

# POINTER VIEW

## TSP TICKER

January changes [as of 1/9]	
C FUND	- 3.99 percent
I FUND	- 3.27 percent
S FUND	- 6.82 percent

VOL. 65, NO. 1

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

JANUARY 11, 2008



## 'New Year's baby'

West Point's New Year's baby, Rachel Abbott-McCune was born Jan. 4 at 11:00 a.m. at KACH. Parents Maj. Samuel, an EE&CS instructor, and Valerie Abbott-McCune received a farewell gift from the Keller staff from KACH Commander Col. Norvel Coots (right). Rachel weighed in at 5 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19 inches tall. LINDA DiSALVO/KACH

## All DOD employees received pay raises

Compiled by Linda Mastin  
Editor

Employees under the Defense Department's new personnel system will still receive a pay raise equivalent to the formula Congress approved in an authorization bill, despite a presidential veto December 28.

Pentagon officials said in a Web post Jan. 3 that the 110,000 employees converted to the National Security Personnel System in the first wave will receive 60 percent of the General Schedule's base pay increase as an adjustment to their base salary, provided they earn an acceptable performance rating. The remaining 40 percent will be added to the pay pools and distributed based on performance.

West Point employees in the following activities are paid in accordance with NSPS rules -- the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Garrison, CID and Contracting. The mission employees converted to NSPS in November will receive their increases as they have in the past," according to Carol McQuinn,

West Point's Civilian Personnel Director and Spiral 2 transition team manager. "The new locality amount is 26.36 percent for our employees."

The General Schedule's final 2008 base pay raise will be 2.5 percent, with a 1 percent locality-based increase. Based on that formula, NSPS employees will be eligible for a 1.5 percent base pay raise, a 1 percent raise tied to job performance and a 1 percent locality pay supplement granted in the same manner as GS locality pay, according to officials.

NSPS employees who have not transitioned in the first wave and did not receive a 2007 final rating of record will receive the equivalent of the 2008 government-wide increase, officials added.

The move marks a reversal of a September decision by Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England to change the policy outlining the way NSPS employees would receive the 2008 pay increase, opting instead for a 50-50 split

See **PAY RAISES**, page 4

## Voter registration push underway - register now

By Dave Melancon  
Army News Service

The 2008 election year kicked off Jan. 3 with the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire's presidential primary took place Tuesday. Other states' primaries, many with bumped-up voting dates, follow right behind the Granite State.

Election Day, Nov. 4, is less than a year away. So there is no time like the present to register to vote, according to voting assistance officers.

Throughout the Army, voting assistance officers are helping Soldiers, Family members, Department of Defense civilian employees, retirees and contractors

register to vote.

They can also identify a voter's county of record back home and will assist with filling out the Federal Postcard Application. Plus they can help other U.S. citizens, who are not associated with the military register as well.

West Point's voting assistance officer is Sgt. 1st Class John Castillo.

He can be reached at 938-

8450.

Or for information specific to your state, go to the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).



While their processes vary, all 50 states and U.S. territories recognize and accept the federal postcard application -- U.S. Government Printing Office Standard Form 76. The form can be obtained from a VAO or

downloaded from the FVAP Web site.

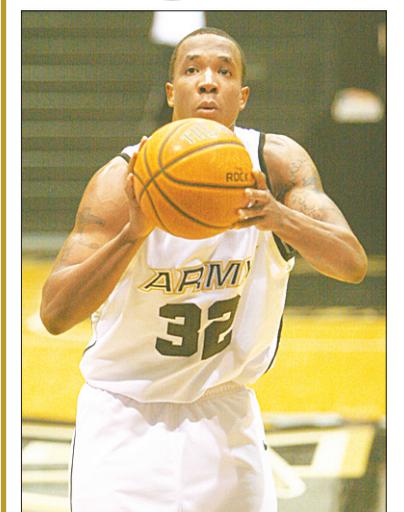
After completing an FPCA, voters need to forward it to their county election officers because the FPCA registers the individual and requests an absentee ballot.

Voters still should check with their state's secretary of state or director of elections for state-specific laws and guidance.

Every state is different when it comes to registration procedures and deadlines for getting the federal post card registration to a county registrar. Links to state registrars can be found on the FVAP's Web site.

(Editor's Note: Melancon writes for U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg Public Affairs.)

## INSIDE



See **MBB**, pages 14-15

## Two hundred million dollars

**Commentary by  
Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty  
Director of Communications**

Living in a gated community with groundskeepers mowing the lawn, tending the flowers and raking the leaves.

This isn't the daydream that you have when driving back from buying a couple of lottery tickets, this is what happens to current and future residents of West Point this July 1st when GMH housing becomes the Residential Communities initiative partner.

In the next eight years GMH will invest \$200 million in West Point. Do a little math and that works out to \$50,000 for each man, woman and child currently living in West Point housing.

And that is in addition to the regular maintenance and upkeep -- which now will include them mowing and raking the non-fenced part of your yard.

And that doesn't include the \$800 million they will invest in West Point from 2015 to 2057.

I admit, I wasn't initially sold by the RCI concept when I lived at Fort Drum and we began the initial RCI process.

I'm a Soldier, an Infantry officer and I want to live in Army housing, run by the Army, following Army

rules and responding to the Army leaders.

Well, this will continue to be Army housing, run by the Army and our partner, responding to Army leaders and our partners and enforcing Army rules -- rules I will continue to not completely like.

I have never lived on a RCI Post -- we moved out of Ft. Drum before RCI took over -- but I've been on some RCI posts, and they are nice. Ft. Belvoir is beautiful. And my family and I won't be here when most of this good stuff happens, but I am now sold on the idea.

The federal government, the bureaucracy, is institutionally incapable of doing what this process will do -- radically improve housing for all of us. All of us, except for the coaches, who won't be part of this.

Some things will change -- a housing draw will remain, but not exactly like what we went through.

Some things will be the same -- there will still be housing areas where like ranks live.

Some things will get better -- the guy raking my leaves comes to mind.

Not everyone will be happy because there is nothing you can do to make everyone happy, but if I'm drinking a beer watching a guy rake

my leaves, I'll be happy.

Due to federal government rules, there will be about 15 percent less housing units on post -- the Superintendent and the Garrison Commander and RCI worked hard to ensure we didn't lose 30 percent of our housing. Less housing isn't better, but the ones that remain will be nicer, new and in many cases, twice as large as current homes.

So what do you have to do? Just sign the lease that you will be given sometime this spring. For more info on all of this, go to <http://www.westpointfamilyhousing.com/>.

I've been lucky. My family and I lived in New Brick in the mid-1990s and we were extremely happy -- a fabulous, beautiful "Leave it to Beaver" neighborhood. We PCS'd, I got promoted and when we came back we moved into Lee, and we are more extremely happy.

But I am jealous of those who will live here in the years to come because you will get to watch that guy rake your leaves.

**RCI/GMH Town Hall Meeting  
Thursday, Jan. 17 -- 7 to 9 p.m.  
West Point Club Grand Ballroom**

All West Point Housing Residents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Come hear RCI housing project updates and have your questions answered.

Discussion topics include CDMP final approvals, RCI timeline, construction/renovation updates, lease signing, maintenance and lifeworks program.

Refreshments will be served.

The meeting will also be televised on the Command Channel.

Visit the GMH/RCI Web site -- [www.westpointfamilyhousing.com](http://www.westpointfamilyhousing.com) -- for more information on the RCI project to include neighborhood plans, the Resident Guide, FAQs, and question and answers from the Oct. 2, 2007 Town Hall meeting.

## SAPR-P

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

Community members can e-mail McMahon at [Jeanette.McMahon@usma.edu](mailto: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.

## POINTER VIEW

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### Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

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

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

Difficulty: Easy

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

See Solution on Page 10

# Local and National News

## Refrigeration renovations starting at commissary soon

Story and photo by  
Kathy Eastwood  
Staff writer

As part of a sustainment project through the Defense Commissary Agency, the West Point commissary building is due to be renovated and will be undergoing a total renovation of its refrigeration units starting in February. The project includes new backup storage coolers, racks, upgrades and cosmetic refurbishing including painting and upgrades in flooring.

“The refurbishing is being done to sustain operations with a total change out of the refrigeration units,” said Janet Berry, Commissary Director. “The project is due to start late February and will last about nine months.”

Berry said it will take that long because the renovation is going to be done in stages so the store can remain open.

“We are trying to keep any inconvenience to customers down as much as possible,” Berry said. “We will be refurbishing in stages. With the produce sections, the new systems will be built side-by-side with the produce being transferred to one half of the bin while the other is installed. Once the installation is complete, the produce will be transferred to the completed unit while the other unit

is being built.”

The meat section is being done a little differently in that the old cases will be moved forward and new ones will be built behind them, she said.

“There will also be plastic coverings up because of the removal of some asbestos and flooring, so there will be some inconvenience to the customer,” Berry said. “But once this renovation is completed, the customers will be able to enjoy one of the nicest commissaries in the country.”

Berry said with the renovations there will be more freezer space which could allow for more of a variety of frozen foods.

“Even though we will be adding freezer space, we will also be losing shelving space, but that still should allow us to add more variety to our frozen food sections,” she said.

The project is funded by DeCA from the proceeds of the 5percent surcharge taken at the register.

The 5 percent surcharge is applied to patron sales at the checkout counters.

The fund was established by law so that authorized patrons share responsibility for overall costs of the commissary system, including store information technology and the commissary construction program, according to the DeCA Web site.



**Janet Berry, West Point Commissary Director, inspects the produce area, only a small part of the major refrigeration renovation scheduled to begin in February. The store will continue operations during the project, which is expected to take nine months.**

# New law gives disabled Veterans more home grants

By Department of Veterans Affairs

A change in federal law allows certain seriously injured veterans and servicemembers to receive multiple grants for constructing or modifying their homes, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced Monday.

Before the change, eligible veterans and servicemembers could receive special adaptive housing grants of \$10,000 or \$50,000 from VA only once. Now they may use the benefit up to three times, as long as the total grants stay within specified limits outlined in the law.

"Veterans seriously disabled during their military service have earned this benefit," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "This change ensures that every eligible veteran and servicemember has the chance to use the maximum amount afforded to them by our grateful nation."

In order to ensure all previous

recipients are aware of this opportunity, VA has mailed more than 16,000 letters to eligible veterans, reaching out to those who used only a portion of their grant or who decided not to use the grant even after initially qualifying.

The response over the past year has been dramatic, with more than 4,600 applications received thus far. Of these, approximately 3,900 veterans have been determined eligible under the new law and more than 200 grants already awarded.

VA has averaged about 1,000 adaptive housing grant applications per year during the past 10 years. Since the program began in 1948, it has provided more than \$650 million in grants to about 34,000 seriously disabled veterans.

To ensure veterans' and servicemembers' needs are met and grant money is spent properly, VA works closely throughout the entire process with contractors and architects to design, construct and modify homes that meet the

individuals' housing accessibility needs.

Eligible for the benefit are those with specific service-connected disabilities entitling them to VA compensation for a "permanent and total disability." They may receive a grant to construct an adapted home or to modify an existing one to meet their special needs.

VA has three types of adapted housing grants available. The Specially Adapted Housing grant, currently limited to \$50,000, is generally used to create a wheelchair-accessible home for those who may require such assistance for activities of daily living.

VA's Home Loan Guaranty program and the Native American Direct Loan program may also be used with the SAH benefit to purchase an adaptive home.

The Special Housing Adaptations grant, currently limited to \$10,000, is generally used to assist veterans with

mobility throughout their homes due to blindness in both eyes or the anatomical loss or loss of use of both hands or extremities below the elbow.

A third type established by the new law, the Temporary Residence Adaptation grant, is available to eligible veterans and seriously injured active duty servicemembers who are temporarily living or intend to temporarily live in a home owned by a family member.

While the SAH and SHA grants require ownership and title to a house, in creating TRA Congress recognized the need to allow veterans and active duty members who may not yet own homes to have access to the adaptive housing grant program.

Under TRA, veterans and servicemembers eligible under the SAH program would be permitted to use up to \$14,000, and those eligible under the SHA program would be allowed to use up to \$2,000 of the maximum grant amounts. Each grant would count

as one of the three grants allowed under the new program.

"The goal of all three grant programs is to provide a barrier-free living environment that offers the country's most severely injured veterans or servicemembers a level of independent living," added Peake.

Other VA adaptive housing benefits are currently available through Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service's "Independent Living" program, the Insurance Service's Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance program, and the Veterans Health Administration's Home Improvement and Structural Alterations grant.

For more information about grants and other adaptive housing programs, contact a local VA regional office at 1-800-827-1000 or local veteran service organization. Additional program information and grant applications, VAF-26-4555, can be found at [www.homeloans.va.gov/sah.htm](http://www.homeloans.va.gov/sah.htm).

## PAY RAISES, cont. from page 1

between base pay and performance-based increases. The plan angered many Defense employees, who feared they could receive a lower overall raise than the one slated for the General Schedule.

The decision spurred opposition from many lawmakers, who last month passed final authorizing legislation for Defense that would implement the 60-40 split.

The bill also would restore collective bargaining and appeal rights for employees in NSPS.

December 28 President Bush pocket-vetoed the Defense authorization bill over an unrelated provision that would open up the Iraqi government to lawsuits.

While the department was not yet required to implement the 60-40 split recommended by Congress, England moved forward with the policy Dec. 31, said Tara Landis, an NSPS spokeswoman.

"The department has been working with Congress on a way ahead for NSPS," Landis said. "It made sense to align our policy with what is in the authorization bill, since we expect this will eventually apply."

Military members received a 3 percent pay raise effective Jan. 1, as President Bush urges Congress to revise some provisions regarding

Iraq contained in the fiscal 2008 National Defense Authorization Act.

The president authorized the 3 percent pay raise in an executive order.

The act includes authorization for a 0.5 percent additional pay raise for U.S. troops, but the president has, for now, elected not to sign the defense authorization bill in its present form while Congress is adjourned, a practice known as a "pocket veto."

In a statement, the president urged Congress "to ensure that any provisions affecting servicemember pay and bonuses, as well as provisions extending expiring authorities, are retroactive to Jan. 1, 2008."

"The (Defense) Department will work closely with Congress toward the 3.5 percent pay raise effective Jan. 1, as originally envisioned in the bill," Bill Carr, deputy undersecretary of defense for military personnel policy, said in a statement released Dec. 31.

"Likewise," Carr's statement continued, "we will work to ensure the final bill features no interruption of bonus authorities."

**(Editor's Note:** This story was compiled from stories by Brittany R. Ballenstedt at [govexec.com](http://govexec.com) and the American Forces Press

### SALARY TABLE 2008-NY

INCORPORATING THE 2.50% GENERAL SCHEDULE INCREASE AND A LOCALITY PAYMENT OF 26.36%

FOR THE LOCALITY PAY AREA OF NEW YORK-NEWARK-BRIDGEPORT, NY-NJ-CT-PA

(See <http://www.opm.gov/oca/08tables/locdef.asp> for definitions of locality pay areas.)

(TOTAL INCREASE: 3.97%)

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2008

Annual Rates by Grade and Step

Grade	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10
1	21539	22258	22975	23687	24404	24825	25532	26246	26274	26945
2	24217	24793	25594	26274	26567	27348	28129	28910	29691	30472
3	26423	27304	28185	29065	29946	30827	31708	32588	33469	34350
4	29663	30652	31642	32631	33621	34610	35599	36589	37578	38568
5	33187	34293	35398	36504	37610	38715	39821	40927	42032	43138
6	36993	38226	39460	40693	41926	43160	44393	45626	46859	48093
7	41110	42480	43849	45219	46589	47959	49328	50698	52068	53438
8	45528	47045	48563	50080	51598	53115	54633	56151	57668	59186
9	50285	51962	53639	55315	56992	58669	60346	62023	63699	65376
10	55376	57222	59068	60914	62760	64607	66453	68299	70145	71991
11	60840	62868	64896	66924	68952	70980	73008	75036	77064	79093
12	72921	75352	77783	80215	82646	85077	87508	89939	92370	94802
13	86715	89606	92497	95388	98279	101170	104061	106952	109843	112735
14	102469	105885	109300	112716	116131	119547	122962	126378	129793	133209
15	120535	124553	128571	132590	136608	140626	144644	148663	149000	149000

\* Rate limited to the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5304 (g)(1)).

**(Editor's Note:** View the 2008 NSPS Pay Schedules issued Jan. 6, 2008, at [www.cpm.sos.mil/nsps](http://www.cpm.sos.mil/nsps). It reflects a 1.5 percent increase to the pay band minimums and a 2.5 percent increase to pay band maximums. The locality pay is also 26.36 percent for West Point employees. Military pay tables can be found at [www.dafs.mil/militarypay/militarypaytables.html](http://www.dafs.mil/militarypay/militarypaytables.html).)

# Feds will soon get to retire online

By Gregg Carlstrom  
FederalTimes.com

Soon Federal employees can start retiring online. The Office of Personnel Management outlined new rules Dec. 28 that will enable feds to apply for retirement benefits and insurance online, bypassing much of the paperwork that is typical of the retirement process. And, according to OPM, less paperwork means less processing time, especially with the impending wave of baby boomer retirees.

OPM is also creating a set of Web-based tools that provide a breakdown of individual benefits,

including a detailed, paycheck-by-paycheck accounting of retirement contributions, instead of simple annual totals.

"The new electronic retirement and insurance processing system will provide employees, annuitants and survivors with access to their retirement and insurance information in a manner that was not previously available to them," the agency said.

The move is part of the agency's Retirement Systems Modernization program.

OPM noted that paper-based retirement procedures will continue "for some time" so that less tech-

savvy employees won't be forced to use the Web.

Security measures for Web use include OPM's verification of the online identities of retirees through an "electronic signature." The agency has identified at least six possible signatures, but it hasn't formally approved one.

The agency hopes to start phasing in the online retirement program in 2008. Employees at the General Services Administration can use the program in February, followed by postal employees in May. Employees government-wide can start using the online program by early 2009.

# TSP funds earn modestly in 2007

By Brittany R. Ballenstedt  
GovExec.com

All five basic TSP funds made modest gains for all of 2007.

The government securities (G) fund's 4.87 percent 12-month return was the lowest in the TSP.

Fixed-income bonds represented in the plan came in second place out of the five basic options for yearlong growth, rising 7.09 percent.

The S Fund, which invests in

small- and mid-sized companies by tracking the Dow Jones Wilshire 4500 Index, made modest gains coming in at 5.49 percent.

The C Fund, composed of common stocks on the Standard & Poor's 500 Index of the largest domestic companies, experienced 12-month gains of 5.54 percent.

The international investments represented in the I Fund's 11.43 percent 12-month return remained by far the highest in the plan.

The TSP also has life-cycle (L) options, a blend of the five basic funds that automatically grows more conservative as investors near retirement.

All the L funds posted gains for the year. The L 2040 Fund continued to show the most long-term growth, coming in at 7.36 percent for 2007. L 2030 grew 7.14 percent, L 2020 gained 6.87 percent, L 2010 earned 6.40 percent and L income made 5.56 percent.

## Voting Assistance Information

*The 2008 Elections Calendar is located on the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site -- [www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag/appendix\\_i.pdf](http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag/appendix_i.pdf).*

*If you have other voting questions or concerns, contact the West Point Voting Assistance NCOIC, Sgt. 1st Class John Castillo at 938-8450 or via e-mail at [john.castillo@usma.edu](mailto:john.castillo@usma.edu).*

## West Point AOG e-mail switches addresses in mid-Jan.

**Beginning in mid-January, the West Point Association of Graduates will switch to new e-mail addresses. The new addresses can be used now, however.**

**The current e-mail addresses will be active until Feb. 1.**

**Old e-mail address --  
[xy1234@usma.edu](mailto:xy1234@usma.edu)  
(until Feb. 1)**

**New e-mail address --  
[john.doe@wpaog.org](mailto:john.doe@wpaog.org)**

# Community Features and Photos

## West Point participates in All-American Bowl

Compiled by Jim Fox  
Asst. Editor

Standing at the 50-yard line of the Alamodome in front of a national TV audience, Warrant Officer Stephanie Leonard shouted into the public address microphone the reason why she and 90 other Soldier heroes are in San Antonio to share their leadership and experiences – “I am Army strong!” during the All-America Bowl Saturday.

Recognized as the Army’s premiere recruiting activity, the annual U.S. Army All-American Bowl kicked off with a mix of heroes in Army combat uniforms, alongside the nation’s most talented high school football players, many who are destined to become collegiate and NFL stars.

More than 90 of the best high school athletes in the nation battled in an East vs. West contest in front of a nationally televised audience and 36,534 stadium fans, the highest attendance in the eight-year history of the Army-sponsored all-star game. This year the East team won the game 33-23.

During the week leading up to the All-American Bowl, West Point Center of Enhanced Performance personnel were on hand in San Antonio preparing the coaches and athletes for the big game.

CEP trained them in the mental and emotional skills that underlie excellence in human performance in such a way that these young warriors can begin to leverage their mental skills to improve their performance. They used a variety of settings to perform this training, including seminars, on- and off-practice field interaction, clinic presentations and casual interaction.

CEP personnel also provided energy management training and performance enhancement training consultation to staff personnel supporting the event. They reached an excess at least 450 participants during the pre-game time frame.

“We provided the same performance enhancement training/mental skills training that we provide to our cadets and corps squad athletes at USMA and our Soldiers throughout the Army as part of our Army Center for Enhanced Performance program,” CEP Executive Director Maj. George Corbari said.

CEP provided the athletes with world class training throughout Bowl week. Majors Bruce Bredlow and Doug Chadwick, CEP instructors, were assigned to the West squad, while Corbari worked with the East team.

This type of training is very similar to the training that the best Soldiers in the world are receiving



West Point Center for Enhanced Performance Executive Officer Maj. George Corbari (left) and Coach Tim Dougherty (U.S. Army All-American Coach from Edwardsville, Ill.) talk to players during an East squad practice about the mental and emotional aspects of the game, what to expect and how to properly prepare from a mental standpoint during a practice in the week preceding the game.

PHOTO PROVIDED

by leaders at ACEP. These skills are currently helping deploying Soldiers and wounded warriors.

(Editor’s Note: Some information taken from an Army News Service story by the Army and Air Force Hometown News Service’s Michael Tolzmann and Rich Lamance.)

### 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.

# READY West Point: Preparing for a Pandemic Influenza outbreak

**Commentary by  
Henry Cervantes  
Emergency Plans Specialist,  
DPTMS, USAG West Point**

## News Items:

**January 2, 2008 -- Egypt.** Egypt's Ministry of Health and Population announced two new cases of human infection of H5N1 avian influenza. The first case is a 25-year-old female from Dekerns District. She developed symptoms Dec. 26, was hospitalized the next day and died Dec. 30. The second case is a 36-year-old female from Menof District. She developed symptoms Dec. 26, was hospitalized Dec. 29 and died Dec. 31. Both women had contact with sick and dead poultry prior to illness onset.

**December 28, 2007 -- Viet Nam.** The Ministry of Health in Viet Nam has confirmed a new case of human infection of H5N1 avian influenza. The case is a 4-year-old male from Son La Province. He developed symptoms Dec. 7, was hospitalized Dec. 11 and died Dec. 16. The source of exposure is currently under investigation.

You may already have heard the word "pandemic," and you may be wondering what it really means. A flu pandemic is an outbreak of a new influenza virus that spreads around the world. The virus will spread easily from person-to-person, mostly through coughing and sneezing. Because the virus is new to people, everyone will be at risk of getting it.

Pandemics have occurred repeatedly throughout history. Few people alive today can recall the last major pandemic (1918-1919), and they typically regard

the potential of such an event as impossible. This is not the case. In fact scientists think the H5N1 virus, better known as avian (bird) flu, may be changing and could evolve into a pandemic flu virus.

Over the past five years confirmed human cases of H5N1 were identified in 14 countries. There are 348 confirmed human cases of H5N1 and 216 of those cases resulted in death. If the 'bird flu' becomes a pandemic similar to the pandemic of 1918, health experts estimate that 90 million Americans could get sick and nearly two million could die.

A flu pandemic will have a significant impact on society. People will not be able to come to work because they are sick or are caring for someone who is sick. Services in our community, such as utilities, grocery stores and public transportation, may be disrupted. A pandemic could also require restrictions on travel, alterations to normal business operations and dismissal of students from school to help slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms of a pandemic flu infection will likely be similar to those of a seasonal flu, but they may last longer and be more severe. A vaccine for pandemic flu may not be available for 4-6 months after a pandemic starts, and even then, it may only be available in limited amounts. A pandemic flu could happen at any time of the year. Seasonal flus usually occur in the fall and winter in the United States.

The CDC and other leading public health experts agree that the threat of a flu pandemic is real -- it's not a question of IF one will happen, but WHEN it will happen. Regardless of where a pandemic

starts, everyone around the world will be at risk. Preparing now will make it easier for you and your family during a pandemic. We encourage you to take some simple steps, such as stocking up on food, medicines, and other essential supplies; practicing good health habits; and making advance plans to minimize confusion and disruption in an emergency.

Practicing good health habits will help our community stay healthy. Everyone needs to know and follow these simple, yet essential, good health habits.

## **Cough and Sneeze Etiquette:**

Never cough and sneeze into your bare hand. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue to avoid spreading germs and then throw

the tissue into the trash. Don't have a tissue handy? Cough and sneeze into the bend of your arm. Wash your hands as soon as possible after coughing or sneezing. Use alcohol-based hand gel, if soap and water are not available.

## **Hand Washing Etiquette:**

Always wash your hands after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing; after using the bathroom; after touching things handled by many people; before and after eating or drinking.

## **Washing Your Hands:**

Wet your hands with warm running water. Scrub between your fingers, on the backs of your hands, and under your nails for the amount of time it takes you to sing the

"Happy Birthday" song twice. Dry your hands with paper towels or an electric hand dryer. Use a paper towel when you turn off the tap. If soap and water aren't available, use alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers, keeping hands wet for 10-15 seconds.

Keep your telephones, computers and other frequently touched machines or equipment clean and regularly disinfected.

While no one can prevent a pandemic from happening, government, communities and individuals can work together to prepare the nation for a flu pandemic and minimize its impact. It is up to every one of us to be involved in preparing our families.

For more information, visit [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov).

## ACS, WPWC collect school supplies for Iraqi children

West Point community member Maj. Tom Hawes, part of a Military Transition Team in Sadr City, Iraq, passes out school supplies to Iraqi children recently that were collected by Army Community Service and West Point Women's Club personnel here. Hawes, whose family currently resides here and who will return to West Point as a Military Police officer, is in the midst of a 15-month tour in Iraq. Three large boxes of school supplies were collected in November in the last drive. ACS will conduct another school supply drive from Feb. 1 to March 1. Collection boxes will be set up at the PX, ACS and other locations yet to be determined. New items still needed include backpacks, pencils, colored pencils, spiral notebooks, glue, markers, highlighters, (no crayons, because they melt), loose leaf paper, erasers, pens (red, black and blue), pencil sharpeners, folders, etc.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ACS



## Renovated Buffalo Soldier Pavilion reopened Tuesday



A newly renovated Buffalo Soldier Pavilion re-opened Tuesday. Members of the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers: Staff Sgt. Jermain Malone, President (left); Staff Sgt. Nickole Ralph, Secretary; Staff Sgt. Daniel Mitchem, Vice President; Spc. Edward Johnson, Asst. Secretary; and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Special Events Coordinator and BOSS Council advisor Connie Woodley joined members of the Garrison headquarters in celebrating the 100-year-old building's re-opening. (Right) Soldiers scarf down pizza donated by the West Point Bowling Alley. The \$61,000 MWR-funded project put a new polish on an old facility, which included an all new tile floor and painting the interior. The building has served, at various times, as a post exchange, an ice cream parlor and a mess hall and now serves as a home-away-from-home for the BOSS program. Some of the renovations include a 60-inch wide plasma HD television and a spacious recreation room that houses a pool table, ping pong table and air hockey table. There is also a large social room, a bar and a dining area. Before the renovation the facility hosted events such as monthly poker tournaments and Super Bowl parties. Come by and check out the new facility. Keep an eye out in the MWR Blurbs and What's Happening sections of the *Pointer View*® for upcoming BOSS activities that are open to the West Point community.

PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS ROGER JONES/PAO NCOIC



## MWR Blurbs

### Family Night Buffet

Family Night Buffet with Macaroni the Clown at the West Point Club Jan. 18. No charge for Families with a deployed Spouse.

For more info, please call 938-5120.

### WPC Advisory Council meeting

The entire West Point community is invited to attend the West Point Club Advisory Council Meeting, Jan. 23, at 4 p.m., at the WPC.

For more information, call 938-5120.

### Defensive driving class

The next Defensive Driving Class will be held Jan. 19, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Building 622 (ACS) Register at ITR by calling 938-2401/3601.

### Right Arm Night

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

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

### NYC food tour

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

The tour leaves West Point at 10 a.m., and returns from NYC at 5 p.m. For more information, call 938-3601.

### FCC needs child-care providers

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

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

### Mystery Shopper

Become a Mystery Shopper and receive free services at various MWR activities -- it's fun and easy.

To apply, go to [www.westpointmwr.com](http://www.westpointmwr.com), fill out the application and return it to Elizabeth Harrington, Bldg. 681, room 202.

For more information, call 938-8186.

### Upcoming ACS classes

Watch for these upcoming classes at ACS:

■ Understanding Credit

Wed., from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

All classes are held in the ACS classroom, located in Bldg. 622.

Registration is required for all classes, at least one week ahead of the class date.

Call 938-5653/4621 for more information.

The ACS Employment Readiness Program has two classes coming in February. "How to put together a Federal Resume," Feb. 6 from 2 to 3 p.m., and "Interviewing Tips & Dress for Success," Feb. 7 from 2 to 3 p.m. in the ACS

Training Room.

Registration required by Feb. 1, by calling 845-248-4719.

### Ski and snowboard lessons

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

For more information, call 938-3726.

### Ski tuning & repair Shop

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

### Soldier Adventure Training

Soldier Adventure Training, ski and snow board lessons, will be held Jan. 24 and Feb. 8 at Victor Constant Ski Slope.

For more information call 938-3726 or visit [www.westpointmwr.com](http://www.westpointmwr.com).

To sign up contact Sgt. Maj. Cal Christensen at 938-7142 or e-mail him at [Cal.Christensen@usma.edu](mailto:Cal.Christensen@usma.edu).

### Bowling Center special

Dollar Night every Sunday from 6 to 9 p.m., at the Bowling Center. Shoes, games, pizza and

soda are all discounted. Call 938-2140 for more information.

### Arts & Crafts

Classes are ongoing at the West Point Arts & Crafts Shop.

Call for more information, 938-4812.

### Employment Readiness Resource Center now open

The Army Community Service/ Employment Readiness Program Employment Readiness Resource Center is open for business in Bldg. 622.

ERP Resources 101 is the last Wed. of each month from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the ACS Training Room, Bldg. 622.

For more information, call 938-5658.

## Eisenhower Hall Theatre

**SATURDAY AT 8 P.M. THE VANGUARD JAZZ ORCHESTRA**

**FEB. 3 AT 2 P.M. SOFIA FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA  
MARTIN PANTELEEV, CONDUCTOR  
TERRENCE WILSON, PIANO**

For more info., go to [www.ikehall.com](http://www.ikehall.com).

## Veterinary services return to normal

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

Call 938-3817 to set up an appointment.

### Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

## Bde run Sat.

On Saturday, the Corps of Cadets will conduct a Brigade run. The Corps will form up on Washington Hall apron at 5:35 a.m. and run from 5:40 until approximately 6:50 a.m.

The formation will use Thayer Road from the cadet area to Buffalo Soldier Field and back for the run route. West Point personnel should use the Stony Lonesome and Washington gates to avoid delays.

POC for this information is DPTMS' Joe Senger at 938-8859.

## Armed Services Blood Program begins four-day blood drive at Ike Hall Mon.

Compiled by  
Kathy Eastwood  
Staff Writer

The Armed Services Blood Program blood drive begins Monday at Eisenhower Hall's 4th floor ballroom running from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday. This year's drive includes standard blood donations, Apheresis (platelets) services and the opportunity to register as a bone marrow donor.

A note for all: If you were in Germany for 6 months or longer between 1980 and 1996 you are not eligible to donate blood or platelets; if you were in Germany for 5 years or longer in 1997 or after, you are also not eligible; or if you were deployed to the Middle East, specifically Iraq and Afghanistan, you are disqualified for one year only from the time you return. Other restrictions may apply on a case by case basis.

There will be an additional technician available for bone marrow registration. While many people do not register because they do not think they or their families will need the program. For example, one of our own, Cadet 3rd Class Joel Namy, who hails from upstate New York, is currently undergoing cancer treatment and is someone here that the program might be able to help.

The test is now done via a DNA swab and there is no longer

a need for blood to be drawn. It is a life-time registration.

The first step in helping others is to go to the marrow donor registration area, during the ASBP blood drive here, and have four oral swabs collected from your cheek after completing a donor registration form.

The swab samples are tested to determine the human leukocyte antigen or tissue type and the results are added to the National Marrow Donor Registry.

The DOD established a donor center to support DOD volunteer bone marrow donors, ages 18 through 60. The Center, the C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Center, located in Kensington, Md., is named for Florida Congressman C.W. Bill Young who spearheaded the program. It provides for all of the medical and logistical support for DOD personnel who wish to volunteer to donate bone marrow to help save a life.

Roughly 30,000 children and adults in the U.S. and more than 500 in the DOD, are diagnosed each year with leukemia, aplastic anemia, Hodgkin's disease or other fatal blood diseases.

For many of these people, a bone marrow transplant is their only hope, according to the National Marrow Donor Program Web site at [www.marrow.org](http://www.marrow.org). Bone marrow is rich in stem cells.

Tissue types are inherited and some tissue types are unique to certain racial or ethnic groups. A

patient's best chance of a match is within his or her ethnic and racial group. Because approximately 75 percent of patients in need of a bone marrow transplant cannot find a match within their own family, it was necessary to develop a strong national database for identifying potential donors.

If a donor is a match with a patient's bone marrow, the donor will be contacted for additional blood testing. If the test indicates that the donor is the best match, the donor will receive detailed information about the donation process and be given a thorough physical exam.

There are two types of donation procedures. With the first one, bone marrow donors undergo a simple surgical procedure performed in a hospital under general or local anesthesia. They generally stay overnight in the hospital. The donor can expect to feel some tenderness or soreness in the lower back for a few days or longer. Most donors are back to work in a few days and their marrow is completely restored within four to six weeks.

The other donation procedure, peripheral blood stem cell donation, is non-surgical and takes place at an apheresis center, at a blood



center or hospital. The donor will be given daily injections of a drug called filgrastim, which increases the number of stem cells in the blood stream, for four days before the collection and a fifth injection on the day of collection.

The blood is removed through a sterile needle in one arm and passed through a machine that separates out the blood stem cells. The remaining blood is returned to the donor through the other arm. It is similar to donating plasma.

For more information on bone marrow donations call 1-800-MARROW-3.

Apheresis services for platelet donation will also be available, but those donors will be seen by appointment only and need to call 914-760-3177 or e-mail [blood.lady@juno.com](mailto:blood.lady@juno.com) to book an

appointment.

The ASBP manages the blood program for the Department of Defense and was established by presidential order in 1952 as a joint field operating agency, according to [www.militaryblood.dod.mil](http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil).

## Keller Corner

### KACH closure

All outpatient clinics, laboratory, pharmacy and radiology will be closed Jan. 21 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

The emergency room will remain open.

## Getting behavioral health treatment is easy with TRICARE

Submitted by TRICARE

FALLS CHURCH, Va. -- TRICARE wants its non-Active Duty beneficiaries to know that if they need help, there is no reason to hesitate.

Non-Active Duty beneficiaries may make their first eight outpatient behavioral health care visits per fiscal year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) without a referral from a primary care manager or prior authorization from their managed care support contractor (MCSC).

Family members sometimes avoid getting treatment because they fear it could reflect poorly on the Service member.

"TRICARE makes it faster, easier and more private for families

to get treatment by eliminating the referral and authorization process for the first eight visits," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, TRICARE Management Activity. "It is important for families to seek treatment for behavioral health symptoms as early as possible."

To avoid the 50 percent cost share for behavioral health visits, TRICARE Prime beneficiaries must seek care from a TRICARE network provider, and TRICARE Overseas Program beneficiaries must seek care from an Overseas Partnership provider. TRICARE Standard beneficiaries are encouraged to seek care from a TRICARE authorized provider to reduce their out-of-pocket expenses.

Beneficiaries may seek help from the following TRICARE authorized behavioral health professionals: Psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, certified psychiatric nurse specialists, clinical social workers, and certified marriage and family therapists.

After the first eight visits, the beneficiary must obtain authorization from their MCSC for additional visits.

An anonymous behavioral health self-assessment aid is available at [www.militarymentalhealth.org/chooselang.asp](http://www.militarymentalhealth.org/chooselang.asp).

The Military One Source Web site at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) is also useful for resources and information on behavioral health.

# What's Happening

## MCCW

The Military Council of Catholic Women kick off 2008 with guest speaker Ginny Brown's talk on "Understanding Forgiveness in our Life," Tues. from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Post Chapel. Childcare will be provided.

## PWOC

The Protestant Women of the Chapel meet at the Post Chapel Wednesdays, from 8:45 to 11 a.m. or Thursdays, from 7 to 9 p.m.

What if you could ask the widow of a former Superintendent; the wife

of a '62 grad who after a successful Army career, later taught for many years in the Social Sciences Dept. as a civilian professor; and the wife of another successful Army officer who served as PAO at West Point in the 1990s and now is head of the Business School at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., for advice on negotiating the joys and challenges of an Army wife's life at West Point?

Come to the PWOC Titus 2 Women Program Wed., from 8:45 to 11 a.m. at the Post Chapel, and hear what Grace Graves, Caroline

## Cell phones for Soldiers and American Legion Post #488 kick off cell phone collection drive at West Point

The American Legion Post #488 in Monroe, represented at West Point by John Collins, as Systems Administrator in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, is asking for your help in their support of the Cell Phones for Soldiers program.

The program recycles cell phones for cash and the proceeds are used to buy prepaid calling cards for our Soldiers serving in the Middle East.

Local residents can support the collection drive by donating their phones at any Legion drop off location, including:

- Main PX right at the store entrance
- Commissary at the customer coffee lounge area
- Cadet Book Store in Thayer Hall

For more information, please visit [www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com).

## At Your Leisure

Snider and Barb Bell have to share about living a successful Christian life as an Army wife at West Point.

## MLK luncheon

The West Point community is invited to the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. observance Wed. from 11:30 a.m. until 12:50 p.m., in the West Point Club Grand Ballroom.

Former NBA player Kevin Johnson is the guest speaker.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or by calling 938-7082/2621.

## Book signing

Author Sean Flynn will sign his book "The Fighting 69th", "One Remarkable National Guard Unit's Journey from Ground Zero to Baghdad," at the USMA Bookstore Jan. 23 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

## Family Bingo Night

Sacred Heart School in Highland Falls invites the community to attend "Family Bingo Night," Jan. 25. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and calling begins at 7 p.m.

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

## CAC meeting Jan. 28

The next Community Action Council meeting is Jan. 28 at 9:30 a.m., at the Jewish Chapel.

The West Point community is invited to attend.

## AER scholarship program

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

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

Applications for the 2008-2009 scholarship and the Stateside Spouse Education Assistance Program are available on the AER Web site [www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org) through March 1, 2008.

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

## WPWC

Applications are now available

## DPW Notes

### Christmas tree recycling

The DPW Solid Waste Contractor will pick up "used" Christmas Trees for recycling on the following dates, weather permitting Wednesday.

For additional information contact the DPW, Solid Waste Management Branch, 938-4074.

for scholarships and community grants offered by the West Point Women's Club.

Pick up copies at the WPWC shop, ACS, or visit the Web site: [www.shopthepoint.com](http://www.shopthepoint.com).

Applications are due Feb. 29, 2008.

## Mandatory civilian training

Jan. 25 -- EEO/POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment), 10 to 11:30 a.m., Robinson Aud.

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

## VII Corps Reunion

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

R.S.V.P. by Feb. 18 to Hoa McNabb at (703) 562-4163 or [VIICorpsDSVA@aol.com](mailto:VIICorpsDSVA@aol.com).

## Dinner Dance

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

## Command Channel 8/23

Jan. 11 - Jan. 18

### FRIDAY

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

### MONDAY -- WEDNESDAY

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

### THURSDAY

8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
1 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
6 P.M. ARMY NEWSWATCH  
7 TO 9 P.M. RCI TOWN HALL MEETING (LIVE)

### JAN. 18

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

## 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](mailto:VMULLANE@POUGHKEE.GANNETT.COM).

## NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752

FRIDAY -- ENCHANTED, PG, 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY -- BEOWULF. PG-13, 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY -- HITMAN, R, 9:30 P.M.

JAN. 18 -- AUGUST RUSH, PG, 7:30 P.M.

JAN. 19 -- THE GOLDEN COMPASS, PG-13, 7:30 P.M.

THE THEATER SCHEDULE CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT

[WWW.AAFES.COM](http://WWW.AAFES.COM).

# Army and Community Sports

## Army Women dominate USMMA 90-38

### Sports calendar

**Jan. 11 - Jan. 27**

**FRIDAY -- M&W INDOOR TRACK, (HEP./PENT.), GILLIS FIELD HOUSE, NOON.**

**SATURDAY -- M&W INDOOR TRACK, GILLIS FIELD HOUSE, (HEP./PENT.), 9 A.M., OTHER EVENTS BEGIN AT 11 A.M.**

**SATURDAY -- WBB vs. COLGATE, CHRISTL ARENA, 1 P.M.**

**SUNDAY -- WRESTLING vs. RUTGERS, CHRISTL ARENA, 4 P.M., vs. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY, 6 P.M.**

**WEDNESDAY -- WBB vs. HOLY CROSS, 7 P.M., CHRISTL ARENA.**

**JAN. 18 -- MTEN HOSTS ARMY INVITE, LITC, 5 P.M.**

**JAN. 18 -- GYMNASTICS HOSTS WEST POINT OPEN, CHRISTL ARENA, 7 P.M.**

**JAN. 18 -- HOCKEY vs. CANISIUS, TATE RINK, 7:05 P.M.**

**JAN. 19 -- GYMNASTICS HOSTS WEST POINT OPEN, CHRISTL ARENA, 7 P.M.**

**JAN. 19 -- HOCKEY vs. CANISIUS, TATE RINK, 7:05 P.M.**

**JAN. 19 -- MTEN HOSTS ARMY INVITE, LITC, 9 A.M.**

**JAN. 19 -- SWIM & DIVE vs. BUCKNELL, CRANDALL POOL, 1 P.M.**

**JAN. 20 -- SWIM & DIVE vs. LEHIGH, CRANDALL POOL, NOON.**

**JAN. 20 -- MBB vs. LEHIGH, CHRISTL ARENA, 3 P.M.**

**JAN. 20 -- MTEN HOSTS ARMY INVITE, LITC, 9 A.M.**

**JAN. 25 -- HOCKEY vs. AIR FORCE, TATE RINK, 8 P.M. (CSTV)**

**JAN. 27 -- HOCKEY vs. AIR FORCE, TATE RINK, 4 P.M. (ESPNU)**

### Club

**JAN. 18 -- MEN'S TEAM HANDBALL HOSTS WEST POINT INVITE, 5 P.M., ACPDC**

**JAN. 20 -- M&W FENCING HOSTS CO-ED INVITATIONAL FENCING MEET, EISENHOWER HALL BALLROOM, 10 A.M.**

WEST POINT, N.Y. -- Thanks to 15-point efforts from senior Cara Enright and juniors Megan Evans and Alex McGuire, the Army women's basketball team enjoyed its best scoring output of the season in a 90-38 victory over the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Saturday at Christl Arena.

Twelve players scored in what was a total team effort to knock off the now 6-3 Mariners. Army improved to 8-6 with the victory.

Army forced six Mariner turnovers and held USMMA to just two points over the first seven-

plus minutes of action. Meanwhile, the Black Knights jumped out to an early 18-2 lead on a pair of Stefanie Stone free throws at the 12:52 mark.

The Black Knights continued to build on their sizeable lead, as Enright buried a three from the left baseline to give Army its largest lead to that point, 27-8, with just under seven minutes to play.

Army led by as many as 28 points in the first half, as sophomore forward Tiffany Taylor found McGuire open underneath to make it 38-10 with 1:40 to go

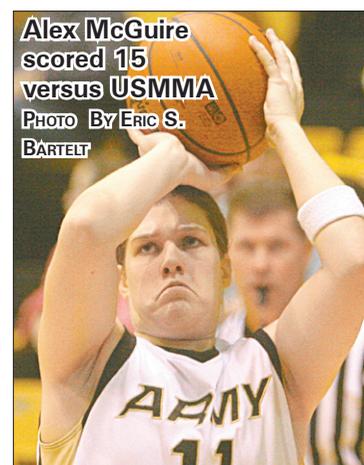
in the half.

Army led 38-14 at intermission. USMMA's 14 points are the fewest points scored in the opening half by an Army opponent all season.

In the second half, the offense continued to flow with relative ease, which stretched the lead to as many as 55 at 86-31 on freshman guard Jessie Coiffard's first career three-point bucket.

Army led by at least 50 points over the final five minutes.

The Black Knights' begin Patriot League play Saturday versus Colgate at 1 p.m. at Christl Arena.



**Alex McGuire scored 15 versus USMMA**  
PHOTO BY ERIC S. BARTELT

# BROWN, MILLER LEAD MEN'S IMPROVEMENT

Story and photos by  
Eric S. Bartelt  
Sports Editor

It may not be considered a giant leap for basketball 'kind,' but Army men's basketball has taken big steps over the past two seasons to squash more than two decades of less than stellar hoops.

Last year, Army finished the season 15-16 and won its first Patriot League Tournament game in 10 years with a 47-46 buzzer beater over Lehigh.

The hero from that day, sophomore guard Josh Miller, has taken his game to the next level this year as he leads the Patriot League in assists (70) and is second in assist-to-turnover ratio in the league.

Miller played only 16 games in 2006-07, all coming off the bench, but now has shown a great presence on the court that has led to brilliant performances including his career-high 11 assists during the 79-78 Brown loss Jan. 2. The 11-assist performance was the first time an Army player achieved double-digit assists in a game since J.P. Spatola's 10 helpers in February 2002.

"I'm very proud of (achieving 11 assists in a game), but it was kind of bittersweet because we didn't get the victory," Miller said. "But, I'm proud because not a lot of guys can dish it out and I take pride in my

passing abilities.

"This is a good offense where anyone can score and everyone can get involved," he added. "I take pride in getting everyone involved on the court."

Miller has been fighting an Achilles tendon injury for the past couple of months, but he has battled through to settle in his role as the primary distributor on the team as the point guard.

"Josh is a tough kid. He's been a good floor leader for us and sees both sides of the floor well," said Army men's head basketball coach Jim Crews. "He's doing well now and he'll continue to get better and better. He likes being coached, he's got a great appetite to learn and that's on and off the floor -- I'm very impressed with him."

Miller, who chose the academy over Boston University and the University of Buffalo, and sophomore guard Marcus Nelson, who is second on the team with 45 assists so far this season, have provided a great outlet to spark the scoring prowess of senior guard Jarell Brown.

Brown, who led Army in scoring last year at 16.9 points per game, heads into league play Saturday against Colgate as the current leading scorer in the league with 20.1 ppg through 14 games.

Brown's game has improved immensely over the past four



Senior guard Jarell Brown leads Army and the Patriot League with a 20.1 points per game average. He recently tied a school record with nine three-pointers in a game.

years. While he has always been a gifted scorer, the other parts of his game have helped round him into possibly the most complete player in the Patriot League.

"Jarell has been a very good scorer throughout his career," Crews said. "He does a good job moving without the ball, he has a quick (shooting) release which is great, but what I've really been

pleased with is he's one of our leading rebounders, his assist-to-turnover ratio is pretty good and his defense has dramatically improved.

"He's much more versatile now," he added, "however, even when he didn't play much as a freshman he could put the ball in the bucket, but he had to learn how to get open because it is difficult to

get open. You have to really work your fanny off and be pretty smart to get open for one second at the Division I level. He's developed well."

Brown tied a school record by hitting nine three-pointers in the Brown loss, but his 20 points per game average has been crucial to the team's early season 7-7 record **See Brown, Miller on page 15**



Sophomore guard Josh Miller currently leads all Patriot League players with 70 assists through 14 games. He is also second in team scoring at 8.6 points per game.

**BROWN, MILLER, cont. from page 14**

considering that eight of Army's last 10 games have been decided by six points or less.

With so many close games with very little overall experience in the lineup, with only two seniors playing quality minutes, the team has grown faster than many have expected.

"It's good to see the team mature," Brown said. "We're a young team and it's good to see different guys step up on the offensive end and take some pressure off other people in the post and myself. We're able to count on (the younger guys) in late parts of the game."

Army could have hit a brick wall this season after losing a couple solid contributors from last year's team to include guard Matt Bell, who scored 14.6 ppg and was the only other double-digit scorer last season. However, Brown, with the help of his teammates setting up his shots, has exploded to another level to help quell the scoring crunch.

"Scoring 20 points per game was always a goal of mine," Brown explained. "I figured with losing Matt as a secondary scorer that it would take a little bit more from me. Although, I never imagined that (I would be able to score) like this."

The players on the team have credited Crews with being very patient with them despite all the injuries to include their two best forwards/centers -- junior Doug Williams and sophomore Chris Walker. Crews said the team has been disjointed because of the injuries, but thinks that individually the guys have stepped up to help smooth the rough spots although the team as a whole is still a work in progress.

"Individually, we've gotten better faster than as a team," Crews stated. "(Senior forward) Corban Bates is playing the best basketball he's played, (junior forward) John Moonshower has gotten better, (junior forward) Kenny Brewer has gotten better and so has (sophomore guard) Marcus Nelson.

"It's like we've had a lot of guys who've gotten better as independent contractors, but with injuries and everything that has gone on, we need to get them together so we can get better as a team," he added. "I think we're getting there, but it's a process."

Miller is ready to take the next step as a team and wants to add

another banner alongside the ones achieved by Mike Krzyzewski's squads in the 1970s. Crews believes the team is headed in the right direction, but in his own view, he wants to do it the right way.

"West Point hasn't sold their soul to athletics and I don't think (it) should. I've always been a big believer in that," Crews said. "We've been very persistent to be able to bounce back and the last two years have been much better in terms of getting rewarded, but the other guys (the four years before that) didn't get rewarded with wins, which takes an emotional toll on you.

"They never batted an eye and those guys set the table for these guys. I feel great about our program with everything these kids do and what they represent," he added. "We have a great program and now we're trying to get a really good team within the program. That's the challenge, but it's a good challenge.

"If you have the foundation, which I believe we've got, it'll come because I've always been a big believer that if you keep on doing the right things and, we get kids who do the right things, then things will eventually happen," Crews continued. "It may not be

the lottery, but it will be something good."