

January changes (as of 1/24)	
C FUND	+ 1.66 percent
I FUND	+ 1.40 percent
S FUND	+ 2.29 percent

SARP training is working

By Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

Every officer, Soldier, cadet and civilian at West Point should be able to recognize sexual harassment, assault or similar inappropriate behavior and to know the steps to take to report the action and to assist the victim. Why? Because there is more focused training and such behavior will not be tolerated here.

Overall, sexual harassment and sexual assault are less of a problem than in the past, according to the *Service Academy 2006*

Gender Relations Survey. Much of that is due to the training and education offered to deter this behavior, according to Col. Jeanette McMahon, Special Assistant to the Superintendent for Human Relations.

The academy, McMahon stated, has made strides in the past two years since the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Team, of which she is a member of, was established. There has been more of a willingness to talk about sex and address the issues of harassment and assault in lectures specifically for the cadets.

Major Samantha Breton, Special Assistant to the Commandant for Human Relations and the U.S. Corps of Cadets' SARP team member, believes the processes and collaborations with the medical community, mental health community and the chain of command have been solidified to deal more effectively with sexual assault issues. To her, the problem is a military culture that expects its members to be strong mentally and physically, which can add a barrier to the reporting of a sexual assault/harassment-type incident.

See SARP on page 3



SAS building open

Child Youth Program Assistant Lorraine Jennings and School Age Services Assistant Director Mike Hydock greet youths from grades 1-5 Tuesday. The SAS program moved into the newly renovated Bldg. 693 Jan. 16, allowing all children's services programs to be age appropriate.

[See related story on page 8]

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

Board of Visitors to meet Wed. in D.C.

WEST POINT, N.Y. -- The Board of Visitors of the U.S. Military Academy will meet Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. in Room 236, Senate Russell Building, Washington, D.C. The board will review and receive updates on the academic, physical and military programs.

The Board of Visitors is

appointed under the provision of Section 4355 of Title 10, United States Code. It is the duty of the board to inquire about the academy's morale and discipline, curriculum, instructions, physical equipment, fiscal affairs and academic methods. The board consists of presidential appointees and members of Congress.

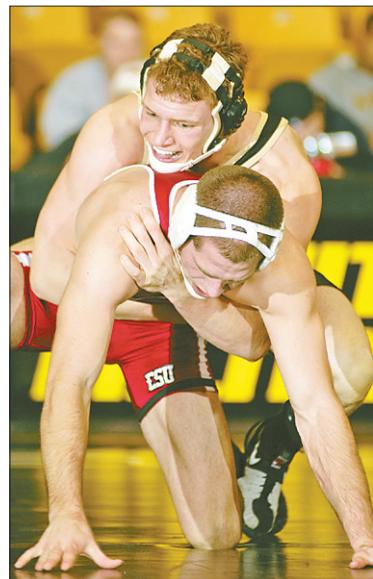
Presidential appointees are the Honorable J.C. Watts, the Honorable Samuel Lessey Jr., Rebecca Contreras, Dr. Charles Younger, John S. Rainey and William H. Strong. The senators are Jack Reed, Kay Bailey Hutchinson, Susan Collins and Mary Landrieu. Representatives include Maurice Hinchey, Ellen Tauscher and John McHugh.

INSIDE Three grads killed in Iraq Saturday

Compiled by Jim Fox
Assistant Editor

Three U.S. Military Academy graduates were killed in separate incidents Saturday in Iraq.

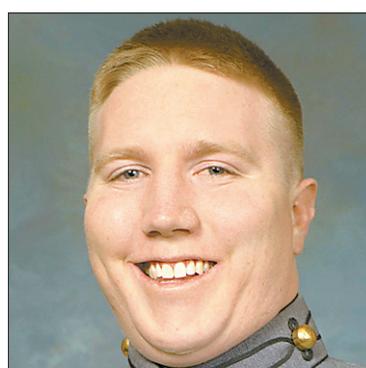
They were Capt. Brian S. Freeman, USMA 1999; 1st Lt. Jacob N. Fritz, USMA 2005 and Col. Brian D. Allgood, USMA 1982.



ARMY WRESTLING TAKES
2nd at NYSIWCS,
page 13



Capt. Brian S. Freeman



1st Lt. Jacob N. Fritz



Col. Brian D. Allgood

Freeman, 31, of Temecula, Calif., died in Karbala of wounds suffered when his meeting area came under attack by mortar and small arms fire.

He was assigned to the 412th Civil Affairs Battalion, out of Whitehall, Ohio.

Freeman left active duty after five years in 2004 and was called up from the Inactive Ready Reserve

in Sept. 2005. He deployed with his unit to Iraq in April 2006.

Freeman is survived by his wife, Charlotte, and two, children Gunnar and Ingrid.

Funeral and memorial service information were not available at press time.

Fritz, 25, of Verdon, Neb., also died in Karbala from wounds sustained when his patrol was

ambushed while conducting dismounted operations.

He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Richardson, Alaska.

One of Fritz's younger brothers, Daniel, is a member of the Class of 2008 here.

Fritz is also survived by his parents, Lyle and Noala, and younger brother Ethan.

Funeral and memorial service information were not available at press time.

Allgood, 46, of Oklahoma, died when the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter in which he was riding crashed in Baghdad.

Allgood, the command surgeon for Multi-National Force-Iraq,

See GRAD DEATHS on page 3

A tribute to Colonel Brian D. Allgood

Commentary by
S. Ward Casscells, M.D.
Colonel, USAR

Colonel Brian Allgood, a West Point graduate and Ranger-turned-surgeon, died Saturday with 11 other Soldiers when their helicopter went down over Diyala, Iraq.

Allgood's spotless record as a military medical leader had taken him from the operating room to the fast track for general. He was the fourth American colonel and highest-ranking doctor to die in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As Command Surgeon for Multi-National Force-Iraq, Allgood oversaw the care of coalition troops, but also had responsibility for the coalition's support of Iraqi health care. He and I spent many hours together last summer and fall, struggling to understand what we could do to help Iraqi leaders and doctors improve their health care system.

Problems included the sectarian fighting, hospitals that had been looted for decades and doctors who faced falling incomes, restrictions on travel and education along with struggles against corrupt administrators, stolen supplies and murderous security personnel and militia. This has prompted doctors to emigrate or to find work as translators.

Though the coalition had built clinics and repaired hospitals, many of them had been attacked or sabotaged and employees were

warned not to come to work.

Understandably, many Iraqis began to do whatever would permit them to feed and protect themselves and their families or leave the country. Long-term projects like health infrastructure had little appeal. Thankfully, there were a handful of wise, incorruptible and courageous Iraqi doctors like Samir Abdullah Hassan, Iraq's Surgeon General, who was a great ally to Allgood.

Not knowing when or if the fighting might abate, we debated whether we could somehow persuade the Ministry of Health to crack down on corruption or even spend their rainy day funds, matching them with ours, though little remained of either. Or should the focus be on repairs to hospitals, to the ancient water and sanitation systems or on training doctors, nurses and managers and developing a functioning supply system, engineering and information systems? We asked ourselves if we should assume the coalition involvement will last for six months, one year or five years? Since reconstruction had never been attempted before the end of hostilities, there was no roadmap.

Not surprisingly, these vexing questions did not elicit agreement among health policy leaders within MNF-I, the U.S. Departments of State and of Health and Human Services, much less with Iraq's Ministry of Health or the World Health Organization.

Into this maze came Brian Allgood. He had the effortless grace of all those officers whose mental and physical fitness set them apart. He was direct and did not kiss up or kick down, swear, yell or threaten. He said little, promised less, learned fast and acted faster.

Within months his above-the-fray example had calmed the infighting of U.S. government agencies. This enabled him to put together a health plan for coalition troops and for coalition assistance to Iraqi health. That plan was as comprehensive as that of any professor or government official, but with the practicality of a surgeon who, having heard all the opinions, set the plan with every confidence his staff would give it all they had.

His command presence led even older officers to treat him with deference, but when I kidded him about it he said only that the thing he liked least about the Army was returning all the salutes. Other than that, I never once heard him complain. He did not micro-manage, but he set high standards. When they were not met he said so, but only to the Soldier involved.

His sense of humor was dry. The morning after the UT-OSU football showdown, which I had loudly predicted would be a rout by Texas, he just said -- with that half-smile, "I'm not saying a thing. No need."

He reviewed proposed missions to be sure the goals were worth the

risk. And, true to the Army tradition of "first out of the foxhole, last in the chow line," he led many of those missions himself and even offered me his own roomy quarters when I complained about mine. Embarrassed, I declined.

We learned we each came from an Army family and had 10-year-old sons who were as keen on the Texas-Oklahoma football games as we were. But when I asked him to watch the game with me he declined, and instead worked on a survey about Soldier stress, as the incidence of suicide had risen. Far from home, working 18 hours a day, 7 days a week, bombed and shot at, Allgood was able to maintain the distance that avoids even the appearance of favoritism. That's the distance that charges Soldiers to find strength in themselves, to stay in touch with their families, and -- at least in Allgood's case -- with God, but not to mention it.

Why God ordains, or permits, the loss of a great leader, with so much yet to give, is as mysterious as why the enemy shoots at helicopters painted with a red cross. As Soldiers say, it is "above my pay grade."

All of us who were members of Allgood's senior staff [Colonels Fruendt, Weaver, Edward and I] have pledged to continue the mission "as he would want us to do." Yet we pray that his wife and son will not only take solace from his fine example, but also from that of other Americans

who, as children, lost their fathers, yet rose to greatness: Generals Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Andrew Jackson, Montgomery Meigs, Russ Jajitchuk, and Wesley Clark, and 10 of 43 presidents: Washington, Jefferson, Monroe, Jackson, Hayes, Andrew Johnson, Garfield, Cleveland, Hoover, and Clinton, to name a few.

May all Iraqis learn that one of our best gave his life on their behalf, and ours. May we never forget him or abandon the mission. And may we, his friends and country, look after his family, as he looked after those in his command.

[*Editor's Note:* Casscells served as the coalition's health policy liaison to U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and is an Army reservist assigned to the Office of the Surgeon General.]

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.McMahan@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.

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Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

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.

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

Difficulty: Hard

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

See Solution on Page 9

Local and National News

SARP, cont. from page 1

“We still have some work to do in encouraging people to realize that when something like this occurs, there’s been a fragmentation in the organization,” Breton said. “The difficulty is that the responsibility lies on the shoulders of the person who has been violated, so not only does that person have to deal with the violation, but also reconcile if the violation is worth the personal cost to them if they address it institutionally.”

West Point cadets took part in the survey administered in April 2006 by the Defense Manpower Data Center. The results of that survey were released by Congress Jan. 12 and give a much clearer picture of where gender relations at the academy stand after two years of emphasis on the subject.

“The majority of cadets [60 percent in the survey], think the [SARP] training is effective and the number of those saying so is

GRAD DEATHS, cont. from page 1

Camp Victory, Iraq, was the Keller Army Community Hospital commander and USMA surgeon here from 2002-2004.

He was assigned to the 30th Medical Brigade, European Regional Medical Command, Heidelberg, Germany.

Allgood is survived by his wife, retired Col. Jane Allgood, and son, Wyatt, 11.

Memorial services will be here

increasing,” McMahon said. “That is important because we made specific changes in the program to make it more effective, and to make it less PowerPoint and less boring with more interactive lectures, so that was good.”

The survey was issued to all three service academies. One hundred percent of the women and 30 percent of the men received the survey at West Point and, of those, 88 percent of both the men and women completed the survey.

The primary emphasis of the survey was to evaluate gender relations by looking at sexual harassment, crude/offensive behavior, sexist behavior and unwanted sexual contact at each academy.

McMahon felt a key point from the survey was the high number of cadets who felt that the academy leaders were taking these matters seriously.

at the Post Chapel today at 12:15 p.m. Everyone in the West Point community is welcome. There will also be services held today in Heidelberg and in Camp Liberty, Iraq.

Funeral arrangements were not available at press time.

The family has requested in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project at www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

“I interact with the superintendent, commandant, athletic director, dean and a number of other academy leaders and I can vouch for their interest and support of this program,” McMahon explained. “It has sent a message to those cadets who self-reported in the survey that they do believe the academy leaders are truly interested in making a difference in making this better.”

She further stated, “I think we have a strong program [now] and over the past couple of years we’ve developed and fine-tuned what already existed. Our program is much more solid, but I still think we need to look not so much at the symptoms, but more at the causes. We need to do some studies on why we have the culture we have and I think we’ve taken a leap to do that.”

Still, one of the biggest concerns is that individuals who fall in the non-report category may not be seeking the help that they need by using the resources that were established through the SARP.

“Certainly, we would like to see more reports, but we’re looking for the more egregious forms of sexual assault,” McMahon said. “Those people certainly [need] to reach out more to get help and they are going to need more help. However, the people who are involved in a situation where inappropriate touching or fondling has taken place are more likely to want to handle it on their own, because they don’t want the stigma of reporting something like that.”

The problem in general is that harassment and assault have roots in a society that promotes images of a sexual nature to both men and women, a society where sex sells and peer pressure on teenagers leads kids to engage in sex before they are ready and without the thought of true intimacy, Breton said. These problems in turn, she added, can lead to issues of a lack of respect for others.

According to McMahon, the level of sexist behavior and harassment is still too high. “We can affect cadets right when they

come in during ‘Beast’ and make them aware that we have a higher standard here,” she added.

The Army is all about teamwork. To develop an effective team, members must value and trust each other, have integrity and respect each others’ values. The effect on a team when any of these elements are violated is destructive.

“When an assault happens from someone you know, it’s an incredibly difficult experience. The assault itself is one thing, but the fact that the relationship you had with that person wasn’t important enough for that person to hear what you were saying,” Breton said, “or that it wasn’t important enough for that person to respect your dignity is devastating. It can result in all kinds of mental and emotional damage to the victim.”

Supe’s brief

**Feb. 23
12:45 p.m.
Robinson Auditorium**

TSGLI one year later: Helping Soldiers, dispelling myths

By Human Resources Command

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Army News Service) -- Dec. 1, 2006 marked the one-year anniversary of the establishment of Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance. During the first year, the Congressionally-mandated insurance program provided more than \$179 million to traumatically-injured members of the Armed Services. Of that, more than \$113 million was paid to Army Soldiers -- more than twice the next highest service.

While those figures represent success in terms of its mission to provide financial help for traumatically injured Soldiers, the program still faces challenges with educating servicemembers about the program and dispelling some myths that have grown around TSGLI during its short existence.

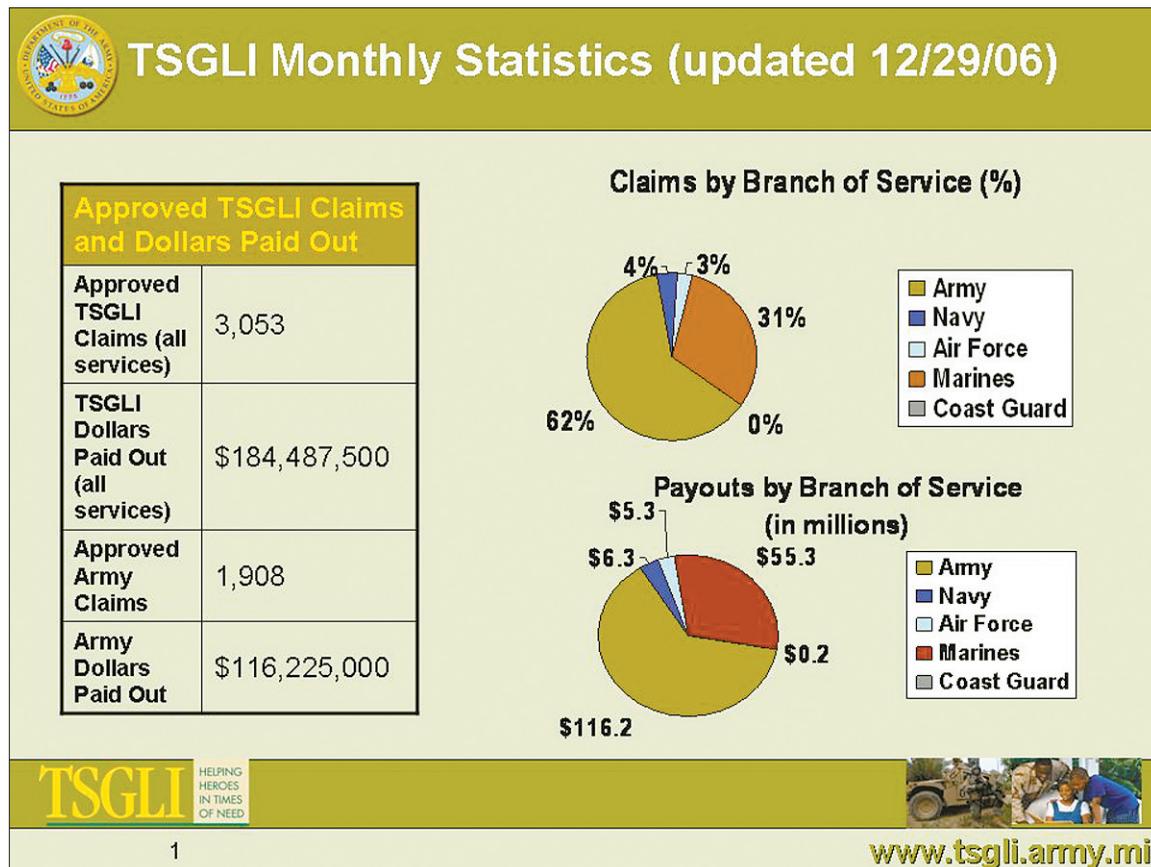
TSGLI was created to help servicemembers and their families get through tough financial times that often occur after serious injuries. Approved TSGLI claimants receive a one-time payment of up to \$100,000, based on the type and severity of the injury. That money might be the difference that allows a Soldier's family to stay with him or her during recovery, help with unforeseen expenses or give them a financial head-start on life after recovery.

From the Army's point of view, the program faces three interrelated challenges: improving the claim-approval rate; decreasing the claim-processing time; and ensuring that all Soldiers are aware of TSGLI, understand its purpose and know how to file a correctly prepared claim.

According to Col. John F. Sackett, who leads the TSGLI Division under the U.S. Army Physical Disability Agency, the ratio of approvals to denials is consistent with the other services, with an approval rate of 48 percent. The average time for the Army to process a claim is 12 days, which is longer than the other services due to the volume of claims coming in from casualties in the war on terror.

Sackett believes both situations can be improved through outreach educating Soldiers, healthcare providers, counselors and advocates.

"Our main focus is on determining which Soldiers are eligible to receive this payment,



based on the claims they file, and then making sure eligible Soldiers receive payment as quickly as possible so this money is available while they recover from their injury."

One of the biggest barriers, Sackett said, "is the lack of knowledge and general misconceptions that are out there regarding TSGLI. These barriers create situations where Soldiers who are not eligible file claims; or Soldiers who are eligible file claims without supplying the documentation allowing us to adjudicate their claim quickly."

To reduce these barriers, the Army has launched a significant outreach program that includes a new logo, tagline, messaging, educational materials, a recently overhauled Web site and media outreach, along with numerous appearances and briefings at significant military events and Military Treatment Facilities like Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

While the overall focus of the outreach program is on educating claimants and the people who care for them, specific messages have been created to help dispel three myths that have grown up around the program:

Myth #1: TSGLI is just for combat injuries.

Any qualifying injury incurred

after Dec. 1, 2005, is eligible for TSGLI coverage, regardless of whether it was in combat or not. The only exception is the retroactive program, which covers Soldiers injured beginning October 7, 2001, through November 30, 2005, but only if they were injured in a Combat Zone Tax Exclusion area supporting Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Myth #2: A healthcare provider's statement is all that is needed to verify a TSGLI claim.

While TSGLI claims won't be approved without a certification from a healthcare provider, additional documentation must be provided to substantiate the certification. The documentation may include medical reports and tests that establish the type of injury and the time the Soldier was incapacitated as a result. Specific information is available on the TSGLI Web site.

Myth #3: TSGLI replaces a traumatically injured Soldier's income.

TSGLI is a one-time, tax-free payment that can help a Soldier get through short-term difficulties related to his or her injury.

With these myths dispelled, TSGLI will be better positioned to help eligible Soldiers in an even more timely manner.

"As claimants become better educated about TSGLI, it can't help

but speed up our processes, which allows us to better accomplish our objective of helping heroes in times of need," Sackett said.

Sackett expects the new Web site to help dispel the myths.

"With more of the key

information online, people trying to access the programs will better understand the eligibility and claims process. In addition, people who care for Soldiers, such as family members, counselors and healthcare providers, will have information tailored to their particular roles in the process."

New features on the site include user-friendly graphics; detailed program information; outreach materials; program statistics that detail claims and dollars paid; and an online discussion forum where users can log in, post questions or comments and interact with others to share best practices and answer common questions.

For more information about TSGLI, contact the U.S. Army TSGLI service center at (800) 237-1336 or TSGLI@conus.army.mil. You can also visit the Web site at www.tsgli.army.mil.

[Editor's Note: The information in the graphic is 28 days past the anniversary of TSGLI.]

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No more cash awards for those not 'fully successful'

By Tim Kaufman
Federal Times

Employees who receive performance ratings below fully successful no longer will be eligible for cash awards based on those annual performance appraisals, under a new rule that takes effect Feb. 12.

The rule, issued by the Office of Personnel Management,

also requires agencies to make "meaningful distinctions" in bonuses they issue based on performance appraisals.

That means employees with lower performance ratings can't receive larger bonuses than employees with higher ratings -- either as a percentage of salary or as a specific dollar amount.

OPM said most agencies already comply with the proposal,

but clarification was warranted because of the importance of following merit system principles when rewarding employees.

The rule change, which was published Jan. 11 in the Federal Register, doesn't affect other awards agencies can grant that aren't solely based on the employee's latest performance rating.

Examples of awards that aren't covered by the rule

include awards based on specific actions or suggestions or that are distributed through gain-sharing or goal-sharing programs for group performance.

OPM received 39 comments from agencies, unions and individuals regarding the new rule, which was first proposed in June.

The most frequent comment was the concern that awards issued under the rule would be subject to

favoritism and bias by managers and supervisors.

OPM said the requirement that agencies make "meaningful distinctions" based on employees performing at different levels helps guard against favoritism.

Editor's Note: To read the entire rule, see pages 1267-1270 of the *Federal Register*/Vol. 72, No. 7/Thursday, January 11, 2007/Rules and Regulations.

Thrift Savings Plan hacker attack prompts extra protection

By Karen Rutzick
Govexec.com

Hackers breached the accounts of some Thrift Savings Plan participants in late December, stealing \$35,000 and prompting officials to encourage extra safeguards.

Officials with the 401(k)-style retirement savings plan for federal employees said every participant

who was affected by the theft has been notified. Computers of about 25 participants were infected with software that allowed hackers to record their keystrokes and find their TSP personal identification numbers.

TSP officials are working with the Secret Service to find the perpetrators. Speaking at a TSP Board meeting Tuesday, Executive Director Gary Amelio encouraged

participants to install a protective program on their computers to block unwanted spyware and to log off of the TSP Web site when finished accessing their accounts.

"We urge you to do this," Amelio said.

Amelio stressed that the TSP system itself was not breached. TSP officials posted two announcements on the Web site that must be read before participants can access their

accounts.

One details the security breach and the other is a warning that only TSP participants can use the site in order, Amelio said, to inflict stronger legal penalties on hackers.

When TSP officials became aware of the theft, they temporarily blocked electronic transfers out of the plan, because the criminals electronically sent the money to

their own accounts.

Amelio spoke out about the breach on the same day that his staff released full results from the first survey of TSP participants since 1991.

The survey revealed that participants prefer using the Internet to access their accounts. Forty-nine percent access their accounts online at home and 39 percent access them online at work.

More provincial reconstruction teams to stand up in Iraq

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- President Bush's new strategy for Iraq includes expanding the number of provincial reconstruction teams from 10 to at least 18 in order to better support political and economic progress, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said during a news conference Jan. 11.

Rice joined Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates in discussing some of the measures President Bush outlined in Jan. 10's address to the nation about the new way forward in Iraq.

The plan includes 20,000 more U.S. troops on the ground, increased responsibility for the Iraqi government and Iraqi security forces, and more diplomatic and economic initiatives.

"We will double the number of provincial reconstruction teams," Bush announced Jan. 10. "These teams bring together military and civilian experts to help local Iraqi communities pursue reconciliation, strengthen the moderates and speed the transition to Iraqi self-reliance."

Rice told reporters Jan. 11 the State Department, which oversees PRTs in Iraq, is ready to move forward with this effort, with emphasis on the parts of Iraq where

the teams are needed most.

"In Baghdad, we will go from one PRT to six, and in Anbar province, from one to three, because local leaders are taking encouraging steps there to confront violent extremists and to build hope for their people," she said.

Getting more experts into Iraqi provinces to assist the leaders there "will enhance and diversify our chances of success in Iraq,"

she said.

"The logic behind PRTs is simple," Rice said. "Success in Iraq relies on more than military efforts; it requires robust political and economic progress.

"Our military operations must be fully supported and integrated with our civilian and diplomatic efforts across the entire U.S. government to help Iraqis clear, hold and build throughout all of Iraq," she said.

Gates told reporters Bush's new plan offers a better balance of U.S. military and non-military efforts than in the past. "We cannot succeed in Iraq without the important non-

military elements Secretary Rice just mentioned," he said.

The PRT concept was first successfully applied in Afghanistan after the Taliban government was removed from power, Robert Tillery, the chief of staff from the [Iraq] National Coordination Team who works with provincial PRTs throughout Iraq, told reporters in Baghdad during an October news conference.

PRTs in Iraq "enforce and bolster the ability of the provincial governments to lead and to respond to the needs of their people," he explained.

"By helping local governments

more effectively address the needs of their citizens, they will gain the support of their people," Tillery said. "Citizen support and confidence in government institutions is critical to a successful democracy."

Community Features and Photos

SOSH sponsors financial responsibility course

Story and photo by
Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

The economics faculty, part of the Social Sciences department here, sponsored a financial responsibility course for second class cadets on Jan. 9, 10 and 11 and Wednesday for one hour each day at Thayer Hall.

The course was taught by Social Science instructor Maj. Michael Marty and also included an introductory lecture by Col. Margaret Belknap, Social Science professor and economics chair, Jan. 6.

The purpose of the course was to provide second class cadets with lessons on economic responsibility as they apply for their "cow" loans next week.

"Every year the Cow [second] Class, as a private organization, accepts bids and selects a financial institution's offer to sponsor a career starter loan, often referred to as the 'Cow Loan'," said Lt. Col. Jerry Cashion, the regimental tactical officer for the cadet 2nd regiment and the class advisor for the Class of '08. "The loan is designed to provide these future officers a 'jump start' to offset initial costs when they transition into the Army. The loan is offered to all cows, but is not mandatory."

This type of personal finance instruction has been happening to some degree for years, Marty said.

"This year's program is more in depth than at any time in the past. We hope it sets a precedent for future cow classes," he said. "The program was developed by the economics faculty in conjunction with the Commandant and the U.S. Corp of Cadets. Soldiers are

going to look to these young men and women for financial counsel and in order to do so properly, a leader must have his or her house in order."

The course included sound financial advice, such as developing a financial plan for the future and creating a budget to cover known short-term expenses such as their class rings, uniforms needed upon commissioning, car insurance and other graduation-related expenses.

"When cadets are commissioned, they will need to pay for an apartment, a car and car insurance, uniforms and furniture," Marty said. "One of the things we try to teach them is to make and stick to a budget. Furniture, cars, etc. should not be paid for with a credit card."

The first thing cadets should do with their low-interest loan is to pay off high-interest credit card debts, Marty suggested. Many credit cards have at least an 18 percent interest rate.

Most of the cadets apply for their loan through United Services Automobile Association, but they can apply for loans from any financial institution. They are not restricted to USAA.

"USAA does have a great deal," Marty said. "Cows can apply for a \$30,000 loan for two, three or four years at 1 percent interest rate. A loan event took place at the Thayer Hotel Tuesday and Wednesday and cadets could have received their funds as early as Thursday.

"We suggest to them that the cadet expenses, like the school ring, should be paid for with cadet pay, as that will leave them with more to help pay for expenses as a commissioned officer."

Marty said that many cadets will buy a car with their loan and buying a used car is more economically sound than taking on another loan.

"A new car depreciates as soon as it is driven off the lot," he said. "There are a lot of possibilities for good used cars today. They can look into previously leased cars or demo cars used by the dealers."

Other economic advice included reserving money in an emergency fund and maintaining a credit card for some duration for overdraft protection.

"An emergency fund of two to three thousand dollars will help with car repairs or family emergencies," Marty said. "Once they have taken care of expenses and established an emergency fund, cadets should use

the remainder of their loan to max out their Roth IRA's."

The course also included advice on being aware of financial planners who will try to sell them investment products that they don't need.

"Keep emotions out of the equation and think with your head," Marty said. "Cadets do not need life insurance as they already have a great plan through the Army. Stay away from planners who are selling annuities. This is something that cadets don't need at this time."

Cadet 2nd Class Preston Patton said the classes helped him to focus on what expenses will be important in the next few years.

"[The classes] helped me realize how to use the money wisely and what expenses were unnecessary," Patton said. "Since the completion



Maj. Michael Marty teaches cadets financial responsibility. of the class, I made a detailed plan of how I was going to use the money and met with an economics instructor for additional help. To me, the most important points in the class were paying off all credit card debts up front. I was surprised to learn that many cadets are already in huge debt because of credit cards."





Cadets 4th Class take part in the VECTOR simulation at Cullum Hall. The game helps Soldiers gain cultural awareness for upcoming missions without having to deploy to such sites as the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., or the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La. PHOTO BY CADET 1ST CLASS JUAN RIVERA

Training Soldiers through games

By Cadets 1st Class Nicholas Rinaldi and Juan Rivera

Cadets 1st Class Nick Rinaldi and Juan Rivera want the more than 500 cadets enrolled in PL300, Leadership, to play more video games. The two Engineering Psychology majors have discovered that game training has been widely discussed by key Army leaders in the last five years as more training moves from manuals and lectures to video training and interactive learning on computers. So why not games in the nation's toughest leadership education program?

Rinaldi and Rivera fell in on this idea when the Army Research Institute [ARI] called with a new piece of software for testing. The Engineering Psychology program of the Behavioral Sciences and Leadership department is constantly being recruited by military research groups to perform experiments on new equipment and ideas in testing for the GWOT. Few institutions in the world have the combination of military expertise and scientific rigor to do the research required to make good tools for Soldiers. In this case, the department received a project from an ARI sponsored software called VECTOR written by CHI Systems Inc.

VECTOR, Virtual Environment Cultural Training for Operational Readiness, is a video game that looks similar to the popular first person shooter games like Halo and Half-life, etc., except for one significant difference. Instead of "Mission Objectives" VECTOR



has "Learning Objectives." These objectives take you through various tasks set in a foreign culture where the way you talk, your gestures and even your level of patience can persuade the other characters in the environment to either help you or hinder you in your tasks. The game guides you in your decision-making and gives you feedback on your level of success and what you can do better.

VECTOR can teach Soldiers cultural awareness about a group of people that they will encounter while deployed, without spending the time and money to send an entire unit to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., or other time-consuming and expensive training sources.

Why bother with getting this game out to our army? The Army's current level of cultural awareness training starts at the company commander level. That means that junior officers and NCOs are not getting the cultural training that senior officers are prior to deployment. There simply is not enough time to train everyone.

However, negotiation and daily

interaction with foreign cultures in Iraq and Afghanistan happen down at the E-4, E-5, O-1 and O-2 levels. Junior officers and Soldiers need cultural training and negotiation skills before being deployed. Maj. Brian Wortinger, cultural training expert at USMA, has traveled to Baghdad and found that negotiations training can save lives and help foster better relations with the people we are trying to protect and help rebuild their countries.

BS&L has built on Wortinger's findings by incorporating negotiations education into PL300.

The leadership class [PL300] given at West Point is a core course taught to all cadets in their junior year. They learn advanced leadership skills necessary for a platoon leader, including one block of instruction devoted to negotiations training in foreign cultures.

Now, negotiations training is done through role-playing. Lt. Col. Michael Shroud, negotiations education developer, states that the role-playing is effective, but has limitations when junior cadets are asked to play the role of a sheik in a foreign land. The cadets simply don't have the life experiences to accurately portray the motivations and realities in these foreign lands.

Rivera and Rinaldi think VECTOR may be a solution. According to Rivera, "We've seen VECTOR work well in actually teaching the learning objectives.

That's what we want, and now it's the task of getting the learning objectives that the Army wants and putting that into VECTOR."

"VECTOR provides a computer-sheik whose behaviors and responses are validated by country and culture experts. "For instance, we program the sheik as having control over a district in Baghdad and then the cadets enrolled in the class assume the role of a female patrol leader trying to achieve her own objectives. Then the fun begins, as the negotiations go well or poorly based on the patrol leader's proper or improper use of cultural knowledge."

So far the cadet team has run one study on VECTOR. Last academic year, they ran a pilot study to determine the ability of cadets to retain the knowledge learned when using VECTOR versus using the traditional method of simply reading the course material. They found that VECTOR worked great.

The feedback from that first experiment was a positive step toward the VECTOR learning environment adoption in all of PL300. One of the participants commented, "It was easy to learn because there was an immediate response from each action." Another went on to say, "I learned a lot about the Arab culture and was into it because it was a game."

Rivera and Rinaldi are currently working on taking VECTOR to the next level by incorporating other leadership learning objectives taken from West Point and building

them into VECTOR. "Our goal is to get the Soldiers to want to keep playing the game. That's how the knowledge will stick with them when it matters," Rinaldi commented.

Rivera and Rinaldi are not the only ones doing research in the area of simulation. The scope of simulation is so vast that there are many groups of cadets in the Engineering Psychology program working with projects related to simulation and game training that parallel this study. Lt. Col. John Graham, Engineering Psychology Course Director commented, "Juan and Nick have used their knowledge as majors in BS&L to make simulations that make sense and are useful to humans. Further, they have identified a key idea that many often ignore - - when you are having fun, you learn more and retain longer."

With the continued efforts of the cadets in Engineering Psychology, programs like VECTOR are being pushed in the right direction, getting real tools out to our Soldiers who need to retain and recall the right information at the right time.



A typical screenshot from the VECTOR game.

Old SAS Bldg. 693 renovations complete

Story and photos by
Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

The School Age Services program vacated the Children Development Center and Youth Services in Bldg. 500, and moved into the newly renovated Bldg. 693 on Washington Road here.

Building 693 was originally built in 1875 and served as a schoolhouse for children of enlisted men. It has supported children's programs on the installation for 120 years.

"The facility became a youth center in 1976 and served in that capacity until 1996 when the new youth center, Bldg. 500, was opened," said Child and Youth Service Coordinator at the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation Donald Hulst. "The building also was damaged by fire in Oct. 1996 and has been vacant until Jan. 16."

Hulst said the facility now serves as the new SAS center supporting children from grades 1-5 in before- and after-school activities during the academic year

and will serve as the SAS summer camp building as well.

"Moving SAS into Bldg. 693 allows all our youth programs to be centralized rather than fragmented by being housed in two separate locations, the CDC and the YS," Hulst said. "This also has the advantage of providing additional space in both the CDC and YS. The YS in Bldg. 500 will serve teens exclusively with an added recreation room and the CDC now has additional childcare rooms. All our facilities are now age appropriate."

Although it took nearly 11 years, Bldg. 693 was completely renovated and now provides 5,000 square feet of space with new ceilings, a new heating system, new roof and a full-sized modern outdoor playground funded by the installation and the Department of Army.

"I am really excited just to have all SAS in one area," said Inza Downing, school age services director. "We have the capacity for 75 children and have 45 here now. There is plenty of space to provide our own technology center with



Child and Youth program assistant, Lorraine Jennings talks to SAS youths in the snack room. Building 693, which stood unoccupied for more than 10 years, was completely renovated. The building allows more space for YS and the CDC as well as providing complete age appropriate services.

16 computers, a quiet room where children can play board games, an activities room plus cubby holes

for coats and backpacks, which we never had before."

A grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for

some time in February. The date has yet to be determined.

For information on SAS call 938-0086.



School Age Services youths participate in a rousing game of foosball in the activities room at the renovated SAS Bldg. 693. The building provides 5,000 square feet of space. SAS moved into the building Jan. 16 and will host an open house some time in February.



Eight-year-old Gene Carlos Berrios [left] and seven-year-old Tamiya Ralph play a game of checkers in the quiet room at the newly renovated SAS building on Washington Road. There is also a technology room which houses the center's 16 computers and the children now have their own cubbies for their school supplies and personal belongings.

Community Leisure



JANUARY/FEBRUARY MWR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Visit MWR online at www.usma.edu/mwr

SUNDAY

MONDAY

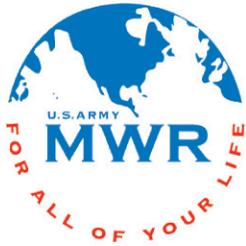
TUESDAY

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

26



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

27

Ice Skating Trip, 1-4pm, SAS



28



Sunday in NYC, 10am-5pm, ITR

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

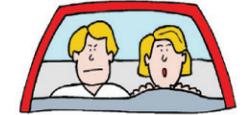
2



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

3

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



4

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

5



Spring Sports Registration Begins, 10am-2pm (ages 4-18) YC

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

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

BGCA Web Design, 2:15pm, YC

6

Chess Club, 7-8pm, YC (Feb 6, 13, 20 & 27)



7



Re-Entry Workshop, 10:30am, Newcomers Welcome Brief, 9:30am, ATBF Training Level I, 5:30pm, ACS

8

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

B&G Awards Ceremony, 10am, ACS

Parent Advisory Meeting, 12-1pm, CDC



9

Free Ski/Snowboard Lesson, 2-5pm, WP Ski (Soldiers Only)

Valentine's Day Party, 6-9pm, YC (grades 6-12)



Sam Adams Beer Dinner & Live Music, 6-9pm, WP Club

10

Pure Energy Step, 8am, Spinning, 10am, Every Saturday at the MWR Fitness Center



Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

MWR Blurbs

General Public Skate

Tate Rink will be closed to general public skating Sunday.

For more information, call 938-3066.

BOSS events

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 6:30 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.

Samuel Adams Beer Dinner

The West Point Club will host a Samuel Adams Beer Dinner Feb. 9 at 6 p.m.

Reservations are required. For more information, call 938-5120.

Defensive driving classes

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

Classes are Feb. 3, March 3, April 21, May 1 and 2 and June 16.

Register with ITR at 938-3601.

Morgan Farm boarding special

Get four days of pet boarding over the President's Day weekend for the price of three.

Drop your pet off Feb. 16 and pick them up Feb. 20.

Reservations taken Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Call 938-3926 for more information.

Fitness Center

The Winter Meltdown Fitness Challenge is underway 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.

One of them is "Introduction to Strength Training for Women." It is comprised of four 45-minute segments. This class is designed for

women who want to obtain a basic knowledge of strength training and begin a training program. It is led by a certified personal trainer.

Sign up at the MWR Fitness Center. The class size is limited.

Classes will be Feb. 5, 7, 12 and 15 from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.

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.

Applications will be accepted on other dates 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 for days.

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.

Red Cross Life Guard class

The American Red Cross will offer their Life Guard training course from March 4 until April 1.

To register, call 1-800-514-5103 or visit www.nyredcross.org.

U.S. Military Academy Band West Point, New York

Guest Artist Series featuring

Marni Nixon

The Voice of Hollywood

February

2nd

7:30 p.m.



Marni Nixon

Nixon won two Grammys, four Emmys and is widely known in opera, Broadway, TV and movies.

Her title, "The Voice of Hollywood," came as she dubbed the singing voices of Natalie Wood in *West Side Story*, Audrey Hepburn in *My Fair Lady* and Deborah Kerr in *The King and I*. Come hear her sing selections from these renowned movies accompanied by the U.S. Military Academy Band.

Eisenhower Hall Theatre

Free and Open to the Public

See schedule at
www.usma.edu/band
or call 845-938-2617

Army Family Team Building

Beginning in February, Army Community Service will be offering Army Family Team building, a series of workshops dedicated to strengthening the family structure and the total Army effort.

For more information and to register, call 938-5651.

Army Family Team Building workshops provide valuable training and knowledge to help strengthen the family base and support the total Army effort.

AFTB Level I training:

Feb. 7, 28, March 7, 21.

AFTB Level II training:

April 4, 18, May 2, 16

AFTB Level III training:

June 6, 20, July 11, 25

AFTB instructor's course:

TBD

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.

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.

Keller Corner

Refractive Surgery seminar

The KACH ophthalmology service will conduct a Refractive Surgery Seminar Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in Thayer Hall's Room 144.

This seminar is open to Cadets 2nd Class and Active Duty Army personnel interested in obtaining laser vision correction.

Find out how laser surgery works, the pros and cons of surgery and how to get treated here.

For more information on the Cadet Refractive Eye Surgery Program, visit our Web page on the internal USCC Web site or call 938-2207.

KACH closures

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

Free Developmental screenings

Free Developmental screenings will be conducted at the Child Care Center in conjunction with Audiology, EDIS and West Point School for age's birth to five years old Feb. 22 from 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Screenings will be by appointment only. Call 938-6868/2698 to schedule one.

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 old 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.

DEERS

Did you know that when life changes, you need to update DEERS?

DEERS stands for the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and it's the key to your military benefits. Re-enlisting, commissioning, separating, retiring or PCSing all require changes to DEERS. And those are just your professional changes.

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

Call 938-3746 to make sure you have the proper documentation before visiting the ID Card Section in Bldg. 622 for most DEERS changes.

Simple address changes may be e-mailed to www.tricare.osd.mil/deers.

Whatever the change may be, make sure to change DEERS as well.

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.

Command Channel 8/23

Jan. 26 - Feb. 2

Friday

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch

1 p.m. Army Newswatch

6 p.m. Army Newswatch

Monday - Feb. 2

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

Friday -- Rocky Balboa, PG, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday -- Rocky Balboa, PG, 7:30 p.m.

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

Feb. 2 -- The Pursuit of Happyness, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 2 -- Apocalypto, R, 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 3 -- We Are Marshall, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 3 -- Children of Men, R, 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 9 -- Charlotte's Web, G, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 9 -- The Pursuit of Happyness, PG-13, 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 USMA 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.

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-mail Amy at vivavolunteers@yahoo.com if you can donate any amount of time.

There will be a Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament at Viva! Las

Vegas Night Feb. 23.

Space is limited. Interested players should e-mail wpwcpoker@yahoo.com or call Shannon at 446-2534.

Individuals interested in applying for scholarships or grants through the WPWC can pick up an application at Army Community Services, the WPWC gift shop O'Neill high school or at www.shopthepoint.com.

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 28.

BOSS resale lot

Are you looking to sell your automobile, van, truck, motorcycle, boats, trailers, or small motor homes? Are you an Active Duty service member, DOD civilian, retiree or a family member? For \$20 a month, the BOSS Resale Lot has slots available for rent.

The BOSS resale Lot is located across from the AAFES Shoppette on the east end of the of the PX parking lot near the softball complex.

All vehicles, boats, trailers, and motor homes must be less than 24 feet.

For further questions about registering, please contact either 938-6127/4290/7535.

Moneywise in the Military

The live free event, Moneywise in the Military, hosted by PBS' Kelvin Boston, is Wed. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Timmermann Conference Center in Fort Dix, N.J.

For more information and to pre-register call 1-800-877-2380.

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 info., 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.

Infantry Ball

The West Point Chapter of the National Infantry Association invites all Infantrymen, past, present and future, their friends and guests to welcome the newest class of infantrymen to the Queen of Battle Feb. 2 at Eisenhower Hall from 6 to 10:30 p.m.

For tickets and more information, contact either Maj. Chris McKinney or Ryan Morgan by e-mail.

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.

CFC results

The overall results are in for

the 2006-2007 West Point/Orange/Rockland/Sullivan Combined Federal Campaign. A total of \$335,401.06 was collected by 11 participating Federal agencies with West Point contributing \$229,002.22 through one-time pledges and payroll deductions, an increase of 7 percent over last year. The efforts and generosity by all who participated will profoundly impact and enrich the lives of others in our communities and the world over.

Red Cross classes

To register for any of the classes below, go to www.nyredcross.org or call 800-514-5103.

CPR/AED Adult

Feb. 13, 5 to 10 p.m.

Standard First Aid w/CPR AED Adult

Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Feb. 10 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CPR Child & Infant

Feb. 6 and Feb. 8, 6 to 9 p.m.

Standard First Aid training w/ the ARC Feb. 15, 6 to 10 p.m.

CPR/AED for the professional rescuer

March 4, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

First Aid for Cats and Dogs

March 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

First Aid/CPR/AED preCourse testing

[A requirement to become an

instructor for the Red Cross.] Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fundamentals of instructor training [FIT]

[A requirement to become an instructor for the Red Cross.] Feb. 11, 1 to 6 p.m.

Lay Responder First Aid/CPR/AED instructor course

[Prerequisites: FIT and PreCourse testing.] Feb. 18 and Feb. 25, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Babysitter's training

Are you 11 years old or older and want to learn basic child care?

Feb. 24, 9 to 4:30 p.m. and March 24, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ESGR support

Encourage your Guardsman and Reservists to nominate their employers for the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award at www.esgr.mil.

Special Needs Parent Toolkit

Register now to participate in the "Special Needs Parent Toolkit" webinar offered through Military OneSource Wednesday at 9 a.m., noon or 9 p.m.

The DOD toolkit has information needed for families navigating through the maze of medical and special education services, community support, benefits and entitlements.

Register at www.militaryonesource.com.

Engineer Memorial

The Army Engineer Officers'



Get ready for a night you will not want to miss! Viva! Las Vegas Night is coming to the Thayer Hotel Feb. 23 from 7 p.m. until Midnight.

This year's event is even more exciting with the addition of two new attractions. Bring your spouse or sweetheart along for a chance to "get married" in the Vegas-style Wedding Chapel with Elvis! Bring your luck to the table for the No Limit, Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament. The tournament is a new and exciting way to win big

at Viva! Las Vegas Night.

"The committee thought the tournament would be a great addition to the fundraiser. Because of the popularity of such tournaments, we see the grand prize value being a big draw for players," said Shannon Chalfont, tournament organizer for the West Point Women's Club.

Spaces are limited and pre-registration is required. To reserve your spot before they are filled, call 446-2534 or e-mail wpwcpoker@yahoo.com.

Army and Community Sports

Army wrestling's success enhanced by youth

By Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

Army wrestling head coach Chuck Barbee has coached some excellent talent in his seven years with the Black Knights, including the likes of Phillip Simpson and Maurice Worthy, both of whom finished their careers as NCAA National Runner-Ups.

With the graduation of five regulars from last year's squad and an injury to the best returning senior, Frank Baughan, Barbee has had to lean on his younger wrestlers to pull the team to a 8-3 dual meet record to start the season.

Two of the best wrestlers on this year's Black Knights squad are sophomore Whitt Dunning and freshman Matt Kyler.

Dunning made a big turn around this year after a 9-16 freshman year. He flipped his overall record to 19-5 this season, which isn't a great surprise to his coach.

"He's been a tremendous worker and he's really got a great 'mat' sense about him," Barbee said. "He's worked his tail off to get down to 125 pounds and made a commitment and sacrifices to do that. He's been in the finals of tournaments this year and I couldn't be happier with his progress so far."

Dunning, from Nashville, Tenn., and the cousin of sophomore William Simpson, had a bumpy freshman year, but has gained the right frame of mind to boost his record this year.

"Last year, I didn't have the right mentality because I thought

I was just going out there to get some experience," Dunning said, "but you've got to go out there and try to beat the crap out of the other guy."

A couple of guys that Dunning beat last year qualified for the NCAAs and one of them won a match. That gave him the belief that he could win with regularity at the NCAA level.

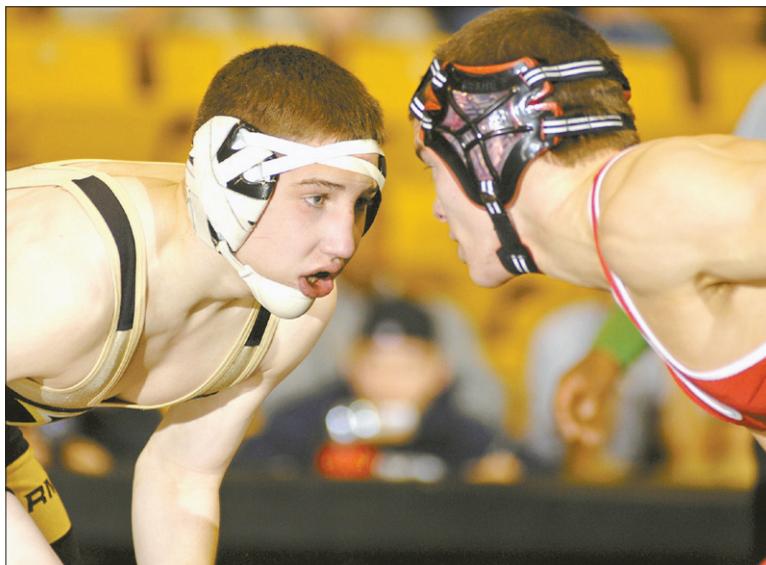
"From that [win] I knew I belonged," Dunning explained, "because if those guys can do it then I can definitely do it, too."

Being homesick and trying to find a perfect balance between school and wrestling was a problem last year for Dunning, but for Kyler those inconveniences haven't seemed to dampen his wrestling in the early part of this season.

Kyler continued his success last weekend by winning the 141-pound individual title at the New York State Intercollegiate Wrestling Championships, joining Simpson at 133 pounds and junior Fernando Martinez at 125 pounds as individual champions at the NYIWCs.

Off to a 23-6 start and leading Army in individual wins, Kyler has continued to succeed despite the fact he's wrestled at three weight classes this year.

"I hit a growth spurt and have put on a lot of weight since high school," said Kyler, who wrestled at 119 pounds last year in high school. "I came here and I think everyone thought I was going to be a 125-pounder, but I moved up to 133 pounds and I keep on growing."



Freshman Matt Kyler (left) has wrestled at three different weight classes this year because of a growth spurt. But, he's continued to succeed on the mat going 22-6 for the season for Army.

ALL PHOTOS BY JON MALINOWSKI



Sophomore Whitt Dunning, cousin of sophomore William Simpson, has matured on the mat this year going from a 9-16 last year to a current record of 19-5 this winter.

Now at 141 pounds, he hasn't found the wrestling much different despite facing guys much heavier than he's been facing over the past year.

"I really haven't noticed the difference," Kyler stated. "The kids may be a little taller, but it doesn't matter what weight class your wrestling in because there will always be good kids in that class anyways. So you can't worry about that too much."

Coach Barbee and his assistants, Mike Clayton and Bill Maldonado, have worked closely with Kyler, watching films and doing extra workouts. He continues to work on areas that he feels he needs to improve.

"I'm trying to work on my foot speed and my hand motion while trying to set up guys better," said Kyler, a native of Clearfield, Pa. "I'm working on getting better and that's the most important thing to me -- to get where I want to be."

Barbee has been very impressed with Kyler and sees something very special in him.

"He's going to be a big player if he keeps working and learning," Barbee said. "He just wrestles hard and never stops. If we can implement a little slickness in his technique and add a little more muscle in some of the things he does, the sky's the limit for him."

Having the young kids perform so well has been a windfall for Barbee because of the injuries of Baughan and senior Austin Milster,

especially since they are already 8-3 this year after going 8-4-2 last year with an upperclassmen-laden group.

"I'm pretty pleased right now that we have seven wins. Coming into the season I wasn't sure what we were going to be like and what level we would be at," Barbee said. "We have a bunch of big matches coming up and we've got to continue to rise against Brown, Harvard, Columbia, Lehigh and Navy in duals over the next six weeks."

"I think we've made enough progress to poise ourselves to make another jump in this last third of the season," Barbee added.

A three-time All-American at Oklahoma State, Barbee has found this to be one of his most

challenging years at Army because he's been trying to find the right mix of wrestlers at the right weights while getting them experience all at the same time.

"I knew it was going to be a challenging year, but I also knew it could be a very rewarding year. I told that to my coaches at the beginning of the season," Barbee said. "Any time you lose five seniors and three national qualifiers, you go, 'Wow! We've brought those kids a long way to get to where they were.'"

"I wouldn't say it's my most challenging year because my first two years here were brutal," Barbee added. "This year has been relatively tough, but I do like the position we're in right now and I like our kids and their attitude."



Senior Austin Milster (top) fought hard to get to a 7-7 record despite injuries that kept him out of the lineup.

Army MBB edges Navy 53-50

By Christian Anderson
Athletic Communications

WEST POINT, N.Y. -- Senior Matt Bell hit three three-pointers and scored a team-high 16 points to help lead the Army men's basketball team past Navy, 53-50, in front of 3,904 spectators Sunday at Christl Arena. The victory, Army's third in a row, ups the Black Knights' record to 13-7 (3-2 Patriot League). Navy falls to 11-9 (1-4 Patriot League).

In the 105th meeting between the two rival service academies, junior guard Jarell Brown, junior forward Corban Bates and sophomore forward Doug Williams all added eight points apiece to help Army to its first 13-win season since the 1986-87 team compiled a final record of 14-15.

Williams, who produced a couple of rim-rattling dunks, added a career-high 10 rebounds for the Black Knights, who have reeled off three consecutive Patriot League victories for the first time since the 1998-99 squad accomplished that feat.

"It was a hard-fought game, and I thought both teams played well defensively," said Army head coach Jim Crews. "I thought Doug Williams did a great job defensively for us. He was instrumental in this victory. Our whole team stepped up today."

Army, which led 25-23 at halftime, began the second half on a 12-4 run to open up a 37-27 advantage at the 14:47 mark. Bell scored eight of the Black Knights' points during the spurt, which gave Army its largest lead of the game.

Three-pointers by T.J. Topercer, Adam Teague and Greg Sprink ignited an 11-0 Navy run that gave the Midshipmen their first lead of the second half at 38-37 with 9:34 to play.

The teams traded baskets until a conventional three-point play

by Sprink gave Navy a 43-41 advantage at the 5:08 mark.

Army answered right back as Bates scored the Black Knights' next six points, producing a conventional three-point play and hitting a three-pointer from the left corner to give Army a 47-43 lead that it would not relinquish.

After a couple of Sprink free throws made the score 47-45, Williams took an interior feed from Bates and threw down a slam dunk with the right hand to push Army's lead back up to four points at 49-45 with 2:38 showing on the clock.

After two free throws by Trey Stanton trimmed Army's lead to 49-47, Brown knocked down a jumper to put the Black Knights up 51-47. Navy was able to cut Army's lead to two points one last time at 52-50 after a three-pointer by Sprink with six seconds to go.

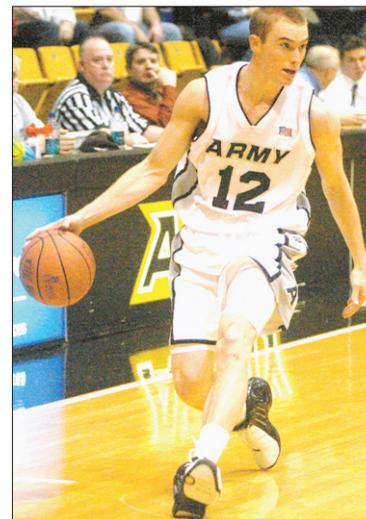
A Bell free throw increased Army's lead to 53-50 and Sprink's three-point attempt from the left wing clanged off the rim as the buzzer sounded.

After arriving at the arena, Crews changed out of his suit and into Army BDUs (battle dress uniform) to coach the game.

"I've been blessed since I've been coaching here to be around cadets and officers, so I wanted to honor them," Crews remarked.

Crews, who, along with several other Division I men's basketball coaches, spent a week this past summer in Kuwait coaching basketball to U.S. Soldiers as part for Operation Hardwood and wanted to honor them as well.

"I wanted to honor all of the men and women in the military overseas, who do so much for us,"



Senior guard Matt Bell led Army in points with 16 against Navy.

ERIC BARTELT/PV

Crews added. "This is my small way of letting them know that I remember them."

2007 Army Football Schedule

Sept. 1 at Akron
Sept. 8 RHODE ISLAND
Sept. 15 at Wake Forest
Sept. 22 at Boston College
Sept. 29 TEMPLE
Oct. 6 TULANE
Oct. 13 at Central Michigan
Oct. 20 at Georgia Tech
Nov. 3 at Air Force
Nov. 9 RUTGERS
Nov. 16 TULSA
Dec. 1 Navy (Baltimore, Md.)

Boxing primed to take Nationals

By Capt. John Kiel
Army Boxing Coach

The Army Boxing team is one of the favored teams to win the National Collegiate Boxing Association (NCBA) National Championship this year. In the closest contest in collegiate boxing history, one point separated the top three teams in last year's NCBA championships held in Reno, Nev. Army finished in third place for the second year in a row behind UNLV and Air Force, respectively.

Army is relatively new to NCBA boxing, first entering a complete boxing team in the National Championships a mere four years ago.

In a very short time, Army boxers demonstrated that they possess the 'Warrior Ethos' to be one of the best teams in the country. In the few years that the team has been competing, the boxers garnered six individual National Championships and more than 20 All-Americans, but the team National Championship has eluded them.

U.S. Military Academy 2003 graduate Capt. Boyd Melson, a former NCBA Champion, is presently in the Army's World Class Athlete Program [WCAP] and has his sights set on representing the USA in the 2008 Olympics.

The WCAP boxing coach, who also coached the 2004 U.S. Olympic boxing team, gives Boyd a good chance to be the USA's representative in the 152-pound weight class.

Senior Reggie Smith, one of this year's boxing team captains and junior Ovidiu Iacob, won individual national championships in the 185- and 175-pound weight classes last year, respectively.

Iacob was also named the most valuable boxer of the national tournament for his total domination of his opponents, to include a technical knockout stoppage of his adversary from Navy in the finals.

In addition to Smith and Iacob, seven of the nine boxers Army sent to the Nationals in 2006 were named Collegiate Boxing All-Americans, to include senior Mike Benedosso, a three-time All-American and team co-captain.

Army is off to a good start this season. Last semester, Army, showcasing some of its younger fighters hosted Air Force and walked away with a 9-3 victory before a capacity crowd in the North Boxing gym. Army also invaded Annapolis the day before

the Army - Navy football game and won six of its 10 bouts before a rowdy partisan crowd.

What has boxing head coach Ray Barone and assistant coaches Eric Buller, John Kiel and Jeffrey Mays most excited about Army boxing is the level of interest in the sport among cadets.

During Cadet Basic Training, over 100 new cadets initially tried out for the team and then during the fall semester more than 150 cadets participated in a voluntary company athletic boxing program with many earning spots on the boxing team.

Barone says that what makes the boxing team so successful is its "diversity and core values." There are cadets from all ethnic backgrounds boxing individually in the ring but as a team overall, who have embraced core values such as commitment, loyalty, discipline and courage.

Barone is quick to point out that, "These boxers are Warriors. Almost all of them branch combat arms -- like Wes Baer [2005], the 2 two-time heavyweight NCBA champion, now an Airborne Ranger Infantry officer in Germany or Freddie Kim [2004], an Airborne Ranger Infantry Officer with the 82nd Airborne."

Barone, a retired Army Officer, said, "I would readily send my son or daughter to Iraq or Afghanistan with any one of these boxers, as they have demonstrated the discipline and the will to win that is necessary to be successful in those environments."

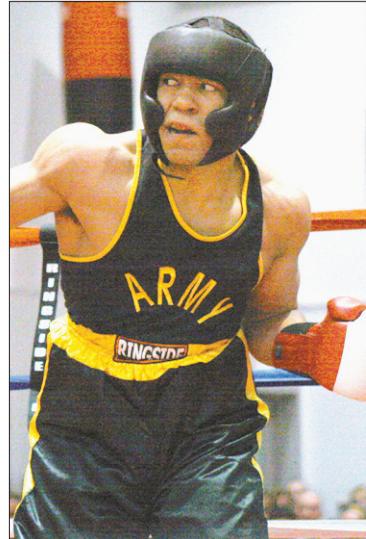
Even though the Army boxing team is very young, Barone says it is possible to consistently compete with the other Academies in boxing at the National level. "Army cadets have the courage, the athleticism and heart to consistently vie for the National Championship. The other Academies receive more perks which greatly facilitate their programs. Under the right conditions, Army boxing could establish a 'reign of terror,' said Barone.

The Brigade Boxing Open is Feb. 27 with winners of each weight class qualifying to compete in the East Regional Collegiate Boxing Association [ECBA] championships being hosted by Army March 23-25.

The winners and runners-up in each of the 12 weight classes will then advance to the national championships in Reno, April 12-14. Army is favored to place a full roster of 12 boxers in the Nationals

this year.

Army boxing is a popular spectator sport among the cadets. The team trusts that it will continue to receive outstanding support from the Corps of Cadets. Come out and support the Army boxing team. The fights are hard-hitting, fast-paced and energetic. The team promises to "leave it all in the ring" as they fight to bring the national boxing championship to West Point -- where most of them believe it belongs.



Senior Reggie Smith returns looking for his second national championship. ERIC BARTELT/PV