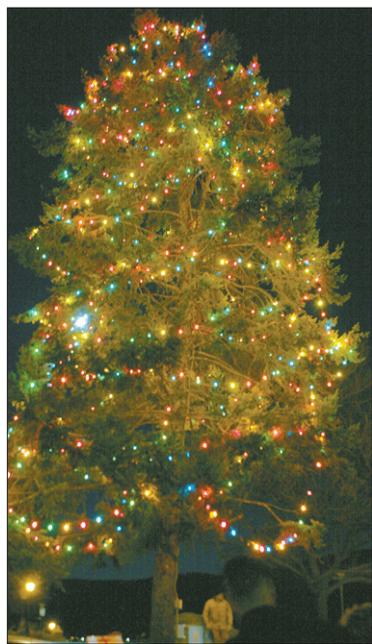


December changes (as of 12/6)	
C FUND	+ 0.90 percent
I FUND	+ 1.07 percent
S FUND	+ 1.33 percent



17 days 'til Christmas

Left: Community members gather around the post Christmas tree near the Buffalo Soldier Memorial Monday for a tree-lighting ceremony along with the sound of Christmas chorals from the West Point Girl and Boy Scouts and the Cadet Choir. Right: Santa greeted children at the Thayer Hotel after the tree lighting here. Four-year old Alexa Walsh tells the jolly old elf what she wants for Christmas and that she has been ever so good. KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

McClure named new AOG president

WESTPOINT, N.Y.--The Board of Directors of the Association of Graduates has selected Robert McClure, a member of the U.S. Military Academy Class of 1976, to become the organization's president and chief executive officer.

He will succeed Seth Hudgins, USMA Class of 1964, who served 17 years in the position and oversaw the Development Office's planning and execution of the association's bicentennial campaign. That campaign raised more than \$200 million and the money, in large measure, went to meet the academy's "Margin of Excellence" needs.

"Seth Hudgins labored nearly three decades in and out of uniform to keep the academy as one of the nation's finest universities," said West Point's 57th Superintendent, Lt. Gen. "Buster" Hagenbeck. "He's a great team-builder and communicator and we will always be proud of everything he did for West Point," he added.

Retired Lt. Gen. Theodore Stroup, the association's board

chairman, said he's excited about the opportunity to work with McClure.

"On a number of occasions, I have stated that the theme of 'Continuity, Change and Growth' will guide the affairs of the association as it moves forward," Stroup said. "I am confident this will continue to be the case now that the board will be working with a new president and CEO to achieve the AOG's strategic goals."

That sentiment was echoed by Hagenbeck, who said he was also looking toward the future.

"We look forward to collaborating with Bob McClure and working together to focus on our highest aspirations and visions for the U.S. Military Academy," Hagenbeck said.

After retiring from the Army in 2004, as a colonel and chief of the Army's War Plans Division, McClure became New York regional director of Business Executives for National Security.

As a cadet, McClure commanded the First Regiment



Robert McClure

in his senior year and played Corps Squad football. He was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers and commanded at the company, battalion and brigade level.

He also served as an aide to the commander in chief, U.S. Army

See AOG on page 3

NSPS town hall meeting

By Irene Brown
Chief, Command Information

West Point held a town hall meeting Dec. 1 to inform roughly 126 non-bargaining unit garrison employees that they are scheduled to become part of the Department of Defense's new National Security Personnel System pay structure.

Although DOD has not officially released the timeline for NSPS Spiral 1.3, West Point's Garrison Commander, Col. Brian Crawford, said he has been told to prepare for implementation next spring.

"This is your part of Army Transformation," Crawford said. "This new system is based on the private sector and will change the way you are rated and rewarded."

Currently, only non-bargaining unit employees are eligible for NSPS because of a pending lawsuit, filed by Federal employee unions, that challenges the implementation of NSPS.

Crawford opened the meeting by introducing members of the garrison's NSPS transition team, headed by Michael Bilello, West Point's Equal Employment Director. He then introduced Karen Perkins, Chief of Human Resources for the Northeast Region Office of IMCOM at Fort Monroe, Va. Perkins opened the briefing by telling participants there are no NSPS experts.

"This is only the third change for civil service rules in 123 years," Perkins said. "The system is still evolving, so there are really no subject matter experts."

Most employees' fear less pay and job losses under this system, she said. However, NSPS will not cause any reductions in force or lower the amounts civilians get paid, Perkins explained.

"Most people will get part of the next step increase pay raise [they] were due when [they] convert to NSPS," she added.

Employees who are less than a step 10 in the GS pay scale will get a raise proportionate to the days spent toward their next step increase, Perkins explained.

One really good thing about the new system, she said, is that it encourages better two-way communication between supervisors and employees, something the current system sadly lacks.

"Under NSPS, supervisors are required to sit down and talk with employees about expectations and perform timely counseling and mentoring," she said. "Raters will be held much more accountable and can suffer disciplinary actions like a reduction in pay if they aren't doing their jobs."

The new system is intended to streamline civil service, Perkins explained, and the consolidation of job codes, ranks and steps will be dramatic. From the more than 400 current job codes in DOD, there will now be four groups: Medical, Investigative and Protective Services, Engineering/Scientific, and Standard.

The vast majority of workers will be in the Standard group, she added.

Within these categories, there

See NSPS on page 3

INSIDE



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS,
page 8

The Army comes through, just when you need it most

By Michelle Cuthrell

[Editor's Note: The following commentary is reprinted courtesy of Michelle Cuthrell, a freelance writer whose husband is assigned to the 172nd Stryker Brigade. The unit's tour in Iraq was extended in August. This story first appeared in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.]

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- As an unofficial member of the U.S. Army, I'm used to standing in lines.

Hurry up and wait is just one of those realities in the military -- and one I usually confront with a tap in my toe and frustration on

my face.

But the night of Oct. 25 was a totally different story.

For the first time in my life as a military spouse, I stood in a line on a military base excited, smiling and completely content to wait on my feet for an hour and 15 minutes while the line crept slowly forward to the front of Murray Hall. I would even call the experience pleasant, if line-standing can be classified as such.

Hey, I'll sing a song backward while standing on my head and writing love notes to the Army if it means that at the end of that line are tickets for my son and myself to fly to Anchorage for a weekend. For free.

For all the complaining I occasionally do about the military ("the Army stole my husband," "I hate deployment" and "Matt brought a third party into our marriage and I'm telling!" have all been household phrases in my home at one time or another), the commanders, rear detachment and base organizations at Fort Wainwright sure have reached out to Stryker families this year -- and not just in a "we'll do the least we can and scrape by at bare minimum" kind of way.

They've applied for grants that have given each family eight hours of free respite childcare each week, plus five hours of free care every Tuesday and Thursday night. They've set up a Family Assistance Center staffed with personnel

nearly any time of day and brought in teams of counselors (Family Life Consultants) to consult with anyone at any time.

They've set up free bowling nights for Stryker families, set up free humor and motivation-inspiring events for spouses. They've even turned the Last Frontier Club into a family-friendly place where burnt-out single parents can bring their kids to play laser tag and crawl through playland tubes when they just can't take another round of "who can beat Mommy the hardest with his He-Man, just-like-Daddy's sword" any more.

Some people tell me that that's the least the Army can do for

keeping our spouses overseas for an additional four months or for deploying them overseas at all. But my husband signed up to serve, and he considers his job an honor, and that means that everything the Army does for us beyond providing a paycheck, some health care and a form of communication is just icing on the cake.

The Army does not owe it to me to provide free childcare nearly any day of the week. They do not owe it to me to send their rear detachment team out to hang up my Christmas lights because my husband isn't here to do it for me.

And they certainly do not owe it to me to arrange an incredible

all-expenses-paid trip to Anchorage for a weekend of shopping and fun with a plane ride down and a train ride back to cheer me up in the middle of an extension.

But the team at Fort Wainwright does it anyway. Because they want to. Because they choose to. Because that's a gift they can give us during a stressful time for our families. It's just that, in the middle of the heartbreak and chaos, I haven't always been able to view it as one.

I'm done "surviving" the Army. Today, I am going to start appreciating not only the roof the Army puts over my head, but the hard work and sacrifices.

SARP INFO

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

MPs take parking infractions seriously

Commentary by
Staff Sgt. Trammell
Montgomery
PMO Traffic NCOIC

In keeping with the good order and discipline of the U.S. Military Academy, parking regulations are being strictly enforced. Illegal parking causes congestion, slows traffic and contributes to accidents and personal injuries. Over the past month, the military police have issued over 232 citations for parking violations.

These parking infractions significantly detract from normal

law enforcement operations on the installation and cost law enforcement officials and parking violators considerable amounts of time rectifying the situation.

Parking is at a premium at West Point. Passes, regardless of category, do not secure the pass owner a reserved parking space. These passes only authorize the use of a specific lot or parking area. At no time will vehicles be allowed to park in safety zones, on seeded areas, within the roadways or in handicap parking spaces without handicap parking authorization.

The best way to avoid becoming a subject of parking

enforcement is to park in a legal parking space. Subjects of parking violations will receive one of two violation notices: an Armed Forces Traffic Ticket for personnel in violation of USMA parking regulations or a District Court Violation Notice for personnel in violation of the State of New York Vehicle and Traffic Laws.

Persons receiving three parking citations within a six-month period will have their vehicle towed at the owner's expense and forfeit their CPA pass and parking privileges for a period of one month.

Health benefits sign-ups end Monday

Changes must be made on the Army Benefits Center - Civilian (ABC-C) Web site, <https://www.abc.army.mil>, or by calling (877) 276-9287.

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.

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

Difficulty: Medium

See Solution on Page 11

POINTER VIEW®

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The Pointer View® is printed by the Poughkeepsie Journal, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive contract with USMA. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the USMA or the Army.

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

For information, call
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Local and National News

New security measures implemented at the gates

By Staff Sgt. Peter Thens
Physical Security NCO, DES

A new identification scanning system has been implemented at the gates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The Mobilisa Defense ID™ Program has been used here since Nov. 21.

The system is part of an initiative that was originally led by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service to have a way to quickly scan and identify various forms of identification, including military ID cards, driver's licenses and passports.

It comes in the form of a handheld scanner that quickly and

easily checks for fake IDs; lost, stolen or terminated military IDs; expired licenses and IDs; probing alerts/previous turn-a-ways; base debarment; be-on-the-lookout suspects and terrorist suspects.

"[The new system] will provide West Point with a state-of-the-art security capability that will provide us a more creditable, reliable and efficient means to screen people entering our installation," said West Point Director of Emergency Services and Provost Marshal, Lt. Col. Bob Brown.

The information from the presented form of identification is compared to a persons-of-interest database that collects information

from over 100 publicly accessible sites such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Drug Enforcement Administration, to name a few.

While similar to the system used at military installations in Europe, our system is functionality different in that it uses compiled databases that are updated regularly. The system in Europe requires an installation to build its own database, according to Staff Sgt. Peter Thens, DES physical security NCO.

The system ensures individuals who come to this installation do not have open arrest warrants or felony records, but most importantly that they are not on a known terrorist

watchlist, Thens added.

People with unfavorable information attached to their records will not necessarily be denied entrance to the installation. Any individual whose scan raises questions will require a second look by the military police to review the individual's circumstances. Each situation will be examined on a case by case basis.

West Point is the first CONUS Army military installation to use the scanner, which made its debut on select Naval bases in November 2004. Select Air Force bases have also used it.

This system will not increase the amount of time it will take to access the installation. Some minor

delays were suffered on the first day the devices were used, but further training and proficiency with them have made any additional delays negligible.

Initially the scanners will be in operation at various Access Control Points to the installation, but future use is expected to expand considerably, to include restricted-area badge processing, facility access, incident-scene accountability, vehicle registration and even hunting registration.

Funding for the program comes from the Army's Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Program, as the scanners cost between \$4,500 and 7,000, depending on a unit's capabilities.



Security Guard Luis Dirosa uses the Mobilisa Defense ID™ scanner Monday. The new security scanner has been used at Thayer gate since Nov. 21. The scanner quickly checks for fake IDs, probes alerts/previous turn-a-ways, base debarment and be-on-the-lookout suspects by comparing them to a persons-of-interest database.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

AOG, cont. from page 1

Europe and had a three-year tour as a professor in the Department of Social Sciences at West Point.

During his Army career, he studied in Germany as an Olmsted Scholar and had fellowships

at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Council of Foreign Relations.

McClure will be leaving his present position as a senior defense analyst with Booz Allen Hamilton

in suburban Washington.

The Association of Graduates is the alumni association of the U.S. Military Academy. Its mission is to serve West Point and its graduates.

NSPS, cont. from page 1

will be three pay schedules, except Standard, which will have four. Within each pay band, there will be two to four levels, Perkins added.

"The special acts, on-the-spots, time-off awards, the local market supplement; none of those are going away," she added. "Instead of advancing another step every year or two, you can simply get a raise or bonus, based on your performance."

There will also be annual reviews of the local market supplement and the pay band rates to determine if adjustments should be made.

In the meantime, West Point's NSPS transition team leader said educating people about NSPS is very important.

"Everyone, even those not scheduled to go into the new system, should be striving to learn

as much about it as possible," Bilello explained. "The more educated everyone is on this system, the easier the transition."

Crawford said affected employees will receive various forms of NSPS training, including some given by recently trained garrison employees.

"We sent two people for a week-long intense NSPS training session and they will train those slated for Spiral 1.3," Crawford explained.

For more information on NSPS or Spiral 1.3, garrison employees should contact the transition team at 938-8193 or 938-6948 or go to www.cpol.army.mil/library/general/nsps/regulations.html.

All other employees should call the USMA NSPS transition manager at 938-2703.

President Bush changes locality pay formula

WASHINGTON (govexec) -- President Bush decided Nov. 30 to use a new formula to determine locality pay for federal employees in 2007, giving a greater portion to employees in cities such as New York and San Francisco.

The new formula takes into consideration the increasing pay gaps between the private and public sectors in some cities, such as New York, compared to others. But switching formulas means that

many cities and the "Rest of U.S." category will get a slightly smaller locality boost.

The final locality number will depend on whether lawmakers allocate a 2.7 percent or a 2.2 percent total pay increase for civilians next year. Congress may not make its decision until well into 2007, forcing retroactive pay raises for federal employees.

Lawmakers approved a 2.7 percent raise in draft legislation

for civilians, but passed a 2.2 percent raise for the military. Historically, lawmakers have brought the civilian raise in line with the military's and it is unlikely, especially during a time of war, that lawmakers would grant civilians more than Soldiers.

Assuming the total pay raise is 2.2 percent, and the portion devoted to locality raises is 0.5 percent, employees in the New York region would get a 3.03 percent total pay

raise under the new formula. New Yorkers would have received a 2.63 percent raise under the old formula. San Francisco area employees would be in line for a 3 percent raise, rather than 2.71 percent. Washington workers would receive a 2.64 percent raise, as opposed to 2.4 percent.

The "Rest of U.S." area is slated to get a 1.81 percent raise under the new formula, which is smaller than the 2.03 percent it would have

received.

In October, the Federal Salary Council, an independent body of salary experts, employee representatives and federal officials that usually makes recommendations on the allocation of locality pay, chose to leave it up to the president.

Once Congress votes on the final pay raise amount, Bush will still have to sign an executive order with the 2007 pay raise.

Stateside spouse education program expanded

Compiled by Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

The Stateside Spouse Education Assistance Program, administered by Army Emergency Relief, headquarters, expanded the educational assistance program to provide spouses of active duty and retired Army Soldiers and widow/widowers with financial assistance in pursuing educational goals on the undergraduate level.

This includes spouses of Army Soldiers who died either on active duty or in a retired status and who are residing in the United States, according to AER HQ in Alexandria, Va.

Stateside financial assistance is awarded based on financial need as evidenced by income, assets, family size, special financial obligations and circumstances with a \$2,500 maximum per academic year. Spouses must reside at a stateside

residence and be enrolled, accepted or pending acceptance as a full-time student in a post-secondary or vocational institution that is approved by the U.S. Department of Education.

"The program was expanded to the U.S. effective February 2006," said Education Program Manager, Diann Evans. "Those who wish to participate in SEAP may obtain an application [the AER Form 6] and instructions from their local AER section, by a written request to HQ AER or by downloading them from our web site at www.aerhq.org."

All documents must be mailed to this headquarters at Stateside Spouse Education Assistance Program, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, Va., 22332-0600, she said.

Evans said the application and supporting documentation must be submitted and postmarked no later than March 1, 2007. Supporting

documentation includes a privacy statement [part seven of the AER Form 6], which must be signed and dated by both the spouse and the Soldier, if applicable. If special circumstances exist that preclude the Soldier's signature, inform HQ in detail so those circumstances can be considered.

"As a former Army spouse, I think this program is very important," said West Point's Army Community Service Director for the

Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation Dept., Jill O'Brien. "It's important because Army spouses make sacrifices too, and it helps with retention and recruitment efforts by allowing spouses to

pursue their educational goals."

O'Brien said AER Forms 6 will be available at the Army Community Services at Bldg. 622 or can be downloaded from the AER web site at www.aerhq.org.

Senate confirms Gates as 22nd defense secretary

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press
Service

WASHINGTON -- The Senate confirmed Robert M. Gates in a 95-2 vote Wednesday to be the 22nd U.S. secretary of defense.

Gates will succeed Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, who will retain the job until Gates' official swearing-in ceremony. President Bush has not yet announced when that will occur.

As part of his confirmation procedure, Gates testified Tuesday before the Senate Armed Services Committee. The war in Iraq dominated the hearing and Gates told the senators he will consider all options in Iraq. Gates said the U.S. is not winning in Iraq, but not losing either. He told committee members the U.S. will need to maintain a presence in Iraq for a long time, but that the presence may not be as heavy in combat troops as it is today.

Gates told the senators he believes he can maintain an independent voice as he runs the Defense Department. "I don't owe anybody anything," he said. "I've come back here to do the best I can for the men and women in uniform and for the country in terms of these

difficult problems that we face."

Bush nominated Gates to be secretary Nov. 8, the day after the national elections that moved control of both the House and Senate to the Democrats.

"The election has changed many things in Washington, but it has not changed my fundamental responsibility, and that is to protect the American people from attack," Bush said during a White House press conference that day.

Rumsfeld was serving as defense secretary when terrorists hit the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. He personally ran to the courtyard of the Pentagon to help those injured in the attack to safety.

He went on to lead DOD as it began fighting back against terrorism, first in Afghanistan, where a small number of American special operations personnel helped the Northern Alliance overthrow the repressive Taliban regime. Rumsfeld also led the department through Operation Iraqi Freedom when 150,000 U.S. and coalition personnel overthrew Saddam Hussein and liberated 25 million people.

Rumsfeld is slated to speak to the Pentagon workforce at a town hall today.



Newly confirmed U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates.

DOD PHOTO BY CHERIE A. THURLBY

Community Features and Photos

Academic department heads meet at West Point

By Col. Eugene Ressler
Deputy Head, EE&CS

Sixteen leaders of distinguished electrical and computer engineering programs in the northeastern United States met at West Point Nov. 18, to discuss the best practices in higher education.

The U.S. Military Academy's Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science hosted the meeting on behalf of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Heads Association, a national organization made up of nearly 300 institutions that maintain ABET-accredited programs.

Cornell, Clarkson, Manhattan College, Massachusetts, MIT, New Haven, Norwich, Rensselaer, Rochester IT, SUNY, Union College and Worcester Polytech were among those represented in this latest of an annual series held in previous years in Rochester, N.Y., and Worcester, Mass.

Ken Connor, Ph. D., the most recent past-chairperson of the national organization, attended and discussed a new Web-based application for sharing ideas on recruiting, retention and pedagogy.

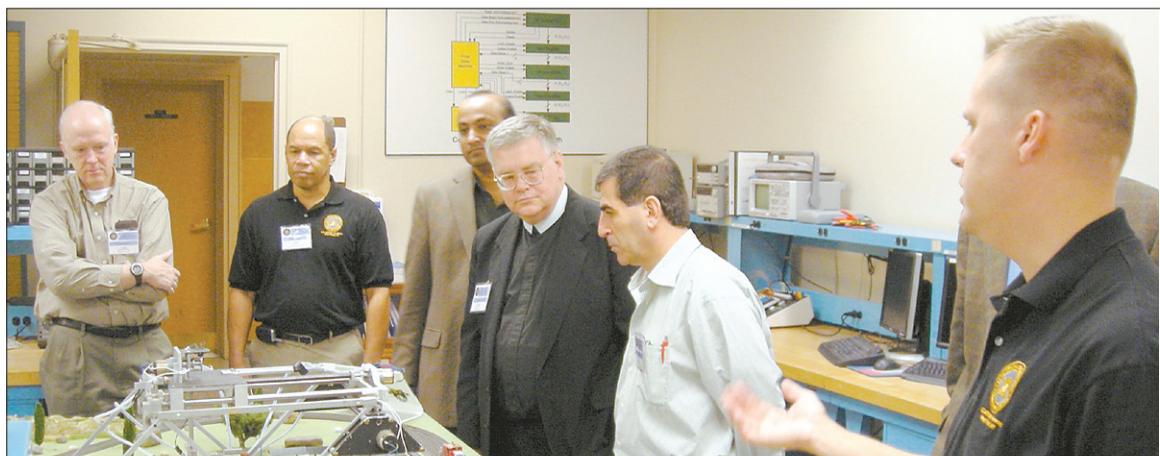
The growth of study abroad programs inspired a spirited dialogue. Logistics of international study are hard enough, but with academic requirements for engineering already complex, verifying foreign course standards adds a huge challenge.

Vice Dean for Resources, Col. Curt Carver presented the USMA plan. The heads began work on how to share workload and avoid duplicated efforts -- a process sure to continue for years to come. Several heads have spent many months abroad setting up exchange and educational opportunities. Colleges and universities expect to grow programs that will accommodate study abroad for up to 100 percent of their engineering students.

News from ABET, the standard-setting body for engineering education worldwide, is a perennial favorite topic. This meeting was no exception, with a talk by Col. Bryan Goda on lessons learned during the recent ABET national meeting in Tampa, Fla, which he attended.

Trends in curricula and supporting technology, recruiting great students and ways to usefully "benchmark" or compare educational programs were other productive discussion areas.

According to Col. Andre Sayles,



ECEDHA members receive an orientation on a cadet robotic train project from EE&CS Photonics Director Lt. Col. Bob Sadowski.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY EE&CS

Head of EE&CS, ECEDHA is a tremendous resource for department heads.

"Having access to some of the best academic leaders in the world makes these meetings worthwhile," he said.

It was not all work, however. Tours of EE&CS lab facilities, lunchtime entertainment about USMA Projects Day and a grand tour of West Point and the Cadet Chapel rounded out a great day of learning and comradeship.

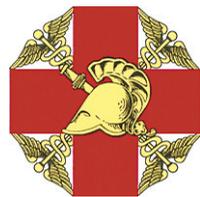
The national Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Heads Association was formed

in 1963 for the purpose of advancing knowledge, helping members exchange ideas and

improving communication with the engineering profession, industry, government and others.

Healthwatch: Prevention of cold weather injuries

By Maj. William D. Porter KACH, Public Health Physician



Also, individuals with poor nutrition or previous injuries from cold exposure as well as those who use tobacco, nicotine or alcohol are at an increased risk of a cold-weather injury. Decreased activity, fatigue/sleep deprivation and those with little experience in this geographical area are also at an increased risk of cold-weather injuries.

During the winter months, it is important that West Point residents remain informed and vigilant to current as well as upcoming weather changes. Making sure you have the appropriate cold-weather gear and that it's clean, without stains, holes or blemishes (that decreases its insulation value) is also important to preventing cold-weather injuries.

Clothing should be worn in layers and adjusted to the activity

level and temperature. You should remove a layer when you start to feel warm, but before you sweat. Once you begin to feel cool, but before you start to shiver, add layers.

The hands, fingers, toes, ears and nose are the most susceptible to cold-weather injuries and should remain protected. Scarves, stocking caps, gloves and mittens should always be considered a standard

part of your winter garb, especially for small children. Sunglasses should also be considered during sunny days after a snowfall to protect the eyes from the harsh reflection of the sun's rays.

In summary, the climate here at West Point provides great opportunities for winter fun and enjoyment. Skiing, sledding, ice skating and other sports and

activities are readily available. Just make sure before you head out into the weather that you and your loved ones are properly prepared.

For more information, call the Army Public Health Nurses at Keller Army Community Hospital at 938-2676 or go to at http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/coldinjury/ColdWeather_TempHome_20061121.pdf.

As the temperature starts dropping and the days get shorter, the risk of developing a cold-weather injury here at West Point dramatically increases. By following some simple steps, most types of cold-weather injuries can be easily prevented.

Cold weather may be hazardous to your health if any of the following are present: temperatures 40 degrees F and below; rain, snow, ice, humidity or wet clothes at temperatures below 60 degrees F; wind speed of 5 mph and higher.

Wind Chill Temperature Table

Wind Speed (mph)	Air Temperature (°F)																	
	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
0	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	-63
10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-66	-72
15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71	-77
20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74	-81
25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78	-84
30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80	-87
35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82	-89
40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91
45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86	-93
50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95

GREEN LITTLE DANGER (frostbite occurs in >2 hours in dry, exposed skin)
YELLOW INCREASED DANGER (frostbite could occur in 45 minutes or less in dry exposed skin)
RED GREAT DANGER (frostbite could occur in 5 minutes or less in dry, exposed skin)

Holiday safety tips

The winter holidays are a hectic time of year for everyone. They are a time of celebration, and that means more cooking, home decorating, running errands, last-minute shopping, entertaining and an increased risk of fire due to heating equipment.

There are safety rules for work and play but there are also some very important rules to consider during this time of year.

The National Fire Protection Association has provided the following safety tips:

Christmas Trees – Should we get a live tree or an artificial one? Here are some considerations:

Live Trees -- Ensure you purchase a fresh one. Fresh trees are moister and less flammable than dry trees. There are several ways to judge the freshness of a pre-cut tree:

- Brush your hands across the limbs to check for loose needles. The fresher the tree, the fewer needles will drop off.

- Lift and tap the tree on the ground. Again, fewer needles will drop off a fresh tree.

- The trunk should be sticky with sap – test by touching the trunk in several places.

- Once you get the tree home, immerse it in a bucket of water until time for decorating.

- Make sure your tree stand holds at least 1 gallon of water. As a general rule, stands should provide 1 quart of water per inch of stem diameter. The average six-foot tree has a four-inch diameter trunk and can consume as much as four quarts or one gallon of water per day.

- Keep your tree at least three feet from fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, heating vents and other sources of heat. Don't place the tree where it blocks an exit.

- Before setting up the tree, cut a one or two inch diagonal slice from the bottom of the tree.

- Mount the tree in a sturdy, water-holding stand and keep the stand filled with water.

- Keep the tree in an area free from frequent people and pet traffic.

- Make sure that small children are supervised when near the tree.

Artificial Trees – They are less flammable than live trees, but there are still precautions to consider:

- Check the manufacturer-

provided information on the tree's flammability rating and fire resisting capabilities.

- Brush your hand across the limbs to check for loose needles and materials.

- The tree should be well constructed to withstand the rigors of set up and display.

- Mount the tree in a sturdy stand.

- Never use electrical lighting on a metallic tree.

Lights/Lighting

- Position all bulbs so that they do not directly contact the needles of the tree.

- Never connect more than three sets of lights to one extension cord.

- Never connect extension cords together.

- Keep all cords and plugs away from the tree and the water under the tree.

- Place cords out of traffic areas but never run cords under the rugs or carpets.

- Look for the Underwriters Laboratory mark on light strings, electrical decorations and extension cords. The UL mark means that UL engineers have tested representative samples of the product for foreseeable safety hazards such as fire and electric shock.

- Ensure lights, decorations and extension cords are rated for outside use. Lights intended for indoor-only use bear green UL marks. Light strings intended for indoor and outdoor use bear red UL marks.

- Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for electrical decorations.

- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration - new or old - before plugging it in. Cracked sockets, frayed, bare or loose wires can cause a serious electric shock or start a fire. Replace damaged items with new, UL-listed decorations.

- Don't use staples or nails to hang light strings. Instead, purchase hooks or clips designed for hanging light strings.

- Check packaging to determine the maximum number of strings that may be connected or use this rule of thumb: Connect a maximum of three midget



(push-in bulbs) light strings or up to 50 bulbs of light strings with the screw-in bulbs (C7s and C9s).

- Don't overload extension cords by plugging in too many decorations.

- Always unplug the lights inside and out, when no one is home and prior to going to bed.

Candles

- Keep candles away from decorations, curtains, bedding, paper, walls, furniture and other combustible materials.

- Place candles away from spots where they could be knocked over by a person or pet.



- Use sturdy, non-combustible candleholders that can collect dripping wax and won't tip over.

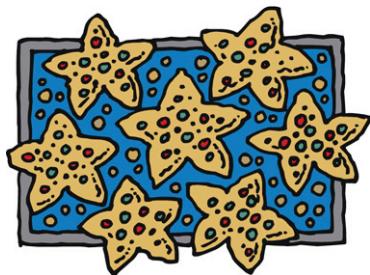
- Extinguish a candle when two inches of wax remains or a half-inch if the candle is in a container. This prevents heat damage to the surface and stops glass containers from breaking.

- Don't leave children unattended in a room with lit candles.

- Always keep candles, as well as matches and lighters, out of the reach of children.

- Never use lit candles to decorate Christmas trees.

- Extinguish candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.



Decorations/Cooking

- Children and pets are especially prone to injuries caused by swallowing decorations, being cut from the glass of fragile ornaments, etc.

- Choose and place decorations carefully.

- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. Remember to keep an eye on the range!

- Keep hands, utensils, and preparation surfaces clean.

Holiday Fire Safety in the

Workplace

Post Fire Regulation 420-3, Chapter 23 addresses Holiday Decorations and Furnishings:

- The Fire Department will inspect all decorations to be used and the proposed arrangement to ensure compliance before installation. Contact the Fire Prevention Office at 938-7484 to arrange for an inspection. Decorations not meeting NFPA code requirements and/or Army directives will be removed.

- Only UL approved flame retardant/resistant decorations will be authorized for use.

- Christmas tree lighting and wiring must be in good physical condition with no splices or short-circuiting in the wire. Indoor lighting will not be used for outdoor use.

- Outdoor lights and wiring will be in good physical condition, must be approved for outdoor use by the manufacturer and be weatherproof.

- The use of live Christmas trees is prohibited. Only non-combustible (artificial) Christmas trees and decorations are authorized for use in facilities.

An exception to this requirement is that Military Family Housing residences may use live Christmas trees.

- Christmas tree lights will be unplugged when the area or facility is unoccupied. Christmas tree lights will not be used on metal Christmas trees due to the possible hazard of shock or electrocution.

- All Christmas decorations will be taken down the first week of January. Decorations for all other occasions will be removed no later than one day after the event.

- Decorations will not be placed where they would restrict or impede fire evacuation routes, emergency lights, or block access to exits for personnel exiting the facility.

If you have any questions on fire safety, please contact a member of your Fire Prevention Staff at: 938-3633/7483/7484.

Enjoy the season, but consider why it is a time of celebration.

Do the right thing, manage the risk, and have a happy and safe holiday season.

If you have any questions, please contact the USMA Safety Office at 938-3717.

[*Editor's Note:* Information for this story was supplied by both the USMA Safety Office and the West Point Fire Department.]



DECEMBER MWR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

 Visit MWR online at www.usma.edu/mwr

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY								
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			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.				50% OFF 1 hour bay time at the MWR Auto Shop with this coupon Expires 12/31/06 Limit 1 per person							
10 Big Game Hunting Season Ends, 5pm Public Skate, 3:30pm-5pm, Staff & Faculty Ice Hockey, 8:45pm-10:15pm, Tate Rink 			11  Video Teleconference with Deployed Soldiers, 8am-4:30pm, ACS Wee Ones Play Group, 9:30am-11am, ACS		12 Waiting Families Support Group, 6:30pm, Preseparation Briefing, 2pm, ACS 		13  Financial Readiness Training for 1st Term Soldiers, 8:30am, Initial PCS Move, 1:30pm, Checking Accounts, 2:45pm, ACS		14 Radio City Christmas Spectacular, 4pm-10:15pm, ITR 		15  West Point Club Closed, December 15 after Lunch - January 2, Reopens January 3 Cardio Kickboxing, 9am, Butts & Guts, 4:30pm, MWR Fitness Center Every Friday		16  Holiday Shopping in NYC, 9am-4pm, ITR Teen Ice Skating Trip, 1pm-4pm, YC	
17 Public Skate, 3:30pm-5pm, Staff & Faculty Ice Hockey, 8:45pm-10:15pm, Tate Rink 			18  Wee Ones Play Group, 9:30am-11am, ACS Interval Training & Ab Lab, 9am, Spinning, 5pm, Belly Dancing (Beginner) 6pm, Belly Dancing (Intermediate) 7pm, Mondays in December at the MWR Fitness Center		19 Create an Electronic Address Book, 2pm, YC (grades 6-12) 		20  Bronx Zoo Holiday Lights Tour, 1pm-9pm, ITR New Years Celebration, 1pm-3pm, SAS (all SAS children)		21 Theater Van to Broadway & Holiday Lights Tour, 5pm-10pm, ITR  Overview of ACS, 8:30am, Financial Institutions, 9:45am, Personal Finance, 11am, ACS		22  Teen Holiday Party, 2pm-5pm, YC (grades 9-12)		23 Holiday Shopping in NYC, 9am-4pm, ITR  Middle School Holiday Party, 2pm-5pm, YC (grades 6-8)	

Keller Corner

KACH closures

All outpatient clinics, laboratories, the pharmacy and radiology will be closed Dec. 25, 26, 29 and Jan. 1. KACH will be closing at noon Dec. 15.

The emergency room will remain open.

Flu shots still available

Flu shots will be available today for any military personnel in Bldg. 606, Room 3M55 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

They will also be available to other eligible beneficiaries at the KACH immunization clinic on a walk-in basis until supplies are exhausted.

Shot and Shop

KACH will offer flu shots Dec. 16 at the Post Exchange from 9 a.m. until noon to all eligible beneficiaries age 12 and older.

Childbirth preparation classes

[Three-week series] Classes start Jan. 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in KACH's second floor classroom.

Call OBU at 938-3210.

If you are expecting a baby before mid-April, sign up now because the next series begins in March.

Nutrition Care Division

The staff of the Nutrition Care Division invites you to join us to celebrate the season Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The following personnel are authorized to dine in the hospital dining facility: inpatients, outpatients, MEDDAC staff to include contractors, military personnel assigned to or in direct support of MEDDAC [i.e. USAR, ARNG, etc.], Red Cross volunteers and military police on duty.

Dining facility holiday hours: Dec. 18-22 -- Normal breakfast hours and lunch from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dec. 25-26 -- Closed.

Dec. 27-28 -- Normal breakfast hours and lunch from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dec. 29, Jan. 1 -- Closed

Jan. 2 -- Resume normal hours.

DPW Notes

Construction activity at Eisenhower Hall

A DPW contractor is working in the Eisenhower Hall Ballroom to remove and install new ballroom dividers. We anticipate the work will run from Monday until Dec. 26.

On Wednesday, a construction crane will be located at the north entrance to the Ike Hall tunnel and will completely block traffic from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., so there will be no through traffic.

All community members should plan to access the tunnel from the south side of the building.

Holiday decoration display policy enforcement

Due to rising energy costs and our shrinking resource dollars, enforcement of the Garrison Holiday Lighting Policy will occur this year in all housing areas.

The MPs, DPW personnel and the Garrison Staff will be recording violators of this policy during their normal course of duties.

Future action against repeat offenders is being considered. We urge all residents to remember that being a good steward of your quarters includes adherence to all policies.

As a reminder, the policy is:

Exterior holiday lights and displays for the Christmas/Hanukkah season must be removed no later than Jan. 15.

Electric lights, both exterior and interior that are viewed from the outside, may only be operated

during hours of darkness (except Dec. 24 and 25) and must be turned off by midnight each day.

Lights must only be utilized when the occupant is home, except if controlled by using an automatic timer set using the constraints listed above.

DPW official closure

All offices and shops of the Directorate of Public Works will be closed Thursday for an official function.

Be prepared for winter weather

Martha Hinote DPW Customer Relations

As winter weather rapidly approaches the Hudson Valley, DPW invites all community members to prepare now for the first snow/ice event of the 2006-7 season.

Family Housing Residents and Building Commandants are encouraged to go to the DPW Self Help Center, Bldg 695, to pick up any of the following materials:

Snow Shovels, Ice Choppers, Liquid De-icer and Snow Rakes

As a reminder, building commandants must have a current DA 1687 on file at the Self Help Center to receive materials.

Snow Rakes are available on a three-day loan and are designed to help residents remove snow accumulation from the lower edges of the roof.

Housing residents are reminded that they are responsible for clearing snow and ice from their walkways within 24 hours of the conclusion of the weather event.

This is particularly important if you are expecting the delivery or pick up of an appliance. It is extremely dangerous to move a heavy appliance in icy or snowy conditions.

Please help us insure the quick, safe delivery of your appliance. Additionally, for the safety of West Point's children, it is very important that snow and ice be removed from

This includes the DPW Self Help Center, the Housing Division Office, including inspections, and the DPW Service Desk.

Emergency service requests only should be reported using 938-2316. Normal operations will resume Dec. 15.

Self Help Holiday schedule

The DPW Self Help Center (Bldg 695) will be closed Dec. 23 in celebration of the Christmas Holiday. It will reopen Dec. 26.

sidewalks in a timely manner.

If your quarters are located along the walking route to the West Point School, this task is essential.

As a reminder, residents must also ensure that the paths to fuel oil fill pipes, the area of the pipe itself and trash collection points are free of ice and snow.

Failure to do so could mean that fuel oil will not be delivered to your quarters and your solid waste will not be picked up in a timely manner.

You can help prevent flooding in your basements/garages by ensuring that all storm drains are cleared of ice and snow, so that when the conditions start melting there is someplace for the water to drain.

Additionally, please help out the West Point Fire Department by clearing fire hydrants that are located near your quarters, as it could save time in an emergency. Also, please be a good neighbor! If you live near someone with a deployed family member, please support the remaining spouse by helping to shovel snow.

DPW Snow Operations are carried out based on USMA Reg.

The Center will also be closed Dec. 30 and will reopen Jan. 2.

Wounded Warrior Program

The U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program [AW2] provides severely disabled Soldiers and their families with a system of advocacy and follow-on support to assist them as they transition back to military service or into the civilian community.

To contact AW2, call 1-800-237-1336, or e-mail them at AW2@hoffman.army.mil.

For all other inquiries, call 1-800-833-6622 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Mon. through Fri.

Their Web site is www.aw2.army.mil.

420-8, which specifies priorities for snow removal.

Please do not ask operators to deviate from the priorities to "do you a favor."

Community members are reminded that during snow

operations, heavy equipment will be in use.

Please allow a safe distance between your vehicle and the equipment.

Remember that this equipment needs larger areas for maneuvering and braking.

In addition the driver has limited visibility due to the size of the equipment and lower visibility caused by poor weather conditions.

During snow removal operations, DPW maintains a Snow Control Desk, 938-4707.

DENTAC

During the holidays, many people will have extra time on their hands due to reduced schedules. DENTAC also has extra time and will be open:

Dec. 18 and 20 from 7:20 to 10:40 a.m.

Dec. 22 from 7:20 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 26 from 7:20 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 28 from 7:20 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Dec. 29 from 7:20 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Patients should call for an appointment, but walk-ins are welcome.

Call 938-2106/3121/2505 for information or to make an appointment.

Command Channel 8/23

Dec. 8 - Dec. 15

Friday

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
1 p.m. Army Newswatch
6 p.m. Army Newswatch

Monday - Dec. 15

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
1 p.m. Army Newswatch
6 p.m. Army Newswatch

Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752

Dec. 8 -- **The Grudge 2, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.**

Dec. 9 -- **The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause, G, 7:30 p.m.**

Dec. 9 -- **The Departed, R, 9:30 p.m.**

Dec. 15 -- **Employee of the Month, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.**

Dec. 16 -- **Flushed Away, PG, 7:30 p.m.**

Starting Jan. 6 there will be a 9:30 p.m. late show on Fridays.

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

What's Happening

Waiting Families Support Group holiday celebration

Army Community Service is hosting a holiday celebration for the families of deployed Soldier's and recently returned Soldier's Sat. from 5 to 7 p.m. at the West Point Youth Center.

The Nanuet Rotary is donating pizza, a face painter and a moon bounce. There will also be cadet volunteers to help with the kids.

AFTB Day is Dec. 16

December 16 has been designated as Army Family Team Building Day by the Chief of Staff and Sgt. Maj. of the Army. The AFTB is a program designed to educate and empower members of the military community to develop skills and encourage behaviors that strengthen self-reliance, promote retention and enhance readiness.

For additional information, or to volunteer or participate in the AFTB program at West Point contact Galatea Badger at (845) 938-5654.

Christmas Tree sales

The Fort Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department's annual fundraiser is now open. Trees and wreaths are available weekdays from 2 to 9 p.m. and on Sat. and Sun. from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m.

They have a new supplier and the trees are fresh cut.

Sales are located four miles south of West Point on Route 9W at the Fort Montgomery Firehouse.

For more information, call 446-3542.

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.

Craft Bazaar

The West Point Women's Club will hold their annual Craft Bazaar Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sun. from noon to 5 p.m. in the Eisenhower Hall Ballroom.

Over 90 vendors will sell their arts and crafts.

Please bring photo ID for entry into West Point.

For more info., go online to www.shopthepoint.com.

Craft Fair and Dinner Dance

The Highland Falls Fire Department is hosting a Craft Fair, Sat., from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the HFFD.

For more information, call 446-2187/2847, or e-mail hffdcraftfair@yahoo.com.

There will also be a Holiday Dinner Dance at the HFFD, Sat. from 6 p.m. to midnight. For more information, call 446-7136.

MLK luncheon Jan. 10

The West Point Equal Opportunity office and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. memorial committee will host a luncheon Jan. 10 at the West Point Club from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Retired Maj. Gen. Fred Gorden will be the guest speaker. The Cadet Gospel Choir will also perform.

Tickets may be purchased from the following committee representatives:

- Lt. Col. Dodge, EE&CS, x5569
- Lt. Col. Govern, Law, x2488
- Lt. Col. Smith, BS&L, x5635
- Maj. Capozzi, EO, x7082
- Maj. Miles, Math, x8135
- Maj. Hunt, English, x2155
- Dr. Bonner, EE&CS, x7674
- Ms. Mauldin, Library, x7878
- Sgt. 1st Class Gardner, EO, x2621
- Sgt. 1st Class Potts, USCC, x8456

-- Sgt. 1st Class Highsmith-Evans, IETD, x3710.

Phone access code changes

On Monday two of the four access codes associated with West Point's official 938-telephone system are going to change due to a new numbering scheme being deployed. The following feature access codes are the ones that will be affected:

■ Call Forwarding access all: from Feature access code 195 to 123.

The deactivation code remains 122.

■ Automatic callback activation: from FAC 105 to 126.

The deactivation code remains 125.

If you have any questions call Kathy Ripa at 938-7076 or Scott Saint Louis at 938-5898.

3D Awareness Week

December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month and Saturday through Dec. 15 has been declared 3D Awareness Week for the military.

Don't become an impaired driving statistic.

For more information contact Anne Ashlet or Ingrid Walsh-Brown in the West Point Alcohol and Drug Control Office at (845) 938-2462.

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

A Hudson Valley Holiday

Holiday favorites, the Mid-Hudson Ballet Company, the Fairfield County Children's Chorus and Santa Claus

Two performances:

9 December

7:30 p.m.

10 December

3:00 p.m.

Eisenhower Hall Theatre

Free and Open to the Public

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

Tiger Teams

■ Develop a strategic plan (Col. Steve Ressler/CME Department Deputy Head)

■ Sustain the moral and ethical climate (Col. Kip Nygren/CME Dept. Head)

■ Institutionalize the cadet leader development system (Col. Douglas Boone/SCPME director)

■ Establish, publicize and enforce standards (Col. Patricia Dooley/C&LS Associate Professor)

■ Enhance the military training program (Col. Michael Meese/Social Sciences Dept. Head)

■ Enhance the physical program (Col. Peter Curry/DMI Dept. Head)

Anyone with suggestions for any of the Tiger Teams may contact the team leaders directly or contact the Office of Policy, Plans and Analysis at 938-3549.

Army and Community Sports

Despite 3-9 finish, future bright for Army

Story and photos by
Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

The scoreboard at Lincoln Financial Field read 26-14, putting an end to another disappointing season for the Army Black Knights who finish the 2006 season with a 3-9 record and their fifth consecutive loss to academy-rival Navy.

Compared to the previous four seasons when Army lost by a combined score of 176-54, the Black Knights were still within striking distance at 14-7 midway through the fourth quarter. Though the result was still the same as the previous four years, the gap between both clubs appears to be closing.

"I personally feel our program is closer," said Army head football coach Bobby Ross. "We played quite a few freshmen. We had [a freshman] defensive end [Victor Ugenyi Jr.], quarterback [Carson Williams], and running back [Tony Moore] who played quite a bit.

"We have a good base to our program right now, a good

recruiting base," Ross added. "We're very solid defensively and there is some development to be made offensively, but our program defensively, right now, sits pretty [well] with what's coming back with the young group of players we have."

The team's 3-9 record may seem to indicate the program took a step backward from its 4-7 mark achieved a year ago, but a closer look reveals improvement, specifically on the defensive side of the ball.

Army lost 26-14 to Navy after giving up 42 points in each of their past two games with the Mids. This season the Black Knights lost to Connecticut 21-7 after giving up 40-plus points in each of the past three meetings with the Huskies. Although, Army did give up more than 40 points in four games this year, turnovers by the offense played a big part in that as the team led the nation in turnovers.

"I'm working hard to get this program right," Ross explained. "I've put my heart and soul into this and I'm a little disappointed



Junior linebacker Charlie Rockwood, who got the only Army sack and registered seven tackles in the Army/Navy game, is one of many returning players who saw substantial playing time on defense in 2006 and will solidify the unit for the 2007 season.

in our season, but at the same time I think we are better and I make my comparisons to this team with last year's team and I think the Connecticut game is where we can measure that.

"Our first year [2004 as coach] we played them and it wasn't even close [40-3], but we were closer this year and we will return a good nucleus defensively," Ross added. "I think we have a chance to be a good football team here."

Army fought through a lot of injuries along the defensive line and in the secondary through the course of the season which saw many young players get experience.

The team lost its best player, junior safety Caleb Campbell, in the Tulane game and he missed the final three contests. Campbell will have surgery on his injured knee this off season and should return stronger for his senior year.

Junior safety Jordan Murray was injured often during the season, but came back strong and started the final three games and had seven tackles in the Navy finale.

The Black Knights will also return junior defensive end Brandon Thompson, who started only three games due to injury, and junior linebacker Charlie Rockwood, who combined to finish with 13 tackles and 1 1/2 tackles for loss during the Navy game.

Then add juniors defensive back Dennis Cooper, defensive tackle Tony Fusco and defensive

end John Wright to sophomore, secondary men Lowell Garthwaite and Markenson Pierre. All these defensive players saw substantial playing time and will give the team an upper hand heading into next season.

However, the offense will have to fine tune itself during the off season as this year's campaign didn't go quite like Ross was expecting.

The offensive line was a disappointment for one reason or another and will need an upgrade, but the team will return a majority of its skill position players to include junior wide receivers Jeremy Trimble and Corey Anderson, sophomore running back Wesley McMahan, junior quarterback David Pevoto and freshmen Williams and Moore.

Williams played the entire Army/Navy game and was a solid 16 for 23 for 151 yards and a touchdown, but it was the two fourth quarter interceptions, the only two turnovers for Army throughout the game, that need to be addressed if Army is to expand its offense's capabilities.

"You can try to play conservatively to try to prevent turnovers from happening," Ross said. "But ultimately, if you are going to win a game you have to do some things to make it happen ... I think [Williams] has done a good job. Here's a young freshman who's stepped in and played three games

on national television against three pretty good opponents and he hung in there.

"Everything hasn't been perfect, but it wasn't with John Elway when he started or with Dan Marino when he started, you just can't expect that much [right away] ... you have to give [Williams] the benefit of the doubt," Ross added. "Overall, I think he's showed some promise and I think he's got to get a lot stronger."

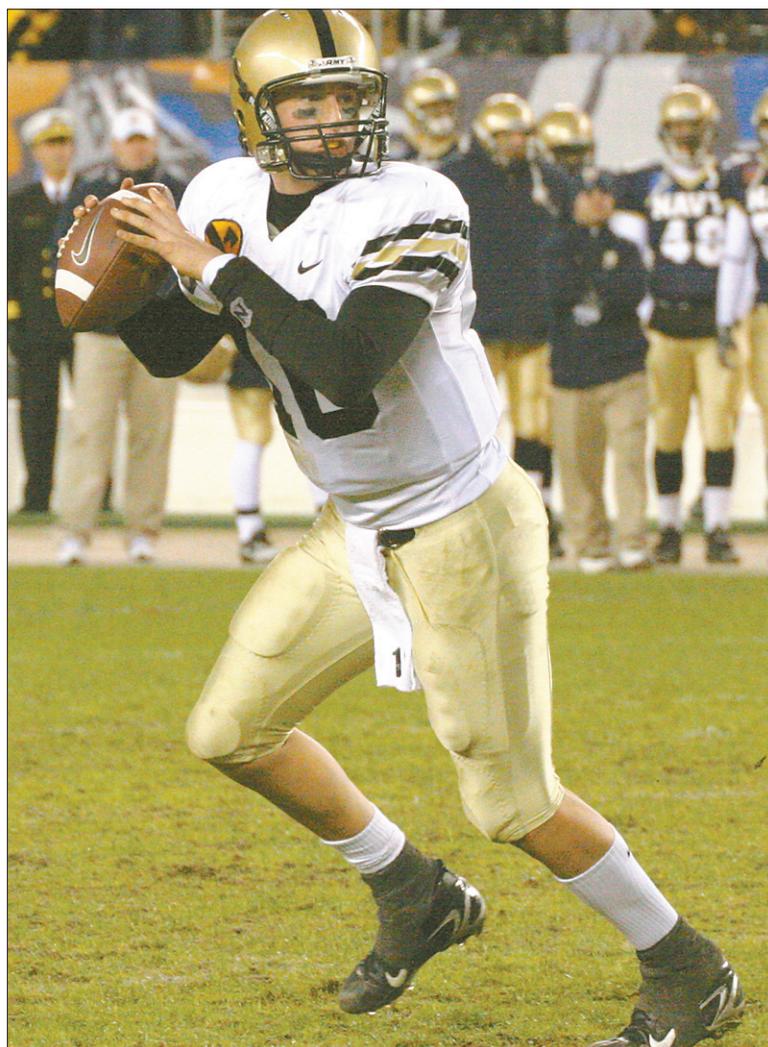
Senior wide receiver Walter Hill will stick with the football team as the graduate assistant next season and one of his goals is to make sure that the younger guys are prepared thoroughly for the 2007 season.

"There's a strong nucleus of players coming back next year and, as a GA, I want to let them know they still have a lot to play for and still [have at least] another year ahead of them," Hill said. "[I'll] tell them they need to be in the weight room because one day they'll need that strength [late in games] and let them know how it feels to lose that last game [of a career], so that they don't have to go through the same thing.

"I want to nurture them," Hill added, "and help be a role model for the younger players."

Now that Ross has completed his third year as Army head coach, he evaluated the team's performance to date.

See FUTURE on page 13



Freshman quarterback Carson Williams

Viti exemplifies Black Lion Award

Story and photo by
Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

Twenty-nine Army seniors walked onto Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia Saturday to play the last game of their collegiate football careers. But, only one was chosen to wear the Black Lion patch against Navy.

Senior fullback Mike Viti was notified two days before the game that he won the honor of wearing the Black Lion patch.

The Black Lion Award is presented in memory of former Army football great Don Holleder, who was killed in combat in Vietnam Oct. 17, 1967, and the men of the 28th Infantry Regiment

[nicknamed the "Black Lions"], who died with him that day.

The award is intended to go to the player "who best exemplifies the character of Don Holleder: leadership, courage, devotion to duty, self sacrifice and -- above all -- an unselfish concern for the team ahead of himself."

"It's a great honor," Viti said. "It means a lot more than just football ... I [was] very proud to represent the team ... and more proud to represent the Holleder family."

The rugged, hard-nosed 5'10", 242-pound chiseled back was chosen by Army head football coach Bobby Ross and the coaching staff. Ross felt there were many worthy candidates for the award,

but decided, in the end, that Viti was the perfect choice to receive the Black Lion Award.

"It's an outstanding award," Ross said. "That award is one of the most prestigious awards to be given at West Point [and to] our football team. It's in honor of Don Holleder, who was a great, great player ... he was a great player, a great inspiration to us all and Mike earned that award."

Holleder was an All-American end as a junior at West Point in 1954 and appeared headed for a more successful senior season before head coach Earl "Red" Blaik approached him the following spring to play the quarterback position for the 1955 season.

According to Army athletic communications officials, Blaik knew that Holleder had never played the position before, but



Senior fullback Mike Viti wearing Black Lion patch.

felt his team's best all-around athlete could learn to handle the ball well.

In what became known as the

"Great Experiment" or "Blaik's Folly," Holleder struggled at times at quarterback during the season,

See VITI on page 14

FUTURE, cont. from page 12

season and I was hoping for better, but I probably put myself on the same timeframe that I put myself on at Georgia Tech and I don't know if that's fair at West Point," Ross said.

At Georgia Tech, we were able to get it done in three years, but here when I reflect on it, it [will] take us a bit longer. Granted, [Navy head football coach] Paul Johnson got his done very quickly and he's done a great job ... but there are some differences [between the

academies] and we have got to analyze that ourselves within our program," he added.

Ross continued, "Kevin Anderson, our athletic director, has been great with us and, for the first time in the history of our program, we'll have an indoor practice facility and we've only had a weight room [facility] for three years ... There's a lot of nice things that are happening facility-wise that will get us to where we need to be."

VITI, cont. from page 13

but engineered a season-ending 14-6 upset of heavily-favored Navy.

Viti, as the team's fullback, has played second fiddle to many running backs over the past four years, but he got his chance in the limelight Saturday as he got the most carries of any Army ball carrier with 15 rushes for 57 yards.

"Viti did a hell of a job [Saturday] and has all year long," Ross said. "We wanted him to be a work horse for us."

Viti took the notoriety of being the main ball carrier with a modest demeanor knowing that any one of the team's running backs could have carried the load versus Navy.

"It's not about me. It's whatever I can do," Viti said. "Each guy has an important role when I'm carrying the ball ... but there are 10 other guys out there fighting just as hard."

Holleder fought hard during his military career until the fateful day when he was second in command in a savage battle between the 1st Infantry Division and the Viet Cong.

He assumed control of the troops after battalion commander, Col. Terry de la Mesa Allen Jr., was killed during the early stages of the skirmish.

Holleder and several other Soldiers boarded a helicopter and flew over the area of conflict. After viewing wounded in the field, Holleder ordered the chopper to land.

Holleder raced into the heat of the battle in an attempt to recover wounded men, but was killed by enemy sniper fire.

The Black Lion Award is presented with the approval of the 28th Infantry Association and the permission of Holleder's former

wife, Caroline.

Viti is the third player to receive the award joining Will Sullivan [2004] and Scott Wesley [2005].