

January changes (as of 1/31)	
C FUND	+ 2.66 percent
I FUND	+ 6.14 percent
S FUND	+ 6.70 percent



The wonder of physics

West Point Elementary School kindergarteners Sarah Frizsche and William Musk experiment with a compass and magnets Jan. 27 during a demonstration put on by instructors from the academy's physics department. See story on page 5.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

DOD delays NSPS rules

WASHINGTON (Fed Times) -- The Pentagon announced Jan. 24 it will delay the release of the National Security Personnel System labor-management rules from Feb. 1 to March 1.

DOD officials said the delay is intended to allow time for Judge Emmet Sullivan of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to rule on a legal challenge of the new rules lodged by labor unions.

This comes a week after DOD announced it will deploy its new performance-based pay plan on April 30 instead of in February as scheduled.

Ten unions representing more than half of the 650,000 DOD employees to be covered by the new personnel rules filed a lawsuit Nov. 7 to stop the Pentagon from changing existing labor-management rules. The unions contend the new rules illegally curb collective bargaining, fail to maintain a fair process for appealing disciplinary actions and were developed without their input, as required by law.

"They met with us 10 times and would give us bulleted papers that said, 'Pay for performance is good' -- what do you think?" said Mark Roth, general counsel for the American Federation of Government Employees. "No proposals were ever exchanged."

Union leaders said their case against the Pentagon is even stronger than the lawsuit they won in August against similar workplace changes at the Homeland Security Department.

A spokesman for the Justice Department, which is representing Defense and the Office of Personnel Management in the lawsuit, declined to comment on the lawsuit.

R-Day initial deposit hike

By Eric S. Bartelt
Assistant Editor

When the class of 2010 comes streaming into West Point for R-Day June 26 they'll need to have an extra \$500 in their pockets.

The incoming plebes are expected to make an initial deposit of \$2,900 that's up \$500 from the current \$2,400, to partially cover the costs of their initial issue at the U.S. Military Academy.

This is the first raise in the initial deposit since 1996, when it was raised from \$1,800 to \$2,400.

"Big ticket items like uniforms are going up \$246, books are going up \$109 and information technology is going up almost 100 percent," said Thomas Remo, acting USMA treasurer. "It got

raised just because of inflation."

The prices went up as each organization involved in the process of tending to the cadets had to increase their expenses due to many factors, including increasing labor costs.

"Each organization provides me all the information and I go through my program and figure out how much money we need to take in and factor in pay increases and such," Remo said. "The chief of staff signs off on those changes that will be accepted by the treasurer to handle the cap."

According to Remo, total expenses will go up \$625.17, but the cadets will be able to cover them due to the initial deposit increase and a \$204.51 increase in cadet pay that will be deposited into

their accounts.

"Next year the cadets are supposed to get a gross of \$845.67 a month," Remo explained. "Fifty-five percent of all expenses for the plebes occur in the first year, so in addition to paying the \$2,900 deposit, we give every cadet an advance of \$5,060 that they will eventually pay back.

"The reason we give them an additional \$5,060 is because in the first two months they're getting near \$7,000 worth of stuff," Remo added. "The \$5,060 is paid back through their pay."

Remo's office takes care of all 4,000-plus cadets accounts.

"I handle the cadet trust fund; basically they give me authorization to handle their money," Remo said.



IOCT, see page 11

Military culture must change to fight 'Long War'

**Commentary by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service**

As the United States confronts terrorism, military personnel have to make a cultural shift as they fight what officials now call "the Long War," senior DOD officials said recently.

Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno, the assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that the generation of servicemembers entering the military today must focus on how the United States will deal with extremist networks that threaten America and its allies.

Odierno said the situation is analogous to the situation confronting servicemembers who fought the Cold War. The Cold War was a generational conflict that started after World War II and only ended with the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991.

"This generation of servicemembers will be in what

we're calling the Long War," the general said.

"Our estimate is that for at least the next 20 years, part of our focus will be on how do we deal with the extremist networks that will continue to threaten the United States and its allies."

While conventional forces must remain robust and their capabilities must remain second to none, the military's focus will broaden to include a greater emphasis on special operations. "We have to be able to respond conventionally if necessary, but we must provide more focus on irregular warfare missions," Odierno said.

Even after the defeat of al Qaeda, extremists groups will remain a problem, Odierno said. This will be complicated because terrorist networks are "non-state actors" that may be operating in friendly nations. The mission will not be to confront armies, navies or air forces, but shadowy groups.

The Long War will require different military capabilities and require U.S. leaders to develop a holistic concept of how to defeat these networks.

Odierno said this entails being able to coordinate the military aspect of the fight with the efforts of diplomats, financial experts, police officials and others. It also will entail countering propaganda and misinformation extremists release.

Another piece of the Long War for servicemembers is cultural awareness, Odierno said. Young leaders must understand what drives extremists. "We have to try to understand why they do the things they do, because you have to understand your enemy," he said.

Troops will also have to understand countries U.S. forces will operate in. "You have to understand what their cultures are, what's important to them," Odierno said. "We have learned a lot in the last three or four years, but we have a long way to go."

As part of the Long War mindset, the military is moving more toward an expeditionary force. "With ground forces we are moving back to the United States, so we are able to react around the world quickly and rotate forces quickly," he said.

All ground forces are going to have to work more closely with special operations forces and must enhance their capabilities to work in irregular environments. Special operations forces must also develop new capabilities, and the United States must develop more special operations personnel, Odierno said.

While the changes affect ground forces most, the Air Force and Navy are not spared. The Air Force global

strike capability will be crucial in shaping the battlefield. The Navy, while maintaining its skills in the open ocean, known as "blue-water capabilities," will move more into littoral, or coastal, warfare.

"Even after we win in Iraq, even after we win in Afghanistan, there will be extremist groups that will threaten us," Odierno said. "Military personnel must be ready for whatever confronts them in this Long War."

No DIEMS date/retirement plan on Jan. LES Submitted by DFAS

DFAS prints the Soldier's Date Initially Entered Military Service Date and the current retirement plan on a Soldier's Leave and Earnings Statement each month. For the month of January the file was received too late to be added to the January LES creation process. The data will again be added to the February LES.

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

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

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

Difficulty: Easy

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

See Solution on Page 10

SARP notification information

The members of the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Team are Col. Jeanette McMahon, Shelly Ariosto (Garrison), Maj. Samantha Breton (USCC), Maj. Kim Kawamoto (ODIA) and

Catherine Ruvolo (Dean). Community members can e-mail McMahon at Jeanette.McMahon@usma.edu for advice or to offer any recommendations on the program here.

Cadets can also call the sexual assault support helpline at (845) 591-7215. West Point Soldiers and civilians needing assistance can call (845) 938-3369.

POINTER VIEW®

- Lt. Gen. William J. Lennox Jr.,** Superintendent
- Lt. Col. Kent P. Cassella,** Director, Public Affairs
- Irene D. Brown** Chief, Command Info., 938-8366
- Jim Fox** Editor, 938-8365
- Eric S. Bartelt** Asst. Editor, 938-3883
- Spc. Benjamin Gruver, Staff Writer
- Kathleen Eastwood, Staff Writer



This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army, USMA or West Point. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or the United States Military Academy of the firms, products or services advertised. The Pointer View® is an unofficial publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of USMA. The Pointer View® is printed by the Poughkeepsie Journal, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive contract with USMA. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the USMA or the Army. The Pointer View® is published weekly by the USMA Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 600, West Point, N.Y. 10996 (845) 938-8366

Printed weekly by the Poughkeepsie Journal
85 Civic Center Plaza
PO Box 1231
Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12602
POUGHKEEPSIEJOURNAL.COM

For information, call (845) 437-4789

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source.

Local and National News

GAO says military spending out-of-control

WASHINGTON (govexec.com) -- Military re-enlistment bonuses that can reach as high as \$90,000, as well as overall compensation packages worth an average of more than \$100,000 annually for active duty personnel, are contributing to out-of-control military spending, the head of the Government Accountability Office said Wednesday.

Health care costs are "escalating so rapidly, it's impacting on other crucial considerations" such as the size and shape of the force and the equipment and weapons systems available to military personnel,

said David Walker, the comptroller general, at a breakfast event hosted by Government Executive.

In discussing the total value of military compensation packages including pay, health care, bonuses and retirement benefits, Walker cited a recent GAO report that pegged the average for active duty enlisted personnel and officer compensation at \$112,000 a year. More than half -- or 51 percent -- of this compensation takes the form of health care and other benefits.

"This amounts to about double the average for civilian pay," Walker said.

The federal government's total cost of active duty compensation increased over four years (2000 to 2004) by 29 percent, from \$123 to \$158 billion, according to the report. Health care costs were a major driver of this change, increasing 69 percent over the period, the report said.

Adding fuel to the fire, the 2006 National Defense Authorization Act authorized a doubling of Army enlistment bonuses to \$40,000 for active duty personnel and \$20,000 for reserves, and a boost in the maximum reenlistment benefit offered to personnel in hard-to-fill positions from \$60,000 to \$90,000. The Army currently offers a top re-enlistment bonus of \$40,000, according to an Army spokesperson.

Walker emphasized the need for recognition in the budgeting process of the full financial impact of funding decisions

"Part of the problem is that when Congress considers legislation, and

the administration proposes it, they only consider a one-year, five-year, or maybe 10-year time horizon," he said.

A health care benefit extension enacted in 2000 that applies to older uniformed service retirees was estimated to cost \$40.4 billion over its first 10 years, but carries a financial statement liability of \$293 billion, Walker added.

Problems in federal fiscal reporting also present a major challenge to informed decision-making, he said, noting that the Treasury Department was unable to reach conclusions on the validity of accounting at a number of agencies, including the Defense Department, in its annual financial report on the

federal government.

It's important that agencies be able to close out the year's books within the 45-day window allowed by the audit process, because that short time period represents a window for which systems should be able to provide "timely and accurate information" for use in management decision-making, Walker said.

The comptroller general has long pushed for federal spending reform, pointing to the growing share of the budget projected to be spent on entitlement programs and interest on the national debt. Defense and national security budgets represent a significant portion of discretionary spending that could be affected by these trends.

BOV to meet Wednesday

WEST POINT, N.Y. -- The U.S. Military Academy's Board of Visitors will meet Wednesday at the Veterans Affairs Conference Room, Senate Russell Building, Washington, D.C., to 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 retired Rear Adm. Marsha Evans, Honorable J.C. Watts, Honorable Samuel Lessey Jr., Ms. Rebecca Contreras and Dr. Charles Younger. The senators appointed to the board are Jack Reed, Susan Collins, Mary Landrieu and Kay Bailey Hutchison. Representatives include Maurice Hinchey, Ellen Tauscher, Sue Kelly, John McHugh and Charles H. Taylor.

New 1st Bn., 1st Inf. Command Sgt. Maj. on board

Story and photo
by Spc. Benjamin Gruver
Staff Writer

Command Sgt. Maj. Allison Smith assumed command Jan. 27 during a ceremony at Trophy Point. She becomes the 1st Bn., 1st Inf. Regiment's highest ranking enlisted Soldier.

The position was held by 1st Sgt. Charles Reed, the first sergeant for the Military Police Company.

Smith is the first command sergeant major to hold the position in nearly 10 years.

"It is a privilege coming here," she said. "I never thought I would be assigned to West Point with my training background. I am used to enlisted Soldiers and the enlisted side of the house."

Much of Smith's Army career was spent instructing Soldiers in the basic training realm. Smith thought she would go back to that



Command Sgt. Maj. Allison Smith

environment after completion of the U.S. Army Sergeant Majors Academy. Smith said when she heard she was coming here she had some concerns about how well she would fit in.

"Once I got here I realized we are all trying to reach the same goal and accomplish the same mission," Smith said. "Then it became an honor to be assigned here, especially on an installation and in a battalion with such history

dating back as far as 1792."

The Portsmouth, Va., native entered the Army in June of 1984, completing basic training at Fort Dix, N.J., and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, S.C. Her first duty was as an administrative specialist with the 2nd Adjutant General Company, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey, Korea, with duty at Camp Edwards, Korea.

After serving in Korea, Smith served consecutive assignments with 4/57th Air Traffic Control Company, Fort Ord, Calif.; with the 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery, Spangdahlem, Germany; and with Headquarters V Corps in Frankfurt, Germany.

In 1994, Smith changed hats and volunteered to be a drill sergeant, taking on the responsibility of grooming civilians into Soldiers at Fort Jackson, S.C. First with D Company, 4th Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment before being

selected as a drill sergeant leader at the U.S. Drill Sergeant School in 1996.

She put her drill sergeant hat down in 1999, but not for long. After a quick spell in Alexandria, Va., with the Human Resource Command and a year in Korea as the first sergeant of the 1st Replacement Company, Smith went back to training Soldiers at Fort Jackson as the B Company, 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment first sergeant.

In 2003, Smith was selected to the Sergeant Majors Academy, and graduated in 2005, before being assigned to West Point.

The former drill sergeant said she is ready for her new position and believes she is all about the Soldiers.

"God has blessed me to fill this command sergeant major position," Smith said. "God did all of this because he knows I have a passion

for Soldiers, I have a passion for their training as well as their quality of life, and he blessed me to be able to do both of those pretty well."

What Smith said she wants her Soldiers to see is that she wants to ensure they are trained to standard, rewarded correctly, disciplined correctly and that they have the best quality of life that can be given them.

"The Army has been good for me," the youngest of 10 said. "I would hate to see any Soldier give up the Army because you can get everything you need from the Army, you really can."

The command sergeant major holds a Bachelors of Arts degree from the University of Maryland and will graduate in May from Troy State University with a Masters of Public Administration.

Smith arrived at West Point with her husband, Jon, and two sons Darryck and Jon-Horace.

They're here! New Army Combat Uniforms now at Post Exchange

By Spc. Benjamin Gruver
Staff Writer

The long wait is over. The Army's new combat uniforms are now available at West Point's Post Exchange.



U.S. Military Academy Military Police Company MP Spc. David Mander models a side view of the new Army Combat Uniform, which is now available at the Post Exchange.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

Before rushing off to purchase a set, Soldiers need to check out the policy.

West Point's Uniform and Dress Code Policy, Policy Memorandum 16-05, states: "ACU clothing items will not be mixed with BDU or (Desert Combat Uniform) clothing items with the exception of DCU boots which may be worn with the ACU."

The memorandum does authorize wearing BDU equipment and rain gear until further notice.

"The issue with mixing and matching ACUs, DCUs and BDUs on West Point really has more to do with an image of what we are presenting to cadets than anything else," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Murriel, the West Point garrison command sergeant major. "Even though the Army has granted the mixing and matching of some items, the intent here at West Point, based on just the nature of the mission here, is to make sure we are setting a standard on trying to provide a proper image of uniformity."

The Command Sgt. Maj. said Soldiers who want to buy the new uniform should do so. However, he added, they should make sure they understand how to wear them.

"We are going to wear the uniform as proudly as we did the BDUs, wear it right and make sure we are sending a message to those young Soldiers and cadets that are here," Murriel said, explaining that this year's graduating class will be the first to leave here with the new

uniform.

"The standards we set are going to be the ones they follow," Murriel added. "If we are not fitting the proper image then as soon as they purchase these things, when they get ready to leave here, they are going to show up at (training) with ACUs or something else in a totally jacked up uniform, so that is the reason for USMA's and the installation's position with the new uniform."

While the uniforms are now in stores, active duty, Reserves and National Guard Soldiers will have until May 1, 2007, to get two full sets of the ACUs, and are required to have four pairs by May 1, 2008, according to AR 670-1.

To purchase the uniform, according to the PX's military clothing and sales manager Janet Colk, it costs \$36.95 for the coat, \$34.55 for the trousers, \$6.95 for the patrol cap, \$3.15 for the rigger belt, \$11.95 for a three-pack of dry wicking T-shirts and \$6.60 for a three-pack of socks. The prices of the desert boots range from \$93 to \$165.95.

The sizes for the ACUs run about a size smaller than the BDUs, Colk explained. She also said that the tops are supposed to be shorter than the BDU tops were for easier access to the trouser pockets.

"We don't have every size, but we are getting some in everyday," Colk said. She said customers should keep checking either by stopping by or calling the military clothing department at 446-5446

ext. 147.

Though the average cost for one full set of the uniform, including boots, is roughly around \$180, Murriel said, the ACUs will be more Soldier-friendly and cost effective over time.

Since the ACUs are not to be sent to the cleaners, with all the Velcro attached to them, it saves roughly \$40 a month on dry cleaning, he said, and can save a Soldier money on patches as well.

"The good thing about Velcro is if you maintain it right, you take these things [patches] off at night when you come home and put them to the side," Murriel said. "I own two ranks, two sets of name tapes and alternate those to stay matched up with the uniform."

It is also important to take proper care of the uniforms when washing them, Murriel added, following the instructions by not using a brightening detergent with optical brighteners.

"Some of the tips that I've learned," he explained, "are once you get it out of the wash throw it in on permanent press in the dryer for about 10 minutes, smooth it out with your hands, put it on a hanger and you will have very few wrinkles that you may want to knock out. Take a steam iron and knock any wrinkles out and you are good to go."

The command sergeant major said Soldiers are going to like the versatile, user-friendly uniform.

"Anything that is going to save a Soldier time, they are going to

love it," Murriel said. "They don't have to iron it and they don't have to shine boots. They are going to love it for those two reasons alone if nothing else."



USMAMP Sgt. Nicole Inchingolo is glad that the new ACUs are finally here. She said it will make it much easier than trying to order them online.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

Community Features and Photos

WPES kindergarteners enjoy physics demo

**Story and photos
by Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer**

Physics instructors, Maj. Corey Gerving and Lt. Col. Jeffrey Musk, entertained a kindergarten multiage class at the West Point elementary school Jan. 27 with an interactive demonstration in physics.

"I think it is very important to introduce science to kindergarten and first grade children because it gets them thinking about the world around them," Gerving said.

The idea for the presentation came from teacher Phyllis Lainis, whose husband, Thomas Lainis, assistant dean of resource, was Gerving's physics instructor when he was a cadet here.

"I knew I had Gerving's daughter Gabby and Musk's son William in my class," she said. "I thought it would be great if I could ask them to come for an hour or so and talk about physics."

The instructors began by showing the children a video on the sport of curling in a lesson on matter and motion. The instructors then used mini hovercrafts called Kick-Discs and asked the children to attempt to push them into each other to see what happens.

"With a demonstration like this, the children are able to see how physics can be applied to everyday things and suggest why they happened," Gerving said. "By allowing them to experiment, it helped to verify their conclusions."

In keeping with the hovercraft theme, George Geysen, an electrical mechanic in the physics department, built a hovercraft large enough to hold a few hundred pounds.

"I used wood and a leaf-blower to create a hovercraft that will float a millimeter off the ground," he said.

The children rode on the hovercraft three at a time and judging by their expressions, they

were thrilled.

"This is really cool and a lot of fun," said Braden Jones. "But I had to cover my ears because it was really loud."

Among the experiments were balloons filled with hydrogen,

copper sulfate and lithium nitrate mixtures to show the different colors that gasses produce when a match was put to them. The children also experimented with compasses and magnets.

"I like the magnets the best," said Caroline Wooten. "They can attach to your hair barrettes."

Physics' Maj. Corey Gerving lights a gas balloon.



West Point Elementary School students in Phyllis Lainis' multi-age kindergarten class experiment with mini-hovercrafts Jan. 27 during demonstrations from academy physics instructors.



Healthwatch: skin infections and drug resistant germs

By Army
Public
Health
Nursing
Keller Army
Community
Hospital



An increasing number of people of all ages are being diagnosed with skin infections caused by a drug resistant germ. This germ, a bacteria called Community Acquired or Community Associated Staphylococcus aureus (CA-MRSA), can infect people of all ages and has been reported in many states across the country.

Infections caused by CA-MRSA are usually minor in the form of skin and soft-tissue lesions such as pimples, boils, abscesses, cellulitis or impetigo. In severe cases CA-MRSA can cause pneumonia and bloodstream infections. Many CA-MRSA infections are misdiagnosed as spider bites or insect bites.

CA-MRSA is spread primarily by direct skin to skin contact with an individual who is a CA-MRSA bacteria carrier or who is infected with CA-MRSA. Transmission occurs from the hands of a healthy carrier or the drainage from an infected lesion or wound.

Additionally, infection can spread from a contaminated surface. Close living quarters, sharing personal items, warm weather and poor hygiene may contribute to transmission and subsequent infection with CA-MRSA.

You can help prevent the spread

of CA-MRSA infections by keeping cuts and scrapes clean and covered. See a healthcare provider promptly if you develop signs and symptoms of infection such as painful, red, warm, oozing skin. Take all medication when prescribed and do not share medications with others. Follow directions for wound care, dressing change and dressing disposal provided by your healthcare provider.

Keep common areas in your home clean. You should clean kitchen and bathroom sink and drain daily with a mild bleach solution. About three times a week, clean all faucets, appliance handles, and flush handles focusing on "high touch" areas. Once a week clean toilets, shower or tub and drain, kitchen and bathroom floors and bathroom countertops.

For more information contact your healthcare provider or log onto the site at

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca_public.html.

Preventing CA-MRSA Infections

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water and shower daily using clean, dry towels.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Do not share towels, soap, or other personal care items, keep fingernails short.
- When doing the laundry, prewash and rinse items that may have been contaminated with body fluids, then wash clothes for a full cycle in hot water and dry on the hottest cycle.
- Clean commonly shared surfaces at least weekly using a commercial disinfectant or a fresh (mixed daily) solution of one tablespoon bleach in one quart of warm water.
- Avoid jewelry and artificial nails that trap bacteria and prevent good thorough hand washing.
- When at the gym: Clean athletic equipment/surfaces that you share with others before you use it.
- Avoid contact with other peoples wounds/infections.

Future Armor/Cavalry officers exposed to tradition of the branch

By Maj. Chad C. Chalfont
Dept. of History

Ninety-seven first-class cadets got their first taste of the Armor Branch at the Cadet Mess Hall's Regimental Room during the Inaugural USMA Armor/Cavalry Order of Saint George Banquet Jan. 25.

The cadets joined 33 armor officers and non-commissioned officers to celebrate their selection as future Armor officers and to honor the service of five Order of Saint George awardees.

Retired Gen. Fred Franks was the guest of honor. He offered remarks regarding the role of the mounted force in current and future operations. Franks related his own passion for service to the nation as a Soldier and challenged the cadets to seek that same passion in their own service as mounted warriors to an Army and nation that needs them.

The Order of Saint George ceremony proved to be the highlight of the evening. Since 1986, the United States Armor Association has awarded the Order of Saint George to Armor and Cavalry officers and non-commissioned officers who have served with distinction in the branch and have made lasting contributions to their units. Awardees included Maj. Bruce Terry and David Waldron, Master Sgt. Donald B. Waterhouse, and Sgts. 1st Class Kenneth C. Byrd and Raymond H. Loyst Jr.

"The Order of Saint George Investiture gave the future

Armor officers in the Class of 2006 an insight into the unique characteristics of Armor and Cavalry at both the branch and individual level," said Lt. Col. Ronald J. Bashista, who presided over the ceremony. "The recipients of the Order of Saint George, as attested by their professional achievements, exemplify the

personal attributes that mark the Armor leader as a bold, decisive warrior."

The Order of Saint George Banquet is one of several events designed by the West Point Armor/Cavalry community to welcome first-class cadets who will be commissioned as Armor lieutenants at the end of May.



Lt. Col. Ronald Bashista (back left with sabre) initiates Maj. David Waldron into the Order of Saint George during the Armor Branch banquet in the Cadet Mess Hall's regimental room Jan. 25. Capt. Wes Young (front left) observes the proceedings. Other awardees were Maj. Bruce Terry (sitting), Master Sgt. Donald B. Waterhouse and Sgts. 1st Class Kenneth C. Byrd and Raymond H. Loyst Jr.

PHOTO BY VIN GUARIGLIA/DOIM

"When my classmates and I graduated back in 1995," said banquet coordinator Maj. Steven N. Cho, "we had no venue in which to interact with senior members of the Armor Community. We plan to make the event an annual tradition so that each graduating class of new Armor lieutenants understands how important they are to the future of our Army."

The banquet made a strong impression upon cadets eagerly anticipating service to the Army as Armor and Cavalry Officers.

Cadet 1st Class Drew Williams

was particularly impressed.

"When I first walked in and saw all of the Stetsons and spurs, I knew I picked the right branch," Williams said. "You could feel that the banquet was packed full of warfighters and the Order of Saint George banquet had the added feeling of a 'can do' anything attitude. I will be proud to develop that attitude as I receive my commission into the Armor Branch."

The next event for cadets branching Armor is Post Selection Night Feb. 23.

U. S. Military Academy Band
West Point, New York
Experience the Music!!!

Jazz Knights with
Drummer Billy
Cobham

February 10th, 8:00 p.m.
Eisenhower Hall Theatre

Billy Cobham



West Point Tuba
Quartet

February 12th, 3:00 p.m.
West Point Jewish Chapel



Free and Open to the Public

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

Viva! Las Vegas Night Feb. 24

By Karen Govern
West Point Wives Club

Viva! Las Vegas Night thunders back into town with more fun and excitement than ever, starting at 7 p.m. through midnight Feb. 24 at the Thayer Hotel.

This event is West Point Women's Club's annual fundraiser to support the West Point community. Events will include: games of chance, such as bingo, poker, craps and blackjack; a silent auction (the highlight of which are themed gift baskets donated by USMA departments); a live auction; a gift shop; "Liberace's" Closet; a Day Spa and a spectacular live floor show.

Feel like a star yourself, and dress the part from a motorcycle fashion costume box, and have your picture taken on the Orange County Choppers "West Point Chopper."

There are some fabulous prizes to be won including two Southwest Airlines tickets to anywhere in the continental U.S., getaways at top hotels and resorts, Highland House Collectibles Polish Pottery, celebrity autographs and much, much more.

The grand prize is a state-

of-the-art television, donated by AAFES. Remember, you must be present to win.

All proceeds from this event go directly to the WPWC's welfare fund and will be returned to the community in the form of grants and scholarships. Last year alone, the Viva! Las Vegas Night raised nearly \$12,000 to benefit many community programs, such as the Boy and Girl Scout Troops, West Point Schools, James O'Neill High School, the West Point Bike Rodeo and the American Red Cross, to name a few.

As a Viva! Las Vegas guest you will be an instant winner of 15 percent off the regular cost, of the Thayer

Hotel's sumptuous Seafood Buffet. The buffet is open from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Pre-sale tickets are available for \$10. Tickets at the door will be \$12. Volunteer and cadet tickets are \$5 each.

For tickets, call Carol Sobiesk at 446-2611 or Vicky Wurzbach at 446-2649.

To volunteer, call Amy Yates at 446-2634.

For more information, contact Karen Govern at 446-5076.



Black and Gold awardees



KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

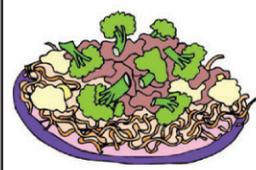
West Point community volunteers were presented Black and Gold Volunteer Awards Tuesday. They were: (Back row -- l to r) Cindy Palka, Kim Bourque, Lori Smith, presenter Lt. Gen. William J. Lennox Jr., Theresa Currie, Camey McGurk, Col. Joseph Myers and Lawrence Mansour. (Front row - l to r): Heidi Robbins, Robin Meyer, Sgt. Patrick Proutey, Melissa Rowse, presenter Anne Lennox, Sandy Blackman, Col. Robin Swope and Angela Senger.



Brig. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, Lt. Gen. William J. Lennox Jr., and Brig. Gen. Patrick Finnegan display their Viva! Las Vegas tickets while the superintendent shows off the Orange County Choppers "West Point Chopper." The OCC bike will be one of many attractions at the Feb. 24 fundraiser.

WPWC PHOTO BY MELANIE HALSTEAD

FEBRUARY MWR COMMUNITY CALENDAR Visit MWR online at www.usma.edu/mwr

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>ACS, bldg. 622 ♦ 938-4621 AEC, bldg. 683 ♦ 938-3762 Arts & Crafts, bldg. 648 ♦ 938-4812 Auto Crafts, bldg. 648 ♦ 938-2074 BSP/BOSS, bldg. 628 ♦ 938-6497 Bowling Ctr., bldg. 622 ♦ 938-2140 CDC, bldg. 1207 ♦ 938-4798/4523 CDS, bldg. 1207 ♦ 938-2092/2035 Community Rec Div ♦ 938-2401 Delafield Pond ♦ 938-5139/5158 Fitness Center, bldg. 683 ♦ 938-6490 Golf Course ♦ 938-2435/2327 Holleder Center ♦ 938-4236</p>	<p>ITR, bldg. 695 ♦ 938-3601/2401 AVC, bldg. 2104 ♦ 938-3655 Morgan Farm, bldg. 2036 ♦ 938-3926 Outdoor Rec ♦ 938-2503 Post Library, bldg. 622 ♦ 938-2974 Round Pond ♦ 938-2503/3860 School-Age Services, bldg. 1207 ♦ 938-8530 West Point Club, bldg. 603 ♦ 938-5120, 446-5506 Ski Lodge ♦ 938-3726/3727 Youth Services, bldg. 500 ♦ 938-3727 Veterinary Clinic, bldg. 630 ♦ 938-3817 PLEASE NOTE: For more information, contact the office listed for each activity.</p> 	<p>West Point Bowling Center Open Bowling: Sun.-1300-1800 Mon. 1600-2100 Tue. Closed Wed. & Thur. 1130-1900 Fri. 1130-2300 Sat. 0900-2300 Galactic Bowling: Every Fri. & Sat. 1700-2300 Home of Lil' Skeeters BBQ</p>	<p>3 Cycle Reebok, 0900, Cardio Lunch Express, 1200 (Every Friday at the MWR Fitness Center) </p>	<p>4 Staff & Faculty Ice Hockey, Tate Rink, 0615-0745 Youth Bowling, YS, 0900-1130 Defensive Driving, Held at AEC, Register at ITR, 0800-1500 </p>		
<p>5 Chinatown in NYC, ITR, 1000-1700 Yorktown Ski Meet, 0900-1200 Open Skate, Tate Rink, 1530-1700 BOSS Superbowl XL Party, BSP, 1800-2200 </p>	<p>6 Wee Ones Play Group, ACS, 0930-1100  '06 Summer Camp Applications, SAS, 0630, Current Patrons Only</p>	<p>7 Core Strength Pilates, 0900, Step, 1000, Yoga, 1630, Cardio Blast, 1700, Cycle Reebok, 1730, Butts & Guts, 1800, Every Tuesday at the MWR Fitness Center </p>	<p>8  Financial Readiness Training for 1st Term Soldiers, 0830, Anger Management, 1130, Financial Readiness, 0830, ACS Staff & Faculty Ice Hockey, Tate Rink, 2115-2245</p>	<p>9 Theater Van to Broadway, ITR, 1700-2330 Army Sponsorship Training, 0930, Targeting Stress, 1130, ACS </p>	<p>10 BOSS Valentine's Day Party, BSP, 2100  Sam Adams Beer Dinner & Live Jazz Entertainment, WP Club, 1800-2300</p>	<p>11 Staff & Faculty Ice Hockey, Tate Rink, 0615-0745 Youth Bowling, YS, 0900-1130 </p>
<p>12 Yorktown Ski Meet, 0900-1200 Sunday in NYC, ITR, 0900-1600 Open Skate, Tate Rink, 1530-1700 </p>	<p>13 Wee Ones Play Group, ACS, 0930-1100 Monday Night League, WP Bowl, 1800-2130 </p>	<p>14  Winter Story Hour, WP Library, 1000 & 1330 Preparation Briefing, ACS, 1400-1500 Volunteer Advisory Council Meeting, AVC, 1300-1400</p>	<p>15 Initial PCS Move, 1330, Checking Accounts Refresher, 1445, ACS </p>	<p>16 Overview of ACS, 0830, Financial Institutions, 0945, Targeting Stress, 1130, ACS  Family Night Buffet w/ Macaroni the Clown, WP Club, 1700-1900</p>	<p>17 Museums in NYC, ITR, 0900-1600 Mongolian BBQ, WP Club, 1700 </p>	<p>18 Staff & Faculty Ice Hockey, Tate Rink, 0615-0745 Youth Bowling, YS, 0900-1130 </p>

30 years celebration -- 2006 West Point Women's Conference

The U.S. Military Academy and the Association of Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy will host the 2006 West Point Women's Conference here April 27 to 29. The event is a commemoration of the 30 year anniversary of admitting women to the academy.

members, graduates and cadets and their guests are invited to attend and may register at www.west-point.org/usmawomen by clicking on the "conference registration" link. The registration fee is \$50 less for those who register before Feb. 15. The fee increases to \$150 (\$200 for guests) on Feb. 16.

The conference committee is also asking all USMA women graduates to participate in a graduate data collection project. Instructions and more information are available at the above Web site (the userid is usmawomen and the password is GoArmy).

The 2006 West Point Women's Conference was created to recognize and advance the U.S. Military Academy's progressive

contribution to the success of the All-Volunteer Force by celebrating the integration of women into the Corps of Cadets; recognizing the contribution women leaders are making to the Army Profession and the Nation; and planning for future contributions to an increasingly diverse Army and Nation.

For more information on the conference agenda, go to www.west-point.org/usmawomen. We

look forward to seeing you at this commemorative celebration.

Supes semi-annual brief cancelled

The Superintendent's semi-annual command interest briefing originally scheduled for Feb. 9 has been cancelled until further notice.

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

- Friday -- The Chronicles of Narnia, PG, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday -- Cheaper by the Dozen 2, PG, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday -- Rumor has it, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.
- Feb. 10 -- King Kong, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 11 -- Fun with Dick and Jane, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 11 -- Munich, R, 9:30 p.m.
- Feb. 17 -- Cheaper by the Dozen 2, PG, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 18 -- The Ringer, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 24 -- The Chronicles of Narnia, PG, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 25 -- Hoodwinked, PG, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 25 -- Hostel, R, 9:30 p.m.

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

Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

DPW Notes

Hazardous household products

All community members are reminded that hazardous household products, bulk items and organic waste must not be dumped anywhere on post.

If you are taking advantage of the new Drop 'N' Swap Program for hazardous items available at the Self Help Center, all items must be taken into the Center and not left at the door way or in the parking lot.

Items are being left at the door and these items create the potential of spilling and possibly polluting USMA's ground water supply.

Questions on how to properly dispose of these products should be addressed to the Environmental Management Division, 938-3224.

Housing projects

The Housing Division is currently planning several projects in response to some of the needs created by our recent extremely windy and wet weather.

First, all service orders submitted in the last six to 12 months reporting roof leaks and related roofing needs are being consolidated into a contract for execution.

Second, the roofs and siding on many buildings in Stony II were damaged during the high winds with shingles and vinyl siding being blown off. A project is being planned to replace the shingles and vinyl siding on all of the buildings in Stony II. This project will also most likely be a contract.

Third, at the suggestion of a community member through the Army's Interactive Customer Evaluation system, there is a project being planned to increase the size of the current trash enclosures in Stony II to better accommodate the mandatory recycling requirements.

Stony II is particularly vulnerable to high winds thus blowing trash containers and lids throughout the area. Individual residents affected by these planned projects will be contacted as the planning and contracting process continues.

All of these projects are pending funding availability and other higher priority projects.

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

At Your Leisure

MWR Blurbs

Polar Fest Feb. 25

Polar Fest 2006 returns to Victor Constant Ski Slope Feb. 25. A variety of recreational activities and competitions promise an entire day of fun for the whole family.

Pre-registration is available at the West Point Ski Sales Office.

For more information, call 938-3726.

BOSS Parties

BOSS is hosting a Super Bowl Party at Buffalo Soldier Pavilion Sunday. Doors open at 4 p.m. Come watch the game on our 62" HDTV.

BOSS is also hosting a

Valentines Party at BSP Feb. 10 from 9 p.m. until 1:30 a.m.

For more information on both events call Connie Woodley at 938-6497.

ACS sponsor classes

Receive the tips and tools necessary for effectively sponsoring a West Point newcomer Monday and Feb. 9 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in Bldg. 622.

This class is not affiliated with the cadet fourth class sponsorship program.

Advance sign-up is required.

Call 938-4621/2519 for more information.

School Age Services

2006 SAS summer camp applications will be taken for current patrons Monday until Feb. 17 and for all other users March 6 to 17, 6:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., at Building 1207. For more info., call 938-4458.

Redeployment briefing

A briefing for service members and their families who have returned from a deployment will be the second Thursday of every month from 4 to 5 p.m. at Bldg. 606.

Call 938-3441 for more information.

Command Channel 8/23

Feb. 3 - Feb. 10

FRIDAY

9 a.m. Army Newswatch

6 p.m. Army Newswatch

MONDAY - THURSDAY

9 a.m. Army Newswatch

6 p.m. Army Newswatch

Feb. 10

9 a.m. Army Newswatch

6 p.m. Army Newswatch

African American History Month events

By Maj. Chris Capozzi
WP EO Program Manager

The West Point Equal Opportunity Office would like to announce the following events that will be part of the observance of African American History Month during February.

The U.S. Corps of Cadets and the West Point Equal Opportunity Office will host the African American History Month variety show at Robinson Auditorium Feb. 10 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Come perform, or watch local talent take the stage. Free to cadets and members of the West Point community.

The U.S. Military Academy Band's Jazz Knights will hold a concert Feb. 10 at 7:30 in Eisenhower Hall. The concert will feature guest artist drummer Billy Cobham.

The concert is free and open to the public.

For concert information, cancellations and updates, call

the Academy Band's 24-hour hotline at (845) 938-2617; or visit them on the internet at <http://www.usma.edu/band>

For more information contact Cadet 1st Class Chonna Larry at 515-1269 or Capt. Kindra Paravecchia at 938-2494.

The 1st Bn./1st Inf. Dining Facility a.k.a "The Jungle" will hold an African American Food Sampling Feb. 22 from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Members of the West Point community are invited to sample traditional African American cuisine.

For more information contact Staff Sgt. Tony Williams at 938-2149.

Cultural displays of prominent African Americans and their contributions will be placed in Grant Hall, "The Jungle" and in the Jewish Chapel.

For more information contact the POC's listed, or the West Point Equal Opportunity Office at 938-2621.

Keller Corner

KACH closures

All outpatient clinics, laboratory, pharmacy and radiology will be closed Feb. 17 and 20.

The emergency room will remain open.

Tricare assistance

The Tricare Service Center will have a staff member available at KACH's front desk in the main lobby Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. until noon.

Sponsoring an incoming family

If you are sponsoring an incoming family, please ensure that they are informed about Tricare Prime if they intend to use Keller as their primary source of medical care. You can also refer them to the Tricare Service Center in Highland Falls so they can fully understand their options for health care. This is the only way to guarantee that they will have a primary doctor at Keller and to guarantee that they will be seen for routine medical care.

Patients who are not enrolled in Tricare Prime will be seen in the Primary Care and Speciality clinics on a space-available basis.

Care Coordination Team

The CCT is a multidisciplinary team of selected health care professions who assess and review the health care needs of referred high risk patients.

Referrals to CCT are voluntary and must accompany the verbal consent of the patients. The CCT provides a comprehensive approach to the patient's needs and renders recommendations.

For more information, call 938-6550.

Clinical breast study

Women ages 30 to 45 with military benefits are invited to participate in an ongoing clinical breast study. The study is intended to test a new non-invasive scanning device to identify women at risk for breast cancer.

You may participate once or on a yearly basis.

Contact Joyce Epstein-Ross for more information at 938-8387.

Her office is located on the KACH second floor in the OB/GYN clinic.

To schedule an appointment, call 938-7992.

What's Happening

DUSA

Employment opportunity DUSA Gift Shop sales associate. The position is part-time two days per week.

Call 446-0556 for more information.

Applications for DUSA community grants are due to Deb Dalton by Feb. 15.

For details on how to get and process your organization's application, call 446-4396 or e-mail ddalton@hvc.rr.com.

Early withdrawal from WPS

New regulations regarding student transfers have recently been announced by the N.Y./Va. Defense Education Activity superintendent's office.

Early withdrawal for students may now occur up to two weeks prior to the last instructional day.

The parent/sponsor must show their military orders to the school principal/ registrar validating the need.

The earliest a student can withdraw and receive credit for the full school year is May 25, 2006.

Church program

The Church of the Holy

Innocents in Highland Falls will host a series of informal discussions called Via Media that will explore the basics of Christian faith and Episcopal thought each Friday night from 7 to 9 p.m. from Feb. 17 until April 7.

The sessions will be at the church, which is located at 401 Main Street, Highland Falls, across from the West Point Visitor's Center. For more info., call 446-2197.

WPWC

The West Point Women's Club is accepting applications for Community Grants and individual educational scholarships for club members, high school seniors and undergrad students.

You can find these applications by going to www.shopthepoint.com, ACS WPWC Shoppe or by calling 446-2634. Applications are due by Feb. 27.

The WPWC Shoppe is open every Wed. from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information, call 446-8798.

WPWC has a party tent, table decorations and other party items to rent for your next event.

Call 446-1187 for a complete list of rental items.

Army and Community Sports

Cadets participate in annual fitness gauntlet

Story and photo by
Eric S. Bartelt
Assistant Editor

Exhausted cadets littered the hallways trying to catch a breath on the cold floor, seeking the closest available water fountain or rushing to the restroom or outside to expel their lunches.

It was the conclusion of a roaring three-to-five minute outburst of physical energy during the Indoor Obstacle Course Training held at Hayes Gym Jan. 23-27.

All four regiments, nearly 2,800 cadets, minus the plebes and winter varsity athletes, took part in the annual test of ultimate endurance for the Corps of Cadets.

Eleven obstacles stood between the start and finish lines as the cadets faced a more daunting challenge than their bi-yearly Army Physical Fitness Test.

"It's a very functional fitness test as opposed to what the APFT is to decide a minimum standard to stay in the Army," said Bart

"Woody" Woodworth, Department of Physical Education director of competitive sports. "Many of the components of this functional test you can see military application to it such as climbing in and out of windows, jumping up and down, being able to climb a rope, dealing with different movements and that's the biggest part of the fitness component (in the IOCT) which you don't get from the APFT -- movement."

When the cadets start their short-burst journey they begin with a "gator" low-crawl under an obstacle then move to a tire maneuver which then takes them to the two-handed vault. The course proceeds through various climbing techniques then continues to the hanging tires, balance beam, vertical wall, horizontal ladder, rope climb and finally finishes up on the Hayes Gym upper level track with one lap with a seven-pound ball, one lap with a baton and then a three-quarter sprint to end the gauntlet.

Many of the cadets found it to be a strenuous challenge and that it takes a lot to endure the fast and furious pace.

"It's all mental. If you've got the guts you can get through it and that's true in anything you do," said Cadet 2nd Class Nick Fiore, who also participates in Sandhurst. "Technique saves you a lot of time because if you're doing stuff the hard way it doesn't matter how strong you are ... but even with the best technique you can gain or lose most of your time in the last two running laps when you're the most tired, so it's all guts at the end."

Cadet 2nd Class Christian Cortez, a sprint football player, found the ability to get through objects such as the tires and balance beams easy due to the agility and footwork exercises that football offers. He also saw the obstacles as a good way to prepare for the Army.

"There's definitely a direct correlation to individual movement tactics where you have to move around and find the next obstacle to get yourself around," Cortez said. "These are obstacles you can find on any terrain and what's most beneficial is the ability to look at the object and be able to overcome it with whatever tactic you can use."

The IOCT has been a staple of the cadets' fitness well-being since the early 1900s, but many of the things that are done are applicable to the combat readiness of today's Soldier in the battlefield.

"This test was initially established to replicate what combat situations would be like such as going over walls, fences or crawling under objects, so there's relevance of how it can be perceived to be taken out of this environment and how a lieutenant can use it (on the battlefield)," said Maj. Daryl Collins, DPE IOCT testing officer. "We've had lieutenants that have been deployed and faculty members that have come back from Iraq and when they looked at this particular event, they've said that this is the most practical thing they've seen as far as physical testing that we give that relates to the military mission."

All cadets will do this course once a year while the plebes do the course during gymnastics class as a part of military movement. But no matter if you're a plebe, a firstie, an offensive linemen body-type or the

most petite of females the standard must be met by everyone.

For males the grading is an A and above for doing the course faster than 2:38 or a failure if it they take longer than 3:30. For females, it's completing the course in 3:35 or faster for an A and above or a failure at 5:30 or more. Despite the difficulty that many of the cadets face at any individual spot on the course or even the overall difficulty of the course, this is the one experience that all cadets will look back on with great pride of having completed.

"This is an awesome test for the cadets," Woodworth explained. "Cadets will always tell you or graduates of the academy that I've talked to said they always remembered the IOCT."

"It's one of those common corps experiences that everyone goes through and always remembers and I think it's a great fitness test for that reason," Woodworth added. "It's something everyone draws back too and it has direct military application for Soldiers out in the real world now."

Army Gymnastics

hosts
Air Force
tonight
at 6 p.m.
and Sunday
at 1 p.m.

Both meets
are at the
Lou Gross Center

2005-06 S & F NOONTIME BASKETBALL STANDINGS

NORTH DIVISION

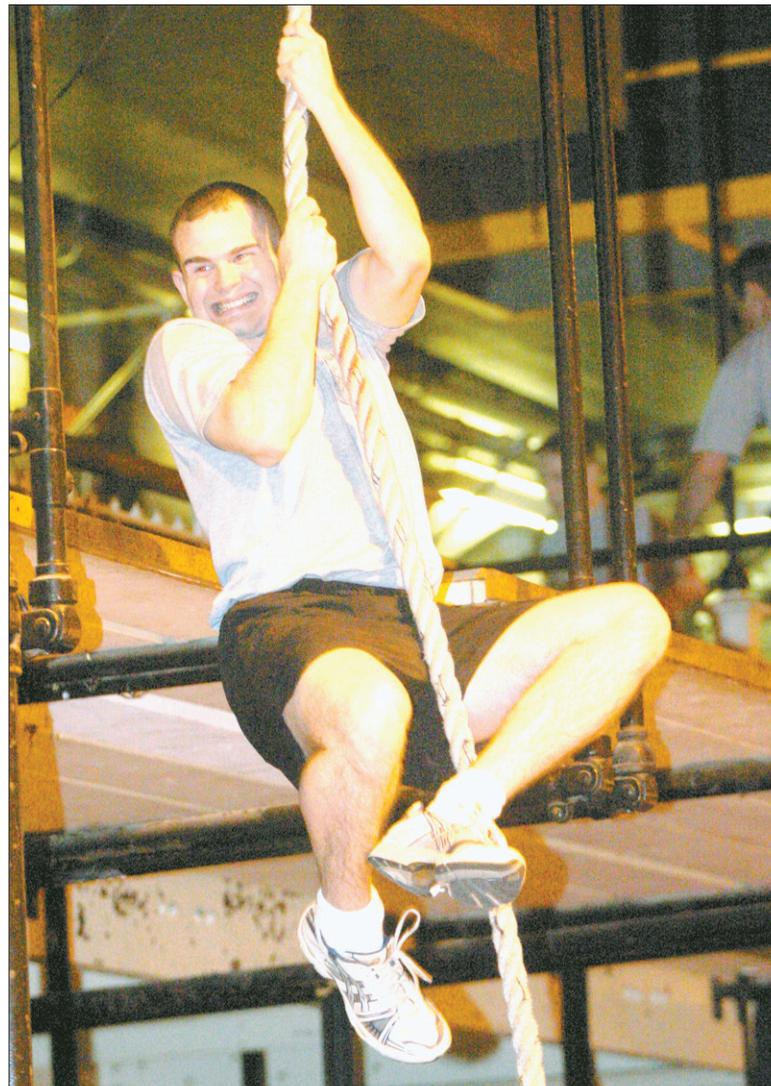
	W - L
C.P.D	18 - 0
DAD/ODIA	12 - 7
MEDDAC	7 - 11
DPW	7 - 12
DMI	3 - 17

SOUTH DIVISION

	W - L
SOC SCIENCE	15 - 2
BTD	10 - 7
BS&L	10 - 9
MATH	5 - 14
SYSTEM ENG	4 - 14

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W - L
SJA	17 - 2
PHYSICS	14 - 5
EE&CS	14 - 6
ENGLISH	9 - 10
BAND	8 - 10
GENE/DFL	6 - 15
D/LAW	6 - 13
HHC	3 - 18



A cadet works his way up the rope climb obstacle during annual Indoor Obstacle Course Training in Hayes Gym.