



Veterans honored

Twenty-six veterans were honored by the U.S. Corps of Cadets during the Lunchtime Review and lunch Tuesday as part of the Veterans Day events at West Point. Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Michael Linnington and USCC Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mahoney were joined by 11 veterans from World War II to recent wars, to include Senator William Larkin (R-Orange), members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Buffalo Soldiers and members of the Womens Army Corps, who were the reviewing party for First and Second Regiments. A group of 15 staff and faculty members who have served in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom reviewed the Third and Fourth Regiments.

SGT. VINCENT FUSCO/PV

Wounded warriors give advice to cadets

Story and photo by
Emily Tower

The best thing Spc. Ian Gillis' commander ever did for him was tell him he was proud of him and make time for the other Soldiers in his unit to call him at Walter Reed Army Medical Center from Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Peter Villa doesn't think he'd be alive – or at least in good health – if a sergeant major hadn't told him to get on a medical

evacuation helicopter in Iraq when he didn't think he was wounded that badly.

First Lt. Robert Burke was thankful he got to know his Soldiers well enough to prevent one from hurting himself after his girlfriend called off their engagement via text message shortly before boarding a flight back to Iraq after midtour leave.

All three Soldiers were wounded in combat and on Nov. 7 told U.S. Military Academy cadets studying

military leadership how to be an effective leader during times of crisis. The Soldiers are assigned to West Point's Warrior Transition Unit.

It all comes down to setting a good example, being humble, not micromanaging, listening to noncommissioned officers with experience and getting to know Soldiers in a leader's care, Burke, Villa and Gillis said.

"Your job as a leader is to set an example and inspire courage," Villa

said. "You have to be the first person to put (body armor and equipment) on and the last person to go to sleep. You have to make sure all of your Soldiers know the mission so if you go away like (Burke did after he was wounded in Iraq), your Soldiers can carry on and complete the mission."

Burke was an infantry platoon leader when he was shot five times during a deployment to Iraq. The most important thing he learned as a leader and from people who led him

was getting to know Soldiers. Family issues affect Soldiers' performance and making sure everything is taken care of at home is important.

"If a Soldier's wife is leaving him back home, that is a crisis," Burke told the cadets. "You deal with that with the same (diligence and care) as you would if your (weapon) jammed."

Villa received a severe concussion and shrapnel wounds from roadside bomb explosions.

See **ADVICE**, page 4

High school students mentor military children

Story and photo by
Emily Tower

Leaders should know how hard Army life is on Soldiers' children and what they can do to help make life easier, advocates and military children told U.S. Military Academy cadets at a panel last week.

"There are many resources provided by the Army, and always look beyond the gates for help," Patty Shinseki, wife of former Army Chief of Staff retired Gen. Eric Shinseki and board member of the Military Child Education Coalition, said. "Seventy-five percent of your troops will live beyond the installation gates."

One resource for children is their friends. MCEC, an organization headquartered near Fort Hood, Texas, is designed to identify problems facing military children, specifically those caused by frequent moves.

The organization sponsored about a dozen high school students

from across the country to visit West Point and learn how to mentor military children around them.

Along with participating in the panel Nov. 7, the students -- only some of whom are military children -- participated in team-building exercises; learned about leadership from cadets, Shinseki and Frances Hesselbein, a Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient and former CEO of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.; participated in workshops about goal-setting and resilience; and listened to a lecture about leadership in crisis given by Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, the Army's surgeon general.

Hearing Hesselbein was a highlight for a couple of the students. She told a story about being inspired to help others when she was 8 years old. She asked her grandmother about a set of vases and learned the vases were given to her grandmother by a Chinese immigrant who gave them to her because she was the only one in town who treated him

with respect.

"She talked about a worldly view and a more personal view," Ariana Davis, a high school student from Alabama, said. "That's where you hit people, the personal view. You have to get involved."

During the panel, military children told cadets studying psychology and human development that moving around frequently as young children really didn't bother them. But, when they entered middle school and started forming strong bonds with their friends, moving became difficult.

"You feel unwanted because you have to make new friends all the time," Kevin Phipps, a high school student from Alabama who is about to move for the 14th time, said.

Kelsey Green, who lives near Fort Carson, Colo., said keeping in touch with her old friends is nice, but it's not the same as being near them.

Andrea Young has been at Fort Hood for 11 years.



Denesh Ratnasingam, center, speaks about challenges of being a military child while Patty Shinseki, wife of former Army chief of staff retired Gen. Eric Shinseki; fellow military child Kevin Phipps and West Point cadets studying developmental psychology listen during a panel discussion Nov. 7 at Thayer Hall.

"I'm the welcoming committee and the good-bye committee," she said. "I see people come and go, and as soon as we are friends, it seems like they have to leave again."

And while all of this seems like just part of the life of a Soldier, leaders should care about it because it impacts the well-being of their troops, Paul Callen, an MCEC board member, said.

"When you have children,

you'll understand the Family stands behind Soldiers," Callen told cadets. "Family issues always come to the workplace no matter what."

Cadets were pleased to learn MCEC exists and to hear from people enduring the hardships of military life.

"It's nice to know this program is available," Firstie Sarah Anderson said. "I will encourage my Soldiers to get their own children involved."

Wounded Soldiers recuperate at West Point's WTU

Editor's note: This story is presented in honor of Warrior Care Month. The Department of Defense named November Warrior Care Month to raise awareness about the programs available to help wounded warriors and their Families through recovery.

Story and photo by Emily Tower

Specialist Ian Gillis thought the truck carrying him through a portion of Afghanistan fell into a ditch.

No tumble into a ditch had ever "crushed (him) under like a soda can," he said, but he had gone into shock and was not entirely sure what was going on. When he tried to stand up, he thought his left leg was broken at least in three places. He could hardly breathe, and he was in the worst pain he could have imagined.

He later learned the truck hit an antitank mine.

He was right about his leg. His left ankle was broken in a few places, he had compound fractures in his left tibia and fibula, and the ligaments in his left knee were destroyed. His right knee was shattered. He had seven fractures in his spine. His liver and spleen had been lacerated. His lip was split and front tooth knocked out when the butt of his rifle was shoved into his face by the blast.

Seven surgeries and a year and a half later, Gillis is at West Point working to overcome the challenge of stairs and other everyday obstacles.

He has been assigned to West Point's Warrior Transition Unit to help keep his appointments and records straight so all he has to concentrate on is getting better.

"They really do what they can

here," Gillis, who was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, in Hohenfels, Germany, before being deployed, said. "The chain of command really does care."

Between physical therapy appointments, doctors' appointments and preparing for an upcoming eighth surgery, Gillis is attending college to study business.

He can't continue as an infantryman and soon will be evaluated by a medical board to see what benefits he will receive when he leaves the Army.

For the first time in his three-year Army career, Gillis is able to see just what the Army offers him because the WTU helps him concentrate on himself.

"The leadership has my best interests in mind," Gillis said, which allows him to heal physically and mentally. "It's nice to speak to someone who generally wants to help you. I have been working on learning I can't do what I used to do. I can't throw on 100 pounds of gear and climb mountains or go on 25-mile road marches. I always wanted to go into law enforcement, and my dreams of being big time FBI or (Drug Enforcement Agency) are gone. I know I can't wrestle a 6-foot gangbanger to the ground."

But, knowing some of the Army's best surgeons will be working on his knee makes Gillis smile.

"I know I have someone with magic hands working on me, and I can go through (knee surgery) again," he said.

All the while, he is close to his girlfriend and part of his Family. His parents and brother visited him from California while he was at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, but they had to return to work and school eventually.

He was lonely at Walter Reed and is thrilled he can see his girlfriend and father's portion of the Family often.

First Lt. Robert Burke also is comforted by the fact his Family and fiancée are a three-hour drive away. Burke, who also is recovering in West Point's WTU after spending time at Walter Reed, sees his loved ones frequently.

Still, returning to the WTU at Fort Drum, where he was stationed before being deployed to Iraq where he was wounded, would have put him closer to his Family and fiancée.

"I thought I'd get better care here," Burke, who was wounded nine months ago, said. "I knew some people who work here, and they had nothing but good things to say about the medical care."

Burke was shot five times -- in his left leg, torso, left shoulder, triceps and right cheek -- while he and his unit tried coaxing people of interest from a home.

After six surgeries, he has been working to rebuild strength in his leg and learning how to use the muscles he has left in his shoulder.

He worked with physical therapists and now has been cleared to return to his former unit in the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, at Fort Drum.

He said the WTU taking care of scheduling his appointments and keeping track of his records freed his time for more important things such as healing and building strength.

"The level of care here has



First Lt. Robert Burke works to build strength in his shoulder during a physical therapy session Nov. 5 at Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center. Burke, who is assigned to West Point's Warrior Transition Unit, was shot five times during a deployment to Iraq in 2007 and chose to come to West Point for rehabilitation. He soon will return to the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum.

helped me get better faster," Burke said. "At Walter Reed, I felt there were other people with bigger injuries. I decided to leave so I could have more one-on-one care. That

allowed me to take ownership of my rehabilitation. I'll still do further rehab, but I'll still be a positive equation in the Army. I really want to be back at my unit."

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), Capt. Vanara Nevels (ODIA) and Maj. Elizabeth Sicoletti (Dean).

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

Cadets also can call the sexual assault support helpline at (845) 591-7215. West Point Soldiers and civilians needing assistance can call (845) 938-3369.

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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

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

Difficulty: Medium

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

See SOLUTION, page 8

Former Army baseball player set for space walk

By Ryan Yanoshak
Athletic Communications

When Space Shuttle Endeavour launches this week -- it is scheduled for 7:55 p.m. Friday but subject to change -- it will not only be among the final Space Shuttle missions, it will also feature a West Point graduate aboard the massive vehicle.

Lt. Col. Shane Kimbrough, a former Army baseball player and member of the class of 1989, will be heavily involved in the 15-day mission.

"I feel fortunate to represent the Army, West Point and my high school," Kimbrough said. "It is a long shot to be an astronaut and pretty unbelievable that it's happening."

Endeavour is scheduled to fly to the International Space Station with four space walks planned, two of which will involve Kimbrough. The walks are expected to last six-and-a-half hours.

Navy Capt. Christopher Ferguson will command the STS-126 mission with Air Force Lt. Col. Eric Boe serving as the pilot. Kimbrough is one of five mission specialists, along with Navy Capt. Stephen Bowen, Navy Capt. Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper and NASA astronauts Donald R. Pettit and Sandra H. Magnus.

The shuttle will carry a reusable logistics module containing supplies and equipment, including crew quarters, exercise equipment, spare hardware and components of the regenerative life support system.

Magnus will remain on the station, replacing Expedition 17/18 Flight Engineer George Chamitoff who will return with the crew after his six-month stay. Magnus is scheduled to serve as a flight engineer and NASA science officer for Expedition 18 and will return aboard shuttle mission STS-119.

As a member of the 27th shuttle mission to the International Space Station, Kimbrough is seeing his hard work and dedication rewarded

with a trip of a lifetime.

Every minute of the journey is scripted, including sleep and free time.

"I'm getting really excited now that the mission is quickly approaching," Kimbrough said from Johnson Space Station in Houston in October. "My military training has kicked in. We are training for a certain mission and we are comfortable with the hundreds of people working on our vehicle."

The process from West Point to NASA astronaut wasn't an easy or quick one. Kimbrough graduated from the academy after earning three letters in baseball. He posted five saves during his senior year, the sixth highest single-season total and concluded his career with six. He was team captain as a firstie and earned All-Patriot League accolades.

He entered aviation school and was assigned to Fort Stewart, Ga. He served in Operation Desert Storm in Southwest Asia as an attack helicopter platoon leader, aviation liaison officer and attack helicopter battalion operations officer. In 1994, he was assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C., as a commander of an Apache helicopter company. He later commanded an Aviation Regimental Headquarters company at Fort Bragg.

Kimbrough earned his masters' degree at the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1998 before returning to West Point in the Department of Mathematical Sciences.

"My interests in NASA started when I was a kid because my grandparents lived across from Cape Canaveral and we spent a lot of time there in the summer," Kimbrough said. "My grandfather would take me to see anything launch. When I went to West Point, I thought the dream was gone. I didn't think you could be an Army astronaut. I met an Army superior who saw it my way, though."

"I applied four times before I was selected," he continued. "The third time I applied, I was teaching

at West Point. I was selected to the highly qualified list and asked to come to Johnson Space Center to work as an Army officer. That was a good sign. I worked there for four years before being selected in 2004."

Once selected as an astronaut, Kimbrough spent two years in candidate training school where he received a broad overview of the shuttle, the space station, began working in simulators and learned how to fly jets. He graduated as an astronaut and began generic training with others not assigned to missions. In addition, he worked technical jobs while training.

Before his mission training, Kimbrough worked in capsule communications, talking to various crews while in space.

The movie "Apollo 13," provides a broad idea of how space missions work, and the "cap-com" is generally seated next to the flight director, who was played by Ed Harris in the 1995 film.

The crew for Endeavour was assigned last September when the training focus became this specific mission.

The crew has been quarantined for the last week.

Once the space shuttle launches,

Kimbrough and the crew will have several tasks to complete at the Space Station.

"West Point taught me to be very organized and excellent time management skills," Kimbrough said. "Those organizational and time management skills have been utilized in every step of my career and will certainly be an asset during

this mission."

One of the tasks on the space station will be to repair some exterior issues. A robotic arm will be utilized to assist. Modules will be taken off the space station and loaded onto the shuttle with several racks of experiments to come on and off the station.

See SPACE WALK, page 9



New UH-72A Lakota

Members of the 2nd Aviation Detachment, West Point, and contract maintenance crew watch the initial landing of the new UH-72A Lakota at Stewart Airfield Nov. 7.

This Lakota (above) and another that is scheduled to arrive in December will take the place of the two UH-1 Iroquois (Huey) that have been in service to West Point since the early 1970s.

The UH-72A Lakota first went operational in December 2006. The Army is building 345 of them through 2015. West Point is receiving numbers 42 and 43 of the helicopters.

Chief Warrant Officer Greg Lloyd, who piloted the first flight, said, "It was an awesome flight and the (UH-72A Lakota) lifts better, climbs faster, gets better mileage and is about 30 miles faster than the Huey."

West Point will use their Lakota duo for VIP missions and the USMA Sport Parachute Team.

ERIC S. BARTELT/PV



First Lt. Robert Burke, left; Staff Sgt. Peter Villa; and Spc. Ian Gillis; all of whom were wounded in combat and are assigned to West Point's Warrior Transition Unit, participate in a panel about leading in times of trauma for cadets studying military leadership.

ADVICE, cont. from page 1 —

As doctors examined Villa, they discovered he had a swollen lymph node. He had cancer. As a squad leader with three Iraq deployments under his belt, he knows how hard deployments are on a Soldier. But he knew he had to set an example.

"It's not easy after casualties to tell Soldiers, 'Let's go again,'" Villa said. "I would always put my (body armor and equipment) on first so they would know I was ready, and I (told them) with sunglasses on. I couldn't look my guys in the eyes and after we just medevaced six dudes and say, 'Let's go on another patrol.'"

He wore the sunglasses so his Soldiers wouldn't know how hard it was.

Gillis survived an antitank mine blast. His wounds from the explosion included broken bones in the lower portion of his left leg and ankle. His left knee was destroyed, and his right knee was shattered. He also had seven fractures in his spine. The concussion from the explosion lacerated his liver and spleen.

He felt like he had the easy way out of a deployment because he got to recover in a safe hospital room while his buddies continued patrols. While managing his guilt, he had to deal with the fact he'll never be the same. And what made all the difference was the fact his commander made time for other Soldiers to call him.

"It helped me feel like I was still in the unit," he said.

Some cadets who listened to the panel were happy to hear real-life examples of good leadership.

"We are given a lot of opportunity to learn about honor, respect and positive aspects of leadership in the academic setting," Cow Jack Wittkamper said. "We don't always hear about it in real life. It was humbling to hear that but also encouraging because we'll have a huge challenge to overcome (as junior leaders). It helps to see it in the flesh instead of just reading about it in a book."

Cow Jim Flanagan said he enjoyed that the Soldiers told them about their experiences and how they also helped others. He said he looked up to the Soldiers on the panel.

"The stuff they're talking about is the highs and lows of being a Soldier," Flanagan said. "Those are things we don't deal with here. We learn what to do in a situation but not how to deal with the emotions. (The wounded warriors) are role models for us, and I'm glad they are building that role model link for us."

Community Features and Photos

AEC offers opportunities for Soldiers and civilians

Story and photo by Kathy Eastwood

Soldiers, Family members, contractors, cadets and civilians have an opportunity to receive higher education through the Army Education Center here at low to no cost to the student. Servicemembers can take advantage of the Servicemembers Opportunity College, which is a group of colleges dedicated to help Soldiers and their Families earn a degree.

AEC through Mount St. Mary College, John Jay College, St. Thomas Aquinas College and Long Island University, coordinates course offerings and degree programs through these colleges, to include some masters' degrees.

"The Army pays up to \$250 per credit hour and up to \$4,500 per year (for Soldiers)," said David Byrd, AEC chief.

These colleges guarantee transferability of credits among themselves -- the system preserves credits that Soldiers earn as they move around and take courses at a variety of schools. All schools in the network maintain regional accreditation, said Nancy Judd, AEC guidance counselor.

"The College of the American Soldier are colleges that are military-friendly and have been serving Soldiers in a similar way for years," Judd said. "For example, George Washington University and their associate degree program for medical lab technicians, Central Texas College for military police and Arapahoe Community College for physical therapy assistance to name a few. These schools are commonly used by our Soldiers because they maximize the credits

awarded from their Army American Registry Transcript System. These schools are also part of the SOC network so Soldier-students are able to take courses with our local schools and easily transfer the credits to a schools like Thomas Edison or Excelsior to satisfy degree requirements."

Civilians are offered college courses at a reduced rate, and many courses are given after duty hours at Thayer Hall here.

AEC also offers Soldiers and Family members the opportunity to earn college credits through several different avenues.

"There are a number of ways that Soldiers can receive college credit," Byrd explained. "They can earn credit through the traditional classroom, College Level Examination Program or CLEP testing, distance learning through the Internet, military experience and through the training the Soldiers received.

"Through the CLEP test, it is possible for a Soldier to gain college credits equal to a semester," Byrd added. "If a Soldier has been through basic or non-commissioned officer courses, they can earn credits through what they have learned through testing."

CLEP tests are tests on a variety of different subjects consisting of approximately 90 multiple choice questions and an essay. The test is free to servicemembers, and a test in a given subject can be taken twice, if needed, to achieve the appropriate score for credit.

Distance learning also is a popular method of earning credits. Soldiers can receive college credits through the courses they take on the Internet.

"One of the advantages of distance



David Byrd, left, education service officer and Nancy Judd, education counselor, talk about the advantages of using the Army Education Center for higher education courses leading to a degree or proficiency certificates.

learning is there are no terms. People can start at any time and continue at their own pace," Judd said. "Some take advantage of coupling traditional classes along with distance learning."

There has been a drop in people taking traditional courses because of the increase in distance learning, Byrd said.

"We have 350 enrolled in courses this year compared to 550 enrolled last year," he said.

The AEC is offering something new, which began with the Soldiers from Fort Drum who were training cadets last summer.

"We offered the Fort Drum Soldiers a compressed college course of four-and-a-half-weeks rather than the usual six weeks," Byrd said. "The summer training Soldiers are not here for very long. With these courses, we were able to set up a unique schedule for them. The courses included speech and history of Vietnam, and it was a big hit with them."

Cadets can take advantage of the AEC by taking the Alternate Flight Aptitude Selection Test.

AFAST is a series of tests that check aptitudes such as personality and characteristics that can predict success in the Army helicopter flight training program. Soldiers can take the Functional Academic Skills Training, which will help them raise their General Technical scores, which are combined English and math scores.

AEC also offers career counseling and educational advice that will help Soldiers, Family members and civilians on their way to a degree through higher education.

Tuition assistance, however, is only available at www.goArmyEd.com. Go to the Web site to request assistance or information about this program.

For more information on any of the Center's programs, call either Byrd or Judd at 938-3464.

Students get knowledge of U.S. affairs at conference

Story and photo by Emily Tower

By networking now and learning what needs to be accomplished to bring peace to the Middle East, college students can make a difference on a global scale, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations told U.S. Military Academy cadets and other college students last week.

“Your generation should seize the moment,” Zalmay Khalilzad said Nov. 6 during a Student Conference on United States Affairs dinner at Eisenhower Hall.

He encouraged the students to learn the languages and cultures of the Middle East, consider public service, consider making money through business to fund public projects or to inform the public about issues in the Middle East by becoming part of the media.

More than 250 college students from around the world -- including 56 from the USMA and others representing about 40 countries -- gathered at West Point for the 60th annual conference.

They discussed solutions to world problems and learned just what it takes to affect public policy.

“There are two sides for every story, and not just one path should be taken,” Stella Adegite, a student from Syracuse University, said. “But even though we have varied backgrounds, we can come together for a common goal.”

Khalilzad said he thinks there are five paths to establishing peace in the Middle East, but convincing the UN of their legitimacy often takes work.

First, Afghanistan and Iraq must be ruled and protected by their own people who can be recruited into military and security forces without fear. Second, the United States “must be willing to do the hard work” of fixing the politics in Iraq and Afghanistan, Khalilzad said. Then, military and civilian efforts need to be more seamless.

Fourth, all aspects of “government and American society” must be mobilized to help, he said. Finally, adaptability of government organizations must be maintained.

“I am glad you are starting to think about this even before you finish school,” Khalilzad said.

Along with Khalilzad, students heard from retired Col. Jack Jacobs, a Medal of Honor recipient; Azza Karam, who works at United Nations Population Fund; Lt. Gen. Douglas Lute, deputy national security advisor for Iraq and Afghanistan; Jane Holl Lute, UN assistant secretary-general for peace building support, and Sir David Omand, first coordinator of security and intelligence for the United Kingdom.

“It was a year in the making,” conference commander Firstie Ashley Rowland said. “To see it all come together like this is really rewarding.”

Zalmay Khalilzad (right), U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, addresses attendees of the Student Conference on United States Affairs at a banquet Nov. 6 at Eisenhower Hall's ballroom. More than 250 college students from around the world attended the 60th annual conference at West Point.



West Point parents -- Voice your opinion

Submitted by West Point Schools

The Department of Defense Education Activity will administer its biennial Customer Satisfaction Survey starting in November through Feb. 28.

The CSS provides valuable feedback to DODEA from its most important customers -- students and parents -- about the quality of education it provides and areas needing improvement.

This year's survey represents a departure from tradition in that it will be administered to students in grades 4-12 and sponsors for each child enrolled in DOD schools from pre-kindergarten/SureStart through 12th grade.

As with prior surveys, participation remains voluntary and maximum participation is encouraged to obtain reliable and valid data.

Historically, teachers, educational support staff, students in grades 4-12 and sponsors for each child enrolled in DOD schools from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade were asked to complete the CSS.

This year, parents and students will participate in it while the others will participate in the DODEA

Employee Satisfaction Survey, to be administered during March.

As with the CSS, participation in the DODEA Employee Satisfaction Survey is voluntary and maximum participation is also encouraged.

The surveys were developed through a review process of various groups -- area offices, superintendents, principals, Education Directorate staff members at the DODEA headquarters and external sources such as DMDC.

Some questions were adapted from the "Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward Schools" with additional DODEA-specific questions.

The 2008 CSS contains more parent/student specific questions, particularly with regard to guidance and counseling.

The surveys take approximately 20 minutes to complete and are available online at www.dodea.edu (click on the CSS graphic link).

Parents who do not have access to the Internet should contact their children's school to determine other alternatives -- such as using the school's computers.

The CSS is part of DODEA's continual effort to improve the quality of education provided to DOD military and civilian

dependents and provides a forum for parents and students to have their opinions heard and to communicate their level of satisfaction with issues related to DOD schools.

The focus of the 2008 CSS is how parents and students of DODEA schools feel about instruction, curriculum, programs and services, among other topics.

Information derived from the surveys will be used to improve planning efforts at all levels throughout DODEA.

Schools, districts and areas will use the survey results to gain insight into the satisfaction levels of sponsors and students, which is one of many measures used for future planning of programs and services DODEA offers.

The survey results will also be used to monitor the DODEA Community Strategic Plan, which contains the strategic direction for DODEA for the years 2006-2011.

The views of parents and students are critical to DODEA's continual efforts to improve the education quality, and all opinions are very important. They contribute to the future decisions DODEA educators will make about schools.

DODEA and the West Point Schools encourage everyone's

participation.

For more information on the CSS, contact either the elementary or middle school principal, Dr. Bill Ramos, at the NY/VA/PR District Superintendent's Office at 703-432-1378 or visit the DODEA Web site at <http://www.dodea.edu/>.

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Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

The West Point Band presents

Music at West Point

Percussion Recital: Staff Sgt. Craig Bitterman, November 15, 7:30 p.m., Egner Hall Band Bldg.

Storm King Brass Quintet: November 16, 3:00 p.m., Jewish Chapel.

Trumpet Recital: Staff Sgts. Denver Dill & Jon Leonard, November 23, 3:00 p.m., Jewish Chapel.

Hudson Valley Holiday: December 13 at 7:30 p.m. & December 14 at 3:00 p.m., Eisenhower Hall Theatre.

Free & Open to the Public
845-938-2617
www.westpoint.edu/band

TSP TICKER

NOVEMBER weekly changes (as of 11/7)

C FUND	- 0.84 percent
I FUND	- 0.98 percent
S FUND	- 0.94 percent



Swearing in new citizens

One hundred twenty-five residents of New York, representing 42 countries from Canada to Uzbekistan, became United States citizens Monday at Thayer Hall. Eighteen new citizens are serving on active duty in the National Guard or the reserves as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. Brigadier Gen. Michael Linnington, Commandant of Cadets, welcomed the new citizens and Jonathan Scharfen, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services acting director, administered the Oath of Allegiance. Senator Charles Schumer, a champion of immigrant issues, was the keynote speaker. Yearling Willem Pretorius, a native of South Africa, is a naturalized citizen and delivered the Pledge of Allegiance.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month

By Maj. Evangeline Rosel
Equal Opportunity Program Manager

The month of November is Native American Heritage Month which honors the many contributions and accomplishments of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

As declared by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, during November we remember the legacy of the first Americans and celebrate their vibrant culture and heritage.

Since the Revolutionary War, Native Americans and Alaska Natives have played a vital role in our country's freedom and security. They serve in all branches of America's Armed Forces.

The theme for 2008 is "Living in Many Worlds," which focuses on the Native American tradition that physical

connection with the natural world is paramount to their existence.

To honor this group of Americans and commemorate their achievements, the Simon Center, the Equal Opportunity Office and the Cadet Native American Club will host a celebration at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Eisenhower Hall's Riverside Café.

The night will feature a performance from the Red Hawk Dance Troupe.

There will also be a children's arts and crafts session led by cadets from the Native American Club.

The celebration is open to the entire community, so come celebrate America's oldest heritage.

For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Michael Dotson at 938-8456 or Maj. Evangeline Rosel at 938-7082.

SPACE WALK, cont. from page 3

Kimbrough will be on the end of a robotic arm for parts of the exterior tests and inspection and will do a space walk to solve some problems with the Solar Alpha Rotary Joint. He will also participate in a space walk to help install new exterior cameras.

The flight to the space station will take approximately two-and-a-half days. It takes eight-and-a-half minutes to reach space with the shuttle flying at 17,500 miles per hour.

The return trip is a little quicker and the weather will help determine where it lands on the return. Kennedy Space

Station is the No. 1 choice.

While the days in space are structured, there is some free time. Kimbrough will take a letterman's A that he received from Athletics Director Kevin Anderson and is hopeful he will have an opportunity to take a photo. The astronauts will have access to e-mail and are also scheduled to do a teleconference from space with family.

It is sure to be an emotional time for Kimbrough and the crew as childhood dreams become reality and a piece of West Point reaches out to space.

Command Channel 8/23

Nov. 13-20

Thursday - Friday 8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch 1 p.m.	Army Newswatch 7 p.m. Army Newswatch 7 p.m.
Monday - Wednesday 8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch 1 p.m.	Nov. 20 8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch 1 p.m. Army Newswatch 7 p.m. Army Newswatch 1 p.m.

What's Happening

Go Red for Women

The American Heart Association's Go Red for Women luncheon is scheduled for Friday at Thayer Hotel.

The event begins with registration at 10 a.m. A silent auction begins at 11 a.m., and lunch is scheduled for noon.

Cary Hirsch, MD, is scheduled to be keynote speaker. Mindy Quinn, who lives in Monroe, is scheduled to speak about having heart disease at a young age.

The event also is planned to feature music by Bernstein Bard Trio and breakout sessions with experts in nutrition, finance, exercise, stress management, health care and heart health.

For more information about the luncheon or to purchase tickets, call the American Heart Association at 342-1115.

For more information about Go Red for Women, visit www.goredforwomen.org.

National Make a Difference Day

West Point Families may participate in a National Make a Difference Day project by donating non-perishable food and personal care items.

Boxes will be placed in the Commissary, FMWR Fitness Center, Army Community Service building and at Balfour Beatty Communities at 132 Barlett Loop.

Boxes will be picked up Friday, and items will be donated to military Families in need, who can call Jodi Gellman at 446-6407 to be considered for the donated items.

For more information about Make a Difference Day, which was Oct. 25, visit www.makeadifferenceday.com.

4 Paws Humane Society Silent Auction

The 4 Paws Humane Society of Highland Falls/Fort Montgomery will hold its annual Silent Auction Saturday at Grace Baptist Church located on Old State Road.

Bidding begins at 1 p.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m.

There is an entrance fee, which entitles patrons to a bidding number and a wide array of food and drinks.

All proceeds are used to help homeless and stray animals with food, shelter, neutering and medical attention.

4 Paws Humane Society is a non-profit organization, and all donations are tax deductible. For more information, call 446-2211 or 446-5300.

WPWC Gift Shoppe

The West Point Women's Club Gift Shoppe is open extra hours Saturday.

The store, located near the FMWR fitness center, will be open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and sells West Point and military-themed gifts.

Pancake breakfast

A Veterans Day pancake breakfast is scheduled for 7:30 a.m.-noon Sunday at the Highland Falls Fire Department.

The breakfast, which will be served buffet style, will feature pancakes, french toast, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

Children younger than 5 eat for free.

For more information, call 446-2040.

Volkssport Club of West Point

The Volkssport Club of West Point will meet for a group walk in Cornwall Sunday.

Registration will be at 10:30 a.m. at the West Point Visitor's Center. Participants will then drive to Cornwall to the start point at River Light Park parking lot.

The walk is on village sidewalks and paved streets.

The trail is suitable for strollers but not wheelchairs because of the hills. Trail rating is No. 2.

The walk is free; AVA credit is \$3.

All participants are invited

to meet at 9 a.m. for a pre-walk breakfast at Park Restaurant, Main Street, Highland Falls.

For more information, call Nancy Patrick at 446-4709.

Ski patrol meeting and swap

A West Point Ski Patrol meeting is scheduled for 4 p.m. Sunday at Bartlett Hall.

Topics to be discussed include dues and new membership forms, summer events, the wounded warrior program and Class 8 Material (e.g. bandages).

A ski swap is scheduled for Sunday and Monday at the Victor Constant Ski Slope.

For more information, call Robert DiBenedetto at 424-3386.

Web site launch

The trustees of the Constitution Island Association Inc. and Olive Software of California invite the public to the launch and demonstration of the Constitution Island Association Archives Web site at 4:30 p.m. Sunday at the Lucas Center for Military History in the West Point Museum.

Refreshments will be served. R.S.V.P. by calling 265-1088 or 831-2331.

Vet Clinic closure

Because of the post veterinarian's PCS move, appointments are limited until the new vet arrives.

The clinic will have a visiting vet available for appointments from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday.

Call the Vet Clinic at 938-3817 for more information.

American Indian Heritage Month celebration

A celebration of American Indian Heritage Month is scheduled for 6 p.m. Nov. 19 at Eisenhower Hall's Riverside Café.

The night will feature a performance from the Red Hawk Dance Troupe, children's arts and crafts and a session led by cadets from the Native American Club.

For more information, call Sgt.

1st Class Michael Dotson at 938-8456 or Maj. Evangeline Rosel at 938-7082.

Book Signing

Photographer Roger Miller and writer Linda Foster will be at the USMA Bookstore, Thayer Hall Fourth Floor for the signing of their book "West Point: An Inside Look at the Long Grey Line" from 9:15 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Nov. 20.

This book's photos were taken from 2005-07.

'Letters Home' performance

A production of "Letters Home. Voices of American Troops from the Battlefields of Iraq" is scheduled for 8 p.m. Nov. 21 at the Paramount Center for the Arts in Peekskill.

The production is an oral history of American Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan and is based on Frank Schaeffer's book "Voice from the Front. Letter's Home from America's Military Family."

Group discounts are available. For more information, call 914-739-2333.

Piano recital

The Department of Foreign Languages is presenting a free formal piano recital at 6 p.m. Nov. 21 in the Eisenhower Hall Ballroom. Albert Stanziano, who has been playing piano since he was 8 years old and was trained by Julliard, is scheduled to perform at this black-tie event.

For more information call 534-5489.

Hunting areas closed

All Hunting areas will be closed Nov. 22 because of a training exercise. This will not include the J Areas 2/3/4/5.

Any questions regarding this can be referred to Sgt. 1st Class Erich Kreiter, PMO Operations, at 938-0436.

Thanksgiving worship service

There will be a community wide protestant Thanksgiving worship

Service in the Cadet Chapel at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 25.

All are welcome to attend. Call the Cadet Chaplain's office at 938-3412 for more information.

DIMHRS

In preparation for DIMHRS implementation March 1, all Soldiers are required to review their ORBs/ERBs, SGLV, DD93 and OMPF.

Soldiers are required to make an appointment with the MPD to review and update their files.

All Soldiers are required to complete this no later than Dec. 19. Appointments are available 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekdays.

For more information or to set an appointment, contact the Military Personnel Division at 938-5060/8491/8489/2035/3005/3703 or e-mail laura.perez1@us.army.mil.

Before your appointment, review your ORB/ERB and OMPF.

Any changes that need to be made require documentation being provided at the appointment.

The new DD Form 93 is now uploaded into eMILPO.

Do not use the form on AKO.

Customer assessment survey

West Point community members can take a survey to let the Installation Management Command know about the importance of programs and services being offered on post and how well the post's leadership is doing.

Survey results are passed along to garrison leadership so they can improve services.

Soldiers, Family members, retirees and other former military personnel and civilian employees may take the survey.

Each person can sign into certain categories so they are only asked about services they use.

The survey can be taken at www.myarmyvoice.org/community2008.

For more information, call Ed Sutherland at 938-0627 or ed.sutherland@us.army.mil.

Keller Corner

Flu vaccine update

Flu shots are scheduled for DOD civilian employees at the Employee Health Benefit Fair 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov. 25 at Eisenhower Hall.

Active-duty military, their Families and retirees may get a flu shot 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 8-10 at Eisenhower Hall.

KACH closure

All outpatient clinics, laboratory, pharmacy and radiology will be closed Nov. 27 for Thanksgiving and Nov. 28 for the training holiday.

The emergency room will remain open.

Patient advocate

The Patient Advocate's primary

goal is to assist patients in exercising their rights.

She is also available to act as a patients' advocate and provide a specific channel through which patients can seek solutions to problems, concerns and unmet needs.

To contact or schedule an appointment with the patient advocate, call Linda DiSalvo at 938-5874.

West Point ranks No. 1 in patient satisfaction

West Point is ranked No. 1 for overall patient satisfaction in the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command for October.

There are eight other military

treatment facilities that are in the NARMC Region.

Thank you to all our patients who participated in the survey. We value your comments and opinions.

Congratulations to all of the KACH staff.

Clinical breast study

Female military health care beneficiaries between 30 to 45 years of age are invited to participate in an ongoing clinical breast study to evaluate a new non-invasive imaging technology for its ability to identify young women who may be at increased risk for breast cancer.

Contact Joyce Epstein-Ross at 938-8387 for more information.

NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752

Friday -- Eagle Eye, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday -- Beverly Hills Chihuahua, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday -- Burn After Reading, R, 9:30 p.m.

Nov. 21 -- The Dark Knight, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

THE THEATER SCHEDULE ALSO CAN BE FOUND AT

WWW.AAFES.COM

Eisenhower Hall events

Nov. 22, 2 p.m. -- Moscow Ballet - Great Russian Nutcracker.

Dec. 6, 8 p.m. -- Christmas with Amy Grant and Vince Gill.

FMWR Blurbs

Free pasta

The West Point Club is having Free Pasta Night from 5-8 p.m. today.

It features a pasta bar, salad, dessert and Macaroni the Clown.

To make reservations, call 938-5120.

Ski locker lottery

Victor Constant Ski Slope locker lottery forms for the 2008-09 ski season can be filled out and submitted online at <http://www.westpointmwr.com/ACTIVITY/SKI/index.HTM>.

Submissions will be accepted until today.

Combined Federal Campaign

The West Point Combined Federal Campaign runs through Friday.

To make a contribution to FMWR, please use these codes:

ACS – 73037, BOSS – 70022, CDC – 25121, SFAC – 18445, CYYS – 70117.

Legendary hunter visit

The legendary hunter, professional outdoorsman and Outdoor Channel celebrity Jim Zumbo will be at Round Pond Rec Area at 1 p.m. Friday for a meet and greet.

Get your photograph taken or get an autograph with Zumbo.

Zumbo, a spokesman for the Paralyzed Veterans of America, will be presenting a donation to wounded Soldiers and disabled veterans earlier in the day.

Defensive driving class

A defensive driving class is set for 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday at Bldg. 622. Register by calling 938-2401.

Ski, Skate & Hockey Swap

A Ski, Skate & Hockey Swap will take place at the Victor Constant Ski Slope from Noon-6 p.m. Sunday and 3-9 p.m. Monday.

Discounted merchandise is available.

A 5 percent discount is available on all season passes (swap only).

New cable tow demonstration and much more are planned.

For information, call 938-4637.

BOSS holiday food drive

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Holiday Food Drive begins Sunday.

The Boy Scouts will be dropping off bags Sunday to fill with non-perishable items and will pick them up Nov. 23.

For more information, call 938-6497.

Family-style breakfast

The West Point Club's Family-style breakfast grand opening is set for 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Nov. 23.

The event is scheduled to feature Macaroni the Clown from 9 a.m.-noon and Flowers the Face Painter from 10 a.m.-noon.

Soldiers ranked specialist and below receive member prices.

For more information, call 938-5120.

ITR trips

ITR is hosting a trip Nov. 26 to New York City's Museum of Natural History and the adjacent Macy's Thanksgiving Parade Balloon Inflation.

Transportation departs West Point at 11 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m.

ITR also is hosting a trip to see Macy's Thanksgiving

Day Parade Nov. 27 and Radio City's Christmas Spectacular Dec. 1 and 8.

Call 938-3601 for more information.

Thanksgiving feast

There is a Thanksgiving Day feast at the West Point Club Nov. 27. First seating is at noon in the Pierce Dining Room.

A second seating is at 2:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom.

To make reservations, call 938-5120.

Photography contest

The 2008 All Army Digital Photography Contest is now accepting entries.

To enter, go to <https://artscrafts.fmwrc.army.mil>, complete a profile and upload photos.

Submission deadline is Dec. 7.

The contest is open to active-duty and Army civilians.

For more details, go to the Web site above or call the Craft Shop at 938-4915.

Holiday tree lighting ceremony

The annual West Point Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony takes place at 6 p.m. Dec. 8 at Buffalo Soldier Field.

Light the community tree and sing carols, then enjoy refreshments and visits with Santa inside The Thayer Hotel.

There will be special performances by the USMA Band and the Cadet Glee Club.

For more information, call 938-6497.

Golf end of season sale

The golf end of season sale runs through Dec. 21 at the West Point Golf Course Pro Shop.

Save money on a great selection of golf gear and equipment.

Call 938-2435 for more details.

Marketing yourself

Army Community Service is sponsoring a professional lecture entitled "Marketing Yourself for a Second Career," from 9-11:30 a.m. Dec. 10 at ACS (Bldg. 622).

An expert on transitioning from the military to civilian employment will be presenting this seminar for interested officers, NCOs and Family members.

All attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and will receive a free copy of the publication "Marketing Yourself for a Second Career."

If you have questions or to register, call 938-5658.

FMWR community skate program

FMWR is holding a community skate program every Sunday from 3:30-5 p.m. at Tate Rink through March 8.

Call 938-3066 for more information.

Lifeguards needed

FMWR is looking to hire Red Cross (or equivalent) certified lifeguards to monitor swimmers at Crandall Pool for a noon weekdays lap swimming program.

Those who are interested should submit an application to NAF Civilian Personnel, which can be reached at 938-2822.

For more information, call 938-8249.

Weekly job listings

The Employment Readiness Program offers weekly job listings to military Family members living on West Point and in the surrounding community.

This is a free service. To list your available openings with the Employment Readiness Program, please e-mail amyjo.johnson@usma.edu.

Post Library fall story hour

The West Point Post Library's fall story hour is currently

ongoing.

The sessions will be held at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Daily sessions are open to all West Point community children ages 3-5.

Pre-registration is required each week. For more information, call 938-2974.

Hockey program

West Point Sports Office Staff and Faculty Hockey Program has begun.

Sessions are 9-10:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 7-8:30 p.m. Sundays.

For more information call 938-3066.

CYSS SKIES

Child, Youth and School Services SKIES Instructional Program sessions are ongoing.

For more information, visit, www.westpointmwr.com or call 938-3727/8893.

Child care co-op

The child care co-op at the FMWR Fitness Center is open from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Monday-Friday in accordance with the West Point Elementary School calendar to parents with FMWR Fitness Center and CDC/CYSS privileges.

Parents must complete a brief VCCUS Training administered by the CDC, and children must be registered with CDC/CYSS.

For more information, call 446-5140.

Krafts 4 Kids

Krafts 4 Kids takes place 10 a.m.-noon Saturdays at the Craft Shop, Bldg. 648.

To pre-register or for more information, call 938-4812.

ACS volunteers wanted

ACS can help build marketable skills to incorporate into resumes. Volunteer and develop professional references and community networks while giving back to the Army community.

Volunteer areas include Financial Readiness, Employment Readiness, Army Family Action Plan and Relocation.

Child care costs will be covered. For more information, call 938-5658.

Military Appreciation Month

In honor of Military Family Appreciation month, the West Point Bowling Center is offering free shoe rentals through the end of November.

Also the Thayer Hotel is offering a 20 percent discount this month.

The Garrison House in Fort Montgomery is offering half off a second-night stay in November. Call 446-2322 for more information.

The Mad Jester Woodworks is offering 10 percent off any item in the store except refinishing service through the end of the month.

Party Time Productions is offering free karaoke, 20 percent off all parties and 25 percent off all jumpers with November parties. Call 446-3826 for more information.

The FMWR Fitness Center has a group fitness unlimited monthly membership of \$30.

All of these discounts are available only to active-duty military and their Families.

Appropriate ID cards are required to receive the discounts.

BOSS resale lot

Do you have a vehicle you want to sell? Consider the BOSS Resale Lot located in the Commissary Parking lot.

Call 938-6497 for more information.

Army and Community Sports

Change of heart: McGuire dribbles to own beat

By Tracy Nelson
Athletic Communications

Firstie Alex McGuire grew up with the military and basketball in her blood but never wanted to attend West Point. However, the Army women's basketball program could not be happier with her change of heart because it has reaped great benefits over the past three years.

McGuire's connection with West Point starts years before her birth. Her father, Steve, and two of his brothers, Mike and Mark, are all West Point graduates. Their father, Ed, is a World War II veteran, and his father served in World War I as the list of McGuires that have proudly served their country goes on.

"My Family never pushed me to attend West Point but just suggested that I keep the idea in the mix," McGuire said.

Not that she was averse to trying a military uniform on for size, but McGuire kept telling herself that she absolutely did not want to attend West Point. That all changed on her official visit to the banks of the Hudson during the weekend of Sept. 11, 2004.

"I had been to West Point several times in the past for football games and other functions, but something just hit me when I was here for my official visit," McGuire recalled. "I played pick-up with the team, stayed in the barracks and observed the corps at the football game. They played Louisville in the season opener and lost, but that didn't matter. My mind was already made up."

McGuire was born on April Fools' Day in 1987 at Fort Carson, Colo. After a three-year stay, the McGuire Family moved east to Fort Meade, Md., as Steve went to work at the Pentagon.

McGuire and her younger brother, Matthew, grew up in a household where sports were king. They delved into every activity imaginable, including flag football, T-ball, basketball and soccer. You name it, and her father and his wife, Mellanie's children likely played it.

"I remember seeing pictures of me with my dad at Fort Carson when I was three," McGuire said. "I was following him around with a mini basketball. I guess you could say that basketball has been a big part of me since then."

As a child, McGuire dreamed of being an NFL commentator or a SportsCenter anchor, certainly nowhere close to attending a military academy.

Steve McGuire grew up in Western New York, so his daughter grew up a rabid Buffalo Bills fan. However, she also spent a healthy dose of time at M&T Bank Stadium but far removed from a fan capacity.

McGuire became a five-time Punt, Pass and Kick champion for the Baltimore Ravens and moved onto the national level where she finished fourth in the country twice. The coed NFL Youth program has been around since 1961 and features more than 4 million children in four different age groups each year.

While McGuire continued to flourish as a young athlete, she began playing AAU basketball at age 10. She spent time with the Maryland Waves and Maryland Hurricanes, cultivating her skills, getting noticed and playing against some of the top competition in the region.

Her AAU career took the McGuire's all over the country to national tournaments in Louisiana, Utah and Disney World.

McGuire continued to shine during a standout career under head coach Lee Rogers at Arundel High School. After a trip to the state semifinals as a sophomore, McGuire led the Wildcats to a Maryland 4A State title as a junior. A three-time Arundel County Player of the Year, McGuire was honored with Baltimore Sun All-Metro Player of the Year plaudits following a championship run in 2004.

She scored a school record 700 points that season and still has a stronghold on the Arundel career record with 2,086 points.

A hard-nosed, tough guard who plays with unmatched intensity, McGuire drew the attention of programs such as Wake Forest, Richmond and a few other mid-level ACC and Big East colleges.

Another letter came in the mail from West Point, and McGuire tossed it aside.

"It took a lot of convincing, but I finally sat down one day to fill out the packet from West Point," McGuire said. "My parents would have supported any decision that I made. I weighed a lot of options, but it took some pushing for me to even think about West Point."

It took just one visit, and a year later, McGuire arrived at West Point for Beast Barracks in the summer of 2005.

A rollercoaster of events followed and eventually culminated in the Black Knights' first-ever Patriot League Championship and a trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Just four weeks before the 2005-06 season, then-head coach Sherri Abbey-Nowatzki departed West Point, leaving a lot of question marks heading into preseason.

"I was a plebe so my classmates and I just rolled with the punches," McGuire said. "We really didn't know how a preseason should work or what to expect, so we just showed up every day and played basketball."

The answer came in the form of a young, vibrant leader with no head coaching experience but the drive



Heading into the season opener Friday at Wagner, Firstie guard Alex McGuire ranks 10th all-time on Army's scoring list with 1,056 points.

ERIC S. BARTELT/PV

of a veteran. Head coach Maggie Dixon stepped in, and thus started an unthinkable chain of events for the Army women's basketball program.

McGuire played a fairly new role on the 2005-06 championship team, shifting to point guard and starting 15 games into the season. Army's second-leading scorer that year, McGuire was named the Patriot League Rookie of the Year.

She went on to lead the team with 18 points in the Black Knights' 69-68 upset of Holy Cross in the championship game at Christl Arena, earning all-tournament team honors along the way.

"You work hard and hope to have that kind of success, but it's not something that you can expect," McGuire said. "We had coach Dixon for just four weeks before the season got underway. I figured that there would be some growing pains, but we just started rolling. I think we had a little bit of luck, and things just fell into place. I'll never forget that season."

Less than a month removed from cutting down the Christl Arena nets, the women's basketball program was dealt a devastating blow when Dixon collapsed and died of a heart arrhythmia April 6, 2006. Her assistant and long-time collegiate men's basketball coach Dave Magarity stepped in as McGuire's third head coach in a single year.

McGuire played through the adversity and has continued to

make her mark on Army's storied program. The combo guard, who can bank on an outstanding mid-range game and stingy defensive approach, became just the 14th Army player to score 1,000 points last season. She heads into 2008-09 as the program's 10th all-time leading scorer with 1,056 points.

"No matter what telling numbers she has met, the one thing about Alex that I've always admired is her intense focus," Magarity said. "She plays with a purpose, and everything that she does on the basketball floor is very well calculated."

"She is a tremendous student of the game having been around it her whole life. She has been a model of consistency throughout her career and continues to improve each year," he added. "A lot of what Alex has done isn't accomplished in a gaudy way. She is a very fundamentally sound player and truly understands the game."

A two-time All-Patriot League player, including first team honors a year ago, McGuire has spent her entire career playing alongside some of the finest guards ever to wear the black and gold.

This winter, it's McGuire's turn to become the focal point of Army's backcourt and Magarity notes that opponents are well aware of that fact.

"One of the things that we are continuing to try to do with Alex is put her in a position to make her teammates better, because she is going to attract a lot of attention as

a senior," Magarity said. "We've lost four outstanding guards over the last three years, including names like Jen Hansen, Erin Begonia, Margaree King and Cara Enright. Those are significant losses in terms of both talent and character. Alex will be tested to fill that void, but I have no doubt that she will approach that challenge with the same drive that she brings every day."

McGuire has proven her worth in box scores on a regular basis, averaging 11.6 points per game in 91 career contests. She's been Army's leader in the steal column as well as one of the Patriot League's top free-throw shooters over the last three seasons.

This year, however, she turns her attention to the role of captain, sharing the title with classmates Megan Ennenga, Megan Evans and Courtney Wright.

"I want to be more of a vocal leader on the court," McGuire said. "I have a list of goals and expectations for this season posted on the wall in my room. It's not much, but I want to get better every day, help the team in whatever role that I can and improve upon everything that I've done so far."

McGuire stepped on the floor for the Black Knights' first official practice Oct. 17 not only thinking about Friday's season opener against Wagner but her decision to come to West Point.

She took one look around the gym and said, "I don't regret my decision a single bit."

White scores winner, Army earns NCAA berth

By Mady Salvani
Athletic Communications

Firstie forward Pia White's goal 5:15 into the second overtime snapped a scoreless draw and lifted third-seeded Army to a 1-0 victory over top-seeded Navy Nov. 9 in the championship of the 2008 Patriot League Women's Soccer Tournament at Glenn Warner Soccer Facility in Annapolis, Md.

It is the second league title for the 12-5-3 Black Knights and first NCAA bid in the history of the program.

White was named to the Patriot

League All-Tournament Team along with Cow defender Elizabeth Betterbed, Firstie midfielder Sarah Goss and Yearling goalkeeper Alex Lostetter. Goss also was tabbed the Tournament MVP.

White's game-high five shots came in the overtime, firing three in the first overtime period with two going wide and the other saved by league goalkeeper of the year Lizzie Barnes as Army held a 4-0 advantage in that session.

White's first shot in the second overtime period was blocked, and her next, just 13 seconds later, was rejected by Barnes.

Her fifth shot found the mark when she took a pass from Plebe Deanna Clegg on the end line and dribbled it toward the goal.

Her heroics helped write history when her shot from six yards hit the near post and went through Barnes' legs to lift Army to its second league title since 1993.

The goal was White's third of the season and second game winner in extending Army's season as the Black Knights play Virginia at 5 p.m. Friday at Klockner Stadium in Charlottesville, Va., in the first round of the NCAA Regional.

The second is scheduled for noon Sunday.

"I was pretty tired, but Coach said this is nothing new for us," said White following her third career game winner. "We have had many overtime games throughout the season. To get this game for coach is probably the greatest moment in my four years at West Point. It is going to be great to be a part of going to the NCAA Tournament."

Army and Navy had four and five shots in the first half, respectively. Although the Black Knights were outshot 8-3 in the second half, they had a dangerous chance in the 66th minute when Firstie Molly Byrnes' 20-yard bullet was punched off the crossbar by Barnes.

Navy was unable to capitalize late in the half following three corner kicks over a 10-minute span to stretch its advantage to 6-0.

Army was awarded its first corner with less than two minutes remaining in regulation.

Both teams finished with 14 shots with Army outshooting Navy 7-1 in the overtime, while the Midshipmen held a 6-1 corner kick advantage.

Lostetter, a second team all-league pick as goalkeeper, finished with three saves in recording her 11th shutout of the season and her 16th career shutout.



Firstie forward Pia White's goal in the second overtime gave Army a 1-0 victory over Navy in the 2008 Patriot League Women's Soccer Tournament championship in Annapolis, Md. The goal earned the Black Knights their first NCAA Tournament bid in program history.

JOHN PELLINO/DOIM MMB

"This is unbelievable. What a dream season it has been," said retiring Army coach Gene Ventriglia, the lone mentor in the history of the program. "Everyone just stepped up, and it has been a good blend with the newcomers and upperclassmen."

"Navy is a terrific team and to beat them in my last game, all I can say is 'wow' and I will never forget it," he added. "The difference is that we have played so many 0-0 ties,

we were ready for it and got strong in the overtime. To go the NAAs was the only thing missing in my resume because we had some great teams in the early years, but there was no automatic bid.

"I wanted it so bad, and I know the players wanted it for me as well. I didn't want to talk about it because I didn't want to put undue pressure on the kids. My team didn't crack under pressure, and I am so proud of them," Ventriglia concluded.



Firstie midfielder Sarah Goss (left) received the 2008 PL Women's Soccer Tournament MVP honors.

PHOTO BY DEBBI LATTA

Men's Soccer ends season on high note with Navy win

By Tim Volkmann
Athletic Communications

Army Plebe forward Tanner Robertson scored his first career goal with 51 seconds remaining in the first half as the Black Knights defeated service academy and Patriot League rival Navy, 1-0, Friday at Clinton Field.

The victory, which came in the 75th all-time meeting between the two squads, was Army's third-straight versus the Midshipmen in the last three years.

On a night during which Army honored its three firsties -- A.J. Glubzinski, John-Michael Gallogly and Nate Wagner -- in a pregame ceremony, it was a plebe who notched the deciding goal.

With the final seconds winding down after an evenly played first half, Robertson bent a ball into

the crowded Navy goal box from the right corner that deflected off a Midshipmen defender and past senior goalkeeper Nolan Grebb for what proved to be the game-winning tally at 44:09.

Both teams had solid chances in the first half. Just less than 15 minutes into the contest, Navy sophomore midfielder Sam Lepley took a pass from freshman forward Wes Powell and found some space in the left slot. His shot, however, was cut off by Glubzinski to keep the Midshipmen off the board.

The Black Knights had a pair of good chances with about 12 minutes to play, as Plebe forward Michael Leach and Cow forward Bryan Connolly each had good header attempts just go over the net.

The Mids kept the pressure on in the last 10 minutes but couldn't get the draw, and Army held on

for the victory. It was the Black Knights' 10th one-goal game of the season.

Army upped its record against Navy to 27-35-13 since the first meeting in 1938 (a 1-0 Army win), while improving to 16-12-9 versus the Midshipmen at West Point.

Navy is 0-3-3 in its last six trips to the Hudson Valley, with its last road victory coming in 1996.

Army won the 2006 home matchup in double-overtime, 4-3, before picking up a 2-1 overtime victory last season in Annapolis.

The Black Knights finish the season with a 3-14 record, including a 1-6 mark in the Patriot League. Navy also wraps up its season with a 4-11-3 ledger that included a 0-6-1 conference record.

Firstie A.J. Glubzinski gets a shutout on Senior Night versus Navy. PHOTO BY CARLISLE STOCKTON



Volleyball ups record to 24-3 with weekend sweep

By Tracy Nelson
Athletic Communications

The Army women's volleyball team did exactly what it wanted to during a critical two-match road swing last weekend. Following a 3-0 win over Bucknell Nov. 8 at Davis Gym in Lewisburg, Pa., the Black Knights went undefeated over a brutal two-day stretch to improve to 24-3 overall and 11-1 in Patriot League play.

Army, which swept Colgate Nov. 7 to start the weekend, topped the Bison by identical 25-21 scores in the first two sets and completed the sweep via a 25-20 victory in the third session.

Three firsties paced a Black Knight offense that managed a .255 hitting percentage on the night. Right side hitter Briana Stremick (.367) and outside hitter Elizabeth Lazzari (.364) led the way with 15 and 14 kills, respectively. Middle blocker Jamie Clark finished the match with 10 kills.

Cow setter Maureen Bannon notched her fourth double-double of the season, assisting on 38 of Army's 47 kills and adding a match-best 13 digs to a standout effort.

Lazzari and Cow libero Shara Hoffman helped to stabilize a Black Knight defense that held Bucknell to a .179 attack percentage with nine and seven digs, respectively.

Army totaled four blocks, including two each from Stremick and Firstie middle Rachael Breinling.

In other action around the conference, American remained atop the Patriot League standings (12-0) after a 3-0 win at Lafayette Nov. 8.

The Black Knights still sit comfortably in second having already qualified for Patriot League Tournament, which features the Top 4 teams in the conference, Nov. 21-22, at the site of the highest seed.

Army returns to action with its final regular season matches this weekend at West Point. The team hosts service-academy rival Navy at 8 p.m. Friday in a match that is set to be aired live on ESPNU.

Less than 24 hours later, the Black Knights host defending champion American at 4 p.m. Saturday.

Both matches will be played at Army's Gillis Field House, where the team boasts a 9-0 record this season.



Cow libero Shara Hoffman helped stabilize the Black Knight defense versus Bucknell with seven digs that helped hold the Bison to a .179 attack percentage during their win Nov. 8.
ERIC S. BARTELT/PV



WTU Soldiers meet Giants

New York Giants defensive end Jerome McDougle signs autographs for Soldiers assigned to West Point's Warrior Transition Unit during a lunchtime visit on Veterans Day. The Soldiers also were visited by Giants offensive guards Kevin Boothe and Grey Ruegamer.
EMILY TOWER/PV

CLUB RESULTS

• **Women's Rugby:** Women's Rugby participated in the Northeast Rugby Union Championships Nov. 8-9 at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. The team came away with a split on the weekend and finished as runner-up in the championships.

Army faced Vassar Nov. 8 in the semifinal and defeated them 7-0. Plebe Jessica Sexauer got the only try of the game as Yearling Ashley Miller hit the conversion to give Army the 7-0 victory.

A steady rain and muddy conditions made it tough for both sides to string together phases during the Northeast semifinal. The lone score of the game came from Sexauer who took it in from 60 meters out.

The run started from a broken play when Yearling flyhalf Sylvia Thomas took it to the short side and put Sexauer into open space. Sexauer did the rest, breaking five tackles along the way.

The West Point women showed their discipline through a 10-minute defensive stand inside their own 22 near the end of the match.

In the championship game Nov. 9, Army faced Brown University, whom they beat 17-0 two weeks ago in the New England Rugby Union final but this time came up short in a 24-15 loss.

Army received both tries from Sexauer while Miller added a conversion. Miller also added a penalty kick try.

Army started out well with a 10-0 lead early on from a penalty goal from Miller and a try from Sexauer with a conversion by Miller.

Brown answered with two converted tries of their own, and that momentum carried.

It was back and forth from then on, and they fought to the final whistle but in the end fell short of their goal.

The results mean West Point takes second place in the Northeast and the No. 9 seed for the USA Rugby National Championship Tournament to be played in April.

Sports calendar Nov. 14 - 23

Corps

FRIDAY -- VOLLEYBALL VS. NAVY, GILLIS FIELD HOUSE, 8 P.M. (ESPNU)

SATURDAY -- RIFLE VS. TCU, TRONS RUE MARKSMANSHIP CENTER, 9 A.M.

SATURDAY -- VOLLEYBALL VS. AMERICAN, GILLIS FIELD HOUSE, 4 P.M.

SATURDAY -- MEN'S BASKETBALL

VS. DARTMOUTH, CHRISTL ARENA, 4 P.M.

TUESDAY -- WRESTLING VS. FRANKLIN & MARSHALL, GILLIS FIELD HOUSE, 7:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY -- WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. MARYLAND-EASTERN SHORE, CHRISTL ARENA, 7 P.M.

NOV. 22 -- FOOTBALL @ RUTGERS, PISCATAWAY, N.J., NOON (SPORTSNET NEW YORK -- CHANNEL 70, HD CHANNEL 770.)

NOV. 23 -- SWIMMING AND DIVING VS. COLUMBIA, CRANDALL POOL, NOON.

NOV. 23 -- WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. LOYOLA, CHRISTL ARENA, NOON.

NOV. 23 -- MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. PRINCETON, CHRISTL ARENA, 2:30 P.M.

Club

NOV. 21 -- MEN'S RUGBY VS. NAVY, ANDERSON RUGBY COMPLEX, 7 P.M.

Flag Football Standings

*Final Standings and playoff results through Monday

	W	L	T
1. ODIA	12	0	0
2. MPs	7	5	0
3. STEWART MAR. #2	7	5	0
4. MEDDAC	7	5	0
5. USCC/BTD	3	8	1
6. 105TH ANG	3	9	0
7. STEWART MAR. #1	2	9	1

Playoff quarterfinals: MEDDAC 27, USCC/BTD 12; 105TH ANG 8, Marines #2 6; MPs 20, Marines #1 6.

Playoff semifinals: 105TH ANG 26, MPs 21; ODIA 24, MEDDAC 0.
Flag Football Championship: ODIA vs. 105TH ANG.