

New GI bill increase benefits

By Army Staff Sgt.
Michael J. Carden
American Forces Press
Service

The latest GI Bill considerably improves the opportunity for today's servicemembers to obtain their education, a senior Defense Department official said.

President Bush signed the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008 June 30. The new law mirrors the tenets of the original GI Bill, which gave returning World War II veterans the opportunity to go to any school they wanted while receiving a living stipend, Bob Clark, the Pentagon's assistant director of accessions policy, said.

"The original GI Bill was said to be one of the most significant social impacts of the 20th century," Clark said. "We believe the new bill is going to have a similar impact."

The new GI Bill applies to individuals who served on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and offers education benefits worth an average of \$80,000 -- double the value of those in the previous program. It covers the full costs of tuition and books, which are

paid directly to the school, and it provides a variable stipend for living expenses. It's also transferable to family members of career servicemembers.

Its only restriction is that payment amounts are limited to the most expensive in-state cost to attend a college or university in the state where veterans attend school, he said.

The variable stipend is based on the Defense Department's basic allowance for housing for an E-5, which averages about \$1,200 a month, and \$1,000 a year will be paid directly to the servicemember for books and supplies, he added.

Enrollment into the Post-9/11 GI Bill is free. Eligibility for the Montgomery GI Bill is based on service commitment and requires active-duty servicemembers to pay a \$1,200 fee over the initial year of their enlistment.

The new bill requires that an individual serve at least 90 days on active duty after Sept. 10, 2001, and if discharged, be separated on honorable terms. Servicemembers discharged due to a service-connected disability are eligible if they served 30 continuous days on active duty. Servicemembers

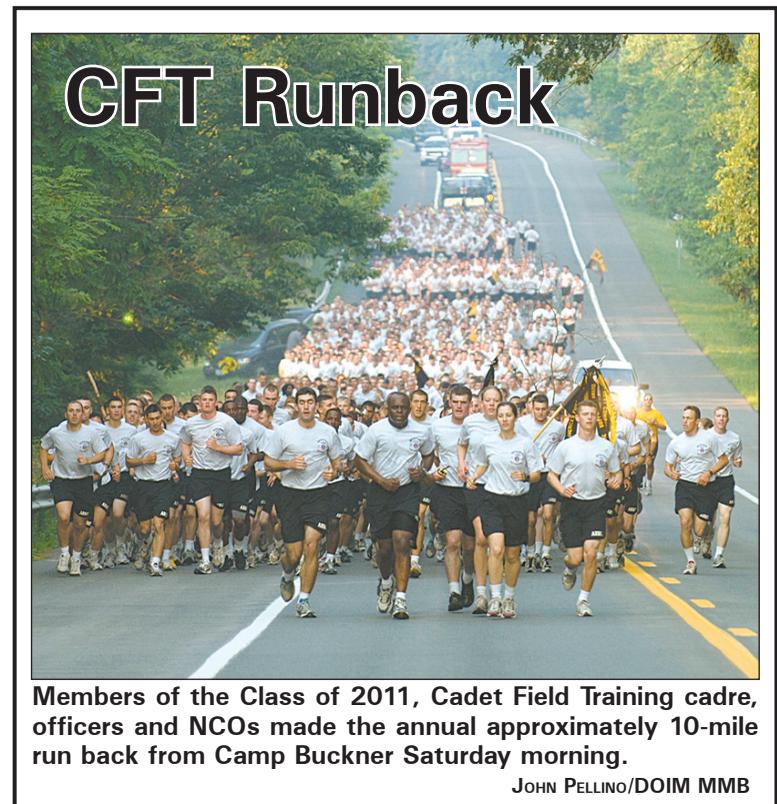
must serve 36 aggregated months to qualify for the full amount of benefits.

Servicemembers are entitled to benefits of the new bill for up to 36 months and have up to 15 years from their last 30 days of continuous service to use their entitlements. But as successful as Defense Department officials anticipate the new bill to be, Clark suggested that new recruits still enroll in the Montgomery GI Bill.

The Montgomery GI Bill gives benefits for higher education as well as vocational training, apprenticeship programs and on-the-job training, he explained. The Post-9/11 GI Bill focuses solely on higher education and can only be used at institutions that offer at least an associate's degree, he said.

"We recommend that all new recruits think hard before turning down the Montgomery GI Bill, because they will limit their opportunities for additional education without it," he added.

Servicemembers also are "highly encouraged" to use the Defense Department's tuition assistance program while on active



Members of the Class of 2011, Cadet Field Training cadre, officers and NCOs made the annual approximately 10-mile run back from Camp Buckner Saturday morning.

JOHN PELLINO/DOIM MMB

duty, because the Post-9/11 GI Bill's full entitlements, such as the living stipend and book allowance, will not be available, Clark said.

"If you use the Post-9/11 GI Bill while on active duty, it will merely cover tuition or the difference of what tuition assistance will pay," he explained. "Another downside

to that is each month you use (the new bill), you lose a month of your 36 months of eligibility."

So, if servicemembers serve on active duty on or after Aug. 1, 2009, and meet the minimum time-in-service requirement, they will be eligible for the new GI Bill while

See GI BILL, pages 4

New policy aims to help prevent loss of leave

By Donna Miles
Armed Forces Press Service

Servicemembers expecting to lose annual leave Sept. 30 due to caps on carryover leave will be the first to benefit from a new policy that allows them to keep more annual leave, earn or hold on to certain special leave categories, and in some cases, sell back accrued leave.

The new military leave policy, part of the fiscal 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, allows troops to carry more than 75 days rather than the previous 60 days into the next fiscal year, Sam Retherford, the Pentagon's deputy director of officer personnel

management, told American Forces Press Service.

The new policy, in place until Dec. 31, 2010, is expected to reduce the amount of lost leave caused by the current high operating tempo.

Quality-of-life surveys conducted over the past five years show that about 13 percent of the force lost up to 20 days leave each year, Retherford said.

Senior noncommissioned officers and officers who have accrued more leave were the most likely to be affected.

The Defense Department had been proposing policies to fix the situation, and welcomes Congress' support for measures that raise the leave carryover ceiling, increase the

amount of "special accrued leave" earned in a contingency zone operation, and provides another opportunity for troops to sell back used leave, Retherford said.

The new policy also extends the period servicemembers deployed to a combat zone or supporting a contingency operation have to use their accrued leave.

Those who served in a combat zone now have up to four years to reduce their leave from the maximum 120 days to the 75-day cap provided for under the new provision.

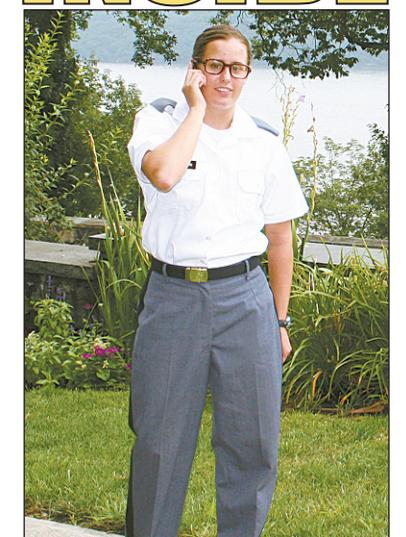
Those supporting contingency operations can take up to three years to get their leave down to the new cap.

The new policy also allows enlisted members to sell back up to 30 days of special accrued leave -- leave earned in a combat zone or designated contingency operation -- they would otherwise have lost beyond the 120-day limit, Retherford said. Leave accrued in a combat zone is more valuable than regular leave, because it is not taxed, he said.

Enlisted troops can sell back leave when they re-enlist or when they leave the military with an honorable discharge. Officers can sell back leave only when separating from the military under honorable conditions.

Troops can sell back only 60
See LEAVE, page 3

INSIDE



See NEW CADET, page 6

Family Housing Issues

Fellow West Point Community Members,

As we prepare to embark on another year shaping leaders of character for the Army and the Nation, there are changes ongoing in our Army Family Housing.

Just today our Residential Communities Initiative partner received control of all West Point family housing.

This Department of Defense-wide program will result in better, new and renovated, housing around post.

However, starting next summer there will be approximately 140 fewer houses for the staff and faculty that get assigned here. And particularly during the demolition and rebuilding of Stony Lonesome I, we will be forced to relocate some families.

I know relocation is never a welcome issue, but those affected will continue to have first priority for on-post housing.

One unfortunate consequence is that we will not be able to offer on-post housing to most of the incoming staff and faculty PCSing here in the summer of 2009.

We are informing all incoming personnel of the situation here, and will assist them in getting off-post housing, but I know that most will be disappointed.

Please keep a positive attitude during this time of change, and know that your leadership is committed to housing, on-post, as many staff and faculty as possible in modern and safe housing.

F. L. "Buster" Hagenbeck
Superintendent

Housing Office Closing Thoughts

For many decades, this Housing Office has served the West Point Community providing the best service possible. Although often short of money for maintenance, painting and other things that make life in military quarters more pleasant, they always gave it their best effort.

Much of the current staff have spent many years serving the community and now it is time to go and make way for the future -- RCI and the contractor Balfour Beatty Corporation.

As the time for transition drew near, some of the staff took positions elsewhere. For this reason I was called and asked if I would consider coming out of retirement to manage the housing office until the transition date. I was told that the staff was demoralized and, 'by the way, they are at 50 percent strength.'

When I arrived last fall I found that it was true, we were at 50 percent strength, but morale was very good and there was a pervasive determination to accomplish the last few months with professionalism and poise.

Even when we ran out of money in April and had to go hunting for every dollar we could get to continue normal maintenance as well as between occupancy maintenance, the staff worked professionally to get as much done as they could.

At one point, we weren't sure if there would even be payroll money. But we did receive money and were able to continue.

To the very end this staff has performed in an outstanding fashion and I am extremely proud to have had the pleasure of working with all of them.

They bring great credit to themselves and to West Point.

Mike Santiago
Chief, Housing Division

Many thanks to DPW housing office

The DPW Housing staff is to be commended for their outstanding work and dedication to the West Point community. In addition, their support of the Residential Communities Office as it prepared for the transition to privatized housing, while still performing their normal jobs, was tremendous.

Even though the staff this past year was at 50 percent and their funding was constrained, they accomplished their mission -- taking care of Soldiers and their Families. They did this in a superb and professional manner. They are unsung heroes and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their loyalty and service.

Thank you to the DPW Housing operations and maintenance staff for a job well done! Many of you are going off to new jobs and we wish you much success in the future. You all will, no doubt, be a great asset wherever you go.

The RCI Office

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

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

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

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

Difficulty: Easy

SOLUTION, see page 12

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Local and National News

West Point ranks in Top 10 by Princeton Review

By Theresa Brinkerhoff
PAO

A report released Tuesday by The Princeton Review ranked West Point, The U.S. Military Academy, in the top 10 of all American colleges in the areas of "Most to

do on Campus," "Most Accessible Professors," and "Best Classroom Experience."

The Princeton Review, an education services company known for its test-prep courses, features West Point in the 2009 edition of its annual book, "The Best

368 Colleges," is scheduled for publication Tuesday.

Other West Point accolades include: small class size (10-19 students); Honor Code system; great academic and athletic facilities; safe campus environment; and great career services.

LEAVE, con't from page 1

days of leave over the span of their career, Retherford said.

The new policy also extends the special rest and recuperation absence from 15 to 20 days for troops completing an overseas

duty tour extension longer than 12 months and electing government-paid transportation. Those who pay for their own transportation for special rest and recuperation are still authorized the previous 30

days absence.

The new military leave policy ensures that servicemembers don't lose out because they're unable to take leave due to the high operating tempo, Retherford said.

"Lost leave is an issue, because leave is an entitlement. It is worth money," he said. "This new policy sends the message that the department values the worth of the entitlement, but recognizes that there is not always the opportunity for people to take leave because of the current operational environment."

SAPR-P

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

Funded legal education program

Submitted by the Office of
the Staff Judge Advocate

The Office of The Judge Advocate General is now accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program.

Under this program, the Army plans to send up to 25 active duty officers to law school at government expense if funding permits.

Selected officers will attend law school beginning in fall 2009 but will remain on active duty.

Interested officers should review Chapter 14 of Army Regulation 27-1 to determine their eligibility. This program is open to second lieutenants through captains.

Applicants must have at least two, but not more than six, years of total active Federal service at the time legal training begins. Eligibility is governed by statute (10 U.S.C. 2004) and is non-waivable.

Eligible officers should register

immediately for the earliest offering of the Law School Admission Test. Applicants must send their request through command channels, to include the officer's branch manager at U.S. Army Human Resources Command.

Also send a copy to the Office of The Judge Advocate General, ATTN: DAJA-PT (Ms. Yvonne Caron-10th Floor), 1777 North Kent Street, Rosslyn, VA 22209-2194. The application must be received before Nov. 1. Early submission is advised.

Interested officers may contact the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at 938-3205 or visit the office located in Bldg. 606, 4th floor, for further information.

TSP TICKER

JUNE changes (as of 07/30)	
C FUND	+ 0.51 percent
I FUND	- 2.61 percent
S FUND	+ 0.14 percent

“Gifts to Army” Web site launched July 21

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Army launched a new Web site July 21, called “Gifts to Army.” It is an online resource developed to streamline and process gifts that American citizens and organizations contribute to benefit Soldiers and their Families.

Soldiers, their Family members, and Army civilians often get questions from people about how they can support the Army. People often want to know how they can help men and women in uniform with gifts, money, goods or services to show their support for the troops. This Web site provides an online resource to answer the question: “How can we help?”

“Many individuals have asked how they can help the Army,” said Joyce Morrow, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. “We appreciate how generous the public is and the

concern they have for the welfare of our Soldiers and Families. We’ve developed this Web site to provide information on how to contribute money, goods or services to benefit Soldiers and their Families.”

The launch of this Web site centralizes the many venues and paths for the public whose offers of support fall within the Army’s overall Gift Program, which is managed by the Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. Contribution options addressed in the Web site include support for the Army, Soldiers and Families, Wounded Warriors, Army installations and more.

“This Web site is not intended as a solicitation, but merely as a way to provide information on the options and programs available to those who have expressed a desire to make a donation,” Morrow

said.

The Army Gift Program has existed for many years under the authority of Title 10 United States Code, Section 2601. On Jan. 28, President Bush signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181, Section 593), which expanded the Army’s gift acceptance authority to include acceptance of gifts on behalf of wounded Soldiers, wounded civilian employees and their Families.

For more information, visit the “Gifts to Army” Web site at <http://giftstoarmy.army.mil/>.

(Editor’s note: To give gifts specifically to West Point or the United States Military Academy, contact the West Point Association of Graduates at <http://westpointaog.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=785>.)

CBT Change of Command



Firstie Sarah Scarlato, outgoing Cadet Basic Training Cadet Commander; Lt. Col. Tracy Banister, CBT Commander and 3rd Regimental Tactical Officer and Firstie Ty Volkman, incoming CBT Cadet Commander, prepare for the change of command ceremony near Washington Statue for the Cadet Basic Training regiment Sunday. This signifies the start of the second half of CBT where the new cadets will spend more time in the field working on basic Soldier field tasks.

PHOTO BY BY LISA BANISTER

GI BILL, con’t from page 1

also maintaining benefits from the Montgomery GI Bill, he said.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill also brings good news for officers and for servicemembers who enlisted under the loan repayment program.

Since eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill is based on time already served, more servicemembers will be able to take advantage of its benefits, Clark added. Officers commissioned through one of the service academies or through ROTC and enlisted servicemembers participating in the loan repayment program don’t qualify for the Montgomery GI Bill, he said.

Those servicemembers will be able to qualify if they finish their initial obligatory service. Commissioned officers must complete their initial five-year commitment if they attended a service academy or their four-year agreement if they were commissioned through college

ROTC.

Servicemembers whose college loans were paid off by the Defense Department as a re-enlistment incentive must finish their initial commitment -- whether it is three, four or five years -- before they can apply, Clark said.

“Any amount of time an individual served after their obligated service counts for qualifying service under the new GI Bill,” he said.

Another facet unique to the Post-9/11 GI Bill is that it’s transferable to Family members.

The feature gives the defense and service secretaries the authority to offer career servicemembers the opportunity to transfer unused benefits to their Family.

Though Defense Department officials still are working with the services to hash out eligibility requirements, there are four prerequisites that are subject to adjustment or change, Clark said.

Currently transferability requirements are:

- Qualifying service to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill
- Active duty service in the armed forces on or after Aug. 1, 2009
- At least six years of service in the armed forces
- Agreement to serve four more years in the armed forces.

“We’re really excited about transferability,” Clark said. “That was one of the things about education and the GI Bill that’s come up the most often from the field and fleet.”

Individuals who may not qualify to transfer unused benefits because they left the service before

the new bill’s effective date most likely still qualify for the bill.

As long as the separated servicemembers meet the minimum qualifying time served, they can contact their local Veterans Affairs office and apply for the program. While payments are not retroactive, eligibility is, Clark said.

“This new bill will allow our veterans to chase their dreams,” Clark said. “It will allow them to

go back and experience college like they deserve, much like their grandfathers did in World War II.”

More information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill is available at local Veterans Affairs Office and at www.gibill.va.gov.

Community Features and Photos

Cadets test and improve gear

By Lt. Col. John Graham
Behavioral Sciences and
Leadership

Rain, mud, 90-plus degrees, 95 percent humidity and Soldiers engaged in high intensity, realistic training -- exactly the opportunity to test and improve on equipment heading to GWOT deployed Soldiers.

Two hundred of the approximately 1,000 cadets engaged in Cadet Field Training were doing just that. Each cadet wore an Army Combat shirt or carried the Army's new Modular Lightweight Loadbearing Equipment (rucksack).

Cow squad leader Laura Beth Kiernan, whose squad has been wearing the combat shirt, said, "My squad is able to do the same training we had planned, but our feedback on this new equipment will help the Army. Two members of my squad have already had the new shirt get small tears at the belt line. They tell me that the problems we find will be fixed on the next generation shirt going to Afghanistan."

The high performance shirt, designed to be a base layer, should be worn directly under the Interceptor Body Armor, according to Fred Coppola, Deputy Product Manager for Clothing and Individual Equipment at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The flame-resistant, long-sleeved shirt, which retains the moisture-wicking capability, anti-microbial cotton, breathability and durability of other components in the ACU, also has many of its other features, including cargo pockets, infrared identification tabs and hook-and-loop fasteners for the American flag.

Army Program Executive Office-Soldier, Lt. Col. John Lemondes, met with Col. Sam Johnson, USCC Chief of Staff, to collaborate on this effort. "Supporting the big Army is just the right thing to do," Johnson said. "Our cadets are put through tough, realistic training and they have a critical eye for gear that does not work. Further, the combat experienced tactical officers and NCOs are able to translate the cadet comments into design recommendations. Cadets are able to train with future equipment, while the Army gets a



Cadets are testing the capabilities of the traditional ACU top with wicking undershirt against the new Army Combat shirt (right) during Cadet Field Training at Camp Buckner. They also tested the latest version of the MOLLE rucksack.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO

better product."

This summer's testing started with a Behavioral Sciences and Leadership academic year project coordinated by Maj. Jared Sloan and Firsties Tom Beirne and Chris Bowen.

In a laboratory setting on a treadmill, they found that the shirt was significantly cooler than the traditional ACU top with wicking undershirt. "However, the laboratory can never fully replicate field conditions," said Maj. Joe McLaine, BS&L engineering psychology instructor.

McLaine, along with Cows Adam Lary and Matt Nulk, is testing the ACS anti-microbial qualities. "After seven days of continuous field operations, we are taking cotton swab cultures from Soldiers wearing the Army Combat shirts and Soldiers wearing the Army Combat uniform," Lary said. The swabs will be transferred to petri dishes, the cultures will be allowed to grow and the quantity of microbes will be compared.

McLaine is also running the test on the new MOLLE that replaces the ALICE rucksack. The new MOLLE replaces the first MOLLE that was not well received in the field.

"The first MOLLE had durability issues that this version addresses," said Francisco Martinez, Lead Product Engineer at the Soldier Systems Center at Natick, Mass. "The cadet testing will provide further data to assist in perfecting the design. USMA typically provides the kind of feedback we can readily use."

Kiernan likes what she has seen so far. "The new rucksack is excellent. It is comfortable and quick to assemble. The ruck is much bigger than the traditional ALICE so some of my Soldiers put too much in it before my pre-combat checks," she explained.

But, in this case, an overloaded rucksack is a leadership problem not an equipment problem ... and leadership problems are what Cadet Field Training is all about.



Cow Adam Lary (purple gloves) takes a swab from the Army Combat shirt of Yearling Nolan Martin after three days of land navigation training in field conditions to test the anti-microbial effectiveness of the shirt.

MAJ. JOE MCLAINE/BS&L

Fort Putnam received 21st-Century upgrades

Story and photo
by Spc. Vincent Fusco
PAO

Few can spot it without knowing that it's there, yet those who look out from it are offered a commanding view of the Hudson River and Central Area just below.

Though much of what was Fortress West Point has changed since the Revolutionary War, Fort Putnam appears very much like it did over two centuries ago.

The fort is open to the public following its first major restorations since the nation's bicentennial. Upgrades included:

- Replacement of the McLean Historical Museum Building roof
- Department of Public Works electricians installed new lighting, panels and switches
- DPW carpentry shop replaced the rotting wood of the gun decks and museum stairs.

The most difficult part of the restoration, as with any project at Fort Putnam, was bringing materials in and debris out via the fort's narrow access road, said Lynden Crosbie, DPW planner and estimator.

"Also, once inside the fort, moving materials around is tough with steep stairs and hilly terrain," Crosbie added, noting the incline inside that reflects the steepness of the hill it rests upon.

There are future improvements to come for the fort, according to Paul Ackermann, a West Point Museum specialist in historical

preservation.

The lighted map in the museum will be upgraded into a totally digital format, and plans are under way to replace the rotting wooden cannon carriages with aluminum ones to withstand the hill's weathering elements.

The cannons and historical displays on the fort's grounds illustrate a rich picture of history, often tapped here for cadet Revolutionary War studies.

"It really does place West Point and Fort Putnam in the historic timeline and gives meaning," Ackermann said. "You're not just looking at a cannon."

The fort was named for Col. Rufus Putnam, whose Massachusetts Regiment Soldiers built the first fortifications in the spring of 1778. It was the key fortification in the interlocking network of forts and redoubts making up West Point's defenses and provided artillery defense for Fort Clinton and the Great Chain.

The Chain was floated across the Hudson to Constitution Island to stop British ships from going up the Hudson, and was protected by a network of four artillery redoubts near the top of the hill.

Originally a wood and earthen redoubt, Fort Putnam evolved into a stone fortification.

The site was first restored in 1794, and casemates -- which, contrary to popular belief, were never jail cells -- were added. In the years to follow, Fort Putnam

See FORT PUTNAM, page 14

New cadet Visitation Day gives class of 2012 'R and R'

Story and photos
by Kathy Eastwood

The nearly 1,300 new cadets, who are half-way through their training and just beginning the more grueling part of Cadet Basic Training or 'Beast' Barracks, had a much deserved break in their schedules Sunday when community members hosted the new cadets in their homes for food, soft drinks and phone use for a few hours in the afternoon.

"This brings back memories of my Chinese instructor who was my sponsor," said Col. Daniel Ragsdale (USMA '81), vice dean of education and officer-in-charge of the Army Women's Basketball team. "We didn't have cadet visitation day when I was a cadet, but I did have a sponsor that I spent a lot of time with."

Ragsdale noticed some things have changed with the cadet visitation day.

"It used to be that they would go right to the food, now they go right to the phones and spend an hour talking," he said.

Cadet Visitation Day is an annual event where community volunteers treat new cadets to a relaxing and homey afternoon of rest and relaxation, allowing them to experience military Family life.

They meet other new cadets and can talk with their sponsors about West Point, what to expect and what is expected of them as officers.

The new cadets seem to be taking all the hard work in stride and discussed what influenced them to come to West Point.

"I only wanted to go into the military," said one female cadet. "As of right now, I want a military career. I just hope I can get stationed close to home in Denver at some point."

Another women's basketball recruit said, "I hadn't really thought about it until I looked into it. I liked the coaches and all the players. I had offers from other colleges, but I liked the way West Point is laid out and that people are willing to help you out."

Captain Charles Fagerquist, Directorate of Intercollegiate Activities logistics officer (USMA '99), also hosted a group of cadets at his home.

"The one question the cadets want answered is what the

academic year is going to be like," Fagerquist said.

One new cadet said that although it's busy, he is enjoying the fast pace so far. "To me, the busier you are the less time you have to be homesick," he said.

Another new cadet went to a military prep school (not USMAPS) and already had two years of college before coming to West Point.

"I wouldn't want to be anywhere else," he said. "For the weeks I've been here, there has been a lot of in-depth training."

He also said he wants to learn to fly and plans to branch aviation when the time comes.

Another new cadet is looking

for a military career. "I picked West Point over ROTC because I wanted to be a good officer and nowhere else seems to have the same resources as here," he said. "I've been told by other cadets and officers that the professors will talk with you if there is a problem and will help you out if you are willing to put in the effort. I do plan on becoming a career officer."

Though the new cadets seem to be looking forward to their experiences as cadets, they have noticed some things that they miss.

"Always being on the clock," said one new cadet. "I never paid much attention to time before."

"Not doing what I want," said another. "We can't do anything without permission."

"You can't cut corners because of the honor code," a new cadet said. "This is a more truthful and trusting way of life. We don't need to lock our doors."

"Attention to detail and paying

attention to everything we do," said another new cadet. "I didn't realize what that really meant until my TAC officer asked how my roommate looked. I told him I didn't know and he said that I should know, because out in the field, paying attention may help you save a life."



Captain Charles Fagerquist (right front), the logistics officer for the Directorate of Intercollegiate Activities, and wife Bethanie hosted cadets in their home during new Cadet Visitation Day Sunday. The new cadets got some time to relax and also the chance to snack and make phone calls, things they have not been able to do since arriving at West Point on R-Day.



New cadet recruits from the women's basketball team visited at the home of Col. Dan Ragsdale, vice dean of education, and his wife Cindy and got a bonus -- dogs to pet -- in addition to a feast to enjoy during their new cadet Visitation Day activities.

Community Newcomer's Section

WELCOME TO WEST POINT



The cadet colorguard is one of the most widely recognized symbols of the U.S. Military Academy. Newcomers to the academy will find many things to do at West Point, which is the oldest continuously occupied military installation in America.

ERIC S. BARTELT/PV

The inside 411 on living at West Point -- RCI Style

Submitted by Balfour Beatty Communities

All service orders are to be called in to Balfour Beatty Maintenance Dept. at (845) 446-3570.

Housing information

You may find general information for On Post Housing on Balfour Beatty Communities Web site: www.westpointfamilyhousing.com (Family Housing).

Residential telephone service

Verizon is the local exchange carrier.

Installation/repair of cable television

All residents should report repair/service issues to Time Warner Cable and arrange for a technician to come make repairs (1-800-431-8878). If the problem is unresolved after the service call and/or Time Warner Cable declines to take other action, the resident should contact the Directorate of Information Management (DOIM), Visual Information Division -- Bob Bowman at 938-5997 for appropriate action. Bowman is the subject matter expert on the franchise agreement between West Point and Time Warner Cable.

Mechanical room access

Access to mechanical rooms is limited to authorized personnel only. Storage of personal property by residents in mechanical rooms is prohibited. If you live in Stony II or New Brick, access to the mechanical room is required for the installation of phone and cable/Internet services.

The resident **MUST** contact the Balfour Beatty Maintenance Dept. at (845) 446-3570, during normal duty hours at least 48 hours in advance of an installation appointment, to arrange for the mechanical room to be opened. Please obtain a service order number before hanging up.

REMINDER: The mechanical room will be opened sometime during the period indicated, not necessarily at the exact start time.

Service order information

What to do in a maintenance emergency

If you suddenly have a water leak, clogged toilet, backed up drain, electrical outage, strong sewage smell, flooded basement or other maintenance problems contact the Balfour Beatty Maintenance Dept. at (845) 446-3570.

During non-duty, weekend and holiday hours, that same phone number will connect you with emergency personnel.

Take the time now to locate your water turn-off valves and your electrical fuse/circuit breakers. Being able to find these locations quickly can save additional damage in an emergency situation.

Remember, there is always the option to call 911 in a dangerous maintenance emergency situation. Examples of this type of an emergency are gas odors, burning smells, water running through an electrical fixture, or activated carbon monoxide or smoke alarm.

Attics and basements as living space

Attics and basements in quarters at West Point are not considered adequate living space because they do not meet minimum state and federal regulatory and life safety codes. Work required for repairing and maintaining items such as floors, ceiling tiles or bathrooms in these areas will not be done.

Please do not compromise the safety of Family members by using space that is unfit for adequate living.

Modifications to quarters

Residents are reminded that all modifications, both interior and exterior, made to their quarters must be approved by Balfour Beatty Communities Management. This includes modifications to the exterior yards, fences and sheds.

Modifications such as tree houses, swimming pools, hot tubs
See LIVING HERE on page 10

FMWR -- Things to do at West Point

Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs are vital to mission accomplishment and form an integral part of the Army community world-wide. FMWR programs and activities at West Point support the military community by providing for the physical, cultural and social needs of servicemembers and their Families. The priority of FMWR is to provide community members with quality, economical leisure activities for relaxation and enjoyment.

For the most current and up-to-date information regarding FMWR special events and activities, visit the Web site at www.westpointmwr.com or pick up a flyer located at various distribution points post-wide. Also look for the FMWR tri-monthly calendar, which is mailed to all West Point residences.

The following are brief descriptions of the services and activities available through West Point FMWR:

Army Community Service

(Bldg. 622, 938-4621/2519) -- ACS is the primary resource agency delivering support tailored

to the needs of the extended West Point community by providing a broad range of services including educational opportunities, employment readiness and transition assistance programs to Soldiers, their Families and the West Point community.

SFAC (Soldier and Family Assistance Center)

(Bldg. 626, 2nd floor, 938-2519) -- The West Point SFAC provides assistance and support services for Wounded Warriors, wounded Department of Defense civilians, and their Families in the West Point community, throughout N.Y., N.J., Conn., Mass., R.I., and throughout the Northeast as needed.

Community Recreation Division

(Bldg. 681, Administrative Office, 938-8249) -- Operates Auto Shop; Craft Shop; Post Library; Ski area; intramural sports; Information, Ticketing and Registration (ITR); FMWR Fitness Center; Morgan Farm and Kennel; Round Pond; Bull Pond; Delafield Pond and all outdoor recreation programs.

Craft Shop

(Bldg. 648, behind the Post Office, 938-4812) -- The Craft



FMWR Fitness Center

(Bldg. 683, 938-6490) -- The Fitness Center offers a variety of free weights, strength equipment and cardiovascular machines. Classes offered include spinning, yoga, bootcamp, Les Mills body pump and intro to strength training. Massage therapy and personal training by appointment for a fee. Hours are: Mon.-Fri. 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Saturdays 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sundays 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

facility offers equipment for matting and framing as well as classes in stained glass, framing, stepping stones and 3-D stars. The highly-trained staff is always available to assist you in your projects. The staff can arrange for special classes on request. Party balloon bouquets are also available for purchase. Celebrate your child's next birthday with a craft themed party -- call the

Craft Shop for details. Hours are Tues. and Thurs. 3 to 9 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sun.

BOSS (Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers)

(Bldg. 628, 938-6497) -- The West Point BOSS program supports the overall quality of life for single Soldiers and identifies with their issues and concerns by recommending improvements through the chain of command. BOSS offers trips to baseball games, cruises, dinner in NYC and tours. Call for more information and hours.

ITR Travel Office

(Bldg. 695, next to the cemetery, as you make the turn into the Subway restaurant/FMWR Fitness Center parking lot, 938-3601/2401) -- The ITR office offers trips to NYC, Broadway shows and local attractions. Register for defensive driving classes, hunting and fishing licenses and more.

Post Library

(Bldg. 622, West Point, 938-2974) -- The library offers a large collection of fiction and non-fiction books, paperback exchange, audio cassettes, books on tape, copy machine and computer access. The library also offers summer reading programs for children and story hours during the winter months.

Morgan Farm Stables and Kennel

(Bldg. 2026, three miles south of Thayer Gate, 938-3926) -- Offers horseback riding lessons in both Western and English style, plus



Bowling Center

(Bldg. 622, near Buffalo Soldier Field 938-2140) -- The West Point Bowling Center is a state-of-the-art, air-conditioned, 10-lane bowling facility complete with Li'l Skeeters BBQ and Primo's Pizza restaurants. Stop in for lunch or dinner and try the mouth-watering southern BBQ, freshly-made pizza, homemade chili, sandwiches, salads and more! Leagues and open bowling are available or have fun with Galactic bowling Fridays and Saturdays from 5 to 11 p.m. The West Point Bowling Center specializes in parties -- stop by for party package info. Open seven days a week.

guided trail rides. Morgan Farm also offers three- and five-day summer camps, boarding for horse owners, kennel services for cats and dogs and grooming services. Open Mon.-Sun. from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Round Pond

(Route 293, three miles from Washington Gate at West Point, 938-2503) -- Round Pond Recreation Area offers playgrounds, picnic areas, log cabins and campsites.

Twenty-eight RV campsites with water and electrical hook-ups are available. Boating, hiking, swimming and volleyball are also available. You can refill propane gas tanks and purchase hunting and fishing licenses. Round Pond is open daily from April 1 to Nov. 2, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bull Pond

(Route 293, five miles south of Round Pond, 938-2503) -- Bull Pond offers fishing, boating, hiking and swimming. Two cottages by the lake are available for rent through a lottery system conducted in early April.

Lake Frederick

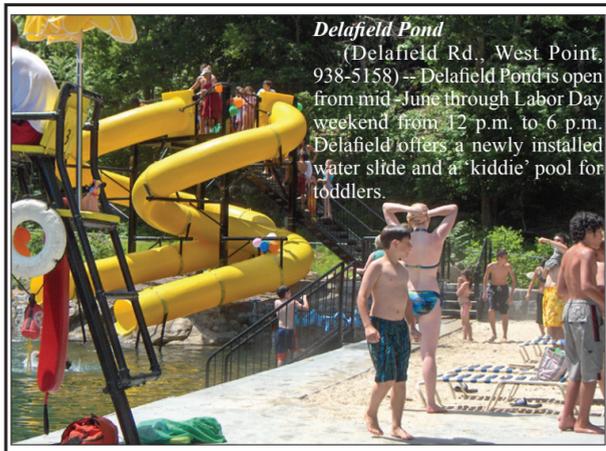
(Route 293 or Smith Clove Rd., Highland Mills, N.Y., 938-2503) -- This spring-fed lake on the West Point Reservation offers camping, Scout camping and Cadet Field Training. Ten A-frame cabins, a sandy beach with floating docks, grills and complimentary boats make this an ideal place for Family camping.

Crandall Pool/FMWR Indoor Recreational Swim

(Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center, 938-2985) -- Offers recreational indoor swim programs for ages 3-13, cadets, enlisted personnel and civilians. Children ages 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult and children under the age of 14 must pass an administered swim test before they will be allowed in the pool.

Entry is by punch card only. Punch cards can be purchased at ITR (Bldg. 695).

Hours are Mon., Wed., and Fri. 6:30 to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Delafield Pond

(Delafield Rd., West Point, 938-5158) -- Delafield Pond is open from mid-June through Labor Day weekend from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Delafield offers a newly installed water slide and a 'kiddie' pool for toddlers.



Auto Shop

(Bldg. 648, next to the Craft Shop, 938-2074) -- The West Point Auto Shop conducts N.Y. State inspections -- no appointment necessary. Hours for inspection: Tues.-Thurs. 1 to 4:30 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hours of operation: Tues.-Thurs. 1 to 9 p.m. and Fri. and Sat. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The facility is closed Sundays and Mondays. They also offer same-day vehicle repair service such as tune-ups, exhaust replacement, brakes and radiator repair, and flush and fill. Want to do-it-yourself? The facility offers space, tools and a knowledgeable staff who are ready to assist you.

Child and Youth Services Division

(Bldg. 681, Administrative Office, 938-2023) -- CYSD includes Youth Services, located at Bldg. 500, Washington Rd., which is open to youths and teens, grades 6 through 12 and offers a variety of middle school and high school programs. The Child Development Center (Bldg. 1207) is a full-day program and includes center-based services that meet the needs of working parents requiring child care.

School Age Services is designed to meet the specialized needs of children from first through fifth grade who are enrolled in school on a full-time basis.

Five Star Inn

(Bldg. 2113, Pershing Center - South Post and Bldg. 785 - on-post, 446-5943) -- West Point's Army Lodging Facility - South Post has 18 Family rooms and 16 suites. Bldg. 785 on West Point has 11 Family rooms and 24 efficiency apartments. Call 24 hours a day for reservations.

West Point Golf Course

(Route 218 and 9W, 938-2435) -- Features an 18-hole course, a driving range, a pro shop, a clubhouse and a full-service snack bar. The WPGC is a 'spikeless' course and is open April through Nov. Hours are: Mon. Noon-Dusk, Tues.-Thurs. 7 a.m. to Dusk, Sat. and Sun. 6:30 a.m. to Dusk.

West Point Club

(Bldg. 603, Cullum Rd., West Point, 938-5120 or 446-5504) -- The West Point Club offers lunch Mon.-Fri. from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dinner is served Friday evenings from 5 to 9 p.m.

Family style breakfast is available Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (starts Sept. 7). Social hours are every Thursday and Friday at 4:30 p.m.

Call for special summer hours. Banquet rooms are available for private functions. The Club also features off-premise catering and party facilities, including the Class of '49 Lodge, Class of '47 Train Station, Buffalo Soldier Pavilion, Victor Constant Ski Slope and the

Golf Course Club House.

The West Point Club Barbershop

features expert barbers and a convenient central post location inside the West Point Club. Walk-ins welcome, standing appointments available. Hours are Mon.-Fri. from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 938-2749.

Affiliated FMWR activities include:

American Red Cross

(Bldg. 2104, Administration Office, 938-4100) -- The West Point chapter of the American Red Cross hosts three annual blood drives a year and offers safety classes, disaster education and leadership programs throughout the year. Call for volunteer opportunities.

West Point Veterinary Clinic

(Bldg. 630, Hodges Place, West Point, 938-3817) -- The West Point Veterinary Clinic offers immunizations, pet care products for flea and tick control, health certificates for travel and microchip implants. Monday evening appointments are available twice a month. Hours are Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Animals are seen by appointment only.



Victor Constant Ski Slope

(Route 218, West Point) -- Season is projected from December through the beginning of April. Locker, ski equipment and snowboard rentals are available during the ski season. Check the www.westpointmwr.com Web site for information on rental and lift fees, lessons and activities offered at the ski lodge and slope. For more information, call 938-8623.

DPW Tips for new community members

Submitted by DPW

Relocation of Vehicles/Boats from D Lot

Residents with boats, cars, trailers and recreational vehicles currently stored in D Lot MUST relocate them by Aug. 11 with no exceptions. Effective immediately, vehicles can be relocated to one of the three temporary holding areas -- two are located along the service road for delivery trucks servicing the Commissary and PX, located approximately 100 meters northeast of Stony Gate, and the third is just north/behind the Stony Fire Station and is accessed using the same service road (do not park in the HAZMAT Parking Area).

The holding areas can be identified by signs and yellow marking tape placed there by Traffic Control. Contact Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Violet McNeirney at 938-2319/7731 with any questions.

DPW Service Desk

The DPW Service Desk (938-2316/4031) is operational Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. to process all of your public building/area maintenance and repair needs. All maintenance issues in the housing areas should be reported to Balfour Beatty Maintenance at 446-3570. During non-duty hours, including weekends, nights, holidays and when the post is closed (Code Red), contact the Service Desk for emergency issues only, using the same phone number.

For information, contact DPW Customer Relations at 938-4407.

Notification of DPW Activities

Whenever possible, DPW notifies members of the West Point community of pending utility outages and other DPW information.

Due to emergency situations, pre-coordination of some road or parking lot closures, utility outages and other DPW activities is not always possible.

DPW will always issue notification by whatever public media sources are available within the time frame required. The public media used will include: All organization e-mail distributions,

postings to DPW Web page, Channel 23 postings, the Daily Bulletin and the Pointer View.

Service Order Information

Information on the service orders issued in public buildings is available on the DPW internal Web site at <http://sodhpw>. Only designated personnel may input service orders for public buildings via the Internet. A reminder -- all service orders submitted by the Web are Priority 3. All open service orders for Family housing quarters were transferred to Balfour Beatty Management as of today. For information on the Web site functionality, contact yn8837@usma.edu for assistance.

DPW Work Requests (DA Form 4283)

Work requests (DA Form 4283) are required for ALL projects (building, roads, grounds and other West Point facilities) or the environment, whether or not materials are provided by non-DPW individuals or organizations.

The single DPW point of contact for Work Requests is the Business Operations and Integration Division, Bldg. 667.

All personnel/offices should submit all DA Form 4283s to Work Reception, DPW, BOID, Bldg. 667.

Point of contact for additional information is Nancy Crow-Baden at 938-8288.

Energy Star Policy

It is Army policy to purchase Energy Star™ rated products for all purchased new and replacement appliances.

DPW is now requiring energy star ratings for all energy approvals for all equipment purchased through DOC, where a rating exists for that type of equipment.

The Energy Star™ program rates a large assortment of products, including electronics, lighting, air conditioners, computers and office products and commercial food preparation and storage products.

A list of products that are Energy Star™ approved is available from the Web site at www.energystar.gov -- select the Products link.

This policy applies to all purchases, including those for **See DPW TIPS on page 10**

Energy saving tips for community members

At some point in the future, West Point residents will be responsible for utility (gas and electricity) usage above the baseline established for their residence.

This responsibility is a change from the past.

Residents are encouraged to establish good energy use practices now so that they will not have to pay in the future, because the more energy you use the more you pay.

So get in the habit of good energy-usage, which will eventually save you money and is good for the planet.

By changing some simple normal home usage habits, the savings can add up. Here are some things to consider doing.

Lighting:

Turn off lights in rooms you are not using. This can be difficult to do with children, but encourage them to do so -- it does help.

For the lights you use the most and leave on the longest, switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs. Most homeowners have one or two lights that are on for many hours a day.

These are the first bulbs to replace. Because of the long hours of use, they will have the quickest and largest payback. Also consider changing the outside lighting for the front or rear door.

If you want, need or like to have the lights on, those with CFL bulbs will give you more savings.

However, for most homes here, there is not a need for vast amounts of exterior lighting because of all of the street lighting.

West Point is an extremely safe community, limiting the need for extensive exterior lighting.

Homeowner lighting is about 20 percent of an electric bill. While using CFL bulbs saves only a small amount, every little bit helps.

Plus CFL bulbs use up to 75 percent less energy than an equivalent incandescent bulb, which, over the life of the bulb, is a savings of more than \$30 per bulb (including the higher cost of the CFL).

The CFL bulbs also produce at least 70 percent less heat output, which should lower your cooling costs, although no actual dollar savings has been computed.

(Note: There are also special bulbs for use with dimmers and three-way switches.)

Housing temperature:

Set your home thermostats to 65-68 degrees in the winter and 70-75 for summer.

Using a programmable thermostat makes this very easy. Also, if you are going away for three days or more, put your hot water on the vacation mode (if you have access) and heat/AC to the lower settings and lock them.

Water usage:

Turn the hot water heater to 120 degrees. This will save money and be safer. Higher temperatures will cause burns to children who might turn on the faucet.

A water drip at a rate of one drop per second can add \$1 per month in water bill costs.

Taking a five-minute shower will use 10 to 15 gallons less water than taking a bath.

Also, look into the new low-flow shower heads. They use less water, but feel like the high-flow heads.

Balfour Beatty Communities takes over housing, who to contact from the RCI partner

On post Family Housing transitioned to privatized operations under the Army's Residential Communities Initiative program today.

Balfour Beatty Communities is the West Point privatization partner.

They will perform all the traditional Family Housing functions -- assignments, terminations, operations and maintenance.

In addition, they will renovate most of the houses on West Point and construct new houses in the Stony Lonesome I housing area.

The RCI Office is responsible for project oversight and asset management and coordination between Balfour Beatty and the West Point Community.

Points of contact:

Residential Communities Initiative Office, Bldg. 2101

• Michael Colacicco, RCI

Project and Assets Manager, 938-5948.

• Paul Merritt, RCI Engineer, 938-6239

• Susan Frederick, RCI Financial Analyst, 938-0138

RCI Housing Services Office, Bldg. 626

Off-post housing assistance and referral is available to military and DOD civilian personnel. Lists of area rental properties are maintained along with information on homes for purchase.

Appointments can be made by calling Eileen Kaczkin, 938-2500, or Sharon Patterson, 938-6205.

Landlords and property managers can list their rentals on the DOD sponsored website, Automated Housing Referral Network at www.ahrn.com.

Unaccompanied Personnel Housing, Bldg. 626

For information, please call

938-2318.

Please note that Incoming military personnel must inprocess first through the HSO Office for on-post, off-post housing and UPH.

Those desiring on-post Family Housing will then be referred to Balfour Beatty Communities Management Office.

Points of contact:

Balfour Beatty Communities Office, Bldg. 132

• Shari Roosa, Community Manager, 446-6407

• Balfour Beatty Communities Web site: www.westpointfamilyhousing.com.

Balfour Beatty Maintenance Office, Bldg. 695

For work orders and Emergencies, call 446-3570.

Balfour Beatty Project Director, Bldg. 2101

• Richard Wagner, 446-3960

LIVING HERE, cont. from page 7

and all exterior painting, etc., will not be approved. Items such as flower boxes, awnings, satellite dishes and other devices that attach to the exterior of the quarters are not allowed. Questions on modifications should be addressed to the Community Manager at Balfour Beatty Communities.

Satellite dishes in Family Housing

Satellite dishes not exceeding 18" in diameter are allowed in family housing as long as the following provisions are met:

- The resident is responsible for the installation, maintenance and removal of the dish.

- Dishes may NOT be attached to the outside of any permanent structure or part thereof, including storage sheds and fences.

- The satellite dish will be placed inconspicuously so that it maintains the historical and cultural character of the neighborhood and West Point.

- The placement of the dish is subject to the approval of the Balfour Beatty Community Management.

Emergency lockout procedures

The Balfour Beatty Communities maintains an emergency key for all housing units. Residents who lock themselves out of their quarters or are unable to locate their keys may come to the Community Management Office, Bldg. 132, during normal duty hours (Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) to check out a key.

Keys will be signed out for one hour to residents only with proper identification. Residents must come to pick up a key.

During non-duty hours, residents should contact the Emergency maintenance at (845) 446-3570.

A member of the emergency

DPW TIPS, cont. from page 9

small equipment made with government credit cards and other expedited methods.

Mechanical Room access in public buildings

Access to mechanical rooms in public buildings is limited to authorized personnel only. Storage of files and other property is prohibited. DPW mechanics and telephone personnel need clear access to the equipment in those

crew will respond to unlock the quarters.

Swimming pools in Family Housing

'Kiddie' pools are allowed in family housing areas to help alleviate the heat and humidity for the children living on post. Pools must be no more than 12" deep and no larger than 6' in diameter.

Additionally, they must be emptied after each use to ensure the safety of children in the area and to prevent standing water, which is known to attract mosquitoes. Residents are reminded that supervision of the use of the pool is required at all times when filled with water.

Larger size pools and hot tubs are not allowed in the housing areas.

Trampolines in Housing areas

Trampolines are allowed in housing areas provided the following rules are obeyed:

- The preferred location is the back yard, with the second choice the side yard of a resident's own quarters.

- They are not allowed in the front yard, along any main post road or in common areas.

- The trampoline must have a security barrier to prevent unauthorized use.

- The resident is responsible to ensure that use is supervised for the safety of all participants.

- The resident, alone, is liable for any injury caused by use, whether authorized or unauthorized by the owner.

Family Housing exterior lighting policy

Resident installed exterior holiday and decorative lighting can be installed two weeks prior to the holiday and must be removed two weeks after the holiday.

areas. If you are currently using those areas without authorization, please clear them immediately. For information, contact DPW Customer Relations at 938-4407.

Energy approvals

Energy approvals are required for all purchases of energy consuming products by USMA Energy Management Reg. 11-27. Energy approval forms may be obtained by calling 938-4776.

Community Leisure

FMWR Blurbs

Fitness Center

The annual Bike Rodeo returns to the PX parking lot Saturday at 10 a.m. and is open to kids ages 5-12 who reside at West Point, the Town of Highlands or whose parent is a DOD employee.

Learn bike safety and test your skills on the proficiency course.

To become a Bike Rodeo volunteer, call 938-3655.

Defensive driving

A defensive driving class is scheduled for Aug. 9 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Bldg. 622.

Call ITR at 938-2401 to register.

Hog Wild Party

The Hog Wild Party at Round Pond is Aug. 16 from 1-8 p.m. at the Round Pond Rec Area.

There will be fun for the whole family to include a pig roast, mechanical bull rides, pony rides, free swimming and rentals and live entertainment featuring "Plain Jane."

For info, call 938-2503.

Create your own Haunted Hayride scene

We need you! Create your own scene for the 2008 FMWR Haunted

Hayride that will be held Oct. 30, 6:30-9 p.m. at the Round Pond Rec Area.

This is open to departments, Families, and Town of Highlands residents.

E-mail scene concepts to *peter.spinning@usma.edu* no later than Sept. 1.

For info on other ways to get involved, call 938-2503.

BOSS Aloha Cruise

Join BOSS for their "Aloha Cruise" on the West Point Ferry Boat Aug. 9, boarding at 5:30 p.m. at South Dock.

This event is open to the entire West Point community over 18 years of age - - bring valid ID.

For tickets and information, call 938-6497.

ITR Trip to Bronx Zoo

Join the ITR for a trip to the Bronx Zoo and the New York Botanic Gardens Aug. 6.

Leave West Point at 9 a.m. and return at 3:30 p.m..

For info, call 938-3601.

Quarterback Luncheon Tickets

Tickets for West Point Club Quarterback Luncheons go on sale

Aug. 11.

For more information, call 938-5120

Army Family Team Building

Volunteers are needed for the Army Family Team Building program.

Opportunities are available for AFTB instructors and master trainers. Call 938-3773 for info.

Fitness instructors needed

Les Mills Body Combat instructors are needed.

Contact the FMWR Fitness Center for more info and certification dates at 938-6490.

Childcare Co-op

The childcare co-op at the FMWR Fitness Center is open Monday-Friday from 8:45-11:15 a.m. in accordance with the West Point Elementary School calendar to parents with FMWR Fitness Center and CDC/YS privileges.

You must complete a brief VCCUS Training administered by the CDC and children must be registered with CDC/YS.

For info, call 446-5140.

2008 Soldier Show

The 2008 Army Soldier Show, taking place at Ike Hall Oct. 19, is looking for local talent to perform

on stage during the finale.

You must be active duty to be eligible. Deadline for the competition entry is Sept. 15.

Contact Sheryle Miller at 938-6497 for additional information.

Swimming

Both Delafield and Round Pond swim areas are open daily for the summer, weather permitting.

Delafield hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more info, call 938-5158.

Round Pond beach hours are noon to 6 p.m. For more info, call 938-2503.

Punch cards are available for purchase at ITR, Bldg. 695, and Delafield Pond, but are not sold at Round Pond.

Fishing restrictions

There will be fishing restrictions due to cadet summer training.

Check for details online at westpointmwr.com.

Operation Purple Healing Adventure

Operation Purple Healing Adventure is Aug. 18-22 at Camp Ascca, Ala., promising a week of fun family-centered activities for individuals, as well as couples seminars and activities.

Participation is limited to

servicemembers who have been wounded in support of the GWOT and have been recovering for at least one year.

Applications are available online at www.nmfa.org.

For information on other activities, go to www.westpointmwr.com

Interested in Girl Scouting?

Contact Deanna Grande, West Point Girl Scouts Registrar at 446-5140 or jgrande@hvc.rr.com.

Keller Corner

KACH Closure

All Outpatient Clinics, Laboratory, Pharmacy and Radiology will be closed Aug. 8 for Organization Day.

The Emergency Room will remain open.

Additional School and Sports Physicals Available

The Primary Care Department is offering additional school and sports physicals in August.

PCD is opening a dedicated clinic to ensure that incoming children and those unable to make an appointment earlier this summer have their physicals prior to the start of the school year.

Physical exams must be done within one calendar year to be acceptable.

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

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

Don't wait -- call 845-938-7992 or 800-552-2907 today to request an appointment for a school or sports physical.

What's Happening

Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross needs volunteers to work at the upcoming Blood Drive Aug. 25-28 at Eisenhower Hall. The hours are flexible.

Please call 938-4100 for more information or to volunteer.

Summer Playground Fun

Bring your children and join others for playground fun from 9:30-11 a.m.

Please bring water and sun block for your child.

Wednesday WPES

In case of inclement weather, playgroup is cancelled.

Tour of West Point from the Hudson

All community members are invited to join DPW and Dr. Steve Grove, retired USMA Historian, for our annual guided tour of West Point from the Hudson River Aug. 9 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. departing from South Dock.

The event is free, but reservations are required. Plan now for an enjoyable, entertaining, yet educational afternoon, for family and friends. Guests may bring food and beverages on board with them, as no other refreshments will be available.

For reservations, contact Kevin Kirkpatrick, Environmental Management Division, 938-5175.

West Point Women's Club Play Days

The WPWC Moms & Tots Summer Play Day will meet from 9:30-11 a.m. Aug. 14 at Stony II Playground.

For more information, please contact Shanna or Andrea via e-mail at usmamomsandtots@hotmail.com.

Protestant Women of the Chapel

PWOC has three upcoming events in August.

Attend an open house on either Aug. 13 from 9 to 11 a.m. or Aug. 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Post Chapel to register.

This is a great opportunity to meet the Bible Study facilitators and Leadership Board as well as register your children for the Children's Ministry.

The PWOC Kick-Off Meeting is Aug. 20 at the Post Chapel from

8:45 to 11 a.m.

You're invited to hear the life-changing message from Sheri Rose Shepherd that has inspired more than 500,000 women at the 'His Princess' Conference.

This free conference is Aug. 22 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 23 at 9 a.m. in Robinson Auditorium in Thayer Hall.

For more information on any PWOC activities, please call 845-446-8798.

Religious Education program

If you are new to West Point or an old timer who has not yet registered or re-registered your children in the Most Holy Trinity Religious Education program, do so today.

Come to the Religious Education Office in the Cloister Room of the Chapel to register. Opening day is Sept. 7. Most Holy Trinity offers religious education classes for children 4 years old through adults.

Religious education classes (K-Adult) are held Sunday mornings on the 3rd floor of Thayer Hall from 9:15-10:30 a.m. The Pre-K classes meet Sunday mornings in the Cloister room from 9-10 a.m.

We still need catechists for all grade levels. For more information, please contact Cindy Ragsdale, 938-8761, Cynthia.Ragsdale@usma.edu.

Worker's Compensation Training

Denise Singer (Compensation Specialist) is conducting training for Worker's Compensation on the following dates for employees.

It is strongly recommended that all employees and supervisors attend at least one of these training sessions.

- Tuesday, 1:30-3:30 p.m. in Eisenhower Hall Theater
- Sept. 16, 9:30-11:30 a.m. in Thayer 144
- Sept. 17, 2-4 p.m. in Thayer 144.

Catholic Religious Education Catechists Orientation

Calling all Catholic Religious Education Catechists (teachers) -- there will be a catechist orientation meeting Aug. 25 at 7 p.m. in the Cloister Room of the Chapel.

If you are interested in teaching religious education, please contact Cindy Ragsdale, 938-8761, Cynthia.Ragsdale@usma.edu.

Ragsdale@usma.edu.

Military Council of Catholic Women

The Military Council of Catholic Women invites all Ladies of Most Holy Trinity to attend our Welcome Program Aug. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Catholic Chapel Rectory.

Please contact Lenore Lucas at 859-4733 for additional information.

Free College Course

The Army Education Center is planning a free class for NCOs, Corporal and above, Aug. 25-29 from 5-8:30 p.m.

Students completing the class earn one semester hour of college credit from Central Texas College.

The class, MTBC-1176, Stress Management, meets at the Army Education Center, 683 Buckner Loop.

Registration information is available at 938-3464/5389.

Mandatory Training

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

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

- Ethics - Robinson Auditorium, Aug. 27 from 10-11 a.m. and Sept. 4 from 6-7 p.m.
- Suicide Prevention - Robinson Auditorium, Sept. 11 from 6-7 p.m. and Sept. 17 from 1-2 p.m.
- Equal Employment Opportunity/Training on Prevention of Sexual Harassment - Robinson Auditorium, Aug. 14 from 10:30-11 a.m. and from 6-7 p.m. (DA Civilians only)

• Sexual Assault and Prevention/ Violence in the Workplace - Robinson Auditorium, Aug. 26 from 10:30-11:15 a.m. and 6-7:15 p.m. and Sept. 18 from 10-11:30 a.m.

• Alcohol and Drug Abuse - Robinson Auditorium, Sept. 2 from 10:30-11 a.m.; Sept. 3 1-2:30 p.m. and Sept. 15 from 6-7 p.m.

Tuition Assistance Guidance for FY08

In preparation for year-end close-out, please be aware of guidance concerning the use of end-of-year Army Tuition Assistance. Registration will close Sept. 25 for classes starting on or before Sept. 30.

Please ensure that you enroll in classes through your Virtual Education Center in GoArmyEd prior to Sept. 25.

If enrollment is attempted after Sept. 25 for courses that start before Sept. 30, no TA will be awarded.

It's in your best interest to enroll early for courses with September start dates, to ensure funding.

Please contact the Education Center at 938-5389/3464 for more information.

Highland Falls Farmers Market

The Vision-sponsored Farmers Market in Highland Falls, located in the Municipal Parking Lot across from Sacred Heart Church on Main Street, is every Sunday through Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

Command Channel 8/23

Aug. 1 - 8

Friday & Monday - Aug. 8
8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
1 p.m. Army Newswatch
6 p.m. Army Newswatch

A Spouse's Point of View

A View From Across the River

By **Janine Boldrin**
Army Spouse

Most military spouses have a Permanent Change of Station story. The story of our recent move to West Point goes like this ...

We had over \$700 worth of unexpected repairs to our SUV, a mover who insisted he could pack *and* move our entire house in a day and an overbooked hotel to deal with before we even pulled out of North Carolina. Within days of arriving in New York, I got into a car accident and broke my tooth while eating salad.

However, I was willing to overlook the bumps in the road. I was going to be within a one-hour drive of my hometown. After seven moves to four different states in the nine years I'd been married to my husband, coming back to the familiarity of the Hudson Valley sounded pretty good.

West Point was known to me

as the place my Family went for hockey and football games. West Point was where my college roommate got married and it was the historic buildings my aunt's house overlooked from across the river. But now it was going to be my home.

After moving into housing, we emerged from packing paper and boxes and loaded the boys in the car for our own self-guided tour of West Point.

"What are all those people doing here?" asked my oldest who was pointing at all of the tour buses and people that crowded Trophy

Point.

"They're taking tours of West Point," I said while making a mental note never to go out to get the morning newspaper in my pajamas for fear of being spotted by one of these buses ... *to your right you can see the classic example of a military spouse in her natural environment ...*

After trekking around the statues and weaponry, we stood at one of the outlooks. I thought about the fact that most of my life I had looked across the river from the other side.

"What do you think the people

over there think of West Point?" asked my husband.

As a teenager, I knew what I had been thinking ... cadets! So I was sure I wasn't alone in not knowing that other people, Families with kids, actually lived on West Point.

But if one day, a tour bus takes a wrong turn and ends up in one of the big housing areas or if some civilians wander past the monuments, they will get a glimpse into our world -- a world full of plastic toys, vegetable gardens, lawn chairs and Families busy living their lives. Maybe it won't seem much different from their

neighborhoods.

They will get to know the other part of West Point. The one where I now live with my Family. Hopefully they won't laugh if they see me in my pajamas getting the paper.

(Editor's Note: Janine Boldrin is a writer, a mother and an Army spouse.)

To contact her about your experiences as a military spouse at West Point, you can e-mail her at janineboldrin@gmail.com.

"A Spouse's Point of View" will appear the first week of each month and as topics arise and space permits.)

The
West Point Band
presents

**Music Under
the Stars**

Concert Band with Philip
Smith, NY Philharmonic
principal trumpet, Sunday,
August 3, 7:30 p.m.

Jazz Knights with Scott
Wendholt & Gary
Smulyan, Sunday,
August 10, 7:30 p.m.

Concert Band with
Broadway star Caissie
Levy, Sunday, August 17,
7:30 p.m.

**Trophy Point
Amphitheatre**
Inclement site: Ike Hall

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

FORT PUTNAM, con't from page 5

fell into ruin until 1909, when its present stone walls were built to envelope and preserve the original 18th-century fortifications.

In 1976, replica cannons and mortars were purchased with Congressionally-approved funds and placed on the site in strategic historical positions.

During this restoration an original barracks foundation was uncovered, and upon it the museum was built and filled with artifacts and other historical displays. Since then, the fort has been overseen by the West Point Museum.

Major refurbishments over the years have made a few superficial changes, but the site remains a unique window to the past for all to study and enjoy.

“It’s a beautiful historic site that

should be maintained and kept for future generations,” Crosbie said.

Fort Putnam is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays through Sundays through August on, and on home football game weekends (Saturday and Sunday).

An additional point of interest, Constitution Island offers a look at many historic sites from the Revolutionary War, such as the sites of batteries and redoubts used to protect the Great Chain. Fort Putnam also offers a great view of the island.

It was later the home of Susan and Anna Warner, prolific 19th-century writers and early religious mentors to cadets. Susan wrote “The Wide, Wide World,” and Anna wrote the words to the hymn “Jesus

Loves Me.”

Tours to the island starting from the South Dock are available until the end of September. They start at 1 and 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays and last a little over two hours.

As notes of caution, Fort Putnam is not handicapped-accessible, and while safety railings are present on the fort’s high parapets, parents are advised to mind their children while visiting the site.

Visitors are also asked not to tamper with any part of the fortification or leave any trash.

For more information about Fort Putnam, call the West Point Museum at 938-3590. For more information about the museum, go to <http://www.usma.edu/Museum/>.



Lt. Col. Gail Yoshitani, American division chief of the history department, talks about the history of Fort Putnam with Christine Guedri while conducting a tour of the fortifications around West Point Monday. The fort is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays through Sundays through August and during home football weekends on Saturdays and Sundays.

Voting Assistance

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

For additional information about absentee voting, you can also go to the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site at www.fvap.gov.

**Orientation of Newly Assigned Personnel
for 2008**

Schedule of Events

Wednesday

9 a.m. - noon

Superintendent's Seminar, *Robinson Auditorium*

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch (on own), *Various locations*

3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Question & Answer Period for Title 10 Employees
with the Dean, *Thayer Hall Classrooms*

6 - 9 p.m.

Community/ Wellness Fair, *Eisenhower Hall Ballroom*

7 - 8 p.m.

Superintendent's and Garrison Commander's Community
Welcome, *Eisenhower Hall Theater*

Aug 12

3 - 5 p.m.

Superintendent's Newcomer Reception,
Grand Ballroom, West Point Club

3:40 - 5 p.m.

Quarters 100 Tours, *Quarters 100*

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

Friday -- Kung Fu Panda, PG, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday -- Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the
Crystal Skull, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.**

Aug. 8 -- The Love Guru, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 9 -- The Incredible Hulk, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

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

**SUMMARY COURT
MARTIAL OFFICER**

Major Greg Frey, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, has been appointed Summary Court Martial Officer to collect, inventory and process the personal effects of Sgt. Johan Bastardo, a member of the U.S. Military Academy's staff who died June 30. Accordingly, if you are aware of any debts owed to or by Sgt. Bastardo, please contact Maj. Frey as soon as possible at 845-938-0418 or *Gregory.frey@usma.edu*.

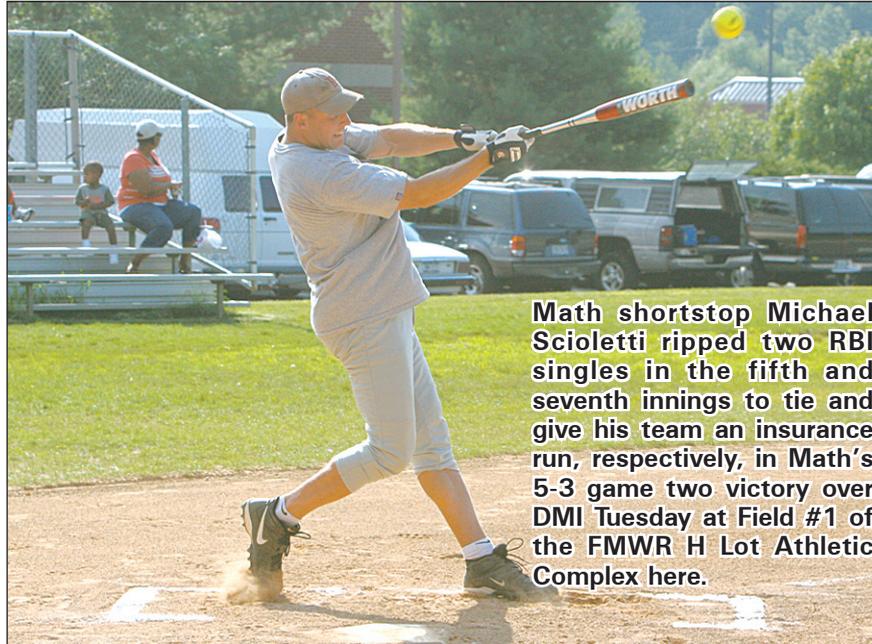
**Delivery
problems?**

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

Army and Community Sports



Department of Military Instruction left-centerfielder Joe Katz got his team rolling in game two of their best-of-three game semifinal with Math when he knocked a double and later scored the first run of a three-run second inning. Math came back to win 5-3 after taking game one 9-4.



Math shortstop Michael Scioletti ripped two RBI singles in the fifth and seventh innings to tie and give his team an insurance run, respectively, in Math's 5-3 game two victory over DMI Tuesday at Field #1 of the FMWR H Lot Athletic Complex here.

Post Intramural Softball Playoffs

Monday and Tuesday IM Softball Playoff results:

- *DMI defeated Dean/DOL in South Division quarterfinals 18-9 and 11-4.
- *Math defeated DMI in South Division semifinals 9-4 and 5-3.
- *DAD defeated DPE/EECS in S.D. quarterfinals 9-8, 5-10, 20-15.
- *Stewart Marines defeated DOIM in North Division quarters 13-2 and 11-1.



Math second baseman Tom Kastner throws a Department of Military Instruction runner out during game one of Math's two-game sweep in the South Division West Point Intramural Softball semifinal Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY ERIC S. BARTELT/PV