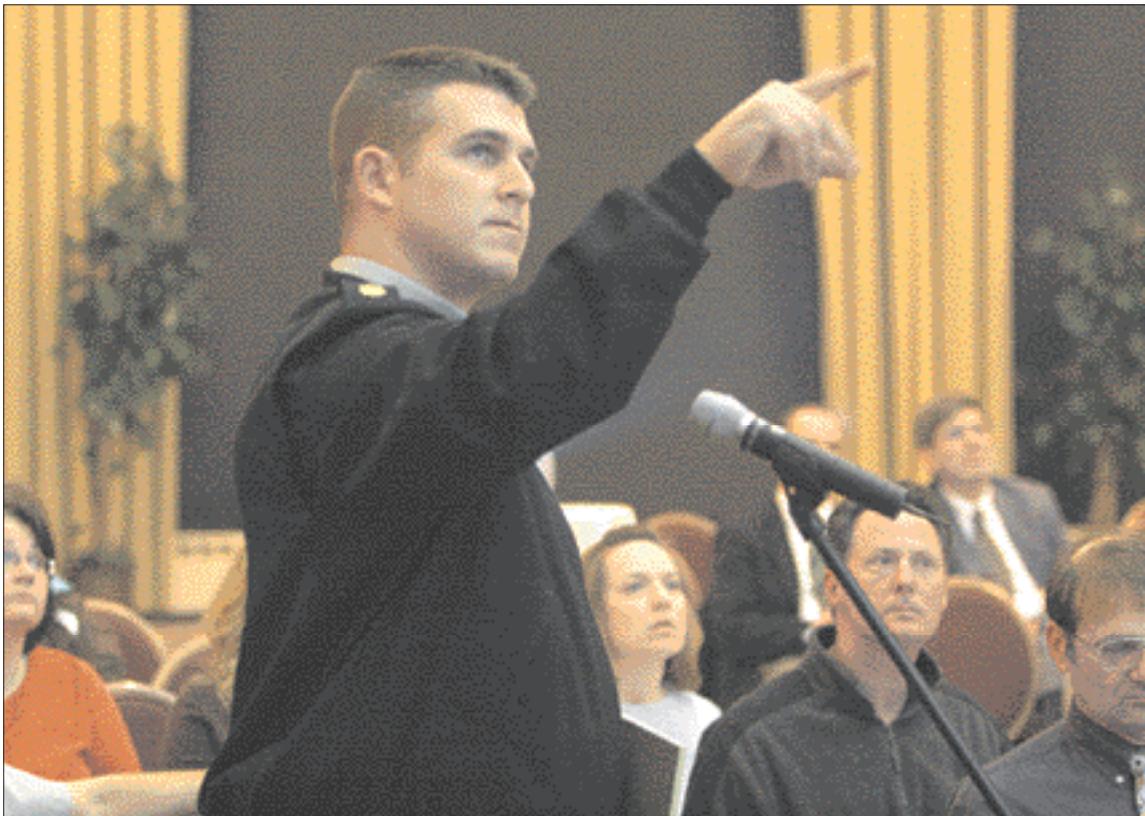


## RCI Town Hall meeting both answers and raises questions



**Major Robert Dees, a Systems Engineering instructor, discusses an issue with the demolition of Stony I where his family lives. The concern he has is about his kids and blocking off the demolition area from the neighborhood children when the demolition will be 150 meters from his backyard.**

**Story and photo by  
Eric S. Bartelt**

More than 50 community members attended the most recent GMH Residential Communities Initiative Town Hall meeting March 6 at the West Point Club here.

The meeting was also broadcast over the Command Channel and viewers were encouraged to call in with their questions.

Many of the questions addressed during the meeting came from those watching the Command Channel.

West Point Garrison Commander, Col. Dan Bruno, along with officials from the RCI partner, GMH Military Housing, and the RCI Project Manager, Michael Colacicco, offered current updates to the RCI process.

The project is in the approval stage at this point and the transition of housing going from the government to privatization will run from April through June with orientation briefings to residents, lease signings and coordination with installation housing staff.

“We’re meeting weekly with the housing office to make sure as we

go through this process that we’ve identified and worked the issues because our transition is during the summer period,” Colacicco said. “So it’s going to be operated by the government for the assignment process until July, then after July and beyond, GMH will be taking over and putting the people in the houses and continuing the housing assignment process.”

GMH takes over operations July 1 with projects that include the new construction of Stony Lonesome beginning in August and the demolition of Stony I beginning in April 2009, which has been deferred from February 2009, according to Colacicco.

Priority for housing will go to families who are being relocated. While renovations begin in November, anything is tentative due to circumstances that can be beyond one’s control with construction projects.

“I want to emphasize that things will probably change in the future because as Col. Bruno said, there are still a lot of unknowns out

**See RCI on page 4**

## Middle States accreditation self-study is underway

**By Dr. Bruce Keith,  
Academic Affairs Div.,  
Office of the Dean and  
Col. Cindy Jebb,  
Deputy Dept. Head,  
Dept. of Social Sciences**

West Point is currently conducting a self-study in accordance with the Middle States Commission of Higher Education’s accreditation requirements.

The MSCHE is an association of peer-reviewed member institutions which accredits institutions of higher learning. Essentially, MSCHE provides the stamp of approval that says an institution complies with higher educational standards.

Institutions are accredited every 10 years. The last accreditation site

visit at West Point occurred in 1999, with a Periodic Review completed in 2005.

Currently, West Point is engaged in a self-study with a draft report to be completed later this summer. The draft will be staffed through all the major activity directorates and prepared for the Superintendent’s review and signature during academic year 2009.

MSCHE will conduct a site visit of West Point during AY10 to validate the accuracy of our self-study and to determine West Point’s compliance with MSCHE standards.

This process is critical to West Point for a number of reasons.

Accreditation is a necessary condition to ensure we attract quality students, staff and faculty.

Accreditation ensures that we fulfill our mission of providing leaders of character to the Army and the Nation, while also contributing directly to the Army’s current missions through the faculty’s projects and deployments.

Our institution’s credibility allows us to better engage academically with other colleges and universities to ensure that we are providing the best academic curriculum for our cadets.

While MSCHE accreditation is necessary it is not a sufficient requirement for other types of accreditation, including the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology and the National Collegiate Athletic Association reviews.

Army regulations require that

West Point maintains its accredited status.

An equally important benefit of the accreditation process is that it is a collaborative, inclusive process intended to engage the West Point community.

For this reason, the Superintendent ensured that our eight working groups included people from every MAD, the Garrison, every academic discipline, civilians, military, men, women, minorities and cadets.

Overall, there are more than 100 people engaged in the self-study. We are guided by the Superintendent’s priorities, the issues important to West Point as identified by the steering group and

**See MSCHE, page 4**

## INSIDE



**See RIFLE on page 12**

## New directive contains political activity rules for servicemembers

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**  
**American Forces**  
**Press Service**

WASHINGTON -- A revised Defense Department directive provides sharper definition of what servicemembers may and may not do within the political realm, particularly running for political office, a senior U.S. military officer said here March 4.

The new version of Directive 1344.10, titled, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces," became effective Feb. 19 and replaces the previous version issued in August 2004, said Army Col. Shawn Shumake, director of legal policy within the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. It was formulated with input from all the military services, he said.

The upcoming 2008 U.S. general elections will feature a bevy of former military members, retirees and current military reservists running for elected office, Shumake explained. In fact, the revised directive contains two sections that discuss candidacy and campaigning issues pertaining to members of that group, he added.

Active-duty servicemembers are strictly prohibited from campaigning for political office or actively taking part in a political campaign -- even behind the scenes -- Shumake said. The revised directive also specifies what active duty members may or may not do regarding political activities, he said.

"Active-duty military members are required to be apolitical as they go about their business serving the nation," Shumake explained. The

restrictions for servicemembers on active duty are extremely tough, he added.

In addition, military chiefs are expected to provide unvarnished advice, without political slant or motive, to senior civilian government leaders, he added.

"It's a fundamental tenet that we don't engage in partisan political activity," Shumake emphasized. "You can't have credibility as military experts if people are going to question your motives, that maybe there's something here other than what is in the best interests of

the country."

However, under certain circumstances, some reserve-component members can run for or hold elective political office, Shumake said. Yet, there is "a right way and a wrong way to do that," he emphasized, noting two new sections within the revised directive address political candidacy and campaigning issues.

The directive outlines specific rules pertaining to cases of regular, retired and reserve-component servicemembers holding elective or appointed office within the

U.S. government, Shumake said, including elected positions with state, territorial, county or municipal governments.

In addition, the revised directive requires military members holding such positions to apply for and secure the approval of their individual service secretaries. Shumake noted that the requirement for service secretarial approval depends on the length of the servicemember's call or order to active duty. He encouraged servicemembers with questions about the rules affecting partisan political activities or participation to talk to their commanders for guidance.

## 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/BECS

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

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

Difficulty: Medium

See SOLUTION on Page 8

## POINTER VIEW®

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**Buster Hagenbeck,**  
 Superintendent

**Col. Bryan Hilferty,**  
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**Linda L. Mastin**  
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## Army, State Dept. partner on stability ops

By C. Todd Lopez

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- When it comes to conducting stability operations, a new core mission for Soldiers, the Army won't be going it alone.

"For the mechanism of stability, there are four dimensions," said Maj. Gen. David A. Fastabend, Army director of strategy, plans and policy, for the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff. "You need to be able to compel, control, influence and support. All of these things have to work together. But this cannot be a military function, and certainly not solely an Army function, but an operation that requires all elements of a national of power."

Elements of national power include agencies that exert diplomatic, international, military or economic power.

One element of national power the Army will work alongside is the U.S. Department of State.

As part of its contribution to stability operations, the State

Department will create a cadre of skilled civilians that can deploy, when needed, to countries in crisis, said Ambassador John E. Herbst, coordinator for the Office of Reconstruction and Stabilization, U.S. Department of State.

"This is a significant capability that would greatly enhance our national security," he said. "We've seen a need for trained and skilled civilians operating as teams in current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. We would be able, in a crisis, to deploy anywhere from 900 to 1,200 civilians to operate command and control systems for all civilian operations within two months of a decision."

That deployable cadre of civilians would possess skills useful in a country where the government is not properly functioning: engineers, policemen, judges, corrections officials, lawyers, public administrators, public health officials and city planners, to name a few.

Many of those civilians would be employed by either the State

Department, United States Agency for International Development or other agencies. Some would need to be able to deploy in as few as 48 hours.

Other civilians involved in the program would be part of a "Civilian Reserve Corps," made of volunteers from local and state governments.

Those individuals would sign on for a four-year obligation to serve for up to one year, if called upon.

Soldiers participating in stability operations will also need to possess skills other than those needed for warfighting, including securing local populations and infrastructure, providing civil control and developing infrastructure.

The Army's Training and Doctrine Command along with headquarters Department of the Army are working now to develop tactics, techniques and procedures to better prepare Soldiers for conducting stability operations.

## Uptgraft named MacArthur Award winner

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Department of the Army announced the winners of the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award for calendar year 2007 Tuesday.

Captain James W. Uptgraft (Class of 1999), an instructor in the Department of Military Instruction at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, is one of the 28 company grade officers, including three other academy graduates who were named.

"I am extremely honored to be recognized as a MacArthur Leadership Award winner," Uptgraft said Wednesday.

Other academy graduates were Capt. Christopher J. Demure (Class of '00), James T. Golby ('01) and Edward E. Kennedy ('00).

The MacArthur award is given annually to Army officers -- active, Guard and Reserve -- who exhibit extraordinary leadership abilities

and embody the ideals embraced by MacArthur. Criteria for the award include the ability to motivate others, understand fellow Soldiers and inspire commitment, teamwork and esprit de corps.

The award states that "these officers epitomize the ideals for which Gen. Douglas MacArthur stood: Duty, Honor and Country."

The MacArthur Leadership Award program is jointly sponsored by the Army and the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation.

The awards will be given in Washington in May.

## TSP TICKER

March changes (as of 03/13)

|        |                |
|--------|----------------|
| C FUND | - 1.53 percent |
| I FUND | - 0.18 percent |
| S FUND | - 3.25 percent |

***There will be no Pointer View March 21. The next issue will come out March 28. All potential stories and photos should be sent to the Editor not later than 8 a.m. March 25.***

## RCI, cont. from page 1

there and that is the nature of the business with construction and renovation,” said Rich Wagner, GMH Project Director. “Things will change because the termination data is incomplete. We still have 60 people that we’re still waiting to hear from. As we get that data (knowing how many families may or may not move), and as we work on the renovations and construction plans, we’ll use that data to try to minimize the impact on the community.”

Currently, 28 residents are expected to relocate in the next year and those who are required to relocate from July 2008 through June 2009 will be contacted in writing by GMH by March 21.

Although the schedule is subject to change, the 28 residents expected to move are 12 in Stony I, six in Old Brick, three in the Band quarters, two in the Lee Old

Doubles, two in the Lee, Quints and Triples, and one each in the North Apartments, Merritt Road and Special Categories.

As previously mentioned at other RCI meetings, the number of quarters is being reduced to 824 from the current 963, so West Point will lose a total of 139 quarters through the full transition.

During the initial transition period in May and June, GMH will require each resident to sign a lease and residents will be involved in signing groups to explain everything they need to know.

“Everybody living on post will be required to sign a lease,” said Shari Roosa, GMH Community Manager. “It will be for one year, and once that year is up it’ll be from month to month. We’ll have tables set up and a representative from GMH explaining the lease, addendums and everything that

goes along with it.”

The lease packet that all residents will receive includes the lease, the addendums (about lead paint, asbestos, satellite dishes and pets), a residents’ guide, authorization to enter quarters (a form the resident will sign to authorize a GMH representative to come into the quarters to complete a work order while the occupant is not present) and an acceptance letter from the resident accepting the unit.

“There will also be an allotment form that (the resident) is going to need to sign, so that (his or her) BAH can be allotted to GMH, which is going to pay your rent every month,” Roosa said.

The community had many concerns during the question and answer period of the Town Hall meeting. From cleaning contracts to concerns over the demolition

of the area to the approval of modifications to quarters, community residents can see the answers to these questions and more at the GMH Web site -- [www.westpointfamilyhousing.com](http://www.westpointfamilyhousing.com).

With the plans for the new construction at 50 percent and 20 more houses having to go through the historical inventory, there are many reasons why the initial developmental plan is eight years because of renovations and other issues that are not germane to other installations, that are not historic sites, rather than the five years that other posts have gone through. Bruno, with that fact in mind, asked for patience from the community because RCI is for the betterment of the community, as a whole, down the road.

“Keep in mind the big picture that we’re looking at with the Army, think about the Fort Stewart’s

and the Fort Carson’s that have done this along with 34 other installations that have successfully done this,” Bruno said. “When you go to those installations, they have gone through this turmoil that we’re going to go through over the next two to three years (with the relocating of residents, renovations, demolition of homes and new construction).

“I ask you to try to step back on occasion when you really get involved in the individual issues and look at the greater good,” he added, “and what this is going to do for Army housing here at West Point and the ability to get them up to green status, the rating the Army expects us to have for our families to live in housing.”

For more information contact:

♦ GMH Director Rich Wagner at 446-6407 or [rwagner@gmh-inc.com](mailto:rwagner@gmh-inc.com)

♦ GMH Community Manager Shari Roosa at 446-6407 or [sroosa@gmh-inc.com](mailto:sroosa@gmh-inc.com)

♦ RCI Manager Michael Colacicco at 938-5948 or [michael.colacicco@usma.edu](mailto:michael.colacicco@usma.edu)

♦ RCI Community Relations Specialist Eileen Kaczkin at 938-2500 or [eileen.kaczkin@usma.edu](mailto:eileen.kaczkin@usma.edu)

## MSCHE, cont. from page 1

MSCHE standards. This process provides the opportunity to take a look beyond the MSCHE criteria and examine those issues most important to West Point.

One change that has already occurred as a result of our review of MSCHE standards is the change of USMA’s Governing Board from the Board of Visitors to the Executive Steering Group.

The BOV is an advisory board, and therefore, cannot serve as a governing board.

The ESG consists of the Secretary of the Army; the Army’s Chief of Staff, Vice Chief of Staff, Director of the Army Staff, G-3 and G-1; the Army War College Commandant and the Superintendent.

This change will reinforce the relationship between West Point and our senior Army leaders, which affords USMA an opportunity to ensure that the Army understands and values how it contributes to the Army and our Nation.

The self-study is looking closely at the concerns highlighted during the Periodic Review in 2005. Those concerns include:

- Strategic Planning
- Institutional Assessment
- Resource Allocation
- Faculty and Student

Diversity

We have had excellent discussions on other key areas, and we are learning a great deal about

the many facets of our institution.

To date, the co-chairs have met with the Superintendent, Dean, Commandant, and Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and briefed the Faculty Council, Office of the Directorate of Intercollegiate Athletics, Brigade Tactical Department and the Garrison Command.

If you would like to learn more, please visit our Web site at [www.msche.org/publications/CHX06060320124919.pdf](http://www.msche.org/publications/CHX06060320124919.pdf).

If you have any questions or would like the co-chairs to visit your organization, please do not hesitate to contact either co-chair at [bruce.keith@usma.edu](mailto:bruce.keith@usma.edu) or [cindy.jebb@usma.edu](mailto:cindy.jebb@usma.edu).

### Executive Committee:

♦ Civilian Professor and Accreditation SME (Co-Chair):  
Dr. Bruce Keith

♦ PUSMA (Co-Chair):

Col. Cindy Jebb

♦ Superintendent’s Chief of Staff:

Col. Mike Colpo

♦ Director, OPPA:

Col. Kelly Kruger

♦ Dean’s Chief of Staff (VDE):

Col. Dan Ragsdale

♦ Commandant’s Chief of Staff:

Col. Sam Johnson

♦ ODIA Chief of Staff:

Col. Jon Smidt

♦ Garrison Commander:

Col. Dan Bruno

### Steering Committee = Executive Committee + Working-Group Chairs

#### Working Group Chairs:

♦ Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness --

Col. Gene Ressler and

Lt. Col. Todd Henshaw

♦ Resource Management --

Col. Todd Browne and

Lt. Col. (P) Donna Korycinski

♦ Outcomes Assessment --

Col. Steve Ressler and

Dr. Sue Tendy

♦ USMA Curriculum --

Col. Matt Moten and

Lt. Col. Joe Doty

♦ Faculty --

Dr. Elizabeth Samet and

Col. Rick McPeak

♦ Student Services --

Col. Maritza Ryan,

Lt. Col. Dean Batchelder and

Lt. Col. Gary Kropowski

♦ Governance --

Dr. Jim Dalton and

Dr. Hannes Vazulik

♦ Admissions --

Col. Laurie Hummel and

Lt. Col. Don Outing

# Cadets take top honors at American Psychology Association convention

By Lt. Col. John Graham  
Dept. of Behavioral Sciences  
and Leadership

Cadet majors of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership's Engineering Psychology program won Best Undergraduate Paper and Best Undergraduate Poster at the American Psychological Association's mid-year conference March 6-7 in Fairfax, Va.

Additionally, a future faculty member won Best Graduate

Paper.

The APA mid-year Conference is a peer-reviewed session that represents the two APA Divisions of Applied Psychology and Military Psychology and has representation from industry, academia and government from across the U.S. and cadets from USMA and the U.S. Air Force Academy. The attendees share leading edge work in support of Soldiers and the civilian sector.

USMA winners were:

■ Best Undergraduate Paper

-- Cadets 2nd Class Tom Beirne and Chris Bowen, mentored by Maj. Jared Sloan in the Engineering Psychology program. Their work on "Thermoregulation and Usability of the Army Combat Shirt" is leading change at the Natick Soldier Research Center. During the award ceremony, Dr. Mike Matthews, Division 21 president, commented that this is the first time juniors have won this award.

■ Best Undergraduate Poster

-- Cadets 1st Class Grant Carter and Cadet Grace Zwick, also in the

Engineering Psychology program. Their poster on "Negotiation Technology for the Evolving Soldier" was the first use of simulation in Lt. Col. Irv Smith's and Maj. KeKe Langcamp's PL300 Leadership course. Carter was not able to make the presentation because he was playing in the Patriot League Basketball semifinals.

They edged out a Joint USMA-USAFA paper by Cadets 1st Class Adam Renkiewicz and Chase Podsaid and Cadet Airman Holden Luete on 3-D Visualization in Army

Patrol TiGR.

■ Best Graduate Paper -- Maj. Bart Wilkison, Georgia Tech student and inbound Engineering Psychology faculty member for his paper titled "Effect of Mental Model Quality on Collaborative Systems Performance."

A total of 15 USMA papers and posters were presented at the two-day conference. Every cadet and faculty presentation was well received and many had follow-up from DOD agencies and researchers.

## BOV Appointments

WEST POINT, N.Y. -- The President appointed Karen P. Hughes and re-appointed Charles M. Younger, both from Texas, to be members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Military Academy, for the remainder of a three-year term expiring December 30, 2010.

Hughes replaces Rebecca Contreras whose three-year term expired in December 2007.

At the last BOV meeting, held in Washington February 27, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, also of Texas, was elected as the board's chairman for 2008. The Honorable Samuel K. Lessey, Jr. of New Hampshire was re-elected as vice-chairman.



### Where there's a will there's a way

Despite the power outage that almost caused the concert to be cancelled, the members of the Cadet Ushers still managed to find enough light under an exit sign to have a group photo shot with singer Trisha Yearwood (center) on Sat. at Eisenhower Hall. MAJ. MARY CHEYNE/DAD

## QUICK NEWS NOTES

**The Change of Responsibility ceremony for incoming USMA Command Sgt. Major Martin A. Wells** will be April 7 at 4 p.m. at Trophy Point. The inclement weather locations will be Crest Hall in Eisenhower Hall.

**Cadet 3rd Class Charles Mullenger, Co. G-2**, raised over \$500 in support of the "Kick for Nick" campaign. The monies, raised primarily from his company mates, will be used to purchase soccer balls and other soccer equipment for children in Iraq.

The Dept. of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership was notified, late last week by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and its Pre-Accreditation Committee that their accreditation plan for the Management program has been accepted.

## Voting Assistance Information

Contact the West Point Voting Assistance NCOIC, Sgt. 1st Class John Castillo at 938-8450 with your voting questions.

For the 2008 Elections Calendar from the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site, go to [www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag/appendix\\_i.pdf](http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag/appendix_i.pdf).

**VOTE**

# Community Features and Photos

## Short-Term Instructor Exchange Program pilot held here March 3-7

Compiled by Linda Mastin

Once an idea ... now a reality. The Short-Term Instructor Exchange Program pilot sponsored three Chilean Military Academy faculty members -- 1st Lt. Rodrigo Gallardo, for logistics and military planning, Grace Sanzana, an English professor, and Luciano Inostroza, a physical education professor -- who came to West Point March 3 through 7.

Eight months ago, Maj. Luis A. Rodriguez, liaison officer of the International Intellectual Development Division under the Office of the Dean and an instructor in the Department of Foreign Languages, and Lt. Col. Hernan Ramirez, former Chief of Military Studies of the Bernardo O'Higgins Chilean Military Academy, were discussing a plan to benefit both military academies and enhance the then non-existent opportunities for faculty members dealing with cadet exchange programs and also to meet and exchange ideas and STIEP was begun.

The first group is from Chile and sponsored by IIDD and DFL. They received support and training from a number of departments and individual faculty members to include the Departments of Military Instruction, English, Foreign Languages and staff from the U.S. Corp of Cadets.

The Chilean instructors were shown how things are done at West Point and updated their own teaching methodology, academic curriculums, training and doctrine programs to enable them to return to the Chilean MILACAD and put all this new-found knowledge into practice.

The overall concept behind STIEP is to allow USMA participants to become the primary train-the-trainers for these foreign faculties to enhance the military and academic training and programs given to the cadets of foreign institutions and to allow foreign military academies an alternate tool to help them train and educate even more of their faculty members.

The participants were offered a unique opportunity to learn from and work side-by-side with their USMA faculty equivalents. The program allows USMA faculty members to have face-to-face

interaction with members of foreign military academies who teach and train USMA cadets under the various USMA exchange programs to include the Foreign Academy Exchange Program, Spring Immersion Program, Advanced Individual Academic Development Program and the Semester Abroad Program, while costing USMA nothing as the participating countries cover all the associated costs for their instructors (e.g. lodging, food and transportation).

Under the USMA-Chile STIEP, Rodriguez, as the project manager, supervised the pilot project to devise the best opportunity to implement this program within the language transformation roadmap. USMA currently shares four different programs with the Chilean MILACAD -- FAEP, AIAD, SAP and the Chilean Mountain Warfare School. Chilean faculty made up the first group to participate in this unique opportunity because of USMA's fairly long-standing relationship with the Chilean MILACAD.

But it is only the first of what the IIDD-DFL plans to be an ongoing project with faculty from many other military academies coming for similar one-week sojourns.

The program falls under IIDD to manage and the STIEP project manager consults, coordinates



Chilean Military Academy instructors Luciano Inostroza (left), Grace Sanzana and 1st Lt. Rodrigo Gallardo brave the N.Y. winter to participate in the STIEP pilot. MAJ. LUIS RODRIGUEZ/IIDD

and works directly with the departments that are requested by the participating countries and helps to facilitate logistical issues such as lodging, transportation, academic issues, extra-curricular activities and, most importantly, military advice to achieve the mission of the guest instructors. All these programs have their unique academic and logistical challenges.

"That is why the more faculty members who understand how

these programs operate, the easier the coordination and execution becomes between USMA and participating military academies around the globe," Rodriguez said.

"The pilot appears to be a total success," he added. "Training and doctrine updates were provided by USMA faculty members to the guest instructors, who received a week of quality instruction and excellent, on-the-job training and practical applications. Additionally, much

of the success was due to all the help and cooperation from all the departments and individuals involved throughout the academy."

The next phase, according to Rodriguez, will explore avenues of approach and budget issues to facilitate sending USMA faculty to the Chilean MILACAD to further enhance the training given to the Chilean guest instructors and to learn and live the Chilean experience.

The STIEP will allow USMA faculty the opportunity to travel abroad and learn more about the different programs in which the IIDD and DFL are involved, plus expand their own academic professional development curriculums.

Rodriguez concluded, "The mission is challenging, but one thing is for sure, USMA has always been recognized as a premier educational institution and STIEP is geared toward that philosophy -- to facilitate our allied MILACADs and provide a unique opportunity to seek advice and assistance whenever possible from our highly-qualified faculty members."

# Brigadier Gen. Maria Britt speaks at Women's History Month event

Story and photo by  
Kathy Eastwood

March is Women's History Month. *Women's Art: Women's Visions* is the official theme.

Women's History Month began as just one day, March 8, which was designated Women's History Day in 1975, although it was also designated International Women's Day in 1911. The one-day celebration evolved into Women's History Week in 1982, which became a month-long celebration via a presidential decree in 1987.

Women's History Month is celebrated today to ensure that women are recognized in schools, communities and work places around the country. Communities

such as Saratoga, N.Y., will celebrate Women's History Month Sunday with 18th century cookies and readings from diaries and letters from women's experiences during the Revolutionary War at Saratoga National Park. Beacon, N.Y., is exhibiting women's art at the Howland Center through March 30.

West Point celebrated Women's History Month with a luncheon March 5 at the West Point Club. The guest speaker was Brig. Gen. Maria L. Britt, originally from Gloversville, N.Y. Britt is a 1983 USMA graduate, who left the active Army as a captain and went into banking for two years while serving in the National Guard part-time. Britt said she wanted to stay

in the military s o m e h o w because she b e l i e v e s w h o l e - heartedly in duty, honor and country.

"Banking didn't suit me very well so I went into the National Guard full-time," Britt said. "My husband is in the Guard, I knew the leadership, we had two children at the time and I wanted to stay in the military, but I also



Brigadier Gen. Maria L. Britt

is now commanding general of the Georgia Army National Guard with 10,500 Soldiers under her command. She was promoted Nov. 4 and took command on Dec. 1, the first woman general in the Ga. Guard's 273-year history.

Britt spoke about her life as a cadet and told a story about a particular Tactical Officer she had as a cadet during beast barracks.

"He tried his best to make me and another female cadet look bad and was on us hard," she said. "He did not like the idea of women at West Point and vowed to do his part (to remove them). The result was a few of the guys dropped out, but we stayed in."

Britt said she recently met her former TAC who asked her if she remembered him.

wanted to stay put. The Army was ready to move me overseas when I left (active duty) and with a husband and two children to think about, I thought it was best to go into the Guard full time."

It proved to be a wise move, as Britt

"I said 'Yes, I did' and the expression on my face must have said what I thought of him," she said. "He took my hand and said 'I'm sorry, I shouldn't have treated you the way I did. At the time I didn't like the idea of women at West Point. You changed my mind.' That was one of the defining moments in my journey of moving history forward one person at a time."

Britt also believes girls should have role models so they can understand how the achievements of women helped blaze a path for other women. "I admired Amelia Earhart," she said. "What an amazing woman. She said 'I want to do it because I want to do it. Women must try to do things that men have tried. When they fail, their failure should be a challenge to others.' What a great thought."

## 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 Army Family Action Plan local success stories

Submitted by Jen Pagio  
Army Volunteer Corps  
Coordinator, ACS

The following five success stories and results are just some of those reported by West Point agencies at the Commander's Army Family Action Plan Steering Committee held Feb. 5.

AFAP is an Army program designed to improve the quality of life for the total Army Family.

AFAP issues can be submitted and viewed year-round online at the ACS homepage on [www.westpointmwr.com](http://www.westpointmwr.com).

**West Point AFAP Issue #0708: Lack of Advertisement and Opportunity for Teen Employment:**

The Teens reported the lack of advertisement reduces the opportunity for teens to find employment and obtain job experience. Teen workshops designed to inform youth about resumes, interviewing skills and job searches were held at the Youth Center in Feb.

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has agreed to increase promotion of the summer hire opportunities and to develop a pamphlet on student employment programs. Additionally, a link for the CPAC Web site has now been included on the Family Morale Welfare Recreation Web site under the Child and Youth Services School Liaison. A Teen Employment Board has been established at the Youth Center. Both ACS and CYS are working closely with local schools to provide information on job opportunities for teens.

**West Point AFAP Issue #0710: Mental Health Issues and Support for Family Members of Active Duty Soldiers:**

The Mental Health facility is located in Bldg. 606. They recently hired additional staff. KACH has two psychologists and one military psychiatrist. They are in the process of hiring another psychiatrist and a social worker has been hired to work specifically with the WTU Soldiers and Families.

Health Benefit Advisors are also available to advise people on the TRICARE network and a toll free number providing information

24/7 is available through the Military OneSource Hotline: 1-800-342-9647.

**West Point AFAP Issue #0712: Women, Infant, & Children Items at the Commissary:**

All staff including cashiers receive ongoing training at the Commissary and are informed of WIC items carried there.

**West Point AFAP Issue #0601: Child Development Center Not Growing with Community Needs:**

The CDC has increased the number of hourly care spaces as recently as six months ago. However, demand remains unmet during the morning hours. The

Child and Youth Services Wait List Policy changed to allow the Garrison Commander flexibility to reassign childcare slots.

Plans are underway to build a new multi-purpose center in FY08 to accommodate the SKIES (Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills) programs, so more hourly slots will be available at the SKIES Bldg. and the CDC.

In Feb., renovation began on two CDC rooms to allow for more infant slots, which are expected to be operational by May 1.

**West Point AFAP Issue #0604: Keller Army Community Hospital Emergency Room Lack of Efficiency and Responsiveness**

**from Providers:**

KACH reported the positive ER scores increased from 79 to 94.2 percent on the recent satisfaction surveys. KACH was ranked #1 in patient satisfaction by the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command for the fourth month in a row.

Additionally, KACH received the highest score for patient satisfaction at a medium-sized facility and received an award from the Department of Defense. Customer service has increased and patient satisfaction is among the highest in the DOD.

Please contact Jen Pagio, the West Point AFAP Coordinator at (845) 938-3655.

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

**Friday -- The Bucket List, PG-13, 7:30**

**Saturday -- The Eye, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.**

**March 21 -- Juno, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.**

**March 22 -- Alvin and the Chipmunks, PG, 7:30 p.m.**

THE THEATER SCHEDULE CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT

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

**U.S. Military Academy Band  
Guest Artist Series**

featuring the  
**Fairfield County  
Children's Choir**



**March 16th  
3:00 p.m.**

**Eisenhower Hall Theatre**

Comprised of over 260 children, the Fairfield County Children's Choir has performed throughout New England as well as in Washington, D.C., California, Hawaii, Ireland and Canada.

Free and Open to the Public

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

**Command Channel 8/23  
March 14 - 28**

**Friday**

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch  
1 p.m. Army Newswatch  
6 p.m. Army Newswatch  
7 p.m. Army Rifle Program  
7:30 p.m. RCI Meeting (tape)

**Monday through March 21**

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

**March 24**

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch  
9 a.m. RCI Meeting (tape)  
1 p.m. Army Newswatch  
6 p.m. Army Newswatch  
7 p.m. RCI Meeting (tape)

**March 25**

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch  
Noon RCI Meeting (tape)  
4 p.m. RCI Meeting (tape)  
6 p.m. Army Newswatch

**March 26**

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch  
11 a.m. RCI Meeting (tape)  
1:30 p.m. Army Newswatch  
6 p.m. Army Newswatch  
7 p.m. RCI Meeting (tape)

**March 27**

8 a.m. RCI Meeting (tape)  
1 p.m. Army Newswatch  
1:30 p.m. RCI Meeting (tape)  
6 p.m. Army Newswatch

**March 28**

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch  
1 p.m. Army Newswatch  
2 p.m. RCI Meeting (tape)  
6 p.m. Army Newswatch  
7 p.m. RCI Meeting (tape)



**WTU receives gift from Legion Post**

First Sgt. Paul Krause (right), Warrior Transition Unit first sergeant, and Roger Edmonds, Commander of American Legion Quentin Roosevelt Post #8, hold "Patriot Parade," an original drawing by Stacey Beason, a 2007 graduate of Passaic County Technical Institute, Wayne, N.J. The Legion Post gave the WTU the artwork after asking what they could do for the unit and inspirational artwork" was one of the requests. Edmonds thought of Beason's work, which was exhibited at Paterson Museum, Hawthorne Library, 2007 Youth Art, and received Honorable Mention at the Congressional Art Contest. Edmonds also presented a letter to the unit, which included " ... The students, staff and members of the American Legion wish to extend to the members and staff of the Warrior Transition Unit our appreciation of their service and recognize them as the heroes they are representing; those who have served and are serving in our military."

HEATHER PHILLIPS/WTU

# Keller Corner

## Childbirth Preparation Classes

Classes will be held at Keller Hospital in the 2nd Floor Classroom April 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. It is a four-class series.

Call OBU at 938-3210 to register.

## Minimally Invasive Weight Loss Surgery

Obesity is a disease that has reached epidemic proportions in the United States. The prevalence of obesity has more than doubled since 1960 and has increased from 25 to 33 percent in the last decade alone. It is rapidly passing smoking as the most frequent cause of preventable death in America and is responsible for 17 percent of all deaths in the United States.

Obesity increases the risk of many medical problems including diabetes, high blood pressure, coronary artery disease, high cholesterol levels, arthritis, sleep apnea and some types of cancer.

Weight loss can significantly reduce the risk of these medical diseases and early death.

Are you considered morbidly obese? Have you been actively dieting and exercising without losing weight and without maintaining that weight loss? If so, you may be a candidate for bariatric surgery.

Bariatric surgery is surgery to correct obesity. There are several minimally invasive procedures now available at Keller Hospital to help you lose weight and to keep that weight off.

Minimally invasive surgery uses laparoscopic technology to perform the same operations that previously required large incisions through several small incisions. This technique decreases wound infections, hospital stay times and recovery time.

Obesity is quantified by

calculating your **body mass index** or BMI. To calculate your BMI, take your weight in pounds divided by your height in inches squared, then multiply by 703.

Being overweight is classified as a BMI greater than 25. Obesity is defined as a BMI over 30. If your BMI is 35 or greater and you have been unable to lose weight, you may benefit significantly from weight loss surgery. While bariatric surgery is generally safe, there are risks associated with any operation and it may not be appropriate for everyone.

If you feel you may be a candidate for bariatric surgery and would like to make a positive change in your life, you can call the General Surgery Clinic at 938-6850 for more information or ask your Primary Care Manager for a consultation.

## DEERS

Did you know that when life changes, you need to update DEERS? DEERS stands for the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and it is the key to your military benefits. Re-enlisting, commissioning, separating, retiring or PCSing all require changes to DEERS. And those are just your professional changes.

Personal changes such as getting married, having a new baby, divorcing, moving or simply getting a new phone number also require changes to DEERS.

Call 845-938-3746 to make sure you have the proper documentation before visiting the ID Card Section in Building 622 for most DEERS changes. Simple address changes may be emailed to [www.tricare.osd.mil.deers](http://www.tricare.osd.mil.deers). What ever the change may be, make sure to change DEERS as well!



## Black and Gold volunteer awardees honored

The Black and Gold awardees for the month were honored March 6. They are, first row: Nicole Saffen (left), Megan Reifenberg, Vera Colpo, Allyson Houston, Liv Blanning, Carol Gardner, Deanna Grande, Nomi Stanton, Joyce Morse, Laura Houston. Back row: Rynn Randall, Maj. Richard Comitz, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DuBois, Maj. Ken Gilliam, Jennifer Gilliam, Spc. Edward Johnson. Comitz, Dept. of Chemistry and volunteer assistant coach with the Army Sprint football team, was named Volunteer of the Month.

ANTHONY BATTISTA/DOIM MMB

# At Your Leisure FMWR Blurbs

## Reconfirm your reservations

Due to the March 8 storm, the West Point Club's computer system was damaged.

If you made a reservation for Easter Brunch, Mother's Day, Honky Tonk Friday or Rythm and Blues Night, please call the Club to reconfirm. (845)938-5120.

## Easter Sunday Brunch

Easter Sunday Brunch is at the West Point Club, March 23. There will be two seatings -- 11 a.m. in the Pierce Dining Room and 1 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom.

Easter egg hunts for the kids are at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.

For reservations, call 938-5120.

## Honky Tonk Friday

Honky Tonk Friday is at the West Point Club, March 28, from 7 to 11 p.m.

Come down to the Club for some good old fashioned fun!

Dance the night away with music by John Sorgente of Indigo.

A buffet style dinner will be served.

For a complete menu, visit the Club online at [www.westpointmwr.com](http://www.westpointmwr.com) or call 938-5120.

## ITR Trips

See the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City with ITR on Monday.

Transportation leaves West Point at 10 a.m. and returns at 5 p.m.

Join ITR for an International Food Tour of New York City on March 22.

Transportation leaves West Point at 10 a.m. and returns at 4 p.m.

Call 938-3601 for more info.

## Bull Pond Lottery

The issue of lottery numbers for Bull Pond reservations begins April 1.

Numbers can be obtained by visiting Round Pond, calling 938-2503 or at the lottery itself.

The actual lottery is April 5 beginning at 9 a.m. at Bonneville Cabin, Round Pond Recreation Area, Rt. 293.

## Army Emergency Relief

The AER Campaign runs through April 18.

The AER mission is to provide emergency financial assistance to active duty Soldiers, retirees and their dependents.

Emergency assistance is also provided to surviving spouses and orphans of Soldiers who died while on active duty or after they have retired.

For more information, or to make a contribution, call 938-5653.

## FMWR Craft Shop

Kids craft classes are Saturday mornings at the MWR Craft shop from 10 a.m. to Noon.

For class schedule, go to [www.westpointmwr.com](http://www.westpointmwr.com).

Limited space is available. Call 938-4812.

## N.Y. State Hunter Safety Course

A N.Y. State Hunter Safety Course will be held at Round Pond tonight, from 6 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Participants must attend both classes. Classes are free and held at Bonneville Cabin.

Pre-registration is required as seating is limited. To pre-register, call 938-2503.

## Post Library

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

Open to all WP community children ages 3-5.

Registration is required on a weekly basis.

For more information, stop by the Library or call 938-2974.

## AFTB Leadership Classes

ACS will be holding AFTB Leadership Class Series on the following dates:

April 10 from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m., "Leadership Styles."

Sign-up deadline is April 3.

April 24 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., "Leadership Assisted Problem Solving."

Sign-up deadline is April 24.

May 8 from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m., "Coaching and Mentoring."

Sign-up deadline is May 1.

ACS will provide child care. Call 938-5654.

## Defensive Driving Class

The next Defensive Driving Class will be held April 5 in Bldg. 622 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To register, call ITR at

938-2401/3601.

## Running groups forming

Get Ready to Run! The FMWR 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.

## Child & Youth Services Summer Camp

Registration is now underway for the West Point Child & Youth Services Summer Camp at the Outreach Services Office in Building 1207.

Open registration begins Monday through March 21.

Open registration is for patrons who have not used the summer camp program or did not attend School Age Services or West Point Child Development Center care in 2007.

Call 938-4458 for more info.

## Spring Fling Dance

The Spring Fling Dance is April

4 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and is open to West Point and Highland Falls 7th and 8th graders.

The dance will be held at the Youth Center, Bldg. 500.

Permission slips are required. Call 938-8525.

## 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.

## Volunteer of the Year Award

The 2008 Volunteer of the Year Awards will be given at the Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony April 21 at Noon in the West Point Club Grand Ballroom.

For more info., call 938-3655.

## Bands for the Brave

Free resistance bands for deployed or deploying Soldiers.

Pick them up at the MWR Fitness Center.

## CYS SKIES programs

Open registration for various Child and Youth Services SKIES programs. For info, go to [www.westpointmwr.com](http://www.westpointmwr.com).

## Military OneSource

Military OneSource offers FREE tax preparation and filing for your federal and state taxes.

File your taxes online using Tax Cut Basic at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

For more info, call 1-800-342-9647.

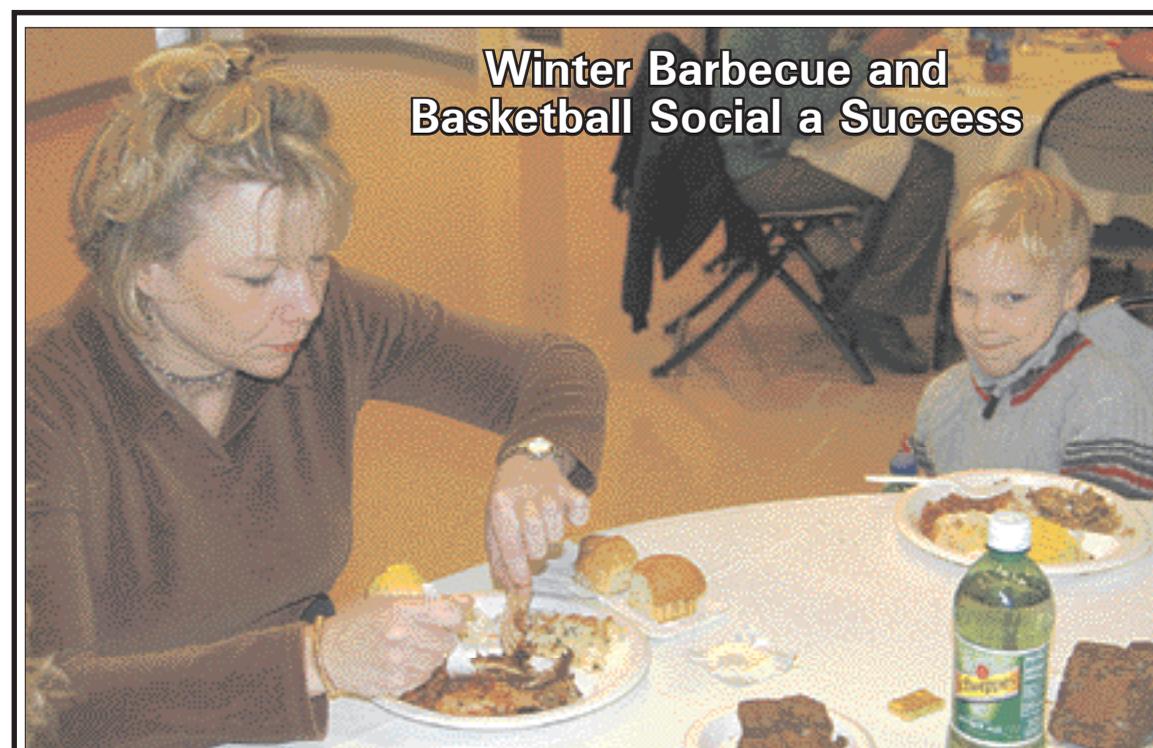
## West Point Tax Center open

Federal and state income tax preparation is available free of charge for active duty military 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.



**Winter Barbecue and Basketball Social a Success**

Linda and Oliver Hamner, Family of a deployed Soldier, enjoy a barbecue dinner at the Winter Barbecue and Basketball Social Feb. 27. Hosted by Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program, the event was open to all wounded warriors, single Soldiers and Families of deployed Soldiers. Participants enjoyed a complimentary dinner courtesy of the West Point Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, followed by free admission to the Army - Lafayette Basketball game. APRIL ANDERSON/FMWR

# What's Happening

## USO Tickets

Complimentary tickets for servicemembers on active duty status and their Families are available from the USO of Metropolitan New York for the New Jersey Nets vs. Utah Jazz game Saturday at 7:30 p.m., at the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, N.J.

Complimentary tickets are also available for the following event Wednesday:

University of Iowa Symphony Band at Carnegie Hall, 57th Street & 7th Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. at 8 p.m.

To reserve tickets call (212) 695-6160.

## Harborcraft Reservation Lottery

The sign-up period for the Harborcraft Reservation Lottery for non-official functions goes from now until March 23.

To sign up, e-mail Rick Camarda, USMA Harbormaster, at [yr9594@usma.edu](mailto:yr9594@usma.edu) or contact him via phone at 938-3011, via fax at 938-6855 or go to Bldg. 682 at South Dock to sign-up in person.

The results will be available March 24.

Selections and reservations based on sequence numbers will be selected April 2 through 4.

The remaining dates will be available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning April 7.

Non-official use means that the vessels use is intended for personal and community support only.

The vessels may not be used to support any organization that is not part of the USMA community.

## USMA Bookstore Closed

The USMA Bookstore at Thayer Hall, 4th Floor will be closed for Spring Break from Monday to March 21 and will reopen March 26.

## Book Signings

Michael J. Durant will sign his books, *The Night Stalkers* and *In the Company of Heroes*, about his experiences with the U.S. Army Special Operations Blackhawk April 4 from 9 to 11 a.m.

All signings are at the USMA Bookstore, Thayer Hall, 4th floor.

## Les Miserables at O'Neill

The students of James I. O'Neill

High School will present their spring musical, *Les Miserables*.

Show times are: tonight at 7 p.m., Sat. at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sun. at 3 p.m.

For reserved ticket information, call 446-8341.

## Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center Spring Break Schedule

Sat. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sun. 1 to 9 p.m.

Mon. through March 22

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

March 23 CLOSED

March 24 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

## DUSA Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Come and Join in the "Hunt." DUSA's Annual Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday at 2 p.m. at Trophy Point for children up to 10 years of age.

Come see the Easter Bunny and bring a basket.

## Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

The Highland Falls Fire Department is sponsoring a Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to Noon.

The buffet style breakfast is free for children under 5.

## PWOC Retreat

The Protestant Women of the Chapel Women's Spring Retreat will be held from March 28 to 30

at the Lackawanna Station Hotel in Scranton, Pa.

The theme is "Don't Just Survive your Christian life, but Thrive. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." (John 10:10).

The guest speaker will be Johnnie Haines of In His Joy ministry.

For registration information, please contact Darlene Johnson 859-4230.

## Opera at the Café

The Dept. of Foreign Languages, as part of its Performing Arts Series, hosts Jane Cormier and the Lake Region Opera Company, March 25 at 7 p.m. at Ike Hall.

Cormier and her company will be presenting Opera at the Café -- an entertaining, amusing and interactive opera experience that includes beautiful operatic selections and dancing.

The event is formal (black tie). Please call Dr. Rajaa Chouairi 845-534-5489 for information and invitations.

## American Red Cross

The '4 For A Cause Wine Dinner' is March 27 from 7 to 9:30 p.m., at the Thayer Hotel.

The *Iron Chef Winner* Peter Kelly will be the Master of Ceremonies.

For more information, the Red Cross at 938-4100.

## FCC Amateur Radio License Exam

The USMA Amateur Radio Club (W2KGY) will conduct an FCC Amateur Radio License Exam session March 29 at 2 p.m. (Walk-ins allowed) in the Dean's Conference Room, Thayer Hall, Room 306, 938-7503.

All license classes will be available for testing.

There is a test fee, which covers up to three different elements in one sitting.

We encourage successful Technician and General class candidates to at least give the next one up a try if they have the time.

Bring two or more forms of positive identification and any

currently held FCC license documentation.

For more information, contact Cadet 4th Class Tom Dean at 515-2758 or via e-mail at [Thomas.Dean@usma.edu](mailto:Thomas.Dean@usma.edu).

## Community Action Council

The Community Action Council Meeting is scheduled to meet March 31 at 9:30 a.m. at the Jewish Chapel.

Community invited to attend!

## West Point Yard Sale

The West Point Yard Sale is scheduled for April 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The rain date is April 19.

## SUMMARY COURT MARTIAL OFFICER

Maj. Tom Bryant, Public Affairs Office executive officer, has been appointed Summary Court Martial Officer to collect, inventory, and process the personal effects of Sgt. 1st Class Rogers L. Jones.

Any individual possessing property of Sgt. 1st Class Jones or having claims against his estate should contact Bryant at 938-3808 or [thomas.bryant@usma.edu](mailto:thomas.bryant@usma.edu).

## Coming to EISENHOWER HALL

*The Producers* - a Mel Brooks musical - April 5 - 8 p.m.  
*Ring of Fire* - the Music of Johnny Cash - April 20 - 2 p.m.  
*Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance* - May 2 - 8 p.m.

For more information,  
 go to [www.ikehall.com](http://www.ikehall.com)

# Army and Community Sports

## Abalo, Scherer leads rifle toward championship

By Eric S. Bartelt

West Point is the scene of the 2008 National Collegiate Men's and Women's Rifle Championships today and Saturday.

The top eight teams in the country, based on the average of the three highest regular season aggregate scores in smallbore and air rifle, will meet for the championship.

Army enters the weekend ranked number two in the country with a 10-1 record on the season. Army's lone loss came against Alaska Fairbanks, the two-time defending national champions, by a slim 4688 to 4675 margin.

But, what will the smallbore competition at Tronsrue Marksmanship Center bring today and the air rifle competition bring to

Christl Arena Saturday? Army will be searching for its second NCAA title in four years as its senior-laden class looks to achieve greatness by adding another milestone to its growing achievements.

This has been a great year for Army's rifle team, which included the team's first Great America Rifle Conference tournament championship in team history.

"This is the sort of team that a coach dreams of and you don't get this every year where you have the right chemistry, the right blend of talent and experience," said Army rifle head coach Maj. Ron Wigger. "This is an excellent opportunity for us to win a championship."

The team features four seniors, one of which is one of the more dominating shooters in the country, no matter the class year, age or

experience -- Chris Abalo.

Abalo has been an important figure to the program's success over the past four years and Wigger recognizes him as the team's catalyst.

"When he came on board as a plebe, what he brought to the team, based on his talent, just raised us up to another level and we've maintained that level all four years (he's been here)," Wigger explained. "He was a catalyst to get us to think and believe that we can actually win the national championship. He was sort of the missing piece we needed. It was having someone of Chris' ability and reputation, especially since he was the top recruit in the country the year he came out of high school, that helped get us over the top (in 2005)."

Abalo has been impressive in the discipline of smallbore and air rifle for a long time -- as a member of the national development team and qualifying for the World Cup finals as a 17-year-old. This year, the senior added to his dominance by achieving the NCAA record for smallbore (590) during NCAA competition against academy rival Navy.

"The match against Navy, the President's Trophy match, was definitely my best smallbore match this year," Abalo said. "I had been really close to shooting a 590 for a while and it's great to see all that hard work pay off and shoot a record 590."

Abalo is as cool of a customer as they come in the world of shooting. He will attempt to make the U.S. Olympic team in May at Fort Benning, Ga., in smallbore and he credits his ability to handle the pressure as the reason why he can succeed at the highest levels.

"I think I'm able to perform well under pressure and a lot of these matches we shoot, especially the big matches at the NCAAs, I think I do fairly decent," said the humble future Armor officer. "I have great confidence in my abilities and I think that's also one of my best attributes."

The native of Glendora, Calif., will get much help this year at the tournament, especially from a freshman sensation. However, unlike Abalo who came like a bright light onto the scene, Stephen



**Senior Chris Abalo is a six-time All-American (three years each in smallbore and air rifle) and will most likely hit eight after this season and would become the first cadet to do that all four years. Also, earlier this year, he achieved an NCAA record of 590 at smallbore.**

PHOTOS BY JON MALINOWSKI

Scherer has grabbed a hold of the spotlight and taken his shooting to another level.

A week ago, Scherer shocked the shooting establishment and even his coach by capturing medalist honors at the Olympic Trials in Colorado Springs and earned one of two spots on the U.S. Olympic team this summer in Beijing.

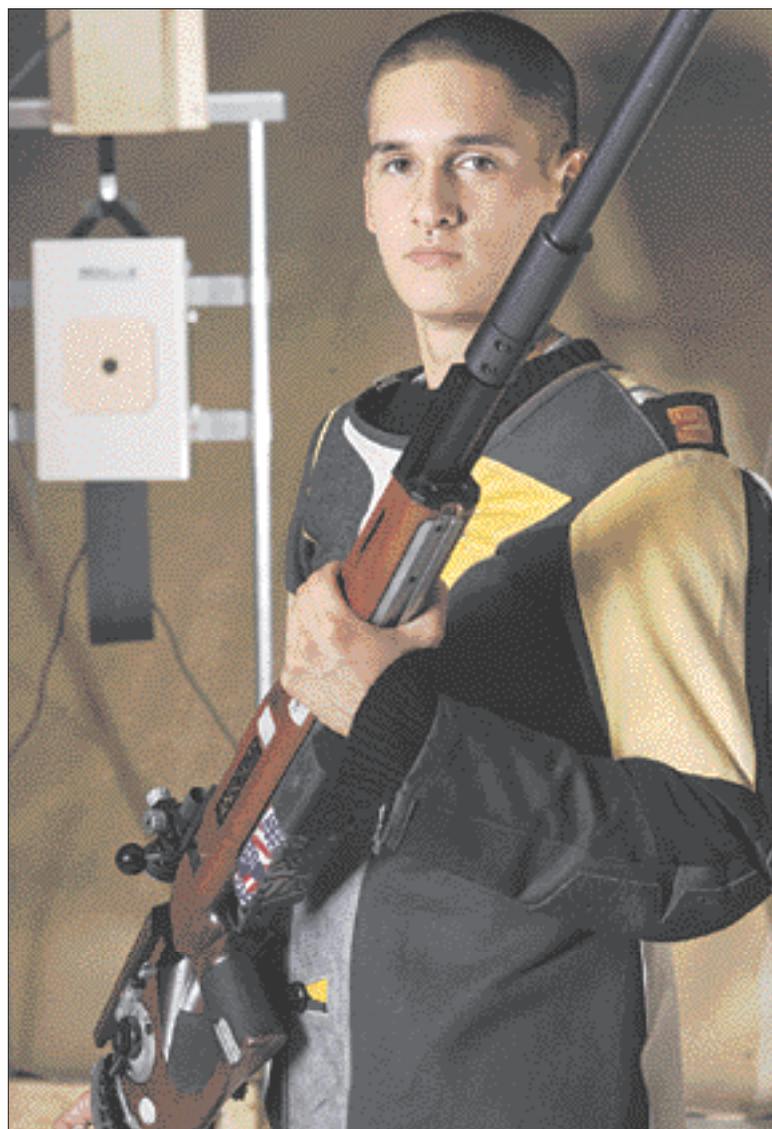
Scherer is only the third cadet to earn a berth to the Olympics and the first cadet in nearly 50 years since Ronald Zinn competed in running at the 1960 Games in Rome.

"The composure he showed competing, literally, next to an Olympic champion (Matt Emmons) and a two-time, now three-time, Olympian (Sgt. 1st Class Jason Parker) on both sides of him on the firing line as a 19-year-old kid in that environment -- it appeared that he was the one to beat and the

Olympic champion," Wigger said. "Everybody there who witnessed it was in awe at how well he handled the pressure ... I mean this was the Olympic Trials, and he shot his three personal best (air rifle) scores in three consecutive days. How can you write a better script than that than to perform your best at the most important time in your life and then do it three days in a row?"

Wigger has competed in shooting for more than 30 years and his father, Lones Wigger, is a finalist for the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame as a three-time Olympic shooter who won a Gold Medal, but Ron said what he witnessed Scherer do last week was one of the most amazing things he's ever seen in competition.

But what does it mean to the



**Freshman Stephen Scherer became the third cadet, and the first in 48 years, to make the U.S. Olympic team when he received one of the top two spots in air rifle last week.**

See RIFLE on page 13

# Hockey goes for AHA Tournament title

By Ryan Yanoshak  
Athletic Communications

WEST POINT, N.Y. -- The Army hockey team will compete in the "Final Five" of the Atlantic Hockey Association Tournament Saturday at the Blue Cross Arena in Rochester, N.Y.

The Black Knights won the regular season championship to earn the top seed in the playoffs. Last weekend, the Black Knights swept their series with American International to move into the semifinals.

Army, 19-13-4 overall, will play in the first of two semifinals Saturday at 4:05 p.m. The winner of the #4 Sacred Heart vs. #5 Mercyhurst contest today will play Army. #2 RIT and #3 Air Force will meet in the other semifinal Saturday at 7:35 p.m.

The Atlantic Hockey Association Tournament finals will be held Sunday at 7:05 p.m. at the Blue Cross Arena.

The winner earns an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, which begins play March 28 or 29 at four regional sites.

No complimentary tickets will be issued. Tickets can be purchased through Ticketmaster 'charge by phone' by calling 585-232-1900.

## RIFLE, cont. from page 12

Massachusetts native, whose younger sister, Sarah, finished second in the women's Olympic Trials in air rifle -- it means everything.

"It's a great feeling and I'm really pumped for the Olympics," said Scherer, who will compete in three World Cups after this weekend's NCAA championships and before the Olympics. "Everybody has been great in trying to fit training into my schedule, so I can perform well at the Olympics. It will be hard to get the school work in, but I'm going to try to manage that -- it's really exciting."

However, before Olympic glory reaches Scherer and, possibly, Abalo's way, the first step for them is to achieve team greatness at the NCAAs and, for Abalo, finishing out his career the way it began in 2005, by winning the national championship, is what it's about.

"All I can do is shoot my best and hope everyone else does as well," Abalo said. "For me, it's



**Sophomore forward Owen Meyer, Army leader in goals with 21, leads the Black Knights in Rochester, N.Y., this weekend with a chance to take the Atlantic Hockey Association's Tournament title and a berth into the NCAA Tournament.**

PV PHOTO BY PAUL RADER

Hotel accommodations in Rochester, N.Y., are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Crowne Plaza (team hotel), the Clarion Riverside Hotel or the RIT Inn. When making reservations, indicate you are attending the AHA Tournament for discounted rates.

Audio of all Army games this

weekend is available in the Hudson Valley on WBNR and WLNA and through the Knight Vision subscription package at [www.goARMYsports.com](http://www.goARMYsports.com) with Tony Morino calling all the action.

Complete game coverage will be

offered on the Army athletics Web site. In addition to game stories and statistics, Dennis Trapini, Army's multi-media services assistant, will be posting video reports following games Saturday and Sunday at [www.goARMYsports.com](http://www.goARMYsports.com).

important to shoot well and put up a good score for the team, and, of course, winning again would be great.

"We've come close the past two years, so winning this year would be awesome," added Abalo about the team finishing in second and third places in the last two NCAA championships. "Alaska and Kentucky are our top competitors right now ... we'll have to shoot well to beat (Alaska), but I think we have the potential to beat them for sure. As far as our seasons look this year, if we just maintain our season average during the NCAAs, we'll have a good shot at taking them."

As a reminder, ticket prices for the NCAA Air Rifle Championships Saturday at Chirstl Arena are \$5 for adults and \$3 for youth, students and senior citizens. Admission is free for Friday's smallbore three-position competition at the Tronsrue Marksmanship Center. The competition both days will begin at 8:30 a.m.

# Army Nordic Ski team finishes on high note

Story and photo by  
Lt. Col. Bryndol Sones  
Nordic Ski team OIC

The Nordic Ski Team represented the U.S. Military Academy in the finest traditions with solid individual and team performances at the U.S. Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association's (USCSA) National Championships in Sunday River, Maine, March 3-8.

Among the toughest competition from across the nation included strong ski teams from Minnesota, Colorado and Wyoming. Army prevailed with a fourth place overall finish in the men's category and a sixth place overall finish in the women's category.

With steep climbs and narrow curved descents, the race venue at Black Mountain of Maine was one of the more challenging courses the Army team had faced all season.

An interesting side note is that the course was designed by

one of the fathers of competitive Nordic skiing, Wendell "Chummy" Broomhall, who along with a few other of his World War II 10th Mountain Division veterans, are credited with a large role in establishing the U.S. Alpine and Nordic skiing industry. Broomhall, who is in his nineties, was present for the cadets' races.

This year's national championships included a 1.4 km classical sprint race, a 15 km classical race, an 8.5 km skate or freestyle race and a 3 x 5 km relay race.

For the women's team, senior Hannah Farrell, in just her second year with the team, lead the Army charge with an 18th place finish and consistent finishes near the leaders in all of her four events. Farrell was recognized in the Eastern USCSA league as the #2 women's skier overall in league competitions.

On the men's side, Army's top five skiers, sophomore John Spies (14th overall), junior Johnny

Goodwill (21st overall), freshman Aaron Demro (22nd overall), senior Fred Lough (25th overall) and junior Erik Tomsen (27th overall) worked as a team to push each other and to gain team points toward their fourth place overall finish.

This achievement was due to the depth of the team's competitive skiers.

"The level of competition at nationals was incredible because we got to ski against some of the best Nordic skiers in the nation," Tomsen said. "Some teams even recruit Nordic skiers, yet because of our hard work ethic we are able to demonstrate a high level of competitiveness and did very well."

One of the race highlights was Spies' performance on the 8.5 km freestyle race where he finished in 11th place, just six seconds short of earning All-American status.

Another highlight was the men's relay in which Goodwill, Demro and Spies teamed up to finish in fourth place just behind the All-American team from Wyoming.

Honors for the team extend beyond the snow-covered race course. The team members are all great scholars.

For those who qualified for the National Championships, their grade point average was a remarkable 3.46.

For their achievements in the classroom, 10 of 13 cadets that competed earned some level of Academic All-American recognition.

The buildup to the national championship was a long road that started back in August with physical conditioning and roller



Freshman Aaron Demro (right) makes his move as he passes a competitor during the 15 km classic Nordic ski race at the USCSA National Championships March 3-8 at Black Mountain of Maine.

skiing throughout the fall.

It was then followed by an intensive competitive season that included events most every weekend from mid-January through to the end of February.

Cadets on the team have a special drive for the endurance sports and the solitude of outdoors. Most come to the team with some background in cross country running, cycling, triathlons or marathons.

Only about half of the team had skiing experience before joining. Both the top women's skier, Farrell, and the two-year men's team captain, Lough, joined the team with no skiing experience.

Lough reflected on the experience with the following, "When I joined the team four years ago, having never skied, I had no

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## Sports calendar March 14 - March 28 Corps Squad

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY -- HOCKEY, AHA TOURNAMENT @ ROCHESTER, N.Y., BLUE CROSS ARENA, 7:35 P.M. SATURDAY VS. SACRED HEART/MERCYHURST WINNER. IF ARMY WINS, THEY MEET THE WINNER OF RIT/AIR FORCE SUNDAY AT 7:05 P.M.**

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY -- RIFLE, NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS, TRONS RUE MARKSMANSHIP CENTER (SMALLBORE) FRIDAY & CHRISTL ARENA (AIR RIFLE) SATURDAY, 8:30 A.M. BOTH DAYS.**

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY -- SWIM & DIVE, NCAA DIVING REGIONALS @ BUFFALO, N.Y., TBA**

**TUESDAY -- WTEN vs. SETON HALL, LITCH., 2 P.M.**

**TUESDAY -- WTEN vs. ST. JOHN'S, LITCH., 6 P.M.**

**MARCH 22 -- LACROSSE vs. HOLY CROSS, MICHIE STADIUM, 1 P.M.**

**MARCH 25 -- BASEBALL vs. QUINNIPAC, JOHNSON STADIUM, 3 P.M.**

**MARCH 28 -- TRACK & FIELD, DICK SHEA INVITE, SHEA STADIUM, NOON**

**MARCH 28 -- MTEN vs. ST. BONAVENTURE, LITCH., 9 A.M.**

**FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE TRAVELING TO FLORIDA, A SCHEDULE OF ARMY EVENTS THROUGH MARCH 21 ...**

**SOFTBALL -- REBEL GAMES FROM MARCH 15 THROUGH MARCH 21 IN KISSIMMEE, FLA., AT THE OSCEOLA COUNTY SOFTBALL COMPLEX, OREN BROWN PARK AND FORTUNE ROAD ATHLETIC COMPLEX.**

(CHECK WWW.GOARMYSPO RTS.COM FOR TIMES)

**BASEBALL -- MARCH 15, 16, 17 vs. MASSACHUSETTS, 3 P.M. EACH DAY IN TAMPA, FLA., AT THE YANKEES MINOR LEAGUE COMPLEX.**

**MARCH 20 -- vs. OHIO STATE IN BRADENTON, FLA., AT THE IMG ACADEMIES, 7 P.M.**

**MARCH 21 -- vs. DARTMOUTH (DH) IN BRADENTON, FLA., AT THE IMG ACADEMIES, 1 P.M.**

## **NORDIC SKI, cont. from page 14**

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idea that Nordic would be the definitive experience for me at West Point. As team captain, I can't imagine a better leadership experience that will prepare me for officership.

"The biggest lesson I've learned is that as an officer you're it," he added. "The success of the team depends on you."

The year-long road to the championship offered a lot of challenges, rewards and positive memories for the team members.

For sophomore and first-year skier Joanna Englehardt, membership with the team was wonderful.

"My teammates are some of the most impressive people I have ever met," Englehardt explained. "Not only are they amazing athletes, but they are humble, encouraging and always helping each other reach their maximum potential.

"I am very lucky to be a part of a close-knit team like this and I'm proud of what we have worked for together to accomplish this season," she added.

Lough summarized the team with "I can't imagine a better group. This is without a doubt the best team I've ever been on."

The outlook for next year is great. However, the women's team takes a tough hit with the loss of seniors Farrell, Jess Paulson and Jess Forrester. But new opportunities await for women cadets who will

join the team next year.

The men's team loses seniors Lough and Walter Haynes this year, but the outlook for next year's men's team is very promising with four of the top five skiers returning to the squad.