Army flag, a cake cutting and a very special story time for children with a story that will be read by Brig. Gen. Michael Linnington, Commandant of Cadets.

The event is free and open to the entire West Point Community. Cake and refreshments will be served.

Sharing the road -- cars and motorcycles

By Bob Van Elsberg
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

The Army remains steadfast in its commitment to foster an environment of responsible motorcycle riding by providing Soldiers the education and tools to help prevent accidents and stay safe on the road.

One aspect of motorcycle safety, however, is often beyond riders' control.

"We teach Soldiers the skills to ride safely and tell them what to wear to protect themselves physically but, unfortunately, we cannot protect them from distracted or inattentive motorists," said Lt.

Col. Roy Templin, driving task force chief, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration statistics indicate motorcycle fatalities nationwide have more than doubled during the last 10 years. According to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, more than half of all fatal motorcycle accidents involve another vehicle. Most of the time, the motorist, not the motorcyclist is at fault.

To help educate non-motorcyclists, the MSF developed www.forcardrivers.com, a Web site designed for motorists to enhance traffic safety.

The site offers tips such as, *Ten*

Things All Car & Truck Drivers Should Know About Motorcycles, and provides video downloads to help car drivers learn how to safely share the road with motorcyclists.

"This information helps build motorcycle awareness among the non-riding community and emphasizes the importance of sharing the road," Templin said. "Teaching drivers to be more aware of motorcycle traffic is as important as Soldiers practicing safe riding skills and will ultimately save lives."

For more information on the 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign and Army's Motorcycle Mentorship Program, visit <https://crc.army.mil>.

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 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

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

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

Difficulty: Easy

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

SOLUTION, see page 10

POINTER VIEW

Lt. Gen.
Buster Hagenbeck,
Superintendent

Col. Bryan Hilferty,
Director of Communications

Linda L. Mastin
Acting Chief,
Command Info.

Linda Mastin
Editor, 938-2015
Eric S. Bartelt
Asst. Editor, 938-3883
Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer, 938-3684



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Local and National News

Transition to new travel credit cards in November

Submitted by DRM

The Army will transition all Government Travel Credit Cards to a new vendor -- Citibank -- Nov. 30, which requires the issuance of new TDY Travel Cards to travelers on or before the above date.

The current TDY Travel Credit Card contract between the Army and Bank of America expires Nov. 29.

In preparation for this transition, the DA Travel Card Program manager has instructed Army Travel Card Agency/Organization Program Coordinators to prepare by:

- closing unused accounts
- bringing delinquent balances up to date
- consolidating accounts where possible
- following up on invalid mailing addresses
- publicizing this transition to all Army travel credit card holders.

The USMA Travel Card program consists of two components -- the Individually Billed Accounts

-- these credit cards are issued to travelers in their own name, for which they are personally responsible, and the Centrally Billed Accounts or Unit Cards.

The entity accountable for centrally billed transactions is the organization.

Both types of accounts will transition to Citibank.

Below are some frequently asked questions about the change.

For answers to specific questions, contact your DRM Agency Program Coordinator:

- Patty Catello at 938- 6508, if you are a Mission cardholder
- Zaida Claudio at 938-3115 if you are a Garrison cardholder
- Lisa Killough at 938-6651 if you are at MEDDAC/DENTAC.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What is going to change with the new vendor?

How about the credit limits?

Answer: Very little, if anything will change for the cardholders regarding use of the card. Since the new card will also be VISA

branded, you'll have the same worldwide charging privileges that you now have.

Credit limits will remain the same and A/OPCs will have the authority to raise limits to meet mission requirements.

There are some new things on the horizon for both the APC and cardholder to include a new electronic access system with a built-in audit tool to manage accounts, on-line application process, flexibility in managing merchant category codes and a dedicated customer service team in place at contract inception.

Question: What do cardholders have to do to get ready?

Answer: Pay all outstanding undisputed charges prior to Nov. 29, 2008. Ensure that your mailing address on file with Bank of America is a current address.

Question: What accounts will transfer to CiTi?

Will current BoA cards that are closed due to inactivity be transferred?

Will I have to fill out a new application?

Answer: Only open accounts will transfer and that includes deactivated accounts.

Closed accounts will not transfer.

No new application will be required for accounts that transfer from Bank of America.

Question: How and when are the new cards going to be distributed and when will they be sent out?

What will I have to do when I get my new card?

Answer: Cards will begin shipping July 31 and continue in two-week increments through Aug. 21, 2008. USMA cards will

be bulk shipped to the USMA A/OPC (Patty Catello).

DRM will make arrangements to have the cards delivered to you at your duty location. Cards will be shipped in a deactivated state not available for charging.

Cardholders will be required to call CiTi to confirm receipt of the card. The card will be activated by CiTi for use on Nov. 30, 2008.

Question: What happens if I try to use my CiTi card prior to November 30, 2008?

Answer: The charge will decline and a report of the attempt will be sent to your APC.

TSP TICKER

JUNE changes (as of 06/04)	
C FUND	-1.57 percent
I FUND	-1.58 percent
S FUND	-0.66 percent

10th Mountain "Polar Bears" are summer task force

By Eric S. Bartelt

It may not feel like the arctic or Fort Drum during the winter, for that matter, but the "Polar Bears" are coming to West Point for the summer to help train cadets.

The 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment from 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, also known as the "Polar Bears," started arriving Tuesday as part of this summer's task force for Cadet Summer Training.

The task force will remain here until the last element returns to Fort Drum, N.Y., the last week of August.

According to Maj. Brock Jones, Department of Military Instruction's Chief of Military Training, the 4-31st Inf. Regt. will have somewhere between 700 to 1,100 Soldiers throughout the summer under its control.

"At any given time in a surge it can get up to 1,100, but normally I

would say it'll be nearer to 700 to 800 Soldiers here," Jones said.

The battalion will be augmented by a field artillery battery and engineer company from Fort Drum. However, outside of a couple of sections and groups from other installations, Fort Drum Soldiers make up the majority of the force.

The fact that a cohesive unit comes to West Point to train cadets with its considerable experience is a key to what should be a successful summer.

"We're really happy to have them coming this summer because they bring real world, fresh training practices that were being utilized in Iraq," Jones said. "Bringing them here, we're giving the cadets exposure to the latest unit that just returned from a 15-month deployment in Iraq."

Jones has extensive knowledge of this unit as he served with them through those 15 months until they returned stateside in November. He

was the battalion executive officer for 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, which is the "sister battalion," as Jones called it, of the 4-31st Inf. Regt.

"They are a class unit," Jones remarked. "They were operating in the area known as the 'Sunni Triangle' or the 'Triangle of Death,' but they were one of the lead battalions in an area that had never had U.S. Forces operating on a continual basis.

"I don't want to seem too biased, but the 4-31st Inf. Regt. is a class unit and I know a lot of the NCOs and officers there and know exactly what they did (in Iraq)," he added, "and they are definitely a professional unit that's going to come down here and do great things. I would go back there and serve with them in a heartbeat."

The task force will be the executors of the summer training plan, which is going to 11 weeks this summer and eventually to 12

weeks in future summers.

Summer training will have a little added flair this year as the task force will have something new on its plate as will the cadets participating in the summer training.

The "Polar Bears" will do some training of their own as they will have a mortar live fire during the summer, which is something that has never been done before at West Point.

"It's a 120-millimeter mortar; it's the new mortar system that supports the infantry," Jones explained. "We worked with range control to work that in, so they'll be able to shoot the 120-millimeter mortar system here."

Now the cadets will see some changes to their training, probably not so much for the rising Yearlings who participate in Cadet Field Training but new cadets in Cadet Basic Training and the rising Firsties will see something new.

The new cadets will potentially,

dependent on the weather conditions that day, air mobile to the site for Operation Rising Storm, the final event before Marchback.

"We plan to do a huge air mobile with elements from the 10th Mountain and they will provide the aviation and will fly the cadets from here at USMA proper to the training areas," said Maj. Jimmy Kleager, DMI Cadet Summer Training Operations Officer. "It's a new event we're doing this year and will be a great way to end CBT II and Operation Rising Storm, which is the culminating event for the new cadets where they spend five days in the field with pure tactical stuff and to show them the field side of the Army."

This year will see a new twist in summer training as the rising Firsties get another chance at field experience with the newly implemented Cadet Leader

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NSPS, cont. from page 1

convened working groups to revise the regulations.

Staffed by DOD and OPM human resources subject matter experts, the regulations were amended and coordinated with senior officials within DOD and with OPM for approval prior to formal coordination and publication in the Federal Register.

The NSPS draft enabling regulation is posted on the Federal Register and will be open for public comment for the next 30 days. The draft regulation may be accessed on line via <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.

The public may submit written

comments through two methods:

- Electronically through the Federal Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>
- Via mail to: DOD/OPM/NSPS Public Comments, PO Box 14474, Washington, DC 20044.

Following the 30-day comment period, remarks will be collected, analyzed and considered for incorporation in the regulations as applicable and coordinated within DOD and with OPM and OMB with final publication anticipated this fall.

The updated NSPS regulations more specifically govern how retained classification,

compensation and performance management flexibilities will be implemented. NSPS retains the core values of the civil service, including merit systems principles and veterans' preference and allows employees to be paid and rewarded based on performance, innovation and results.

"NSPS continues to be a top priority for the Department, and our implementation plans remain

on schedule," Bunn said, adding, "We will continue implementation throughout DOD, with the next Commands converting into NSPS between the fall of 2008 and spring of 2009."

NSPS promotes a management culture in which employee performance and contributions are linked to DOD's vital mission and more fully recognized and rewarded.

TASK FORCE, cont. from page 4

Development Training event. It will be a three-week training event that will be focused in two areas: troop leading procedures and leadership in a tactical environment.

"It will be 18-19 days of field training where they will go through a series of training events all based on the contemporary operating environment in Afghanistan and Iraq, and they will execute it in a training and teaching atmosphere," Jones said. "The key to this event is leadership. We've invested a lot into them and the task force will also be a big part to make sure that down at the squad level every leader will be trained or have someone there who is overseeing their operation and day-to-day execution.

"The beauty of CLDT is it's very focused, and focused in the

sense that we have them in the field to do troop leading procedures and that's a very important part of the leadership piece," he added. "In the past, a cadet's last field experience was as a rising sophomore, but now they will take everything they have learned in all their military science classes and military training and this will become their culminating event in the field to see how they are doing."

It's a win-win situation to get the cadets out training the summer before they graduate, so they aren't far removed from the experience of an operation order and such.

This will be even more beneficial considering they will be supervised by a task force with much depth and experience.

That experience the task force

brings will also benefit the new cadets, who will get a chance to talk with battle-tested Soldiers.

"It's a great experience for them to see the quality and caliber of Soldiers and noncommissioned officers that they'll be interacting with and leading in the future," Jones said.

Kleager added, "It's a win-win situation when Soldiers start talking about their experiences, the cadets migrate toward them and start asking them questions and picking their minds of what they will be doing three or four years down the road. It helps develop cadets a lot more as they open up in an informal way ... it's a better relationship to talk informally and the cadets love that and the Soldiers like to tell their stories."

Rolling Thunder rolling through

On Sunday, the New York Chapter III of Rolling Thunder Incorporated will conduct its annual *Salute to Veterans Ride* to the Veteran's Memorial at Memorial Park in Highland Falls.

They will gather at the West Point Mint at about 12:30 p.m. and then receive a Military Police escort through Washington Gate and through the installation on Washington Road and out Thayer Gate from about 12:45-1 p.m. There will be approximately 350 motorcycles.

A wreath laying ceremony will happen at Memorial Park after they reach there.

West Point residents may want to avoid using Washington Gate and Washington Road during this time to avoid delays and use caution if viewing the group's progress through post.

Getting ready for installation mass casualty exercise

A Mass Casualty Exercise will be conducted June 19 to assess West Point's first responders' abilities in reacting to any incident involving a large number of casualties.

The exercise will involve not only Keller Army Community Hospital, but all the various activities within the Directorates of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security and Emergency Services and a number of outside personnel from the surrounding communities.

DPTMS has an excellent 30-minute emergency awareness video available for downloading on its Web site at <http://www-internal.usma.edu/training.html>.

They suggest that West Point organizations use June 17 as a training day to review all types of emergency preparedness materials and ensure that all members of the workforce are aware of the organization's emergency plans, building and office evacuation routes and shelter-in-place plans prior to the mass casualty exercise.

Members of the DPTMS staff are available to review materials with organizations on this date.

For additional information or DPTMS assistance in this training, contact Henry Cervantes at 938-4509.

Community Features and Photos

Cemetery tour inspires future leadership

Story and photos by
Spc. Vincent Fusco
PAO

Many headstones in the West Point Cemetery have traditional stones placed upon them by people who did not want the fallen to be forgotten.

More stones were left last week as yearling cadets took part in a tour of the cemetery organized by the Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic.

The tour was conducted to share with cadets lessons of leadership from the recently deceased and historical figures of the West Point tradition, according to Col. Douglas Boone, Simon Center director.

"We came here to talk about the individuals of West Point who had an impact on the Long Gray Line," Boone said.

The yearlings, who are halfway through their four-year education, are asked to formally commit to serve their country as commissioned officers before they can start their third year.

The goal of the tour is to educate, train and provide inspiration to the cadets from those who have gone before them and left a legacy.

To help bring the awareness of the cadets' profession of arms, 16 sites were put together from four groups: historical figures, such

as Custer and Thayer; mid-term officers, from majors to colonels; recent war dead from lieutenants up to captains; and non-graduate personalities such as physical education coaches and directors.

To assist in the tour and learn more about the cemetery, volunteer Cows served as tour guides to the yearling class, Boone said.

Friends, family and people inspired by these individuals volunteered to share their time and experience on how their lives were affected by those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

The testimonials given were varied in perspective: Lt. Col. John Graham Jr., Behavioral Sciences and Leadership professor, with his son, John III, talked about his father, Capt. John Graham Sr., and doing his part during the Vietnam War.

Then there was Capt. Kafi Joseph, admissions officer, who shared memories about her 2003 classmate, 1st Lt. Laura Walker, and Class of 2005 graduate 2nd Lt. Emily Perez.

Walker came from a lineage of West Point alumni and was the first female graduate killed during the Global War on Terrorism in Dalek, Afghanistan, Aug. 18, 2005.

This is the third year the tour has been conducted for the yearlings, and is the first to be held during

graduation week, Boone said. It is a time when strenuous academic studies wind down and the cadets have an opportunity to think about their own futures as they witness a class of new officers emerge from the campus.

Yearling Wes Cochrane from Company A-1 found the tour enlightening and understood how "every gravestone is like a person" by hearing stories of family life, life as cadets and how they cared about people.

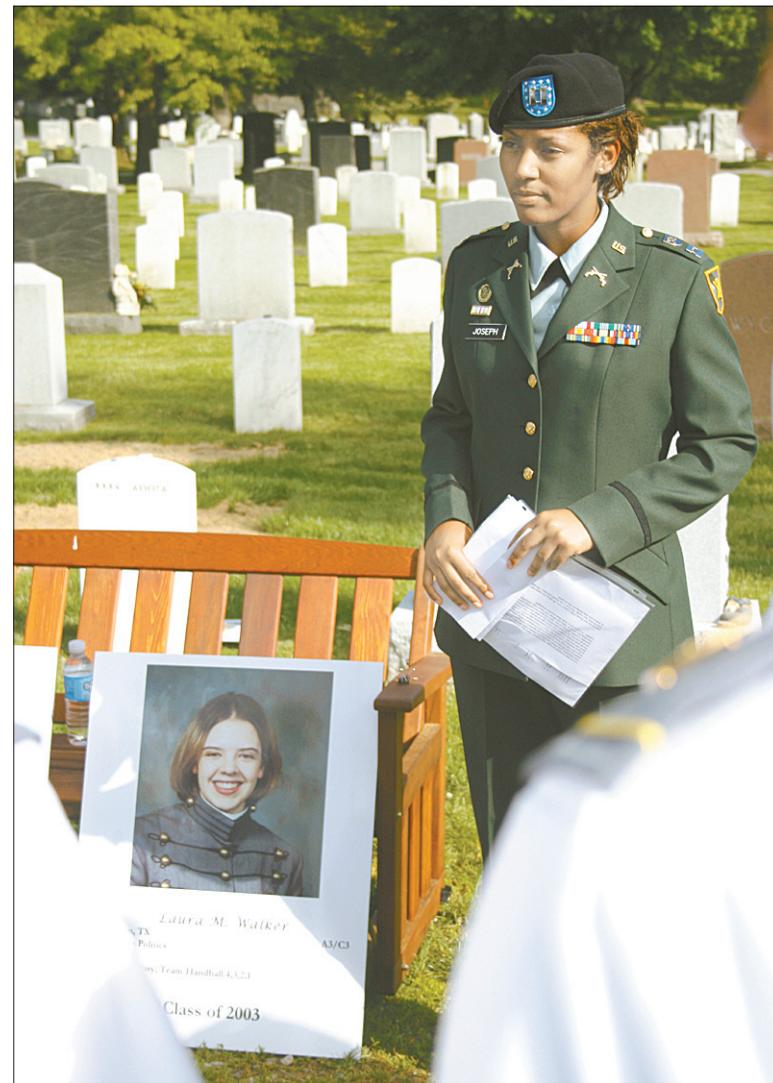
"When I do die, I do want to be able to bless other people (as they have)," Cochrane said.

One of the things Cochrane took from the tour was how the stories talked about those who "finished the race, and finished it well," such as Capt. Dennis Pintor, a 1998 graduate killed in Iraq Oct. 12, 2004.

"He cared so much about people," Cochrane said. "It was nice to hear about somebody who wasn't selfish in life."

The Simon Center intends to continue the program for future classes during graduation week, so that when cadets look either to the stadium or the cemetery, they can feel proud to serve in the tradition of leadership.

"When we finish here, we want them to be inspired to be a part of the Long Gray Line," Boone said.



Capt. Kafi Joseph, admissions officer, shares memories about her 2003 classmate, 1st Lt. Laura Walker, during a tour at the West Point Cemetery May 30. The tour was organized by the Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic to educate, train and inspire the yearlings to consider their future in the military and the role leadership will play in their lives.



Maj. Matthew Zais, Department of Social Sciences instructor, talks with yearling cadets about his 1997 classmate, Capt. Michael McKinnon, at his grave during a tour at the West Point Cemetery May 30.



Lt. Col. John Graham Jr., Behavioral Sciences and Leadership assistant professor, brings the yearling cadets in to share the lessons he learned from his father, Capt. John Graham Sr., who died in the Vietnam War.

Marcus -- A Soldier for all humanity

Compiled by Kathy Eastwood

As Israel celebrates its 60th year of independence, a West Point graduate is also remembered for his role in the U.S. and Israeli Armies.

The 42nd annual Col. David (Mickey) Marcus (class of 1924), memorial service was held at the Jewish Chapel here and included a wreath laying at his grave site at the West Point cemetery May 18.

The memorial service honors Marcus, the first Soldier buried at West Point who died fighting for another country.

The service was attended by more than 100 people including the Marcus Family with Maj. Carlos Huerta, Rabbi and U.S. Military Academy Jewish Chaplain giving the invocation.

Other guests included Benjamin Krasna, Deputy Consul General of Israel in New York and MSNBC analyst and Medal of Honor recipient Col. (Ret) Jack Jacobs, who gave a Soldier's view of Israel at 60 years of independence.

"(Mickey Marcus) was what most of us Soldiers would want to be," Huerta said. "A Soldier who was smart enough to know (what is) right and possessing the moral and physical courage to do it. On his tombstone it states "Colonel David Marcus -- A Soldier for All Humanity" and I cannot think of a higher attribute to be known by, a servant for all humanity. Sort of like a Mother Theresa in uniform."

David Daniel Marcus was born in New York Feb. 22, 1902. His parents emigrated from Romania, escaping the rampant anti-Semitism that swept across Eastern Europe at the close of the 19th century, according to the historynet.com Web site.

Marcus was a great student in high school and an athlete, which helped him gain an appointment to West Point in 1920, the same year that Brig. Gen. Douglas MacArthur was superintendent.

At West Point, he was an outstanding athlete and participated in boxing and football. After graduation, he was assigned to Governor's Island in New York Harbor and went to night school to study law.

He resigned his regular commission in 1927 and worked as

a law clerk in New York. He joined the Judge Advocate General's Corps in 1939, having maintained his reserve commission.

Marcus became the chief of planning for the War Department's Civil Affairs Division and stayed there for much of World War II, although he did manage to finagle a trip to Normandy by convincing his commanding officer to send him to London on temporary duty.

It helped that the 101st commander, Maj. Gen. Maxwell Taylor (class of 1922) was a fellow cadet classmate. Parachuting into Normandy on D-Day was the first time that Marcus and one other Soldier had jumped.

By 1946, Marcus headed the Pentagon's War Crimes Division which was responsible for choosing the judges, prosecutors and lawyers for war crime trials in Germany and Japan. He attended the Nuremberg trial because he wanted to be sure there was documentation of Nazi atrocities for generations to come.

In 1947, Maj. Shimo Shamir, who represented the Provisional Jewish Government, approached Marcus to recruit a military expert to organize and train an Army for the soon-to-be state of Israel.

Instead of looking for someone,

Marcus decided he would be a good candidate and flew to Palestine in January 1948 under the name of Michael Stone. In reviewing the Israeli fighting force, Marcus realized the Israeli force was lacking in a unified command.

The future Prime Minister, Ben-Gurion, promoted Marcus to Brigadier General and appointed him Commander of the Jerusalem front, which made him the first Jewish Soldier to hold that rank in 2,100 years. While in Israel, Marcus wrote training manuals and converted goat trails into passable roads through the rocky landscape.

The night before a cease fire was to begin June 11, 1948, Marcus and his staff celebrated in Abu Ghosh, eight miles from Jerusalem. Marcus, who was not able to sleep, wrapped himself in a sheet and took a walk.

A sentry challenged the figure and Marcus answered in English, which was not understood by the sentry. As Marcus kept walking, the sentry shot him through the heart.

Marcus was the last casualty before the cease-fire took affect and was buried at West Point July 2, 1948, 28 years after he first reported as a plebe July 2, 1920.



Ramona Fastow, USMA Class of 2005, places a stone on top of Col. David (Mickey) Marcus' headstone during a 2005 memorial service here. The annual memorial service honors Marcus, the first Soldier buried at West Point who died fighting for another country.

ERIC S. BARTELT/PV

By Eric S. Bartelt

Ominous gray skies and rain didn't darken or dampen the U.S. Military Academy Class of 2008's special day as 972 cadets graduated at Michie Stadium Saturday.

Approximately 79 percent of the class that entered West Point four years ago heeded their class motto, "No Mission Too Great," and are now members of the Long Gray Line.

West Point's 210th graduating class sat stoically as the Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, the 2008 commencement speaker, spoke of the turbulent times ahead for this class.

Geren, who was present at the Pentagon on 9/11 when terrorists struck the military's grand fortress, thanked the cadets and their families for their service and was humbled by their sacrifice when they had many more options.

"I stand before you as a grateful citizen representing a grateful nation," Geren said. "(You) could have gone anywhere to college and had (your) choice of careers.

"Today (you) could be accepting a diploma and a lucrative job offer instead of a commission in the United States Army," Geren added. "But (you) chose the path of Duty, Honor, Country."

Geren spoke of many important men who shaped the history of the

academy or graduates that shaped the destiny of America through their exemplary work. Two men he quoted extensively during his speech were presidents Thomas Jefferson and John F. Kennedy.

Jefferson established West Point in 1802, which became one of the foundations of leadership in America. Geren mentioned that Jefferson understood even then the advancement of liberty and religious beliefs and those were some of his greatest achievements.

"Jefferson's ideal of religious freedom and individual liberty stands in stark contrast to the malignant vision of religious oppression and the murderous practices of the Taliban and al-Qaida," Geren explained. "Your sons and daughters are fighting to protect our citizens and people around the world from zealots who would "restrain," "molest," "burden" and cause to "suffer" those who do not share their religious beliefs, deny us, whom they call "infidels," our inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Then Geren spoke of Kennedy's speech that he made to the Class of 1962 at their graduation 46 years ago. He noted phrases from the speech that succinctly summed up today's life in Iraq and Afghanistan:

"Your military responsibilities

will require a versatility and an adaptability never before required in either war or in peace."

"This is another type of war ... war by guerrillas, subversives, insurgents and assassins. War by ambush instead of combat ... seeking victory by eroding and exhausting (us) rather than engaging (us)."

"Your posture and performance will provide the local population with the only evidence of what our country is really like."

Every word spoken by Kennedy during the days of the Cold War and on the cusp of America's full engagement in Vietnam still rings true today in different lands across the world.

Geren took time out to remember the sacrifices made within the last year by West Point graduates as 11 grads gave their lives since last May's graduation. With those sacrifices in mind, he talked about the importance of their oath and becoming second lieutenants.

"There is always a personal cost in your profession of arms," Geren remarked. "It is your willingness to bear that cost that ennobles you, your calling and this gathering."

"Regardless of how long you wear the uniform, one thing never will change," he added, "you are a leader and the well-being of Soldiers will be in your hands."

The new second lieutenants will

Graduation 2008: "No Mission Too Great"

not be deterred in their commitment to uphold America's "transcendent ideal" of liberty and are excited to move on to the next stage of their lives.

"I know there are going to be great Soldiers out there that I'm going to have an opportunity to lead," said 2nd Lt. Jordan Murray. "I'm just looking forward to the day I can be out there with them ... and after (Saturday) it starts."

While the cadets embraced every moment of the day after completing what many new graduates will say is the best and most challenging experience in their lives, it was also a time to reflect on the moment and what it meant for them.

After the hats were tossed skyward and the embrace of hugs shared among the graduates, the final embrace the graduates had was shared with the people most close to them.

"(My parents) were a big part of my cadet career, and I can't thank them enough for their love and support," said 2nd Lt. Ernie Young. "This day is really just as much for them as it was for me ... I'm just glad that they got to share in this moment with me."



The U.S. Military Academy Class of 2008 sends their white hats through the rain-filled skies after the completion of the graduation ceremony Saturday at Michie Stadium. This year 972 cadets became second lieutenants after their 47-month experience at West Point. ERIC S. BARTELT/PV



Second Lt. Jason Crabtree (left), First Captain of the Corps of Cadets, receives his diploma from Secretary of the Army Pete Geren during graduation Saturday at Michie Stadium. ERIC S. BARTELT/PV



A new second lieutenant is all smiles after receiving his diploma and acknowledging his family in the crowd. KATHY EASTWOOD/PV



Second Lt. Mike Viti leads Third Regiment to graduation Saturday. ERIC S. BARTELT/PV



Second Lts. Charlie Rockwood (left), Jordan Murray and Caleb Campbell celebrate after the hat toss Saturday officially ending their 47-month cadet experience. ERIC S. BARTELT/PV



Second Lt. Tom Gossweiler acknowledges his fellow graduates after they burst out in celebration for his earning of the title -- goat. Goat status is achieved by having the lowest grade point average of all the graduates. Brigadier Gens. Patrick Finnegan and Michael Linnington present Gossweiler with money, which is collected from every member of the graduating class and given to the goat, as Superintendent Lt. Gen. Buster Hagenbeck (far right) watches. ERIC S. BARTELT/PV

FMWR Blurbs

BOSS Car Wash

The BOSS Car Wash is Saturday at the PX from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Come out and support your local BOSS program. Donations will be accepted.

For more info on this or any BOSS programs, call 938-6497.

Swimming

Round Pond Rec Area is now open for swimming on weekends only from noon to 6 p.m.

Delafield Pond reopens June 14 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Swim passes are on sale now at ITR, Bldg. 695. For info, call 938-5158.

Army Arts and Crafts Contest

Submit original artwork to the FMWR Craft Shop through June 30 to enter the 2008 contest.

There are 11 categories and it is open to all experience levels.

For full contest details, go to westpointmwr.com or call 938-4812.

Defensive Driving

The next Defensive Driving

Class will be held June 14 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Bldg. 622 (ACS).

Register at ITR by calling 938-2401/3601.

Father's Day at WP Club

Treat dad to a Father's Day Champagne Brunch at the West Point Club June 15. Seatings are at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. in the Pierce Dining Room. For more info, call 938-5120.

Army Ten-Miler sponsorship

The Army Ten-Miler Race is in Washington D.C., Oct. 5.

FMWR is sponsoring four Active Duty runners to represent West Point.

Qualification requirements and applications are online at westpointmwr.com.

The application deadline is July 15. For info, call 938-6497.

Family Childcare Amnesty Program

The Family Child Care Amnesty Program runs through June 30.

Individuals who are providing child care in their government or

RCI housing and are not part of the FCC program need to contact the FCC office at 938-3921.

Barbershop

The West Point Club Barbershop is open this summer Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome and standing are appointments available.

Convenient central post location inside the West Point Club -- follow outdoor stairway and signs down to shop. Call 938-2749.

West Point Post Library

The West Point Post Library is hosting its "Read 'Round the World'" summer reading program from June 23 through July 31.

It is free and open to all West Point community children ages 3-12.

Register at the Post Library from June 9-20 or call 938-2974.

Newcomers Welcome

ACS is hosting a Newcomers Welcome on June 25 from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. for all newly arrived

personnel, including military and civilian.

The event will be held in ACS Bldg. 622. For more info, please call 938-4621.

Rhythm & Blues at WP Club

Rhythm & Blues Night will be held at the West Point Club's Grand Ballroom, June 28 from 7 p.m. to midnight.

There will be an Open Bar from 7-8 p.m. and a 'heavy' hors d'oeuvres reception will follow.

For more info, call 938-5120.

Kids Craft classes

Kids craft classes at the Craft Shop -- every Saturday in June, 10 am to noon. Registration is required -- call 938-4812.

ACS Resources

Army Community Service now has wonderful resource materials for Soldiers and Families.

Subjects include reintegration and reunion, money matters, moving, stress management, personal growth and development,

traumatic brain injury and Wounded Warrior and survivor support. Stop by the ACS resource library in Bldg. 622.

Hog Wild Vendors Needed

Vendors are needed for the Round Pond Hog Wild Party, Saturday Aug. 16 from 1 to 8 p.m.. Call 938-8185 for more info or to register by July 1.

Medical Transcription seminar

ACS is hosting a seminar titled "Mission Medical Transcription: A career that moves with you," June 27 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the ACS Training Room.

The presenter is Lois Drabick, Supervisor, Medical Typing at St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital.

Contact ACS at 938-4621 to register or get more information.

Morgan Farm

Registration is now open for Kids Summer Riding Camps at Morgan Farm including English and Western style riding, grooming, tacking, mucking and proper TLC. Beginner and intermediate levels are available at affordable rates.

NOW SHOWING in the movie theater at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752

Friday -- Nim's Island, PG, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday -- Baby Mama, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.
June 13 -- Speed Racer, PG, 7:30 p.m.
June 14 -- Made of Honor, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

THE THEATER SCHEDULE CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT WWW.AAFES.COM

Command Channel 8/23
June 6 - 13

Friday
 8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
 1 p.m. Army Newswatch
 6 p.m. Army Newswatch
 7 p.m. 2008 Graduation

Monday - June 13
 8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
 1 p.m. Army Newswatch
 6 p.m. Army Newswatch

Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

Keller Corner

KACH Closures

June 19 - Mascal Exercise

June 23 - Closing at Noon

All Outpatient Clinics, Laboratory, Pharmacy and Radiology will be closed.

The Emergency Room will remain open.

TRICARE Behavioral Health

Did you know that if you are enrolled in TRICARE Prime (non-active duty), you may receive the first eight behavioral health care outpatient visits from a TRICARE network provider without a referral from your PCM or prior authorization from your regional contractor.

After the first eight visits (starting with the ninth visit), your behavioral health care provider must receive prior authorization from your regional contractor.

Behavioral Health Care Providers include Psychiatrists, Clinical Psychologists, Certified psychiatric nurse specialists and Clinical social workers.

For more health benefit information, contact the Health

Benefit Advisors at 938-4838.

School and Sports Physicals

The Primary Care Department is now offering school and sports physicals.

Beat the summer rush; get your child's school and sports physical now.

If you are moving this summer, it is recommended that you schedule the physical at your next duty station as the criteria for the new school district may be different.

The physical exam must be within one calendar year to be acceptable.

If the physical expires prior to the beginning of another sport, a new exam is required.

This is also the time to review your child's immunizations and to prepare additional documentation for the administration of medications during school hours or emergency instructions for children with known allergies.

Obtain the necessary forms from the appropriate school nurse and bring them to your child's appointment.

DECA Scholarships announced

FORT LEE, Va. -- Money is tight, most people would agree; hence the news that 600 children of military Families have been selected to receive a \$1,500 scholarship each to put toward the college or university of their choice is sure to elicit cheers and applause from their Families.

The scholarships are part of the Scholarships for Military Children Program, which is funded by manufacturers and suppliers that provide products and services for the Defense Commissary Agency's 259 commissaries around the globe.

The local winners, announced by Janet Berry, store director at

the West Point commissary, are Kristopher Baskiewicz from Acra, N.Y., and Amanda Stoll from Brookfield, Conn.

"We're excited to report that the scholarship program continues to be a success in helping military Families defray the costs of education," said Defense Commissary Agency acting director and chief executive officer Richard S. Page. "We're proud to be associated with a program that has awarded 4,132 scholarships totaling more than \$6.4 million since its inception in 2001."

Scholarship Managers, a professional scholarship firm, selected the winners based on

academic merit, participation in extracurricular and volunteer activities and the quality of their essays. The full list of scholarship recipients and sponsoring business partners is posted online at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

The Scholarships for Military Children program is administered by Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization responsible for building comfort homes near military medical centers. The foundation bears all costs of the program so that every dollar donated goes for scholarships. The general public has the opportunity to donate to the program through the military scholar Web site.

AAFES dividends benefit West Point

Submitted by AAFES

Shoppers who exercised their exchange benefit at the PX, online at www.aafes.com or over the phone through the Exchange Catalog last year helped make the military community a better place.

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service estimates it delivered more than \$269 million in support of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs in FY 2007.

These contributions to America's military represented an average per capita dividend of approximately \$272 for every active duty Soldier and Airman.

"AAFES' dual mission is to provide goods and services at competitively low prices and generate earnings to support FMWR programs," said the West

Point PX's store manager Rick Evans.

"This structure makes AAFES (a) major (player in) non-pay benefits for today's military because the dollars troops and their Families spend at the exchange generate a healthy return on investment that directly improves critical quality of life services," he added.

Purchases made by Soldiers and cadets at the PX and Subway and other AAFES activities at West Point last year generated a dividend of \$365,618.33.

These funds are critical to Army FMWR's ability to enhance local programs and facilities including the Victor Constant Ski Slope, Golf Course and Bowling Alley.

Historically, roughly two-thirds of AAFES earnings are paid to FMWR programs.

In addition to funding FMWR

efforts, AAFES earnings are used to build new stores or renovate existing facilities without expense to the Federal government.

Funds to contract these new or replacement facilities also come entirely from sales of merchandise and services.

"The bottom line is that every time troops shop their exchange, a portion of their purchase goes toward supporting quality of life programs, facilities and non-appropriated fund construction projects," Evans said. "Seeing the financial benefit this and other military communities reap makes the day-to-day challenges of delivering the exchange benefit very much worth the commitment and sacrifice needed to operate efficiently and maximize the investment military Families at West Point are making in their PX."

What's Happening

Summer Mass Schedule

The summer Mass schedule below for Most Holy Trinity Chapel starts Saturday.

Saturday Mass - 5:15 p.m.
Sunday Mass - 10 a.m.

Role playing volunteers needed

Twenty-five volunteer community members are needed to be casualty role-players for an installation mass casualty exercise starting at Gillis Field House June 19 from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

For more information or if you are interested in participating in the exercise, contact Henry Cervantes, DPTMS, at 938-4509 or e-mail henry.cervantes@usma.edu.

RiverFest

The Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson will host its 11th annual RiverFest, Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Donahue Park, on the shore of the majestic Hudson River.

It features a full day of music and entertainment, children's activities, and a large craft and food fair.

Transportation will be provided down to the Park. Buses will start

at Cornwall Central Middle school and make a continuous loop around Hudson and Main Streets and Chadeayne Circle.

The famed Hudson River Sloop, the Woody Guthrie, will be at River Fest.

Free rides to all will be provided by the Beacon Sloop Club

For more information, go to www.river-fest.com.

PWOC Summer Bible Study

The Protestant Women of the Chapel will host a Bible study group titled 'Becoming a Vessel God Can Use' by Donna Partow Thursday evenings through Aug.

7 at 7 p.m. in the Post Chapel Basement.

For more information, contact Vicki McPeak at 446-8982 or Darlene Johnson at 859-4230.

Mandatory Training

The following classes are part of the Department of the Army Annual Training for all DA civilians.

If you have not been to these classes in FY08, you need to attend one of these sessions.

- Ethics - Robinson Auditorium, June 10 from 9-10 a.m. and June 16 from 6-7 p.m.

- EEO/TPOSH - Robinson Auditorium, June 12 from 10-11:30

a.m. and 6-7:30 p.m.

- Suicide Prevention - Robinson Auditorium, June 16 from 10:30-11 a.m.

Summer Playground Fun

Bring your children and join others for playground fun Wednesdays from 9:30-11 a.m. Everyone is welcome. Please bring water and sun block for your child.

We'll be at the following playgrounds on the stated dates:

- June 11 5-Star (On Post)
- June 18 Stony II
- June 25 (Not Meeting)
- July 2 Grey Ghost

July 9 West Point Elementary

July 16 New Brick

July 23 Lee Road

July 30 Stony I

Aug. 6 West Point Elementary

In case of inclement weather, playgroup is cancelled.

Delivery problems?

FOR PV HOME DELIVERY PROBLEMS CONTACT CHARLENE MARTIN AT THE POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL AT (845) 437-4730 OR BY E-MAIL AT CMMARTIN@POUGHKEE.GANNETT.COM.

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

Music Under the Stars

Concert Band: "Great American Classics," Sunday, June 15, 7:30 p.m.

Concert Band & Hellcats: "USMA Band Alumni Showcase," Sunday, June 22, 7:30 p.m. Inclement site: Eisenhower Hall.

Jazz Knights: "The Maynard Ferguson Legacy," Sunday, June 29, 7:30 p.m.

Trophy Point Amphitheatre

Free and Open to the Public
845-938-2617
www.usma.edu/band

Army and Community Sports

Kang proved his worth under pressure

Story and photo by
Eric S. Bartelt

The ultimate compliment any coach can give to a player is praising the player's ability to perform great under pressure. That was the sentiment that Army men's head tennis coach Jim Poling felt toward Eddie Kang.

"He's a warrior," Poling said about Kang. "The more pressure (he faced during a match), the harder he tried and the better he played. He's got a great feel for competition; he just loved it and thrived in it."

Poling didn't need to do much convincing on the great career Kang had at Army. Kang graduated Saturday from the U.S. Military Academy as Army's all-time men's tennis singles leader in wins with 68 and single season wins leader with 22 in 2005.

The Chinese language major and soon-to-be military intelligence officer did many remarkable things during his collegiate career to include earning the Patriot League "Rookie of the Year" in 2005 and being tabbed Patriot League Tournament co-MVP in 2006 with teammate and doubles mate Michael Good.

The consummate teammate said his two most memorable moments at Army were clinching the Patriot League Tournament championships his Plebe and Yearling years, and that sharing the MVP his sophomore year was more special than achieving that honor individually.

"Sharing the co-MVP with Mike Good was great, it feels just as good to be able to share an award with somebody you've played doubles with and accomplished much together," Kang said. "Tennis is an individual sport for the most part, but sharing an award with someone is a plus."

Kang has always been a pressure player, someone who can come up big in the clutch. He was the deciding match in the Patriot League Championship his Plebe year against American, a team that had beaten Army all seven times they played up until that point, including the previous three PL Tournaments.

Poling described a moment

from that day that defined what Kang is when the cards are laid on the table and he is the only person between a win and a loss.

"It was four all in the third set, and I'm watching Eddie, who walks back to the fence and here's Steve Houghton (father of Army tennis players John and Rick Houghton) who said something to Eddie and (Eddie) turns around with a huge grin on his face -- then he won the next two games," Poling said of the match against American. "So I asked Steve, 'What did you say to Eddie,' and he said, 'Eddie, you're the man we want here, you love this stuff,' and that's true, he loves to compete and win."

Poling said the best attribute that Kang has going for him is his ability to control his emotions, especially at those critical moments during a tennis match.

"Wanting to win is only half the battle, putting yourself at the maximum emotional level to where you're not trying too hard, but you are trying hard enough not to expend all your energy," Poling said, "that's when you play good tennis and Eddie did that ... he has a flair for that where he puts himself in the best mental frame of mind."

Kang recognizes that as well because just as there is a mental aspect of the game, tennis offers many challenges physically.

"Tennis is a weird combination of a sprint and a marathon all at once," Kang explained. "You can have matches that are three-and-a-half hours long, but at the same time some points are quick, so you have to pace yourself."

"At the same time, zeroing in on points is really important at the 30-alls, 40-30s, the break points and being able to cash in on those points and not over exert yourself," he added, "so you don't burn out and lose focus at the start of the second or third set is key."

Kang has always been sharp mentally as he was recruited by Ivy League schools for academics as well as his skill on the tennis court. He spent a semester in China in 2006 and has been there on three separate occasions as a cadet, and he feels it helped him in every aspect of his life -- especially understanding his parents.

"It meant a lot to me (to go to



Second Lt. Eddie Kang shakes the hand of his TAC NCO at graduation Saturday. Kang finished his Army tennis career as the school's all-time singles leader in wins with 68.

China) because I always tried to learn Chinese because my mom (Dee) is Chinese, but I never had a chance previously to go over there and immerse myself in the culture and language," Kang said. "It meant a lot to me to see where my parents are from and learn some of the Chinese culture and to be able to see things from their perspective, which I couldn't see before because I didn't understand the country."

So parents who are multicultural, a mom who is Chinese and born in Korea and a dad (Robert) who is Korean and born in Japan, helped groom the most successful tennis player in Army history and they both got to share that day with Kang.

The native of Glenview, Ill., passed Arnie Albornoz (USMA 2003) for the Army singles record on Senior Day April 13 with his parents in attendance.

"My parents didn't get to see as many matches as I would have liked them to over my four years here, but it was great to have them there when I broke the record," Kang said.

The exclamation point on the

year is graduation, which he spent with his parents and his sisters, Mia and Mari. It was a great time for him to reflect on how much of an influence West Point has been on his life, just as much of an influence as his parents have been.

"West Point has taught me to look at everything as a challenge and be confident in situations where you may not feel so comfortable initially," Kang remarked. "Whether it's Beast (Barracks), whether it's being the cadre at Beast when trying

to lead your people through Cadet Basic Training or going to a new unit in Korea (CTLT experience), it throws a different mix of problems at you and teaches you to handle difficult situations and know that those situations will pass."

Kang is excited to be an officer and can't wait to get started at his new unit, "It's going to be a real good learning experience and a challenge. It's just a matter of being open-minded and trying to be optimistic."

Mickowski wins Regionals

By Jon Holtz
Athletic Communications

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Second Lt. John Mickowski, USMA Class of 2008, sprinted away from the field at the NCAA East Regional Championships Saturday, winning the 1,500-meter title and earning an automatic bid to the NCAA National Championships.

Mickowski is the first Army track and field athlete in the program's history to win an NCAA

Regional Championship.

"What an incredible race," said Army men's head track and field coach Jerry Quiller. "They all went out slow and tactical and then John just took over on the last lap and sprinted his heart out. They were all chasing him down the stretch, but he held everyone off."

Mickowski blazed a 53-second last lap en route to winning the event and earning first team All-Region honors and a trip to the

See MICKOWSKI on page 15

Greene progressed into javelin stalwart

Story and photo by
Eric S. Bartelt

Graduation day is a very important day in the life of a cadet who has gone through the gauntlet of 47 months at the U.S. Military Academy. It almost seems unfair to miss the tradition of graduation due to another event, but that was the situation left to Brittany Greene and handful of other track and field athletes Saturday.

Greene felt it was more important to experience West Point's final day, while teammate Jon Mickowski elected to graduate early and became the first Army track and field athlete to win a regional individual championship in the 1,500-meter run.

"It was something I thought a lot about," Greene said about choosing going to graduation over participating in the regional championships that she was qualified to compete in. "The cadets are the ones who are participating in it (graduation) and experiencing the four years, but I think family is a huge part of it too.

"They are the ones on the other end waiting for your phone calls during the first summer and receiving their prayers the whole time," she added. "I tried not to be selfish about it ... I thought it would mean more to them to have that ceremony and the tradition of everything that goes into graduation day here."

The regionals are more for the individual than the team, and Greene felt she had already achieved her personal goals for herself and, more importantly, the team throughout the season.

Greene was a big part of the Army track and field team's victory over Navy April 11 at Shea Stadium when she threw her career-best in the javelin with a mark of 43.76 meters, qualifying her for the ECAC and NCAA Regional Championships.

Army women's head track and field coach Jerry Quiller has seen great improvement in Greene's performance over the past four years.

"We recruit a lot of people and a lot of them don't pan out, but Brittany has made progress and has epitomized what a good recruit would do," Quiller said. "Coach (Knut) Hjeltnes (Throws coach) helped her with his weightlifting

program -- she did everything she was supposed to do and as a result she just got better and better, culminating with her Navy performance.

"She also did well at the Patriot League Championships," Quiller added. "If we had everyone on our team do as well as her we would have won by a greater margin."

At the Patriot League Championships May 2, she finished third in the javelin throw with a 43.72-meter distance and helped the team win its first PL title in 10 years.

For Greene, those two events meant much more to her than anything she would have gained from competing individually at the regionals.

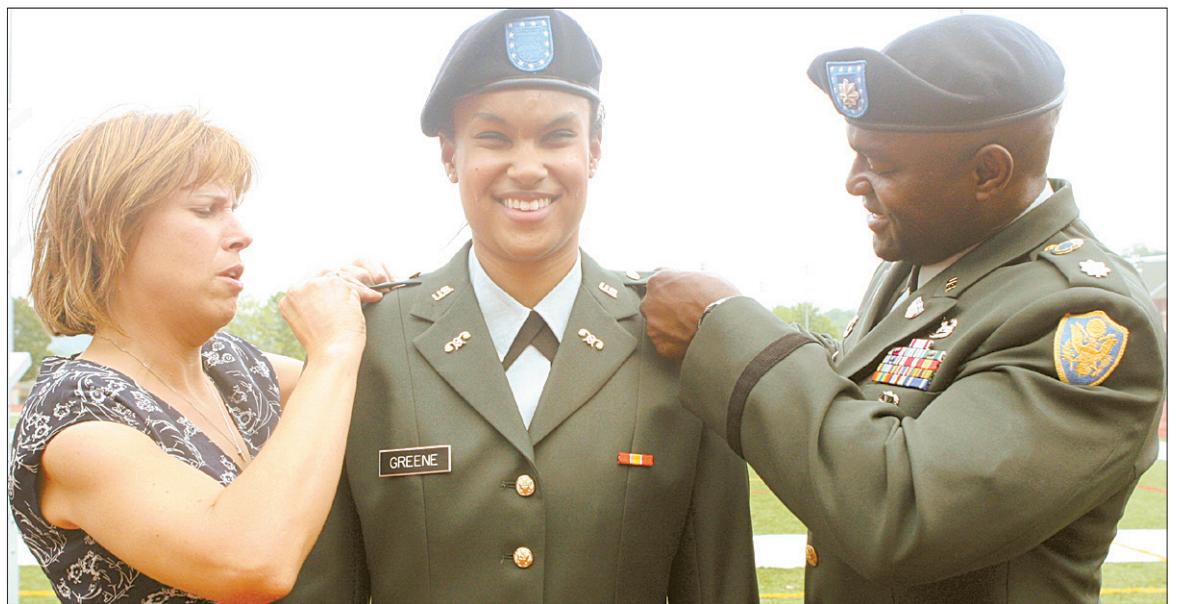
"I won against Navy, we all won against Navy and then at the Patriots we won there, too, and I can't really think of a better way to end (my throwing career)," Greene explained. "I was with my team those two occasions and at the Patriots we weren't expecting to win and my family was there for that too ... that's the way I want to remember it.

"The main mission here isn't to be a track athlete that makes it to regionals, at least that wasn't what I came here for," Greene added. "I came here to graduate, to have that cadet experience and become an officer."

She did become an officer Saturday and looks forward to her future as a chemical officer. While she is prepared to serve in places like Iraq, where her father, Lt. Col. Will Greene, just returned from a deployment, she also feels the Army is more than just being in a war -- it's being a leader to Soldiers.

"It's a huge amount of responsibility being an officer," Greene said. "The Army is so much more than the war in Iraq, there's so much more going on. While that may be the mission, you have people to worry about, not just a war.

"That part of the Army is really fascinating and you really have a chance to make a difference in other people's lives," she added. "A big part of why I want to be in the Army is for the impact I can have on people, not necessarily on the mission in Iraq, specifically, but, when I'm looking at my Soldiers, if I can make a difference to them,



Second Lt. Brittany Greene (middle) gets her bars pinned on by her mother, Lori, and her father, Lt. Col. Will Greene Saturday at a bar pinning ceremony for the track and field athletes.

then that's what's important to me."

West Point has made a difference in Greene's life in the way it's shaped her as a leader. Her parents, Will and Lori, who met in the Army, have been difference-makers in her life as well. Her mom helped her through the most challenging part of her cadet experience, Beast Barracks.

"That first summer, it has that reputation for a reason -- it just kicks your butt," Greene said. "I wasn't too sure that this was what I wanted to do early on and keeping that motivation up was hard, it was really hard for me.

"A really big part of that was my mom who wrote me a letter every single day, so having that support is what really got me through it," Greene continued. "As time goes by and you realize a lot of things, you really do start to understand what you're getting into and how important it is and useful it can be."

The weekend was special on two fronts for the family, Brittany's graduation and her father's promotion to lieutenant colonel. Her father, who was happy about his achievement, was still more thrilled about Brittany achieving what she did by succeeding through her 47-month experience at West Point.

"I'm very proud, I can't even put it into words," Lt. Col. Greene said. "Seeing her growth and her maturity, for us (his wife and him), has been a blessing.

"Looking back on it, she could

have gone to any other school and we really didn't pressure her to come here," he added. "I'm even more proud of her that she stepped up to come here and did very well to graduate."

Lieutenant Col. Greene had high praise for her class for making the decision to come into the Army during wartime and said that every citizen and parent should be proud of them.

As an officer, Brittany's father gave her the highest compliment a parent could give to his or her child who is an incoming second lieutenant.

"It's an honor for me and a blessing to serve with her on active duty for the time I have left in uniform," Lt. Col. Greene said.

Now Brittany has completed one chapter in her life and is on to the next.

She believes her West Point experience will play a big role in her future success.

"I know I have a lot of work to do (in becoming a chemical officer), but West Point has definitely made me feel more confident. I feel I can learn anything that I need to in order to be successful," Greene said.

MICKOWSKI, cont. from page 13

NCAA National Championships.

His time was 3:50.94, besting the favorite Andrew Bumbalough of Georgetown, who finished in second with a time of 3:51.53.

“I couldn’t be more proud of John,” Quiller said. “He has worked so hard all year for this and now he is the East Regional Champion and is getting his trip to the NCAA meet.”

While Mickowski prepped for the biggest race of his career Saturday, his classmates were walking across the stage at West Point’s graduation ceremony. The senior standout made the decision to chase his dream on the track and skip out on the graduation ceremony.

“It was a no-brainer for me,” Mickowski said. “West Point means a lot to me, but to have the opportunity to represent the team and the academy at the National Championships has been my goal all year.”

The NCAA Track and Field Championships will be held Wednesday through June 14 at Drake Stadium at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.