

POINTER VIEW

TSP TICKER

September changes (as of 9/20)	
C FUND	+ 1.74 percent
I FUND	- 1.09 percent
S FUND	+ 0.88 percent

VOL. 63, NO. 37

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

SEPTEMBER 22, 2006

DPW briefed on A-76

By Irene Brown
Chief, Command Information

Some West Point employees learned Tuesday that a commercial activity study of the Directorate of Public Works here is right around the corner.

Garrison Commander, Col. Brian Crawford, updated workforce members during a briefing in the Eisenhower Hall Theater. The GC began by telling them it was not an official announcement.

"While there hasn't been an announcement yet, we believe it is imminent," he said.

Crawford explained that once the Army makes a public announcement, he would hold another briefing.

"I wanted to make sure you heard it from the command -- from me -- before you read it in the newspapers," Crawford said. "So once the announcement is made, I will gather you all together again."

Commonly known as A-76, named for the OMB circular directing it, the competitive sourcing program is based on long-standing policy that the government

rely on the private sector for its goods and services when proper and economical to do so.

To create the Most Efficient Organization or MEO, West Point will conduct a management study to determine the most "efficient/effective" way to do the work necessary to complete the mission. This work is described in the Performance Work Statement. The data obtained from the PWS are used by the Commercial Activities Team and contractors to compute their bids for the work.

Part of the 12-month CA process is evaluating the jobs of DPW employees to determine what they do and how much time it takes. After that process, those duties will be bid upon by both the government and contractors.

Crawford promised to keep the work force informed of the study's progress during the next 12 months.

"My commitment to you is to be candid, frank and up front with information," he said.

The GC then opened the floor for questions and the employees responded. Martha Hinote, DPW's

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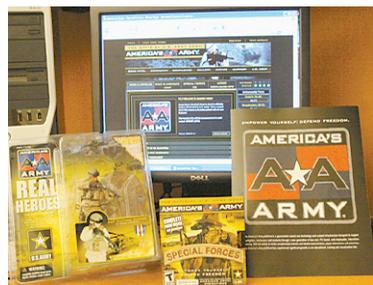
Little Aggie

Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Richard Cody, left, and U.S. Military Academy Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bergman pose with the little brother of a Texas A&M graduate Saturday in San Antonio prior to the AT&T Corps Classic football game between Army and A&M. The Little Aggie came to enjoy the pre-game parade that was comprised of elements from the USMA Band, 600 members of the USMA Corps of Cadets, 200 Soldiers from III Corps, the Texas A&M Band and 1,500 members of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets. Little Aggie's older brother is currently serving in Iraq. Texas A&M held off Army 28-24. PHOTO BY LINDA MASTIN/PAO

INSIDE



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America's Army, see page 9

Some Federal premiums to rise in '07

WASHINGTON (govexec.com) -- In January, federal employees will see their health insurance premiums rise an average of 2.3 percent -- a much smaller increase than in years past.

Individual enrollees in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program will pay an extra \$1.45 every two weeks for a total of \$58.45. Those with family plans will pay \$3.13 more for a total of \$131.64, on average.

And in the biggest plan, Blue Cross Blue Shield, premiums

See PREMIUMS on page 3

2005 grad killed by IED in Iraq

By Eric S. Bartelt
Assistant Editor

Second Lt. Emily J.T. Perez, 23, died Sept. 12 in Al Kifl, Iraq, from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near her HMMWV during combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Department of Defense officials announced Saturday.

Perez, a 2005 U.S. Military Academy graduate, was assigned to the 204th Forward Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Like many graduates, Perez kept close contact with her instructors here and even sent a message to a military science instructor earlier this year that was used during a Founder's Day speech

by the Department of Military Instruction.

"...I think I'm a lot more prepared than I originally thought, but I still have a lot to learn," Perez wrote. "I've told everyone I know [who's] still a cadet to pay attention to the MS classes. The reality is that what DMI is teaching is what we will be doing as platoon leaders."

Perez was a four-year letterwinner on the Army women's track and field team as well as being a member of the Gospel Choir.

She was the first African-American female cadet Corps command sergeant major. Perez is survived by her father and mother, Daniel and Vicki Perez of Fort Washington, Md., her brother Kevyn, paternal grandmother Rena Gunter and paternal grandmother Delia Torres.

Memorial services will be held in Fort Washington Saturday.

Perez will be interred at the West Point cemetery Tuesday at 1 p.m.

The greater West Point community is invited to attend.



Second Lt. Emily Perez

Recycling is important for everyone

Commentary by
Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

It's no secret that environmentalists are concerned about global warming and pollution brought about by greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide and human waste.

Part of the solution to the problem of pollution is to recycle. Most states now have recycling regulations to ensure people take care to separate paper products, glass, cans and plastic bottles so they can be used again in other products.

Recycling makes sense in

several ways, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, because it reduces the need for landfills, incineration, conserves natural resources such as timber, water, minerals and helps sustain the environment for future generations.

Recycling helps manufacturers to cut down on pollution, by reducing the need for virgin materials, which often need material extraction and processing. Mineral extracting and processing often pollute air, land, and water with toxic materials.

Recycling is economical, especially in the area of paper products and cardboard. The recycling center at the U.S. Military

Academy collects nearly 1,300 tons of paper annually and most is sold to companies that manufacture from recyclables. A portion of what is earned is given back to the community.

"For every ton of paper recycled, we save 17 trees," said Recycling Manager, John Dopler.

Recycling is a learning process as old habits die hard. It's a lot easier to throw everything away in the same container. Recycling takes effort; separating recyclables, washing plastic and cans, taking them to a recycling center or knowing what goes where.

At West Point, according to Dopler, yellow bins should be used

for glass, plastic, and cans. The blue bins for paper products.

Recyclables are picked up once a week. All paper products are picked up on Monday and the cans, bottles, and plastics are picked up on Tuesday.

When cleaning up yards, make sure to use biodegradable yard bags instead of plastic bags.

One of the problems that Dopler noticed is some people clean their yards using plastic bags instead of the biodegradable yard bags available at the self-help center and sold at the PX here.

"There is no such thing as biodegradable plastic bags," he said. "We were not able to ship out

a lot of yard waste when plastic bags were used."

According to the EPA, recycling (including composting) helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions by decreasing the energy needed to make products from virgin materials, which reduces the burning of fossil fuels. Recycling reduces emissions from incinerators and landfills, which are major sources of methane gas emissions in U.S. Recycling. It also slows the harvest of trees, which helps to maintain the carbon dioxide storage benefit provided by forests.

Recycling takes a little effort, but it is worth it to help preserve the natural resources we still have.

Zilinski Memorial Run, Walk Nov. 12

To the West Point Community,

First Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski II was killed Nov. 19, 2005, in Iraq where he was serving in the U. S. Army.

Zilinski was a 2004 graduate of the U. S. Military Academy.

As a tribute to Dennis, the Zilinski family and many of Dennis' friends will be conducting the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski II Memorial Run and Walk, Nov. 12, 2006, at the PNC Arts Center in Holmdel, N.J.

We invite everyone in the West

Point family to join us either as a participant or volunteer.

Proceeds from this event will be used to establish a scholarship in Dennis' honor.

For information contact:
E-mail: RunWithDennis@yahoo.com.

Mail: Lt. Dennis Z Memorial Run, PO Box 35, Holmdel, N.J., 07733.

Web site: RunWithDennis.org.

Texas A&M alums speak out



To whom it concern,
I was never prouder of my University, Texas A&M, or West Point.

We at A&M have always believed that we back the military of all branches and we consider ourselves very patriotic.

With only so many of your people able to attend the game your team showed a tremendous spirit (and almost won).

I just wanted your community to know that I loved the game and hope we can play each other in the future again.

Sincerely,

Bill Garner
TAMU '90



I am a Texas A&M graduate Class of '71, Lt.Col., USAFR (Ret).

I just wanted to write to someone at West Point and say that the A&M vs. Army game should be the picture book for sportsmanship and college athletics.

We had two schools with fans that were fervently vocal and loyal to their respective schools, yet totally respecting and honorable in their treating of the opponent.

During the Corps parade in downtown San Antonio, the USMA cadet march in and throughout the game, Aggies were cheering for West Point.

It is a shame that other schools cannot take a lesson for this fine event.

Stu Crockett
TAMU '71

SARP INFO

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

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

Cadets can also call the sexual assault support helpline at (845) 591-7215.

West Point Soldiers and civilians needing assistance can call (845) 938-3369.

Delivery problems?

FOR PV HOME DELIVERY PROBLEMS CONTACT VALERIE MULLANE AT THE POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL AT (845) 437-4730 OR BY E-MAIL AT VMULLANE@POUGHKEE.GANNETT.COM.

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

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

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

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

Difficulty: Medium

POINTER VIEW®

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Local and National News

DeCA warns of E.coli outbreak in bagged spinach

Compiled by Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a warning Sept. 14 about an outbreak of E.coli 0157:H7 that may be associated with consuming bagged fresh spinach. E.coli has been found in Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, New Mexico, Nebraska, Oregon, Utah and Wisconsin.

Because of the FDA's warning, the Defense Commissary Agency

is advising its customers not to eat any bagged spinach.

"We pulled the bags of spinach from our commissary as soon as the alert went out," said Janet Berry, store administrator for the commissary here. "Most of it was baby spinach. We also checked all of our Spring Mix or bagged salad mix and found that none of them contained spinach."

Berry said any commissary customers who bought bagged spinach before Sept. 15 can bring it

back to the commissary and receive a full refund.

E.coli 0157:H7 causes diarrhea, often with bloody stools. Most healthy adults can fully recover within a week, but some people can develop a form of kidney

failure known as Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome, which can occur in young children and the elderly, according to the FDA's web site at <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01450.html>.

As of Monday, there have been

114 cases of the illness reported in 21 states to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including eight cases of HUS and one death since Sept. 14.

[*Editor's Note:* some information from a DeCA news release.]

PREMIUMS, cont. from page 1

won't go up at all. They will even decrease under certain options. More than 50 percent of the eight million FEHBP participants belong to Blue Cross Blue Shield. Local plans, such as those operated by health maintenance organizations, will get more expensive.

Officials at the Office of Personnel Management, which oversees the FEHBP, said the primary reason for a lower premium hike this year is a more liberal use of reserve funds. Those are taken from participants' premiums each year and hoarded to cover unexpected medical costs.

OPM Director Linda Springer said at a press briefing Tuesday that the insurance companies themselves first floated the idea of dipping into reserves this year, and her financial team found the circumstances were right. OPM will use \$500 million from an \$11 billion pot of reserves -- less than 5 percent.

"Performance was good enough, and [we] didn't have to build the reserve," Springer said.

But Jacqueline Simon, public policy director for the American Federation of Government Employees, said the reserves are being used improperly.

"What we know is true is that enrollees' premiums will go up by more than the government's premiums," Simon said. "And the reason for that is that OPM manipulated the allocation of the

so-called excess reserves to give themselves a greater subsidy."

The government's contributions will go up 1.6 percent next year. That's smaller than the enrollee increase because of a technical matter involving timing differences in calculating the two portions, according to Nancy Kichak, OPM's associate director for strategic human resources policy.

Last year, enrollees had a 10 percent average premium increase, while the government's hike was 5.2 percent. Premium increases peaked in fiscal 2002, when they reached 12.7 percent between employees and the government. The last time they were this low was in 1997, when there was a 1.6 percent hike divided between enrollees and the government.

Federal employees and retirees will be able to pick their insurance plan for 2007 during open season, which starts Nov. 13. About a week before that, OPM will post brochures on its Web site detailing costs and coverage in each plan.

Also for the first time, OPM is publicizing specific insurance plans that meet its standards for cost transparency. The 18 companies will let enrollees get cost information for certain procedures including cataract repair, caesarean birth, and knee replacement to allow participants to shop for the best deal. OPM will feature the companies during open season.

DPW, cont. from page 1

customer service representative, was the first to put forth a question.

"How can a fair PWS be created without knowing the impact of RCI?" she asked.

The Residential Communities Initiative is the Army's program to privatize post housing and has been used by installations across the country. The program brings in a partner to take over post housing construction and maintenance. How much that partner provides is laid out in a community management development plan, Crawford explained.

"Once we select the partner, it will take approximately six months to get a CMDP in place," he explained. "That plan will lay out

the responsibilities and services the partner will provide.

"In the meantime, we're going to approach every day with the information we have on hand," he added.

Workforce members asked questions on everything from the bid process to the current funding crisis. Crawford told them that funding would be tough even without the study.

"Funding is very uncertain, it's a challenge to imagine what next year will look like; however, we know we have the funds we need to conduct this study," he said.

Crawford ended the briefing with some encouraging words for the employees.

"I realize this is a tumultuous period for all of you and I appreciate your professionalism and candor," he said. "I want you all to know the command and the residents appreciate what you all do day in and day out."

[*Editor's note:* Employees interested in more A-76 information may visit the Army's Web site at <http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim%5Fca/>.

Those with questions about the DPW study can call the CA hot line at 938-8702 or the PWS team leader at 938-2224.

Employees can also request Commercial Activities question and answer guides from their supervisors.]

A first look at new dental, vision benefits

By Tim Kauffman
FederalTimes.com

Jerry Hartman spends a lot of time -- and money -- at the dentist. In the past year, the NASA manager from Germantown, Md., had two crowns and several fillings, racking up a \$4,000 bill. His federal health care plan covered just a fraction of the cost.

"I'm not sure why I never looked into getting other insurance," said Hartman, a federal employee for 28 years. "I guess I thought in terms of, hey, I work for the federal government, and this is what I can get."

Not anymore. This fall, employees and retirees will be able to buy dental or vision insurance thanks to the most significant expansion of federal benefits in years.

The new plans, for the first time, give employees, retirees and their families comprehensive access to dental and vision services under a federally administered and negotiated program.

Interest in the new plans is high. Seventy percent of the 481 readers who responded to a poll posted at the Federal Times Web site said they planned to purchase at least one of the plans. Forty-six percent said they would purchase both dental and vision insurance, while another 21 percent said they would purchase dental insurance only; 3 percent would buy vision only. Thirty percent said they wouldn't buy either plan.

If those unscientific results hold true, that means the new dental and vision plans could attract about 5.6 million participants.

Before you schedule that root canal or eye exam, however, there are a few things to keep in mind:

■ Unlike traditional health insurance plans, where the government covers about 70 percent of the cost of premiums, the dental and vision plans will require enrollees to pay the full cost of premiums. Premiums for the new

plans are not available yet, but the Office of Personnel Management has said it expects to negotiate favorable rates.

■ Employees will pay premiums with pretax dollars, meaning their taxable income will be reduced. Retirees, however, don't have this option.

■ The new insurance will pick up costs not covered by your medical insurance, so coordinating services provided under both plans will be important.

■ Some plans provide greater coverage within their preferred provider networks, so using an in-network dentist or eye doctor could save you money.

■ The amount of coverage provided under each plan varies widely, so it's important to review not only the premiums but levels of benefits to get a plan that's right for you.

■ If you have a child in need of braces, many plans also require you to be enrolled for at least a year before covering those costs.

"There will be bargains here, there will be good deals to find, and people should certainly pay attention during open season," said Walt Francis, chief author of Checkbook's annual guide to federal health plans, published by the Washington nonprofit Center for the Study of Services.

Because the plans are voluntary, they're likely to mostly attract employees and retirees who plan on using the services. That's called adverse risk selection in the insurance business, and it means companies must price their premiums high enough to recoup the cost of care, Francis said. However, insurance companies help lower overall costs by networking with certain doctors and dentists, thereby ensuring them a steady supply of patients.

"The trick here is to be in a plan that gives you a better deal that more than outweighs the cost of risk selection," Francis said.

Hartman is one of those who is interested in both the dental and vision insurance. Dental insurance is more of a necessity, but Hartman said he'll consider enrolling in both plans if the price is right.

"I'm going to be real interested to see what the premiums are," he said. "I wonder how they can set the premiums low enough to attract people and still make a profit."

The Office of Personnel Management, which administers the federal health care program and selected the new dental and

vision carriers, was expected to announce premiums and more details on benefits offered by the new insurance plans this week. Insurance companies gave Federal Times a sneak peak at the offerings, which employees and retirees will be able to sign up for beginning Nov. 13. The new plans will take effect Dec. 31.

The makeup of the plans differ widely, although most require enrollees to pay either a percentage of the cost of services they receive or a flat dollar amount per visit. Most also limit how much coverage they'll provide in a given year, while most dental plans require enrollees to be insured for at least a year before paying out for braces and other orthodontic work.

Many medical plans already offer supplemental dental and vision benefits to their members and will continue to do so next year. There are two main differences in these plans and the insurance that will be offered through the federal program: Employee premiums for the federal programs will be paid out of pretax dollars, thereby lowering taxable income; and enrollees in the federal program will be able to appeal disputed claims to OPM, like they can do with medical claims.

The federal plans likely will feature greater benefits and lower costs than supplemental insurance offered outside the federal program. OPM has mandated certain benefit levels that must be provided under the federal plans, while the large pool of eligible enrollees means insurance plans can set lower prices for services.

The two supplemental plans outside the federal program with the largest federal enrollment are the Government Employees Hospital Association, which has about 32,000 federal enrollees in its dental plan and is one of the seven insurers under the new federal dental program; and the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan, which has about 40,000 feds enrolled in its supplemental dental and vision insurance combined. Both plans will continue to offer their supplemental insurance to Federal Employees Health Benefits Program enrollees next year.

GEHA's supplemental dental insurance is similar to what it will offer as a high option under the federal program, said Jody Nave, GEHA's program administrator. However, enrollees in the federal plan will have access to most benefits immediately, while the plan

GEHA created outside the federal program features an escalating level of benefits the longer an enrollee stays in the plan -- enrollees would have to be in the plan for three years before seeing the same level of benefits available immediately under the federal plan.

Dental services

Four dental plans will be offered nationally, while three will be offered in specific regions. All will offer plans for singles, couples and families.

GEHA and MetLife both will offer two dental plans nationally with different levels of coverage depending on care. The high options will have higher premiums but cover a greater percentage of the cost of services; the standard option will have lower premiums but require enrollees to cover a larger share of the cost of care.

Services under both GEHA and MetLife are split into four categories based on the level of treatment, and the plan pays a larger share of basic services than it does for more complex procedures. For example, GEHA's high option covers 100 percent of the cost for teeth cleaning, 80 percent of the cost for pulling a tooth, 50 percent of the cost for a crown and 30 percent of the cost for braces.

Other plans opted for a simpler approach. For example, Aetna's national plan will cover 100 percent of the cost for all services up to an annual maximum of \$1,200 per person. It's the only dental plan to include no deductibles, co-payments or other costs outside of the premiums. As a result, Aetna's premiums likely will be higher than the other plans.

Still, the simplicity of the plan should appeal to enrollees, said Tom Bernatavitz, vice president of Aetna's federal government business.

"Federal employees are saturated with choice on the medical side. We felt it best to minimize the choice on the dental side," Bernatavitz said.

Aetna is promoting the benefits of having the same provider for both medical and dental coverage. Aetna's most common medical plan covers the cost of basic teeth cleanings, so that service won't count toward the maximum benefits allowed under the dental plan -- meaning the enrollee will be able to save the dental plan for services not covered by the medical plan.

The most popular medical plan, Blue Cross and Blue Shield



Association's standard option, covers only part of the cost of basic cleanings, meaning a Blue Cross enrollee would have to use part of his or her supplemental dental plan to cover that service. Aetna's more generous dental benefits under medical insurance will allow participants to save their dental plan for other needs.

"You can stretch the dental dollars available to you by 20 to 30 percent because of the dental benefits available in the medical plan," Bernatavitz said.

Enrollees with both Aetna medical and dental insurance also will be able to use the same Web site to manage care under both plans, he said.

United Concordia's main drawing power is its existing relationship with the federal market. The company provides dental benefits to 1.7 million military members and their families through the Tricare program.

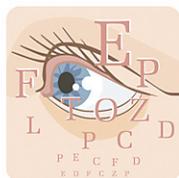
The Tricare plan served as a model both for the design and marketing of the federal plan, available nationally, said Debra Cotter, director of United Concordia's federal program. One of the things the company did early on was task Cotter with heading nothing but the federal program.

Of the regional plans, CompBenefits will be available to about 55 percent of the eight million employees, retirees and family members eligible for the insurance. The company's service area includes 23 states in the Southeast, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest.

Though new to federal employees, CompBenefits has been in the dental and vision business for 28 years. More than half of its five million enrollees are public-sector employees.

"Successfully marketing a

See NEW BENEFITS on page 5



NEW BENEFITS, cont. from page 4

voluntary plan like what's being offered to federal enrollees means creating a plan that's easy to understand and easy to use," said Kirk Rothrock, chairman and chief executive officer of CompBenefits.

Unlike most other plans, CompBenefits covers orthodontia work immediately, doesn't have a dollar cap on benefits paid out each year and requires enrollees to pay a set dollar amount for certain services instead of a percentage of the cost.

"You will know exactly what you will pay for each procedure," Rothrock said.

The tradeoff is that, unlike other plans, CompBenefits pays nothing if enrollees don't use one of their in-network dentists. However, all enrollees who live in cities will have access to a dentist within 15 miles and enrollees in rural areas will have access to a dentist within 35 miles, as required by OPM.

The other regional plans are GHI, available to employees in New York State and Northern New Jersey; and Triple S, available to employees in Puerto Rico.

Vision plans

Three vision plans will be offered, all nationwide. As with dental insurance, enrollees will be able to select coverage for individuals, couples or families.

Blue Cross will offer two vision plans: a high option, which will have higher premiums and allow enrollees to get new frames every year; and a standard option, which will have lower premiums and cover new frames every other year.

Both plans will cover \$130 toward the cost of frames or contact lenses and discounts on any costs above that. Unlike its competitors, the Blue Cross plans have no co-payments for exams or lenses.

Spectera is offering two plans with different levels of premiums, co-payments and service levels. The standard plan will cover a basic pair of glasses or contact lenses, while the higher-end plan covers bifocals, tinting and ultraviolet coating.

Spectera decided to provide two plans to appeal to an array of employees and help keep costs as low as possible, said David Hall, president and CEO of the Baltimore company.

"We offer a choice of plans, a choice of providers and we understand that one size does not fit all," Hall said.

Vision Services Plan is offering

one top-of-the-line product, based on the premise that federal employees and retirees who purchase vision insurance will want complete coverage, said Al Schubert, vice president of managed care.

Enrollees will pay a \$10 or \$20 co-payment for eye exams and be able to get new frames or contact lenses every year, Schubert said.

"We have heard consistently about the need for a very substantial benefit level. Based on that, we have developed a program that has very robust services," he said.

Time running out on reimbursement claims

WASHINGTON (Military Report) -- Time is running out to get paid back for equipment purchased for the war zone. Reimbursement claims for body armor and other battlefield safety gear must be filed with the Army by Oct. 3.

Congress authorized the reimbursement program in 2005 after it became apparent many Soldiers and their families spent their own money on body armor, helmets, protective eye wear, hydration systems, lightweight gloves, and knee and elbow pads before military supply systems could provide such items.

To qualify for reimbursement, purchases must have been made between Sept. 11, 2001, and April 1, 2006, in anticipation of, or during, deployment to Afghanistan or Iraq.

The Army will provide reimbursement for qualifying purchases made by either a Soldier or by another (such as a parent or spouse) on behalf of a Soldier. But the Soldier for whom the equipment was purchased (or the survivor of a deceased Soldier) must file the

reimbursement claim.

Claimants will be paid the full item price plus shipping if they still have their receipt, up to \$1,100 per item. Claimants without receipts will be paid according to a Defense Department sheet of estimated costs.

Claims should be filed with a serving Soldier's current unit, while veterans should mail their claims to the Army Claims Service at Fort Meade, Md., with a postmark no later than Oct. 3.

Community Features and Photos

New Commissary administrator brings wealth of experience

Story and photo by
Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

Janet Berry, the new store administrator at the West Point commissary, has 25 years of experience in the grocery business. Most recently, she was store director at the Charles E. Kelly Support Facility in Oakdale, Pa., a sub-installation of Fort Dix, N.J.

"Before CEKSF, I spent a year at the Coronado Naval Station in San Diego and had owned my own store for years in California," Berry said. "I've only been here for two months working, but have been to West

Point previously for commissary meetings or conferences. This is such a beautiful area and I am enjoying a tremendous amount of support from the great people working here. That's always a plus."

Berry said one of the reasons she wanted to move was to further her career and take on the challenges here at the USMA Commissary.

"As a store administrator, I am second in command over all the managers in all departments," Berry said. "I'm also responsible for safety and security, the accounting division and the customer service

department."

Berry is also facing the challenges of staff shortages amidst budget cuts.

"The commissary is looking for staff on a part-time basis, up to 32 hours," Berry said. "We do need a lot of people, but can only hire part-time."

Berry has been married to her husband, Gary, for 30 years.

They have four children and eight grandchildren all living in California.

The Berry's are buying a house in the Town of Newburgh.

For Commissary information, call 938-3663.



West Point commissary administrator Janet Berry brings her 25 years of grocery experience to the job.

Weather holds, West Point fall yard sale draws hundreds

Story and photo by
Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

Although the day began with clouds and a threat of rain, the sun made its appearance for a great turnout for the bi-annual community yard sale here Saturday.

"I was a little worried at first when at 8:15 a.m. it looked like it was going to rain like it seems to do every year, but the day turned really nice," said Lt. Col Tim Edman,

MEDDAC command headquarters here. "We've done very well and it's been a great turnout."

Among the pottery, dressers, mirrors and furniture set outside for sale, children could be seen hawking candy for school projects.

"Candy for a dollar," said 10-year-old Cameron Sullivan to passers by, who was selling candy for the Cross Country Running Club at the West Point Middle School.

"I have two boxes to sell and I've already sold most of one box."

Kathy and James Amos from Lancaster, Pa., spent some time looking over the treasures of the Wurzbach family on Lee Road here. The Amos' are visiting their daughter.

"This is the first time we've been here, but I love the old fashioned community yard sales," Kathy said. "You rarely see them anymore."

Colin Pigott comes to the yard



Community members and neighbors stop by the yard of Lt. Col. Tim Edman on Lee Road to look over furniture, toys, and household items for sale at the annual Fall Yard Sale here Saturday.

sale every year from New York City, according to friend Maj. Robert Romans, chief, international affairs here for the Directorate of Operations and Plans.

"Yes, Pigott loves this place and comes here to buy out West Point every year," Romans said. "And I

Cadet mule riders add new members

Story and photo
by Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer



Although Army mules were already legendary for their roughness and endurance and are still

used today as pack animals in places like Afghanistan, it wasn't until the 1899 Army-Navy football game that the mule became the West Point mascot.

An Army quartermaster decided that the Army should have a mascot, since Navy had been using a goat as theirs since the first football game between the two schools in 1890.

The mule seemed like a perfect choice.

In 1899 the quartermaster stopped a passing ice truck in Philadelphia and the big, white mule pulling it became the first Army mascot.

Legend has it that the mule kicked the Navy goat toward the Navy stands during Army's 17-5 win that year.

The mule mascot has been an important part of West Point ever since.

Every year, cadets vie for the privilege of becoming a mule rider and part of a more than century old tradition.

"The lead rider sends an e-mail to canvass cadets who are interested in becoming part of the mule riding team. The cadets that respond are split into riding groups of six each," said Systems Engineering instructor Maj. Terry Barron, the team's officer in charge.

"During the first try-outs, they take full responsibility for the mules to include grooming, fitting the bridle and saddling," Barron said. "They are rated on their knowledge, riding abilities and experience. After the initial try-

outs, a few cadets are picked to proceed to the next phase, which is a trail ride."

Barron said the cadet riders are responsible for riding the mules at all of the home football games, the Army/Navy game and any other events that requires riders.

The mule riders keep busy throughout the academic year riding at least three times a week, including weekends.

"The mule riders are a part of public relations at events, like football games and represent the Army at West Point," said lead rider Cadet 2nd Class Trevor Shirk.

"We need cadets that will be able to handle the mules, especially if they get spooked due to loud noises, especially the cannons at football games. They need to be able to talk with the public. We have a lot of children that like to come up to us and pet the mules."

There are four mule riders, Shirk and Cadet 3rd Class Micah Lockhart, who have been mule riders for more than two years, and the two new fourth class cadets, Keri Anderson and Jacob Haag.

"I'm used to riding horses," Haag said, "my family owned a few and I learned from them. This is the first time I have ridden a mule though."

Anderson also has some experience riding horses, having ridden in high school.

"I don't have a favorite mule because I enjoy all of them. They all have different personalities," she said. "It gets me out of the barracks and it's a lot of fun because everyone here is so friendly."

Sometimes, though, some of the more infamous tasks of being a mule rider are the butt of jokes.

"A mule rider should have a thick skin, especially when your job is to go behind the mules ... with a pale," Shirk said. "That does give rise to a lot of jokes, but someone needs to do it."



New cadet mule rider, Cadet 4th Class Jacob Haag, left, rides Raider, Cadet 2nd Class Trevor Shirk, the lead rider stands by Raider. Cadet 3rd Class Micah Lockhart rides Gen. Scott and the second new cadet mule rider, Cadet 4th Class Keri Anderson rides Ranger. Mules have been used as Army mascots for more than a century.

Community mayors: A vital part of life at West Point

Story and photo by
Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

The West Point Community Mayors Program is comprised of volunteers who are elected by their peers to serve, generally, a one-year term in their housing areas and act as liaisons between the residents and the Garrison Command.

"The community mayors assist in identifying, assessing, and resolving community issues and concerns," said Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Violet McNeirney. "The community mayors are volunteers and work closely with the area coordinators, who are senior occupants in each housing area appointed by the Garrison Commander. The mayors are not expected to be enforcers of policy and regulations."

Community mayors are designated by the GC after the

election process, with each housing area having at least one mayor.

"Some of the larger housing areas, like Stony II, may have a co-mayor," McNeirney said.

Mayors represent their housing areas at monthly Community Action Council and the Mayors Advisory Council meetings. They are responsible for keeping the residents informed of all issues that may affect them or their families.

"We as mayors represent our residents and work closely with the GC here," said Lee area mayor Diana Neff. "We also write newsletters to keep our residents informed and work with community pride by electing the area Yard of the Month in the spring and summer."

Community mayors may be officers, enlisted Soldiers or adult family members of their respective communities.

"We currently have four

housing areas that are without mayors," McNeirney said. "New Brick, Old Brick, Old English

Community mayors pose outside the Garrison Office.

Front row from left to right: Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Violet McNeirney; Sgt. 1st Class Carol Oberwager, Stony I mayor; Debra Zedalis, Deputy to the Garrison Commander; and Ericka Jones, Stony II co-mayor. Back row, left to right: Michele Strom, Gray Ghost area mayor; Linda Shoop, Old English (North) mayor; Rachel Schmoyer, Stony II co-mayor; Capt. Nicholas Beck, Dunover Court mayor; Patty Bastianelli, Lusk area mayor and Diana Neff, Lee area mayor.

(South) and North/South/Central Apartments."

For more information on the

Community Mayors Program, call the Garrison Commander's Office at 938-2319 or 7731.



2006 Combined Arms Tailgate

Sept. 30

*after Rice vs. Army game
(kick off is at 3:30 p.m.)*

at Howze Field next to Kimsey Center

Sponsored by the Dept. of Military Instruction

All first and second class cadets, USMA Staff & Faculty and the West Point community are invited. All Army branches will be represented.

Latest version of 'America's Army' debuts

Story and photo by
Eric S. Bartelt
Assistant Editor

The gaming community thought the designers of "America's Army" were being overly optimistic five years ago when the new game was presented to the PC-based world of interactive games. As of Sept. 14, with the launch of "America's Army: Special Forces Overmatch," the gaming community continues to be amazed at the popularity of the once laughed at proposition.

"We far exceeded what we thought we were expecting to accomplish back in 2001," said Chris Chambers, deputy director of the Army Game project within the Office of Economic and Manpower Analysis located here in West Point's Lincoln Hall. "Our original goal the first year was to create one million registered users. We were somewhat laughed at when we mentioned it to the game industry, but in fact we grew to over a million registered users in the first four months.

"I remember our first meeting with game marketers and the game press and we told them what we wanted and they were like, 'Yeah, well, we hope you do that, but a runaway hit in our business is 350,000 registered users,'" Chambers added.

'Runaway hit' is now a considerable understatement as the PC-based juggernaut has expanded to more than 7.5 million register users who have logged over 190 million hours worth of game play since the original launch of the "America's Army" series in July 2002. The "Overmatch" version is the 21st release of the AA series.

The franchise also has an Xbox game called "Rise of a Soldier" that has been in stores since November 2005 and became a top 20 title over the Christmas period last year.

As "America's Army" continues to expand into cell phone games and arcades, one of its bigger missions is to give the Army a face to its force and that's where the "Real Heroes" action figures come into play.

"Real Heroes" will hit the marketplace in December and will give this generation's public a chance to look up to those who were awarded medals for bravery and valor in combat during the Global War on Terrorism.

"The "Real Heroes" action figures puts an authentic, exciting face on the Army," Chambers explained. "It's meant to intrigue

and communicate where pop culture doesn't often communicate about the true aspects of being in the Army, the career aspects, the opportunities, the excitement and the training. It establishes a new point with young people who may not ever come in contact with "America's Army" and these collectible action figures will have a game disc in the package that will hopefully spark their curiosity."

The "Real Heroes" program will involve eight Soldiers, who tell their stories that are meant to inspire and show the players of the game that the Army is made up of real people who come from any neighborhood. Those heroes are in-game characters where you can start interaction with them and find out more about them and the Army.

However, the big thing for game players is the new "Overmatch" version, which offers the Special Forces theme and an array of improvements within the game.

"The "Overmatch" release is introducing drivable vehicles where you can get in and out of the vehicle," Chambers said. "There's a driver's education piece and within the game you can drive on missions. We've added within the HMMWV one of the Army's newest weapons systems called the CROWS, Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station, which is essentially an Up-Armored HMMWV with a Mark-19 or an M-2 machine gun that's not controlled by a gunner standing in a turret as in the past, but it's controlled by the gunner who is now inside the vehicle controlling the gun through video interface.

"The CROWS system is within the game, but it's also brand new and being fielded in Baghdad," he added.

Another new aspect of the Special Forces version is the addition of artificial intelligence, which is a departure from the past when games were played in head-to-head fashion.

"In order to increase the scope of the battlefield, we added artificial intelligence enemy and what that allows us to do is show how the Army really fights and that is where the term "Overmatch" comes from," Chambers stated. "A small team of highly-trained infantry or Special Forces can take on a numerically superior enemy force (as much as a 5-to-1 ratio) ... but, the U.S. Army always enters into unfair fights because we know we're going to win because of our training and technology no matter

what size the enemy is and to do it in the game we had to go with artificial intelligence."

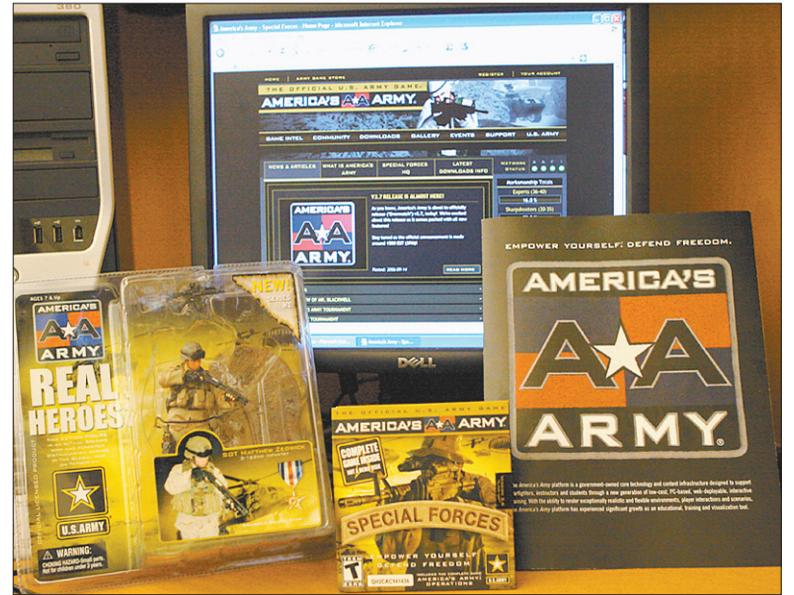
The game is now provided on 1,800 servers and continues to be a boon, which is great to the game's creator and director, Col. Casey Wardynski, who is also the OEMA director here, and to Chambers, as well.

Chambers, a 1983 USMA graduate and former Department of Social Sciences instructor here, said a large degree of the project's success is due to the involvement and expertise of the officers assigned to West Point. It also draws from the enthusiasm and interest of the cadets, who often play the game and give critical feedback.

"West Point's role has been essential, but this is not a West Point project because this is an Army project," Chambers said. "This isn't about training to be a cadet at West Point or even about officers; this is totally about the enlisted force and what a person would expect to do as an enlisted person in the Army. However, the influence of West Point is all over this game."

With the new release Sept. 14, Chambers has been busy doing interviews with *USA Today*, *CNN*, the *Today* show, the *Army Times*, and other various news outlets to get the word out about the Special Forces edition, and it's taking the American public by storm.

"With the release and combinations of all the new features in "Overmatch" plus the "Real Heroes" program this is really grabbing the interest of the American public," Chambers said. "It's great because the game gets noticed, but it's greater because our Soldiers and the Army gets noticed in a positive way and that's what



"America's Army: Special Forces Overmatch" launched Sept. 14 to the PC-based gaming community. "Overmatch" is the 21st release of the popular "America's Army" series, which has more than 7.5 million registered users who have logged over 190 million hours worth of game play since the game went public in July 2002. The "Real Heroes" action figures will hit the marketplace in December, which will feature eight Soldiers who were awarded medals for bravery and valor in combat during the Global War on Terrorism.

we're here for."

To play the latest version of the game and meet and interact

with the "Real Heroes", go to the "America's Army" Web site at www.americasarmy.com.



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER MWR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Visit MWR online at www.usma.edu/mwr

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<p>ACS, bldg. 622 w 938-4621 AEC, bldg. 683 w 938-3762 Arts & Crafts, bldg. 648 w 938-4812 Auto Crafts, bldg. 648 w 938-2074 BSP/BOSS, bldg. 628 w 938-6497 Bowling Ctr., bldg. 622 w 938-2140 CDC, bldg. 1207 w 938-4798/4523 CDS, bldg. 1207 w 938-2092/2035 Community Rec Div w 938-2401 Delafield Pond w 938-5139/5158 Fitness Center, bldg. 683 w 938-6490 Golf Course w 938-2435/2327 Holleder Center w 938-4236</p>		<p>ITR, bldg. 695 w 938-3601/2401 AVC, bldg. 2104 w 938-3655 Morgan Farm, bldg. 2036 w 938-3926 Outdoor Rec w 938-2503 Post Library, bldg. 622 w 938-2974 Round Pond w 938-2503/3860 School Age Services, bldg. 1207 w 938-8530 West Point Club, bldg. 603 w 938-5120, 446-5506 Ski Lodge w 938-3726/3727 Youth Center, bldg. 500 w 938-3727 Veterinary Clinic, bldg. 630 w 938-3817 PLEASE NOTE: For more information, contact the office listed for each activity.</p>				<p>22</p> <p>TAP Workshop, 0830-1630 (day 3) ACS Mongolian BBQ, 1700-2100, WP Club</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Defensive Driving, 0800-1500, Register at ITR</p> <p>The Feast of San Gennaro, 1100-1800, ITR</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Tour NYC, 0900-1700, ITR Keystone Club Community Pancake Breakfast, 0900-1300, YC</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Golf Course Closed for Outside Event</p> <p>Tae Kwon Do Beginner & Advanced, 1800, YC (grades 6 & up)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Preseparation Briefing, 1400, Waiting Families Support Group, 1900, ACS</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Overseas Briefing, Korea, 1330, Germany, 1500 ACS</p> <p>Theater Van to Broadway, 1700-2330, ITR Tae Kwon Do Beginner & Advanced, 1800, YC (grades 6 & up)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Quarterback Luncheon, 1130, WP Club</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Oktoberfest, 1900-2300, WP Club Shawangunk Wine Trail, 1000-1800, ITR</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Army vs RICE, Auto, Crafts, MWR Fitness Center and Post Library closed all day on home football games.</p>	
<p>OCTOBER 1</p> <p>Annual Volksmarch, 1100-1500, Bonneville Cabin at R Pond Staff & Faculty Ice Hockey, Tate Rink, 2045-2215 Golf Course Closed Until 1300 for Outside Event</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Wee Ones Play Group, 0930-1100, ACS, Multi Purpose Room</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Defensive Driving Class, 1800-2100, Register at ITR (Oct 3 & 4)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Newcomer's Welcome, 0930, Re-Entry Workshop, 1030, ACS Staff & Faculty Ice Hockey, Tate Rink, 2115-2245 (Wednesdays in October)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Budgeting, 0830, Insurance, 0945, Targeting Stress, 1130, ACS</p> <p>Quarterback Luncheon, 1130, WP Club</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Norman Rockwell Museum, 0800-1600, ITR</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Army vs VMI, Auto, Crafts, MWR Fitness Center and Post Library closed all day on home football games Golf Course Closed for Outside Event</p>	

MWR Blurbs

Child care during home football games

The West Point Child Development Center will be offering child care for Army home football games.

Game	Deadline
Oct. 7	Wednesday
Oct. 21	Oct. 11
Nov. 3	Oct. 25

Quarterback luncheon tickets

Quarterback luncheon tickets are on sale at the West Point Club.

For more info., call 938-5120 or 446-5506.

Youth hockey registration

Youth hockey registration is ongoing at Youth Services, Bldg. 500.

For more information, call 938-8896/3550.

Hunting Safety Courses

Outdoor Recreation is offering a two-day Safety Course.

It is free and will be held at Bonneville Cabin at Round Pond.

Participants must be over 12 years of age for both courses.

A Bow Hunter's Safety Course will be held today from 6 to 10 p.m.

Participants must bring their bows and three arrows on the second day of class.

Participants must have prerequisites from both Hunter's Safety Courses to obtain a hunting license.

Register at the Round Pond office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or call 938-2503.

BOSS poker tournament

Come help celebrate the one-year anniversary of the monthly BOSS poker tournaments today at 6:30 p.m. at the Buffalo Soldier Pavilion.

First, second, and third place winners from previous tournaments compete for supremacy.

One table will be reserved for regular monthly play.

The event is open to the West

Point community.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Jermaine Malone at 938-8063 or Connie Woodley at 938-6497.

Oktoberfest '06

Come join us Sept. 29 from 7 to 11 p.m. for a night of German Food, dancing, and fun at the West Point Club.

Advanced ticket purchases are recommended.

Tickets will be available at the door.

Call 938-5120 or 446-5504 for further details.

Wine trail tour

Tour the Shawangunk wine trail with ITR Sept. 29. Tours, tasting and so much more while touring five different wineries.

Leave West Point at 11 a.m., leave the wine trail at 6 p.m.

For more information, call 938-3601.

Hiking Trail renovation

Volunteers are needed to help renovate the hiking trail at Round Pond Sept. 30 from 9 to 4:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be served from noon to 1 p.m.

Volunteers may bring a side dish.

To volunteer for this event, call 938-8580/4281 by Sept. 25.

Please provide group name, number of participants, and volunteers hours (half day, full day).

Group or individual volunteers are welcome. Any youth groups must be adult supervised.

Volksmarch

Volksmarch '06 will be Oct. 1 at Round Pond. Registration is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the event ending at 6 p.m.

Hike along a variety of scenic trails from one-to-four miles.

A small fee will be charged to include food. Leashed pets are welcome.

For more information call Round Pond at (845) 938-2503.

2006 Soldier Show

The 2006 Soldier Show comes to West Point Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. in Eisenhower Hall.

2007 Soldier Show sign ups

Applications are now being accepted for the 2007 Soldier Show. Nominations are open for vocalists, dancers, musicians and speciality acts.

Applicants must be active duty and deployable worldwide.

All application materials are due to West Point MWR Special Events Coordinator Connie Woodley by Dec. 11.

Selected performers will be notified in January 2007.

For more information on application guidelines, call 938-6497.

AFAP Symposium

The next USMA Army Family Action Plan Symposium is Nov. 14-15 from 7:45 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The Teen AFAP Symposium will be Nov. 4 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Youth Center.

Volunteers are needed to serve on the planning committee, as delegates, facilitators, recorders, issue support personnel, and in the operation center.

Contact the AFAP coordinator at (845) 938-3655 for more information, or to sign up.

Wee Ones play group

Family Advocacy's New Parent Support Program is hosting the Wee Ones Play Morning for infants through three years of age every Monday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the ACS training room, Bldg. 622.

For more info., call 938-6497. Call Family Advocacy at 938-3369 for details.

Immunization records must be up-to-date and brought with you to your first visit.

ITR

More great Disney Cruise Line rates just in to ITR.

For more info. on rates, expert travel advice and to book your next cruise, call Deb at 938-2401.

CVSG

ACS hosts the Combat Veterans Support Group for all service members at West Point who are veterans of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

The group meets on the third Thurs. each month at the ACS, Bldg. 622, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

For more information call Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Persaud at 938-4114 or Capt. Bobby Sidell at 938-3441.

Crafts

The MWR Craft Shop has just expanded its services. Take advantage of great prices on custom framing, engraving or logo design.

Conveniently located in Bldg. 648, behind the West Point Post Office, adjacent to the Auto Craft Shop.

For more info., call 938-4812/4915.

The Craft Shop is offering two new classes this fall.

Stained glass pewter birds will be offered Oct. 19, 26 and Nov. 2 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Stained glass mosaic panel will be offered Oct. 14 and 21 from 10 a.m. until noon.

Call 938-4812 for pricing and additional information.

Thanksgiving dinner

Enjoy a sumptuous Thanksgiving dinner and leave the cooking to the West Point Club.

Tickets go on sale Oct. 2 for the Thanksgiving Day feast.

Call 938-5120 or 446-5504 for more information.

Radio City Christmas show

Tickets are available for shows on Dec. 5, 12 and 14.

Call ITR at 938-3601 for more information.

DPW Notes

Closure of Clinton Place

A contract has been awarded for the reconstruction of the retaining wall (located on the river side) and roadway on Clinton Place behind the Kosciusko Monument.

The project is expected to begin on or about Monday with an anticipated completion around Nov. 24.

Clinton Place intersects Cullum Road in the vicinity of Bldg 609, goes behind the Kosciusko Monument and rejoins Cullum Road in the area of the Tennis Courts.

During the construction period, no traffic and parking will be allowed on Clinton Place.

This project will close approximately 20 CPA parking spaces.

Community members who normally park on Clinton Place should be prepared to park in another area and be aware of construction activity in the area.

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

Reconstruction/repaving of the Cadet Chapel area

A DPW contractor will begin reconstruction/repaving work of DeRussy Loop and Cadet Chapel parking lots Monday.

Work will include curbs, sidewalks, catch basins and roadway.

DeRussy Loop (upper section) will remain open until approximately Oct. 4.

During the entire project DeRussy Loop behind Arvin Gym will change from a one-way road to a two-way road, which will mean the closure of the approximately 30 CPA parking spaces behind Arvin Gym.

Changing DeRussy Loop to a two-way road will allow access to DeRussy Road, which runs from the vicinity of the Cadet Chapel toward Central Post and the site of the demolished Bldg. 720.

There will be no parking in the Cadet Chapel parking lot and the back parking lot by the water tank during the project.

The area will be open for Chapel Services and Special Chapel Events.

West Point Tours will continue for the duration of the project.

The anticipated completion date for the entire project is on or before Nov. 3.

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

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

Friday -- Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday -- Step Up, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday -- Snakes on a Plane, R, 9:30 p.m.

Sept. 29 -- Barnyard, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 30 -- Accepted, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 30 -- Beerfest, R, 9:30 p.m.

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

Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

Command Channel
8/23

Sept. 25 - Sept. 29

8 a.m. Be the Miracle, 2006 CFC

11 a.m. Be the Miracle, 2006 CFC

3 p.m. Be the Miracle, 2006 CFC

What's Happening

Farmer's Museum

The Orange County Farmer's Museum, located in Montgomery, N.Y., at the intersection of Route 17K and Berea Road, will hold a Civil War re-enactment and encampment Saturday at 2 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.

Call (845) 928-2452 for more information.

Privately Owned Weapons Ranges

Range Control will hold Privately Owned Weapon ranges at Range 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wed.; Oct. 12 and 14 and on Nov. 3 and 9.

West Point Women's Club

The WPWC Gift Shop, located next to the MWR Fitness Center, is open on the Web at www.shopthepoint.com and is open every Wed. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the shop location.

For more information call 446-2950.

WPWC has table decorations and other party items to rent.

Call 446-2974 for a complete listing of rental items.

Moms and Tots will have a Book Club Tuesday. Call Kristen at 691-1443 for more info.

There will be a play date Thursday at 9 a.m. at Dragon Park in Stony II.

For more information about Moms and Tots e-mail westpointmoms@hotmail.com or call 446-2790.

West Point Experience will be taking a trip to Constitution Island Wednesday.

For info., e-mail LLUMBSMITH@AOL.COM or call 446-2513.

The WPWC is putting together a cookbook and is looking for favorite recipes.

They are also looking for one paragraph stories of some of the events we are highlighting in the new cookbook: R-Day, Buckner, Marchback, Ring Weekend, Football/Reunions, Thayer Award, Plebe-Parent Weekend, Branch Night, Army/Navy, 500th Night, 100th Night/Yearling Winter Weekend, spring break, crest unveiling and graduation.

If you have a story you would like to share, we would love to here it.

Mail recipes and/or stories by Oct. 11 to:

West Point Women's Club
P.O. Box 44
West Point, NY, 10996

Guest lecturers

The Dept. of Chemistry and Life Sciences is hosting a lecture by Nobel Prize winner Dr. Paul Greengard Oct. 2 in Bartlett Hall's Room 409 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. He will lecture on signal transduction pathways used by therapeutic agents and drugs of abuse.

Dr. Marc Flajolet will lecture on the same subject in Bartlett Hall's Room 412 from 11:45 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

The afternoon lecture is less technical.

R.S.V.P to Maj. Kim Bennett at (845) 938-3892 or e-mail her at Kimberly.bennett@usma.edu.

Hispanic Heritage Month Festival

The Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic, West Point EO office, and the Spanish Club will host a Hispanic Heritage Month Festival Oct. 6 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the area outside Nininger Hall.

The event will feature the New York City Latin band Grupo Latino Vibe, an Argentine tango demonstration, a salsa dancing contest and free food. The event is free and open to the West Point community.

DUSA

The Daughters of the U.S. Army Continuing Education grants for the fall will be accepted until Oct. 15. Call Heidi Robbins at 446-2615.

WPS Book Fair

The West Point Elementary and Middle Schools' PTO Scholastic Book Fair is Oct. 2-5 from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. each day.

Family events on Oct. 4 start with sunrise shopping from 7 to 8 a.m. and then Family night from 6 to 8 p.m.

All Book Fair events take place in the WPS New Gym lobby.

West Point community families are invited to attend and help raise funds for WPS.

Red Cross Disaster Training

The American Red Cross and Congresswoman Sue Kelly will host Fast Track Disaster Training Sept. 30 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

To register call (845) 938-4100.

Book signings

Stephen Pressfield, author of "The Afghan Campaign" and "Gates of Fire" will be at the U.S.

Military Academy Bookstore, located on the fourth floor of Thayer Hall Wednesday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 to 1:50 p.m.

Jim Robbins, author of "Last in Their Class-the Goats of West Point," will be at the USMA Bookstore Sept. 29 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and again from 2 to 5 p.m.

Highland Falls Library book

signing

West Point Middle School teacher Ronnie Coffey will be signing copies of her book about the history of the Town of Highlands, "Images of America: Highlands" Oct. 8 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Highland Falls Library.

Upcoming Red Cross classes

American Red Cross Life Guard certification course will be offered

Nov. 5, 12, 19 and Dec. 3.

ARC Water Safety instructor course is available Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.

ARC babysitter course is Oct. 14, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To register for any of the classes listed above call 1-800-514-5103.

ARC CPR/First Aid/AED instructor training is Oct. 1, 8 and 15. Call (845) 938-4100 to register.

Army and Community Sports

Loss leaves sour taste, ready to bounce back

Story and photos by
Eric S. Bartelt
Assistant Editor

Army returns to the gridiron Saturday versus Baylor after a heartbreaking 28-24 loss to Texas A&M last weekend.

The Bears share the same record as the Black Knights at 1-2 and find themselves trying to regroup after giving up a last second game-winning field goal in a 17-15 loss to Washington State.

Baylor, who currently ranks dead last out of 119 Division I-A teams in rushing, will get a significant boost with the return of their starting running back, senior Paul Mosley.

Mosley only has 12 touches for 36 yards this year before injuring his toe in week one. He rushed for 77 yards on 16 carries and a touchdown in Baylor's 20-10 victory over Army last season at West Point.

"He's their big tailback at 6'3", 236 pounds," said Army head coach Bobby Ross. "He's had a turf toe injury, but we'll see him and it'll help their running game quite a bit."

Senior quarterback Shawn Bell leads their offensive attack and has been impressive with a 64 percent completion percentage for 830 yards and six touchdown passes.

"He has all the ingredients," Ross said. "He's got a quick release.

He spots his receivers well and has a gun of an arm."

Baylor's defense has been stout thus far as they rank 43rd in the nation in yardage and 31st in points given up. Senior cornerback C.J. Wilson is currently second in the nation with four interceptions, which is something that Army junior quarterback David Pevoto will need to look out for Saturday.

The Black Knights go to Waco, Texas, looking to redeem themselves and a win this week could help take the pain away from losing a close one to the Aggies.

"It would be very significant (to beat Baylor) because I think a lot of us still have a sour taste in our mouths from last Saturday," said senior defensive end Cameron Craig. "Not to discredit the Texas A&M defense, but we (thought) for certain that we were going to win the game but time was against us. A win is crucial this weekend."

Craig had another stellar performance against Texas A&M as he added another two tackles for losses, including the tackle that could have spurred Army on the victory. On fourth and one at the Aggies' own 30 late in the game, A&M tried to ice the game by going for it, but Craig knocked their big monster of a back, Jorvorskie Lane, for a five-yard loss.

"It was one of those opportunities that everyone dreams of (on the defensive side of the



Sophomore running back Wesley McMahan had a strong performance against Texas A&M as he rushed for 68 yards on 14 carries and two touchdowns. It followed up his 90-yard day versus Kent State Sept. 9 at Michie Stadium. McMahan currently stands at 193 yards rushing for the season.

ball) by making the big play in the backfield," Craig said. "I was going on a stunt and saw the formation, and they had been running that same play basically out of that formation. I told myself if they run this play, this is what I'm going to do and they ran that play.

"I was pretty lucky because they actually ran that play," Craig added. "It was a big stop for us."

Army was eventually stopped at the goal line on the last play of the game, but the game should not have come down to that play if it weren't for some mistakes made earlier in the evening.

Pevoto threw three interceptions last Saturday and one of them came at the five-yard line late in the third quarter. This week at practice, Pevoto and Ross are focusing on

trying to keep the ball from the opponent's grasp.

"(I need) to take care of the ball in the red zone and not make those crucial mistakes which costs us the game," Pevoto said. "I'm going to stress even more on not forcing the ball."

Ross added, "I think there are times he's just anxious to make a play. What we can't do is throw an interception (in the red zone) because that's costing us at least three points and that turns out (versus Texas A&M) to be the difference in the game."

Ross believes that Pevoto's poise has improved, however, it's the overall composure within the team that has improved with its strong performance against the Aggies despite the loss.

"All we can get out of it is a confidence building experience because it's not a win," Ross stated. "But we've had some other good games that we've played in the past like here against TCU two years ago where we played a heck of a football game and also played well against Iowa State last year.

"We can take a lot away from those games in terms of how we played as a team and build on that and that's what we're doing," Ross added, "but (in the end) the greatest amount of confidence and fun comes from winning."

After a day off Monday for the team to get some rest and recuperate, the players were back Tuesday to prepare to finish against Baylor what they started last

See SOUR TASTE on page 15



Junior safety Caleb Campbell (front) made 13 tackles against Texas A&M. Senior defensive end Cameron Craig (behind Kent State quarterback Julian Edelman) got two more tackles for losses and is now tied after three weeks with Campbell with the most tackles on the team at 25.

WAR takes Beantown Tourney

By Cadet 2nd Class
Anshwa Pennington
WAR PAO

With just four years of experience under their belts, Women's Army Rugby is ranked fourth nationally and continues to make a name for themselves and has started off the 2006 season as a strong candidate to repeat as Northeast Rugby Union Champions.

This past weekend, Women's Army Rugby swept the 30th Annual Beantown Tournament held at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, winning both the A- and B-side divisions.

The first test of the weekend began with a game against perennial Division I power Brown, which Army handled easily 36-5.

That set up a Quarterfinal matchup against revenge-seeking Yale, a team that Army knocked out of the college playoffs last year. A 19-0 victory, headlined by three tries by senior inside center Aimee Feliz, saw Army through to a semi-final matchup with third-ranked Navy. The game was a tight contest, with Army's wide attack putting the Navy backs under significant pressure. Ultimately, the Navy defense yielded a penalty kick and two tries, and Army was on to the final against second-ranked Penn State.

SOUR TASTE, cont. from page 14

Saturday versus A&M.

"The (Texas A&M) game was a heartbreaker," Pevoto said. "But, we need to go out there this week and play solid football for a full 60 minutes and if we play the same way as last week and covert (on some more plays), we'll get the victory."

Saturday's game at Baylor is not televised, but it can be heard on the Army Sports Network on WABC (770-AM, New York), WBNR (1260-AM, Beacon, N.Y.) and WLNA (1420-AM, Peekskill, N.Y.) with the kickoff at 7:05 p.m.



WAR poses with their championship trophies after the Beantown Tournament.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Penn State defeated Army in last year's college playoffs, denying them participation in the Final Four in April.

For the entire first half, neither team could threaten the other's tryline. Every time Penn State would get inside Army's 22, Army would kick the ball down the field to relieve the pressure.

In the second half, both teams were exhausted as the weight of four rugby matches in 24 hours began to take its toll. Especially the forwards, with numerous scrums and lineouts being contested. As the defensive struggle continued and the game went into the last five minutes, neither side looked forward to going into overtime.

It all came down to the final play. Outstanding hustle into cover defense by Army junior Lock Anshwa Pennington and a desperate tackle by Army sophomore Wing Nicole Myers forced an errant

Penn State pass, which was picked off by Army senior Scrum Half Dianna Le. Le covered the final 60 meters to the Penn State try zone untouched, and the whistle blew at a 5-0 Army victory.

However, the most impressive part of the weekend was the Army B-side. Although most of them have only been playing rugby for five weeks, they learned what it felt like to be champions after playing in the first three games of their rugby careers.

After putting University of Massachusetts Bs to the sword 36-0, they defeated Navy B 20-0 to set up a B division championship match against Brown. Despite surrendering their first points of the tournament, the Army rookies left with a 19-10 win.

This Sunday, WAR will return to the pitch with a home match against Navy. Kickoff is at 11 a.m. at the Anderson Rugby Complex.

HOME SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday

- Women's Volleyball vs. Colgate, 7 p.m.

Saturday

- Women's Volleyball vs. Bucknell, 5 p.m.

Sunday

- Women's Soccer vs. Oregon State, 11 a.m.
- Women's Rugby vs. Navy, 11 a.m.

Tuesday

- Men's Soccer vs. Manhattan, 7 p.m.

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1

- Golf vs. Navy, TBA

2006 Staff and Faculty Noontime Frisbee League

Through Wednesday's games

	W - L		W - L
1. Systems Engineering	7 - 0	7. DPE	3 - 3
2. C/ME	5 - 1	8. Physics	2 - 4
2. SOSH	5 - 1	9. English	3 - 3
4. DMI	5 - 2	10. DFL/GENE	1 - 6
5. History	4 - 3	11. BS&L	0 - 5
6. Math	3 - 2	12. EE&CS	0 - 5