

POINTER VIEW

2008 ARMY
FOOTBALL
SCHEDULE,
(SIX HOME GAMES)
See Page 12

VOL. 65, NO. 3

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

JANUARY 25, 2008

RCI Town Hall meeting helps inform community

Story and photos by Jim Fox
Assistant Editor

Fifty community members attended the GMH Residential Communities Initiative Town Hall meeting Jan. 17 at the West Point Club. Dozens more viewed the briefing via simulcast on the Command Channel and submitted questions during the Q&A period from the comfort of their own homes -- thus avoiding the winter weather that evening.

West Point Garrison Commander, Col. Dan Bruno, along with officials from RCI partner, GMH Military Housing, explained the RCI process and gave residents an update on what had been done since the first town hall meeting held in October.

"We've tried to get more information out there on the Web site (www.westpointfamilyhousing.com) since October," Bruno explained. "Our residents are more educated now. They are asking great questions and specific questions. The difference, this meeting, was that (the GMH folks) had some specific answers for most of their questions."

Bruno said that questions raised in the Jan. 17 meeting would be answered and posted on the Web site by the end of the month. Questions and answers from the Oct. 2 THM are on the Web site.

"People want answers," Bruno explained. "We owe them a quick response."

GMH Director Rich Wagner admitted quite plainly that they don't have all the answers yet.

"We still want your input," he asked. "We want you to feel part of this process."

Some attendees stayed after the two-hour presentation to talk to the briefing officials.

"I get all my information from these Town Hall meetings," said MEDDAC Logistician Sgt. Allan Arroyo. "I feel like I'm being informed, but I'm just a little bit confused right now."

"They didn't answer my BAH question," the New Brick resident added. "That was my main concern. That's why I came here."

Arroyo was one of a group of residents who brought up specific questions about dual-military Basic Allowance for Housing. GMH officials attempted to answer each



Fifteen-month old Zander Duncan and mom, Melissa, were among the 50 community members who attended the GMH Residential Communities Initiative Town Hall meeting Jan. 17 to get more information about the RCI process and what will be coming in the future as the program progresses.

query, but later admitted that the circumstances were so diverse that the answers would be different for each. Expect the BAH answers to be a highly anticipated part of the

Q&A section on the Web site.

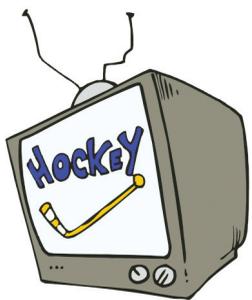
Some of the information presented included estimated demolition, renovation and construction dates for housing

areas around post.

■ Stony Lonesome I demolition currently is expected to happen from Feb. 2009 until March 2010.

See RCI, page 4

INSIDE



Army - Air Force Hockey
Fri. and Sun.
Men's and Women's
Basketball vs. Navy
Sun.

See TV Schedules, page 12

Troop, civilians must follow rules for political activities

By American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON -- As U.S. servicemembers and Defense Department civilians ponder candidates during the election season, they should realize there are limits placed upon their involvement in certain political activities.

Political-related "dos and don'ts" pertaining to military members of all service branches are proscribed within Defense Department Directive 1344.10, titled: Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty.

The federal Hatch Act delineates what federal civilians, including

those working for the Defense Department, may or may not do in the political realm.

For example, servicemembers and government civilians may attend political events like meetings and rallies, but military members must only be spectators and not wear their uniforms.

In addition, troops aren't permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity within political groups or take part in partisan political campaigns or conventions.

Under Hatch Act rules, government civilians may be active in and speak before political gatherings or serve as officers of political parties or partisan groups.

They're also allowed to manage political campaigns, distribute literature (except at work), write political articles or serve as spokespersons for political parties or candidates.

Military members generally aren't allowed to campaign for political office. Civilians can campaign for office in non-partisan elections. Partisan political activity is defined as activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party or candidate for a partisan political office or partisan political group.

Yet, basic rules apply to both military members and government civilians. Neither can use their position in the military or the

government to influence or interfere with elections. Servicemembers and federal civilians never can engage in political activity on the job, in a government vehicle, or while wearing an official uniform.

For example, servicemembers and government civilians are not to distribute political literature at work. This also applies to politically partisan electronic mail messages forwarded over the Internet.

Servicemembers and government civilians are encouraged to exercise their right to vote and participate in the democratic process. But, they should know there are rules in place that govern the extent of their involvement in political activities, officials said.

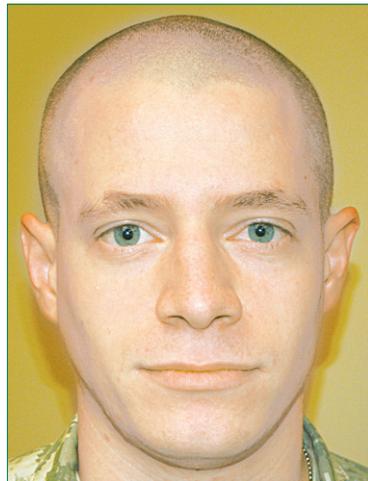
Your "Pointer" View

"If you were Superintendent for a day, what would you change at West Point?"



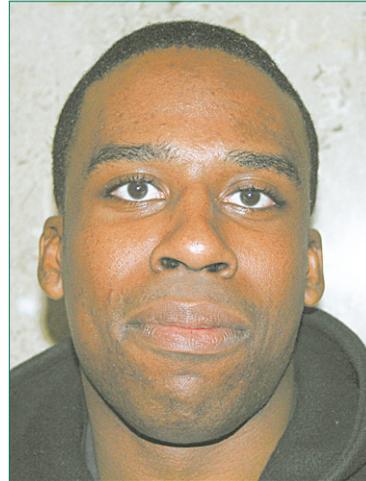
**Cadet 2nd Class
Theresa Todd
Norman, Okla.**

"Forget about tiger teams."



**Sgt. Vincent Wolterman
Strength Manager
Adjutant General
Brighton, Mich.**

"Install an NCO Club."



**Cadet 1st Class
Eric Wilson
Clarksville, Tenn.**

"I would promote greater equity in emphasis on sports -- in terms of funds -- especially for club and company sports."



**Lt. Col. John Willis
Systems Engineering
Assistant Professor and
Executive Officer
Smithfield, Va.**

"A new parking system: I would have the Plain paved and allow cadets to park there."



**Loretta Woody
Department Head Secretary
Department of History
Newburgh, N.Y.**

"I would make all on-post residents take the shuttle to work."

SAPR-P

The members of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program are Col. Jeanette McMahon, Shelley Ariosto [Garrison], Dan Toohey [Victim Advocate], Maj. Maria Burger [USCC], Maj. Kim Kawamoto [ODIA] and Lt. Col. Tasha Williams [Dean].

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

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

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

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

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

Difficulty: Hard

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

See Solution on Page 11

POINTER VIEW®

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Local and National News

West Point cadet dies in accident

WEST POINT, N.Y. -- A U.S. Military Academy cadet died over the weekend while on leave away from the academy.

Cadet Mitchel Tisdell, 21, of Littleton, Colo., a member of the class of 2009, was struck by a train and killed in Bethpage, Long Island, N.Y., Saturday. The accident is under investigation.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the Tisdell family during this difficult time," said Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty, U.S. Military Academy Director of Communications, Public Affairs.

Tisdell was a cadet in good standing and was active in many organizations and club sports to include the strength team, the German language club and the fishing club.

The U.S. Corps of Cadets held a taps vigil Tuesday and the West Point community held a memorial service Wednesday in the Cadet Chapel.



**Cadet 2nd Class
Mitchel Tisdell**

Corrections

Due to reporting errors in the Jan. 18 issue of the *Pointer* View the West Point Tax Center OIC was misidentified in a story on Page 1. His correct name is Capt. Lev Jacoby. On page 7, seven-year-old Youth Services Fine Arts entrant Noah Van Atta was also misidentified in a photo.

Military absentee voting 'primary' concern for Federal Voting Assistance Program

By John J. Kruzel
American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- For the Federal Voting Assistance Program, getting deployed troops and their Families engaged in the current election season is a primary goal.

Ahead of the November general election, FVAP, which fosters voting participation by uniformed and U.S. citizens abroad, is assisting eligible absentee voters who wish to cast ballots in their

states' primary election.

"It's important that voters participate in the upcoming primary elections," said Polli Brunelli, the program's chief. "We have over 20 primaries occurring in February, so now is the time, if you've received your ballot, to vote and get it back by the state deadlines."

During an interview Saturday, Brunelli said registering to vote is a simple process.

"Absentee voters fill out a federal postcard application form to request a ballot, send it into their local election official where the voter is legally authorized to vote," she said.

The ballot will be sent to the voter, who then votes on the ballot and sends it back to the local election office.

Paper copies of the application form are available at military installations, embassies and consulates and from organizations of overseas citizens. Electronic forms are posted online at the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site, www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefwab.html.

Citizens using this form should vote and submit it immediately using regular mail or, where allowed by state law, by fax or e-mail, to their local election officials.

The FVAP's Integrated Voting Alternative Site at www.fvap.gov/ivas/fvap_state_menu.html shows citizens if fax or e-mail alternatives are permitted in their home state.

West Point's voting assistance officer is Sgt. 1st Class John Castillo. He can be reached at 938-8450. Or for information specific to your state, go to the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site at www.fvap.gov.

FVAP carries out the responsibilities of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, which protects the voting rights of active-duty military members, Merchant Marines, eligible Family members and

TSP TICKER

January changes [as of 1/23]

C FUND	- 8.76 percent
I FUND	- 13.37 percent
S FUND	- 9.85 percent

citizens residing outside the United States.

Members of the U.S. armed forces traditionally represent an active component of overall voting-age Americans.

The total voting participation rate among servicemembers was 79 percent in 2004, compared to the 64 percent rate of the general public, according to figures published by FVAP.

In a memorandum to military secretaries and top commanders sent Nov. 26, 2007, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates underscored the importance of extending voting rights to servicemembers at home and abroad.

"With the calendar of primary elections beginning early and stretching through September 2008," Gates said, "it is important that the department and the services be prepared to carry out the voting assistance mission to inform and educate U.S. citizens of the right to vote, foster voting participation, and protect the integrity of the electoral process."

"Voting is both a right and a responsibility of citizens in our country," Gates continued. "(Leaders of the armed services must) do everything we can to encourage participation and ensure that our servicemembers and Families are able to exercise their right to vote and have that vote counted."



Lean Six Sigma green belt helps library Special Collections

By Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

Lean Six Sigma, the Army's Global Business Transformation initiative helps improve quality, cost and speed of operations and processes, has firmly taken root at the U.S. Military Academy.

West Point currently has 90 trained people who are either green or black belts. Belts are determined by the timeliness and cost savings/avoidance of a project, and recently three of the belt trainees have completed their projects and have become certified belts.

The first Black Belt course started last January, while the first Green Belt course began last February and West Point is starting to reap the benefits of this LSS training. Receiving a

belt certification means that the persons doing the LSS project have completed the classroom portion (two weeks for Green Belts and four weeks for Black Belts), practiced what they've learned and have completed a project.

"We've certified three belts (two black, one green) and our total cost avoidance with these three projects is estimated at \$2.8 million," said Lt. Col. John Zsido, USMA Transformation Office and Lean Six Sigma deployment director. "Where cost savings is real dollars, cost avoidance is money you might have spent or you have had to budget in the out years, but now you don't because you have become more efficient and avoided a cost."

Once projects are completed, according to Zsido, the Directorate

of Resource Management looks at the projects and validates the financial metrics, the Transformation Office checks for accuracy and thoroughness in applying the Lean Six Sigma methodology, and it's then sent to the Deputy Undersecretary of the Army for Business Transformation, who reviews the projects and certifies them.

The three projects completed at West Point were by Maj. Steve Hanson (DRM), Lt. Col. Stephen Houston (USCC) and Donna Bailey (USMA Library). Hanson worked on the Cadet Ration Fund and received his black belt certification; Houston delved into the Cadet Laundry System and also received his black belt certification while Bailey, who became the first certified green belt at West



Point, strived to get nearly 4,600 unaccounted books in the library's special collections section into the online cataloging system.

"Initially, we thought there were 10,000 books and as part of the Lean Six Sigma project we realized there's about 4,600 books that were not in the system," said Bailey, Associate Director for the Materials Processing Division of the library. "So the project was to identify the books that needed to be cataloged and then make a plan to efficiently get them cataloged by the summer before we move (into Jefferson Hall)."

Bailey's project started in July and had six other team members, all from the Materials Processing Division, who physically went to the Special Collections area of the library to count the books and see how many were or weren't cataloged.

From July through September, the group counted all the books and then in October the group, reinforced by two more people, went into production-mode to meet their goal of having everything fully cataloged online within their six-month, time period.

Lean Six Sigma is done in five phases: define, measure, analyze, improve and control; and after Bailey finished all her measurements, assessments and such, she determined it would take six months to complete the project which coincided well with the library's move into Jefferson Hall for the 2008 fall semester.

"This project was essential to allow us to track the material," said Joseph Barth, USMA Library Director. "It makes us accountable for the ownership of the material, so when we move we make sure

nothing gets lost because, if (the material) is not cataloged, there's no way to track them."

Bailey said, for example, that if they saw a row of 20 books on a shelf that they would count 20, but the catalog would only have 12 accounted for, so the process is to identify the eight books and then get them cataloged online.

While the library's MPD does the acquisitions, cataloging and bindery of books, the items in question were part of SC and came in before the library had an online catalog system, so going back to as far as the 1980s most of these books weren't cataloged in special collections.

"Special collections are rare books, books that have to do with West Point, books written by graduates of West Point or local interest books of high value that are on a closed stack," Barth said. "The books are safe and aren't going anywhere, but unless they're online the cadets don't know they are there."

"The Materials Processing Division is only two years old and Donna is bringing it together in a process center way of doing business," he added. "This cataloging project is an oversight that we're correcting and Lean Six Sigma has provided us with this opportunity."

Bailey credits Lean Six Sigma with helping with communication among the six administrative divisions within the library, since it was probably due to that lack of communication that led to the stacks and stacks of unaccounted for books.

"It wasn't uncommon for Special Collections to go out and buy books without telling us and put them on the shelf with the idea that they would get to cataloging them someday," Barth explained. "But they never did."

Barth commended Bailey for volunteering for the project that helped the library's cost avoidance to the tune of \$56,000, and the LSS project will end up benefitting the library and the academy, especially the cadets, and staff and faculty, who may need these books for research purposes.

"I'm very grateful to Donna for taking the initiative to do this because she didn't have to do any of it. She took it upon herself (with the help of staff)," Barth said.

RCI, cont. from page 1

■ New construction in Stony I is slated from Aug. 2008 until June 2010.

■ Renovations across post are scheduled from Nov. 2008 until June 2016.

"We still don't have detailed demolition and renovation schedules yet," Wagner said.

Some of the information Wagner said they need to help them put the schedules together included PCS and retirement information from residents.

He added that the eight-year "Initial Development Period will be a time of change. Some people will have to move. That's inevitable."

Currently there are 964 sets of quarters on West Point. RCI will bring that number down to 824, which is roughly 200 more than what the Army originally had slated for West Point.

Wagner credited Bruno with

successfully presenting West Point's case and getting approval for 824 units.

"All ranks took a hit," Wagner said. "(Everyone) took a reduction in terms of absolute numbers. Junior NCOs did best in all this because they would have the most difficulty finding affordable housing off-post."

Another point of concern was the annual housing draw, which will still happen, but will be somewhat different. Details are still being worked out.

One of the most popular discussion points was the possible amenities that GMH could build over the 50-year life of the partnership. They included proposed sites for a community pool, two community centers and an athletics complex.

Geography and Environmental Engineering instructor Maj. Mindy

Kimball was also in attendance and asked several pointed questions about how the renovations and new construction would affect the environment.

"Are they going to use different ways of conserving water or lighting the houses?" the Stony I resident asked. "Build it the right way from the start. It will save taxpayer money."

"Everyone is excited about the pool. So you want a pool. Okay, conserve," she added.

As the transition toward private operations, which begin July 1, 2008, move forward, the information flow from GMH to residents will continue to increase, according to RCI Manager Mike Colacicco.

"We are going to have more Town Hall Meetings as we move toward the transition," he added.

The next THM is expected to be before Spring Break in mid-March.

For more information contact:

■ GMH Director Rich Wagner at 446-6407 or rwagner@gmh-inc.com

■ GMH Community Manager Shari Roosa at 446-6407 or sroosa@gmh-inc.com

■ RCI Manager Mike Colacicco 938-5948 or michael.colacicco@usma.edu

■ RCI Community Relations Specialist Eileen Kaczkin at 938-2500 or eileen.kaczkin@usma.edu

The GMH Web site is www.westpointfamilyhousing.com.



Community members Janet Suchan, (left) JoAnna Sperling, Maureen Batchelder and Jerrilynn Sheffler received coins from Garrison Commander Col. Dan Bruno in recognition of their help with the RCI focus groups.

And the limerick winners are ...

1st Place

2 Tickets to the Sunday
Army - Air Force Hockey
Game

Lorrie Swab,
West Point

There once was a skating
Black Knight
Who never backed down
from a fight
When a tough Falcon
decked him
He hauled off and checked
him
And sent him on a new type
of "flight."

2nd Place

\$20 Gift Certificate
from Grant Hall

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Bob Lenz,
USMA '67

There once was a school
trained jet jockey
Who tried learning how to
play hockey
When he stepped on
Knight's ice
He slipped to big losses
twice
And when he left he wasn't
so cocky.

3rd Place

\$10 Gift Certificate
from Grant Hall

The Jason and Shannon
Palmer Family,
West Point

Awesome boys we have on
our team
Skating around the rink full
steam
Come cheer, take a look
Get your nose outta your
book
Watch Army against Air
Force gleam!

The ticket winner can pick up her tickets at Will Call at the Army Ticket Office at Holleder Center.

Gift certificate winners need to call Jim Fox at 938-8365 or contact him via e-mail at Jim.Fox@usma.edu.

West Point AOG e-mail switches addresses

The West Point Association of Graduates
is switching to new e-mail addresses.

Old e-mail address -- xy1234@usma.edu

New e-mail address -- john.doe@wpaog.org.

LEAN SIX cont. from page 4

As for West Point as a whole, Zsido estimates that 15-to-18 more projects may be completed by the end of this academic year.

"(LSS/Business Transformation) is progressing slower than I expected, but I'm happy with the results," Zsido said. "I'm very optimistic that we will complete these projects and everyone will see that the Lean Six Sigma methodology does work and it can improve our effectiveness and efficiency."

Zsido's true goal is trying to get West Point to become self-sustaining with Lean Six Sigma, which would require some of its black belts to become master black belts, certifying them to teach green or black belt courses.

"Now we're in a position where we can send our black belts to the master black belt course to get them certified by completing coursework and green belt co-teaching, and then West Point can become self-sustaining," Zsido stated. "Once we're self-sustaining, we'll really realize some efficiencies because we can train as many people as we can fit and have time to get into these courses. Then, we would have truly changed the culture once we're growing our own green belts

and black belts."

Thursday through Feb. 4, the West Point Business Transformation Office will oversee participate in a campaign planning meeting off-site to establish the major objectives of West Point's strategy.

"One outcome will be project ideas and project opportunities that would directly align projects to West Point's strategy," Zsido remarked. "I'm encouraged by the superintendent's effort to conduct the campaign planning (Army's way of carrying out its mission and vision to developing objectives and goals for the long term) and that we will identify where the gaps are or where we need to make improvements. Therein lies the future (LSS) projects."

Community Features and Photos

Proper handling and display of the *Stars and Stripes*

Compiled by Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

Most of us casually glance at the United States flag nearly every day without giving it much thought and many of us know how to show the proper respect for the flag. We may not realize, however, that the American flag's simple design belies the significance of the various symbols inherent in the flag or the rules and regulations of proper flag etiquette.

The red and white stripes on the flag represent the original 13 colonies. The red stripes signify blood spilled in fighting for independence and other wars fought, including the Global War on Terrorism. The white stripes signify courage. The stars on the blue background are called the Union and represent the number of states in the U.S. When a state is admitted to the union, another star is added.

Here are some terms about the parts of a flag:

■ **Hoist:** Describes the height of the flag, while flying, or the edge of the flag that is attached to the flagpole or staff.

■ **Fly:** The fly is the edge opposite the hoist end and furthest from the flagpole. It is the part of the flag that flaps in the wind.

■ **Canton:** The canton is found in the upper left-hand corner of a flag or the top inner corner of a flag.

■ **Field:** The section of the flag between the hoist and the fly ends is called the field or the ground.

■ **Halyard:** A halyard is a rope or cable used to raise and lower a flag on a flagpole.

There are a number of rules and regulations on the proper way to show respect for the flag, according to the United States Flag Code 36 USC 10, such as the proper placement of the U.S. flag, if flown with other flags, and the proper way of hoisting or lowering the flag.

It is customary to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open. The flag may be displayed outside 24 hours a day if it is properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

Other rules and customs include:

■ Hoist the flag briskly and

lowered ceremoniously and never let it touch the ground.

■ Do not drape the flag over the hood, top, sides or back of a vehicle or the back of a train or boat. If it is displayed on a car, the staff needs to be firmly fixed to the chassis or clamped to the right fender.

■ Do not display the flag with the union down except as a signal of dire distress in the cases of extreme danger to life or property.

■ The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner. It should not be embroidered on articles such as cushions or handkerchiefs, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discarded.

■ Whenever the *National Anthem*, *Hail to the Chief*, *Reveille*, *Retreat* and *To the Colors* are played, all dismounted personnel in uniform who are not in formation should face the flag, or, if the flag can't be seen, face the music, stand at attention and render a hand salute.

Those not in uniform will stand at attention facing the flag, remove any headdress with the right hand and place the right hand over the heart.

■ Vehicles in motion should stop. If you are riding in a bus or a military vehicle, everyone should stay seated and sit at attention in the vehicle, while the person in charge of the vehicle should exit the vehicle and render the hand salute.

■ When reciting the *Pledge of Allegiance*, military personnel should salute. Civilians should stand at attention and place the right hand over the heart.

■ The U.S. flag should always be at the center and the highest of the group when a number of flags of States, localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

Flags are also flown during federal holidays such as Martin Luther King Day, Independence Day and New Years Day.

Flags are flown at half-staff by the order of the President after the death of a principal figure of the U.S. Government, or ordered by the governor of the state in the event of the death of a present or former official of the state, according to www.ushistory.org/betsy/flaquetiq.html.

www.ushistory.org/betsy/flaquetiq.html.

The half-staff flying is a symbol of mourning and shows respect for the death of those important to America. There are a number of rules regarding the length of time the flag remains at half-staff, depending on the rank or position of the deceased, e.g. a past president, a senator, etc.

At West Point, the flag is flown at half-staff for the duration of the memorial and funeral services for any military funeral.

Flags throughout the country are also flown at half-staff on Memorial Day as a show of respect for all members of the armed services who have passed, May 15,

(Peace Officers Memorial Day), Sept. 11 and Dec. 7 as a show of respect for those who were killed at Pearl Harbor for all or some portion of the day, for example. The rules on how long the flag remains at half-staff also vary by day.

Despite what you may have heard otherwise, flags that have touched the ground do not need to be destroyed, but should be cleaned. When a flag cannot be cleaned or cannot be repaired, it should be destroyed by burning. Local American Legions and Veterans of Foreign War's chapters usually accept discarded flags that need to be discarded and will dispose of them properly.

Contact your local chapter of

either of these organizations if you have questions about what they do.

A service flag is used by members of the immediate family of a person or organization who is serving in the Armed Forces in the United States during any period of war or hostilities and is generally hung in a window.

The service lapel button is also worn by family members of a person serving in the armed forces during hostilities and war.

(Editor's Note: Info. compiled from www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/FAQ/serviceflagfactsheet.htm and <http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flaquetiq.html>.)

2006 Howitzer yearbook honored by Printing Industries of America

By Linda Mastin
Editor

The 2006 Howitzer yearbook and the Directorate of Cadet Activities Publications personnel, Anne Caliendo, Cadet Publications Advisor, and Evangeline Hager, Publications Assistant, were honored recently by the Printing Industries of America, receiving a Certificate of Merit as one of the submissions for the Premier Print Awards by Jostens, the yearbook publisher.

The PIA Premier Print Awards are the world's largest and most prestigious international publishing competition, according to Rick Brooks, the Northeast Creative Design Manager for Jostens Printing and Publishing.

Begun in 1950 as the Graphics Arts Awards Competition, the program attracts entries from companies in North America, South America, Asia, Europe and the Pacific Rim and featured 13 winners this year in the yearbook category; from more than 100 entries received from all yearbook publishers. The 2006 Howitzer was one of 125 entries in the yearbook category and one of 21 books submitted by Jostens for the judging from all its printing facilities.

Since Jostens publishes thousands of yearbooks annually, just being one of its submissions was an honor, Brooks said.

Jostens received nine of the 13 awards for the 2007 competition, including the only two Awards of

Recognition in the School Yearbook Category. West Point received a Certificate of Merit, which is considered a second place award and is for both the school and for the printer.

Twelve professional judges from large publishing firms, advertising agencies and professional publications critiqued all the entries with criteria that are based solely on the look of the publication (the quality of photography, design, printing and binding).

The DCA staff for the 2006 Howitzer includes Caliendo and Hager and the cadet leadership was current 1st Lts. Joyce Charisse Loudon, Brigade Publications Officer, and Thomas Berry and Jerry Drew, Howitzer Editors-In-Chief with a staff of approximately 15 cadets.



The 2008 Howitzer staff show off the 2006 Cadet Howitzer yearbook and the PIA award. They are (standing from left) Anne Caliendo, Cadet Publications Advisor, Cadets 1st Class Vince Wiggins, Justin Sparks, Joel Duque-Estrada, Joe Simmons and Evangeline Hager, Publications Assistant, and on the floor is Cadet 2nd Class Aaron Devig. PHOTO BY CADET 3RD CLASS YO LI/HOWITZER

Chatting across Continents: History goes "Live"

By Maj. Ray Kimball
Center for
Company-Level Leaders

"Can you tell me some reasons for nationalism?"

"It creates a sense of identity that fosters unity."

"When you feel your identity isn't recognized."

"To create a sense of opposition against foreigners."

Any history teacher would love to have this type of exchange among students. What makes this particular conversation all the more remarkable is that it took place across three time zones and among students from four different countries.

For the past two months, 24 of the top students in the Plebe Western Civilization course here have been

participating in a pilot program that allows them to have these kinds of conversations routinely. "Learning@West Point" is a cutting-edge educational program that blends intellectual rigor with leading technologies to create an environment that allows students to bridge cultural barriers while wrestling with complex historical questions.

During their live sessions, the cadets communicate online, via both Internet chat and 3D virtual worlds, with European students of a comparable age to discuss questions relating to the role of nationalism in European History.

The cadets also have the opportunity to continue the conversation outside of class in a specially prepared on-line forum. The other participating countries



Cadets 4th Class Eric Schweppe and Martin Lee (foreground) take part in Learning@West Point. PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS ROGER JONES/PAO NCOIC

in the program are Poland, Latvia, Italy, France and the United Kingdom. All sessions are held in English.

Although this program has been running as a pilot in Europe for a few years, West Point is the first American school to participate in the program.

The experience is hosted by

a European consortium (www.learningateurope.net) that was created to help teach history from a European perspective and has been running programs there for the last few years. After seeing their presentation, the Center for Company-level Leaders (a USMA organization with a mission of exploring new and innovative methods of online learning) asked "Learning@Europe" to come up with a similar program for cadets.

The Department of History agreed to have cadets from one of its courses participate, the International Academic Affairs Division funded the program as part of its mandate to encourage cultural immersion among cadets, and the Center for Teaching Excellence provided assessors to help evaluate the program's impact. The result is

a new and exciting way for cadets to interact internationally with their peers and get a different perspective on how others view history.

The cadets will finish the program by conducting interviews among their peers about the impact of certain national symbols and events, as well as writing about how wars have shaped American nationalism. They will then integrate their answers with those provided by their international teammates in the online forums and present their work in a final session.

The lessons learned by cadets in this environment will go well beyond historical fact and analysis. The insights they gain while working and collaborating with peers of other nationalities will serve them well in their future service on known and unknown battlefields.

Community Leisure

What's Happening

Family Bingo Night

Sacred Heart School in Highland Falls invites the community to attend "Family Bingo Night," tonight. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and calling begins at 7 p.m.

Adults can win cash and children can win their choice from a prize table. Pizza, drinks and snacks will be available for purchase. Call 446-2674 for more information.

WPWC Gift Shoppe

The West Point Women's Club Gift Shoppe, located down from Subway, will be open Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Call 446-2950 for more information.

Protestant Sunday School

The West Point Protestant Sunday School program is a community-wide chapel program that is a well-established ministry to our community.

The cadets lead the Sunday School classes ranging from Pre-K to senior high. We also offer three adult/cadet classes.

All classes take place on the third floor of Thayer Hall (Hudson River side) from 9 to 10 a.m. beginning Sunday.

For more info., contact Chaplain Paige K. Heard, 938-3412, *paige.heard@usma.edu*.

CAC meeting Monday

The next Community Action Council meeting is Monday at 9:30 a.m., at the Jewish Chapel.

The West Point community is invited to attend.

Dinner Dance

The Maj. Gen. Irene Trowell-Harris Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. with support of the men and women of the 105th Airlift Wing will present the 10th annual Tuition Assistance Dinner Dance Feb. 2 at Anthony's Pier 9 in New Windsor, N.Y. For ticket info., e-mail *TAI_NY@hotmail.com* or call (845) 838-7848.

Mandatory civilian training

Feb. 4 -- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Training, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Eisenhower Hall.

FAST classes in Feb.

The Army Education Center is offering a Functional Academic

Skills Training (FAST) from Feb. 4 to 25 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., at the Education Center.

The course is designed to help Soldiers raise their General Technical score on the Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT).

The class needs a minimum enrollment of eight Soldiers.

Prayer Breakfast

A National Prayer Breakfast will be held Feb. 6 from 6 to 7:20 a.m. at the West Point Club. The guest speaker will be Chief of Chaplains Maj. Gen. Doug Carver.

For more info., call 938-3412/2003/3316.

Book signing

Authors Gabriel Costa and John T. Saccoman will be available to sign their book "Understanding Sabermetrics," Feb. 7 from 10:15 a.m. until 12:15 p.m., at the USMA Bookstore, located on Thayer Hall's fourth floor.

DUSA grant applications

The West Point Chapter of the Daughters of the United States Army is pleased to announce that the 2008 Community Welfare Grant Season will run until Feb. 15.

Any organization wishing to apply for a grant must complete a 2008 Community Grant Application and return it postmarked by Feb. 15, 2008.

Applications are available at the DUSA Gift shop located in the West Point Museum.

DUSA Gift Shop sale

The DUSA Gift Shop at the West Point Museum is having a Customer Appreciation Sale open to all visitors from Feb. 4 to 6.

This is a nice opportunity to get those items you've been eyeing at 30 percent off.

Garrison Awards ceremony

Everyone is cordially invited to attend the Garrison Awards Ceremony Feb. 13 at 2 p.m., at Eisenhower Hall's, Crest Hall.

AER scholarship program

The Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program is for dependent children of active, retired and deceased Soldiers.

The program offers scholarships based on financial need, academics and leadership/achievement.

Applications for the 2008-2009 scholarship and the Stateside Spouse Education Assistance Program are available on the AER Web site www.aerhq.org through March 1, 2008.

To be eligible, applicants must maintain a cumulative GPA of a 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale and be full-time students.

WPWC

Applications are now available for scholarships and community grants offered by the West Point Women's Club.

Pick up copies at the WPWC shop, ACS, or visit the Web site: www.shopthepoint.com.

Applications are due Feb. 29, 2008.

Viva! Las Vegas Night

The West Point Women's Club will host their annual fund raiser, Viva! Las Vegas Night, Feb. 22 from 7 p.m. until midnight at the Thayer Hotel.

VII Corps Reunion

The 17th Annual Memorial Ceremony and Reunion Dinner for the VII Corps Desert Storm Veterans Association will be held Feb. 23 at the Fort Myer Officers' Club, Fort Myer, Va.

R.S.V.P. by Feb. 18 to Hoa McNabb at (703) 562-4163 or VIIICorpsDSVA@aol.com.

Military Council of Catholic Women

Nationally renowned speaker Christopher West is coming to West Point Feb. 26 to discuss "Theology of the Body."

Adults, teens and cadets are invited. Join us at 7 p.m., in Robinson Auditorium.

Supé's semi-annual briefing

The Superintendent's Annual Command Interest Briefing is scheduled for Feb. 28, from 12:50 to 1:50 p.m., in Thayer Hall, Robinson Auditorium.

This briefing is mandatory for all officers, all non-commissioned officers (SFC and above) and civilian employees (GS-9 and above).

Others who wish to attend should

coordinate with their activities. All personnel must be seated by 12:45 p.m. The Command Interest Brief will be broadcast live on the Command Channel for the West Point Community to view.

In addition, it will be rebroadcast March 3, at 1 p.m., and March 4 at 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

West Point Museum

Looking for something to do on those cold winter days?

Why not stop by the West Point Museum. Stroll through six very distinctive galleries, covering ancient and medieval warfare to modern warfare. During your visit you will have the opportunity to see Bronze Age weapons and a suit of German armor.

MWR Blurbs

Membership Appreciation Night

Winter Pig Roast at the West Point Club tonight from 5 to 8 p.m. Free Buffet for all Club members.

No charge for Families with a deployed Spouse. There will be drawings for prizes.

For more info., call 938-5120.

Polar Fest

The 2008 Polar Fest returns to the West Point Ski Area Feb. 23 from Noon until 9 p.m. Bring the whole family for a day of downhill races, kids' crafts, a pig roast, a live band and more.

Tickets go on sale Feb. 1 at the Ski Sales Office.

There will be free admission to Families of deployed Soldiers.

For more info, go to westpointmwr.com.

Defensive Driving class

The next Defensive Driving Class will be held Feb. 2, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Building 622 (ACS). Register at ITR by calling 938-2401/3601.

Right Arm Night

Spread a little social charm, extend your right arm for Right Arm Night -- every last Thursday of the month at 4:30 p.m., at the West Point Club's Benny Haven's Lounge.

This after duty hours social is open to all departments and directorates.

NYC food tour

Join ITR Feb. 2 for an International Food Tour of four of the different boroughs of New York City.

The tour leaves West Point at 10 a.m., and returns from NYC at 5 p.m.

For more info., call 938-3601.

BOSS Super Bowl party

BOSS (Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers) is hosting a Superbowl Party at the newly renovated Buffalo Soldier Pavilion Feb. 3.

Watch the big game on two 62" TVs. The party will begin at 4 p.m. until late.

For info., call 938-2445.

AFAP Commander's Steering Committee meeting

The Army Family Action Plan Commander's Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Feb. 5 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., in the Jewish Chapel.

This meeting is open to members of the West Point Community.

The AFAP Commander's Steering Committee will review new AFAP issues derived from the 2007 West Point AFAP Conference

and, additionally, receive updates on outstanding local AFAP issues.

For information on AFAP, please contact Jennifer Pagio at 938-3655.

Upcoming ACS classes

The ACS Employment Readiness Program has two classes coming in February. "How to put together a Federal Resume," Feb. 6 from 2 to 3 p.m., and "Interviewing Tips & Dress for Success," Feb. 7 from 2 to 3 p.m., in the ACS Training Room. Registration required by Feb. 1, by calling (845) 248-4719.

Sam Adams Night

Samuel Adams Beer Dinner & Dancing will be held Feb. 8 at the West Point Club from 6 to 10 p.m.

Each course will be paired with a different hand-crafted Samuel Adams beer selection.

Reservations required. For more info., call 938-5120.

FCC needs child-care providers

Family Child Care is looking for high quality child-care providers to provide child care in their government quarters for authorized family members of children from four weeks to 12 years of age.

Call 938-3921 for more information and to begin training.

Tax help

Military OneSource (www.militaryonesource.com) will provide free tax preparation services to service members and their Families for the 2007 tax season.

Belly dancing classes

Belly dancing classes start Thursdays in February at the MWR Fitness Center from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. Call 938-6490 for more information.

Ski and snowboard lessons

Learn to ski and snowboard. Take lessons at Victor Constant Ski Slope. Sign-ups are ongoing.

For more information, call

938-3726.

Ski tuning & repair Shop

Have you tried the Tuning & Repair Shop at the West Point Ski Slope? For more info., call 938-3726.

Soldier Adventure Training

Soldier Adventure Training, ski and snow board lessons, will be held Feb. 8 at West Point Ski Slope.

For more info., call 938-3726 or visit www.westpointmwr.com. To sign up contact Sgt. Maj. Cal Christensen at 938-7142 or e-mail him at Cal.Christensen@usma.edu.

Veterinary services return to normal

Appointments are now available at the Vet Clinic and are back to normal.

Call 938-3817 to set up an appointment.

Command Channel 8/23

Jan. 25 - Feb. 1

FRIDAY

8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH

MONDAY -- THURSDAY

8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH

FEB. 1

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 -- I am Legend, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday -- Alvin & The Chipmunks, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday -- Charlie Wilson's War, R, 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 1 -- National Treasure: Book of Secrets, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 2 -- Enchanted, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 2 -- I am Legend, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

THE THEATER SCHEDULE CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT

WWW.AAFES.COM.

Headphones prohibited while walking, jogging, skating or bicycling on roadways

Submitted by
Command Sgt. Maj.
Violet McNeirney
Garrison CSM

The use of headphones or earphones while walking, jogging, skating, or bicycling on installation

roads and streets is prohibited. The use of headphones on sidewalks is not prohibited. Persons wearing headphones on sidewalks must use extreme caution when approaching a pedestrian crosswalk (where the sidewalk crosses a road or street).

Persons wearing headphones on a sidewalk must remove the headphones when exiting a sidewalk and entering a street or road.

Military personnel in uniform are precluded from wearing headphones IAW 670-1.

Mass Transit Fringe Benefit available to West Point employees

A Mass Transit Fringe Benefit is now provided at West Point.

This program is designed to relieve the costs of driving to and from your place of work by allowing you to receive vouchers for mass transportation or allow for employees that work here to car pool at minimal cost.

The MTFB is offered to military, appropriated fund and

non-appropriated fund employees that work here at West Point.

For more information about this program contact the West Point MTFB Program Manager, Bryan McDowell, Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.

McDowell can be reached by calling 938-4277 or e-mailing him at bryan.mcdowell@us.army.mil.

DPW Notes

Departing officers and visiting professors

All officers, key and essential civilians departing West Point between May 1 and Aug. 3 are required to have their pre-termination inspection scheduled and completed no later than March 31 and a final inspection for the projected departure date must be scheduled NLT April 30.

You are not required to have orders in hand to schedule your pre-termination inspection.

Due to the transition to GMH Military Housing July 1, many of the details of the clearing process for this summer are still being discussed.

Details will be published when available and will be discussed with you during your pre-termination inspection.

To schedule inspections for your quarters, please contact Jim Stevens, 938-2828, Monday through Friday, between the 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Keller Corner

KACH closure

All outpatient clinics, laboratory, pharmacy and radiology will be closed Feb. 18. The emergency room will remain open.

Free Developmental/Hearing Screenings

Not all children develop the same way, some need extra help. If you have concerns with your child's communication skills, motor skills, self-help skills, learning, behavior, and/or social interactions please join us at our Free Developmental/Hearing Screenings.

The screenings will be conducted at the Child Development Center in conjunction with Audiology, EDIS, and West Point School for ages birth to 5 years old March 4, from 8:45 a.m. until 1:45 p.m.

By appointment only -- call to

schedule at 938-6868/2698.

Childbirth Preparation Classes

Four-class series - March 5, 12, 19 and 26 or May 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the 2nd Floor Classroom at Keller Army Community Hospital.

Call OBU at 938-3210 to register. Start classes by your 32nd week of pregnancy.

Pneumonia Vaccine

Attention patients, The Allergy/Immunization clinic reminds you to protect yourself from Pneumonia. If you are 65 or older and have not received the pneumococcal vaccine, please stop by the KACH Immunization Clinic to receive your vaccine. For more info., call the clinic at 938-8476.

Community Mayors needed

Looking for Community Mayors to represent our communities. Areas in need of Mayors are Old English (N & S), Lee Area, Old Brick, Stony II (Enlisted). Call 938-7731.

Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

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

A Night of Gershwin

January 25 - 7:30 p.m.

Eisenhower Hall Theatre

On the program

Strike Up the Band
Oh, Lady Be Good!
Selections from Porgy and Bess and more...

Featuring Sgt. 1st Class Alvy Powell, one of the world's best-known interpreters of the role of Porgy, and his wife, Gina Watson Powell.



SFC Alvy Powell



Gina Watson Powell

Free and Open to the Public

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

Army and Community Sports

Hockey, basketball air nationally

Sports calendar

Jan. 25 - Feb. 3

FRIDAY -- M&W INDOOR TRACK HOSTS OPEN, HEP./PENT., GFH, NOON.

FRIDAY -- HOCKEY VS. **AIR FORCE**, TATE, 8 P.M. (CSTV)

SATURDAY -- M&W INDOOR TRACK HOSTS OPEN, HEP./PENT., GFH, 9 A.M., OTHER EVENTS BEGIN AT 11 A.M.

SATURDAY -- WTEN HOSTS ARMY INVITE, LITC, NOON

SUNDAY -- MBB AT **NAVY**, ANNAPOLIS, MD., NOON, (ESPNU)

SUNDAY -- WBB AT **NAVY**, ANNAPOLIS, MD., 2:30 P.M., (ESPNU TAPE DELAY AT 6:30 P.M.)

SUNDAY -- HOCKEY VS. **AIR FORCE**, TATE, 4 P.M. (ESPNU)

SUNDAY -- WTEN HOSTS ARMY INVITE, LITC, 10 A.M.

WEDNESDAY -- WBB VS. LAFAYETTE, CHRISTL, 7 P.M.

THURSDAY -- MTEN VS. FDU, LITC, 3:30 P.M.

FEB. 1 -- WTEN VS. NJIT, LITC, 2 P.M.; vs. BINGHAMTON, 6 P.M.

FEB. 1 -- GYMNASTICS VS. **AIR FORCE**, GROSS CENTER, 6 P.M.

FEB. 1 -- HOCKEY VS. UCONN., TATE, 7:05 P.M.

FEB. 2 -- WRESTLING HOSTS ALL ACADEMY CHAMPIONSHIPS, CHRISTL FROM 9:30 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

FEB. 2 -- WTEN VS. RUTGERS, LITC, NOON.

FEB. 2 -- MTEN VS. DARTMOUTH, LITC, 1 P.M.

FEB. 2 -- HOCKEY VS. UCONN., TATE, 7:05 P.M.

FEB. 2 -- M&W INDOOR TRACK & FIELD @ **NAVY**, ANNAPOLIS, MD.

M: WT. THROW -- 11 A.M., FIELD EVENTS 11:30 A.M., RUNNING EVENTS, NOON. W:

WT. THROW 9:45 A.M., FIELD EVENTS 2:10 P.M., RUNNING EVENTS 2:10 P.M.

FEB. 3 -- WBB VS. BUCKNELL, CHRISTL ARENA, 1 P.M.

Club

FRIDAY -- PISTOL VS. MIT, TRONS RUE MARKSMANSHIP CENTER, 4:30 P.M.

SATURDAY -- PISTOL VS. MIT, TRONS RUE MARKSMANSHIP CENTER, 9 A.M.

WEST POINT, N.Y. -- The Army hockey team will make its second and third national television appearances of the season this weekend in a series against Service Academy Rival Air Force at Tate Rink.

The Black Knights will host Air Force tonight at 8 p.m. on CSTV and conclude the series on Sunday with a 4 p.m. start on ESPNU.

The men's and women's basketball teams will also make appearances Sunday as they both face Navy at Annapolis, Md.

The men's game will be televised at noon on ESPNU, while the women's game will be shown on tape delay at 6:30 p.m. on ESPNU.

CSTV is widely available on cable systems across the country, including Comcast, Time Warner, Cox, Cablevision, Charter, Insight, Mediacom, RCN, Advanced Cable and Bresnan. It is also available on DIRECTV's Total Choice Premier Package/Sports Package Channel 610 and DISH Network's America's Top 120 Package Channel 152.



Senior forward Luke Flicek scores.

PV PHOTO BY PAUL RADER

2008 Army Football Schedule

Aug. 30	Temple	Oct. 18	at Buffalo
Sept. 6	New Hampshire	Oct. 25	Louisiana Tech.
Sept. 20	Akron	Nov. 1	Air Force
Sept. 27	at Texas A&M (College Station, Texas)	Nov. 8	at Rice
Oct. 4	at Tulane (La. Superdome, New Orleans)	Nov. 22	at Rutgers
Oct. 11	Eastern Michigan	Dec. 6	Navy (CBS), Noon (Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia)

Home games in Bold. All times TBD unless noted.

Gymnastics strives to overcome injuries, graduations

Story and photos by
Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

The 17th annual West Point Gymnastics Open was the best and the worst of times for Army's gymnastics team members last weekend.

Senior Tim Burns and sophomore Jonathan Grey medaled individually on the high bar (4th place) and pommel horse (5th place), respectively, but injuries also slowed down the team as a whole.

Coming into the 2008 campaign, Army's depth was already depleted by the graduation of six gymnasts, three of which were Eastern College Athletic Conference individual champions, but now the team is getting riddled with injuries to important top gymnasts that may affect the team's overall performance.

Senior team captain Tyler Ho, a top six guy in four events for Army, ruptured his Achilles tendon during the W.P. Open Jan. 18 and will be lost for the season, which can have a crippling effect for the squad.

"The injury hurts us and there's no way around it," said Army head gymnastics coach Doug Van Everen. "Ho was going to count on four events and he would be one of our best scorers on those events. He was our best guy on the rings and our second best guy on the vault

and the floor... you eliminate those scores and count whoever we put in his place, they're not even close.

"That's going to cost us three or four points not having him in there," he added, "no matter what we do."

Van Everen had a hunch that this year would be a rebuilding year, but now it's going to be even more of a challenge than it was going to be before Ho's injury. Then, add the fact that the team's top all-around guy, senior Mike Assenmacher, has been battling a chronic ankle injury that popped up again against Penn State the week prior to the W.P. Open.

He didn't participate in his two best events -- floor exercise and vault -- due to the ankle.

Assenmacher, who had arthroscopic surgery on his ankle during his sophomore year, had a stellar junior campaign that included qualifying for the individual finals at the ECACs and competing well at the NCAA Championships. However, his most gratifying moment was against Navy last year when he shattered his career AA mark with a 52.2 leading Army over the Midshipmen.

"Everything just came together (at) that meet and it was one of my highest all-around scores the whole season," Assenmacher said. "It was definitely one of my personal bests and kicking Navy's butt is always a great feeling, but truly it

was one of my best achievements gymnastics-wise."

Assenmacher, despite his ankle issues, is confident that he can achieve champion status at this year's ECACs at either floor exercise or vault, maybe both.

He also hopes the team can finish in the top three in the conference after finishing second last year and first his freshman year. However, it will be tough because the team is also missing freshman all-around sensation David Jacobs due to a concussion he suffered during plebe boxing and other setbacks along his recovery back.

"It's going to be tough, I'm not going to lie because (Ho) was a four-event guy and Jacobs would have contributed six solid scores too," Assenmacher stated. "But, we just don't have the depth we had last year, unfortunately. However, we're going to shoot for the stars and hopefully we can end the season in the top three."

The future Signal Corps officer from Milford, Mich., feels about 70 percent right now with his ankle, but continues to try to improve his routines to flourish in the latter part of the season.

"I've added four-tenths more (difficulty) to my floor set and hopefully I'm going to be doing a two-and-a-half instead of a double full on vault, which will also increase my start value by four-tenths," Assenmacher explained.



Senior Mike Assenmacher, who has been fighting through an ankle injury, said his big goal this year is to become an All-American at the NCAAs.

"I'm going to be ready to go and I'm gunning for All-American (top six individual finishers) at the NCAAs. If all goes well and I can heal my ankle, that's what I'm shooting for."

Besides Assenmacher and Burns, who Van Everen believes can both win ECAC individual championships; he sees good things coming from Grey, who may be a little bit of an early season surprise.

"(Grey) had a fabulous (W.P. Open) meet, it was awesome to watch," Van Everen said. "We knew he was good coming in the door and we've been spending a lot of time trying to get him stronger and little by little he is."

"Last year, he was a little intimidated by all of this but that's changed," he added. "He came out of the gates at the Penn State meet and hit pretty much everything and then this past meet he hit

everything, too."

Van Everen said the team has been only hitting on 60 percent of their routines, which he said is pretty typical at this time of the year -- only two meets into the season. He's trying to clean up those routines while trying to find a top six lineup in the six gymnastics specialties as the team gets ready to face Air Force.

"All our attention is on getting ready for that meet," Van Everen said. "Fortunately, we have this week off, so we have a couple of weeks to train, rest up and heal. I feel good about our guys being able to step up, but we're going to have to juggle around some of our lineup because of everything that is going on right now."

Army, who has defeated Air Force all 12 times it's faced them over the past five years, will face the Falcons at the Lou Gross Sports Center at 6 p.m., Feb. 1.



Sophomore Jonathan Grey medaled at the West Point Open by finishing fifth in the individuals finals on the pommel horse.

Highlights at W.P. Open

- Army finished 4th as a team
- Jonathan Grey finished 5th on pommel horse
- Tim Burns finished 4th on high bar