

April changes [as of 4/11]	
C FUND	+ 1.33 percent
I FUND	+ 2.72 percent
S FUND	+ 1.33 percent



Getting ready for Arbor Day

The West Point Child Development Center's Alco Pumma [left] helps West Point Management Agronomist Bob Jones plant a Norway Spruce Wednesday at the CDC as part of the post's celebration of Arbor Day. Arbor Day is celebrated in New York April 27 this year.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

NSPS Spiral 1.3 begins here Sunday

By Irene Brown
Chief, Command Information

More than 125 U.S. Army Garrison non-bargaining unit civilian employees at West Point will transition into the National Security Personnel System Sunday as part of Spiral 1.3.

NSPS is the Department of Defense's new performance-based civilian personnel system. It is being implemented in phases, or spirals, that began in April 2006 with Spiral 1.1.

"NSPS will make it easier for us to hire, empower and reward our top-performing civilians while preserving their protections and benefits," said Col. Brian Crawford, West Point garrison commander.

Some of those benefits, like bonuses and pay raises, will be overseen by a pay pool manager who is responsible for ensuring the pay pool is managed fairly and equitably, said Carol McQuinn, West Point's civilian personnel director.

"Pay pools are groups of employees who work in an organizational unit and share funding for performance payouts," she explained. "Pay pools can vary in size from approximately 50 members to about 300 members and are typically structured by organization or function."

Regardless of pay pool size or configuration, under NSPS performance is the key determinant of salary increases or bonuses received, McQuinn added.

"How a worker performs is evaluated in the context of mission performance," she explained. "That's why it's critical to have updated, honest job descriptions and careful documentation of any extraordinary efforts."

Michael Bilello, the NSPS Transition Manager, said training and communication, especially between supervisors and employees, are important tools for a smooth transition to NSPS and to ensure the system stays fair and rewarding

for all. "Performance objectives are broader and more mission-focused under NSPS than the task-oriented objectives of TAPES," he explained. "Under the old system, anything less than the top rating was considered a failure. Under NSPS, most people will achieve a middle-of-the-road or 'valued employee' rating.

Bilello said it is imperative that those supervisors and managers who want to give higher ratings to their best employees have ample documentation to back it up.

"A panel of senior managers and supervisors review the evaluations to ensure the same method is used to rate all workers in an agency," he explained. "They will want a clear, concise written explanation when managers rate one employee higher than others.

"That way, the oversight panel can ensure there is no favoritism and that the system works for

See NSPS on page 3

Cadet earns USMA's first Churchill

By Jim Fox
Assistant Editor

Cadet 1st Class Eli Harrington was named the U.S. Military Academy's first recipient of the Churchill scholarship April 5.

Harrington, 22, of Memphis, Tenn., is a civil engineering major who plans on pursuing his masters in philosophy for Sustainable Development at the University of Cambridge in Oxford, England beginning in October.

He is one of 12 students who were chosen nationally for the coming academic year.

According to Churchill scholarship director Peter Patrikis, Harrington's selection during the first year that service academies have been invited to compete is significant, with USMA having the only service academy recipient this year.

The future engineer officer said he was initially "shocked" to find out he would be able to study at Cambridge.

"I'm very excited and grateful

for the opportunity to study at Cambridge with such a select group," the Army Crew team member said. "I am just amazed and honored to be a part of the Churchill scholar program."

After completing his year of study in England in the summer of 2008, Harrington plans on attending his Basic Officer Leadership Course, which will eventually lead

See CHURCHILL on page 3

2005 grad dies in Iraq

Compiled by Jim Fox
Assistant Editor

First Lt. Phillip I. Neel, 27, of Fredericksburg, Texas, died Sunday in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his unit came in contact with enemy forces using grenades. His death is under investigation.

Neel was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

He was deployed in October.

Neel is survived by his father retired Col. Leroy Neel, mother Kathy Neel and five siblings.

He had previously deployed as a paratrooper to Kosovo.

A memorial service will be held in the Old Cadet Chapel

here at 10 a.m. Wednesday with interment following at the West Point cemetery. A memorial service is also scheduled at Fredericksburg High School in Texas April 21.



1st Lt. Phillip I. Neel

INSIDE



Remembering the late Uther Pendragon

Commentary by Jim Beemer
West Point Natural Resources
Manager

The skies above West Point were darkened and diminished March 27. Uther Pendragon -- the well-known Red Tail Hawk that was born, lived and raised five broods of chicks with his mate Igraine on the light towers at West Point's Shea Stadium -- died March 27. Uther had to be put down by a veterinarian after suffering a broken pelvis and nerve damage when he was hit by a car March 26 on the academy's grounds.

It is often difficult to judge how much of an impact an animal has on a human's spirit until the moment comes when death removes it from our presence. Pet owners certainly can relate, but it is rare indeed when an untamed wild creature has that impact. Uther Pendragon was such

an animal.

As a scientist, I was trained not to anthropomorphize animals and be detached in my observations. Fortunately, I maintain an open mind when it comes to animal behaviors. My fiancé, Kaylee, is an excellent observer of all creatures and had alerted me to behaviors that the West Point Red Tail Hawks engage in. Uther and Igraine were equally astute observers and came to recognize differences between the humans that moved below.

Their behaviors shifted depending on which humans were watching. They would seem to appear whenever life was getting Kaylee or me down, soaring about with grace and energy or just quietly sitting and watching as if to let us know that we could take inspiration from them. They would bring their offspring by my office to sit in the trees and call, like proud human

parents sharing their joys. And, as I got to know these individual birds, I came to see behaviors that revealed them to be more intelligent and social than what had been written in the scientific literature.

The most bitter part is wondering how could someone driving a car at 25 mph [the posted speed limit] not see the hawk in the road. I heard a probable answer [the weekend after Uther's death] at a function I attended. The person felt bad about hitting a large bird, but she admitted she saw the bird and just figured the bird would see the car and fly out of the way before she got there.

What people often do not realize

is that to a bird, a car only resembles a moving piece of scenery and not necessarily a potential danger. The car moves much faster than most natural objects and so the bird rarely has time to react and safely get out of the way.

It is hoped that Igraine will find a new mate for 2008. Nesting will not occur in 2007 as both parents are needed to successfully rear a brood of Red Tail Hawks to fledging. And, while the previous year's offspring sometimes have been known to assist the parents in raising the next generation, it is too rare an occurrence to be relied upon.



Uther Pendragon, age one and a half months, in June 1999. The nearly eight-year-old Red Tail Hawk died March 26.

PV FILE PHOTO

SAPR-P

The members of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program are Col. Jeanette McMahon, Shelley Ariosto [Garrison], Maj. Samantha Ross [USCC], Maj. Kim Kawamoto [ODIA] and Lt. Col. Robbie Williams [Dean]. Community members can e-mail McMahon at Jeanette.McMahon@usma.edu 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

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

Difficulty: Medium

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

See Solution on Page 9

POINTER VIEW®

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Local and National News

Vice Dean of Resources earns educator of the year award

Story and photo by
Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

Vice Dean of Resources and associate professor of the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science department Col. Curtis Carver is the 2006 recipient of the Federal Information System Security Educator's Association award for educator of the year.

The award was presented in Washington, D.C., March 12. Colonel Will Suchan, associate professor in the EECS Dept. accepted the award for Carver, who was traveling with the USMA women's soccer team in Italy and was unaware of the award.

"I found out at an academic board meeting when I was ambushed by Brig. Gen. Patrick Finnegan, dean of the academic board, who started the meeting with 'Sir, this is not on the agenda and I have not

briefed you on this, but ...' and went on to announce I had received the award," Carver said.

Carver said he was stunned when notified of the award.

"I received an e-mail from a friend of mine two days after spring break congratulating me on the award," Carver said. "I thought she was mistaken. I am very happy and proud to have been chosen for



Col. Curtis Carver

this award."

The FISSEA award has been given since 1991 and recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions in education and training programs for information systems security, according to its Web site at <http://csrc.nist.gov/organizations/fissea/home/index.shtml>.

"Colonel Carver deserves this award," said Col. Daniel Ragsdale, vice dean for education. "He started an education and awareness project

for cadets on Phishing scams by sending cadets an official-looking e-mail from a fictitious colonel in the Dean's department. When they opened it, the e-mail read 'You shouldn't have done this.'"

Carver is not the only USMA faculty member who has received the educator of the year award. Ragsdale, who nominated Carver, was the recipient of the award in 2001.

"It was great honoring Carver at the board meeting with all of

his colleagues in attendance," Ragsdale said.

Director of Public Affairs, Lt. Col. Kent Cassella, wasn't surprised that faculty members are recognized for the work they do.

"Once again, the high quality educators found at the U.S. Military Academy show that our faculty are some of the best in the nation and exemplify how the USMA is linked to and supports the Army in many ways," he said.

NSPS, cont. from page 1

everyone from the top down," Bilello added.

Because NSPS is a fairly complicated system, unlike anything most career federal employees have known, Crawford said the command here is determined to provide ample training and instruction to West Point employees.

"Training in things like

managing pay pools or writing SMART performance objectives is critical to making the system work," he said. "We need to share information, address questions and have open conversations with employees at every level.

"That will determine how well they understand the system and trust the process," Crawford added.

CHURCHILL, cont. from page 1

him to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

"I want to be an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," Harrington said. "The program at Cambridge will educate me in sustainable thinking -- how civil engineering of public works can be environmentally friendly and incorporate sustainable engineering design in the economic and social context of the project. It applies to all Corps projects, both domestically and in overseas post-conflict reconstruction."

The Churchill Scholarship Foundation was established in 1963 and has awarded almost 400 scholarships over the past 45 years.

The Churchill Scholarship provides support for one year of study and research at the University of Cambridge and covers all university and college fees, a living allowance at Churchill College of £10,000-£12,000, a grant for travel to and from the United States of up to \$1,000 and



**Cadet 1st Class
Eli Harrington**

a new Special Research Grant of up to \$2,000. The Scholarship is currently worth between \$44,000 and \$50,000, depending on the student's program. After review at the local campuses, the applications for Churchill Scholarships are vetted and ranked by former Churchill Scholars, most of whom are academic scientists.

RCI Resident Assessment Survey coming

This week, West Point family housing residents will be receiving a "Headquarters, Department of Army Resident Assessment Survey" in their mailboxes. The Department of the Army annually surveys families living on installations that are participating in the Residential Communities Initiative family housing program.

Even though West Point has not transitioned to private operations under RCI, DA requested that West Point participate in the survey in order to establish a baseline for comparison of resident satisfaction in the future with current operations.

The responses provided will help the RCI office prepare the Community Development and

Management Plan. Personal data will not be tabulated and individual surveys in no way identifies the respondents or their current residences. Take this opportunity to help make a difference.

Feel free to contact Eileen Kaczkin at [845] 938-2500 with any questions or for more information.

Gen. George W. Casey sworn in as 36th Army Chief of Staff

By J.D. Leipold

FORT MYER, Va., [Army News Service] -- Gen. George W. Casey Jr. became the 36th chief of staff of the Army Tuesday, assuming the position from Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker.

Casey was the first commander of the Multi-National Force-Iraq, a coalition of more than 30 countries, until February. He had served as Schoomaker's vice chief of staff before deploying to Iraq in 2003 to assume command of the coalition.

Guest speakers at the ceremony included Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates and Acting Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, both of whom praised Schoomaker for his accomplishments and the positive changes he made to the Army after being called from retirement in 2003 to assume the

top uniformed Army position.

Geren, who hosted the ceremony, called Schoomaker a great teacher and Soldier, and honored him for nearly four decades of active service characterized by sacrifice, courage and devotion to duty.

"It's been a privilege to work alongside this extraordinary leader, this great teacher, a man who has given so much for his country and the Army he loves," Geren said. "Pete Schoomaker is a patriot, a man who has always put the country first and always answered the call to duty."

Gates also expressed his gratitude to Schoomaker, thanking him for his vision and leadership.

"Challenging times require extraordinary vision and leadership and Pete has shown both those qualities," Gates said. "He has entirely changed the manner in which our Army is trained, deployed and organized."

In his parting words, Schoomaker reaffirmed that today's Soldiers are still the Army's greatest strength, because war will continue to be fought in the human dimension.

"While technology has changed our Army, there can be little doubt that when you look into the eyes of our warriors today, as I have in the last four years, I see the same patriotism that George Washington must have seen at Valley Forge," Schoomaker said. "I have looked into the eyes of today's warriors and



Acting Secretary of the Army Pete Geren swears in U.S. Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr. as the 36th Army Chief of staff following the Army chief of staff change of responsibility ceremony at Ft. Myer, Va., Tuesday as Sheila Casey looks on. Casey took over as Chief of Staff from Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker.

DOD PHOTO BY CHERIE A. THURLBY

Cadets invited to Golden Gloves at MSG

USMA is sending a contingent to the 80th Golden Gloves finals to be held at the Theater at Madison Square Garden April 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Members of the USMA Color Guard will present the colors at the opening ceremony, while a quartet from the Cadet Glee Club will sing the National Anthem.

Twenty-four members of the Cadet Boxing Club, all first and second place winners in the 51st Brigade Boxing Open, will also attend and be recognized.

This event is open to the public and members of the USMA community are also invited to attend.

For ticket information, go to <http://www.thegarden.com/boxoffice.jsp>.

"I'm proud to be taking charge of an Army that's regarded as the best in the world at what it does,"

**Gen. George W. Casey
Army Chief of Staff**

I am proud to report they continue to exceed every expectation for courage, dedication and selfless

service -- they are the heart of all we do, they are our future and they demonstrate strength, compassion and warrior ethos."

Casey spoke last and thanked both secretaries, the president, Congress and Schoomaker for their faith in his abilities to lead the Army.

"I'm proud to be taking charge of an Army that's regarded as the

best in the world at what it does," Casey said. "I have watched the men and women of our Army in action in the most demanding combat environment. I take great pride in the courage, the confidence and the commitment of our Soldiers and civilians to both the ideals that have made this country great and to making a difference in our world. They epitomize what is best about America.

"They and their families carry heavy burdens in today's war with a hard road ahead, yet their willingness to sacrifice to build a better future for others and to preserve our way of life is a great strength for our nation," he said. "We are Army Strong and I could not be more proud today to be a Soldier and to stand shoulder-to-shoulder during this time of danger and uncertainty."

Delivery problems?

For PV home delivery problems contact Valerie Mullane at the Poughkeepsie Journal at (845) 437-4730 or by e-mail at vmullane@poughkeegannett.com.

Army values posters get a makeover

By Hank Minitrez

WASHINGTON [Army News Service] -- New Army Values posters are going up in offices and barracks world-wide.

The original Army Values posters were first published nine years ago.

"This update is important because the Army Values posters serve as a visual reminder of our culture and provide an incentive for Soldiers to live up to the Army Values," said Kittie Messman, Values project manager in the Army G-1's office.

The posters were released March 15. All publications account holders who normally receive Department of the Army posters will receive the Values posters through normal publications supply

channels. Account holders may order additional posters through their publications control officer.

The intent of the posters is to reemphasize and reinvigorate Army Values, according to Army G-1.

Army culture promotes certain norms of conduct which include a unique service ethic expected of every Soldier -- to make personal sacrifices in selfless service to the Nation.

Additionally, leaders require the highest level of individual and organizational discipline and moral values during peace and war. The moral and ethical tenets of the Army Values characterize the Army culture and describe the ethical standards expected of all Soldiers.

"The Army Values are the baseline, core and foundation of

every Soldier," said Messman, herself a retired Army Master Sgt. "They define who they are, what they do, what they stand for, and drive their actions at home, work, in peace and during war."

The posters may be viewed and downloaded from the Army G-1's Web site <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/HR/ARMYVALUES.ASP> and will be featured in Soldiers Magazine from June through January.

Army Values

■ **Loyalty.** Bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit and other Soldiers. This means supporting the military and civilian chain of command, as well as devoting oneself to the welfare of others.

■ **Duty.** Fulfill your obligations. Duty is the legal and moral

obligation to do what should be done without being told.

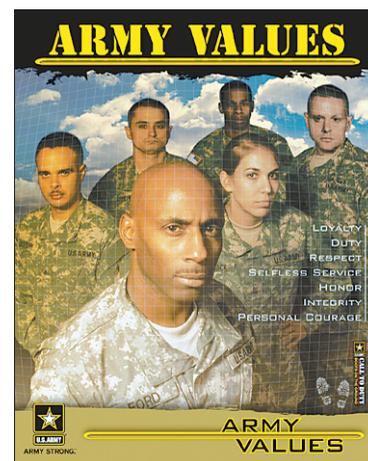
■ **Respect.** Treat people as they should be treated. This is the same as do unto others as you would have done unto you.

■ **Selfless service.** Put the welfare of the Nation, the Army and subordinates before your own. This means putting the welfare of the Nation and accomplishment of the mission ahead of personal desires.

■ **Honor.** Live up to all the Army Values. This implies always following your moral compass in any circumstance.

■ **Integrity.** Do what's right-legally and morally. This is the thread woven through the fabric of the professional Army ethic.

It means honesty, uprightness, the avoidance of deception and



steadfast adherence to standards of behavior.

■ **Personal Courage.** Face fear, danger, or adversity [physical or moral]. This means being brave under all circumstances [physical or moral].

Army to field new body armor -- improved outer tactical vest

By Debi Dawson

FORT BELVOIR, Va. [Army News Service] -- The Army continues to upgrade body armor to increase protection from bullets and fragments and soon will field the Improved Outer Tactical Vest to Soldiers deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The IOTV meets Program Executive Office Soldier's goals of providing Soldiers with the most advanced protective gear available while also improving comfort and mission effectiveness.

"The IOTV is more than three pounds lighter than the current OTV, but provides an equal level of protection over an increased area," said Brig. Gen. R. Mark Brown, Program Executive Officer Soldier. "This vest epitomizes our continuous efforts to seek the next improvement and to provide our Soldiers the best body armor available, bar none. It is live-fire tested -- we know it will prove itself

in combat."

"The weight of the IOTV was reduced by eliminating overlap," said Major Carl Fulmore, assistant product manager for Soldier Survivability. "With the IOTV, we were able to streamline previous improvements."

For example, the vest now has a higher cut in the underarm area, which will eliminate the need to attach the axillary or underarm protector to the current deltoid axillary protector set. The deltoid protector can still be attached at the commander's discretion. The vest's integrated throat protector provides the same protection as the current attachable version, but it's designed to be more comfortable. The now integrated side plate carriers decrease the vest's profile, and a lower back protector extends the vest's coverage by 52 square inches.

The IOTV's numerous improvements go beyond increased protection. A single-stage quick release added to the front of the vest allows a Soldier to doff the IOTV and its attachments with one pull. The vest then falls to the ground in two pieces and can be put back together in minutes.

"This feature would only be used by Soldiers in emergency situations, such as being trapped in an overturned or submerged vehicle. It's not meant to simply be a quick way to get out of the IOTV at the end of the day or mission," Fulmore said.

Medics could use the quick release to treat wounded Soldiers,

or they could use an opening on the left shoulder, which allows easy access while still providing protection to the patient.

Comfort and utility features are also part of the improved design. The most notable may be the IOTV's overhead opening. An internal waistband provides a snug fit and moves much of the weight from the shoulders to the waist.

"This design significantly decreased the vest's profile and should increase mobility. We believe mobility equals survivability," Fulmore said.

Other features include:

■ **The addition of a long variant to sizes medium through extra large.** This extends the size range from eight to 11 and should result in a near-custom fit for Soldiers.

■ **Additional modular lightweight load-carrying**

equipment attachments as a result of moving the opening from the front of the vest. These attachments are now in the universal camouflage pattern.

■ **Enhanced small arms ballistic insert pockets with four inches of vertical adjustability,** which will allow for better placement of the plates based on individual body proportions.

■ **Additional storage pockets.**

■ **A mesh lining to aid ventilation.**

■ **Vertical adjustability of side plate carriers.**

Soldiers will continue to use the enhanced small arms protective inserts and the enhanced side ballistic inserts.

The IOTV is a result of research and development that began with a body armor industry day in the spring of 2006. Seventeen vendors

came forward with designs for improved body armor, and six were selected to provide prototypes for a user evaluation conducted in January and February this year. The vest was then tested by Soldiers at Fort Lewis, Wash.

[Editor's Note: Dawson writes for Program Executive Office Soldier Strategic Communications Office.]



The new Improved Outer Tactical Vest [IOTV]. DOD PHOTO

Community Features and Photos

McMahon family copes with death through support

Story and photos by
Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

It was a festive time for the McMahon family. Thanksgiving had just passed and Christmas was on the horizon as they were preparing for the jolly old season in tranquil Hawaii.

The date was Nov. 27, 2004, a quiet Saturday morning when Jeanette and four-year-old Ricky McMahon adorned the front driveway of their suburban Hawaiian home with Christmas decorations.

In an instant, however, the jovial mood changed with the slam of a car door and the sight of two men in Green Class A military uniforms walking toward the driveway.

"It's amazing how you go through so many thoughts in just a short period of time. Before they took four steps toward me I already went through, 'no, they are not there,' to 'okay, they are there,'" said Col. Jeanette McMahon, Special Assistant to the Superintendent on Human Relations here. "Then you think, 'well, maybe he's not dead and he's just injured and I need to get to Landstuhl [Germany],' so you go through a million thoughts ... so rather than waiting, before they crossed into the driveway I asked them if he was dead or alive, and



The family made a memorial display to Lt. Col. Michael McMahon, USMA 1985, at their home here. It honors the memory of the Army aviator who died in a plane crash Nov. 27, 2004, in Afghanistan. The display includes memorabilia from Mike's career.

they said, 'Jeanette, we don't know, right now let's tell you what happened.'"

What Jeanette found out was the plane her husband, Lt. Col. Michael McMahon, had been flying on, crashed in the Hindu Kush Mountains, which is southeast of Bamiyan, Afghanistan.

After she was briefed, she would tell her three children [Michael Jr., Thomas and Ricky] that their dad's plane was missing and suspected to have crashed.

Three days went by as the rescue mission was ongoing with the hopes that survivors would be found because, as Jeanette said, it looked like the fuselage was fairly intact.

The family kept involved, as time lapsed, with church activities, work and school while trying to keep a positive outlook.

"I look at things optimistically," McMahon said, "so I was very hopeful myself."

McMahon with the chaplain's help, set up a prayer vigil for Michael and the other [two] missing troops from the crash.

"I thought it would be [the post chaplain] and [me] and a few of my friends," McMahon explained. "But about 200 people showed up. It was a pretty amazing thing."

Unfortunately, the devastating news would come the next morning [Tuesday] that none survived the plane crash. That's when the flood of emotions began and the remembering of a great man became more evident as time slowly moved on.

"He was a very charismatic leader and really cared about people," McMahon reminisced. "Mike was a fun-loving, caring leader and that came out most. A lot of people in his unit really struggled because of the relationships that he developed and that was not easy for them to get through."

While Michael made the ultimate sacrifice of giving his life to the mission, Jeanette and her children were also beginning the lifetime of sacrifices that go with dealing with the death of a husband and father well before his time.

It was an intense time after Michael's death. Even as the Family Readiness Group leader, which Jeanette was at the time, it still was an overwhelming challenge for her and her children.

For all of them, the next step was grieving in their own way. Jeanette feels the Army is very



Colonel Jeanette McMahon [center] poses with her family [clockwise] husband Paul Anglesano, 16-year-old son Michael Jr., 13-year-old son Thomas and seven-year-old son Ricky.

supportive in helping families through those struggling times.

"The Army has it right in terms of how these family support groups take care of each other during that time, because you just can't do it on your own," McMahon said.

Then beyond the help from the Family Readiness Group is the help you get on an individual basis: from counselors, chaplains or whomever can make a difference at that stage of grieving.

"As you go through the grieving process, everyone has to place that value on the life of the person who they lost," McMahon said. "You want to honor their successes in life and their contributions to validate that. It's very important."

Then there were the children. Each was in his own different stage of development: Michael Jr., is now 16, Thomas is 13 and Ricky is seven years old.

"They were all at a different place in terms of their relationship with their dad," she explained. "To try to manage all that on your own [without counseling] I think would be crazy - [to] not to seek that help [for the children and yourself]."

"Counselors are there to make you realize the bigger picture ... and [my counselor] helped me work through my own emotions," McMahon added. "It is definitely available and you get a lot of encouragement from various people to not hold it in."

Six months after Mike's death,

of their grief and start to establish new lives as civilians]."

Jeanette, like the children, has settled down. She got re-married in Sept. 2006 to Paul Anglesano, a 1984 USMA graduate.

Jeanette, Mike and Paul were in the same company, H-3, during their time at the academy. They also all became Army aviators as well.

"We have a common bond from what we went through. We were both in the military and at West Point. We knew each other from way back when we were developing as adults," said Anglesano, who went on a date with Jeanette when they were cadets. "We kind of picked up where we left off."

Paul knew Michael as he was his company commander back in their H-3 days and knew enough about him to know what kind of man he was.

"He was a very positive and hard worker, and he lived life to the fullest," Anglesano said. "I go visit Mike once in a while [at the cemetery] and try to look for guidance and make sure I'm doing the right things for the kids."

"Mike is their dad and will always be their dad, and there will always be a place for their father in this family," he added. "Love is infinite and for Jeanette and the children, it's clear to me that there is never going to be a time where Michael's not going to be present. I just hope that Mike looks down and smiles on us."

The kids expressed how having a new father has at times been difficult for them, but at the same time, they enjoy having him around.

"It's good to have a new dad because he relieves some of the stress," Thomas said, "and it gives us [a father figure] to talk too."

Jeanette is also at peace with herself -- moving on with life because her relationship with Mike didn't have any loose strings or any 'what ifs' left for discussion. To her, that's the greatest advice she would give to any Soldier who is about to deploy into harm's way.

"He did things right in terms of his preparations to get over there. He was right with his God, he was right with his family and friends, and all of that made his passing that much easier to handle," McMahon said. "There weren't damaged relationships that were left hanging and that's what I would want people to know."

the family moved to West Point as Jeanette came back to her old stomping grounds. Jeanette and Mike were both West Point graduates, 1983 and 1985, respectively.

A move is always a tough transition for the kids. However, following the death of a parent it is that much tougher. Although the kids are settled now that more than two years have passed, it was definitely hard on them at first.

"At first, it relieved some of the stress [of leaving Hawaii and that environment], but at the same time it made it worse because we had to make new friends," Michael Jr. said. "The moving process is always a difficult thing, but you get used to it after a while."

Leaving an established network of friends can cause stress on the children, but it can also have a great effect on the spouse as well. The Army alleviates the stress with the benefits package that includes living on post for up to a year after the death of a spouse [in the case of a non-military spouse].

"I'm really happy to see the Army extend the benefits for the families ... it's crucial because a lot of people have put their entire adult life, maybe 10 to 15 years, into the military and that's the only thing they know as a family," McMahon explained. "They need that support for a while, an extended period of time to help them get through [some

Cadet Model Arab League: the Dean's little giants

Submitted by Cadet 1st Class
Michael Wolk
Model Arab League CIC

Middle East during these times of great tension and conflict.

Last year, over 2,000 university and high school students participated in Models across the country, where the goal has been to educate as many people as possible about the most prominent issues faced by the 22 Arab countries.

In this forum, participants learn and develop valuable skills in research, writing and public speaking that carry over into their studies and future careers.

This season, the West Point Model Arab League held itself to a rigorous schedule of training models and conferences. During the year the team competed in two regional conferences, the Northeastern Regional at Northeastern University in November, representing Saudi Arabia, and the Midwest Regional at the University of Miami [Ohio]

On April 1, the youngest "Dean's Team", the West Point Model Arab League, claimed its first National title, adding to this year's two regional titles, for a total of six team titles in its short three year history.

They won outstanding delegation at the National University Conference sponsored by the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations held in Washington, D.C., March 29 - April 1.

What is the Model Arab League, you ask? The West Point Model Arab League is the youngest of the prestigious "Dean's Teams" and boasts the mission of introducing cadets to the rigors and intricacies of diplomacy and policy in the



Members of the Model Arab League debate at their 2006 Training Model. The team claimed its first National title April 1.

in February, representing Algeria and Jordan.

At both competitions the team earned first place as the Outstanding Delegation.

The team also participated in a training conference jointly hosted

by West Point and Northeastern University in Boston.

The team looks forward to the 2007-08 season during which they hope to enter into their first international competition in November at the Cairo International

Model Arab League hosted by the American University at Cairo, Egypt, in addition to their challenging schedule of several regional and national competitions.

Interested cadets can contact Maj. Daniel Dorado at 938-4586.

Why all the fuss about eliminating trans fat?

By Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

As of January 2006, the listing of trans fats is required on nutrition facts panel on foods labels, as are cholesterol and saturated fats, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. New York has banned trans fats altogether in restaurants.

What is all the fuss about trans fats?

Scientific evidence shows consumption of saturated fat, trans fat and dietary cholesterol raises low-density lipoprotein [LDL]

or bad cholesterol levels, which increase the risk of coronary heart disease. Coronary heart disease is one of the leading causes of death in the U.S., according to the American Heart Association. Various studies have shown that for every two-percent of calories consumed from trans fat, the risk of coronary heart disease increases by 23 percent.

Trans fat is introduced into foods when manufacturers add hydrogen to vegetable oil and other foods. This process increases the shelf life and flavor stability of foods and can be found in crackers, cookies, snack foods and

margarines.

"We are currently working to greatly reduce the trans fat content on the Cadet Mess menu here to less than one percent of the total calories," said Kelli Kidd, U.S. Corps of Cadets dietitian. "Some steps have already been taken, such as use of trans fat free oil for frying, elimination of several products that are significant sources of trans fat including breakfast pockets, breakfast on a stick and pizza pockets."

Kidd said there are a few products still on the menu such as cake icings and desserts that the

bakery is working with vendors to find a healthier substitute.

"Cadets have been somewhat unhappy about some of the changes to reduce trans fat content on the menu so I am working to ensure they are educated on the reasons we are trying to keep their intake minimized in the Mess Hall," she said.

Grant Hall eliminated trans fat from their fryer oil more than a year ago.

"We switched to a non-trans fat vegetable oil and were ahead of the trend," said Kevin D'Onofrio, food service director for the Directorate of Cadet Activities here. "We have also limited packaged items that have trans fat."

Eisenhower Hall also has eliminated trans fat from their oils, according to Chef Frank Tabasco.

"We use non-trans fat canola and vegetable oil," he said. "We are hoping to eliminate trans fat for the sports camps, too."

Additionally, dining facilities at Fort Lee, N.J., and many other installations are moving away from trans fat products and oils, according to Army New Service.

Even with the labeling of trans fat on food labels, a reading of 0 for trans fat doesn't necessarily mean there is no trans fat. The FDA's new labels requirement state if a dietary supplement contains trans or saturated fat less than 0.5 grams, it is not necessary to report it on the label. However, if one looks at the ingredients and they include hydrogenated or partially hydrogenated oil, trans fat is present.



Foreign Sgt. Maj. visit

U.S. Military Academy Cadets 2nd Class Christy Achanzar, [left] and Mario Feliciano, [right], both from the Philippines, visit with Philippine Army Command Sgt. Maj. Nicodemus Cinches, a U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy student, Tuesday at the West Point Club. Approximately 40 sergeants major, who are currently enrolled in the course at Fort Bliss, Texas, were invited to visit the academy by Command Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Bergman, USMA sergeant major.

Sgt. 1st Class Roger Jones/PAO NCOIC

Support for families of deployed Soldiers active at USMA

By Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

Choosing a career in the military is challenging for Soldiers, but it is just as challenging for their families who must cope with the deployment of a spouse, father, mother or child to foreign lands in the fight for freedom. This is especially true today with the unprecedented number of deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, coping with repeated deployments to combat zones and extended tours of duty while fighting an enemy that is often unseen and unpredictable.

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation through the Army Community Service division helps community members cope with the emotional impact of deployment, redeployments and post-deployments through a network of support with the 'Waiting Families Support Group,' now in its second year of operation.

"Our goal is to provide support and fun, especially with children as a group as well as individual support," said Galatea Badger, mobilization and deployment program manager for ACS. "The program is not just for the West Point community. It extends to military members and their families off-post who are residing in the local area in all the military services."

Badger said the group works with issues of pre-deployment, deployment, sustainment, re-deployment and post deployment.

"There is always anxiety associated when a military member receives orders for deployment," Badger said. "There are decisions to be made, such as whether family



Cadet 4th Class Andrew Zapcic [left] assists Maj. Susan Robinson and her daughter Rachel [behind ball] aim for a strike during the Waiting Families Support Group anniversary celebration at the West Point Bowling Center March 24. Katie Smith [left] and Peyton Badger wait their turn.

PHOTO BY GALATEA BADGER/MWR ACS

members are staying where they are or going home to [extended] families, and other plans that need to be decided. The emotional issues remain as the Soldier is away from the family for long periods of time and the issues associated when the Soldier returns home, where changes in family dynamics may have taken place after 12-18 months away."

The WFSG here supports these families through group meetings, recreational outings for adults and children and access to chaplains and psychological services, especially for those suffering with

in group settings," Badger said. "This helps the cadets to understand how important it is to take care of families. The children enjoy the attention of the cadets and get to know other children in the community who are coping with the same thing.

"Community volunteers here have banded together to donate space for our meetings," she added, "such as the youth services building and people who volunteer to speak on issues such as what to expect when coping with absences."

Badger said the program has grown tremendously within the last year due to community members coming together to support each other.

"We generally have between 30-40 people attending our group meetings, but we had 70 at our last meeting and we are seeing a lot of male spouses," Badger said. "The program is expanding, mostly due to the community really pulling together because of more and more deployments. People form bonds by talking to others who are going through the same thing."

One family member with three children, Elizabeth Mazzucco, the spouse of Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joe Mazzucco, said the WFSG was a great help to her.

"During my husband's deployment, I did not receive a

call from anyone from his unit to see how we were holding up," Mazzucco said. "In searching for a connection I ended up at West Point and thank God for the staff at West Point, specifically Galatea, who organized a VTC at Fort Monmouth, N.J. The video teleconference helped our entire family get over the hump we were all stuck in and got us through until Joe arrived home safely in June."

Jill Ann Hill, whose husband Lt. Col. David Hill is in Afghanistan working with the Afghanistan Military Academy cadets, also heralds the WFSG here.

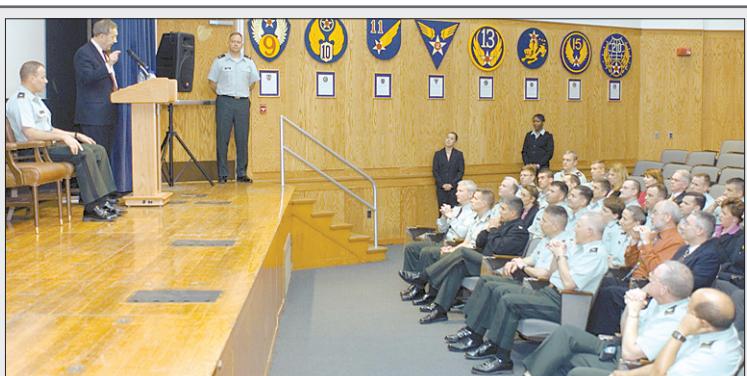
"I joined about a year ago just after Galatea took over and the group has grown quite big from when it first started," Hill said. "It's nice for me to get a [break for a couple of hours] from the kids to go shopping or lunch with friends or getting help with our taxes and child care.

"It just boosts the morale to have others who acknowledge what we are going through and offer support by organizing bowling outings and other recreational activities," Hill added. "I look forward to the monthly meetings. It's been something we can count on especially with Galatea who is always so enthusiastic and always there to lend a hand."

For info., call 938-4621/2519.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The program also provides Video Teleconferencing where family members can speak with their loved ones in real time.

"We have a great group of volunteers, such as cadets who talk with and play with children



Black Belt graduation

Ronald E. Rezek, Spec. Ass't., Deputy Under Secretary, Army, congratulated the first 29 Lean Six Sigma Black Belt graduates at the U.S. Military Academy April 4. The group was the Army's second largest Black Belt class [the normal class size is 20-24] and achieved the highest median and largest number of perfect scores of any class in the Army to date on their final exams. The class membership encompassed the entire West Point community.

PHOTO BY JOHN PELLINO/DOIM MMB



APRIL MWR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Visit MWR online at www.westpointmwr.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<p>ACSD, bldg. 622, 938-4621 (Registration required for classes.) AEC, bldg. 683, 938-3762 Arts & Crafts, bldg. 648, 938-4812 Auto Crafts, bldg. 648, 938-2074 Bowling Center, bldg. 622, 938-2140 BOSS, BSP, bldg. 628, 938-6497 CDC, bldg. 1207, 938-4798/4523 Recreation Division, 938-2401 Delafield Pond, 938-5139/5158 Fitness Center, bldg. 683, 938-6490 (Class schedules subject to change without notice.)</p>		<p>Golf Course, 938-2435/2327 ITR, bldg. 695, 938-3601 AVC, bldg. 2104, 938-3655 Morgan Farm, bldg. 2026, 938-3926 Outdoor Recreation, 938-2503 Post Library, bldg. 622, 938-2974 Round Pond, 938-2503/3860 School Age Services, bldg. 1207, 938-3921 Ski Sales, 938-3726 Tate Rink, 938-2991 West Point Club, bldg. 603, 938-5120, 446-5506 Youth Center, bldg. 500, 938-3727</p>				<p>13</p> <p>Membership Appreciation Night, 4:30-6:30pm, WP Club</p> <p>Galactic Bowling, 5-11pm, WP Bowl</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Pure Energy Step, 8am, Spinning, 10am, Saturdays at the MWR Fitness Center</p> <p>Galactic Bowling, 5-11pm, WP Bowl</p>
<p>15</p> <p>All Army Volleyball Tryouts/Camp Begins, MWR Sports Tour NYC, 9am-5pm, ITR Dollar Night, 6-9pm, WP Bowl</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Wee Ones Play Group, 9:30-11am, ACS Parent & Me, 9:30-10:45am, YC Mixed Leagues, 6-10pm, WP Bowl</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Spring Story Hour, 10am & 1:30pm, Post Library</p> <p>PiYo, 6:45-8pm, Tuesdays at the MWR Fitness Center</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Succeeding in Your Career Goals, 12-1pm, ACS Create an Earth Day Banner, 3:30-4:30pm, YC</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Theater Van to Broadway, 5-11:30pm, ITR</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Iron Core 1/2 hr., 9am, Spinning, 5pm, Fridays at the MWR Fitness Center WP Elem. & Middle Schools Closed</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Golf Course Closed for Official Function (April 21 & 22) Retiree Open House, 7am-3pm, Ike Hall Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island, 9am-4pm, ITR Defensive Driving, 8am-3pm, ACS (Register at ITR) Waiting Families Support Group, 5pm, YC</p>	
<p>22</p> <p>Ballroom Dancing, 12-4pm, WP Club Dollar Night, 6-9pm, WP Bowl</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Wee Ones Play Group, 9:30-11am, ACS Parent & Me, 9:30-10:45am, YC</p> <p>Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, TBA, WP Club Mixed Leagues, 6-10pm, WP Bowl</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Spring Story Hour, 10am & 1:30pm, Post Library</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Overseas Briefing, Korea, 1:30pm, Germany, 3pm, Employment Readiness Resources, 10am, ACS Administrative Professional Day Luncheon, 11:30am, WP Club</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Spinning, 5:40am, Cardio Blast, 5pm Thursdays at the MWR Fitness Center</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Dinner Little Italy/Chinatown, 5-11pm, ITR</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Month of the Military Child Picnic, 11-2pm, Ski Lodge</p>	

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

Friday -- Wild Hogs, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.
Friday -- The Number 23, R, 9:30 p.m.
Saturday -- The Messengers, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday -- Ghost Rider, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.
April 20 -- Ghost Rider, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.
April 20 -- Reno 911: Miami, R, 9:30 p.m.
April 21 -- Bridge to Terabithia, PG, 7:30 p.m.
April 21 -- Premonition, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

The theater schedule can also be found at www.aafes.com.

Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

Delivery problems?

For PV home delivery problems contact Valerie Mullane at the Poughkeepsie Journal at (845) 437-4730 or by e-mail at vmullane@poughkeepsiejournal.com.

What's Happening

Battle Command Conference

USMA Staff and Faculty are encouraged to attend the following portions of the Battle Command Conference:

Regimental Panels -- Monday 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., at either Robinson Auditorium, Arnold Auditorium, and Bartlett Hall rooms 211 and 412.

BCC Informal Mixer -- Monday 8:45 p.m., West Point Club.

BCT Battle Command Orientation -- Tuesday, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Arnold Aud., Washington Hall room 5006, Bartlett Hall rooms 211 and 412.

Next CAC meeting

The next Community Action Council meeting will be April 23 at 9:30 a.m. at the 49er Lodge.

Paper Clips Customer Appreciation Day

Come help Paper Clips celebrate their 10th anniversary April 24 from 10 a.m to 2 p.m. Refreshments and food will be served all day.

Paperclips is located in Bldg. 667-A on Ruger Road.

Call Manager Cathy Orem at 446-2616/2643 for more information.

Sacred Heart play

Sacred Heart School, in Highland Falls, presents "Honk, Jr." April 27 and 28 at 7 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Advance tickets can be purchased at SHS or at the Church Rectory. Call 446-2674 for more information.

Free tax preparation

MilitaryOneSource offers free tax preparation and filing.

Visit www.militaryonesource.com to file your federal and state taxes with TaxCut Basic Online by H&R Block.

Call 800-342-9647. Provided by the Department of Defense at no cost to active duty, Guard and Reserve [regardless of activation status] and their family members.

WPWC

The WPWC Gift Shoppe, located next to the MWR Fitness Center, is open on the Web at www.shopthepoint.com and is open Wed. from 10 a.m. until noon.

The Shop will also be open April 21 from noon to 4 p.m.

The shoppe is always open by appointment by contacting Julie at 446-2950.

The West Point Experience will be touring the West Point Cemetery Wednesday. Meet at the MWR gym parking lot at 9 a.m.

Contact Lori at llumbsith@aol.com.

com for more information.

Meet and Eat will be dining at Cathryn's Tuscan Grill in Cold Spring Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Meet at the Shop at 6:15 p.m.

Contact Lisa at 446-3095 by Saturday to hold your spot.

For more information, e-mail westpointmoms@hotmail.com.

BOSS resale lot

Are you looking to sell your automobile, van, truck, motorcycle, boats, trailers, or small motor

homes? Are you an Active Duty service member, DOD civilian, retiree or a family member? For \$20 a month, the BOSS Resale Lot has slots available for rent.

The BOSS resale Lot is located across from the AAFES Shoppette on the east end of the of the PX parking lot near the softball complex. All vehicles, boats, trailers and motor homes must be less than 24 feet. For further questions about registering, please contact either 938-6127/4290/7535.

Eisenhower Hall Theatre

Friday, April 27, 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 6, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 11, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 19, 8 p.m.

1964 -- The Tribute

Montgomery Gentry

Jerry Seinfeld [SOLD OUT]

Ehel Merman's Broadway

For more info., go to www.ikehall.com.

Command Channel 8/23

April 13 - 20

Friday

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch

1 p.m. Army Newswatch

6 p.m. Army Newswatch

Monday - April 20

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch

1 p.m. Army Newswatch

6 p.m. Army Newswatch

Meadows in the Mid-day

There is a new way to find out what's happening on and around West Point.

Tune in to the Command Channel or WKDT 89.3, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until noon and listen to the mid-day show with your host Sgt. Chris Meadows.

Listen to all your favorite music and get all the command information you can handle with Meadows in the Mid-day.

At Your Leisure DPW Notes

DPW official closure

All offices and shops of the Directorate of Public Works will be closed Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for a mandatory employee Commercial Activities Briefing.

The closure includes the Self Help Center [Bldg 695] and the Housing Division [Bldg 626]. Also, there will be no housing inspections or routine maintenance appointments made for that period of time. Emergency maintenance service ONLY should be reported by contacting 938-2316.

Road closure

The Service Road leading from the Self Help Center, Bldg 695, behind quarters 336 – 358 intersecting with Lee & Washington Roads, will be closed to through traffic Tuesday, from 7 a.m. to approximately 3 p.m.

Residents of Quarters 336 – 358 will have access to their driveways during the work period.

The closure is required to replace the gas line located at that intersection. The work is weather permitting.

Once the work is completed, DPW crews will require access to quarters 336 – 358; Dunover Court quarters 134 – 138; quarters 1050, and Bldg 695 to check pilot lights for boilers, hot water heaters and stoves. For more info., contact Bob Barton, 938-4977.

Fire hydrant flushing

DPW, Operations & Maintenance Division will begin flushing fire hydrants Monday through April 27 to clear sediment build-up out of the main water lines.

This is usually done on a six-month cycle. All hydrants on post will be flushed during the designated two-week period, pending water line emergencies and weather conditions.

For the convenience of community members, the flushing of hydrants will not occur from 6 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 8 p.m. daily.

During flushing, high velocities in the water mains may create discolored water in the faucets. This water is not suitable for washing clothes because staining will result. Although the water is considered safe, it is not recommended for drinking or cooking due to the

discoloration. Some quarters/buildings may experience low water pressure. Both the low water pressure and discoloration will clear up in about two hours. All community members are urged to run the water prior to use for consumption or laundry during the flushing process in their vicinity.

Road closure -- Clinton Place

Clinton Place will now be closed beginning on or about Monday until approximately May 30 to complete the reconstruction of the river side retaining wall project which was started last year. Clinton Place runs from the intersection with Cullum Road in the vicinity of Lincoln Hall, behind Kosciuszko Monument and reconnects with Cullum Road by the tennis courts.

For the safety of all personnel, the road will be closed to traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian, and to all parking. This will eliminate approximately 25 CPA parking spaces. This work is weather dependent.

Storm sewer repairs beginning

Storm sewer repairs in Central Area and at Buffalo Soldier Field will begin approximately mid-April

through the end of May.

In Central Area, work will be in the vicinity of Bldg. 600 on the Pedestrian Walkway where the storm sewers will be relined. We anticipate no excavations will be needed and the work will be accomplished using remote methods.

The BSF site is located on Thayer Road, across from the Hotel Thayer at the sidewalk and grassy area between the road and the parking lot. The sidewalk will be blocked at the work site and pedestrians should use the sidewalk on the opposite [Hotel] side of Thayer Road.

Earth Day -- Recycle Center open house

We will be conducting a "kid's special" Earth Day Open House at the USMA Recycling Center, across Route 293 from the Round Pond Entrance, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At approximately noon, prizes will be awarded to the winners of the Earth Day Poster Contest and a \$10,000 check will be given to MWR to enhance the quality of life services provided to the community.

For info., contact John Dopler, USMA Recycling Coordinator, 938-4281.



Bowling Center Grand Re-opening

More than 450 attendees took part in the March 29 Grand Re-Opening of the West Point Bowling Center, which marked the completion of a five-phase, \$700,000 renovation that began in 2004. The entire interior was gutted and redone. The work included the lanes, new bathrooms, new floor plan, handicapped accessibility and increased seating, creating a more open and airy facility. The additions also included implementing a new theme restaurant, so the center offers Lil' Skeeters Southern BBQ and Primo's Pizza. The renovations were much needed. MWR is excited to be able to offer the WP community a truly excellent facility -- one as nice, if not nicer than what you'd find off post.

LIZ HARRINGTON/MWR

What's Happening

Yard Sale Saturday

The West Point Spring Yard Sale is Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The rain date is May 12.

If you wish to donate items after the Yard Sale drop them off at 670 Eichelberger Road, the Engineer Bay Parking Lot from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Motorcycle Mentorship meeting

There will be a Motorcycle Mentorship Program meeting Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Garrison Commander's Conference Room, Bldg. 681.

Book signings

ABC anchor Bob Woodruff will be signing his book "In an instant" at the USMA Bookstore Tuesday from 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Doonesbury creator Garry Trudeau will also be signing his books "The War Within" and "The Long Road Home" April 26 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the USMA Bookstore.

West Point Ladies' Golf Club Sign Up

The West Point Ladies' Golf Club is having sign-ups Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. in Bldg. 622 at the Army Community Service. Please enter through the post library.

USMA astronaut speaks

Col. Jeff Williams, USMA 1980, will discuss his experiences during his recent six month stay aboard the International Space Station Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Arnold Auditorium.

The event is free and open to the public.

Holocaust lecture

The West Point Equal Opportunity Office and the Days of Remembrance Committee invite the community to a lecture by Holocaust survivor Anita Stern Thursday from noon to 12:45 p.m., in Thayer Hall, Room 144.

Refreshments will be served afterwards.

WP School Board Elections

We would like to encourage all interested community members to submit petitions to run for a position on the West Point School Board. There will be three vacancies on the School Board for the May 2007 election.

Each Department of Defense Elementary and Secondary School must have an elected School Board. The WPSB is comprised of five members elected by parents and guardians of students attending the school.

In order to be eligible to run for a seat on the Board, individuals must be residents of the West Point community. Petitions will be available by contacting Eileen Ellingsen, Office of the Superintendent, Bldg. 705, at 938-3506, or by e-mail at Eileen.Ellingsen@am.dodea.edu beginning April 16.

Petitions are due back in the office listed above by April 30.

WP School PTO Board Nominations

At Your Leisure

Calling all elementary school and middle school parents and guardians! We need YOU!

WPS PTO is looking for volunteers to fill PTO Board positions for SY 07-08.

Positions are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and School Board Liaison.

Nomination forms are available in both school offices or by contacting Lisa at lachance6@earthlink.net or 446-2707. The nomination deadline is April 30.

Staffing changes at ACPDC

The current resource constraints on the Army and USMA have compelled the Department of Physical Education to make some temporary changes in the operations and services of the Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center.

The recent loss of two staff members has resulted in the following temporary changes, which

will be implemented Sunday.

■ Noontime [11:50 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.] Staff & Faculty Lap Swim is suspended.

■ Friday Cadet open swim times [3 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.] are suspended.

■ Sunday operating hours are modified to 1 to 9 p.m.

■ Sunday evening Cadet Open Swim times are 6 to 8 p.m.

The MWR Community Swim Program will not be affected and no other changes in the operation of the ACPDC are expected at this time. These measures will remain in effect until an adequate number of staff members can be hired and trained.

Looking for a few committed mayors!

The Community Mayors Election will be held in April.

The Garrison Command is looking for individuals interested

in volunteering for the Mayors Program. The goal of the program is to improve community relations, expedite the problem solving process and to generate interest, pride and satisfaction among residents.

Mayors serve as liaisons between their community and the Garrison Command. As a mayor, you would be expected to assist in identifying, assessing and resolving community issues and concerns.

Duties of mayors include, but are not limited to: 75 percent attendance at monthly Community Action Council meetings, act as a focus of communications within the housing area and support residents in accomplishing housing area initiated projects.

If you would like to volunteer please contact Spc. Tanya Davila at 938-2319, or e-mail her at: tanya.davila@usma.edu or contact your current community mayors on how to get your name on the ballots.

Army and Community Sports

Racquetball represents at Nationals

Story and photos by
Maj. Ken Braeger
Racquetball OIC

The Army Racquetball team participated at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz., March 28-31, in the Racquetball Collegiate National Championships. The event drew 28 Division I and nine Division II schools from all over the country.

The cadets were competitive over the four-day tournament and in the end, nine of the 11 cadets returned home with a medal and senior Jill Hoops was named an All-American.

The weekend ended with Division I Colorado State/Pueblo winning the men's title, Arizona State University taking the Women's title, and the University of Alabama being crowned the combined team champion. Baldwin Wallace (Ohio) won the Division II overall championship.

Army senior Marcus Brooks played in the number three position, behind junior Clint Ott and senior Gordon Winslow, who were both ousted by stronger competition at number one and two.

In his first match, Brooks played excellent racquetball against a better Eric Crowley from Arizona State University. Brooks won the first game with some phenomenal play, but was unable to complete the victory and Crowley came back to win in the tiebreaker game.

A loss to Duke University in the next round sent Brooks to the

White Division. There he was able to defeat Mike Baratta from the University of Colorado/Boulder and Michael Galdenzi from the University of Houston to win the Gold medal in the Men's Division 3 white division.

In the doubles bracket, Brooks paired with junior Erik Hamilton to put Army against another team from the University of Florida.

The Army team was no match for the Gators and they lost in consecutive games. The Florida pairing would go on to take third place in the division.

With their first loss, Brooks and Hamilton were sent to the consolation bracket. In this draw the two were able to get a victory over a team from Ohio State University, but couldn't get past a duo from Duke University in the semifinals.

Army played strong in the third place match against Michael Mutrie and Ryan Lewis from Bryant College. Brooks and Hamilton won the first game, but Mutrie and Lewis were able to rally in the next game and the tiebreaker to give the Army pair fourth place.

Sophomore Patrick Jones was able to earn his playing spot on Army's national team in an end of year team playoff.

At the tournament Jones did not disappoint. Jones met Josh Pearl from the University of Missouri in his first match. Pearl defeated Jones and sent him to the Red Division, from there Jones didn't look back. He quickly defeated Mike Marra



Senior All-American Jill Hoops takes a forehand shot as she and fellow senior Katie Hillegass compete against the University of Alabama at the Racquetball Collegiate National Championships in Tempe, Ariz., March 28-31.

from Utah Valley State and in a tough match beat Kelby Stout from Utah State to put himself in the finals. There he met Andrew Corn dell from Bryant College and easily slipped past him to win the gold in the Red Division.

Freshman Austin Lyle held Army's number six position and played well throughout the tournament. Lyle was the number 12 seed in his division and faced the number 5 seed, Nick Cargni, from the University of Oregon, in his first match.

Lyle made quick work of Cargni in the first game. Cargni made a hard charge in the second game,

but Lyle was able to hold him off and win the game, 15-14, upsetting the higher seeded player. Lyle did not fair as well against the number 4 seed and was sent to the Men's 6 Blue Division. There, he met and was not able to get past a tough Jonathan Cheney from Arizona State University in the semifinals.

Lyle battled for third with Jon Anderson, a member of the Division II champion team, Baldwin Wallace. Lyle won the first game, 15-8, and was able to hold off the determined Anderson, 15-14, in the second game to give him the bronze medal for this division.

For the first time this season Army was able to bring almost a complete women's team, only one short of the six person maximum for the national competition. The women scored well and even though they were one person short, they nearly matched the Army men's team total.

The women in the upper bracket ran into similar competition as the upper level men. Sophomore Allyson McKay, playing number one for the Army women, faced off against Lisa Henley from the University of Houston.

The energetic Army player was all over the court and after a loss in the first game, she came back to win the second game. The tiebreaker was tight, but Henley was able to sneak away with the win and sent McKay to the Red bracket.

McKay met Lindsey Baptiste from the University of Oregon and

wasn't able to get past the better player in the semifinals. McKay was set to face Pamela Konert from Missouri State to play for third place, but a no-show guaranteed McKay a bronze finish in the division.

Promising freshman Riley Merrigan holds the number three position for the Black Knights. Merrigan drew a tough match in the first round, playing the number two seed from Brigham Young University. Unable to beat her, Merrigan was sent to the Red bracket. In the quarterfinals, she faced Laura Buck from the University of Missouri and defeated her in straight games 15-4, 15-8.

Merrigan had little tougher time in the semifinals against Chelsey Rink from Bryant College, but still got the win with games of 15-12, 15-5.

In the red finals, she played against a good player from the University of New Mexico, Laura McConaghy. Merrigan initially started off behind, but she was able to rally back and win the first game 15-10. In the next game, Merrigan came out a little more aggressive and beat the New Mexico player 15-4, earning her a gold medal.

Senior Katie Hillegass played at number four for Army and had a very good tournament. She lost in her first match to Grace Crowley from Penn State, who would end up winning the division.

In the red bracket, Hillegass



Nine of the 11 Army Racquetball team members [pictured above] earned medals in their division during the four-day competition. It marked West Point's return to the competition for the first time in 10 years.

See RACQUETBALL, page 15

Equestrian team competes well at regional championships

By Sherry Cashman
Cadet Equestrian Team coach

Divide and conquer. While the USMA Cadet Equestrian Team didn't quite conquer all of the competition, team members on both sides of the country rode to many personal bests.

Ending the season as Regional Team Champions qualified the cadets for the Western Semifinals. Half of the team journeyed to Pomona, Calif., for this major event March 24-25. Army competed well against 28 college teams, to include such schools as Ohio State, Utah State, University of Nebraska and California State.

These schools have very strong western teams, with many of the students competing on the very difficult American Quarter Horse Association [AQHA] circuit for many years.

Despite uncooperative conditions for daily practice sessions, the cadets proved once again how perseverance and dedication can make the difference in the overall results.

Freshman Corinne Noble placed in the Walk/Jog/Lope Team Division and earned the cadets their first team points. Freshman Bridget MacFarland placed fourth in the Individual Advanced Horsemanship, therefore qualifying for the National Championships to be held in Springfield, Mass.

Senior Scott Vetter, already qualified for Nationals as the AQHA High Point Rider, also put in an outstanding ride at the California Semi's. Vetter took third place in the Reining Phase as a result of his nearly flawless pattern. A series of spins, rollbacks, sliding stops and circles on an unfamiliar horse is a challenge for anyone and Vetter scored high marks for



Senior Scott Vetter [front] took third place in the Reining Phase as a result of a flawless pattern. He also qualified for Nationals as an AQHA High Point Rider.

PHOTO PROVIDED

his efforts.

Back on the East Coast, the rest of the team competed in the last regular English show of the season. With limited riders and not a full point card, the cadets still held on for fifth place as a team.

It was just a few points that kept the team from a higher point standing. Individually, the cadets rode above and beyond what could have been expected from a team whose practice sessions are at the mercy of the elements.

Wins by freshmen Leah Jones and Stephanie McKiernan, both in Novice Flat, earned the team points and blocked other point riders. Senior Brittany Ladner ended her West Point riding career

by taking second in her division of Novice flat. Third place went to junior Ashleigh Davidson for an outstanding ride in Open Fences. Also taking third was freshman Nick Fett whose Walk/Trot placing earned the team four points.

On opposite sides of the country, the Army Equestrian Team achieved some well-deserved results. The team certainly knows all about doing their best under any conditions, not giving up and being supportive of one another to reach goals both as individuals and as a whole.

Handball placed second at Open

By Maj. Chris Springer
Handball OIC

Army Men's Team Handball traveled to The University of Delaware April 6-8 to compete in the 2007 Team Handball Open National Championships.

This year the Black team moved up to compete in the Elite division against the best teams from all over the country.

The Army Gold team competed in the Men's First Division in round robin play.

The Black team opened up their play against rival University of North Carolina. Army opened up the game with a strong offense and got off to a sizeable lead that North Carolina was never able to close. Army kept hustling throughout the game and never looked back as they defeated North Carolina with defensive domination.

In the Black team's second game, they faced the New York Athletic Club, which sports many former Olympians and professionals.

The game started rough for Army as they found themselves down by as many as eight goals in the first half. However, the Black team kept fighting back and eventually worked back to a two-goal deficit at the half.

Army's defense in the second half proved to be the difference again as they made many stops and won the game. This win was the first time that Army had defeated the New York Athletic Club in the National Tournament in many years.

Army continued their opening round games with a Saturday

morning match against the Cal Heat.

The Black team's quickness and tough defense were too much for their opposition as Army won their match in a tough game. After finishing 3-0 in qualifying play, Army advanced to the semifinals as the No. 1 seed from their group and drew Chicago as their opponent.

Chicago played a great first half as they traded goals with Army for most of the game. In the second half, Army brought out their trademark hustle defense in front of the largest crowd of the tournament and won their toughest game of the tournament.

The Black team's win moved them to the championship match against the other No. 1 seed New York City.

New York City started the game with a great arsenal of shots from every position. Army quickly was down by many goals as they were shut down by the New York defense.

The Black team fought their way back into the game and continued to fight to catch up for the whole second half.

However, the lead that New York City had built was too great for Army and NYC won the championship.

Army's second place finish in the Elite Division is the best finish in the history of Army's storied handball program. Their progress this year has been tremendous and they are not done yet. Army travels to Huntsville, Ala., May 4-6 to compete in the College National Championships to bring home the crown to West Point.

WAR crushes Dartmouth

By Cadet 4th Class
Marissa Readinger

Women's Army Rugby A-side crushed Dartmouth, 39-5, Saturday in Hanover, N.H.

Thanks to the six inches of snow that fell in Hanover April 5, the rugby pitch was snowed in, leaving only the Dartmouth turf football field playable.

Despite the extremely narrow field and snow banks on either side of the touch line, Army played an

excellent game, with solid rucking, strong scrums and well-executed back line plays.

Army's senior scrum half Dianna Le scored a try off of a quick tap penalty, as did senior flanker Marjana Mair.

Freshman Marie Timm saw action in this game, her first game back after nursing an ACL injury from last season.

Army B's played immediately after the A-side, and also delivered a win against Dartmouth B-side.

RACQUETBALL, cont. from page 13

faced a tough player from the powerhouse University of Alabama, Julia Langosch. Hillegass and Langosch battled back and forth in the first game with Army edging out on top 15-14.

The second was much like the first, with the two players going back and forth and also like the first, Army win 15-12, putting Hillegass in the finals. There she met Jill Carroll from Bryant College and was able to get past her in straight games 15-3, 15-4, giving Hillegass the gold for the red division.

Senior Jill Hoops played number five for the women and also a late addition to the roster when she joined the team after her sky diving season ended. Hoops learned to play in her lifetime sports class taught by the Department of Physical Education.

In her first singles match, Hoops faced a more experienced Dana Pepa from Bryant College. Hoops fell in the first game, 15-8, and came out hard the second game that left the Bryant woman out of breath and scoreless.

The two battled in the third game and through superior physical conditioning and determination, Hoops was able to win 11-9 in the tiebreaker.

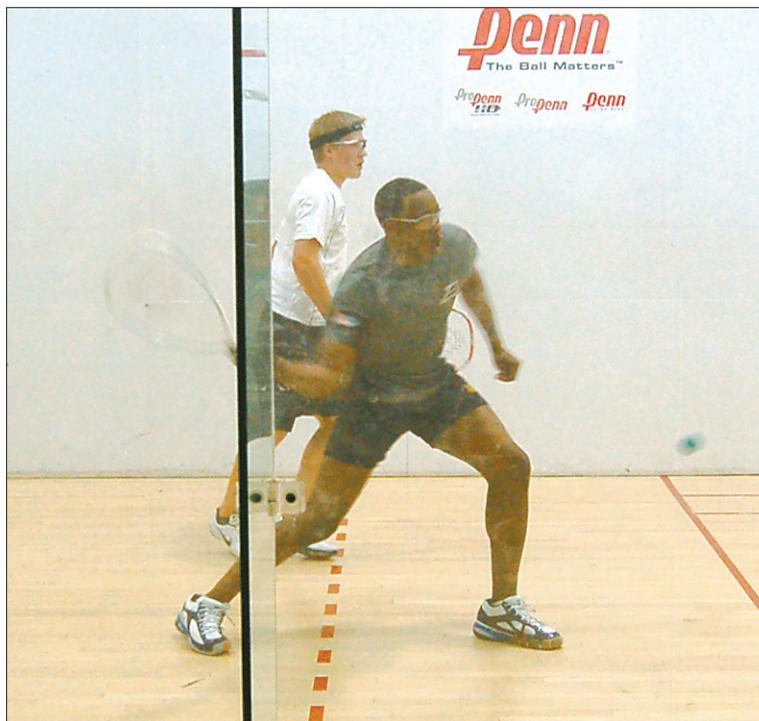
The win kept Hoops in the main draw and allowed her to advance to the semifinals, guaranteeing her All-American status. The top four players in the main brackets earn the All-American status.

Hoops faced Kristen Green from Brigham Young University in her next match and lost in straight games. Battling for third, Hoops fought another more experienced player from Penn State, Melissa Delvecchio.

Hoops managed a victory in the first game 15-8, but the more experienced player won the second game and finished Hoops in the tiebreaker, 11-7, leaving Hoops in fourth place, but with her All-American status.

Hillegass and Hoops were paired in the doubles competition and faced the University of Alabama in their first match.

Though the Black Knights



Senior Marcus Brooks, playing Army men's number three position, earned a gold medal in the men's Division 3 white division.

battled hard, they were no match for the Alabama duo who obviously had more playing time together.

In the quarterfinals of the consolation bracket, Hillegass and Hoops defeated a pair from Clarkson University to put themselves in the semifinals.

Half way through their next match against Utah State, an injury to one of the Utah State players forced them to withdraw and put the Army team in the finals.

In the finals, they met another experienced doubles team, this time from Brigham Young University. The Army women fought hard, but it was not enough to give them the win and they finished in second place.

Next year Army will return seven players from the team that went to the national tournament and a number of men who were able to play in the regular season tournaments.

With the added experience and upgraded playing ability, the Army team plans to compete again in the Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference and at the national tournament next season.

With roster changes across the ECRC, Army will be one of the favorites to finish in the top three of the conference and will have one of the top preseason ranking men.

Historically, Army has had top players in the ECRC and with the added experience from playing this year and some additional coaching, Army plans to be a powerhouse in the league again.

ARMY SPRING CLASSIC

The U.S. Military Academy Cycling team will host the 23rd annual Army Spring Classic Saturday and Sunday.

The event will include a road race and team time trial at Harriman State Park Saturday.

There will be a criterium and individual hill climb time trial races at Shea Stadium Sunday.

All races are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Cadet 3rd Class Derek Merkler at 515-5858.