

October changes [as of 10/24]	
C FUND	- 0.64 percent
I FUND	+ 0.56 percent
S FUND	+ 0.88 percent

More West Point employees prepare to enter NSPS

By Irene Brown
Chief, Command Information

The Department of Defense officially announced Tuesday that roughly 27,000 of the Army's federal employees will transition to the National Security Personnel System Nov. 11 as part of Spiral 2. The announcement affects 120 U.S. Military Academy non-bargaining unit civilian employees who work on the mission side of the house.

NSPS is DOD's new, performance-based civilian personnel system. It is being implemented in phases, or spirals, that began in April 2006 with Spiral 1.1.

"NSPS will make it easier for us to hire, empower and reward our top-performing civilians while preserving their protections and benefits," said Col. Michael Colpo, West Point Chief of Staff.

Colpo said that thousands of Army civilians, including roughly 134 West Point employees, have already transitioned to NSPS. He hopes their experiences so far will help with this next transition.

"We are looking to capitalize

on lessons learned from commands that spiraled earlier," Colpo explained. "This information could be particularly helpful when it comes to evaluating employee performance, which is a critical part of NSPS."

Pay for performance is the biggest change in the new system, said Carol McQuinn, West Point's Civilian Personnel Director and Spiral 2 transition team manager. She explained that performance is the key determinant of salary increases or awards received.

"How a worker performs is evaluated in the context of mission performance," McQuinn said. "That's why it's critical to have updated, accurate job descriptions and careful documentation of any extraordinary efforts."

Training and communication, especially between supervisors and employees, are important tools for a smooth transition to NSPS and to ensure the system stays fair and rewarding for all, McQuinn said. She's speaking from experience because human resource employees were the first to enter NSPS.

"Performance objectives

are broader and more mission-focused under NSPS than the task-oriented objectives of TAPES," she explained. "Under the old system, anything less than the top rating was considered a failure. Under NSPS, most people will achieve a middle-of-the-road or 'valued employee' rating.

McQuinn said those supervisors and managers that want to give higher ratings to their best employees had better have ample documentation to back it up.

"A panel of senior managers and supervisors review the evaluations to ensure the same method is used to rate all workers in an agency," she explained. "They will want a clear, concise written explanation when managers rate one employee higher than others."

Because NSPS is a fairly complicated system, unlike anything most career federal employees have known, training is crucial, Colpo said.

"Training in things like managing pay pools or writing SMART performance objectives is critical to making the system work," he said. "We need to share



NSPS training has been taking place at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center here since early October. Classes for Spiral 2 employees will continue through November.

LINDA MASTIN/PV

information, address questions and have open conversations with employees at every level.

"That will determine how well they understand the system and trust the process," Colpo added.

McQuinn said roughly 79 employees have already completed their NSPS training and more classes are being scheduled.

"We have been conducting classes since early October to get employees up to speed on what will be expected of them under NSPS," she explained. "We will schedule eight additional classes in November for those who still need this valuable training."

For more information on NSPS or NSPS training, call 938-3943.

INSIDE



WXCC, page 12

Army Family Covenant signing ceremony

Tuesday, 4 p.m.
at the West Point Youth Services Gymnasium

Secretary of the Army Pete Geren will be in attendance.

The entire West Point community is invited to attend.

Parking will be at the West Point School.

Army astronaut delivers node to space station

By Army News Service

WASHINGTON [Army News Service] -- A West Point Astronaut Col. Douglas H. Wheelock, Class of 1983 blasted into space aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery Tuesday, at Cape Canaveral, Fla. His mission was delivering equipment to the International Space Station.

Wheelock, a Windsor, N.Y. native, received his Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Science and Engineering from West Point in 1983 and a Master of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Tech in 1992.

STS-120 is the 23rd shuttle mission to the International Space Station and included launching an Italian-built U.S. multi-port module for the station.

A series of recent shuttle

missions have added to the International Space Station's exterior with new elements for its main truss. Now, Discovery will take into orbit a connecting module that will increase the orbiting laboratory's interior space.

STS-120 will bring the Harmony module, christened after a school contest, to provide attachment points for European and Japanese laboratory modules. Known in technical circles as Node 2, it is similar to the six-sided Unity module that links the U.S. and Russian sections of the station.

"STS-120 is such a cool mission," said Commander Pam Melroy, and only the second woman to command a shuttle. "Node 2 is the expansion of the space station's capability to bring international laboratories up. It's the expansion

of our capability to carry additional people.

"It has additional life support

See WHELOCK on page 3



Col. Douglas H. Wheelock
NASA PHOTO

The Hatch Act meets the digital age

Commentary by Irene Brown
Chief, Command Information

The presidential campaign season is underway and federal employees here and across the country need to be careful about what they say and do in the workplace -- especially if they're saying and doing it via e-mail.

According to a recent article in Government Executive Magazine, that was the key warning Oct. 16 during a Senate hearing on the Hatch Act, which prohibits certain political activities in the federal workplace.

Sending or even forwarding an e-mail on your government computer advocating the election or defeat of a political candidate can put you in violation of the law and possibly get you fired, federal officials said during the interview.

The Act, passed in 1939, restricts the political activities of federal employees, giving them a shield to ward off pressure from their supervisors or political bosses. The Oct. 16 hearing examined not only the law, but how the government enforces it and whether it is too rigid for the digital age.

The Hatch Act states that federal employees cannot engage in political activity while on duty, in a government office, using a government vehicle or wearing an

official uniform. Federal employees also cannot run for office in a partisan election, cannot use their official authority to interfere with an election and cannot solicit or receive political contributions.

In 1993, Congress amended the Act to permit government employees to take an active role in political campaigns. The changes allowed feds to manage political campaigns outside of office hours, serve as delegates to political conventions, organize fundraisers and distribute political party brochures on Election Day outside polling places.

The problem is these amendments were created before things like the Internet and e-mail changed the way all Americans communicate and go about their work. Consequently, it's not uncommon these days for federal employees to swap e-mails that lampoon both politicians and political parties.

"The line between casual 'water-cooler' conversation and political activity that is not permitted may be unclear to many employees,"

said Hawaii Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, who called the Oct. 16 hearing as chairman of the Senate federal workforce subcommittee.

"Does inviting a few work friends to a campaign rally after work violate the Hatch Act? Does it matter if an employee asks his friends by e-mailing, rather than while chatting in the break room?" he asked.

James Byrne, deputy special counsel, told reporters that the agency has seen an increase in e-mails involving partisan activities since the 2000 election. Because e-mails can be forwarded, he said, they can take on a life that goes far beyond a chat among friends.

When it comes to the Hatch Act, he told Akaka, "There is no such animal as the water-cooler exception."

Officials from the Office of Special Counsel, which investigates and prosecutes Hatch Act allegations, said they make determinations of violations on a case-by-case basis, looking at the content of the message, who sent the e-mail and how many people received the e-mail from the government computer.

Still, federal employee union leaders told Akaka they think the OSC has crushed the expression of personal opinions on political subjects and candidates by seeking penalties that are too harsh. Too often, federal agencies and managers use this law to block nonpartisan voter registration drives in federal buildings or to intimidate union officials, the labor leaders said.

"A one-time mistake by an

employee with little or no impact on the workplace should not be punished in the same manner as partisan campaigning at the federal work site," said John Gage, president of the American Federal of Government Employees.

So remember, the next time you open your e-mail and find a cute joke about a certain political party, just hit the delete button and let it go. Or you might find you're the one who was let go.

Editor's note: Some of the information contained in this commentary comes from an Oct. 17 article in Government Executive Magazine.

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SAPR-P

The members of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program are Col. Jeanette McMahan, Shelley Ariosto [Garrison], Maj. Maria Burger [USCC], Maj. Kim Kawamoto [ODIA] and Lt. Col. Robbie Williams [Dean]. Community members can e-mail McMahan at Jeanette.McMahan@usma.edu for advice or to offer any recommendations on the program here.

Cadets can also call the sexual assault support helpline at [845] 591-7215.

West Point Soldiers and civilians needing assistance can call [845] 938-3369.

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

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

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

Difficulty: Hard

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

See Solution on Page 10

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.

The Pointer View® is published weekly by the USMA Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 600, West Point, N.Y. 10996 (845) 938-2015

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

For information, call
(845) 437-4789

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Force protection message for Nov. 9 Rutgers night football game

Submitted by DPTMS

West Point officials are planning to enhance measures Nov. 9 in support of the home football game against Rutgers. Because the game is scheduled for a weekday evening [8 p.m.] some changes have been made to the football parking restrictions.

Significant portions of Clinton and Doubleday Lots will be blocked for the entire day, impacting employee parking.

Parking on the level of the Plain including: the remaining open areas of Clinton, Doubleday, Tennis Courts and Kosciusko Statue lots will be restricted after 3 p.m.

Parking information

■ Employees are strongly encouraged to park in K-Lot [MWR Fitness Center lot] or Buffalo Soldier Field and take the regular or the CPA express shuttle bus on arrival to work.

■ Employees who choose to park in the above Central Area parking lots must move their vehicles no later than 3 p.m. to either K-Lot or Buffalo Soldier Field. Shuttle bus operations will follow normal hours of operation, allowing employees to take the shuttle bus back to their place of duty.

■ The western portion of Buffalo Soldier Field lot will be blocked to

workforce parking. Employees and visitors to building 626 and 622 should park in the marked parking spots along Swift Road.

■ There will be no changes to Handicap/Disabled parking in the vicinity of the Plain.

■ Workforce personnel who reside on West Point are highly encouraged to take the CPA shuttle, walk or bicycle to work.

■ At approximately 4 p.m., Stony Lonesome Road will be blocked at the Flight Memorial Monument just west of the Lusk housing entrance to the Delafield Road intersection. Personnel may still access Lusk housing by traveling up Stony Lonesome Road, but will not be able to continue further. Delafield Road will remain open. After 3 p.m., workforce personnel are advised to use Washington and Thayer Gates to exit the installation.

■ Lee Road, Wilson Road and West Continental Road in the Stony II housing area and the parking lot adjacent to the playground will be used for general public parking.

The following areas are “No Parking Areas” in support of football operations and Force Protection. ANY VEHICLES REMAINING AFTER 3 p.m. NOV. 9, WILL BE TOWED:

Jefferson Road, Brewerton Road, Scott Place, Doubleday Lot

[portions not barricaded], Clinton Lot [portions not barricaded], Cullum Road, Tennis Court Lot, Kosciusko Statue Lot, Lettered Lots [AAA, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H], WP School Lot, J Lot, K Lot [MWR Fitness Center], Bldg. 639 Lot, South Dock [All Areas] to include Williams Road, Lots surrounding Garrison Headquarters [Building 681], Eisenhower Hall Lots, Keller Hospital Lots [Front lot reserved for KACH employees and emergency room parking only], Townsley Road, Upton Road, East Side Gillis Field House, Buffalo Soldier hardstand lot [portions not barricaded], Laundry Plant [Building 845], TMP and Thayer Road.

Military Police will patrol the housing areas throughout the day. Housing area residents are requested to notify the Provost Marshal of any suspicious activity or unidentified vehicles remaining in the housing area after completion of the game and related activities.

General Information

1. Michie Stadium gates open at 6 p.m.

2. The Cadet Review will begin at 4:15 p.m.

3. Black Knight Alley will open at 5 p.m.

4. Those attending the game at Michie Stadium will first pass through security checkpoints in the vicinity of gates 1, 3, 6, 6A and 7. Each security point will have an “EZ Pass” lane set aside for DOD personnel [both military and civilian] with DOD ID. They must

accompany family members and guests. Family members and guests must be able to present photo ID [16 years of age and older].

3. All bags and purses will be searched at the security checkpoint.

4. No weapons or alcohol are allowed in the stadium

5. RV parking is available at North Dock.

6. Walking and using shuttle buses are highly encouraged.

For more information contact DPTMS’ Joe Senger at 938-8859.

CSRS retirees to get 2.3 percent pension increase in ‘08

WASHINGTON [govexec] -- Retirees in the Civil Service Retirement System will receive a 2.3 percent boost to their pension checks in 2008.

The government unveiled next year’s cost-of-living allowance Oct. 17. It is based on the change in the Labor Department’s Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners from the third quarter of one year to the same quarter of the next.

The 2.3 percent boost is smaller than the 3.3 percent increase for 2007. It also falls below the 2006 increase of 4.1 percent, which was the highest since 1991.

The COLA will not be the same

for retirees in the newer Federal Employees Retirement System, who will receive a 2 percent adjustment. FERS retirees also receive Social Security benefits, which are calculated by the change in the CPI [2.3 percent].

FERS retirees only get the cost-of-living allowance if they are at least 62 years old.

CSRS annuitants must have been retired one full year to receive the full COLA. If they do not meet that threshold, they receive prorated annuities, amounting to one-twelfth of the applicable increase for each month they’ve received their pension.

WHEELOCK, cont. from page 1

equipment that will allow us to expand out beyond a three-person crew. It’s this big boost in the capability which is really exciting,” she added.

Wheelock, who is qualified to fly aboard the the Space Shuttle and

the ISS, is assigned to STS-120, and is designated as flight 10A in the ISS assembly sequence.

He will conduct both extravehicular activity and robotics operations during the mission’s three scheduled spacewalks.

Army marks 50 years since first Vietnam casualty

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Roger Jones
PAO NCOIC

A wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Capt. Harry G. Cramer Jr., a West Point, Class of 1946 graduate, and the first U.S. service member to die in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Conflict was held Sunday at the West Point Cemetery.

According to the West Point Operations office, the wreath laying ceremony is West Point's opportunity to render, on behalf of the Army, recognition to a distinguished American leader and his family. Also, because of Cramer's position in history as the Army's first combat-related fatality in Vietnam, the ceremony gave West Point the chance to recall the sacrifices of all Vietnam Veterans, living and deceased.

The ceremony began with a procession that included, Harry

G. Cramer III, son of Harry G. Cramer Jr., and his wife Kit; Kai Bolger, Cramer's daughter and the grandchildren, Harry G. Cramer IV and Kelly Frazier.

Before laying the wreath, Harry Cramer III provided remarks that he felt best portrayed the life and death of his father.

"First, I would like to begin by acknowledging the presence of my family. I would then like to acknowledge the contingent of H-2 cadets, the same company in which my father was a member," he said.

"Now, I would like to tell you a little bit about the man we called Dad," said Cramer. "My father, who was the son of an Infantry Captain, always wanted to be a Soldier. He wanted to be like his father as well as his father's father, who was a first sergeant in the Army.

As a young man, my father took pride in finishing first. He was the youngest graduate of his West Point class. He was the first USMA



A wreath laying ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first casualty of the Vietnam Conflict, Capt. Harry G. Cramer Jr., was held Sunday at the West Point Cemetery. Members in attendance included former Soldiers who were in Cramer's unit, his grandson, Harry G. Cramer IV, Brig. Gen. Patrick Finnegan, Dean of the Academic Board and granddaughter, Kelly Frazier.

graduate to become a member of Special Forces and he was the first casualty of Vietnam. However, I can assure you that if my father were present here today, he would tell you that he was involved in one too many firsts," said Cramer.

He added that his father served his country from his heart.

"My dad was proud to be a Soldier. He wouldn't have had it any other way. He lived by a creed as a Soldier: Serve your country.

Be the best you can be. Love your family and always place yourself last."

Though there are some, according to Cramer, who ask him if his father's death was in vain, Cramer feels his father died for a great cause.

"When I'm asked if my father's death was a waste, I vehemently respond with a resounding No! My father set an example of what a warrior does. A country could

conceivably fail its Soldiers, but a Soldier will never, ever fail his country," he said.

Once Cramer had completed his remarks, the family, along with the Dean of the Academic Board, Brig. Gen. Patrick Finnegan, concluded the ceremony by placing a wreath at the gravesite of Capt. Harry G. Cramer Jr.



Be prepared to Stop

A new stop sign and lane markings are in place at the intersection of Washington and Ruger roads, better known as "101 Intersection." This new traffic pattern has made the area an all-way stop intersection. The change will provide increased safety to pedestrians and reduce near-miss accidents caused by vehicles making a left turn onto Ruger Road. A collaborative effort between the U.S. Army Garrison, West Point Safety Office and the Provost Marshal Office led to the change in the traffic pattern.

JOE CYR/PAO

Logistics Agency issues numerous product recalls

Compiled by Linda Mastin
Editor

Recalls for a number of food items and children's medications, were issued by the manufacturers and passed on by the Defense Logistics Agency.

Anyone possessing any of the items listed should return them to the place of purchase.

ConAgra Foods, Inc.:

Banquet Brand frozen Pot Pie products containing chicken and turkey – 7 ounce packages with number "P-9" or "Est. 1059" on side and with UPCs 00-0-31000-101000-8, 00-0-31000-101000-5, 00-0-31000-101000-9, 00-0-31000-101000-2

J&B Meats Corporation, Inc.:

■ 2-pound boxes of "TOPPS PREMIUM 100% PURE SIRLOIN BEEF SIRLOIN STEAK BURGERS, 6 1/3 LB. HOMESTYLE BURGERS." Each box bears a use by date of "06/22/08."

■ 8-pound boxes of "TOPPS 100% PURE GROUND BEEF HAMBURGERS, 32 QUARTER POUNDERS." Each box bears a use by date of "06/12/08," "06/18/08" or "06/22/08."

■ 3-pound boxes of "TOPPS 100% PURE GROUND BEEF HAMBURGERS, 12 QUARTER POUNDERS." Each box bears a use by date of "06/18/08."

■ 3-pound bags of "SAM'S CHOICE BACKYARD GOURMET BEEF BURGERS, 80/20, 12 QUARTER POUND ROUND PATTIES." Each bag

bears a use by date of "03/08/08."

Each package also bears the establishment number "Est. 5712." The frozen ground beef products were produced on June 12, June 18 and June 22, 2007, and were distributed to retail establishments nationwide.

Novartis Consumer Health, Inc.:

■ Triaminic Infant & Toddler Thin Strips Decongestant

■ Triaminic Infant & Toddler Thin Strips Decongestant Plus Cough This withdrawal does not affect any other Triaminic or Triaminic Thin Strips products.

Wyeth Consumer Healthcare:

■ Robitussin Infant Cough DM

■ Dimetapp Infant Drops Decongestant

■ Dimetapp Infant Drops Decongestant Plus Cough 4

Prestige Brands Holdings Inc.:

■ Little Colds Decongestant Plus Cough

■ Little Colds Multi-Symptom Cold Formula 4. Manufacturer/Establishment

McNeil Consumer Healthcare:

Over-the-counter infants cough and cold medicines included in the recall

■ Concentrated Tylenol Infants'

Drops Plus Cold

■ Concentrated Tylenol Infants' Drops Plus Cold & Cough

■ PediaCare Infant Dropper Decongestant

■ PediaCare Infant Dropper Long-Acting Cough

■ PediaCare Infant Drops Decongestant [containing pseudo ephedrine]

■ PediaCare Infant Dropper Decongestant & Cough

■ PediaCare Infant Drops Decongestant & Cough [containing pseudo ephedrine]



Dave Matthews Band coming to USMA

AT&T Inc. and Dave Matthews Band announced Wednesday that the U.S. Military Academy won a six-week nationwide contest for a free, live concert next month by Dave Matthews Band. First Captain Jason Crabtree [upper left] and Lt. Col. Craig Flowers, the Director of Cadet Activities here, announced to the U.S. Corps of Cadets that the academy had beaten out 119 other participating NCAA universities in the AT&T World's Loudest Pep Rally contest, which generated more than 3.2 million entries. The cadets edged their fellow service academy rivals Air Force and Navy, who finished second and third, respectively. The fully produced concert for students, alumni and fans from West Point is scheduled for two nights, Nov. 14 and 15 at Eisenhower Hall. Registered fans who participated in the contest will receive ticket application details via e-mail. Anyone can apply for a ticket. Tickets will be distributed based on the number of requests and number of available seats. Everyone who wants a ticket must submit a request at [www.attblueroom.com/dmb] no later than Monday, 11:59 a.m.

ERIC BARTELT/PV

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Army family actions

Barron Henry, Housing, Relocation, Public Works and Family Support Group facilitator, helps his group Tuesday during the two-day 2007 Army Family Action Plan Conference held at the West Point Club. This year's conference featured five work groups and more than 80 issues. More details in next week's issue. A Teen work group met Sat. and Sun.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

Community Features and Photos

Harvard Law School Dean lectures cadets on law and leadership

Submitted by
Department of Law

"Each of you has made a decision -- a profound commitment -- to join 'the long gray line' of service. I am in awe of your courage and your dedication, especially in these times of great uncertainty and danger. I know how much my security and freedom and indeed everything else I value depend on all of you."

With these words, the Dean of Harvard Law School, Elena Kagan, began her LW403 Constitutional and Military Law evening lecture, "Leadership and the Rule of Law." Speaking to an audience of 500 cadets, Oct. 17 in Arnold Auditorium.

Kagan, Harvard's Charles Hamilton Huston Professor of Law and the first woman to head Harvard law school, said that she does not accept many outside speaking invitations. But, she explained, she accepted this one primarily to thank her audience and all the senior cadets preparing to graduate in May.

Kagan tailored her message for the Firsties, each of whom take

Constitutional and Military Law as part of their core curriculum. Some cadets, she said, might think they will never again need to think about law after closing their LW403 textbooks and taking their final exams. But, Kagan assured them, quite the opposite is true.

"Very few of you will become military lawyers," she conceded, "but most of you will have to consider law, reflect on law and even make judgments about law often in your military careers."

She added that in peace and during times of war, from the moment each man and woman takes the oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States as an Army officer, "law will surround you, and you will feel its presence all over."

Kagan also noted that no one understands the essential connection between law and military leadership better than our country's military officers themselves, especially in time of war.

People who serve in uniform, particularly those in command know that -- contrary to any popular misconceptions -- the law must and will shape their decisions on a daily

basis, because the rule of law is "the foundation stone" of the nation they serve.

In the course of her comments, Kagan touched on several controversial topics regarding the ethics of interpreting and following the law, to include wiretapping, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and Guantanamo Bay, among others. Throughout her presentation, she highlighted the crucial role of the military in supporting and defending the Constitution.

"I do not think I have ever come across a more moving tribute to the rule of law than Constitution Corner here at West Point," Kagan said.

Dedicated to the Academy by the Class of January 1943 in remembrance of classmates lost in World War II, Constitution Corner is a physical representation.

"The military fully accepts and, indeed, reveres this national commitment to a government of laws, and not of men or women," she explained.

"We were very honored to have someone of such stature come to West Point to give her perspective on leadership and law," Cadet



Harvard Law School Dean Elena Kagan speaks with cadets after her lecture Oct. 17 to firsties taking LW403 Constitutional and Military Law.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY D/LAW

1st Class Steven Wax said after Kagan's presentation.

"Our own Dean, Brig. Gen. Patrick Finnegan, remarked that the Harvard Law Dean expertly sounded themes he consistently touches on when speaking about the legal foundations of the

professional military ethic for officers," Wax added. "I think it is wonderful that the Dean of one of the premier law schools in the nation delivered such a great lecture about the ideals we all share as Americans, civilian and military alike."

Archery season open at West Point through mid-December

By James A. Beemer
USMA Natural Resources
Manager

The West Point special archery big-game season opened October 13. USMA residents should know that bow hunters may be hunting in the J Areas [around the ski slope and near Stony Lonesome housing] that are within the cantonment area [see map].

Bow hunting is permitted close to the post to reduce the number of deer that browse landscaped shrubs around quarters and present a traffic hazard on the roadways here. Joggers, cyclists, hikers and walkers should be aware that hunting is authorized in these areas and that camouflaged archers may

cross their paths. These areas are closed to hunting on days of home football games -- the two remaining home games are Nov. 9 and Nov. 17.

Hunters that use areas east of Route 9W are asked to take an adult female deer to help reduce the problems caused by high deer numbers on post. Adult does that have been around for three-to-four years are every bit as difficult to hunt as a wily buck.

Additionally, there are 20 Deer Management Assistance Program tags available to hunters wanting to assist in reducing on-post deer populations. Call 938-3857 for more information on these tags.

As a reminder, hunters using the J Areas need to sign in and out at

the PMO station at Buffalo Soldier Field. Successful deer hunters must register their catch at the check station located next to Range Control on Route 293.

USMA deer hunters should expect a good season. The good acorn crop last fall helped the deer fatten last winter and start 2007 in excellent shape. Deer have heavier body weights and bucks are sporting larger antlers.

Several black bear have also been sighted roaming around the reservation.

The archery season for black bear is the same as for deer. Remember, though, that in N.Y., it is illegal to shoot a bear that is with a group of bears [these are females with cubs] and it is illegal to knowingly shoot a cub.

Archery season runs through Dec. 18.

Main Post Bow Hunting Areas [J2, J3, J4, J5]

■ USMA archery hunting dates continue until Dec. 19.

Hunting is not permitted within

the main post areas on home football game days Nov. 9 and 17.

■ Hunters that want to use the Main Post areas must either live or work at USMA and possess a USMA hunting permit.

■ In accordance with USMA Reg. 215-5, all hunters using the J Areas must sign in and out at the PMO Station at Buffalo Soldier Field in person.

■ No hunting is permitted within 500 feet of any quarters or occupied building.

Big game hunting lottery Thursday

By Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

A lottery will be conducted by MWR, Outdoor Recreation, Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Victor Constant Ski Lodge to determine hunting area assignments on the opening day of big game hunting season.

Big game hunting season for deer opens Nov. 17 and runs until Dec. 9. The season for bear opens Nov. 19 and runs until Dec. 9.

This lottery is for the first day of big game season only. The lottery system is used to control the number of people on the first day. After that, hunters sign out at Hunt Control on a first-come, first-served basis.

To be issued a lottery number, all hunters must provide an ID for proof of eligibility, a NYS hunting license and a USMA hunting permit.

To sign up via telephone, hunters must provide the following information: Name, address, vehicle make and license plate number,

home phone number and USMA permit number. USMA permits are sold at Round Pond and at ITR/Recreational Division.

Hunters wanting to enter the lottery can call Round Pond at 938-2503 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. seven days a week. Sign-ups will also be accepted before 6 p.m. the day of the lottery. Each hunter will be assigned a number prior to the drawing.

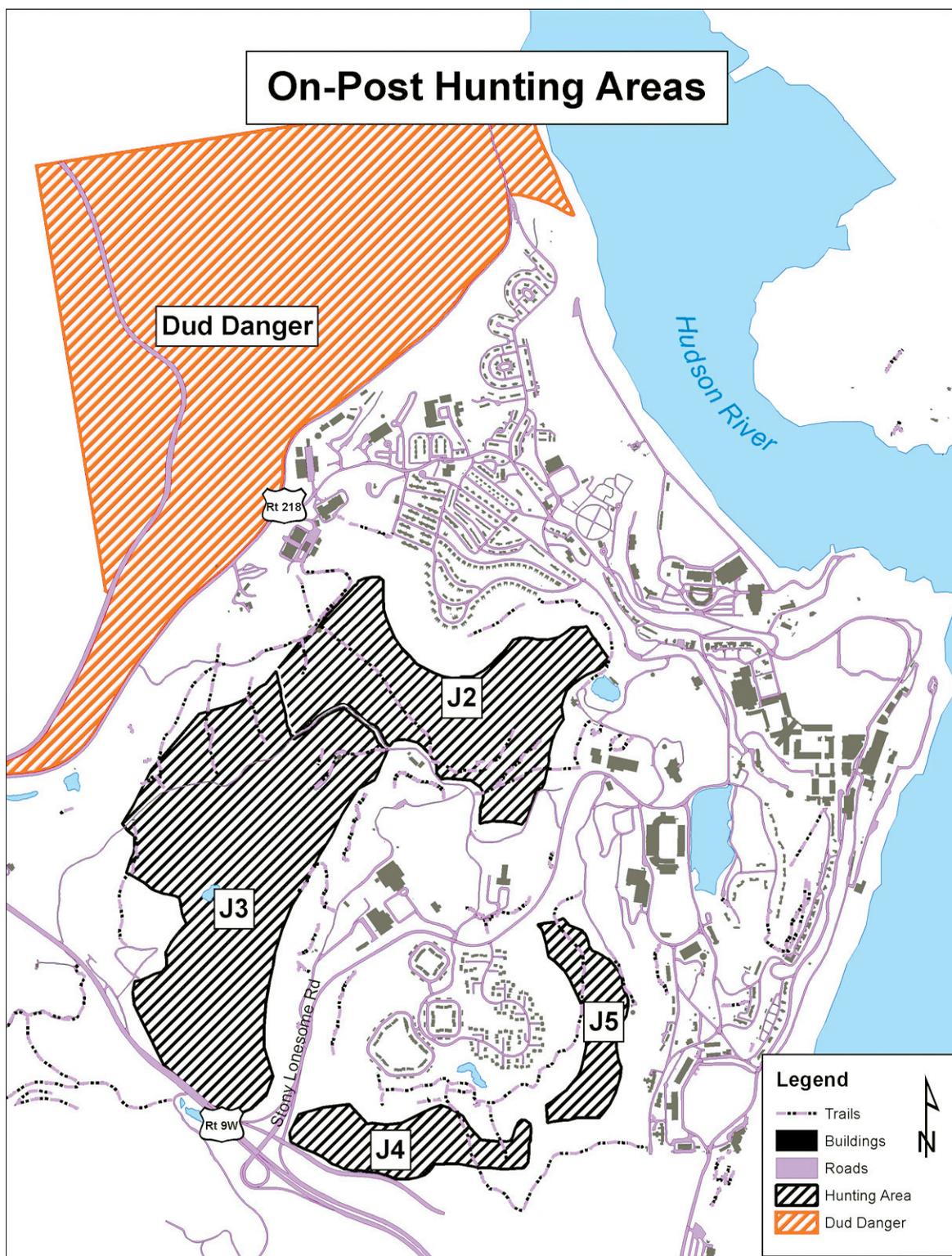
The Hunting Lottery is divided into two categories:

Category 1

Active-duty military assigned to West Point or Stewart and their immediate family members.

Category 2

All others, including civilians working at West Point or Stewart and their immediate family members, [must reside in the same household], reservists, national guard members and retired civilians who worked at West Point or Stewart and their immediate family members residing with them.



WPES first-graders learn tree identification

By Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

Larry Albert's West Point School first grade class got a visit Oct. 17 from West Point forest technician Bob Kakerbeck. He gave them a lesson on tree identification during a nature walk behind the elementary school.

Kakerbeck said he was trying to give the children a sense of the beauty of trees, but found that many of them already seemed to be aware

of that beauty.

"I asked them if they could name any trees," Kakerbeck said. "I was surprised they were able to name quite a few, such as the apple and oak trees."

On the nature walk, Kakerbeck tagged 20 trees around the schoolyard with marked numbers and the names of the trees, which corresponded with the names and numbers on the papers the children carried with them. The children were asked to walk around and find the trees that

were listed on their paper.

"They were all interested in looking at the different types of leaves and the different kinds of bark that can identify a tree," he said. "This is a great way to get the children to learn from nature, by having a virtual outdoor nature classroom."

"There were also six flicker [woodpecker] bird houses on some of the trees, which interested the children."

Kakerbeck said the nature walk contained a variety of trees such as the Sugar Maple, Sycamore Red Oak and Chestnut Oak.

"I found an American Chestnut, which used to be abundant in America, but is unusual now because they have all but vanished due to disease," he said. "Unfortunately, this one [on the nature trail behind the school] is blighted as well."

Kakerbeck said he enjoys teaching and it's great to be able to share his love of nature with the children when they are very young.

"They are more open to the joy of nature and what they learn tends to stay with them," he said.

This is the first year a tree identification class has been taught, but Kakerbeck hopes there will be



West Point forest technician Bob Kakerbeck gives a lesson on trees Oct. 17 to West Point Elementary School first graders.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BOB KAKERBECK

more interest in nature courses in the future. It is the children that will become the stewards of the earth, he added.

Community Leisure

What's Happening

USMA book signings

Philip Zimbardo will sign his book *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil* today from 9:15 to 11 a.m.

He will also speak to PL 100 General Psychology students about "The Psychology of Evil: The Lucifer Effect in Action" today from 7:45 to 8:45 p.m., at Robinson

Auditorium.

First time author and USMA grad Randy Cummings will be signing his murder mystery *Bad Intentions* Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. until noon at the USMA Bookstore.

Author R. Spiller will be signing his book *An Instinct for War* Nov. 7 from 9:30 to 11:15 a.m. at the USMA bookstore.

AF football luncheon tickets

The Army-Air Force quarterback luncheon will be held at Ike Hall Thursday.

Tickets can be purchased through the Cadet Restaurant Admin Office by phone at 938-4456 or in person on the second floor, Ike Hall.

To reserve a seat with a specific department, we ask that you purchase tickets by 2 p.m. Wed.

Tickets purchased at the door on the day of the luncheon will be open seating.

Defensive driving class

The next Defensive Driving class is scheduled for Nov. 3 in Bldg. 622 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To register contact ITR at 938-

2401/3601.

Lee Road now open for PT

Lee Road is open for physical training and other activities. Lights have been restored; however, runners should continue to exercise caution around the intersections and catch basins as there is still a slight difference in pavement height pending the top coat.

Until the repaving is 100 percent complete, residents are encouraged to exercise caution and use the sidewalks where available.

Enlisted personnel briefing

Enlisted personnel management briefing for all enlisted personnel will be conducted by Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate,

HRC, Nov. 8, from 4 to 5 p.m., in Thayer Hall, Room 144.

Human resources command

The human resources command Enlisted Career Advisor Team will be at USMA to conduct career management interviews with all interested enlisted personnel Nov. 8, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., and from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., in the Building 622 ACS Training Room, Nov. 9, and from 8:30 a.m. until noon, in Building 622, AG, Strength Management Office.

The POC is Sgt. 1st Class John Castillo, AG, Strength Management, 938-8450.

Officer personnel management briefing

There will be an officer personnel management briefing for all officers conducted by Col. Brian Baldy, Director of Officer Personnel Management, HRC, Nov., 8 from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m., in Thayer Hall's Robinson Auditorium.

All officers are highly encouraged to attend.

There will also be a briefing and Q&A sessions with the HRC Division Chiefs for all interested officers and First Class cadets Nov., 9 at 12:15 p.m. -- Maneuver, Fires & Effects in Bartlett Hall 412, Operational Support in Bartlett Hall 211 and Force Sustainment in Washington Hall 5300.

There will be no individual interviews with HRC assignment officers this year.

Command Channel

8/23

Oct. 26 - Nov. 2

FRIDAY

8 A.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
NOON CFC 2007 VIDEO
1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
3 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
7 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO

MONDAY

8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
9 A.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
1:30 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
4 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
6:30 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO

TUESDAY

8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
9 A.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
1:30 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
3 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
4 P.M. ARMY FAMILY COVENANT
SIGNING CEREMONY [LIVE]
6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
6:30 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO

WEDNESDAY

8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
9 A.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
10 A.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
1:30 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
6:30 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO

THURSDAY

8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
9 A.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
11 A.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
1:30 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
6:30 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO

Nov. 2

8 A.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
NOON CFC 2007 VIDEO
1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
3 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO
6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH
7 P.M. CFC 2007 VIDEO

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

Guest Artist Series
features
Lea Salonga
October 26, 2007
7:30 p.m.
Eisenhower Hall
Theatre



Lea Salonga

Singing voice of Mulan and Princess Jasmine in Disney's animated features *Mulan* and *Aladdin*.

Free and Open to the Public
See schedule at
www.usma.edu/band
or call 845-938-2617

MWR Blurbs

Harvest Cruise

Harvest Cruise up the Hudson with the West Point Club Saturday, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. The boat sets sail promptly at 1:30 p.m.

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon on the Hudson and experience the beauty of the Valley's foliage.

DPW Notes

Fall Clean Up

Fall Clean Up runs from Thursday until Nov. 30 for the entire West Point community.

Replace/repair sidewalks

A DPW contractor will be replacing selected sections of sidewalk along the following roads:

Sladen Place [the intersection with Washington Road at the Bidle Loop intersection.]

Connor Road [Intersection of Merritt Road to the Winans Road Intersection]

East Moore Loop [Intersection of Tillman Place to the intersection of Benedict Road]

Work is expected to continue until Nov. 2, weather permitting. The contractor will not be working during the times when the children are in the vicinity on the way to WPS.

There will be little impact on vehicle traffic during construction. Pedestrians should avoid the immediate construction area.

Keller Corner

KACH closure

All outpatient clinics, laboratory, pharmacy and radiology will be closed Nov. 12. The emergency room will remain open.

Influenza vaccination

The influenza vaccination will be available to all TRICARE Beneficiaries Nov. 14 and 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Eisenhower Hall.

The vaccine will be available to DOD Civilians Nov. 20 at the Employee Health Benefit Fair.

Emergency Care at West Point

Emergency Care Anywhere- Call 911 for an ambulance or go directly to the closest emergency room.

Cash bar, live music and buffet included.

For more information, call 938-5120.

Focus Group meeting Nov. 8

The Commissary and Exchange Focus Group meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m., Nov. 8, in the Army Community Service common area.

This meeting is open to all community members who use these benefits.

Ski locker rental

Applications for the seasonal ski locker rental lottery are now being accepted through Nov. 7 at 4:30 p.m.

Applications must be submitted online only, to <http://www.westpointmwr.com>, keyword ski.

Winning applicants will be posted on the Web site Nov. 12.

For more info, call 938-4637.

Ski Lodge reservations

Applications for the ski lodge reservations lottery are now being accepted through Nov. 19 at 4:30 p.m. Applications must be submitted online only, to <http://www.westpointmwr.com>, keyword ski.

Winning applicants will be posted on the Web site by Nov. 27. For more info, call 938-4637.

Crandall Pool closed

Crandall Pool will be closed during MWR swim time Nov. 9, 10, 12, 21 and 23.

Ballroom Dance classes

Ballroom Dance classes will be held at Cullum Hall with a six-week session beginning Nov. 5. Classes

will meet each Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. The last class is Dec. 10. Register at ITR or call 938-2401.

Radio City Christmas show

ITR has a limited number of tickets available for the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular. Tickets include show and transportation and are not sold separately. To purchase tickets, call 938-3601.

Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

RCI questions?

Go to www.westpointfamilyhousing.com

NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752

FRIDAY -- SUPERBAD, R, 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY -- BALLS OF FURY, PG-13, 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY -- THE BRAVE ONE, R, 9:30 P.M.

NOV. 2 -- RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION, R, 7:30 P.M.

NOV. 3 -- MR. WOODCOCK, PG-13, 7:30 P.M.

NOV. 3 -- HALLOWEEN, R, 9:30 P.M.

NOV. 9 -- THEATER CLOSED [HOME FOOTBALL GAME]

NOV. 10 -- SYDNEY WHITE, PG-13, 7:30 P.M.

NOV. 10 -- THE KINGDOM, R, 9:30 P.M.

NOV. 16 -- 3:10 TO YUMA, R, 7:30 P.M.

THE THEATER SCHEDULE CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT WWW.AAFES.COM.

Halloween happenings for the local area -- beginning today

Compiled by Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

This is the time of year when children and adults everywhere get ready for beasties, goulies and things that go bump in the night. That's right -- it's Halloween or 'ole Hallows eve,' as it was once called.

It is on or about Halloween that parties, hayrides and scary stories abound and West Point and the Hudson Valley are gearing up for the annual spook-fest.

Teen party

A Halloween party for seventh- and eighth-graders will be held at the Youth Center tonight from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission will be a non-perishable item. The event is open to West Point Middle School students.

Parents will need to sign a permission slip for their children to come to the party, which can be obtained at the youth center. There will be food and a D.J. will provide music entertainment.

Prizes for the best costume will be given.

Harvest Fest

The West Point Post Chapel is holding its annual Harvest Fest Wednesday night from 6 to 8 p.m. at the West Point Elementary School gymnasium. The alternative to trick-or-treating features inflatable jumpers and slides, face painting and much more.

Everyone is asked to dress up in kid friendly-costumes [not scary] and enjoy free pizza, popcorn and lots of candy. Families are asked to donate one bag of candy at admission.

Contact Missy Highley at 446-0504 for more information.

Sacred Heart School Party

The Sacred Heart School in Highland Falls will host a family Halloween party tonight from 6 to 7:45 p.m. The event will not feature any excessively gory or scary costumes. There will be prizes, pizza, treats and more.

Call 446-2674 for more information.

West Point Elementary School

The annual fall celebration Wednesday will focus on the school improvement goal: improving reading comprehension across the curriculum. In keeping with the theme of reading, students will be



asked to be part of a literature character parade and carry their books with them. The character parade will begin at approximately 1:30 p.m. and classroom festivities will take place following the parade.

Students may take their costumes to school with them in the morning, but may not wear costumes or make-up at school until it is time to dress for the parade.

There is zero-tolerance for weapons policy at WPES. No weapons to include toy guns, toy swords or toy knives, may be brought to school for the Fall Celebration. If in doubt, leave the item at home.

Parents and younger siblings are invited to view the parade from 'the loop' area. Only school-age students may participate in the parade and 'classroom festivities.'

Adult helpers are invited to participate in classroom activities after the parade. AM Pre-K students may return to school at 1:30 p.m. to join the parade. Their party takes

place while they are in school.

BOSS

The Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers is partnering with Outdoor Recreation, sponsoring activities and games for the eight and under age group in the Bonneville Cabin at Round Pond Wednesday from 6:30 to 9 p.m. There is no charge for the activities in the cabin.

Haunted Hayride

The MWR Haunted Hayride is Wednesday from 6:30 to 9 p.m., starting at Bonneville Cabin at Round Pond. Come in your Halloween costume and get half-off admission. This is open to the West Point, Highland Falls and Fort Montgomery communities.

For more information or to volunteer, call 938-2503.

TerrorDome

Five haunted attractions are



designed to terrorize the bravest souls at the TerrorDome, located at 84 Lakeside Road in Newburgh N.Y. It also holds three festive shops, two spooky snack stands and Zombie paintball.

The festivities begin tonight from 7p.m. to midnight and Saturday from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. and is not recommended for children under the age of eight.

Call 845-926-3443 for more information.

Kevin Mc Curdy's Haunted Mansion

Located at Bowdoin Park, 85 Shaefe Road in Poughkeepsie, the Haunted Mansion has been in business for 28 years and provides high-tech effects and story lines to thrill everyone. Five attractions

include outside mazes and theme attractions.

Hours are 6 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Check [www.](http://www.thehauntedmansion.com)

thehauntedmansion.com or call [845] 297-2288 for information.

Haunted Halloween in Monroe

Monsters, witches and more -- including a scary hayride and an old-fashioned scavenger hunt, are all part the Monroe Haunted Halloween event, located at 1010 Route 17M, Monroe, N.Y.

Call [845] 782-8248 or check out www.museumvillage.org/events.htm for more information.



Army and Community Sports

Curran leads Women's CC into Patriots

Story and photo by
Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

This Saturday, the Army women's cross country team heads to Easton, Pa., with the men's team, to participate in the Patriot League Championships at Lafayette University.

Although the women lost to Navy, 23-38, Oct. 12, they are gaining steam toward another showdown with their Navy counterparts. The cross country females are led by their dominant star, junior Megan Curran.

Curran has three top three finishes this season and has been named Patriot League female runner of the week twice.

A Patriot League "Rookie of the Year" in 2005 and a First Team All-Patriot League runner in each of her first two years, Curran ran a decent race against Navy. She finished second with a time of 24:18 in the women's 6K coming in neck-and-neck with teammate, sophomore Stephanie Schoeneman, who finished third.

Curran had a manageable lead until she slipped on the course and let her Navy opponent, Amy Watson, take over the lead for good.

"I was leading through the first mile and most of the second mile and then coming up the hill I turned over my shoulder and there was [Watson] and I wasn't honestly expecting that, but it was neck-and-neck the whole time," she said. "I gained a lead off the second hill [along the West Point Golf Course route] toward the finish and on the downhill my legs were jello and I fell and she got a sizeable lead on me."

Regardless of her slip and the loss to Navy, she always looks forward to the meets with the Midshipmen.

In 2005, Curran felt the most special race of her collegiate career was against Navy, when Army won in drastic weather conditions.

"It was pouring rain, torrential downpours and as a freshman it was all new to me," she said. "I was the second Army runner that day and came in third overall and we got a perfect score against them."

Curran, who specializes in the 5K during the track season, is one

of the few upperclassmen on the women's cross country team and she feels like she needs to set a high example for the younger runners.

"We have 13 plebes on our cross country team to only eight upperclassmen," Curran said. "There's a lot more pressure to set the example training-wise and everything else, which puts the onus on [the upperclassmen]."

The young team has jelled and women's coach Laura Kirchgraber credits Curran and senior Megan Howell for bringing the team together with their leadership skills.

"[Curran] brings a tremendous amount of leadership to this team. It's been fun watching her for the last three years evolve into that role," Kirchgraber said. "She has been our leader from the front, in terms of the on course leader, but this year she's really stepped up into her leadership role."

"The girls take what she says with a lot of weight because she performs so well," she added. "She's been a great complement to our team captain Megan Howell."

Kirchgraber spoke glowingly of sophomore runners Ashley Morgan and Toni Oestmann and said that the future is quite bright for Army's women runners. That's an assessment that Curran agrees with.

"I'm proud of our team as we've come together this season because we've got such a young team," Curran said. "We only have one senior, so we're only losing one person. I think next year everyone should look out for us."

Before next year comes to fruition, they still have the Patriot Championship Saturday and everyone is keyed up for a chance to redeem their last race.

"Going into the league meet, we would like to beat [Navy] and come back strong," Curran said.

As the team prepares for the meet with about 100 miles traveled per runner since the race against Navy, they continue toward their challenging goal of winning the Patriots.

"I've been proud of our ladies attitude and work ethic throughout the year and if they keep going at it, it will mean better things ahead at the Patriot League Championship," Kirchgraber said.



Women's cross country junior Megan Curran will run for a fourth top three finish at the PL Championships Saturday.

Sports calendar

Oct. 26 - Nov. 4

Corps Squad

FRIDAY -- WSOC vs. **Navy**, ANNAPOLIS, 7 P.M.
SATURDAY -- WBB vs. SETON HALL [SCRIMMAGE], CHRISTL ARENA, 11 A.M.
SATURDAY -- M&W SWIM/DIVE vs. UMASS., CRANDALL POOL, 2 P.M.
SATURDAY -- VB vs. HOLY CROSS, GILLIS FIELD HOUSE, 2 P.M.
TUESDAY -- MSOC vs. SACRED HEART, CLINTON, 7 P.M.
Nov. 2 -- SPRINT FOOTBALL vs. NAVY, SHEA STADIUM, 7 P.M.
Nov. 2 -- VB vs. LEHIGH, GILLIS FIELD HOUSE, 7 P.M.
Nov. 3 -- RIFLE, **PRESIDENT'S TROPHY**, IN ANNAPOLIS, MD., 9 A.M.
Nov. 3 -- WBB vs. VILLANOVA [SCRIMMAGE] CHRSTL AREAN, 11 A.M.
Nov. 3 -- MBB vs. MARIST [SCRIMMAGE], CHRISTL ARENA, 3 P.M.
Nov. 3 -- FOOTBALL vs. **AIR FORCE** IN COLORADO SPRINGS, 3:30 P.M.
[CSTV]
Nov. 3 -- MSOC vs. HOLY CROSS, CLINTON, 3 P.M.
Nov. 3 -- VB vs. LAFAYETTE, GFH, 3 P.M.

Club

SATURDAY -- JUDO CLINIC, ARVIN ANNEX, BLDG. 673, 9 A.M.
SATURDAY -- SAILING AT **USNA REGATTA**, ANNAPOLIS, MD., 9 A.M.
SUNDAY -- JUDO CLINIC, ARVIN ANNEX, BLDG. 673, 8 A.M.
SUNDAY -- SKEET & TRAP TEAM vs. UNION LEAGUE CLUB, RANGE 10, 10 A.M.
SUNDAY -- MEN'S TEAM HANDBALL vs. NYC & NE FREEZE TH CLUBS, ARVIN GYM, 2ND FLOOR, 1 P.M.
Nov. 2 -- PISTOL, TRONSRUE MARKSMANSHIP CENTER, 4 P.M.
Nov. 2 -- RACQUETBALL vs. **AIR FORCE**, AT USAFA, 5 P.M.
Nov. 2 -- WOMEN'S LACROSSE vs. **AF**, AT USAFA, 6 P.M.
Nov. 2 -- MEN'S VB vs. **AF** AT USAFA, 6 P.M.
Nov. 2 -- JUDO vs. **AF** AT USAFA, 7 P.M.
Nov. 2 -- BOXING vs. **AF** AT USAFA, 7 P.M.
Nov. 3 -- PISTOL, TRONSRUE MARKSMANSHIP CENTER, 8 A.M.
Nov. 3 -- EQUESTRIAN, vs. REGIONAL OPPONENTS IN THE INTERCOLLEGIATE HORSE SHOW ASSOC., MORGAN FARM, 9 A.M.
Nov. 3 -- PAINTBALL vs. **AF** AT USAFA, 9 A.M.
Nov. 3 -- CHESS vs. **AF** AT USAFA, 9 A.M.
Nov. 3 -- MEN'S RUGBY HOSTS THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL UNION PLAYOFFS, ANDERSON RUGBY COMPLEX, NOON AND 3 P.M.

“BLACKOUT”: West Point officials encourage cadets and fans to wear black at Rutgers game

By Linda Mastin
Editor

In the past few days, you may have heard talk about a “Blackout” and wondered -- do we have power problems?

Not if West Point’s Vice Dean for Education has his way. Colonel Dan Ragsdale is the catalyst behind a plan to harness the energy of Army fans and direct it toward opposing teams.

“In my many years of following college football and other sports, the one thing that has always struck me is that in the ‘cathedrals of college football,’ places like Nebraska, Tennessee, Alabama and Texas A&M, all of the fans wear the team color -- be it red, orange or maroon,” Ragsdale said.

“Since Army is the Black Knights, what better color than black to show our support of all Army athletic teams -- both showing our solidarity behind our teams and providing an intimidating presence to opposing teams,” he added.

Ragsdale came up with an idea that he coordinated with the Directorate of Intercollegiate Athletics, and the USMA and USCC chiefs of staff. It was approved during a recent meeting of West Point’s senior leaders.

That idea is to encourage Army fans and cadets to, at a minimum, wear black outerwear, such as long sleeve shirts, jackets and sweatshirts, Nov. 9, at the Rutgers night game to show their unity and spirit.

Ragsdale, along with Lt. Col. Boe Barinowski from DIA and others, designed a black shirt with an ‘Army Gold’ design and an ‘Army Gold’ battle rag [actually a towel] that are available for purchase at the online store at www.goarmysports.com Web site. Just follow the directions on the site to get your ‘Blackout’ gear.

If you order the ‘Blackout’ shirt online before the Rutgers game and pick it up Nov. 7 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. in Thayer Hall, Room 444, you will receive both a shirt and a towel for the price of the shirt.

Remember to bring your printed receipt.

If you miss the pick-up option deadline, you can still order these items and have them shipped to you. They are also available at the ODIA Gift Shop or at Michie

Stadium.

“This is a great example of loyal fans taking the initiative to support Army sports,” said Kevin Anderson, West Point’s Director of Intercollegiate Athletics. “We want to encourage our Black Knights with a loud sea of black in the stands.”

“In the end, though, it’s about more than football,” he added. “And it’s about more than sports, although we want this kind of support for all our cadet athletes.

“This idea shows how we band together in our vital enterprise of forging leaders,” Anderson said.

Former Army football tight end, Col. Mark McKearn, the spirited USCC Brigade Tactical Officer is also on board.

“In many athletic venues around the country fans show support for their team by wearing the team’s main color as a gesture of solidarity and support for the team,” McKearn said. “Since we’re the Black Knights and it’s the color of our home uniforms, wearing black should also prove to be intimidating to the opponent.”

“We are playing one of the top teams in the country in Rutgers before a national television

audience and they will come clad in scarlet. We need spirited support from all fans in Michie Stadium,” he continued.

“The ‘Blackout’ is a way for all fans to tell the team that they’re behind them. We need to make Michie Stadium a decided home field advantage, where victories are the norm and fans stay and cheer for the team until the end,” McKearn added.

In addition, Ragsdale wants all Army fans to wear black spirit attire of any kind to work Nov. 9 to show their support of the Army team.



Cadets and Army fans are encouraged to wear black outerwear to represent Army unity and spirit versus Rutgers.

Army's "top line" primed for another AHA Final

By Eric S. Bartlett
Sports Editor

Army head hockey coach Brian Riley plans to capitalize on last year's magical season by taking the team to the NCAA tournament.

The Black Knights finished last season with a 19-12-5 record, its best in 10 years and made it to the Atlantic Hockey Association conference finals.

"It was extremely gratifying to see the program come to a place it hasn't really been before," Riley said.

"To have it experience a first Division I quarterfinal victory here. A semifinal win and being one game away from the NCAA Tournament -- I think that went a long way," he added.

"It said a lot about the type of guys we had in the locker room. Those guys worked extremely hard and they made the most of their opportunities last year and they created many positive memories that they'll be able to look back on for a lifetime," Riley said.

Now, it's about looking beyond last year's success and creating new memories. The team headed into this season as the AHA's third ranked team in its preseason coaches' poll. Usually, Army is placed in the bottom third of the conference preseason polls, but there are several reasons for high optimism.

The Black Knights return 15 of the team's 19 players, all of whom played that championship

game. Their only significant loss is defenseman Tim Manthey, who transferred to Wisconsin Stevens-Point.

Riley credits the upperclassmen for elevating the program with their play and feels goaltending has also been the cornerstone to the team's success.

"Josh Kassel, in goal, gained valuable experience as a sophomore last year and proved himself to be one of the top goalies in the league," Riley said. "Last year, we may have had a question mark at the start of the year in goal, but it's a position this year we feel has a lot of depth [to include freshman Jay Clark and sophomore Joey Spracklen]."

The power play may take a dip because Manthey was the team's point man, but those responsibilities are now to Robb Ross', a senior forward, so Army will be using four forwards on the power play unit more often this season.

"[Manthey] had offensive abilities, which gave us a real threat back there," Riley said. "While he's someone that we'll definitely miss, Ross has the ability to shoot the puck and can also move the puck. It's certainly something we're trying right now ... by putting a forward back on the point."

If Army is to get back to this year's championship game, they need to get the same, if not more, production from their top line -- seniors Bryce Hollweg, Luke Flicek and sophomore Owen Meyer. They were the team's offensive bread-and-butter last year, producing 39



Sophomore Owen Meyer continued where he left off last season by scoring Army's first goal of the year. He had 13 goals as a freshman.

PAUL RADER/DOIM

goals and 96 points.

While Flicek, who led the team with 16 goals, and Meyer bring a better skill set, Hollweg brings the heart and soul and 'dirty work' that creates more opportunities for the skilled wingers.

"[Hollweg] is a player who plays with an edge," Riley explained. "He's probably the type of kid that you hate to play against, but one you love to have on your team ... he gives it all for 60 minutes."

Riley touts Hollweg for his great leadership skills and knew when he first met him that he was something special.

"Holly's one of those guys I knew when he came to West Point on his visit that he had leadership written all over him -- you could feel it," Riley said. "It's not surprising that he came here and has become, probably, the first player to ever wear a letter on his sweater for three years."

Hollweg, the team's captain, believes it's important to hold all the players accountable for what they do in class and on the ice and that it will all, "lead to points on the board."

Born in Downey, Calif., and moving to Vancouver, British Columbia at age 13, Hollweg has hockey 'skating' in his blood. He played in the British Columbia

Hockey League for the Surrey Eagles before he arrived at West Point.

Bryce's brother, Ryan, plays with the National Hockey League's New York Rangers, and they are both very gritty competitors. That's what gives Army quality on its top line.

"We all bring something

different. That's why we've had success in the past," said Hollweg, who hopes to branch Signal Corps. "I try to leave the skill stuff to those guys and I just try to work as hard as I can to make some room for them by hitting ... that's how I make my money is either hitting or blocking shots -- the little things."

See "Top Line" on page 15



Senior captain Bryce Hollweg stands in front of RPI's goaltender doing the 'dirty work' for his linemates.

PAUL RADER/DOIM

WAR victorious in games, against Cancer

By Capt. Kafi Joseph
OIC Women's Army Rugby

This Sunday, the Women's Rugby A-side defeated Boston College 65-0 and the B-side finished up their undefeated season with a 41-0 victory.

Interestingly enough, the highlight of this weekend's match was not to the victories over BC, but rather the hints of pink and lavender that the girls wore in their hair or upon their rugby cleats.

These colors seem a little out of character for the women until one realizes that the colors lavender and pink represent general cancer awareness and breast cancer awareness, respectively.

"Top Line", cont. from page 14

Hollweg's ultra-competitiveness does not mean that Meyer is a shrinking violet. The 6'2", 185-pound forward makes room for himself as well and uses his long reach to cause turnovers and help create favorable opportunities.

Meyer lucked into playing with Hollweg and Flicek last year when senior Chase Podsiad made the decision to move to defense from forward. With a gaping hole on the wing of their line, Hollweg suggested to Riley that Meyer might be worth a look.

"I remember telling coach to try Meyer out because I remember skating out there and putting pucks two feet ahead of him and he would still catch them," Hollweg said, "and it's worked out so far."

Meyer wasn't shocked by his success last year as a plebe finishing second on the team with 13 goals and third in points with 29.

"When I get to the rink, it's my chance to excel," Meyer said. "Each and every day was a stepping stone. I tried to outdo myself, so at the end of the day I wasn't surprised I did that well as a [freshman]."

Meyer received some advice from his uncle, Art Hartman [USMA 1985 graduate who played football and baseball while a cadet] prior to

Team captain, junior Lauryn Riley and sophomore Lauren Haberthur were scheduled to participate in the Saturday American Cancer Society Walk for Cancer Awareness. Riley learned of the event from her companymate, junior Julie Moles, who assembled 15 cadets to participate in the event.

Since the BC rugby match was rescheduled at the last minute, the group had to complete the walk without Riley and Haberthur.

Riley became interested in the walk because her grandmother died from cancer and, more recently, was reminded of the terrible affects of the disease due to the passing of teammate and vice captain junior

Anshwa Pennington's aunt.

When Riley learned that the rugby game would stop her from participating in the walk, she quickly developed another idea to promote cancer awareness.

She asked the women of WAR to voluntarily wear pink or purple ribbons as a tribute to not only Penny's aunt, but the many other Americans affected by cancer annually. Although the girls did not get to participate in the walk, they met their intent of increasing cancer awareness.

Many spectators at the game asked about the ribbons and, in turn, donned the pink and lavender ribbons to show their own support.

coming here that has served him well early in his academy life.

"He told me a thing or two, but he said, 'the most rewarding thing was looking back on it and that he may have had a tough day or two here and there,' which obviously happens, but he added that he gave everything he had and 'had no regrets coming here,'" Meyer stated, "and that's something I take to heart."

He is trying to build off last year's plebe success, already scoring the team's first goal of the year in 2007-08 in a 2-1 loss to Bemidji State [Minn.] Oct. 11. And, to no one's surprise, Riley believes that Meyer can be as good as any forward in the AHA.

"Owen went beyond our expectations last year," Riley said. "He, at times, was as good a forward as we've seen in this league. He has the ability and does things in practice and in games where, not only the coaches but his teammates, all look at each other and say, 'Wow.' He has the ability to do things on the ice that no one else on our team can really do."

After last season's Air Force loss that kept them from the NCAA Tournament, the team will use its grit and talent in early season games to refocus its mission to get

back there and become 'satisfied.'

"After we finished up and saw Air Force playing the tournament, we all knew that could have been us," Hollweg said. "From a personal standpoint, the feeling you get from winning a championship is something I haven't felt since my minor league hockey days.

"If you don't feel that in 'juniors' or college, you just don't feel satisfied," he added. "It makes you want to work that much harder."

Mighty Bowl Tournament Sunday at Michie

The Junior Black Knights [made up of players from West Point, Highland Falls, Fort Montgomery and Garrison] are hosting the 3rd annual Mighty Bowl Mighty Mites Tournament at Michie Stadium Sunday. Games will begin at 11:30 a.m. The tournament features 8 mighty mite [six- and seven-year olds] teams from the Orange County Youth Football League.