

January changes (as of 1/17)	
C FUND	+ 0.96 percent
I FUND	+ 0.05 percent
S FUND	+ 1.44 percent



Cordon and search

Recent cordon and search activities in Iraq have netted insurgents and weapons caches. Here U.S. Military Academy 2005 graduate 1st Lt. Joseph Meyer, left, and Pfc. Donald Carroll, take up defensive positions during operation in Baghdad Jan. 12.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. BRONCO SUZUKI

Gates calls for 92,000 more Soldiers, Marines

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- The active-duty Army and Marine Corps will grow by 92,000 personnel over the next five years, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said during a White House news conference Jan. 11.

"The President announced [Jan. 10] that he would strengthen our military for the long war against terrorism by authorizing an increase in the overall strength of the Army and Marine Corps," Gates said. "I am recommending to him a total increase in the two services of 92,000 Soldiers and Marines over the next five years."

The breakout is 65,000 Soldiers and 27,000 Marines.

The increase will make permanent the 30,000 temporary increase in Army end-strength and 5,000 increase in the Marine Corps. Then the services will increase in annual increments of 7,000 for the Army and 5,000 for the Marine Corps.

The Army has a current end-strength of 512,400, with the Marines at 180,000. Under Gates' proposal, the Army's end-strength will grow to 547,000 and the Marines to 202,000.

"We should recognize that while it may take some time for these new troops to become available for deployment, it is important that our men and women in uniform know that additional manpower and resources are on the way," Gates said.

The increase will give Soldiers and Marines more "dwell time" at home, officials said. Currently, units are on close to a one-to-one deployment to dwell time schedule. The increase in end-strength will reduce the stress on deployable active duty personnel.

Army and Marine officials said the services cannot grow forces

overnight. Currently, the active duty Army recruits 80,000 young Americans each year with the Marines bringing in 39,000.

Recruiting officials said that right now, only three of 10 young men and women in the 19-to-24-year-old age group meet the standards to enlist in the military.

Those young men and women have a lot of demands for their services, an Army official said, and incentives for enlisting and for service may need to be "plussed-up" to encourage these people to enlist. The services also may need to put more recruiters on the street.

Training the individuals in the proper military occupational specialties is also a potential choke-point. Both the Army and Marine Corps training establishments have some growth potential and can probably expand to handle the influx, officials in both services said.

Residential Communities Initiative update, Q&A

By Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

West Point's Residential Communities Initiative, which is the movement to privatize military housing, is continuing on its path toward the selection of its RCI partner, according to Michael Colacicco, West Point's RCI Project and Assets manager.

"We expect to have a partner named by late February or early March," Colacicco said. "The transition from government housing operations to developer operations is expected to take place in the May or June 2008 timeframe. The exact date will be determined once we get a partner onboard."

There are a number of companies vying for the RCI partnership, Colacicco explained, and those who are a part of the competition are currently operating family housing activities in the Department of Defense, but not all of them are Army facilities.

"For example, Stewart [Air Base housing] is part of the Marine Corps Housing Privatization Program," Colacicco said. "There are 45 Army installations that will fall under RCI and 34 have already transitioned to private operations with one [installation] transitioning this month."

There have been a few bumps in the road with RCI throughout the Army due to delays for one reason or another, but, overall, once the program takes hold on an installation, it is great for those living in the housing areas, he said.

"Based on the discussions with RCI project managers at other installations, the privatized experience has generally been very good," Colacicco stated. "On most Army installations, it has tremendously improved housing, especially for young Soldiers. In many cases, there was adequate or sufficient housing for senior NCOs and officers, but really not for

junior enlisted Soldiers from staff sergeant and below. RCI is really taking care of those Soldiers.

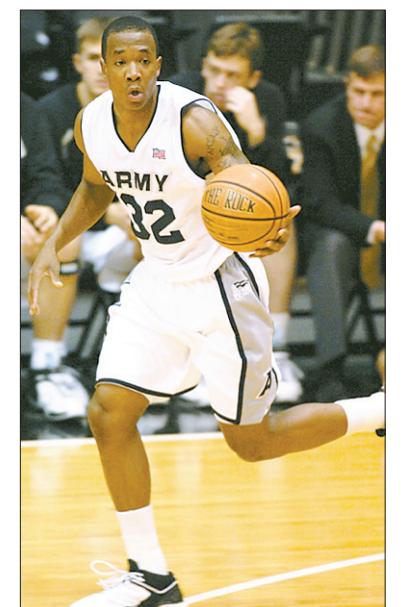
"As we transition, we'll have some bumps in the road, but it's important to have a great line of communication," he added. "The community is a very important part of the process and we have had a lot of input from our focus groups over the past four or five months. Their input will be used to help shape the Community Development and Management Plan (CDMP)."

A big question is with the choice of an RCI partner, which is a decision that should be made in the next month or so.

"We could hit another delay because, if you recall, we were originally supposed to have a partner on board in November," Colacicco said. "The delays in the process were caused because everyone wants to make sure the process is done properly and that when the partner is selected, we

See RCI on page 3

INSIDE



MEN'S BASKETBALL,
page 13-14

In memory of one of West Point's silent heroes

Commentary by
Chaplain (Maj.)
Carlos C. Huerta
Jewish Chaplain

Just a few weeks ago we suffered our 3,000th loss on the battlefield. We are all aware of the great sacrifice that our Soldiers make, but there is more to the picture in fighting this war than just Soldiers.

A great command sergeant major once told me that to win the war over there we have to first fight it over here in terms of training. Here is where all those wonderful civilians come in. They are often our unnoticed and, many

times, under-appreciated force multipliers, our silent heroes.

We lost one of those special people Dec. 30, 2006. Ron Fine started working at the U.S. Military Academy in Sept. 1975. While he was here, he was responsible for doing many great things for the academy.

He ran the Service Exchange Program for at least 11 years; he organized and led the annual Robert T. Stevens Leadership Conference each September that brought together the best and brightest senior cadet leaders from the five service academies.

He was the point man for the Cadet Awards Program and for U.S.

Corps of Cadet's approval for the cadet's Semester Abroad Program. He was key in guiding and helping the Jewish Cadet Chapel Choir in the days when there was no Jewish Chapel and also lent a guiding hand in the building of the Jewish Chapel here. He was a man devoted to his faith and his family.

The list could go on and on. Since Ron began working here, over 29,000 lieutenants have been commissioned. This is almost half of the roughly 63,000-member Long Gray Line who have graduated in the 205-year history of the academy.

The young lives he influenced, the young leaders he helped shape, some of whom are now general officers, cannot fully be appreciated. As Lt. Col. Casey Neff, his immediate supervisor, noted that despite what his official duties were, "...his unofficial duties were to teach, coach and mentor all of us on how to be better human beings and not to forget that USMA is not walls and buildings, but people."

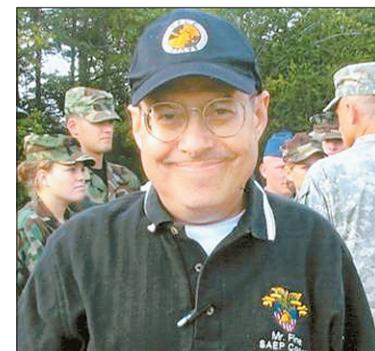
He took his unofficial duties just as seriously as his official ones.

How often we forget, "...Not walls and buildings, but people." What makes this place great are all of those people like Ron who give so much of themselves to make this the bastion of freedom. All of those quiet, unassuming, but devoutly dedicated, civilians truly help to make USMA what it is.

I don't want to say thank you to you at your memorial service when you cannot appreciate it. I don't want to wait until your retirement ceremony to say that without you this place would only be a shadow

of what it is. This day, I challenge all of us to turn to the person that you work for, the person that works for you and say thank you for being on the team. Let us learn to appreciate each other in life and say those nice things that we say about each other in death.

Ron Fine is just an example, a sterling one, of the type of people we are honored to work with. The example he set and the standard he lived by will not be forgotten. He has passed the banner to us, to care, to work with devotion, to love the ideals and people that this institution and our Nation stand for. We will miss Ron, but his mission will continue, to make leaders of character that will lead our Nation during war and peace.



Ron Fine

PHOTO PROVIDED

Ron's memorial service will be held today at the Jewish Chapel at noon. All are welcome to celebrate the life of one of our many heroes.

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.

SARP INFO

The members of the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Team are Col. Jeanette McMahan, Shelley Ariosto (Garrison), Maj. Samantha Breton (USCC), Maj. Kim Kawamoto (ODIA) and Lt. Col. Robbie Williams (Dean). Community members can e-mail McMahan 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

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

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

Difficulty: Medium

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

See Solution on Page 9

POINTER VIEW®

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Local and National News

RCI, cont. from page 1

don't get a protest which could cause additional delays. Although it's been frustrating for those on the installation staff working this, as well as the community, it's important we get it done right."

Although Colacicco said the government isn't really saving money per se, according to a study done by the Systems Engineering Department with assistance from the Social Sciences Department here, the RCI program is delivering better housing for Soldiers and their families at about the same cost.

While the annual budget to maintain quarters and such by the Directorate of Public Works has plummeted from \$12 million to \$7.9 million over the past couple of years, it is the steady stream of income from Basic Allowance for Housing that allows RCI to maintain housing at a consistent level.

"One of the problems we always have in facility maintenance is having a predictable budget," Colacicco explained. "If you tell me how much money I have, I can take care of the facilities. But, if you tell me I have one number now and two months from now you tell me I have a different number and it's smaller, you've already killed my plan.

"RCI gives the people maintaining the housing a predictable source of income, so

they can plan and take care of the problem," he added. "Because of reduced housing funds last summer, we weren't able to paint or fix the floors in quarters in-between occupancy since the budget number went down during the year. It's worse this year. It's a downward spiral."

With a stream of money assured to flow through RCI, Colacicco is confident that the 964 sets of quarters at West Point will be highly maintained and occupied by happy customers.

"I feel confident that we're going to see the improvement in the service, care and maintenance in the houses," Colacicco said. "The reason why we're doing all this is to provide better service to Soldiers and their families."

Questions and answers ...

1. Will there be designated family housing units by grade?

"Yes. For example, Lee Area will probably continue to be designated for lieutenant colonels. We will work out the mix of quarters during the preparation of the CDMP."

2. Will we have to pay for utilities?

"You are already paying for utilities because it's included with your housing. Every house, at the end of the initial development

period, will be metered for electrical and gas service. Those meters will be read. If the family is using more energy than the average established for that type of house [there will be a process for determining the average energy usage for each type of house on post], they'll pay the difference. If they are using less than the average, they'll get a rebate -- it goes both ways.

"I think it is important for all to understand that utility billing will not go into effect until quarters have been renovated to meet the RCI energy standards."

3. Are civilians going to be able to live on post?

"Maybe. It depends on a number of things, one being the final number of housing units we have at West Point and how many active duty servicemembers choose to live in quarters here. Remember people will no longer be required to live on post under RCI and some people will choose to live off post. Right now, we have 964 units. We'll have fewer than 964 once this project is

complete.

"During the preparation of the Community Development and Management Plan, we will determine what the likely market for housing on West Point is. That's the number we will have at the end of the initial development period, but we don't know what that number will be."

"The purpose for housing on installations is to house active duty servicemembers and their families. The final number of houses is based on how many are needed for active duty Soldiers and their families. It is not based on if we can house other folks.

"There will be a priority for the houses available. The number one priority is active duty Soldiers assigned to West Point. Then it's active duty military members who are not assigned to West Point -- such as Stewart or in New York City -- but want to live on West Point. At other installations, what they've done is offered extra housing to Reserve or National Guard members that wish to live on

post, then retired service members and DOD civilians, of which some could be civilian employees at West Point.

4. What about maintenance and responsiveness?

"The Housing Policy Focus Group, which brought this up, wants to make sure that the service response policy is clear and laid out in the plan. Currently, housing maintenance has difficulty meeting the published response times which causes considerable heartburn in the community.

"One of the ways the developer earns money is by how promptly he responds to service orders and the quality of that response, because he's not getting paid by the number of service orders. The developer is getting paid a base fee for managing the property and he has incentives to get to a higher fee. In order to earn an incentive, he has to meet certain objective standards. One of the objectives is responsiveness to service calls. The better he does, the more he will earn."

West Point tax center opens January 29

By Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

With the holiday season in the rearview mirror, those wanting to replenish their funds don't have to wait any longer as tax season has arrived.

Starting Jan. 29, the West Point Tax Center personnel will be available Mon. through Fri. from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during scheduled appointment hours, on the second floor of building 626 next to Buffalo Soldier Field, which is co-located with the Staff Judge Advocate's claims office.

Tax preparers will assist active duty, retirees and their family members with tax preparation for the duration of the tax season. Reserve and National Guard on active status for more than 30 days also qualify for legal assistance.

Cadets will also be able to get their taxes done, but they don't have to go to Building 626 to complete their taxes.

"We'll be accepting cadet paperwork in this office (legal assistance, Building 606, fourth floor)," said Capt. John Fusco, West Point Tax Center officer-in-charge, "so we'll allow cadets to come in [to] drop off their paperwork here and have their taxes prepared and returned to them."

All are encouraged to make appointments by calling 938-6165 beginning Monday, but walk-ins are welcome.

"Normally, the appointments are scheduled for one hour where

the members of the community sit down with a tax preparer, who will then go over the paperwork that they have with them," Fusco said. "Walk-ins will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. We encourage folks to make an appointment so they know when they come in that they will sit down and be seen by a preparer."

Before coming to the Tax Center, make sure you gather the following information:

- All wage and earnings statements, W-2s.

- Forms 1099, interest and dividends statements.

- Form 2848, if filing on someone else's behalf.

- Complete list of deductions for anyone itemizing returns.

- HUD-1 or 1099-S for those who have bought or sold a home.

- Personal identification to include dependent names, social security numbers and documentation of name changes for those married in 2006.

- A cancelled check with bank account number and routing number for direct deposit.

"Everyone should make sure all their paperwork is with them when they come in," said Anne Stocking, lead tax preparer at the West Point Tax Center. "Just because your W-2 comes out on the DOD Web site doesn't mean you have all the paperwork you need to complete your taxes. You may need an interest statement from your bank, which sometimes doesn't come until late February, for example.

"So don't feel like once you get your W-2 that it's time to go. Make sure that all your paperwork for all your accounts has arrived and you have all the information you need," Stocking continued, "otherwise it will be an incomplete file and a wasted trip."

The tax center is limited in what it can do due to the expertise of the tax preparers. There are some things, such as the schedule C tax preparation for people running a private business that can't be done there.

"All of our tax preparers have gone through levels of certification given by the IRS," Fusco explained. "If someone comes in with something above the intermediate level, which is what our tax preparers are trained at, then the tax preparers are not authorized to help because, ultimately, we are a volunteer center.

"About 80 percent of the tax returns we see we'll be able to take care of," Fusco added. "It's just those complicated ones where there's a number of excess stock transactions and such that could be out of the scope of our resources to do."

The tax center will have five permanent staffers and may have a number of volunteers join as the tax season progresses. According to Fusco, all training is provided by the IRS and New York State during a one-week course.

The center will help those offered the services to complete and file their federal tax returns and file most state returns.

"We electronically file federal returns, but we don't e-file state returns," Fusco said. "However, for state returns people can take the hard copy and go home and e-file on the Internet or send it by mail to their state's IRS office."

All military I.D. card holders are encouraged to use the West Point Tax Center to avoid spending money at places like H&R Block, Fusco said, which could save close to \$200 on a return per individual.

"One of the problems is the [refund anticipation loan] where folks go to H&R Block [or other commercial tax preparers] and they say that you are getting a \$1,000 refund. Then they say, 'We'll give you \$750 today if you sign over that \$1,000 refund,'" Fusco said. "It's a word of caution about those payments in advance. The high service charges they require may not be worth it. Some RAL interest rates can be as high as 400 percent.

"Your refund will come fairly quickly. Usually your refund comes in two weeks if we prepare it," he added.

Fusco adds that people who can use the tax center have many choices, including doing their taxes at home, but it's good for them to have another set of eyes to look at their returns.



"There's no substitute [for] working with another person," Fusco said. "There's security in knowing that you're reviewing your taxes with someone who may have a level of training that you may not possess ... it's [better] to have two sets of eyes looking at your taxes than one."

Policy change could mean recalls for thousands of Reservists

By Greg Grant
Govexec.com

Part-time citizen-Soldiers who have already served a yearlong tour in Iraq or Afghanistan can now be recalled to active duty for a second year's tour, the Pentagon announced last week in a reversal of a long-standing policy that limited Guard and Reserve deployment times.

The policy that kept Guard or Reserve members' cumulative time on active duty to not more than 24 months in a 5-year period no longer applies, said Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates

said the move was intended to expand the pool of available troops to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan and lessen the strains on the active duty military stretched thin by repeated combat deployments.

Previously, Guard and Reserve troops in Iraq typically served 18 months on active duty: six months in pre-deployment training and 12 months on the ground. That 18-month active deployment meant that they could not be called up again, as it would exceed the 24-month cumulative time limit.

The policy change, coupled with President Bush's announcement last week of an increase in the total troop numbers deployed to Iraq, means thousands of reservists can

expect recall notices within the next few months. Gates said the increase in Iraq troop strength will require that "a number of selected Guard and Reserve units be remobilized," although neither he nor Pace would specify which units would be affected.

Gates said the policy change is a temporary measure necessary because of "today's global demands," and that the eventual goal is for Guard and Reserve units to be mobilized for one year, followed by five years of demobilization. Troops no longer will be called up on an individual basis, he said. Instead, entire units will be mobilized.

Guard and Reserve commanders

have decried the Pentagon's policy since Sept. 11 of plucking individual Soldiers out of Reserve units for deployment on an as-needed basis. They said the practice leads to a breakdown in unit cohesion.

The increase in overall Iraq troop numbers announced by Bush Jan. 10 will be achieved by keeping some units already there longer than expected and speeding up the deployment times of units preparing to go. The president's plan calls for 20,000 additional troops to be sent to Iraq over the next few months.

The five active-duty combat brigades that will deploy already have been announced. A Pentagon statement Jan. 11 said, "Other

combat-support and combat-service-support units may also be deployed as necessary once new requirements are assessed."

Gates also announced other policy changes that affect the reserves:

■ A new program has been created to compensate individuals on both active duty and in the reserves who must mobilize or deploy earlier than previously required.

■ Commanders have been directed to review their administration of the hardship waiver program to ensure that they have properly taken into account exceptional circumstances facing military families of deployed troops.

Military, community family support respond to new initiatives

DOD NEWS -- Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Michael L. Dominguez stated at a meeting Jan. 11 with military and community support organizations, "As additional forces deploy in support of the new strategies in Iraq, programs and policies at home will immediately respond to the needs of families. These families will need grassroots support as many are National Guard and Reserve [families] and are distributed across many states rather than on or near

military installations."

Dominguez made these comments as 22 of America's most prestigious military and community support organizations were in Washington, D.C. to discuss how to help military families impacted by the President's new strategy for the war in Iraq.

"We all know the important role military families play in national security," Dominguez told key leaders. "You [the support organizations] deliver services so essential and capture information about what needs to be done, I asked you to attend today to hear your ideas."

The Department of Defense has a strong bond with all of these grassroots organizations

nationwide. A separate section of the Military OneSource Web-site now includes a page where community and military support organizations can post sponsored events to help connect families in their communities.

"Military families also serve. They have a patriotic and noble spirit," Dominguez said, "but their sacrifices are greater than ever with the change in deployments. We appreciate your steadfast support."

Key activities under way in the Department of Defense to support military units impacted by the policy change will address families' needs, Dominguez said. Initial efforts will specifically target the needs of the units in the Minnesota

National Guard, the first heavily impacted state.

A team of military family assistance counselors, requested by Minnesota's adjutant general, will provide on-going support to families in the months to come, Dominguez said. They will help coordinate local resources, identify needed services, conduct face-to-face counseling, teach classes and help families and children develop coping strategies.

These programs are based on recent experiences with similar changes in rotations. Other family issues will address financial stability and emotional challenges. Particular attention will be paid to respite child-care and children's

emotional well-being.

Similar plans to support servicemembers and families of other affected units are under way by each of the military services; they are aggressively engaged.

The Defense Department's robust Military OneSource central location for assistance is available 24-hours-a-day, seven days-a-week.

The Web site <http://www.militaryonesource.com> and toll-free telephone number at (800) 342-9647 provide immediate access to a consultant for help with problem solving -- no issue is too small.

"If ever there was a time to show that we care for our troops, it's now," one attendee said.

KACH fellow honored

Submitted by KACH

Doctor Maj. Brett D. Owens, the current fellow in the John A. Feagin, Jr. Sports Medicine Fellowship at Keller Army Community Hospital here was selected in Dec. 2006 as the recipient of the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Research Award for his research project titled, "The Epidemiology of Shoulder Instability in a Young Athletic Population."

This national honor recognizes the year's best research paper that is relevant to the health, safety and well-being of collegiate student-athletes. Owens will have the opportunity to present his paper to his peers at the American Orthopaedic



Maj. Brett D. Owens

Society for Sports Medicine Annual Meeting at the Telus Convention Center in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, in July 2007.

Community Features and Photos

TiGRNET: Technology made for the way Soldiers work

Compiled by Cadet 1st Class
Vanessa Forbes

First class cadets Vanessa Forbes, Becca Garcia and Erik Edstrom have been snapping lots of digital pictures around West Point. The pictures are being taken to test a new camera with an embedded global positioning system (GPS) called TiGRNET (Tactical Ground Reporting Network).

Lieutenant Col. John Graham's three Engineering Psychology cadets tested TiGRNET as part of a Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency project started by Mari Maeda, program manager, information processing technology office who approached the Behavioral Sciences and Leadership faculty as co-developers in the project since our soon-to-graduate cadets are the future TiGRNET users.

DARPA products are sometimes complex long-term efforts, like tanks or missiles, but sometimes the needs of Soldiers are so great that DARPA takes on rapid efforts like TiGRNET.

Maeda developed the project while observing Army patrol leaders using operations orders, maps and photos to give patrol members an overall idea of the



This picture of Trophy Point is being taken using TiGRNET. Note the grid and directional data on the left side of the picture.

situation. Usually, these maps and photos are not connected to each other, and without extra effort such as connecting the photos to the map with string or labels, they are essentially unmapped locations in the Soldiers' minds.

TiGRNET makes the linkage between the photos and satellite maps by using embedded GPS location information in the pictures. The display map, similar to images one can find on Google Earth, uses the camera's GPS abilities by mapping where the pictures were taken.

This has many practical applications in the military, including reconnaissance, surveillance, battlefield handoffs, trend detection and IED prevention. For reconnaissance, this is a powerful tool that allows its users to visually convey a precise situation, location, face or general area.

The three cadets sought to explore the uses and potential drawbacks of TiGRNET and find out if this system had benefits for the Army.

After 15 hours of testing in the field and the laboratory, they concluded that TiGRNET would indeed provide extra intelligence, which is necessary to winning the war. Plus, each unit's pictures could be added to a network and viewed by other units preparing for Iraq. The possibilities are numerous and quite valuable to the military.

The drawbacks, if any, seem negligible when compared to the advantages of a combined camera-GPS system like TiGRNET. The small digital camera has a ruggedized case so it can handle being dropped.

Soldiers must find room to store the camera in their uniforms, load-bearing vests or rucksacks. Snapping pictures is quick and easy, but would provide essential information for leaders, intelligence officers and other Soldiers. Given this versatility, TiGRNET could become a very worthwhile tool for current and future use.

In addition to the cadets' work, a cross-disciplinary team from the BS&L, Electrical Engineering and



Showing the other way the same data can be presented, this imagery of Trophy Point is imposed by TiGRNET on satellite imagery.

Computer Science and Geography & Environmental Engineering departments have been supporting the DARPA effort from USMA.

Maj. Jen Bower led the first of many trips to Fort Hood and the 1st Cavalry Division and noted, "I was struck by how fast the experiment groups that were outfitted with TiGRNET were able to plan and debrief their patrols to the Battalion Intelligence Officer."

Further, Maj. Christopher Oxendine (G&EnE) developed

new imagery datasets while Maj. Benjamin Ring (EE&CS) is examining how to automate the exploitation of large picture datasets. In their support role, the USMA team has developed design specifications, testing protocols, improved imagery support and cross-service applications of the patrolling software.

The USMA team's support has led to the current camera and software beta testing in Iraq with the 1st Cavalry Division.

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John Philip Sousa

**January
19th
7:30 p.m.**

Program highlights include *Variations on America*, by Ives; *The Patriot*, by Pryor; *Handel on the Strand*, by Grainger; *O Mio Babbino Caro*, by Puccini; *Yankee Doodle*, by Reeves; plus a Cohan sing along and many Sousa Marches.

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How would you like to be a NASA rocket scientist?

By Maj. Ernest Y. Wong
Dept. of Systems Engineering

As part of their senior year capstone experience, cadets Austin Bartlett, Bruce Brown, Lou Harrington, Jason McKay and Quentin Willard are working with NASA on enhancing ways to more safely land autonomous space landers on other planets and more reliably guide autonomous surface rovers through our largely un-navigated solar system.

Despite the apprehension the cadets had when they first discovered they were assigned this project, after a semester of learning about our national space exploration mission, meeting with NASA engineers and getting to know NASA's current approach to the problem, the cadets now have a greater understanding of how they can leverage systems engineering to design a value-added solution.

"None of us knew how we got

assigned to working with NASA on such a complex problem," Harrington said.

"This project is unlike anything we had ever worked on. In the beginning, I was unsure how I would be able to impact the team and what impact I could provide on the project, but now I think we are unstoppable," Brown added.

Perhaps most importantly, the capstone project is providing the cadets with an opportunity to experience what teamwork and leadership truly mean.

"Having different viewpoints is always a good thing because individuals do not always notice the same things, so each team member offers new insights and suggestions," McKay said. "Our team dynamics are working out incredibly well and no one is trying to just get by without getting his hands dirty."

Speaking like a veteran systems engineer, Willard noted, "I definitely

prefer group activities -- in a team there is a lot better flow of ideas and with more ideas a better and more complete solution is likely to be found."

Even though the cadets did not come equipped with prior background or special courses specifically dealing with space or sensor technologies, they acknowledge that their systems engineering classes have prepared them for dealing with the challenge.

"What really helps our team out on working on such a complex problem is that we have a template and guide -- in our case, the Systems Decision Process," Bartlett said, "I feel like I'm finally using my skills as a systems engineer to solve a real-world problem."

In fact, what the cadet team is learning through the capstone experience is what it means to be a solution expert -- developing



Cadets 1st Class Quentin Willard, [foreground], Jason McKay and Bruce Brown sit in the command module of a Saturn V rocket at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

PHOTO BY CADETS 1ST CLASS LOU HARRINGTON AND AUSTIN BARTLETT

procedures, processes and systems that add value to any organization.

Fraud, Waste & Abuse Hotline

To report suspected Fraud, Waste and Abuse, call the Internal Review & Audit Compliance (IRAC) Office Hotline. Reports are confidential and callers do not have to identify themselves, but if they provide names, they can remain anonymous. To report suspected abuse of equipment/supplies accountability, travel/pay and cash accountability, call extension **938-8082**. Please provide all pertinent information.

Tips to successfully handle winter weather

Submitted by
West Point Safety Office

Preparing for Winter Storms

■ Understand the hazards of wind chill, which combines the cooling effect of wind and cold temperature on exposed skin.

■ Keep your car's gas tank full. This keeps the fuel line from freezing.

■ Listen to a National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] Weather Radio, or a portable battery-powered radio [or television] for updated emergency information.

■ Move animals to sheltered areas.

■ Avoid unnecessary travel.

What To Do During a Winter Storm

■ Stay indoors and dress warmly during the storm. Layers of loose-fitting, lightweight clothing will keep you warmer than one bulky sweater.

■ Listen to a battery-powered radio or television for updated emergency information.

■ Eat regularly. Food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat.

■ Keep the body replenished with fluids to prevent dehydration.

Dressing Children for Winter

■ Newborn babies need to be protected from the elements. Dress them in several layers of light clothing to keep them warm. Avoid overheating.

■ The rule of thumb for older babies and young children is to dress them in one more layer of clothing than an adult would wear in the same situation.

■ Blankets, quilts, pillows, sheepskins and other loose bedding may contribute to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and should be kept out of an infant's sleeping environment. Warm-footed pajamas are preferred.

■ If a blanket must be used to keep a sleeping infant warm, it should be tucked in around the crib mattress so the infant's face is less likely to become covered by bedding.

Hypothermia

■ Hypothermia develops when one's temperature falls below normal due to exposure to cold. It often happens when a youngster is playing outdoors in extremely cold weather without wearing proper clothing.

■ As hypothermia sets in, the

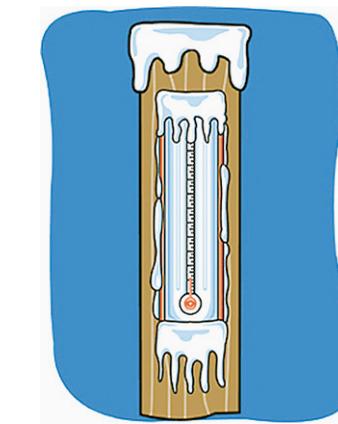
child may shiver and become lethargic and clumsy. Speech may become slurred and body temperature will decline.

■ If you suspect your child is hypothermic, call 911 at once. Until help arrives, take the child indoors, remove any wet clothing and wrap the child in blankets or warm clothes.

Frostbite

■ Frostbite happens when the skin and outer tissues become frozen.

■ This condition tends to happen on extremities like the fingers, toes, ears and nose. They may become pale, gray and blistered. At the same time, sufferers may complain that their skin burns or has become



numb.

■ Bring the individual indoors, where you should place the frostbitten parts of the body in warm (not hot) water. Warm washcloths may be applied to frostbitten nose,

ears and lips.

■ Do not rub the frozen areas.

■ After a few minutes, dry and cover the individual with clothing or blankets. Give the person something warm to drink.

■ If the numbness continues for more than a few minutes, call your doctor.

Winter Health

■ If one suffers from winter nosebleeds, try using a cold air humidifier at night.

Saline nose drops may help to keep tissues moist. If bleeding is severe or recurrent, consult your pediatrician.

■ Many doctors feel that bathing two or three times a week is enough for an infant. More frequent baths

may dry out the skin, especially during the winter.

■ Cold weather does not cause colds or flu. But the viruses that cause colds and flu tend to be more prevalent in the winter, when children are in school and are in closer contact with each other. Frequent hand-washing and teaching your children to sneeze or cough into their elbows and away from others may help reduce the risk of colds and flu.

■ It's recommended that children between the ages of 6 and 23 months get an influenza vaccine to reduce their risk of getting the flu.

[*Editor's Note:* Winter tips information from the American Academy of Pediatrics.]

Community Leisure



JANUARY/FEBRUARY MWR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Visit MWR online at www.usma.edu/mwr

SUNDAY

MONDAY

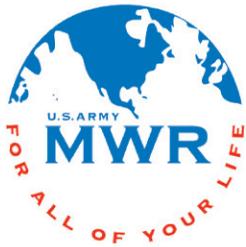
TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



Got the Winter Blues?

Take a trip with ITR!
Featuring the Thursday night theater van to Broadway, NYC sight seeing and more.
Call 938-3601/2401

19



Friday Night in NYC, 5-11:30pm, ITR
BOSS Poker Tournament, 6:30-10pm, BSP

20

Defensive Driving, 8am-5pm, Now held @ ACS, Register at ITR



21

Put your thoughts on **ICE** Interactive Customer Evaluation
<https://ice.disa.mil>
Keyword: USMA

22



Wee Ones Play Group, 9:30-11am, ACS
Parent & Me, 9:30-10:45 (18 mos -4yrs) YC

23

Preseparation Briefing, 2-3pm, ACS



24

Put your thoughts on **ICE** Interactive Customer Evaluation
<https://ice.disa.mil>
Keyword: USMA

25

Parent & Me, 9:30-10am (2-4 yrs) YC



Family Night Buffet w/ Macaroni the Clown, 5-7pm, WP Club

26



Theater Van to Broadway, 5-11:30pm, ITR

27

Ice Skating Trip, 1-4pm, SAS



28

Sunday in NYC, 10am-5pm, ITR



Open Skate, 3:30-5pm, Tate Rink

29

Wee Ones Play Group, 9:30-11am, ACS

Parent & Me, 9:30-10:45 (18 mos -4yrs) YC



30

Spinning, 5:40am, Group Pump, 9am, Cardio Blast, 5pm, Mat & Pilates, 6:45am Every Tuesday at the MWR Fitness Center



31



Overseas Briefing, Korea, 1:30pm, Germany, 3pm, ACS
Hail & Farewell Birthday Celebration, 3:30-5pm, YC

February 1

BGCA Movie Night, 2:15pm, YC



Parent & Me, 9:30-10am (ages 2-4) YC

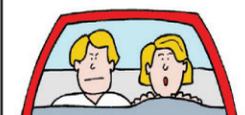
2



Cardio Kickboxing, 9am, Every Friday at the MWR Fitness Center

3

Defensive Driving, 8am-5pm, ACS, Register at ITR



Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

Get ready for the Hollis Award

By Maj. Gary Kramlich
Dept. of Mathematical
Sciences

Has your capstone research illustrated a better way to achieve military objectives? If so, your work may be worth a monetary award plus recognition by senior Army staff.

Projects that show quantifiable analysis are eligible for the coveted Hollis Award, an annual competition co-sponsored by the Departments of Mathematical Sciences and the Systems Engineering. The award is named for the Honorable Walter Hollis, former Deputy Under Secretary of the Army for Operations Research, in recognition of his distinguished analytical service to the Army and the Nation.

This year's event will take place May 3, in conjunction with Projects Day.

Individual cadets and/or cadet teams advised by faculty members compete by presenting their project before a panel of experts. Cadet teams are recognized for their

contributions by meeting the following criteria that directly support the goals of the USMA academic program. Teams must (1) think creatively; (2) apply mathematics, science and systems engineering concepts to a real-world problem; and (3) effectively present their findings in both a written report and an oral presentation to judges.

Prizes awarded to participants include engraved plaques, individual savings bonds, award certificates and commendation letters from USMA Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Franklin Hagenbeck. Additionally, the winning candidate's name is engraved on the Hollis Award Plaque which is permanently displayed in the Systems Engineering Department in Mahan Hall. Awardees are also eligible and encouraged to present their research at the annual Military Operations Research Society Symposium.

Past competition topics examined by Hollis hopefuls ranged from improving enemy targeting strategies, recruitment policies,

battlefield intelligence systems and terrorist targeting techniques to logistical solutions for the USMA Cemetery.

If you have found a better way to achieve military objectives, we want to hear about it!

Interested cadets should contact their capstone advisors about the Hollis Award competition. Cadets and teams officially enter the Hollis Award competition by submitting an abstract as explained above no later than March 22 to Maj. Gary Kramlich, Gary.Kramlich@usma.edu.

Submitted abstracts are reviewed by the Hollis Award Selection Committee for suitability in meeting the first two criteria listed above. The Committee then identifies and publishes, no later than April 6, the list of participants for the April 18-20 presentations to the Committee.

Cadets and teams chosen for presentation to the Judging Committee on Projects Day will be published no later than April 23. The final presentation and judging for the Hollis award will be May 3, at a location to be announced.

MWR Blurbs

BOSS events

BOSS is hosting a poker tournament for entertainment only tonight from 6:30 to 11 p.m. at Buffalo Soldier Pavilion.

This free event is open to the West Point community.

Call 938-6297/8063 to sign-up.

BOSS is sponsoring a Super Bowl party and buffet Feb. 4 at the West Point Club. Doors open at 5 p.m.

There will be an open cash bar and the game begins at 6 p.m.

There will be an All-You-Can-Eat menu.

Call 938-6127/6297 for more information, or the West Point Club at 938-5120.

The event is open to the entire West Point community.

Defensive driving classes

MWR defensive driving classes are now being held at Army Community Services in Bldg. 622. Classes begin Saturday.

They will also be held Feb. 3, March 3, April 21, May 1 and 2 and June 16.

Register with ITR at 938-3601.

General Public Skate

Tate Rink will be closed to

general public skating Sunday and Jan. 28.

For more information, call 938-3066.

WPC Family Night Buffet

The West Point Club will feature Family Night Buffet Thurs. from 5 to 7 p.m.

Families of deployed spouses will be admitted free.

For more information, call 938-5120.

Fitness Center

The Winter Meltdown Fitness Challenge begins Monday at the MWR Fitness Center. Lose unwanted holiday pounds and earn points to win prizes. The Fitness Center offers a wide variety of classes and personal training options to keep you motivated.

For more information, call 938-6490.

SAS summer camp sign ups

School Age Services Summer Camp for grades K through 5 will accept applications from current patrons Feb. 5 to 16. All other users can apply from March 5 to 16. Applications on March 5 will be accepted from 6:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. All other dates will accept applications from 7:30 a.m. to 5

p.m. at Bldg. 1207.

For more information, call 938-4458.

Free ski/snowboard lessons

Free snowboard or ski lessons for active duty Soldiers stationed at West Point. Learn how to ski and/or snowboard under the supervision of an instructor. Includes daily lift ticket, rental equipment, a two-hour lesson and the rest of the evening to practice your new skills. Call 938-5330.

Commissary scholarships

Attention college-bound students: Commissaries are now accepting applications from military children for a scholarship program that offers \$1,500 scholarships for children of active-duty, retired and Guard and Reserve members.

The application deadline for the Scholarships for Military Children Program is Feb. 21.

The applications must include an essay on "How and Why" the applicant would change an historic event.

Applications can be downloaded at the following Web sites: www.commissaries.com, www.militaryscholar.org or www.dodea.edu.

Applications can also be picked up at the West Point Commissary.



Black & Gold awards

January Black and Gold volunteer awardees were honored Jan. 11 by Garrison Commander Col. Brian Crawford and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Violet McNeirney. They are: from left to right: Maj. Evan Wollen, Crawford, Maj. Joe Scrocca, Deb Alitz, Patty Bastianelli, Linda Frey, Nancy Bashista, Helen Hewitt, Donnie Hunt and McNeirney. Another awardee not pictured is Col. David Wallace. Wollen, a History instructor, received the Volunteer of the Month award.

PHOTO BY BEV COOPER/DOIM MMB

Paper cheaper than plastic?

Submitted by the West Point Commissary

Officials at commissaries, including West Point, are hoping shoppers will say 'yes' to paper bags for bagging their groceries as part of the Defense Commissary Agency's measures to offset major cost increases of plastic and paper bags.

Changing bagging preferences is something most customers have been glad to do when they've been made aware of the cost issues during previous bagging campaigns. Commissaries tally nearly 100 million customer transactions annually and spent about \$20 million on bags in 2005.

While plastic bag costs have risen 84 percent, paper bag costs have only increased 34 percent in the past three years. Shipping costs offset the difference for overseas commissaries, so the paper bag emphasis isn't applied there, although double bagging is discouraged DeCA-wide.

"Our customers have a really big role in this latest effort as we try to control costs while continuing to provide a premier commissary benefit," said Scott Simpson, DeCA's chief operating officer.

"They've responded well during previous 'Say no to plastic bags and no to double bagging' campaigns, so this is more of a reminder to continue using paper bags and a call for more customers to join in," he said.

Commissaries in the United States are trying to reach usage goals of about 70 percent paper and 30 percent plastic.

Additionally, customers can help keep commissary prices low and stay green by reusing paper bags or by using their own plastic, mesh or canvas tote bags.

DODEA Survey

Reminder to parents of West Point School children:

The anonymous Customer Satisfaction Survey is available online at www.dodea.edu by clicking the "CSS" link or a printed version can be obtained from the school.

You have until Feb. 28 to complete one, but don't wait until the last minute.

This is your chance to impact the quality of education in schools operated by the Department of Defense.

Separate surveys will be given to teachers and parents and to students in grades four and five, students in grades six to eight and students in grades nine through 12.

**Go Army,
Beat Navy!**

Keller Corner

Volunteers needed

Keller Hospital front desk needs volunteers. Call West Point Red Cross director Michele Strom at 938-4100.

KACH closures

All outpatient clinics, laboratory, pharmacy and radiology will be closed Feb. 16 and 19. The emergency room will remain open.

Virtual Behavioral Health Clinic

KACH is proud to announce a new service to improve access to mental health care for adult and child military beneficiaries.

We welcome Stuart Mail, a licensed clinical social worker who specializes in adjustment issues, anxiety, depression, behavioral concerns and school related issues.

The new clinic will provide mental health assessment and treatment for individuals and families. If services requiring a psychiatrist are recommended, then arrangements will be made for the patient to see a psychiatrist at Walter Reed through our Video Teleconferencing equipment.

A referral is not needed. Families may self refer.

The clinic is located at Community Mental Health, Bldg. 606, floor 3M. To schedule an appointment, call the clinic directly at either 938-7593 or x3441, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

EDIS

Not all kids develop the same way. Some need extra help. Educational & Developmental Intervention Services at Keller Hospital identifies and helps children from birth to three years who show signs of developmental delays [including speech, motor, problem solving and social skills].

If you have any questions regarding normal development or want to refer a child, call 938-6868.

How to prevent the flu

There are some things everyone can do to help prevent the spread of the flu:

- Avoid close contact with sick people. When you are sick, keep your distance from others.

- If possible, stay home from work, school and other public places.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.

- Wash your hands.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.

Research shows that these practices help prevent the spread of airborne diseases such as colds and flu.

Treating flu

If you think you have the cold or flu, contact your doctor. Your doctor may choose to use certain antiviral drugs to treat the flu. However, colds and flu are best treated by:

- Resting.

- Drinking plenty of liquids.

- Avoiding alcohol and tobacco.

- Taking medication to relieve the flu symptoms. Never give aspirin to children or teenagers who have flu-like symptoms -- and

particularly fever -- without first speaking to your doctor.

Did you know ...

A medical appointment is a terrible thing to waste?

Keller had a total of 941 "no shows" for July, August and Sept. 2006. "No shows" occur when patients arrive more than 10 minutes after the appointed time or miss appointments entirely.

You can help Keller save these valuable appointments for you and others by having your calendar handy when you make your appointment, allowing enough travel and parking time to arrive at your appointments 15 minutes early and by calling the Appointment Center at (845) 938-7992 or (800) 552-2907 to cancel your appointment as soon as you know you can't

keep it.

Except for federal holidays, the Keller Appointment Center is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Yearly well-woman appointments

Keller Hospital encourages all our female beneficiaries to make yearly well-women appointments.

Command Channel 8/23

Jan. 19 - Jan. 26

Friday

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch

1 p.m. Army Newswatch

6 p.m. Army Newswatch

Monday - Jan. 26

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch

1 p.m. Army Newswatch

6 p.m. Army Newswatch

NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752

Friday -- Flushed Away, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Friday -- Borat, R, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday -- Eragon, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday -- Blood Diamond, R, 9:30 p.m.

Jan. 26 -- Eragon, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 26 -- Rocky Balboa, PG, 9:30 p.m.

Jan. 27 -- Rocky Balboa, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 27 -- The Good Shepard, R, 9:30 p.m.

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

What's Happening

Supes' semi-annual command brief

The Superintendent's semi-annual command interest briefing is scheduled for Feb. 23 from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. in Thayer Hall's Robinson Auditorium.

IAW Reg. 600-1, this briefing is mandatory for all officers, all non-commissioned officers, [E-7 and above] and civilian employees [GS-9 and above].

Others who wish to attend should coordinate with their activities.

Everyone must be seated by 12:40 p.m.

The briefing will be broadcast live on the Command Channel and will be rebroadcast Feb. 26 at 1 p.m. and Feb. 27 at 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

West Point Women's Club

The WPWC Gift Shoppe, located next to the MWR Fitness Center, is open on the Web at www.shopthepoint.com, but is closed until February.

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

Couples' Party Jan. 26, 7 p.m.

R.S.V.P. to 446-4053 or e-mail wpwcreserve@hotmail.com.

Moms and Tots Play Day Thursday at Gillis Field House.

Kids Day out, Thursday, Our own story time at Barnes & Nobles, 9:30 a.m.

Book Club, Thurs., 7:30 p.m. Call Kristen at 691-1443 or e-mail westpointmoms@hotmail.com.

Pre-order WPWC cookbooks now and save \$5 a book.

Order from www.shopthepoint.com.

Volunteers are needed for VIVA! Las Vegas Night Feb. 23.

E - m a i l A m y a t vivavolunteers@yahoo.com if you can donate any amount of time.

DUSA grant applications

DUSA community welfare grant applications are now being accepted through Feb. 15.

Application forms are available at the DUSA Gift Shop and by e-mailing My5boysk8@aol.com.

For more information, contact Corey Knowlton at (845) 446-2205.

DUSA job opening

The DUSA Gift Shop has a part-time position open for an Internet site technician.

Experience necessary, flexible hours.

Call the shop at 446-0566 for more info.

Motorcycle Mentorship

Program

Volunteers are needed for the Motorcycle Mentorship Program. This voluntary program establishes installation-level motorcycle clubs where less experienced riders and seasoned riders can meet in a supportive environment.

If you are interested in volunteering, call the West Point Safety Office at 938-3717.

To learn more about MMP go to the MMP Web site at <https://cra.army.mil/index.asp> or contact the West Point Safety Office at 8safe@usma.army.mil.

The goal is to launch a West Point MMP this spring.

Free tax preparation

MilitaryOneSource offers free tax preparation and filing.

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

H&R Block.

Call 1-800-342-9647. You name it, we can help -- 24/7.

Provided by the Department of

Defense at no cost to active duty, Guard and Reserve [regardless of activation status] and their family members.

Army and Community Sports

Trio leads men's B-ball back to respectability

By Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

It hasn't been an easy road since Army head basketball coach Jim Crews left Evansville to take the job with the Black Knights back in 2002.

The four seasons that ensued after his arrival at West Point came with a total of 20 wins. Crews won at least 20 games in a season six times while at Evansville, and his best four-year stretch with the Purple Aces netted him 106 victories.

A member of the 1976 Indiana University National Championship team under the guidance of Bobby Knight, Crews has definitely seen the peak, but nothing can ever prepare you for the valley or even a straight shot into the abyss.

All the losses at Army have forged an inner strength within the team that has made them one of the more surprising teams in Division I basketball this year with a 11-7 record.

"I always have [seen the light at the end of the tunnel], even when it looked pretty dark," Crews said. "I think our guys got better last year, although it didn't show in wins. I come to practice and I see things. I knew they were getting better and, obviously, you want to push the process as fast as you can, but sometimes you make the mistake of trying to push too fast."

Admittedly, Crews felt he messed things up by pressing too hard at times on his guys, but right now the team is reaping the benefits of their hard work.

"These kids are kids and there's a developmental part of it and you've got to get through by repetition, you've got to get experience because it's a process," Crews explained. "You have to have good patience with it."

If patience is a virtue, then he's benefited greatly by the waiting time because guards Matt Bell, a senior, and junior Jarrell Brown are now taking it to the next level.

Bell, a three-time captain, has

started every game except one during his four-year career to date. Although Crews wouldn't classify Bell as the best athlete on the team, he would say he's a guy that other players can look to as a role model.

"Here's a kid that really wasn't that good of a shooter, wasn't quick or strong and he's still not that quick or strong, but he can knock the ball in and he's as competitive as you can get -- a true student of the game," Crews said. "He works every drill and, no matter if it's in- or offseason, he's in the gym by himself working at game speed. Very few players at any level do that and that's why he's been able to get better."

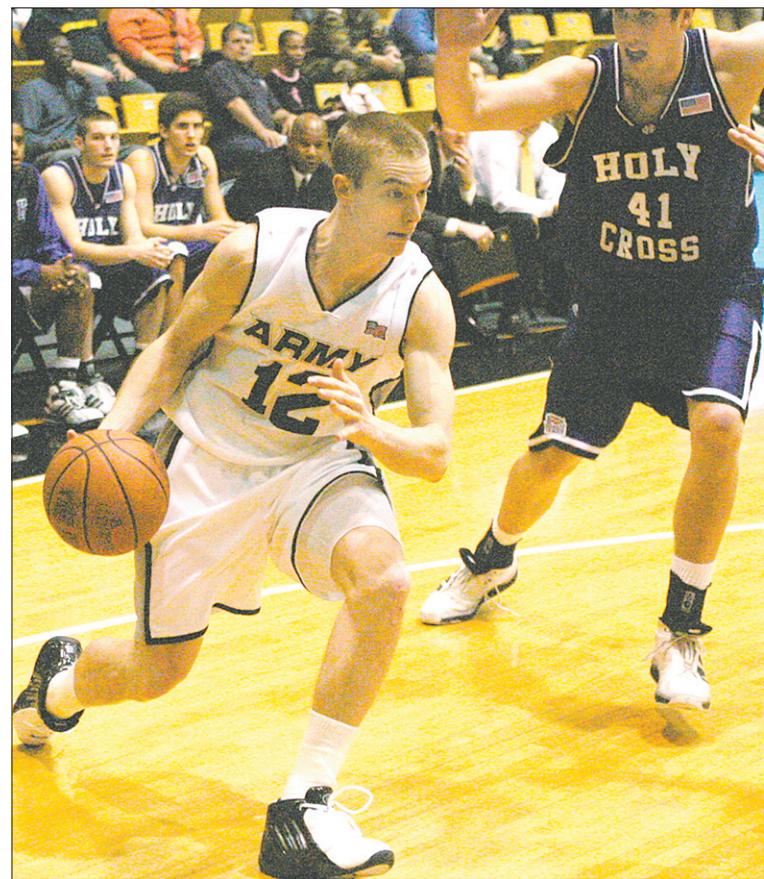
"Not only has he been a good player, he's a good role model, example and a good gym rat for the other guys to get in there with," Crews added.

Bell, who's second on the team in scoring with 15.2 points per game, thinks it's important to leave an imprint on the younger guys with a strong finish to this season.

"It's the one thing I've wanted to do since I got here -- to win and lead this team to good things," Bell said. "We want to show the freshmen that we can turn this thing around and have a winning program."

Besides Bell, the team has gotten strong seasons from Brown, who leads the Black Knights in scoring with 17.8 ppg, and 6'8" freshman forward Chris Walker, who is third on the team in scoring at 7.6 ppg and leads the team in rebounds with 4.8 rpg.

Having Walker in the lineup has added the missing ingredient to Crews' past four squads, because he



Senior guard Matt Bell is second on the team in scoring with 15.2 points per game and he scored his 1,000 career point versus Cornell Nov. 21 this season. Bell is also the first three-time captain in the history of Army basketball. ERIC BARTELT/PV

hasn't had a presence in the paint since he arrived at West Point.

"That's the one thing that hasn't been consistent over the years -- our inside play," Crews said. "Offensively, you really do have to play off each other's talents, the outside guys [have] got to play off the inside guys and, likewise, the inside guys have to play off the outside guys. When you take something away you've got to add to the next area."

"We've [had a] void in some

areas before and now we're chipping away and we are a little more balanced. We now play off each others' talents better," Crews added.

Walker, while still adjusting to academy life, has definitely gotten used to the college game as a freshman despite the enormity of it.

"I can't even describe it, especially the physicality of the game. I won't be running into

See MBB on page 15



Freshman forward Chris Walker has added a presence in the paint for Army this year as he leads the team in rebounds at 4.8 rebounds per game. He has also been a scoring threat by adding 7.6 points a game. JOHN PELLINO/DOIM

MBB, cont. from page 14

any centers under 6'8". They are all big kids," Walker explained. "I have to bring everything I can to every game because at this level you can't rest or you can't be mentally unprepared for any game.

"I'm happy to contribute. That's one of the biggest things I wanted to do this year was to contribute in some way," Walker added. "I hope I can continue what I'm doing even as a role player."

After Army lost its first two games in conference play, they came back Saturday with a 64-59 victory over Lehigh in their first Patriot League home game of the 2006-07 season.

Brown came off the bench to score 18 to lead the team in scoring against the Mountain Hawks. As the team's leading scorer he has been a prime contributor despite only starting four of 18 games.

"It's great energy when you have a scorer coming off the bench and putting some points up," Crews said. "One of the problems we've

had in the past is not getting points from the bench ... When we get down [on the scoreboard] and we've been down in a majority of games this year, our players don't feel down. They know they can get back and keep chipping away. ... They've done a great job with that -- and Jarrell is one of the big reasons for that. ... In the past when we got down 10 it would become 30 because we just couldn't score points."

Now, after four miserable years on the court, Crews feels his West Point experience is becoming much rosier, although even in the dark times he always felt he was in the right place.

"West Point is a great place [especially] when you're dealing with these kids who come every day, lace'em up and are enthusiastic about things. It's been a tremendous experience and has kept me afloat emotionally," said Crews, who has 325 career collegiate victories. "Sports is very emotional. It's not

just the game, you're emotional every day because you have to play [and coach] with passion. Practice has to be passionate, intense, energized and that's day-to-day, seven days a week for two semesters. These guys go through it energetically and they have certainly pulled me through."



Junior guard Jarrell Brown leads Army with a 17.8 points per game average. Brown led the team last season with a 14.3 ppg average.

JOHN PELLINO/DOIM

SPORTS NOTES

- Army Gymnastics staff is looking for volunteers to help with the **2007 West Point Gymnastics Open**, held at the Holleder Center Jan. 26-28.

If you would like to volunteer, please call the gymnastics office at 938-3802.

- Volkssport Club of West Point invites you for a group walk in Highland Falls Saturday. Join the club for a pre-walk breakfast at Park Restaurant, Main Street, at 9 a.m.

The 10 km walk follows the village streets and sidewalks, and onto parts of West Point. Photo ID is required for entrance onto West Point. Call 446-4709 for more information.