

October changes [as of 10/3]	
C FUND	+ 0.88 percent
I FUND	+ 0.40 percent
S FUND	+ 1.61 percent

RCI partner hosts first town hall meeting

By Irene Brown
Chief, Command Information

A spirited group of residents gathered at the West Point Club Tuesday night to address their concerns about the ongoing Residential Communities Initiative here.

The town hall meeting was sponsored by West Point's partner, GMH Military Housing. Colonel Dan Bruno, the garrison commander here, opened the meeting by telling the residents he was excited about RCI.

"It truly is a good news story for the Army," he said. "It's DOD's solution to make great housing, like we have here, even better."

Bruno said he was pleased with the progress and professionalism of West Point's RCI partner.

"We have been working with GMH for roughly three months and I'm happy with their progress," he said. "I'm also very pleased with their dedication and commitment."

Bruno then introduced GMH Project Director Rich Wagner, a 1977 U.S. Military Academy

graduate. Wagner told the residents that he has a real connection with West Point.

"I have two sons in the Corps, a firstie and a plebe, and they're doing fine," he said. "I'm very excited and happy to be back here and to have a chance to take care of West Point Families."

Wagner said GMH's intention is to give West Point residents the best housing possible.

"We want to make a community that's competitive with the outside industry and one that residents will choose to live in," he explained.

He then showed them some slides that gave an overview of what GMH expects to accomplish over the next six years. Those accomplishments include new housing at Stony I, new community centers and even a splash park in one of the housing areas. However, he cautioned, nothing has been approved or finalized and things could change.

"We will keep all of you updated as often as possible through every means available," Wagner added.

Charles L'Hommedieu, GMH regional community manager, said

one way to make residents want to live on the installation and feel good about RCI is to keep the lines of communication open and these town hall meetings are crucial to that process.

"These meetings give us a chance to update residents on our progress and clear up any rumors," he said. Then he told the attendees that GMH was ready to address their questions.

Dozens of hands shot up and, for roughly the next hour and a half, residents voiced concerns, asked questions and gave their opinions. The questions addressed a myriad of issues such as timelines for renovations, leases and utilities. But the issue that drew the most comments was GMH's draft version of the resident handbook. L'Hommedieu told them that GMH understood their concerns.

"We will send an answer to everyone who responded to the draft resident guide," he said. "The housing and the Families here are our responsibility and we take that very seriously."

See RCI MEETING on page 4



Stevens conference

West Point hosted the 26th annual Robert T. Stevens Conference here Sunday through Thursday. The conference the top ranking cadets and their staffs from the five service academies to develop their leadership skills and to foster inter-academy cooperation and relations. Standing in front of their staffs are USMMA Regimental Commander Sarah Jones, [left], USNA Brigade Commander Sam Rykaczewski, USCGA Regimental Commander Joel Kurucar, USAFA Wing Commander Ian Helms and USMA Brigade Commander Jason Crabtree.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

Capt. Randall Ashby named AOG's second Ninninger Award recipient

Story and photo by
Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

Captain Randall L. Ashby [USMA 2001] received the second

INSIDE



USMAPS vist, page 8

Alexander R. Ninninger Award Sept. 26 from the Association of Graduates during a ceremony at the Cadet Mess Hall here.

The Ninninger Award is presented to a graduate for valor at arms, which exemplifies bravery and represents all West Point-commissioned officers who have heroically led Soldiers in combat.

The award is named for 2nd Lt. Alexander R. Ninninger Jr., USMA Class of 1941, who earned a Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions near Abucay, Bataan, Jan. 12, 1942.

Ashby earned the Silver Star, as well as the Ninninger Award, while gallantly serving as a platoon leader for 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. As a first lieutenant during Operation Iraqi Freedom I

to give the Corps of Cadets a reminder that recent graduates are

in 2003, he was the sapper platoon leader for Task Force 2-69 Armor serving with Team Assassin, where he executed dangerous missions in order to contribute to the engineer platoon's success.

While honored to receive both the Ninninger Award and the Silver Star, Ashby put in perspective why he felt he got the awards.

"I got the award for leadership," Ashby said. "[Lt. Gen. Lewis] 'Chesty' Puller of the U.S. Marine Corps used to say about his five Navy Crosses that, 'I never did anything special, I just lead my guys,' and I look at it the same way.

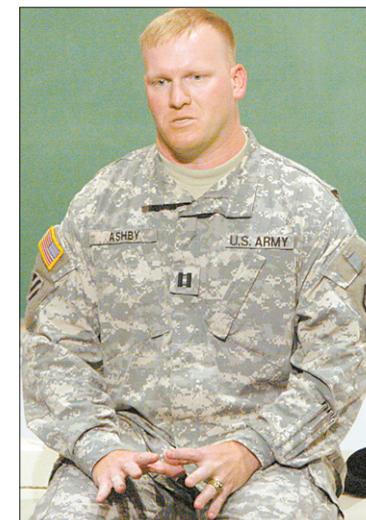
Bridge reconnaissance missions and putting in road craters were some of the roles that Ashby's engineer platoon performed in Iraq while under hostile conditions. He had some Soldiers who were wounded and one Soldier who was killed, and, sometimes, felt unworthy of earning the Silver Star until he was told to look differently at the award.

"I had one of my first sergeant's tell me since I've been in command, 'This is what you do. You may be embarrassed by it because you got it and one of your Soldier's didn't. But he told me wear it for them, wear it for the things your platoon did.'" Ashby said. "When I look at it that way, I'm damn proud to wear it because I'm wearing it for my guys and the things that they did."

The Ninninger Award is meant

to give the Corps of Cadets a reminder that recent graduates are

See NINNINGER on page 4



Capt. Randall L. Ashby

Surveys on character development, honor coming this month - participate

**Commentary by
Lt. Gen. Buster Hagenbeck
Superintendent**

U.S. colleges and universities are realizing that they should tend to students' character and not just their intellect. According to the Association of American Colleges and Universities Web site, "the time is right to reclaim and revitalize [higher education's] role in fostering students' development of personal and social responsibility."

To this end, the AAC&U has selected 25 colleges and universities -- to include both the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Air Force Academy -- from approximately 130 applicants to serve as a consortium focused on student growth in five key areas -- striving for excellence, cultivating personal and academic integrity, contributing to a larger community, taking seriously the perspective of others and developing competence in ethical and moral reasoning.

Over the next two years, AAC&U will sponsor collaborative research and symposiums to identify their "best practices" in fostering these core commitments.

This initiative will help West Point more fully answer some difficult questions about the growth of character.

■ How significantly can a four-year institution impact an individual's values?

■ What are the limits to that impact?

■ What experiences contribute most?

■ How can we better integrate the efforts of various USMA programs toward character development?

■ What development of the staff and faculty is needed, especially given the significant annual turnover?

■ How can we assess character development?

To aid in answering these questions, in mid-October we will administer a 25-minute Personal and Social Responsibility Inventory to all West Point cadets, faculty and administrators.

Such emphasis on character has been a longstanding component of USMA's mission. We look forward to sharing a number of practices that might benefit other members of this consortium. At the same time, we have a lot to learn. Character development is a tremendously complex process.

Also, as you all know, we have relied on the Cadet Honor Code as a vital instrument in forging character. Over the next two months, the Superintendent's

Honor Study Group will make recommendations concerning the health of the Honor Code, Honor System and Honor Education. In one sense, the state of honor at West Point will always be uncertain, since it rests on the internalization of the Code by new members of the Corps of Cadets. Therefore, we will

administer another short survey in October that will give insight into the following:

■ How can this institution ignite the spirit of the Code in the cadets?

■ How can the Honor System and Education most effectively contribute?

Invest yourself in these surveys. Your candid answers will ensure a well-founded estimate of where we are and where we need to go.

West Point's recent designation as the Army's Center of Excellence for the Professional Military Ethic demonstrates the Army's confidence in your ability and commitment to foster character. Such inspiration doesn't happen on a committee; it happens only in the interactions you choose on a daily basis. Persist in making a real difference even as we seek innovative ways to enhance the difference you make.

SAPR-P

The members of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program are Col. Jeanette McMahon, Shelley Ariosto [Garrison], Maj. Maria Burger [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	2	1			
		9					7	2
8		6		5		9		
1	6							
		2	8	3	7	1		
							3	9
		7		4		6		1
3	4					2		
			2	1	8			7

Difficulty: Easy

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

See Solution on Page 11

POINTER VIEW®

**Lt. Gen.
Buster Hagenbeck,**
Superintendent

Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty,
Director of Communications

Irene D. Brown
Chief, Command Info.
938-8366

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



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Puppy-sit future service dogs -- help them learn

Commentary by
Capt. Jana Fajardo
BS&L

While some of you may have seen the Puppies Behind Bars article in the June 22 issue of the *Pointer View*®, many of us were just moving to West Point and never saw it. After getting involved with PBB by chance, I asked the *Pointer View*® editor for ideas on how exactly to get the word out, so here it goes:

What is Puppies Behind Bars?

PBB is a non-profit organization that uses prison inmates around the New York region to train Labradors and Golden Retrievers to be service dogs. These dogs serve our disabled veterans, veterans with PTSD, the blind, as explosive ordnance detection dogs and as drug detection dogs. PBB dogs are currently working in countries across the world, to include Iraq, with our deployed Soldiers, at our airports and even at Thayer Gate. Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms uses dogs trained in this program, as does the CIA.

Why do they need volunteers if prison inmates are raising these dogs?

Even though these puppies get intense, 24-hour training for 16 months at the prisons, they do not get all the experiences needed to be successful service dogs. Prisons do not allow the puppies valuable experiences like interacting with kids or other animals; hearing sirens, crickets, trains or coffee grinders; swimming in rivers, hanging out in houses, etc. A puppy that is afraid of crowds would be no good at an airport, would it? That's where volunteers come in. Volunteers puppy-sit these prison puppies for a few hours, a few days or whatever they can fit in their schedules to give them different experiences and socialize them to the environments they will have to work in.

What's in it for you?

Well, puppies make everybody smile. Add the fact that the puppies you help socialize may save your life, a loved one's life or anyone else's life one day. If you absolutely love animals, PBB is for you. If you can't commit to a long-term pet, this is perfect for you. If you have trouble talking to people, nothing

helps more than a puppy. If you love cute, cuddly puppies, sign up. If for some reason you want [or have been highly encouraged] to do some community service, nothing can beat puppy-sitting. If you want to have fun and feel good doing something that will help others, this is it. There are tons of great reasons to get involved.

How do you become a puppy-sitter?

Too easy. There are two hands-on training sessions here Tues. and Thurs., at Bldg. 639 from 6 to 8 p.m. After you attend both sessions and your application is approved [provided you are a good citizen, animal lover and over 18 years old], you too can puppy-sit. A van driven by a retired veteran even brings the puppies to West Point and picks them up, so you never have to drive to a prison or interact with an inmate.

How can you get more information or help out?

If you are interested in the training sessions, know a disabled veteran that may benefit from a PBB dog or have any questions, e-mail Amy at missingmpc@yahoo.com or contact Capt. Denis Farjardo at [845] 270-4666 or denis.fajardo@usma.edu.

If you want to help in other ways, Puppies Behind Bars is participating in the Combined Federal Campaign [CFC #11902]. There will also be a demonstration Oct. 25 with one of the PBB dogs [Larry] that has served in Iraq detecting explosives. The time and location are still to be determined.

There are absolutely no excuses for not getting involved -- unless you don't like puppies, but that's almost impossible.



Larry, a Puppies Behind Bars trained ordnance detection dog, poses with one of his handlers in Iraq. He will be part of a demonstration by PBB trained dogs here, planned for Oct. 25 -- time and place to be determined.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Warrior Transition Unit contact info.

Bldg. 626, Swift
Road, 2nd Floor
West Point, N.Y.

[845] 938-0264
[Fax] [845] 938-0286

WTU
Family Readiness
Group meetings
first Thursday of each month
at 6 p.m.
at Buffalo Solder Pavilion
POC: Heather Phillips
[845] 938-0264

Force protection for football Saturday

Submitted by the
Force Protection Office
DPTMS

Road Restrictions and Closures

In support of the Homecoming Thayer Wreath Ceremony Saturday, traffic control points will be posted at the Stony Lonesome and Washington Road intersection, on Parke Road adjacent to the Security Guard post, at the Ruger and Howard Road intersection and at the southern entrance to Clinton Lot. These control points will stop

all traffic from entering the Thayer Statue area from 2:20 p.m. until approximately 2:45 p.m. After the ceremony traffic will be free to flow along Cullum Road.

General Information

The full brigade Cadet Review will begin at 3:13 p.m.

Michie Stadium gates open at 5 p.m.

Black Knight Alley opens at 4 p.m.

Kick off is set for 7 p.m.

POC is Joe Senger, DPTMS, 938-8859.

RCI MEETING, cont. from page 1

Wagner asked the group to be patient with the process and explained that there would be more upheaval yet to come.

“There will be a lot of turmoil during the IDP process [Initial Development Plan] because we will be moving neighborhoods around and renovating quarters,” he said. “We hope that everyone will remain patient and understanding during this time.”

GMH officials said they would strive to keep residents updated through more town hall meetings,

columns in the post newspaper, updates on the RCI Web site, postings on the command channel and individual e-mails.

“We want to keep residents constantly informed about this process,” L’Hommedieu said.

For more information or to submit questions about RCI, e-mail RCI West Point Community Manager Shari Roosa at sroosa@gmh-inc.com or call [845] 446-6407, or visit the Web site at www.westpointfamilyhousing.com.

NININGER, cont. from page 1

making a difference and making great sacrifices in the field during dire times.

“It’s a great thing to honor our graduates and show the future lieutenants going into the Army that the Soldiers out there are doing great things now,” Ashby explained. “I’m thankful to [Douglas] Kenna [USMA Class of 1945] for establishing the award.”

Ashby is excited that the Nininger Award exists because it gives a chance for recent graduates to tell their stories of Iraq and Afghanistan and gives them a connection to the Corps of Cadets. And, unlike the Thayer Award, the Nininger awardee will relate more to the current cadets than someone who earns the Thayer Award.

“With the Thayer Award, you have fine Americans coming in. When I was here it was given to Gen. [Colin] Powell and Walter Cronkite,” Ashby stated. “You know those faces and names, but you don’t really feel a connection to them. You see somebody like me or somebody like Maj. Ryan

Worthan [last year’s recipient], there’s a connection with someone near [the cadets’] age ... it puts a younger face on things.”

Ashby got to enjoy the festivities with his wife, Rhonda, children, Allison and Randy Jr., and his mother and father, Becky and Frank.

To Ashby, having his family see him receive the Nininger Award was special because they weren’t able to see him receive his Silver Star.

“When I was presented my Silver Star, it was done in Kuwait,” said Ashby, who will be back here in June to serve three years teaching with the Department of Military Instruction. “My wife wasn’t able to be there and I don’t even have any pictures of receiving that award [the pictures were deleted accidentally]. I think it would have been nice then for them to share in that moment with me, but for them to be here [for the Nininger Award] made it different and, more importantly, a little bit more special.”



Downing laid to rest

Retired Gen. Wayne A. Downing [USMA 1962] was laid to rest at the West Point Cemetery Sept. 27 with full military honors. Downing was the Distinguished Chair of the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point where he taught a Terrorism Studies Seminar and directed the Center’s research activities and work in combating terrorism.

ERIC BARTELT/PV

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.

More than 20,000 receive recruitment, retention bonuses

Federal Times

The government spent more than \$140 million on recruitment, relocation and retention incentives for employees last year, according to an Office of Personnel Management report.

Last year was the first full year agencies were able to use new

incentive authorities under the Federal Work Force Flexibility Act to attract new employees and keep existing employees on the job.

As the work force ages, recruiting and retaining highly qualified employees are becoming more critical and difficult.

"Federal agencies are using recruitment, relocation and

retention incentives strategically to address these changes and build and maintain a high-performing work force with essential skills and competencies," OPM said in the August report, released Sept. 10.

More than half of the \$33 million in recruitment money available was spent on entry and developmental-level positions. The

average recruitment bonus, paid to 3,952 employees, was \$8,325.

Retention bonuses were spread throughout the work force showing "agencies are focused on making sure critical employees are retained at all work levels," OPM said. The average retention bonus was \$5,388, which was received by 17,803 employees.

Agencies spent \$11.6 million to relocate 1,009 employees last year, according to the report.

While agencies generally reported positive effects of using the bonuses, some reported they'd like the flexibility to pay recruitment incentives to feds and target retention incentives to employees likely to leave for other federal jobs.

Secretary of the Army Gates likely to approve accelerated Army plus-up

By Donna Miles American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said Sept. 27 he's "inclined to approve" an Army request to expand its end strength faster than initially planned to reduce stress on the force.

Recognizing the "cumulative effect of years of deployments in terms of their impact on the force," Gates began early in his term as defense secretary to promote plans to increase the active Army to 547,000 Soldiers by 2012, he said. The Army announced in January that it would add the additional end strength within five years, but service leaders now hope to reduce that to four years.

Gates told Pentagon reporters

that he recognizes why Army Secretary Pete Geren wants to speed up the timetable for increasing active and reserve forces by 74,000 troops. But Gates said he wonders if the Army can achieve this goal without lowering standards.

The secretary said he has been "very explicit that, at least as long as I am here, I will not allow them to lower the standards."

Gates noted that the percentage of new Army recruits with high school diplomas is about 76 percent. "And we'd like to see that get back up," he said.

He said he "doesn't like" waivers for recruits, particularly those with criminal records, and would like to see fewer granted. But he told reporters there's a misconception that the military

is "going out and getting people out of prison or felons who have committed crimes of violence."

Marine Gen. Peter Pace, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, emphasized that the department has not changed its policies regarding minimum academic, moral and other standards it will accept for new recruits.

All services remain within a prescribed "band" of acceptable standards, Pace said, but he noted that the Army has dropped from very high in that band to about 77 or 78 percent. "You always want to be going for the highest quality that you can get, even though within that band, you are still within the parameters that the Defense Department has set for us," he said.

Gates said another consideration in approving the Army's plan is whether the service will have enough junior leaders in place at the unit level to lead the additional Soldiers.

"They are confident that they can do that," he said, and have put

together programs to support it,

"And I am probably going to recommend that they go ahead and give it a try, but I am also asking for periodic reports in how they are doing against some of these concerns that I have," the secretary added.

New DOD predatory lending reg

WASHINGTON, D.C. [DOD NEWS] -- Monday the Department of Defense put into effect a new regulation that protects service members and their Families from high-cost, short-term loans.

The regulation limits the fees and interest that creditors can charge on three specific types of loans: payday loans, vehicle title loans and tax refund anticipation loans to 36 percent. The method for calculating the annual percentage rate encompasses all fees required at the time of obligation, with very few exceptions. These three products were targeted because they have high interest rates, coupled with short payback terms.

Payday loan and vehicle title loans can often lead to a cycle of ever-increasing debt. Refund anticipation loans provide seven to 14-day advances on tax refunds, but at a high cost to the borrower. The financial stress service members and their Families suffer in turn causes a decline in military readiness.

All financial institutions -- without exception -- are subject to the new regulation. The regulation also requires that service members and their covered Family members receive both a written and oral disclosure statement informing them of their rights before they become obligated on a consumer credit transaction.

The new regulation is part of wide-ranging DOD efforts to increase 'financial literacy' among servicemembers and their Families. These efforts include 24/7 access to confidential financial planning and counseling, a variety of financial readiness training courses, improving the availability of small low-interest loans from financial institutions, promoting the practice of setting aside a \$500 emergency savings account and educating service members on the availability of counseling, grants, loans and other services from military aid societies.

In addition to counseling available through a service member's chain of command, legal assistance office or military aid society, DOD offers several online resources to service members and their Families.

"Military OneSOURCE" [<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>] offers free, confidential financial planning; counselors are available toll-free at any time at [800] 342-9647.

"Military HOMEFRONT" [<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>], offers reliable quality of life information to help servicemembers and their Families, leaders and service providers in the 'Personal Finance' section of the Web site.

"Armed Forces Legal Assistance Services Locator" [<http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php>] provides easy access to the nearest legal assistance office.

Community Features and Photos

West Point Fire & Emergency Services reminds residents to -- "Practice your escape plan"

By Mark McKeon
WPFDFire
Protection Specialist

West Point Fire & Emergency Services is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association to remind local residents to 'Practice Your Escape Plan.' During this year's fire safety campaign [Saturday through Oct. 13], your firefighters will spread the word about the dangers of home fires, teaching elementary school students how to plan and practice escaping from a home in case a fire occurs.

According to the latest NFPA research, 3,030 people died in 2005 in home fires -- that's roughly eight people every day. Being alerted to a fire and knowing what to do to escape from one are extremely important, yet only 23 percent of households have planned

and practiced a home fire escape plan.

"When we speak to residents who have experienced a fire in their home, they recall becoming confused and disoriented by the conditions and severity of the situation -- but they realized they needed to get out fast," said Curt Krieger, West Point Fire Chief. "Sometimes there are only seconds to escape, but there's no question that having a plan in place, that has been practiced, saves precious time and makes survival more likely. We hope that Fire Prevention Week will prompt folks in our community to plan and practice their escape."

Are you prepared for a fire? Although it's difficult to prepare for the unexpected, reviewing

the information below and taking action based on it to plan for a fire is strongly recommended ... This is the same information conveyed to the elementary students, so don't forget to practice your escape plan during Fire Prevention Week.

■ Develop a fire escape plan that identifies two ways out of each room and a family meeting place outside.

■ Make sure your plan allows for any specific needs in your household. If everyone knows what to do, everyone can get out quickly.

■ Practice using the plan, at least twice a year.

■ Studies have shown that some children and adults may not awaken to the sound of a smoke alarm. They may need help waking up.

■ If the smoke alarm sounds -- go to your closest exit. If you run into smoke, turn and use another way out. If you must exit through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your exit. Don't take time to pick up belongings -- just get out and help others get out. Move fast, but stay calm.

In addition to the "Practice

Your Escape Campaign," West Point Fire & Emergency Services will be holding multiple fire prevention courses for the West Point workforce Oct. 23 at the MWR Center, Building 683:

■ Building Commandant Training -- 9 to 10 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m.

■ Crowd Manager Training -- 10 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 3 p.m.

■ Fire Extinguisher Training -- held on the hour from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

For more information, contact McKeon at 938-3633.



Junior Leaders Panel imparts wisdom to '08

Story and photo by
Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

Nineteen officers participated in the Junior Leaders Panel Sept. 27-28 here, giving the firsties the chance to ask questions about branches and combat experiences in the field.

About 95 percent of the officers participating were captains and most were graduates of West Point. Two officers, Capts. Randall Ashby and Christopher Dean, U.S. Military Academy classes of 2001 and 2002, respectively, were honored to talk about their careers to the Corps of Cadets firstie class.

"They get a realistic perspective of what they're going to be doing," Dean said. "The unique thing about the Junior Leaders Panel is they're getting [officers] fresh off the boat coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Especially for the first class cadets, they have less than a year remaining and the panels, at the very least, provides a mental motivation

to really buckle down now and get focused on what they're going into," he added. "Time is of the essence to maximize their time available to prepare themselves for the challenges of leadership."

Dean and Ashby, who both served three deployments and earned Silver Stars, wanted to offer their best advice to the burgeoning leaders of the Class of 2008.

"As platoon leaders, it's best to maintain proficiency in their primary skill," said Dean, who is an Armor officer. "From a tanker's point of view, try to gain tactical proficiency. It's also important for them to be a team builder.

"[They need to] build their team in a comprehensive manner so that they can perform flawlessly and it becomes second nature in the performance of their primary tasks or their mission essential task lists," he added.

Dean also talked about how cadets should evolve as young lieutenant leaders. Building a strong team will help in their self-development.



Captains Randall Ashby [left], Christopher Dean and Tanya Mack talk to cadets about their experiences in Iraq during a Junior Leaders Panel Sept. 28. Ashby [USMA 2001 graduate], Dean [USMA 2002 graduate] and Mack, along with 16 other officers also talked to cadets about their branches. Cadets make their branch selection later this fall.

Ashby, who within the past year had to build a unit from scratch and command it, agreed with Dean when he talked about

'not burning any bridges' with fellow units, because the Army is a tighter knit organization since its transformation and help may be needed around the corner.

A lot of units are now seeking help from the engineers, Ashby's branch, because the war in Iraq has been improvised explosive device driven over the past three years.

"Everyone figured out that this is an engineer war with the IEDs out there. Who are the ones who go out and find them [IEDs]? The engineers," Ashby explained. "Everybody is screaming for engineers. I talked to a buddy of mine who's over in Iraq right now, and he said they don't move out of the gate without the engineers going ahead of them making sure the route is clear."

Captain Tanya Mack, a military intelligence officer, was the platoon leader of an unmanned aerial vehicle unit. She told the more than 150 cadets present that they should know their 'stuff' because leaders may, 'hang on your every word.'

Mack, an Indiana University ROTC graduate, joined Dean and Ashby in agreeing that the cadets need to be highly flexible in today's Army and learn as much as they can as fast as they can.

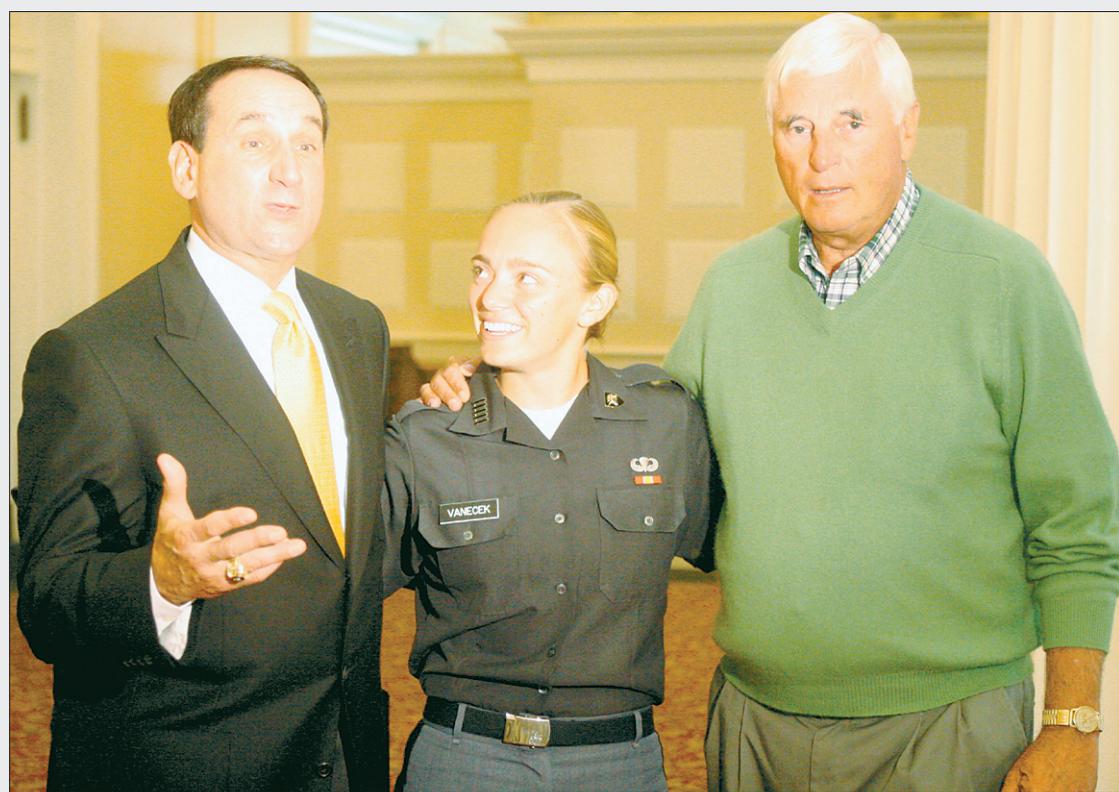
Ashby believes that teamwork and discipline are the most important foundations of a well-oiled machine in the Army. The best advice he believes he can give them is to "listen to your NCOs."

"I had four cadets come out this

summer to my company for their [Cadet Troop Leader Training] and what I always told them was, 'You have your NCOs, even young E-5s, who have two or three deployments under their belts, so they have a wealth of knowledge,' Ashby stated. "The cadets need to learn how to use NCOs as a resource because they are a great wealth of knowledge."

He also talked about cadets knowing and studying their environment when deployed, so that they are up-to-date on all the current changes in Iraq or Afghanistan.

"The enemy is changing all the time, just like we are," Ashby said. "However, [these cadets] are going to face the same things such as IED strikes, friendly fire situations and seeing someone walking down the street with an AK-47. The question is 'will they engage the person with the AK-47?' Not necessarily, because Iraq's national law is each family is allowed to have an AK-47, so [the 2nd Lieutenants] will have to think through things."



Coaches K help kick off Class of 1951 Leadership Series

Duke men's basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski, U.S. Military Academy 1969 graduate, poses with Cadet 1st Class Jennifer Vanecek, the Brigade Spirit Captain, and Texas Tech men's basketball coach Bobby Knight, former Army men's basketball head coach, for a spirit video spot. The Coaches K were here for the Class of 1951 Leadership Series, which helps advance the study of leadership at the academy through mentorship and group discussion with civilian sector leaders under the auspices of the Dept. of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership. Krzyzewski is the chair for the series and Knight was his inaugural speaker.

ERIC BARTELT/PV

PCS mileage rate change

Effective Sept. 25, the mileage rate will be \$.20 per mile per authorized vehicle. The mileage rate for each dependent has been eliminated from the entitlement.

USMAPS visit to West Point a sibling affair

Story and photos by
Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

Two hundred thirty-three cadet candidates from the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School at Fort Monmouth, N.J., made their annual visit to West Point Sept. 27 through Sunday. The prep school prepares cadet candidates who need extra focus on their school work, military studies or physical fitness and helps to motivate and prepare them for the demanding schedule of West Point.

There are several prepsters who plan to follow their siblings to West Point.

Prepster Sarah Galvez, sister of Cadet 3rd Class Alexander Galvez, wanted an opportunity to experience a unique lifestyle.

"I looked at other academies before I chose West Point," Sarah said. "I went to the Summer Leadership Conference and that is when I decided to come here. My brother told me to look into West Point as well."

Of the 233 cadet candidates, 35 are female, 27 are regular Army, eight are National Guard, four are Army Reserves, 15 are combat veterans and 95 are athletic recruits. All of them hope to be joining the U.S. Corps of Cadets next year.

One of the prep school athletic recruits is Timothy Henderson, who plans to follow his brother, William, to West Point as a lacrosse player.

"I wanted to come to West

Point for the education and to serve my country," Timothy said. "My father and grandfather were in the Army."

Brother William said he did talk to Timothy about coming to West Point.

"He was getting recruited by other schools," said Cadet 4th Class William Henderson. "He was here once for a visit and he decided on West Point."

The prepster said he thinks that USMAPS is helping him prepare for West Point in several areas.

"I think the most important aspect that I am learning is time management," Timothy said. "In high school, time management was not important. However, at USMAPS and USMA, time management is critical in your success as a cadet candidate/cadet."

"The main difference between prep school and USMA is the amount of work that a cadet has. At the prep school, I usually do about two hours of homework per night, but my brother has informed me that he generally spends four hours per night on homework on top of lacrosse practice, which can last from 5:30 to 9:15 p.m."

Other prepsters following in their siblings footsteps include the four Lorusso brothers. Oldest brother Nick, a 2nd lieutenant, a 2007 graduate, is an athletic intern for the Army team lacrosse; Cadet 2nd Class Kevin Lorusso escorted his two prepster brothers, Brian and Larry, to classes and other events.



Cadet 2nd Class Kevin Lorusso [middle] clowns around with his Prep brothers Brian [left] and Larry. Another brother, 2nd Lt. Nick Lorusso, USMA 2007 graduate, is an Athletic Intern.

The prep school follows the curriculum of West Point with a focus on Math, English and time management and includes three weeks of basic and military

training.

During the visit, cadet candidates went to classes with their cadet escorts, drilled and then some participated in a lacrosse

scrimmage at Michie Stadium, played or watched USMAPS football against Milford Academy and then they all joined in to watch the Army-Temple game Saturday.



U.S. Military Academy Prep School cadet candidate Sarah Galvez hugs her brother, Cadet 3rd Class Alexander Galvez, during a visit to West Point.

Football Saturday is a major command and control event

**Lt. Col. John M Graham
Dir., Engineering
Psychology Program
BS&L**

What is a football Saturday at West Point? Most of us would answer that it is tailgating, cheering on the Black Knights, pride at the parades and quality time with family and friends. However, for a select group, a football Saturday is anything but fun and games.

Before the Saturday sun rises over the Hudson River, Military Police assemble, barricades go up, bomb sniffing dogs begin their rounds, tow trucks clear critical routes, logistics warehouses complete deliveries, busses are prepositioned and medical teams are strategically placed to react to any emergency. All of the activities are orchestrated from the West Point Emergency Operations Center.

Saturday, three Engineering Psychology cadets and two Systems Engineering cadets were at the hub of 'Football Saturday,' the West Point EOC.

"The EOC is a great example of an Army command and control center. Since our class project is to develop a new command and control center system, we started by observing how things are done here," stated Cadet 1st Class James Keisler.

The cadets were responsible

for recording the 'who, what, when, where and why' for every information exchange in the EOC.

"For instance, early in the morning an MP doing a cross-check found out that the power was not operational in the North Tower of Michie Stadium," Keisler said "We recorded what information was shared, who collaborated on the problem and the time that the problem was solved. It was impressive how many people and agencies have a stake in each issue



Cadet 1st Class James Keisler in the EOC Saturday.
PHOTO BY CADET 1ST CLASS GRANT CARTER

that came up throughout the day."

The cadets recorded all of their observations in TIGR, a new command and control system under development at the Defense Acquisition Research Project Agency.

"TIGR is really designed to collect patrol reports in Iraq," said Cadet 1st Class Grant Carter. "We modified the system to support things like 'parade operations' instead of 'insurgent operations.' What was neat was that the leaders in the stadium operations center

and the military police operations center could get on the network from their location and keep up with the latest information."

Brian Slaughter, DARPA representative for this TIGR project, spent the day shadowing the Engineering Psychology cadets.

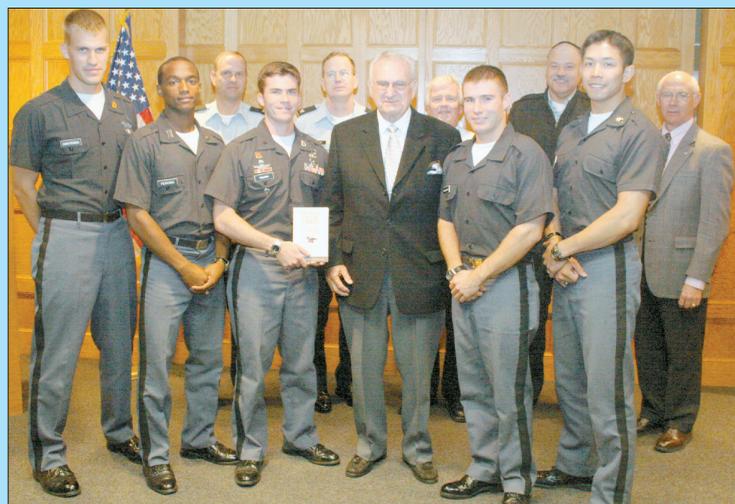
"These cadets understand the technology and are able to identify where it has to be fixed to fit how an EOC operates," Slaughter said.

Slaughter is looking into developing a TIGR system to support all Army installation

EOCs.

Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security's Chief of Plans, Joe Colombo, said, "For security purposes, every Army installation has an Emergency Operations Center. West Point's EOC probably gets the most practice since there are so many complex events on the installation."

Cadet 1st Class Richard Wagner agreed, 'Football Saturday' is a great time as a fan, but the EOC can be pretty intense when there are issues to solve."



Comm thanks Class of 1946 for PME2 books

Roland Catarinella [center front row] and the rest of the USMA class of 1946, were recognized and thanked by USMC Commandant Brig. Gen. Robert Caslen, cadets and various academy leaders Monday for their help in making it possible for each cadet to receive a copy of the book *Forging the Warrior's Character* as part of the PME2 curriculum.

ERIC BARTELT/PV

Keller Corner

KACH Closure

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

The emergency room will remain open.

Free Developmental Screening

Not all children develop the same way. If you have any questions regarding child development or are concerned that your child may show some signs of a developmental delay [speech, motor, behavior, problem solving or social skills] please join us for our free developmental screening at the CDC.

The screening will be held Oct. 18 from 8:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., in conjunction with audiology, EDIS, and West Point School for children birth to 5 years old who live at West Point or attend the CDC.

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

Childbirth Preparation Classes

The next four-week series of Childbirth Preparation Classes begins Oct. 30, on the 2nd floor KACH Classroom from 6 to 8 p.m.

Call OBU at 938-3210 to register.

HEP A Vaccine

Keller MEDDAC held a successful Hepatitis A Vaccine clinic Sept. 27. More than 60 doses of vaccine were administered to West Point's pediatric population. The clinic was setup to catch up on the shortage in vaccine that occurred over the last few months.

If there are any patients that were unable to get their vaccine at the

clinic, please call the immunization clinic at 938-8476.

Varacella or Chicken Pox vaccine is still on back order and will hopefully be available during the Flu vaccine season.

Clinical Breast Study

Women ages 30 to 45 with military benefits are invited to participate in an ongoing clinical breast study, to test a new non-invasive scanning device for its ability to identify young women who may be at risk for breast cancer.

Contact Joyce Epstein-Ross, FNP, at [845] 938-8387.

Her office is located at the second floor OB/GYN clinic at

KACH.

Referral Assistance

Need help or have questions about a referral? Call 938-5373 for referral help.

Appointments

If you are unable to make a scheduled appointment, please inform the clinic immediately so that the appointment can be offered to another beneficiary.



Yard of the Month winners

October Yard of the Month winners: [left to right] the Lt. Col. Dave Dinger family, New Brick; Col. David Fiaschetti family, of Lee Area [photo taken at their quarters]; Family of Maj. Ronald Bashista, Stony II; Master Sgt. Christian Eberle family, Biddle Loop; Sgt. 1st Class John Castillo family, Stony 1. Not pictured: Col. Eugene Palka, Lusk Area; Maj. Gregory Schwarz, Stony 1; Band Area Staff Sgt. Luke MacDonald; Maj. John Bryan, Gray Ghost and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Torgerson, Stony II.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

What's Happening

USMA book signings

Retired Maj. Gen. Joseph Franklin will sign his book *Building Leaders the West Point Way* today at the USMA Bookstore, located on the fourth floor of Thayer Hall, from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Major Doug Crandall will sign

his book *Leadership Lessons from West Point* and Col. Tom Kolditz will sign his book *In Extremis Leadership* Oct. 12 from 9:45 to 11:45 a.m.

Rick Atkinson will be signing his book *The Day of Battle* Oct. 16 from 1:55 to 4 p.m.

Caty Bao Bean will sign her book *The Chopsticks-Fork Principle* Oct. 19 from 8:20 to 10 a.m.

Philip Zimbaro will sign his book *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil* Oct. 26. The time is still to be determined.

Spaghetti Dinner Saturday

The Storm King Fire House in Cornwall on the Hudson is having a Spaghetti Dinner, Penny Social, 50/50 and Silent Auction Saturday to help raise money for West Point Mint employee Carmina Gardner who is fighting stage 4 liver and lung cancer.

The first seating is at 3 p.m. The second seating is at 5 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Murder on the Hudson

The Theater Arts Guild [a cadet club dedicated to the performing arts] presents the final performance of "Murder on the Hudson: The Million Dollar Cut!" Sunday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the Supe's Boat.

For tickets e-mail vg10986@usma.edu.

DUSA events

The Daughters of The United States Army are accepting applications for fall continuing education grants through Wed.

Applicants must be DUSA members by Sunday to qualify.

A grant application may be obtained by e-mailing Linda Frey at gfrey@hvc.rr.com or at the DUSA gift shop.

Call Linda Frey at 859-4186 for more information.

DUSA Golf outing Tuesday starting at 11:30 a.m.

To sign-up for this two-person best ball nine-hole tournament call Lisa Adams at 859-4220 for info.

PWOC

The Protestant Women of the Chapel present the program "How to do everything quicker, easier, cheaper, better and smarter" Wed., from 8:45 to 11 a.m., and Thurs., from 7 to 9 p.m.

Call 446-3283 for more info.

WPS PTO fundraisers

Original Art Works and Sally Foster are coming to an end. Turn

your orders in now.

For more info., call Rachel Schmoyer at 859-4194.

WPS PTO Book Fair

West Point Elementary and Middle Schools' PTO Scholastic Book Fair is Oct. 15-18 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

'Our Family' events are Oct. 17 starting with Sunrise Shopping from 7 to 8 a.m., and then Family Night from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

All Book Fair events take place in the WPS New Gym Lobby.

West Point community Families are invited to attend and help raise funds for the West Point Schools.

Command Channel 8/23

Oct. 5 - Oct. 12

FRIDAY

8 A.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
NOON CFC 2007 VIDEO
1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
3 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
7 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
7:30 P.M. ARMY-TEMPLE FOOTBALL

SATURDAY

11 A.M. ARMY-TEMPLE FOOTBALL

MONDAY

8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
9 A.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
1:30 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
4 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
6:30 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO

TUESDAY

8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
9 A.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
1:30 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
3 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
6:30 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO

WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY

8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
9 A.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
10 A.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
1:30 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
6:30 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO

OCT. 12

8 A.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
NOON CFC 2007 VIDEO
1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
3 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
7 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO

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

FRIDAY -- RUSH HOUR 3, PG-13, 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY -- THEATER CLOSED DUE TO HOME FOOTBALL GAME

OCT. 12 -- MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY, G, 7:30 P.M.

OCT. 13 -- BALLS OF FURY, PG-13, 7:30 P.M.

OCT. 19 -- STARDUST, PG-13, 7:30 P.M.

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

Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

MWR Blurbs

Soldier Show Oct. 21

The U.S. Army Family and MWR Command presents the 2007 Soldier Show Oct. 21 at Ike Hall at 5 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more info., call 938-6127.

2008 Soldier Show

The 2008 Soldier Show

is looking for performers and technicians. It is open to all active duty Soldiers. Applications are due Dec. 28.

For more info., go to www.westpointmwr.com or call 938-6127.

Body Pump instructor meeting

Les Mills Body Pump instructor meeting is Thurs. at 9 a.m., at the

MWR Fitness Center.

This meeting is for individuals who would like to become Les Mills Body Pump instructor certified.

Certification dates are:

Oct. 19, noon to 9 p.m.

Oct. 20 and 21, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more info., call 938-6490.

Haunted Hayride volunteers

Like to scare people? Enjoy painting or building? Volunteers are needed to create scenes and participate in Round Pond Rec Area's Oct. 31 Haunted Hayride.

Props and costume donations gladly accepted. Sign-up by Oct. 10.

For more info., call 938-2503 and ask for Pete or Rob.

Harvest Cruise

Harvest Cruise up the Hudson with the West Point Club Oct. 27, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. The boat sets sail promptly at 1:30 p.m.

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon on the Hudson and experience the beauty of the Valley's foliage.

Cash bar, live music and buffet included. For more info., call 938-5120.

Haunted Hayride Oct. 31

The MWR Haunted Hayride is Oct. 31, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., at Bonneville Cabin, Round Pond Rec Area.

Come in your Halloween costume and get 1/2 off admission.

Open to the West Point, Highland Falls and Fort Montgomery communities.

For more info, call 938-2503.

AFAP issue submission boxes

Help improve the Army's future and quality of life -- make plans to attend the Army Family Action Plan Conference, Oct. 23-24, at the West Point Club.

The Teen Conference is Oct. 20 at the Youth Center.

Submit issues online at www.westpointmwr.com or via issue boxes at the following locations: PX, Commissary, Shoppette, Grant Hall, West Point Library, Fitness Center, Child Development Center, Youth Center, Five Star Inn and Keller Army Hospital.

Issues must be received by Monday.

Volunteers are needed. For more info. or to volunteer, call 938-3655.

Readiness training

ACS Employment Readiness Resource Center is holding three classes Oct. 25 aimed at those entering the civilian or federal work market: "Look Sharp/Speak Sharp," 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.; "I Need a Job," 11 a.m. to noon; and "Secrets to Resume Success," 2 to 3 p.m.

Registration for all classes is required by Oct. 18. For more info, call [845] 248-4719.



West Point Model UN wins

For the sixth year in a row, the West Point Model United Nations team won the first place team award at the National Collegiate Security Conference at Georgetown University. The team competed against 28 other colleges and universities, including tough competitors like the College of William & Mary, the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University and McGill University. The 16-member delegation, consisting mostly of younger team members, brought home 13 individual awards in the 12 committees of which USMA was a part. This impressive victory for the team kicks off what should be a successful 2008 season.

PHOTO PROVIDED



Staff Sgt.
Willette R. Odom



Spc. Mark A. Gonzalez

NCO/Soldier of the Year

Staff Sgt. Willette R. Odom, MEDDAC Pharmacy Department NCOIC, received the West Point NCO of the Year award Sept. 28 at the West Point Club. Spc. Mark A Gonzalez, the KACH commander's driver, has been named West Point Soldier of the Year.

DA PHOTOS PROVIDED/DOIM MMB

Army and Community Sports

Avila overcomes injuries, runs Army Ten Miler

By Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

The Army is filled with many inspirational stories of Soldiers who have overcome great odds to return to duty after a life-altering experience in Iraq.

In December 2004, Sgt. 1st Class Gerardo 'Ponch' Avila was assigned to the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division in Mosul, Iraq, when he was hit by an improvised explosive device.

Avila sustained injuries to his face, to include his eyes, and lost much of the hearing in one of his ears. In the same carnage, his driver lost both of his legs.

After several operations and much rehabilitation, Avila is now driven along the road to recovery by his inner strength and his thirst for running.

Avila, now a tactical noncommissioned officer for B Company at the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School, was selected to be a member of the eight-person All-Army Ten Miler Team that will participate in the Army Ten Miler Sunday in Washington D.C.

He will be one of 26,000 participants on a run that starts and finishes at the Pentagon. It will be the eighth time that Avila has run in the Army Ten Miler starting in 1998

when he was stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii.

His best run time in the race was 52:09 in 2003 with the Fort Lewis, Wash., team, helping them win the military male open division. Even though this is his eighth Ten Miler race, it never gets old to Avila.

"The Army Ten Miler is a special race not just because of the competition, but it's sort of a reunion for all the Army runners," Avila said. "You always want to go out there and run a good race to represent your current post or installation. This year being named to the All-Army team will have a special significance because I will be representing everyone that wears the [Army] uniform."

Avila joined the Army in 1991 and put an emphasis on his running to max his physical training scores. His competitive running career started in 1998 when his company commander at Schofield told him that he should try out for the post 10-miler team.

Over the years, he's participated in many events from the Honolulu Marathon to marathons in Seattle, Philadelphia and Cleveland.

On May 20, he finished second out of 1,925 runners in the Cleveland Marathon with a time of 2:32:19, just three weeks after he won the Long Branch Half Marathon in New Jersey, topping

2,754 runners.

The one-time All-Army Marathon runner, who was Armed Forces champion in 2003, has performed many of his feats in marathon racing post-injury in Iraq. He considers himself very lucky to be able to run after his experience.

"I'm one of the lucky ones to be here and to be able to run. A day does not pass by that I don't think about this," Avila explained. "I understand that my injuries, while serious, cannot be compared to other Soldiers who have been through more and are currently doing great things, even running [at the Ten Miler]."



SFC G. Avila
PHOTO PROVIDED

"If injured Soldiers want to use me as sort of a role model, I'm okay with this," he added. "I hope I make them proud."

Since his injuries, Avila has run every Ten Miler, this year being his third straight, and every time he goes back to Washington D.C., he makes it a point to visit Walter Reed Army Medical Center, which is where he was medically evacuated to in December 2004.

"Whenever I get a chance to go to D.C., I like to go to Walter Reed and visit with the injured Soldiers," Avila said. "Walter Reed has become a special place to me. [They were] some of the scariest and most uncertain times for my wife and [me], but everything turned out well and I never want

to forget that."

No matter where he's been or who he's served for, Avila has always represented his post or installation well. However, as great as his racing ability is, he finds that his fellow tactical NCOs and officers at USMAPS keep him in line.

"I hope I make them proud that we are TACs together [and I'm running the Army Ten miler]," Avila said. "I know that I can always count on them to keep me level-headed. They won't allow my ego to get too big."

The level-headed TAC NCO may not be fully recovered from his wounds on that December day in 2004, but this year's Army Ten Miler represents another step in Avila's full recovery.

West Point represents at Tunnel to Towers Run

By Ryan Morgan
DMI

Four members of the Department of Military Instruction, two West Point School students and 30 cadets from company F-3 participated in the 6th annual Tunnel to Towers Memorial Run in New York City Sunday.

Each year thousands gather to remember Firefighter Steven Siller's heroic story. On the morning Sept. 11, 2001, N.Y. Firefighter Stephen Siller was on his way home when

learned of the attacks.

Turning his truck around, he found that he could not get into Manhattan to join his company because of the traffic in the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel.

So he strapped his fire gear to his back and ran through the tunnel toward the World Trade Center to join with his company, NYFD Squad 1, to help save the lives of others.

Siller was killed that morning along with 342 other firefighters. The annual Tunnel to Towers Run retraces Siller's final

heroic steps and memorializes all of those that gave their life that day.

This year, firefighter Keith Borowski of Tower Ladder 1, Manhattan "The Original One", invited members from DMI to come run with his firefighters. Majors Ryan Morgan, Frank Leija, Jimmy Kleager, and Capt. Rachael Hoagland, along with WPMS students, Alexys Leija and Kathleen Butler, ran the event.

This year's run drew more than 22,000 participants from all over the country and abroad.



Cadets 3rd Class Alexander Sudyk [left], David Penskar and Cadet 2nd Class Scott Howe, members of F-3, show their support for the 343 New York City firemen who lost their lives Sept. 11, 2001.

PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS CHRISTIAN FREED/USCC

SPECIAL TEAMS MAKING SPECIAL PLAYS

Story and photos by
Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

Army [2-3] makes a return engagement to Michie Stadium for Homecoming Saturday night trying to start 3-0 at home for the first time in 11 years against Tulane [1-3].

The Green Wave comes to West Point off of a 34-9 loss to the number one team in the nation, LSU. Regardless of Tulane's 1-3 start, senior running back Matt Forte has been a monster in the backfield for the Green Wave.

Forte has rushed for 508 yards and six touchdowns at a 5.8 rush per carry average. However, he is also a big threat receiving as he's tied for the team lead in receptions with 12.

"Forte is a big player for them," said senior safety Caleb Campbell, about Tulane's 6'2", 223-pound runner. "He's big, fast and strong. He's the real deal and he should be playing on Sundays if he continues to play the way he has."

The Black Knights will have their hands full defensively against a team that has averaged 45.7 points a game against them in the teams' last three meetings.

Army will need to take advantage in other areas of the game to have success against



Senior punter/kicker Owen Tolson has been averaging 45.2 yards per punt this season. He's been "Mr. Versatile" this season as the team's punter and kicker.

Tulane, whose special teams have been their strong suit recently.

Senior wide receivers Jeremy Trimble and Corey Anderson had big days versus Temple last weekend and senior punter/kicker Owen Tolson had a game to remember for any punter.

Trimble had an 85-yard punt return for a touchdown, the third of his career at Army -- an Army record. Anderson returned his first career kickoff return touchdown on the opening kickoff. Getting his first touchdown on a kickoff return was a long time coming for the senior wideout.

"I've wanted to do it for awhile and I finally did," Anderson said. "It's definitely a confidence booster as far as kickoff returns and what we're trying to do out there, especially for the core kickoff return team.

"It's a big thing for the kickoff return [team] and it lets us know that all our efforts are paying off," he added. "[Tulane] is going to come at us hard, so what we have to do is work within our scheme and execute the way we can and we should do well."

Trimble posted a career-best 258 all-purpose yards against Temple, but his game might have been overshadowed by Tolson.

Tolson has been doing the kicking duties for injured junior kicker Adam DeMarco and he hit a career-high 32-yard field goal and just missed wide on a 54-yard attempt. He continued his phenomenal punting, his regular duties, averaging 50 yards on four punts, and upped his season average to 45.2 on 27 punts.

However, his two biggest feats Saturday earned him a game ball as much as his kicking duties did. Tolson made three tackles, two unassisted, on special teams and after a low snap on a punt, he avoided disaster as he ran up field for 22 yards and a first down during the fourth quarter.

"Owen is Mr. Versatile. He's got an arm, he can run, he can kick, he can do it all," Trimble said. "To see him have a breakout game for himself and help our team win is great."

Army head coach Stan Brock is highly impressed with his punter and sees him as a truly special talent.

"I don't know if you can look at him statistically and show all the things he did," Brock said. "We tell



Senior wide receiver Jeremy Trimble finished the Temple game with a career-high 258 all-purpose yards, including an 85-yard punt return for a touchdown the third of his Army career and a school record.

him we need the ball tight inside the 20-yard line and he gets it done. We've asked him to come out and kick extra points and field goals.

"He is a big time special teams football player and I truly believe that he'll have a shot in the NFL," he added. "He has those types of capabilities."

Tolson is humbled by Brock's sentiments and it means a lot to him to hear that from his coach. He knows his punting skills are what's most important to the team.

"Punting is definitely first and foremost in my mind. [It's] vital to winning the field position battle for the team," Tolson explained. "Winning the net punt [average] will help the team more than any other aspect of special teams ... I just try to go out there and do my job every day. Before games, I go out there and tell the coaches it's just another day on the job, but truly I'm just trying to fit my role on the team."

Special teams bring together a variety of players of many different talents from the gunners to the long snapper to the guy with the booming leg. But, even though he would rather have his teammates take care of business on the hitting side, he's not afraid to get in the mix.

"Being a kicker, you don't want to be the guy making the

tackles, but if something has to be done you don't want to give up the touchdown," Tolson stated. "I probably need to get some more hang time on the kicks to help the cover guys a bit more, but it's always good to get out there and hit a little bit."

Saturday's game will be aired on ESPNU starting at 7 p.m. [Channel 170 on West Point].

The Army game can also be heard on the Army Sports Network through WABC 770-AM New

York and Sirius Satellite Radio on Channel 114 beginning at 7 p.m., with John Minko and Dean Darling as the play-by-play man and color analyst, respectively.

The 90-minute "Army football Tailgate Show," hosted by Rich DeMarco and Bob Outer, begins at 5 p.m., with pre-game coverage starting at 6:30 p.m., on the Army Sports Network stations.

Stadium gates will open at 5 p.m., and Black Knight Alley will open at 4 p.m.



Senior wide receiver Corey Anderson returned the opening kickoff against Temple 88 yards for a touchdown. Anderson now has a 30.0 kickoff return average after 14 returns, which currently ranks him number one in school history.

Sports calendar

Corps Squad

TODAY -- **USMAPS** FOOTBALL VS.
ARMY JV, MICHIE STADIUM, 5 P.M.

TODAY -- **WSOC** VS. LAFAYETTE,
CLINTON FIELD, 7 P.M.

TODAY -- **SWIM/DIVE** VS. STONY
BROOK [M/W], VERMONT [W],
CRANDALL POOL, 6 P.M.

SATURDAY -- FOOTBALL VS. TULANE,
[HOMECOMING], MICHIE STADIUM, 7 P.M.
[ESPNU]

OCT. 12/13/14 -- **MTEN**, ARMY
INVITE, MALEK, LITC, ALL DAY

OCT. 12 -- **CROSS COUNTRY** VS. **NAVY**,
M-4 P.M., W-4:45 P.M., WPGC.

OCT. 12 - **WSOC** VS. COLGATE,
CLINTON FIELD, 7 P.M.

OCT. 12 -- **SPRINT FOOTBALL** VS.
PENN., SHEA STADIUM, 7 P.M.

OCT. 13 -- **MSOC** VS. BUCKNELL,
CLINTON FIELD, 1 P.M.

OCT. 14 - **WSOC** VS. BUCKNELL,
CLINTON FIELD, 1 P.M.

Club

TODAY -- **INTER. CADETS** VS. **DFL**
FACULTY SOCCER GAME,
RIVER COURTS, 4:15 P.M.

SATURDAY -- **MEN'S RUGBY** VS. **UCONN.**,
ANDERSON, 5 P.M.

SATURDAY -- **WATER POLO**, HOME
TOUR., ARVIN, VS. SYRACUSE 11:30
A.M.; VS. CORNELL 3:30 P.M.;
VS. ROCHESTER 7:40 P.M.

SUNDAY -- **MEN'S RUGBY** VS.
USMMA, ANDERSON, 1 P.M.

SUNDAY -- **WATER POLO**, HOME TOUR.,
ARVIN, VS. **SUNY-BINGH**. 3:45 P.M.