

October changes (as of 10/18)	
C FUND	+ 2.38 percent
I FUND	+ 1.99 percent
S FUND	+ 4.06 percent



100-year Anniversary celebration

U.S. Military Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Franklin L. Hagenbeck (left) presents Village of Highland Falls Mayor Joseph D'Onofrio (center) with a proclamation Oct. 13 from the academy congratulating the village's 100-year incorporation anniversary at Village Hall. New York State Senator William J. Larkin, Jr. was also on hand.

JIM FOX/PV

Tiger Teams need your help

By Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

There is an adage that goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," but that doesn't necessarily mean you can't tweak a well-oiled machine.

The U.S. Military Academy, a top tier university and America's military academy, does well in all its functional areas. Superintendent Lt. Gen. Franklin L. Hagenbeck has a mission to keep West Point in good shape, just like a corporation that needs to stay on top in the business world. During the first four months of his reign, he brought in former three-star generals with a no-baggage attached view of the academy and former superintendents to gain their insights about all the working pieces at the academy.

After all these meetings, the idea of the Tiger Team concept came to light as a way to keep West Point on top of an ever-changing world.

A "Tiger Team," a term originated by the U.S. military, is a collection of individuals who are employed by an organization as specialists and tasked to take on a specific project for a short period of time.

"We're fighting a war in Afghanistan, we're fighting a war in Iraq, and the Army has now asked us for a new kind of officer who is an agile, adaptable leader," said Col. Kelly Kruger, director of the Office of Policy, Plans and Analysis here. "We have new methodologies for education and resources that are far tighter than we ever saw before. So, with the environment around us changing, it is time to stand back and say, 'okay, we have to look at where we might need change. Even though we're doing great, it is time to take a fresh look at things.'"

There will be six Tiger Teams, consisting of 10-to-15 members and a team leader, charged with reviewing six areas deemed important by the superintendent.

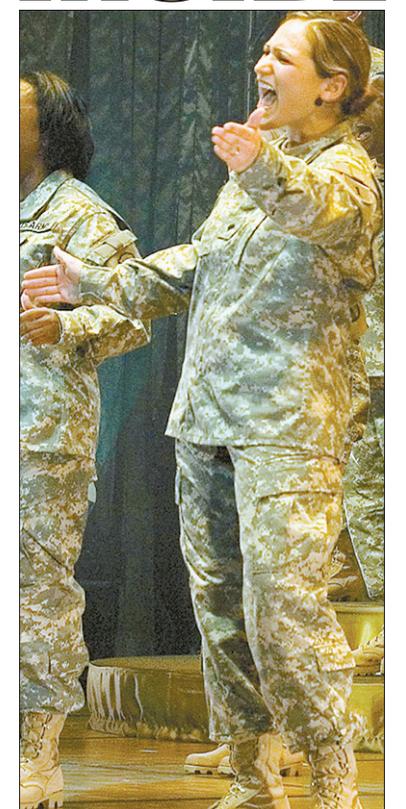
The topical areas are to develop a strategic plan; sustain the moral and ethical climate; institutionalize the cadet leader development system; establish, publicize and enforce standards; enhance the military training program and enhance the physical program.

The big question is how does West Point look in these areas? Are the physical and the military training up to par with the Army's needs? Are the Honor Code and honor system communicating correctly to establish a highly moral-ethical environment? All these questions and more will be answered by the Tiger Teams.

"How can we do better and get cadets plus the staff and faculty to understand how they fit into all

See TIGER TEAMS on page 3

INSIDE



Soldier Show time change, now 5 p.m. Sunday, see page 11

Feds expected to get 1.7% raise, plus locality

By Tim Kaufman
Federal Times

Federal employees are in line for a 1.7 percent across-the-board

pay raise in January and a variable increase based on where they work, under a proposal approved Oct. 12 by a federal advisory panel.

If the advisory group's proposal

is approved by the administration, as expected, all employees would receive a 1.7 percent across-the-board increase regardless of whether Congress passes a 2.2 percent or 2.7 percent total pay raise.

The remainder of the pay raise, either 0.5 percent or 1 percent, would be allocated as locality pay.

Congress will take up the pay raise once it returns from the November elections. It appears likely that Congress will approve a 2.2 percent increase for civilian workers, which would match the increase already approved for military members.

Traditionally, the part of the raise designated for locality pay is divvied up so that a larger portion goes to employees in regions where pay gaps with the private sector are highest. Under this scenario, employees in the San Francisco region would receive the largest percentage increase -- 2.71

1997 graduate killed in Iraq by IED

WASHINGTON, (DOD News) -- The Department of Defense announced Wednesday that Capt. Mark C. Paine, 32, of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., was killed Sunday in Iraq. Paine is a 1997 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy.

According to the DOD release, Paine was in Taji, about 20 miles north of Baghdad, when an improvised explosive device blew up near his vehicle.

He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division from Fort Hood in Texas.

Editor's Note: At press time burial was confirmed at Arlington National Cemetery at a date to be determined.



Capt. Mark C. Paine

See PAY RAISE on page 3

DOD employees lend a helping hand

Commentary by Karen Rutzick
Govexec.com

Not all benefits for federal employees are congressionally mandated, agency funded or included in the president's budget request -- some are made possible by the generosity of your 1.8 million co-workers.

Department of Defense civilian employee Juan Cruz, who was badly burned in the Pentagon during the Sept. 11 attacks, is sending his daughter to Brown University with the help of colleagues.

"One of the most significant acts we felt from that day was the collective generosity from our fellow government employees," said Veronica Cruz, Juan's wife, also a DOD employee. Juan Cruz lost his speech for three months, had his fingertips amputated and just underwent another cornea transplant in September.

Last week marks the two-

decade anniversary of the Federal Employee Education and Assistance fund, which helped Cruz pay for his daughter's education. The fund represents a joint effort by unions and management groups to collect money from federal employees and corporate sponsors.

In the past 20 years, federal employees have collected \$5.5 million in hardship aid for natural disasters or personal emergencies and \$6.5 million in college scholarships through FEEA.

Managers of the fund and the National Treasury Employees Union announced a new program Oct. 11. NTEU donated \$726,363 left over from a \$159 million lawsuit it won on behalf of federal employees to endow a new college scholarship.

NTEU filed the lawsuit in 1983, and 22 years later, about 212,000 current and former employees received money from special rate salaries they were wrongly denied.

Now, five merit-based scholarships of \$5,000 each will be paid annually to the federal community out of the rest. Before this gift, local scholarships were awarded between \$400 and \$2,500 a year.

Delagate Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., honored the fund's anniversary and government employees' generosity toward one another at a breakfast Oct. 11.

"Why am I not surprised?" Norton said. "I'm not surprised because I've seen what federal employees do for our country and the world."

The FEEA fund gave nearly \$2 million in emergency grants and loans to federal employees affected by hurricanes Wilma, Katrina and Rita in 2005 alone. But the fund wasn't always so established.

Stephen Bauer, executive director of FEEA, said Hurricane Andrew in 1992 was the first natural disaster to really test the fund's mettle. Many federal employees worked and lived around Homestead Air Force Base in Florida, whose two bank branches were destroyed in the storm.

Bauer withdrew \$20,000 from

the FEEA fund's bank account in Colorado -- the entirety of its balance at the time -- and flew down to Miami with the cash in his jacket pocket to dole out to employees in need.

In April 1995, the FEEA fund stepped up its efforts when dozens of federal employees were killed in the Alfred P. Murrah building bombing in Oklahoma City. Government employees, with the help of corporate sponsors Geico, Blue Cross Blue Shield and Wright and Co., are paying full college tuition for the more than 200 children who lost a federally employed parent that day. Many of those kids are making their way through school now, and many have yet to start.

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.

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

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

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

Difficulty: Medium

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

See Solution on Page 11

POINTER VIEW®

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Local and National News

TIGER TEAMS, cont. from page 1

this?" Kruger asked. "All the pieces are going right, but in some cases it appears it's an opportunity to enhance what we're doing."

One of the biggest things inherent in the Tiger Team concept is getting recommendations from anyone who has an idea to provide a positive change. These six areas don't just involve cadets, they also include officers, noncommissioned officers, enlisted Soldiers and our civilian workforce.

The key, Kruger said, is the superintendent doesn't want to make these exclusive, secretive teams.

All are encouraged to provide any recommendations they have for positive change.

He wants people to understand that if they have an idea in any one of the six areas they can contact one of the Tiger Team leaders or OPA with their ideas.

"With everyone involved, everyone will be a part of the solution. You will get an institutional buy-in to what we're doing," Kruger said, "and we'll have everyone pulling on the rope in the same direction."

The 1979 USMA graduate said the solutions that are offered don't need to be cadet-centric. The purpose of these teams is to enhance things at the military academy as a whole.

"The officer corps and the NCO corps here are role models (for the cadets) and they are role models like no other place in the Army," Kruger stated. "You can get away

at Fort Bragg, N.C., as an officer and NCO with not shaving on a Saturday morning, a 'non-work' day, and throwing on a pair of PT shorts, a T-shirt and flip-flops to go up to the PX to buy a sack of grass seed to put on your yard.

"But do that here and let a cadet see you and the immediate picture is 'I guess that's okay.' Well, if you think about it, it's really not okay," he added. "You're a professional 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The first time we 'role model' the wrong thing, the cadets are going to look at it and think, 'I guess it really isn't bad after all because that lieutenant colonel is a pretty sharp guy and I like him, so maybe it's okay to not shave on weekends ...,' and that's flat wrong."

The Tiger Teams will have meetings and can receive new ideas until December when the superintendent takes all the recommendations under advisement.

Kruger explained that an implementation timeline spanning from January through next academic year and beyond will be established to benchmark process steps of a campaign plan that will be managed and tracked by OPA. Kruger said this is a great way to keep West Point in tune with the rest of the Army, not only for the approximately 1,000 cadets who graduate annually, but also for the 200 plus officers and Soldiers who go back into the Army after their time spent here.

"You can't be stagnant, so

how do we develop (officers and sergeants) here to prepare them to go back into the Army?" Kruger said. "We haven't done a careful systematic look and it's time to do that to ensure we're turning quality products of all ranks back to the Army."

The principle of these Tiger Teams is to maintain a level of quality throughout the ranks in all areas, but a big focus of this entire

concept is the cadets -- developing programs so they can excel in their academics, military, physical and social development here.

"Our job is to put this into the structure and make the cadets' experience here as valuable as it can be and give the cadets everything they need to produce the product we need for the Army," Kruger said. "It is our job to put the right education model out there and execute it."

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 Assistant 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.

PAY RAISE, cont. from page 1

percent if a 2.2 percent pay hike is approved, or 3.72 percent based on a 2.7 percent increase.

However, some cities under the traditional method are getting further away from closing their pay gaps than others, said Jerry Mikowicz, a deputy associate director at the Office of Personnel Management.

Also, new salary data prepared for the council by the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows larger pay gaps in some areas than previously calculated.

OPM staff working for the council devised an alternate method for allocating locality pay that would allow employees in some regions to receive larger pay raises than they would get if the traditional method was followed.

The alternate method allocates locality pay based on the proportion of the remaining pay gap in each locality; so regions where the gap has widened would get a larger share.

Plebe class takes charge of Plebe-Parent Weekend

Story and photo by
Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

Members of the class of 2010 took command Oct. 13, for Plebe-Parent weekend here. The cadet brigade staff chose their successors for the three-day event giving the freshman their first chance at command.

This year's PPW Regimental Commander was Cadet 4th Class Terrence Shields of Carlisle, Pa.

Shields is third generation military and graduated from Carlisle High School in 2005. He spent a year at the U.S. Military Academy Prep School before entering West Point. His father is retired Col. Robert Shields who taught engineering here from 1980-1983.

"All three of my sons are in the military," the elder Shields said. "My

son Sean is a captain and spent one year in Iraq. He will be deployed to Afghanistan possibly in January."

The Executive Officer was Cadet 4th Class Johnny Martinez of Phoenix, who is a member of the fellowship of Christian athletes and plays on the B-4 intramural basketball team.

The Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. is Cadet 4th Class Robert Perry from West Chester, Ohio. He graduated from Cincinnati Christian High School in 2006.

Cadet 4th Class Matt Carstensen from Greenwich, Conn., is the Regimental Activities Officer. Carstensen enlisted in March of 2003 and served two tours in Operations Enduring Freedom IV and V and was a Corporal prior to entering USMAPS in 2005.

The Personnel Officer is Cadet 4th Class Melanie Gouthro of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., while Cadet 4th

Class Michael Sorrentino, Jr. from Wilmington, Mass., served as the Intelligence Officer.

"I was glad to be given a command position for PPW because it really lets me know that I am doing the right things," Sorrentino said. "For many of us, it is our first chance to practice peer leadership. It's a great opportunity."

The Training and Operations Officer was Cadet 4th Class Dylan Potter from Marcellus, N.Y.

Potter graduated from Marcellus High School last year and plans on majoring in U.S. history.

Cadet 4th Class Andres Pazmin originally from Cali, Colombia, was the Supply and Logistic Officer. His family now lives in Greer, S.C.

"I am honored to have a command role in this year's PPW," Pazmin said. "It should be the goal of all cadets to assume responsibility and take charge whenever possible.



The Class of 2010 Regimental Command for Plebe-Parent Weekend passes in review in front of parents and friends Sat.

The opportunities and mentors we are exposed to here are unique to West Point and provide the best atmosphere and guidance for future commissioned officers."

Pazmin enlisted and served with

Gulf Forward Support Company, 82nd Airborne Division, Brigade Support Battalion for more than a year. He was a part of Task Force Katrina for the hurricane relief in New Orleans.

Common Task Training now Army Warrior Training

WASHINGTON (Military Report) -- Common Task Training, the annual mandatory skills test for junior officers and enlisted Soldiers, has officially been replaced by Army Warrior Training, a grouping of warrior tasks and battle drills developed from lessons learned on the battlefield.

The message was disseminated throughout the Army last week and directs unit leaders to replace CTT with AWT as an annual training event for all active component Soldiers in the grade of E-7 and below, warrant officers 1-2, and first and second lieutenants. Reserve component soldiers are required to do AWT every three years.

"Army Warrior Training is designed to maintain a Soldier's proficiency in the performance of

warrior tasks and battle drills that support the unit mission essential task list. The WTBD are based on relevant tasks which are conducted today in the contemporary operating environment, incorporating tasks developed through lessons learned when appropriate," said the Army message.

Soldiers are expected to be able to fight and complete their mission while applying and staying proficient in the tasks and battle drills including individual tasks such as shooting, moving,

communicating, urban operations, first aid, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and battle drills.

The warrior tasks and battle drills were developed through a task force that convened starting in 2003 at Fort Benning, Ga., to review initial entry training. The task force reviewed more than 400 tasks and through a selection process narrowed it down to the Army Warrior Training, which became effective Oct. 1.

The training is designed to use

current lessons from the combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan to prepare a Soldier faster to face the operational environment.

Warrior tasks and battle drills were first incorporated in initial entry and advanced individual training in 2004 and into the basic officer leaders course in 2006.

A warrior task site selection board consisting of members from the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, Accessions Command, Forces Command and the Infantry School meet twice a year to review the warrior tasks and battle drills and how they relate to developments in theater.



Judge orders revisions to HSD personnel rules

WASHINGTON (Fed Times) -- A federal judge Tuesday ordered the Homeland Security Department to revise personnel rules she struck down last year.

Judge Rosemary Collyer of the U.S. District Court in Washington ruled in August 2005 that Homeland Security's proposed personnel system would essentially strip employees of collective bargaining rights. That would violate the Homeland

Security Act, which created the department and directed that it ensure collective bargaining rights for employees, she said.

Homeland Security sought to remove requirements that managers bargain with unions before changing an employee's work assignment, detailing an employee to another location or introducing new technologies.

Collyer's order comes four months after the U.S. Court of

Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit upheld her decision, and three weeks after the department decided to forgo any further appeals in the case. Homeland Security now must report back to Collyer in nine months on its progress rewriting the rules.

The personnel system, called MAX HR, will receive \$25 million in funding in fiscal 2007 -- \$5 million less than in fiscal 2006. Homeland Security said \$25 million

is enough funding to move forward with personnel reforms for 10,700 managers, supervisors and other non-bargaining unit employees.

The American Federation of Government Employees and the National Treasury Employees Union were two of the five unions that sought to halt the personnel system.

"It is time for this administration to realize and accept the reality that dedicated DHS employees are

not the adversary," said NTEU President Colleen Kelley in a statement Tuesday. "Protecting our country and recognizing the rights of those who are actively engaged in doing so are two sides of the same coin."

The court rulings are expected to give unions a stronger hand in negotiations with Homeland Security, and may complicate the Defense Department's efforts to change its personnel rules.

Most retirees to get 3.3 percent COLA increase in '07

WASHINGTON (Fed Times) -- Most federal retirees will receive a 3.3 percent cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, in January.

Annuitants and survivors in the Civil Service Retirement System, the government's oldest and largest

retirement system, will see the 3.3 percent increase in the first annuity checks of 2007. Those in the Federal Employees Retirement System will receive a 2.3 percent adjustment. FERS retirees also receive Social Security contributions, which will

increase by 3.3 percent.

Most of the government's 2.4 million annuity recipients received a 4.1 percent COLA this year, the highest increase in 16 years. Omitting this year's adjustment, the 3.3 percent increase for 2007

is the largest since 2001, when most retirees received a 3.5 percent increase.

The cost-of-living adjustment mirrors the rise in the consumer price index, the government's method of measuring inflation.

The CPI for urban wage earners and clerical workers rose 3.3 percent from the third quarter of 2005 to the third quarter of this year, according to statistics issued Wednesday by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Updated Tricare Standard Handbook now available

WASHINGTON (Military Report) -- A new Tricare Standard Handbook is now available to all beneficiaries, with more detailed information than ever on how to file

an insurance claim with the military health insurance system.

The new version goes into much greater detail than the old booklet, bringing the Standard handbook up

to the same comprehensive level as the handbooks for Tricare Prime, the most popular military coverage option, and its companion program, Prime Remote.

While the information in the books is exhaustive, they do not include cost data, because that changes so often. Instead, the Pentagon publishes a supplementary flyer listing the cost of all Tricare programs, including pharmacy and dental costs. An updated flyer will be released any time costs change.

"We are publishing the Standard handbook to help beneficiaries fully understand their medical care," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger,

deputy director of the Tricare Management Activity. "Explaining the benefit more clearly promotes beneficiary satisfaction and is in keeping with the president's initiative to make health care more transparent."

Beneficiaries can request a handbook and flyer from their local Tricare Service Center or check them out online at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/TricareSmart/default.aspx>.

Latest attempt to cut Defense Travel System fails

By Daniel Pulliam
Govexec.com

The Pentagon's \$474 million travel booking system survived another congressional attack when negotiators stripped a Senate amendment blocking funding for the program from the fiscal 2007 Defense authorization bill.

The compromise version of the legislation (H.R. 5122), approved by both chambers of Congress late last week, would require the Pentagon to hold off on issuing a new contract for the Defense Travel System until there is a schedule to phase out legacy travel systems. The department also would have to develop fixed requirements for DTS.

In addition, Defense officials would be required to submit an independent study of DTS to congressional defense committees no later than 180 days after the enactment of the bill and to follow up with a report detailing the changes made based on the study's recommendations.

An amendment to the final Senate version of the bill, proposed by Sen. Tom Coburn,

R-Okla., would have prohibited the Defense Department from spending funds on the Web-based travel booking system. It also would have required the Pentagon to set up a travel system using a service fee pricing method similar to the General Services Administration's eTravel Service.

In June, when the amendment passed, the Pentagon was in the final months of a contract with Northrop Grumman Corp. to develop the long-awaited, end-to-end electronic travel booking system. The contract expired Sept. 29.

A Northrop Grumman spokeswoman said the company received a six-month extension for continuing DTS operations and maintenance. The extension anticipates that the government will re-compete the DTS contract, according to a pre-solicitation notice posted on *FedBizOpps*.

Northrop Grumman has a separate six-month contract under the Defense Travel Management Office for DTS help desk support and sustainment training. The office expects to hold a competition for help desk support, the Northrop Grumman spokeswoman said.

The DTS contract, awarded in May 1998, has survived several attacks in addition to the most recent one. These include another by Coburn a year ago. A second attempt failed when House members in June rejected by a vote of 285-141 an amendment to the fiscal 2007 Defense appropriations bill that would have cut off the system's funding.

Last week, the Government Accountability Office reported that an estimate that the implementation of DTS would produce \$56 million in annual net savings was based on unreliable information.

"Taxpayers don't need any more studies to know that DTS has become the defense industry's bridge to nowhere," said John Hart, a spokesman for Coburn's office.

"Congress should end this boondoggle and stop appeasing Northrop lobbyists," Hart said. "Congress may be rewarding Northrop for its inept handling of this program. It seems that they're giving them more opportunity to make money off of this program."

Community Features and Photos

West Point Military Police team toughs it out at Warfighter competition

By Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

With only five weeks to prepare while still performing their duties at West Point, four military policemen from the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment prepared to participate in an MP regimental competition called "Warfighter."

The "Warfighter" competition took place Sept. 21-24 at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and involved 33 teams from all across the Army, many of whom had a full year to prepare for the competition.

Sergeant Shawn McKenna, Spc. Tim Olsen, Spc. Jason Reese and team alternate Pfc. Jason McKennon performed admirably despite their lack of preparation time, finishing 11th overall against MP teams from the 82nd Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division, 10th Mountain Division and other highly visible Army posts including the overall winner, the 728th Military Police Battalion from Hawaii.

"Warfighter" is a grueling test of endurance, physical strength, military knowledge and awareness skills, all done during a four-day period with the added duress of sleep deprivation.

The MPs completed Common Task Training, road marches, Warrior Task Training; shot a variety of weapons to include the M9, M249 and the M4; navigated

an obstacle course and performed many battle drills.

One of the bigger obstacles for the West Point team was the lack of equipment available to them at West Point that they needed to perform proficiently at the competition. They could not train as effectively as other teams from bigger installations who did have equipment like the Crew-Served Weapon System and a hard-shell HMMWV.

One task was to dismount a Crew-Served Weapon System from a hard-shelled HMMWV and place it into action.

"That's a big thing when you don't have a hard-shell HMMWV to practice the crew drill," said Sgt. 1st Class George Wetzel, who coordinated the paperwork to get the team into the competition.

McKenna described how the team took a flexible approach to things like the crew drill, showing their ingenuity and ability to react to situations for which they had not practiced.

"We didn't get to train for the crew drill before we got to the competition, so we learned on the fly," McKenna said. "We were walking up to the event discussing how to complete it and it went smoothly."

The group faced many obstacles that challenged their will to continue, but they had the heart to get through some tough physical

barriers.

Just before the night land navigation course as the team jumped off the cattle truck at the land nav site, it became apparent that Reese was having a physical issue.

"Reese came up to me and said something didn't feel right, and I asked him what was wrong because I thought he was just nervous about the event," McKenna said. "He told me he felt bad and that he had something wrong with his chest, so I felt his chest and it felt like a gremlin was trying to get out of it ... so we went straight to the aid station to have a medic check him while the other team's were staging to head on out."

While the other teams received briefings, maps and equipment needed for them to reach all their points within four hours, Reese was headed to the hospital. After the doctor diagnosed his condition as sleep deprivation, which caused his anxiety, sputtering pulse and dramatically fluctuating blood pressure, he returned to the competition two hours later ready to go.

"I'm not one to quit, but something was not right at the time," Reese said.

The team would have gotten zero points for the land navigation event if Reese had not returned because the timing did not allow the alternate to compete in the event at that point. But, even with a two-hour deficit, the team was able to finish before teams that left a long time before them.

Then the team went right into the final event, which was the 15-mile ruck march. They finished 13th overall, although Reese was still suffering some of the sleep deprivation symptoms and Olsen had two blood blisters on his feet.

"I had golf-ball sized blood blisters on the inside of both of my feet. I was in pain," Olsen said. "I showed the guys afterward that I wasn't lying about the pain. It was an experience to see how far you can push yourself and I never pushed myself that hard before ... You find out what your limits are and see if you can push yourself past your breaking point and find out how strong you are."

From Reese's sleep deprivation issues to Olsen's feet to McKenna hurting his groin on two separate occasions at the obstacle course, the team had the drive to continue with their "no quit" attitude and



Sergeant Shawn McKenna (kneeling lower left, holding guidon), Spc. Tim Olsen (kneeling lower right, holding guidon), Spc. Jason Reese (standing to the right), and Pfc. Jason McKennon participated in the "Warfighter" competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Sept. 21-24.

finished 16 places higher than last year's West Point team.

"They showed heart. When I sat down with the first sergeant to talk about who we wanted to do this, we both came to the same conclusion. We wanted these four Soldiers because they don't quit," Wetzel said. "To be honest, Olsen could have stopped rucking any second [considering] how bad his feet were. Reese went to the hospital and that [could have been a life or death situation]. But I'm not going to get upset over his [situation] either ... but these guys wouldn't quit."

"Sgt. McKenna wacked himself twice and he could have sat there writhing in pain, but he got back up," he added. "Those are the types of leaders we need down the road that will help the Army in its change from the older generation to the newer generation, and Soldiers like these are what the Army needs."

The "Warfighter" competition

is a big deal for all these units, and at the bigger divisions there are tryouts among the brigades with a large pool of Soldiers to choose from. At West Point, there is an MP Company of 68 Soldiers to choose from and only five weeks to prepare for competition due to their regular missions. These Soldiers made a statement on the talent they offer.

"For me, it's a respect thing," Reese said. "It's my first duty station and I feel I have to prove myself because a lot of people come here from other units that have been to combat and have done real world stuff."

"It feels good to get that respect that we actually accomplished something in the minimal time that we had to prepare," he added. "It says a lot about our potential as a whole and that if we had all the resources that the other teams had and the time then I think we could have the potential to be the number one team, very easily."



Specialist Jason Reese (in front) and Sgt. Shawn McKenna trudge through a river crossing during one of the events at the "Warfighter" competition in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Sept. 21-24. The team finished 16 places higher than last year's West Point team.

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.

Lessons on fire prevention at West Point Elementary School

Story and photo by
Kathy Eastwood

October 8 through 14 was designated as Fire Prevention Week this year in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 that killed more than 250 people and destroyed roughly 17,400 structures. This year the fire prevention theme is 'Stand by your pan.'

One out of every three home fires is started in the kitchen. Fire departments nationwide observe the week by holding community fire prevention activities that address safety steps when dealing with fire.

The Department of Emergency Services and the West Point Fire Department visited the West Point Elementary School Oct. 10-12 to instruct children and teachers in fire prevention and safety.

"We teach the children with age-related tools," said Fire Protection Inspector Mark McKeon. "Preschool and kindergarten children play word games and tour the fire truck. We give lessons in fire drills, how to handle smoke and teach them how to use their senses, such as smell and hearing to detect fires to the older children."

Children were also presented with what are known as 'adult' tools, such as matches, lighters and children's toys so they will understand what not to play with.

A new concept is a change in the way fire drills are done, which is a lesson for teachers and children.

"It used to be that teachers planned fire drills by using only one way to get out," McKeon said. "Teachers tend to lead kids out of the classroom then out the right side of the building. This time,

there will be firefighters there to keep them from going right. It's a way of letting them know there can be alternative ways out of a building if they are prevented by smoke or fire."

Children learned how to get out of a smoke-filled room when firefighters and inspectors held a sheet over a mat and instructed the children to crawl under the blanket (smoke) to get out.

"We supplement what we teach here by sending letters to parents with step-by-step instructions on planning a fire drill at home," McKeon added. "We also let them know that homes should have a fire alarm."

McKeon said that it is a pleasure to teach fire prevention at the schools.

"The principals are very proactive," he said. "We are only required to have a fire drill once a

month, but the principals here want you have willing and open people to work with."



Fire Protection Inspector Mark McKeon digs into his 'tool' box to show W.P. Elementary School children items that should be in a home, such as a smoke alarm. He also showed them adult 'tools,' such as matches and lighters so they would understand what not to play with. The fire department and the Department of Emergency Services were at the school from Oct. 10-12 as part of Fire Prevention Week to teach safety to kindergarteners, as well as first- and second-grade students.

Plebe-Parent weekend 2006

Story and photos by
Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

The annual Plebe-Parent weekend was held Oct. 13 through Monday here. The event is always anticipated by the freshman class. Classes were suspended Monday to allow the freshmen to enjoy time with family and friends and show off what they are doing and learning at West Point.

The special weekend generally is the first time plebes get to visit with their friends and families



Cadet 4th Class Terrence Shields, the PPW regimental commander, stands with by parents retired Col. Bob and Serena from Carlisle, Pa. His father taught engineering here from 1980-83.

since Acceptance Day in August, after new cadets complete basic training and are accepted into the Corps of Cadets. Parents and friends were able to check out classrooms, meet instructors, tour the Superintendent's Quarters and enjoy a boat ride on the Hudson River. They also enjoyed the annual Fall Foliage celebration in Highland Falls and viewed the plebe review, the only time a review consists of only plebes.

Many cadets said they are enjoying their first year at West Point, even though it is a tough regimen.

"I like it a lot better now," said Cadet 4th Class Dan Firestone. "It's hard, but I'm in a great company and that helps a lot. I have wanted to come here since I was in sixth grade."

Firestone, his family and friend Calley Bilgram enjoyed lunch together in Highland Falls while checking out the crafts and food at the Fall Foliage Festival.

"I have to say I am very proud of him," Firestone's mom, Allegra, said. "We don't have a military



Cadet 4th Class Adam Karalius, from Freemont, Calif., poses for photos with his twin sister Adrienne.



The new members of the Cadet Drill Team display their skills to friends and family during the Plebe-Parent Weekend cadet review Saturday on the Plain.

history in our family, so it's great that he's enjoying it here."

Some cadets entered West Point because of the military tradition here.

"My father is a Major and I just thought this was the best way to go," said Cadet 4th Class Evan Ritchie from Newcomers Town, Ohio. "He's in Iraq now, but he was home over Labor Day."

Fourth Class Cadet Adam Karalius from Freemont, Calif., a member of the sprint football team, enjoyed showing his twin sister Adrienne, parents Frank and Phyllis and girlfriend Katie Hayes

around West Point.

"Our family has served in nearly every war the United States has been involved in," Frank said. "We can trace our family back to John Quincy Adams, so there is quite a military history there."

Karalius graduated sixth in his class at the U.S. Military Academy Prep School before entering West Point.

"I like everything about West Point," Karalius said. "I've wanted to come here since I was years 10 old and that never changed."

Energy Awareness Month promotes wiser use of limited resources

By J.D. Leipold

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- October is National Energy Awareness Month and this year's theme, "Energy independence depends on us," promotes wiser use of limited energy resources and highlights the importance of energy to the economic prosperity, security and growth of America.

The Army has reduced energy consumption by 29.4 percent since 1985.

"Unfortunately, from 2003 to 2005 we increased energy use by 3.5 percent due to the Global War on Terrorism and a loss of focus on energy conservation," said Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey.

Because the Department of Defense is the nation's single largest user of energy and the Army is the largest utilities consumer.

"We must be a leader in energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy products and emerging technologies," he said.

Myths

According to Don Juhasz, chief, utilities and energy team under the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, "There are myths, routinely held as fact, that inhibit cost-saving practices."

One such fable is that the Army doesn't pay for utilities.

"The Army is one of the government's largest utility customers, spending nearly \$1 billion annually on those costs," Juhasz said. "Just a 10 percent decrease in utility consumption would lower the government's expenditures by more than \$100 million a year."

"The bottom line," he said, "is it saves utility costs if lights are turned off when a room is unoccupied, even for two seconds."

Improving energy management

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 charges individuals and government agencies with improving energy management to save money and reduce environmentally harmful emissions.

To reduce energy costs by two percent, as mandated by the EP Act, the Army established an energy campaign plan that extends through 2030.

Energy Star

Energy Star, a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy, was created in 1992 to help consumers, businesses and government agencies save money by offering energy efficient products.

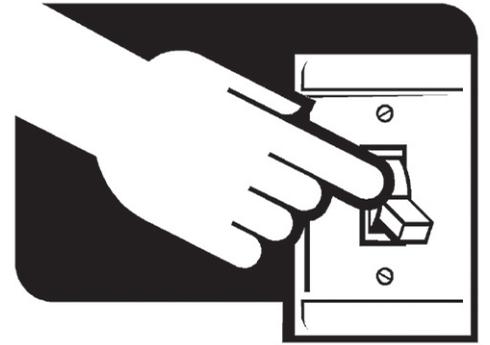
A voluntary labeling program, Energy Star identifies and promotes

energy-efficient products to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Computers and monitors were the first labeled products. Later, the EPA expanded the label to additional office equipment and residential heating and cooling equipment.

Today, the label is on major appliances, lighting, home electronics and also on new homes and commercial and industrial buildings. Over the past decade, Energy Star has been a driving force behind the more widespread use of such innovations as LED traffic lights, efficient fluorescent

lighting, power management systems for office equipment and low standby energy use.

Along with energy efficient products, Energy Star also offers solutions to common household problems to help reduce your energy costs. They can offer an online home analysis and assistance along with possible solutions to most home problems, including mold and mildew, dust, damp basements, dry winter air and moisture on windows.



For more info. on Energy Star go to www.energystar.gov.

For more info. on the Army Energy Program go to <http://www.army-energy.hqda.pentagon.mil>.

Local energy tips

By Martha Hinote,
DPW Customer Relations

USMA spends over \$17 million each year on energy. Whether you are an on-post resident or an office dweller, your everyday actions can help reduce this enormous cost with very little effort.

You can do the following to help conserve West Point's energy:

- Remove air conditioning units from windows before the winter season. Air leaks around and through the units waste heat.

- Turn off lights and unneeded appliances when they aren't being used. Use only the lights you need to complete the task at hand. Select compact fluorescent light bulbs that use one-third of the energy of traditional light bulbs.

[NOTE: Energy Savings bulbs are available at the Self Help Center.]

- Keep windows and doors closed during the heating season. If you have storm windows, make sure they are being used properly.

- Check fireplace dampers and make sure they are shut when the fireplace is not in operation.

- Do not block radiators or air vents with furniture or carpeting.

- On sunny days, let in the sunshine and take advantage of solar heat. Close drapes and blinds when the sun goes down. This helps trap the heat.

- Purchase only "Energy Star" products, as they use significantly less energy. It is Army policy that "Energy Star" products be purchased when available.

- Set temperatures for office and living spaces at 70 to 74 degrees when occupied and 55 when not occupied, as defined by Army energy policies.

If you control a thermostat locally, please adjust it to meet these standards.

If your area is served by the post automatic control system and you believe your temperatures are not being maintained in this range, please call in a service order, 938-2316.



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 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>The Bowling Center will be temporarily closed for renovations.</p> <p>We look forward to providing you an improved facility in the near future.</p>							
<p>22 NEW TIME @ 5pm Soldier Show 2006, Ike Hall, Free Admission Staff & Faculty Ice Hockey, Tate Rink, 8:45pm-10:15pm</p>		<p>23 Golf Course Closed for Outside Event Wee Ones Play Group, 9:30am-11am, ACS, Multi Purpose Room Winter Instructional Programs Registration, 10am-2pm, Basketball Registration, 10am-2pm, YC</p>		<p>24 Fall Story Hour, 10am & 1:30pm, (ages 3-5) Post Library Spinning, 5:40am, Group Pump, 9am, Cardio Blast, 5pm, Butts, Guts & More, 6:15pm, Pi Yo, 6:45pm, MWR Fitness Center Every Tuesday </p>		<p>25 GPS Orienteering, 2pm, (grades 6-12) YC Overseas Briefing, Germany, 3pm, Korea, 1:30pm, ACS </p>		<p>26 Overview of ACS, 8:30am, Financial Institutions, 9:45am, Financial Readiness, 11am, ACS Quarterback Luncheon, 11:30am, WP Club Theater Van to Broadway, 5pm-11:30pm, ITR</p>		<p>27 Heaven Hill Farm Trip, 10am-2pm, SAS Mongolian BBQ, 6pm-9pm, WP Club </p>		<p>28 Activities for Children of Deployed Soldiers, 5pm-7pm, YC, Hosted by ACS</p>	
<p>29 Tour NYC, 9am-5pm, ITR Butts & Guts, 4:30pm, MWR Fitness Center Staff & Faculty Ice Hockey, Tate Rink, 8:45pm-10:15pm</p>		<p>30 Wee Ones Play Group, 9:30am-11am, ACS, Multi Purpose Room Create a Calendar in Publisher, 2pm, YC</p>		<p>31 Greenwich Village Halloween Parade, 5pm-11pm, ITR Fall Story Hour, 10am & 1:30pm, (ages 3-5) Post Library Preseparation Briefing, 2pm, ACS</p>		<p>November 1 Re-Entry Workshop, 10:30am, Newcomer's Welcome Brief, 9:30am, ACS Staff & Faculty Ice Hockey, Tate Rink, 9:15pm-10:45pm (Wednesdays in November)</p>		<p>2 Hunting Lottery for Opening Day of Big Game Season, 6pm, Ski Lodge Overseas Briefing, Germany, 3pm, Korea, 1:30pm, ACS</p>		<p>3 Army vs Air Force, Auto, Crafts, MWR Fitness Center and Post Library close at 4pm </p>		<p>4 Teen AFAP, 10am-4pm, YC, Hosted by ACS Historical Literary Cafe, Tavern & Inn Tour in NYC, 11am-6pm, ITR Defensive Driving, 8am-3pm, Register at ITR</p>	

MWR Blurbs

BOSS poker tournament

BOSS is hosting a poker tournament tonight at Buffalo Soldier Pavilion.

The event is free and open to the West Point community. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and play begins at 7:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be available and the top two players will win prizes.

Call Staff Sgt. Jermaine Malone at 938-8063 or Connie Woodley at 938-6497.

2006 Soldier Show time change

The 2006 Soldier Show comes to West Point Sunday at 5 p.m. in Eisenhower Hall. This time is two hours earlier than originally announced.

The high-energy, live musical review showcases the talents of active duty Soldiers and offers something for the whole family.

For more information, call Connie Woodley at 938-6497.

FCC training class

A new Family Child Care provider training class will begin Monday through Nov. 2. Call the FCC office at 938-3921 to participate.

Child care during home football games

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

Game	Deadline
Nov. 3	Wed.

BOSS Halloween party

West Point community members ages 18 and up are cordially invited to the BOSS Halloween party Oct. 27 at the Buffalo Soldier Pavilion. Doors open at 9 p.m.

Refreshments are sponsored by BOSS and there will be door prizes.

For more info., call Spc. Hunt at 938-4290 or Sgt. Vosyka at

938-7535.

Teen Halloween Jam

The Youth Center Teen Halloween Jam at the Victor Constant Ski Lodge is Oct. 31 from 8 to 10 p.m.

This free event is open to all O'Neill High School students in 9th to 12th grade.

Activities will include a DJ and bonfire.

Sign up at the YC, Bldg. 500, or OHS by 2 p.m. Oct. 31.

Photo ID will be required. Call Jodi at 938-8899 for more info.

Ski, skate and hockey swap

The ski, skate and hockey swap at the Victor Constant Ski Slope will be Nov. 19-20 from noon to 8 p.m. Purchase discounted season ski passes and rent seasonal ski equipment.

Call 938-4637 for more information.

Hunting lottery

Sign-ups are now underway for the hunting lottery for the opening day of big game season. Stop in at Round Pond, or call 938-2503. The lottery will be held Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. at the Ski Slope.

Registrations will be accepted at the Ski Slope that day from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

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.

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. of 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.

Thanksgiving dinner

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

Tickets are on sale for the Thanksgiving Day feast. Call 938-5120 or 446-5504 for more info.

Thanksgiving Day parade

Join ITR for a trip to New York City to see the world famous

Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade Nov. 23. For more information, call ITR at 938-3601.

Radio City Christmas show

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

Call ITR at 938-3601 for more information.

Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752

Fri. -- Hollywoodland, R, 7:30 p.m.

Sat. -- Invincible, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Sat. -- Crank, R, 9:30 p.m.

Oct. 27 -- Gridiron Gang, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 28 -- The Covenant, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 28 -- The Black Dahlia, R, 9:30 p.m.

Nov. 4 -- Jet Li's Fearless, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 4 -- Jackass Number Two, R, 9:30 p.m.

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

Command Channel 8/23

Oct. 20 - Oct. 27

Friday

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
9 a.m. CFC 2006
12:30 p.m. Army Newswatch
1 p.m. CFC 2006
5:30 p.m. Army Newswatch
6 p.m. CFC 2006

Monday

9 a.m. Army Newswatch
9:30 a.m. CFC 2006
11 a.m. CFC 2006
1 p.m. Army Newswatch
1:30 p.m. CFC 2006
3 p.m. CFC 2006
5:30 p.m. CFC 2006
6 p.m. Army Newswatch

Tuesday

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
9 a.m. CFC 2006
Noon CFC 2006
12:30 p.m. Army Newswatch
1 p.m. CFC 2006
4 p.m. CFC 2006
5:30 p.m. Army Newswatch
6 p.m. CFC 2006

Wednesday

9 a.m. Army Newswatch
9:30 a.m. CFC 2006
11 a.m. CFC 2006
1 p.m. Army Newswatch
1:30 p.m. CFC 2006
3 p.m. CFC 2006
5:30 p.m. CFC 2006
6 p.m. Army Newswatch

Thursday

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
9 a.m. CFC 2006
Noon CFC 2006
12:30 p.m. Army Newswatch
1 p.m. CFC 2006
4 p.m. CFC 2006
5:30 p.m. Army Newswatch
6 p.m. CFC 2006

Oct. 27

9 a.m. Army Newswatch
9:30 a.m. CFC 2006
11 a.m. CFC 2006
1 p.m. Army Newswatch
1:30 p.m. CFC 2006
3 p.m. CFC 2006
5:30 p.m. CFC 2006

DPW Notes

Scheduled electrical outage

A power outage is scheduled for Oct. 28 between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. to perform work on the primary wire supplying power to Bldg. 845 and to correct a problem with the ski slope transformer.

Scheduled hours of outages are: 8 a.m. -- Noon Bldgs. 817, 716, 718, 793, 795, and construction staging area by TMP.

8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Bldg. 845.

8 a.m. - 15-minute outages for Qtrs. 356, 358, 360, 362, 372, 422, 424, & 1000.

3 p.m. - Another 15-minute outage for the quarters listed above. For info., contact DPW Customer Relations, 938-4407.

Office closure

The Housing Division Office will be closed today from 1 to 4 p.m. for training on deployment of upgraded HOMES4 system which is used to track assignments, terminations and inspections.

Minimum staffing

All offices and shops of the Directorate of Public Works, including the Housing Division and the Self Help Center, will be closed Wed. from 9:30 to 11 a.m. for a mandatory briefing.

Emergency maintenance services will still be available by calling the Service Order Desk at 938-2316.

What's Happening

Auction for charity

The inaugural Gingerbread Creation Silent Auction at Benny's Lounge in Eisenhower Hall is Nov. 3 to benefit local and national charities from 1 to 5 p.m.

The West Point Community is invited to make creations and enter into the auction.

All ages and designs are welcome, though we ask that all entries be appropriate for children.

Contact Cadet 1st Class Heather

Kaiser at (845) 515-2137 or at heather.kaiser@usma.edu for more information.

Lecture

Major Gen. Antonio M. Taguba, the AR 15-6 investigating officer on the prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib Prison in Baghdad, is scheduled to speak to PL100 cadets from 12:25 to 1:20 p.m. Nov. 3 in Thayer Hall's Robinson Auditorium.

West Point staff and faculty are invited to attend.

At Your Leisure

Keller Corner

Newborn, adoptees and pre-Adoptees: DEERS Registration and Prime Enrollment

It's important to register newborns and adoptees in DEERS to establish TRICARE eligibility for essential well-baby and pediatric health care. By registering your newborn or adopted child in DEERS, you may avoid potential claims problems.

When does TRICARE cover newborns, adoptees and pre-adoptees?

As long as another family member is enrolled in Prime, TRICARE Prime covers ...

■ Newborns for 60 days beginning from the date of birth.

■ Adopted children for 60 days beginning from the effective date of the actual adoption.

■ Pre-adoptive children for 60 days beginning on the date of placement of the court or approved adoption agency.

To continue Prime coverage past the first 60 days, you must enroll your newborn or adoptee in either TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty, Family Members within the initial 60-day window.

On the 61st day and after, if your child isn't enrolled in Prime or TPRADFM, TRICARE processes all future claims under Standard (higher costs) until you enroll them in Prime or

TPRADFM.

Your child loses all TRICARE eligibility 365 days after birth or adoption unless they are registered in DEERS.

Did you know that a Retirement Physical is mandatory?

Schedule your exam well in advance of your retirement date. You can receive an exam up to four months before your retirement or up to four months before Transition Leave.

Physicals will not be scheduled less than 30 days from retirement. Physicals for active duty personnel are mandatory every five years starting at the age of 30.

Army and Community Sports

Army seeks to even up record versus TCU

Story and photo by
Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

Army plans to regroup after a 21-7 loss to Connecticut when they face Texas Christian University Saturday at Michie Stadium.

The Black Knights (3-4) will turn the page and face the Horned Frogs (3-2) who lost their last two games.

Army lost to TCU last Oct. 15 by a score of 38-17 when senior quarterback Jeff Ballard took apart the Black Knight defense by completing 22 of 29 passes for 219 yards and two touchdowns. He also added two touchdowns on the ground.

Ballard was injured against Utah Oct. 5, but Army is preparing to meet Ballard this weekend.

"Ballard is a guy who can run and throw," said Army head football coach Bobby Ross. "He came in last year and created some things against us that really got them going. He has creativity (in that) he can turn a bad play into a good play. He runs a good option and they run it primarily from the shotgun."

Army will face a trio of talented running backs headlined by sophomore Aaron Brown who leads TCU in rushing with 243 yards and three touchdowns. Brown also is a receiving threat with 14 receptions for 227 yards and one touchdown.

"They will be playing three running backs: Brown, Lonta Hobbs and Detrick James," Ross explained. "They're all a little different, but they're all pretty good."

Outside of the 98-yard touchdown run given up to Connecticut, the Black Knight defense was solid against the Huskies. Army's biggest problem was trying to hold on to the football as they had another four turnovers last weekend.

Again this week, there have been lingering questions about junior quarterback David Pevoto's status as starting quarterback. However, Ross is still going forward with his season-long signal caller and will not turn to freshman quarterback Carson Williams for the time being.

"I (made) a comment or two to him on the practice field, but I let the coaches handle it within the meetings in terms of what has to be said," said Ross, about Pevoto's

turnover problems. "I don't think I need to call a meeting after every game with our quarterbacks; I'm not one who believes in that.

"After looking at the film, I thought there were some good things that David did," Ross added. "I don't necessarily feel that there (is) a change needed. The other staff members feel the same way. They feel like we're still making progress."

At 3-4, Army has made progress and they are playing decent teams, so the record isn't necessarily indicative on how bad they are playing, but more so the talented teams they play against. Still, the big concern is the turnovers.

"We've played pretty good

football, and I'm not going to panic on this thing," Ross said. "The one thing that we really have to do is cut back on the darn turnovers. That's the one thing that's really hurting us right now. That's preventing us from gaining any kind of consistency with our passing game."

Pevoto has a decent completion percentage at 55.9 percent for 882 yards and four touchdown passes through seven games. However, his biggest flaw is the 11 interceptions. He wants to play a game where he's flawless.

"I wouldn't say I've played my best game yet," Pevoto said. "I've put together some good halves, but

I haven't played a (complete, error free) game. It's about time I start coming around.

"I would love to go out there and play a perfect game every time, but sometimes things don't go my way," he added. "I just try to stay focused. We have won three games thus far and in others we've been pretty close. I just try my hardest to help the team."

The game Saturday will start at 3:34 p.m. and will be televised on ESPN. The game can also be heard on the Army Sports Network on affiliates WABC (770-AM, New York), WBNR (1260-AM, Beacon, N.Y.) and WLNA (1420-AM, Peekskill, N.Y.).



Junior QB David Pevoto

Volleyball challenges for PL Championship

Story and photos by
Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

Gillis Field House has been home to great excitement this fall as the women's volleyball team has gone undefeated in its first 10 home matches of the season.

At 16-5, the team is well on its way to another head-on collision with American University (15-6), who they faced in the Patriot League Championship match last year losing in five games.

The team is focused on getting the big prize and knocking American off its pedestal as Army has been the only Patriot League team in five years to beat them in conference competition, which happened once during the last regular season.

"I think we're a strong team," said sophomore outside hitter Elizabeth Lazzari. "I don't think it's that we're a weaker team against American. I just think we didn't connect that night (lost three games to one during a Sept. 30 match) and a lot of times that's what volleyball comes down to ... how well you connect in a match.

"We're going to keep working hard at practice and try to win a championship," Lazzari added.

Lazzari and freshman setter Maureen Bannon, two of the team's best players, are from southern California. The team has helped Bannon settle into the starting

rotation.

Bannon was named Patriot League Rookie of the Week twice this season despite getting over the initial problems that most plebes face.

"At first, my nerves took over and I really couldn't concentrate, but my teammates helped to settle me down and remind me that I'm a good player and I can do this, no matter what. That has helped me," Bannon said. "With the stress of plebe year, coming down here (to Gillis) to be with the team has made it so much easier."

Bannon is currently second in the Patriot League in assists averaging 10.88 per game and still looks to improve her game, one that she has been playing since the fourth grade.

"I still want to improve the consistency of my serving and my blocking," Bannon said.

Just like her teammates, Army volleyball head coach Glen Conley has been a positive influence on her game and works with her to better her game during every practice.

"He pushes me in a good way," Bannon said. "He'll tell me something to improve on and then pushes me until I get it right. I might not see it as a positive at first, but I know he's doing it for the good of the team and to help me out in the end.

"He sets the standard and he pushes me to meet that standard,

and it's my job to try to exceed it," she added.

Lazzari, who went through the same ups and downs last year that Bannon faces now, has settled into her team role and is looking at a leadership role this year.

"Plebe year was really chaotic," Lazzari said. "This year there is more of a chance to develop my leadership style and I think it reflects in my game. I'm a much smarter player this year and I'm not as chaotic on the court.

"I'm concentrating on developing myself more than being worried about doing something wrong all the time," Lazzari added.

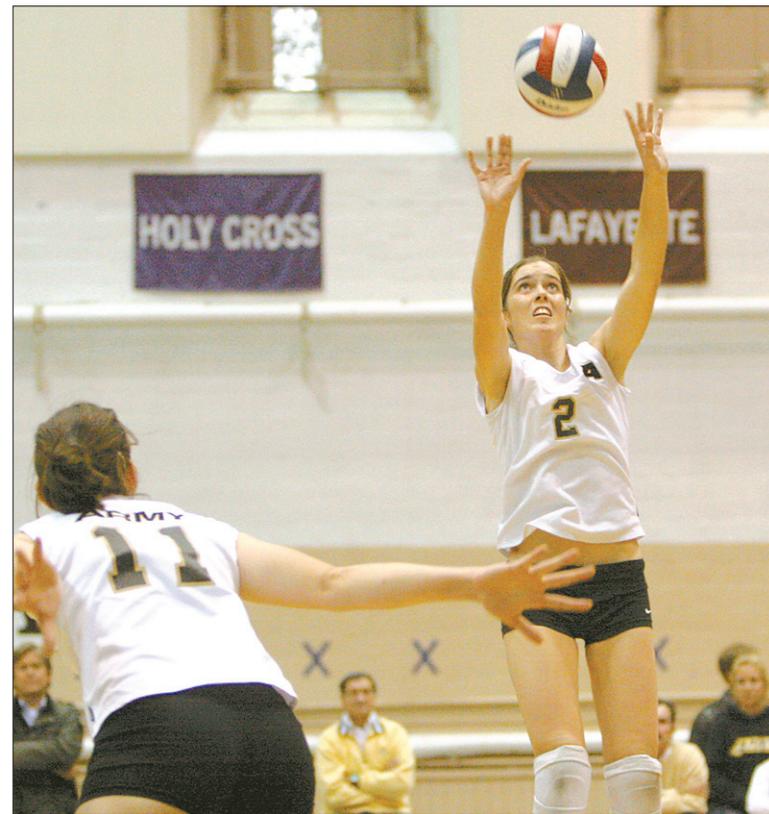
Last year's Patriot League Rookie of the Year continues her on-court success as she is fourth in the league in kills per game with 4.11 and continues to develop her game.

"It comes down to being smarter with my shots," Lazzari said. "Last year, it was a matter of beating the ball every time as hard as I could and it worked, but it doesn't work all of the time because you can get blocked. So this year I'm starting to mix up my shots more, working on tipping the ball, throwing lines and doing more with the ball."

Lazzari is a part of a strong sophomore class that includes Briana Stremick, Jamie Clark and Rachael Breinling, who all get a significant amount of playing time.

This group will play a prominent role in the team's future success that may include knocking American out of the top spot in the Patriot League.

Lazzari believes that the team's talent and Conley's coaching philosophy will put the team in a great position to possibly be



Freshman setter Maureen Bannon (facing forward) sets the ball for teammate Briana Stremick to spike. Bannon is second in the Patriot League in assists at a 10.88 per game pace.

undefeated within the next couple of years.

"What Coach really preaches is first to 30 points," Lazzari explained. "It's not about winning or losing, it's about doing your best each time you play. I think every time we've lost this season, it hasn't been a reflection of how good the other team is, but it's been us beating ourselves and making too many errors.

"This season we could have been undefeated to this point, and we're not right now, but there's no reason why we shouldn't be undefeated the rest of the way or win our conference championship this year (or in future years)," she

added.

The team has a lot going for it, besides its obvious talent in volleyball. They also have the highest academic average among all sports teams at West Point (3.3 GPA) and the distinct feel of a family unit.

"I love this team. We're a happy family," Lazzari said. "It's really nice to have our tight-knit female group and a support group for everything.

"We finished with the highest academic average of all the sports teams at West Point," Lazzari added, "and I think that says a lot about our character as people and not only as players."



Sophomore outside hitter Elizabeth Lazzari ranks fourth in the Patriot League in kills per game at 4.11.

USMA takes chess title

The U.S. Military Academy won the Commander in Chief's Trophy, 24-18, over the U.S. Air Force Academy at the 47th Annual Armed Forces Chess Championship Oct. 6-9 in Washington D.C.

Top cadets at the tournament were juniors David Jacobs and Bovey Zhu; sophomores Michael Wathen and Steven Whitham; and freshmen Eugene Sung and Stephan Wathen.

Jacobs repeated as an individual champion for the third time. He went 5-0-1 during the tournament and is the only cadet to win three straight titles in the tournament's history.

S&F Basketball sign-ups

Sign-ups for Staff and Faculty Basketball run until Oct. 27.

Play will begin Nov. 6 with a slate of regular season games.

League play will be Monday through Friday at 12:15 and 12:40 p.m.

The season will run from Nov. 6 to Dec. 15 and then starts again Jan. 2 to Mar. 8.

Teams wishing to enter should contact Jim McGuinness at 938-3066 or e-mail him at *Jim.McGuinness@usma.edu*.