POINTER VIEW®

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Army Basketball vs. Colgate at 1 p.m. Sat., Black Jack Build-A-Bear

NMAA graduates first class, models USMA

By Emily Tower

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has begun a Long Gray Line of its own right.

The first class of the National Military Academy of Afghanistan, which was modeled after the U.S. Military Academy, graduated Jan. 25, making Afghanistan as a nation and American mentors extremely proud.

"To be part of this history and to witness what it was to what it is now cannot be adequately described in words," Col. Edward Naessens, senior academic mentor to the Afghan academy and USMA deputy physics department head, stated in an e-mail received Monday from Afghanistan. "I am so proud of the past U.S. mentors, the Afghan faculty and leadership and the cadets. I look at these graduates, and there is no doubt in my mind that Afghanistan has a great future."

The academy began in 2003 after Afghan military leaders chose USMA as a model. Leaders also considered modeling the academy after Britain's Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. A mentor team composed of USMA cadre, instructors from the Air Force Academy, Afghan interpreters and 10 Turkish officers have helped to establish the academy.

The team members "mentor, advise and support the Afghan faculty and department heads, the registrar, the brigade tactical department, the physical education program and the moral/ethical character development program," Naessens stated in an e-mail.

The academy grew from dire conditions. Buildings were bombed-out shells, and unexploded ordnance and mines riddled the ground.

"To see the vast improvements in infrastructure in four short years is one of the most professional rewarding experiences that I have; however, this pales in comparison to seeing cadets graduate from fully functional academic, military, physical and ethical programs of instructions to become leaders of competence and character in the Afghanistan National Army for the country of Afghanistan," Naessens stated in an e-mail.

The 84 National Military Academy of Afghanistan graduating cadets from the inaugural 2009 class gather for a class photo.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE COMBINED SECURITY TRANSITION COMMAND AFGHANISTAN PAO

Some 84 cadets graduated in the academy's first class, and most, 24, branched infantry.

Twenty others branched aviation and will attend the U.S. Army Aviation School at Fort Rucker, Ala..

Logistics and artillery branches each received 13 graduates, and armor and signal each received seven.

Naessens expects the next class to include the first graduates to join the engineer branch, which currently is under development. About 20 of the graduating cadets studied civil engineering and will work with the Afghanistan Engineering District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The 84 graduates represent 120 accepted applicants out of 360, Naessens said. Next year's class has 215 on target to graduate out of more than 1,000 applications. The 300 cadets in the class of 2013 already have been selected from more than 2,200 applications.

The entire country of Afghanistan celebrated with graduates, Afghan President Hamid Karzai said during remarks at the ceremony.

"I am very proud to be a part of this ceremony, which is a very important and vital step toward a stable and self-sufficient country," he said. "Today, you all are graduating because of the hope of the mothers who have lost their fathers, brothers and husbands while defending this country."

U.S. Military Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Buster Hagenbeck stands with recent graduates from the National Military Academy of Afghanistan. Of the 84 graduates of NMAA, 24 of them branched infantry, and another 20 went into the aviation field and will attend the U.S. Army Aviation School at Fort Rucker, Ala. The 84 graduates represent 120 of the original accepted applicants for the academy.

Yearling celebration

Yearling cadets and a cadet date pose for a photo at the Yearling Banquet that was held Jan. 31. The banquet is part of Yearling Weekend, which is a longstanding tradition for the yearling cadets and their guests. The banquet dinner, held at Washington Hall, was followed by a Hop at Eisenhower Hall.

JOHN PELLINO/DOIM MMB

Taking small steps can protect children's teeth

Submitted by DENTAC

By participating in the annual celebration of National Children's Dental Health Month, members of the West Point Dental Activity, parents, teachers and others can help keep children's smiles beautiful.

What children eat and when they eat it may affect not only their general health but also their oral health. Junk foods and drinks gradually have replaced nutritious beverages and foods for many people.

A steady diet of sugary foods and drinks can ruin teeth, especially among those who snack throughout the day. These include grazing habitually on foods with minimal nutritional value and frequently sipping on sugary drinks. Sugar on teeth provides food for bacteria, which produce acid. The acid can eat away the enamel on teeth.

Almost all foods have some type of sugar that cannot and should not be eliminated from our diets. Many of these foods contain important nutrients and add enjoyment to eating. Nevertheless, there is a risk for tooth decay from a diet high in sugars and starches. The American Dental Association has provided ways to reduce your children's risk of tooth decay:

• Sugary foods and drinks should be consumed with meals. Saliva production increases during meals and helps neutralize acid production and rinse food particles from the mouth;

• Limit between-meal snacks. If children crave a snack, offer them nutritious foods;

• If your children chew gum, make it sugarless. Chewing sugarless gum after eating can increase saliva flow and help wash out food and decay-producing acid;

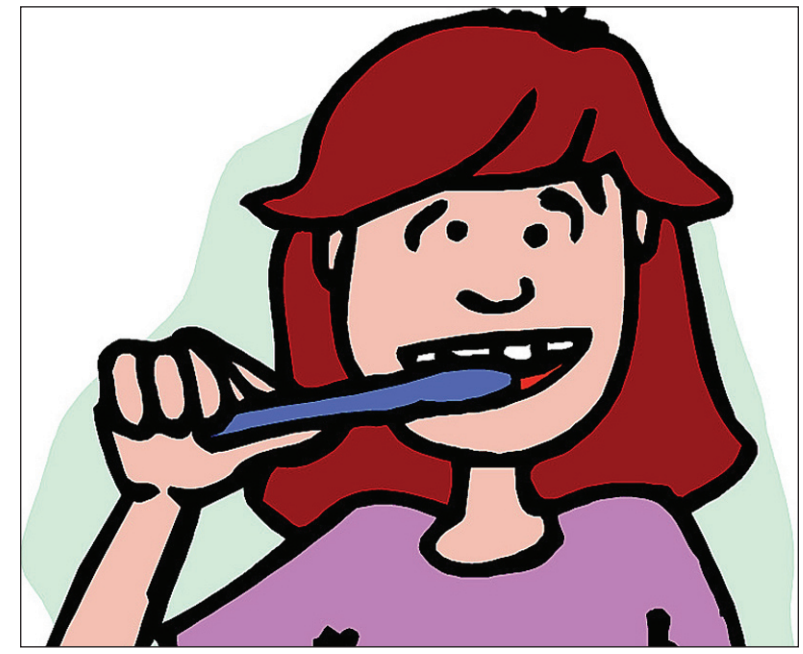
• Monitor beverage consumption. Instead of soft drinks all day, children also should choose water and low-fat milk;

• Help children develop good brushing and flossing habits;

• Schedule regular dental visits.

Military Family members are reminded to seek any dental advice or treatment from their private or United Concordia dentist.

West Point DENTAC will be working with local schools Feb. 23-27 to celebrate National Children's Dental Health Month.



Iraqi roundtable

The Army Center of Excellence for the Professional Military Ethic, located in Taylor Hall, hosted Maj. Gen. Abbas Fezaa, director of Iraqi National Defense University; Maj. Gen. Sartep Taher, commandant of Iraqi Military Academy in Qualachulon; and Brig. Gen. Mohan S. Reyah, director of the Iraqi Center of Military Values, Principles and Leadership Development, for a roundtable discussion Tuesday. EMILY TOWER/PV

It was 100 days till graduation 2009
A time they'd never forget
(If they only could remember)

The firstie class presents 100th Night at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20-21 at the Eisenhower Hall Theatre.

The
West Point Band
presents
Music at West Point
Tuba Recital
featuring
Staff Sergeant
Scott Beaver

Sunday, February 8
3:00 p.m.
West Point's Jewish Chapel

Staff Sgt. Yalin Chi
piano
Staff Sgt. Brian Broelmann
saxophone
Staff Sgt. Phil Stehly
trombone

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

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

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

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

Difficulty: Easy

See SOLUTION, page 10

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Kenyan leadership visits West Point

Story and photo by
Sgt. Vincent Fusco
Directorate of Communications

A delegation of four senior Kenyan military officers visited West Point Jan. 26 to learn about the academy's military, educational and physical curricula as part of an officer professional development plan.

The delegation received command, academic, military instruction and professional military ethic briefs and also took a historical tour of West Point and joined the Corps of Cadets for lunch at the Cadet Mess Hall.

"I've read a little bit about West Point," Brig. Gen. Leonard Ngondi, chief instructor and deputy commandant of the Defence Staff College of Kenya in Nairobi, said during his first visit to America. "Now we see why the American forces are a superpower. We can see the seriousness of the government with regard to building leadership and character."

According to Ngondi, the main benefit of their visit is to improve their military college's cadet training curriculum in the areas of academics and character-building in particular.

"We have a lot to learn from West Point," Ngondi said. "I think (building character) is a lesson that cuts across not only cadets, but the entire armed forces."

Brigadier Gen. Arthur Owuor, college secretary, National Defence College in Nairobi, was impressed with amount of history preserved at West Point, as well as the scientific approach to the physical development program apparent in the department's structure and personnel.

"If we could adopt a similar approach, who knows where we'll be," Owour said.

In addition, the delegation met two Kenyan cadets currently attending West Point: Yearling Duncan Makau, Company D-2, who will enter the Kenyan Army; and Cow Robert Tonio, Company C-2, an exchange cadet from the U.S. Air Force Academy who will enter the Kenyan Air Force.

"I was pleasantly surprised to meet two young Kenyans who enrolled on their own," Owuor. "It's a challenge to see how we can harness these two into our military and how we can send more."

As of Oct. 1, U.S. Africa Command became a fully unified combatant command responsible for all U.S. military operations in 53 African nations, Carol Miller, deputy chief of the International Affairs office at West Point, said.

Following that establishment, International Affairs is preparing to facilitate further visits to West Point. A delegation from Rwanda is expected to conduct a similar mission in the near future.

"I anticipate that we're going to be seeing increased visits by African nations," Miller said.

The International Affairs office plans, coordinates, executes and provides U.S. Military Academy headquarters oversight to selected staff, faculty and cadet programs.

These programs include international exchanges, visits, staff deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and travel and security cooperation activities outside the continental United States.

Last year, West Point hosted 96 international military visits.

A delegation of senior Kenyan military officers visited West Point Jan. 26 to meet with staff members and cadets and gather information for professional military development. The visiting officers were (in front, from left to right): Col. Charles Rutere Ngenda (in khaki), training officer at the Kenyan defense headquarters; Brig. Gen. Leonard Ngondi (in khaki), chief instructor and deputy commandant of the Defence Staff College of Kenya in Nairobi; Brig. Gen. Arthur Owuor (in blue), college secretary, National Defence College in Nairobi; and Col. Richard Kasyoki Mubnywoki (in khaki), chief instructor at the Kenyan military academy.

News & Notes

Safety essential in home heating

From staff reports

Though no statistics are yet available for 2008, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 62,200 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated losses of 670 deaths, 1,550 injuries and $909 million in direct property damage in 2005.

With the increased price of fuel, many people are using alternative heating sources to reduce their fuel costs.

Take precautions to prevent home heating-related fires and incidents involving unsafe levels of carbon monoxide. Residents should use carbon monoxide and smoke detectors.

Choose a space heater that has been tested to the latest safety standards and certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. Select a space heater with a guard around the flame area or heating element.

Place the heater on a level, hard and noncombustible surface, not on rugs or carpets or near bedding or drapes. Keep the heater at least three feet from bedding, drapes, furniture or other flammable materials.

Only use the type of fuel directed by the manufacturer. Do not use gasoline in kerosene heaters.

Turn off the space heaters whenever you leave the house or before going to sleep.

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.

Community Features and Photos

Award-winning NCO hopes to inspire cadets

Story and photo by
Emily Tower

One of the toughest decisions in Master Sgt. Ryan Goldsmith's life was about duty -- stay home and fulfill the duty of a husband and father or deploy and carry out the duty of a Soldier.

He had three children and one about to arrive. But he was needed in Iraq, too.

Goldsmith had the option of staying near Fort Campbell, Ky., with his wife until their baby arrived, and to civilians, this might be the natural choice.

But, Goldsmith and his wife, Chrissi, knew the first 100 days in-theater are the most dangerous for troops. His young platoon leader had not yet deployed, and this would be Goldsmith's third combat tour.

"We agreed I had to be there (in Iraq)," Goldsmith, now the equal opportunity advisor to the commandant of the U.S. Corps of Cadets, said last week. "More than 30 other people (were) depending on me."

As a military police platoon sergeant, Goldsmith knew he had to be the standard bearer and expert upon whom dozens of Soldiers would rely. So, his second son was born while he was half a world away.

"I am torn between the amount of time I have had to spend away from my Family and the opportunities the Army has provided my Family," Goldsmith, who is known as "Sergeant G" to many of his Soldiers, said. "I've always said it has been a good life. It has paid for everything we have."

It's also what brought Goldsmith and Chrissi together in the first place.

Goldsmith, who initially enlisted as an armor crew member in 1992, was serving his first tour as a military policeman at the now-defunct Sierra Army Depot, Calif., a remote nuclear storage facility "and the most romantic of settings you can imagine," Goldsmith joked.

He had a motorcycle, and Chrissi, also an MP at the time, told him she liked it. He asked if she wanted to go for a ride, and she did. He later found a note she had written explaining she'd like to see him again. That was more than 15 years ago.

Since then, Chrissi has been Goldsmith's strength and has helped him succeed in what's best for their Family. The example that pops to mind when discussing how selfless Chrissi's support has been takes Goldsmith back to 1995 when he was studying to make sergeant. She stayed up with him every night to help him study.

"We had cram sessions for months every night," Goldsmith said.

Chrissi got to attend as Goldsmith finally was allowed to pin on his sergeant's stripes. That was the last promotion she witnessed because of deployments and her dedication to Family.

She had to miss Monday's promotion to master sergeant because she and the four Goldsmith children continue to maintain a 10-acre hobby farm near Fort Campbell while Goldsmith completes what likely will be his final assignment before retiring from the Army.

Goldsmith, who grew up in rural Wyoming, came to West Point last month for his second tour in the Northeast. He also has served in New Hampshire as a recruiter.

Through the Army, Goldsmith has visited all 48 of the contiguous United States and Germany, which is part of the reason he joined in the first place.

"I wanted to be on the first smoking thing out of town," Goldsmith said.

Along with seeking adventure not found in a tiny town, Goldsmith liked the fact the Army would pay for his college education. He continues to make progress toward a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

But, he figured when he enlisted nearly 17 years ago, he would take a couple of years as a tanker and move onto something else.

When it came time to choose between re-enlisting or parting ways with the Army, Goldsmith realized being an armor crew member didn't translate well into a civilian job. Still, something about the Army held his interest.

"It was the sense of teamwork for one," Goldsmith, who reclassed as a military policeman and re-enlisted, said. "I was Joe Average in high school. And doing things even in peacetime -- riding around in helicopters and tanks -- made me feel like I was part of a country that would help others. I felt important. I felt a big sense of belonging and purpose. People believed in me."

Goldsmith was part of the first rotation of troops in Operation Iraqi Freedom I in 2003. He helped set up the first police academy in Al Kut, Iraq, between dozens of convoy escorts and raids on illegal weapons markets.

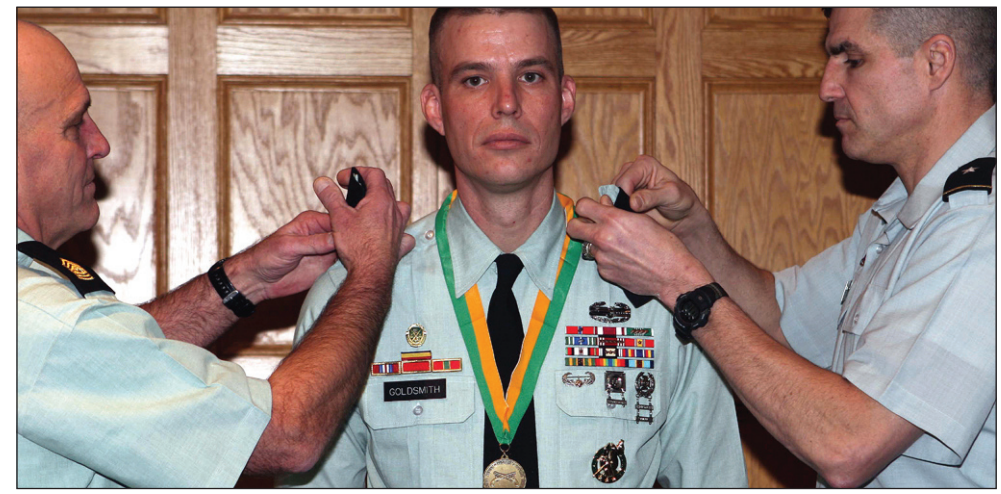
He watched constant improvement and saw the police force in Al Kut and Karbala go from destroyed buildings with little manpower and no supplies to functioning, trained and equipped forces.

"It was neat to see (the police force) go from a tool of oppression to something that protects people," Goldsmith said, comparing the scene in Iraq between his first tour in 2003 and his second in 2006.

Goldsmith also has been deployed to Afghanistan. His combat tours made him re-evaluate life and understand how important his Family is. Each aspect of his Army career has taught him something he says makes him a better leader.

Before becoming a recruiter, he said he never smiled and was shy. He was intimidated by his first task on his first day of recruiting -- making 100 phone calls.

"But I believed in the mission," he said, explaining he learned how to be a stronger leader by accepting the challenges before him and doing his best to solve them. "Recruiting was very challenging but very rewarding. It taught me how to relate to people. It helped me understand that I truly believe in what the Army is doing."



Brigadier Gen. Michael Linnington, commandant of the U.S. Corps of Cadets, right, and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mahoney, USCC senior noncommissioned officer, promote Ryan Goldsmith, USCC equal opportunity advisor, to master sergeant during a ceremony Monday in Washington Hall's Red Reeder Room. During the ceremony, Goldsmith also received the Order of the Marechaussee, an honor bestowed upon outstanding members of the Military Police Corps.

His attitude helped him achieve the second-highest award in recruiting -- the U.S. Army Recruiting Ring -- in one year less than it takes the average recipient to earn it.

Goldsmith's biography includes a smattering of awards and decorations -- two Bronze Star Medals, five Army Commendation Medals and six Army Achievement Medals, including one for performing first aid at a car accident scene while off duty.

He added the Order of the Marechaussee on Monday when Sgt. Maj. Franklin Blanche, provost marshal senior noncommissioned officer, presented him with the award. Goldsmith earned his award -- Serial No. 625 -- in three years less than the average, and only 10 percent of military policeman qualified to receive it actually do, Blanche said.

The award recognizes members of the MP Corps who have "professionalism, high standards of integrity and morality and (promote) .. esprit de corps (that) are unparalleled, according to the award."

To Goldsmith, the award is a reminder of the hundreds of Soldiers with whom he has worked.

"I can't do anything by myself in this job," he said. "My Soldiers are in this distinction for me. The whole team is in here. It fills me with a lot of pride on the things we had done, and I emphasize the we."

Goldsmith gets to work with a different type of Soldier now that he's stationed at West Point -- officers in training. Brig. Gen. Michael Linnington, USCC commandant, said after promoting Goldsmith he is "extremely proud" to have an EO advisor of Goldsmith's caliber.

Goldsmith said he hopes he can inspire cadets to treat everyone with respect and describes his leadership style as one of a motivator.

"I'm not a yeller; I'm a motivator," he said. "Several people have said they can count on one hand the times I've had to scream, and those were for safety issues and that sort of thing. I'm not into micromanaging.

"I don't like to get too far down in the weeds. I like to get them to want to do what they have to do not because I told them to do it," he added.

But at the end of the day -- believing in the Army is the most important thing.

"This has got to be in your blood," he said.

TSP TICKER

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S Fund	--	- 0.02	(11.2725)
I Fund	--	- 0.16	(12.4140)

Cadets learn tactics of trench warfare

Story and photo by
Sgt. Vincent Fusco
Directorate of Communications

Cadets taking History of the Military Art were given a glimpse of how trench warfare worked during World War I Jan. 28-29. Through a simple practical exercise, cadets learned how German and French tactics changed from 1914-18.

Major Thomas Spahr, instructor of military history and facilitator of the lesson, said the exercise was first designed by Cliff Rogers, the senior professor of military history, and has been refined and improved over the years.

The lesson took cadets out from behind their desks by dividing them into groups of German attackers and French defenders. The attackers were positioned on the stage in Robinson Auditorium while the defenders hid in the "trenches" between the rows of audience seats.

Cadets were given wads of paper to represent artillery and machine gun rounds. On the instructors' command, the attackers threw their "artillery" at the defending cadets. When they exhausted their artillery rounds, they were allowed to advance into the seats only by stepping on the arms of the chairs.

Their first battle, which simulated the tactics of 1914 and 1915, ended with the quick defeat of the Germans because of the French's close-knit frontline defense. In 1917, the Germans developed a "rolling barrage" of artillery in the hopes of taking the French frontline out of the picture. This was simulated in the lesson with a length of string strung between two instructors across the width of the defense area.

While the rolling barrage tactic was a slight improvement for the Germans, the outcome was the same as the last. The only change the French made at this time was an increase in their numbers on the frontline. But in the next year's battle, the Germans introduced the stormtrooper tactic to trench warfare. This time, a few of the cadets were allowed to walk into the aisles next to the seats in order to engage the French.

When this happened, the instructors paused the exercise, told the defenders to face the attackers, drop their paper and throw it again with the hand opposite what they normally used to simulate the loss of command and control. The stormtroopers easily crippled the French defense and marked a decisive German victory.

"I was surprised at the differences between each scenario's outcome," said Firstie James Sessions III, from Company F-1 and a Wortham, Texas, native. "The number of people on each side did not change, but the shift in tactics/capabilities allowed for wildly different endings."

During and at the end of the class, the instructors and cadets discussed where the Germans' tactical ideas came from, Spahr said. Their lieutenants and captains, who witnessed firsthand the effects of battle tactics, developed their own ideas to pitch to senior leadership.

"The German army listened to ideas from the lower levels," Spahr said. "They were saying, 'this would work better,' and, 'why don't we do this?'"

Spahr and the other instructors cited flexibility as the common factor between the German army of World War I and today's U.S. Army. When commanders asked for new tactics, they established an intent and gave their subordinates the freedom to interpret that intent and execute a solution.

Their discussion concluded the Germans were good at adapting to their enemy, understanding the conditions of warfare and developing tactical solutions.

But they did not have the strategy to manage their Soldiers and hold onto their victories. They also undermined the comparatively strong will of the French people, who were prepared to fight a longer war than the Germans expected.

Spahr hopes that the cadets will use what they learned to take their jobs as officers seriously and expand the knowledge base in their profession.

"We're teaching the cadets not what to think, but how to think about warfare," Spahr said. "Hopefully they remember (the exercise) because it's different from what they do in the classroom day in and day out."

The cadets enjoyed the lesson, both the physical aspect and the group discussion. It was another way the cadets were able to approach history lessons other than out of textbooks.

"It was a fun exercise, an escape from our normal classroom routine," said Firstie Michelle Miller, from Company G-2 and a Gatlinburg, Tenn., native. "After class, it was easier to visualize how the battles happened better then looking at unit symbols on a map."

Spahr cites military personalities such as Gen. George S. Patton and Lt. Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, as skilled tacticians and leaders who were also deeply interested in the history of warfare. He hopes that with lessons such as this, the military history department can not just teach history, but inspire passion for it as well.

"If you make learning fun, the cadets will learn more and learn better," Spahr said. "If we can get cadets to do that, then we succeeded."

Attacking cadets are met with a wad of "machine gun" paper during their assault on the trenches in Robinson Auditorium Jan. 28. During the lesson in trench warfare, advancing cadets were only able to step on the arms of the chairs to assault the defense.

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USMA cadets, Soldiers honor FDR's birthday

Story and photo by Eric S. Bartelt

"After all, there is an element in the readjustment of our financial security more important than currency, more important than gold and that is the confidence of the people … We have provided the machinery to restore our financial system, it is up to you to support and make it work. Together we cannot fail," said President Franklin D. Roosevelt, during a fireside chat March 12, 1933, eight days after he was sworn into office.

During these tough economic times and times of great struggle for the nation, it's important to reflect back on the difference makers and those who shaped America to what it would become, especially in the latter part of the 20th century.

A contingent of cadets and Soldiers from West Point participated in the 127th birthday ceremony honoring the former president in Hyde Park Jan. 30, which also included the opening of a new exhibit called the "Banners Along the Hudson: FDR's Hudson River Valley Collection," at the FDR Presidential Library and Museum.

Members from the Military Police Honor Guard participated as flag bearers (color guard) and the firing party, two members of the U.S. Military Academy Band played Taps during the ceremony, six cadets from 4th Regiment served as the honor guard and Brig. Gen. Patrick Finnegan, dean of the academic board, placed a wreath at the foot of Roosevelt's tomb on the behalf of President Obama.

It's a ceremony that West Point is involved in every year to commemorate the Roosevelt's birthday, and this year is particularly special because of the new president taking office and the tough times he faces much like Roosevelt faced during the turbulent, post-Great Depression times of the early 1930s.

"It's an honor and privilege to think about doing this at this time in our history and represent President Barack Obama," Finnegan said. "He's only been president for 10 days (as of Jan. 30), but who, at this point, clearly is inspiring confidence in a nation that needs it and a nation that needs the help that FDR gave to a country in very similar circumstances.

"This is a historical place, the first-ever presidential library, and we have a historically elected president, our first African-American president," he added. "It's an honor for me to take part in something like this."

Light snow flakes floated in the sky during the ceremony that included the placement of 10 wreaths at the burial site of the president and his wife, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt.

A presentation of wreaths were made by the Town of Hyde Park, American Legion Post 1303, the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce, the March of Dimes, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, the FDR Presidential Library, the National Park Service and West Point.

Firstie Ty Volkman, 4th Regiment commander, led a group of six cadets, all of whom were 4th Regiment staff members, to serve as the honor guard for the event. Volkman saw it as an honor to be involved in the memorial service to honor the 32nd president of the United States.

Brigadier Gen. Patrick Finnegan, dean of the academic board, places a wreath at the gravesite of former President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his wife, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, to honor the president's 127th birthday Friday in Hyde Park. The ceremony, which involved six cadets from 4th Regiment who served as the honor guard and 14 Soldiers from West Point who served as the firing party and the flag bearers, took place in the Rose Garden at the FDR Presidential Library and Museum.

"I'm glad that our academy could come out here and that my staff and I could come out here to represent our academy at this service," Volkman said. "I think what it shows the most is how our military, no matter what party or who's in the White House, has sworn to an oath to protect the Constitution and the people of this country who elected (the president) and, therefore, we serve them all.

"It's quite an honor to be a part of President Roosevelt's birthday memorial service," he added.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum currently has a special exhibition called "Action and Action Now! FDR's First 100 Days," which explores the nation-changing first 100 days of his presidency.

Also, the display that opened Jan. 30, "Banners Along the Hudson," is available to be viewed in the lobby of the Wallace Visitor Center on the FDR grounds.

The display includes a collection commemorating the 400th anniversary of the pioneering voyages of Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain and the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton's steamboat journey up the Hudson River.

The library and museum are located more than an hour northeast of West Point on the east side of the Hudson River. They are located in Hyde Park, the birthplace of Roosevelt, about four miles north of Poughkeepsie and a couple miles from Marist College and the Culinary Institute of America.

For more information about the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, visit **www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu**.

West Point Craft Shop offers plenty for children and adults

Story and photo by Kathy Eastwood

The West Point Craft Shop at Bldg. 648 behind the Post Office is often overlooked as a place to go to learn crafts for children and adults. Adults can learn about creating sun catchers, stained glass, framing, matting and quilting.

The Craft Shop also offers a children's crafts program every Saturday from 10 a.m.-noon.

Children were invited Jan. 31 to create penguin mobiles and scarves.

"I like to make art," said 6-year-old Isabella Crow. "I do some things at home, but I don't have all the supplies (they have here)."

Saturday, the children will learn to make cat boxes, bear houses and a cat sign all with a valentine theme.

"The children's crafts program is new," Annmarie Thens, art specialist at the shop, said. "We are hoping to get more children involved in crafts."

Many projects are available for children such as money banks to paint and decorate, sand art, jewelry making with stone beads and bird houses.

The Craft Shop also offers birthday parties for "crafty kids."

"The children select a craft project, and the event coordinator will take care of all the prep work along with crafting instructions," Thens said.

The parents will bring the cake, ice cream, utensils and decorations. The event coordinator will order pizza and setup party decorations. Party packages are available for ages 5-12 and parties, can be arranged for children younger than 5. Buffalo Soldier Pavilion located across the street from the Craft Shop is used for the birthday parties, which has a gaming room with basketball, pool and foosball.

"We do the cleaning up, too," Judith Chura-Suchara, recreation aide, said. "(We give the parents a break) because they don't have to worry about the children making a mess."

Isabella Crow, 6, shows off her completed penquin mobile she made at the West Point Craft Shop Jan. 31.

For information on crafts or scheduling events, call 938-4812. Hours are 3-9 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays.

West Point provides HOPE to homeless

By Maj. Mark Richards
G-3 Tactical Officer

It was a cold evening, well below freezing, when 2,000 volunteers stepped out on to the streets of New York City just after midnight to determine how many people in the city are homeless.

Twenty members of the West Point community participated in the seventh Homeless Outreach Population Estimate in New York City Jan. 26. The survey estimates the number of unsheltered people living on city streets, subway platforms, parks and other public places to help gauge the success of outreach strategies against street homelessness.

The task was simple -- approach everyone we came across and ask them a few simple questions: Do you have a place to stay tonight? What kind of place is it?

If they didn't have anywhere to go, they would be given a ride to a local shelter for the night if they desired it.

Some groups came across only a few people bundled up and asleep on the streets while other groups interviewed dozens of people on subway platforms.

The group of West Point volunteers joined members of Common Ground, a leader in developing solutions for ending homelessness, to count neighborhoods in mid-town Manhattan. Becky Kanis, a 1991 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and the director of innovations for Common Ground, met the group at the Times Square Hotel and spent time before the count began talking about how people become homeless.

"The Times Square Hotel is the largest permanent supportive housing project in the nation with 652 units," Kanis said. "And we housed 450 of the longest street homeless New Yorkers in a six-month period last year."

She said about 102,000 people are homeless in the United States. The 2008 HOPE in New York City determined there were just more than 3,300 unsheltered people living in the five boroughs, which was a 25 percent decrease since 2005.

"This is a community's responsibility to solve this," Kanis said.

Many cadet volunteers had their eyes opened during the trip.

"I cannot believe how completely ignorant I was about homelessness," Firstie Loris Lepri said. "My perspective has completely changed and I am very glad that I participated in the program."

Cow Derek Henricks also had his mind changed about homelessness.

"The next time I travel to New York City and walk past someone standing on the sidewalk asking for money, I will better understand the situation they are in because there are so many variables that cause homelessness," he said.

Homelessness also indirectly affects the military as about 25 percent of homeless people are veterans.

More information about homelessness and how to participate in next year's HOPE can be found at **www.nyc.gov/dhs**.

Twenty members of the West Point community participated Jan. 26 in the seventh Homeless Outreach Population Estimate in New York City. The survey estimates the number of unsheltered people living on city streets, subway platforms, parks and other public places to help gauge the success of outreach strategies against street homelessness.

FMWR Blurbs

Valentine's Day candy gram

BOSS Valentine's Day candy grams are on sale. Orders are accepted through today.

A BOSS Soldier will deliver the candy gram, which includes a stuffed animal pair, chocolate and a personal note, Feb. 12-13 to locations on post only.

For more information, call 938-6497.

Defensive driving class

The next defensive driving class will take place 8 a.m-3 p.m. Saturday at ACS, Bldg 622.

To register, call 938-2401.

Valentine's Dinner Dance

Valentine's Dinner Dance is scheduled for 6-10 p.m. Feb. 14 at the Pierce Dining Room of the West Point Club.

To make reservations, call 938-5120.

ITR trip

Celebrate Valentine's Day in New York City with your sweetheart.

The ITR office is providing transportation to the city for a fee.

Depart West Point at 10 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. Feb. 14.

For more information, call 938-3601.

Brick challenge

The FMWR Fitness Center is hosting a free Brick Challenge starting at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 14.

The challenge will consist of a 45-minute indoor cycle/spin followed by a four-mile outdoor run around West Point.

The run is self-paced. Bring outdoor running gear.

Sign up at the front desk of the Fitness Center.

Dance lessons

Ballroom dancing classes are going on now at Cullum Hall.

Classes consist of six consecutive Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and end March 3.

To register, call 938-3601 or stop by 695 Buckner Loop.

Visa and Master Card are accepted.

Story hour

Story hour at the Post Library is scheduled for 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Feb. 17-April 28.

All West Point children ages 3-5 are invited to attend these free events.

Registration is required weekly.

For more information, call 938-2974 or stop by the library, Bldg. 622.

Polar Fest

The 2009 Polar Fest returns to the West Point Ski area noon-9 p.m. Feb. 21.

The event includes ski competitions, a pig roast, live band, children's crafts and more.

Save money by pre-registering Feb. 1-20 at the Ski Sales office.

There will be free admission for Families of deployed Soldiers.

For more information, call 938-8810.

Scout dinner

The Scout Masters Council will host its annual Eagle Scouts and Gold Award Dinner 7-8:30 p.m. Feb. 25 at the West Point Club.

The dinner is free and open to all members of the West Point community. This event celebrates scouting and recognizes members of the Corps of Cadets and the West Point community who received scout awards.

The uniform for the evening is Class A's or semi-formal.

To R.S.V.P., contact Yearling Bryce Martens at *Bryce.Martens@usma.edu*.

Craft Shop sale

The Craft Shop sale continues through Feb. 28.

The sale includes 50 percent off all in-stock molding and mats and 10 percent off custom orders including shadow boxes and PCS/retirement gifts.

Go to **www.westpointmwr.com**, print out the sale ad and bring it in to receive a free mat cut design.

For more information, call 938-4812.

English Language Learners

ACS is hosting English Language Learners 9 a.m.-noon through March 31.

Classes are held at ACS, Bldg. 622. All skill levels are welcome.

For more information, call 938-0632.

Volunteer of the Year awards

The Volunteer of the Year awards will be presented at the annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony from 9:30-11:30 a.m. April 20 at the West Point Club Grand Ballroom.

This year, awards will be given in six categories: active-duty military member, military spouse, military Family, civilian/retiree, youth and cadet.

All registered West Point volunteers are eligible to receive these awards. If you know someone who exemplifies selfless service to this community, please fill out a Volunteer of the Year nomination form available on the ACS Army Volunteer Corps page at **www.westpointmwr.com** or from Army Community Service, Bldg. 622.

Return to Jen Pagio, Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator, at *jennifer.pagio@usma.edu* by March 13 or fax to 938-3019.

Education survey

Take the Department of Defense Education Activity survey through Feb. 28 at **www.dodea.edu**.

The survey provides feedback about the quality of education and areas needing improvement.

All parents of DODEA school-aged children are encouraged to complete it.

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.

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.

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.

Skate program

The FMWR Community Skate Program takes place 3:30-5 p.m. Sundays through March 8 at Tate Rink.

Call 938-3066 for more information.

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.

CYSS SKIES

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

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

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*.

LifeWorks at Balfour Beatty Communities

The LifeWorks Program at Balfour Beatty Communities offers events and activities throughout the year to foster community spirit and a strong neighborhood environment. The program is open to all residents of West Point Family housing, and all events are free of charge.

An upcoming community event:

• **Sweetheart Dinner Contest** -- Submit paper hearts with a quote or story about how your spouse proposed. Hearts will be displayed and entered into the contest. The winner receives an intimate dinner or Sunday champagne brunch for two in the beautiful gothic-style dining room at The Thayer Hotel. Please submit entires by Feb. 12.

• **Valentine for Veterans** -- Children of all ages can participate in creating a valentine card to brighten the day for hopitalized veterans. Bring your valentine card to the Balfour Beatty office by Feb. 12.

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Jodi Gellman, LifeWorks coordinator, at 446-6407 or *jgellman@bbcgrp.com*.

Command Channel 8/23

Feb. 5 - Feb. 12

Thursday - Feb. 12
8:30 a.m., 1 p.m. & 7 p.m. --
Army Newswatch (broadcasts every day except Saturday and Sunday.)

Pandemic Flu - Taking Action
(broadcasts times)
Thursday -- 12:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Friday -- 9 a.m.
Monday -- Noon & 6 p.m.
Tuesday -- 8 a.m. & 4 p.m.
Wednesday -- 11:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 12 -- 12:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

A Spouse's Point of View

Vegas Comes to West Point

By Janine Boldrin

To get from Newburgh to Las Vegas it requires a six-hour flight and a couple of hundred dollars. But on Feb. 20, all it will take to get to Vegas-style fun is a short walk or drive to the Thayer Hotel at West Point.

Viva! Las Vegas is an annual fundraiser run by the West Point Women's Club that raises money for community grants and scholarships. Last year, more than 250 people attended the evening of blackjack, craps and roulette and raised more than $28,000.

"Even though we had a foot of snow last year, it did not stop the community from pulling together," Beth Flowers, 2008 Viva! Las Vegas co-chairwoman, said. "With the help of our leader team, the Thayer Hotel and the local community, we raised funds for our schools, the West Point community, the Highland Falls community, Homes For Our Troops and the Fisher House … just to name a few (organizations)."

If you have never been to Viva! Las Vegas at West Point, expect to find casino-style gaming, indoor horse racing, a silent and live auction and lots of prizes. The price of admission will include Viva! bucks to use during the evening. All money raised goes toward the charitable efforts of WPWC.

"WPWC has hosted casino-style events for many years, but it officially became Viva! Las Vegas in February 2003," Flowers said.

Each year, volunteers donate incredible items to help raise more money. Auction items include baskets donated by the West Point community and local businesses and will consist of sports themed goods, hotel stays, gift certificates, autographed items and much more. There also will be some big ticket items that will be revealed that evening.

"It is a great date night supporting a fantastic cause," Katie Bellocchio, 2009 Viva! Las Vegas co-chairwoman, said.

Bellocchio's advice to anyone considering coming to Viva! is to come out and have fun with friends at West Point. Plus, she says, it gets you out of the cold and into a great location.

In 2008, the WPWC donated more than $60,000 in grants and scholarships to more than 50 beneficiaries. These grants included three Smart Boards to local schools, a handicap ramp for a church, a scoreboard for a youth baseball league and money to support a local food bank. Their service projects have included care packages to Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan and new pillows and blankets for wounded Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

The West Point community as well as local residents are invited to come to Viva! Las Vegas. Firsties and cows are invited to participate as well. Food and drinks will be available for purchase, and tickets will be sold at the door. For more information visit **www.westpointwc.com**.

(**Editor's note**: *Janine Boldrin is a writer, a mother and an Army spouse. To contact her about your experiences as a military spouse at West Point e-mail her at janineboldrin@gmail.com.*)

Balfour Beatty's LifeWorks offers simple pleasures

Story and photo by Kathy Eastwood

Eli (left), Gabe and Isaac Dabkowski and Natalie Weg enjoy cooking marshmallows for s'mores during a LifeWorks event.

Balfour Beatty Communities hosted a hot chocolate and s'mores day at their community office at 132A Bartlett Loop Jan. 25. Community Families were invited to share hot chocolate and indulge in making s'mores from graham crackers, chocolate and toasted marshmallows through the LifeWorks program.

"West Point, like other military installations is like a gated community," Jodi Gellman, LifeWorks coordinator, said. "These events allow everyone to get to know one another in their community."

LifeWorks provides for Family housing residents tailored programs, activities, seminars and events to help them interact with other members of the community by providing social opportunities and community services, according to **www.westpointfamilyhousing.com.**

"We have these programs in all 45 military installations (where Balfour Beatty is the Residential Communities Initiative contract partner)," Gellman said. "We generally have seven events a month that may include events such as bowling."

Balfour Beatty also inspires friendly competition with community school-aged children by sponsoring prizes for those who have the highest grades on their report cards. The primary focus of Balfour Beatty is to provide quality homes and to build strong communities. Part of the LifeWorks program also includes developing a healthy lifestyle through fitness and health, opportunities to join in community service work, building life management skills through stress and relaxation seminars, mommy and me time and activities designed to build mental skills from money management to basic auto maintenance classes.

For information on the LifeWorks program, contact Gellman at 446-6407 or *jgellman@bbcgrp.com*.

What's Happening

Moms & Tots

The West Point Women's Club Moms & Tots has scheduled a play day for 9:30-11 a.m. today at Gillis Field House.

A fun gym is scheduled for 9:30-11 a.m. Feb. 13 at Child, Youth and School Services, Bldg. 500.

For more information, call Andrea at 859-4567 or e-mail *usmamomsandtots@hotmail.com*. New members are welcome.

West Point artist signing

West Point Range Control employee and former Soldier Victor Castro is scheduled to sign autographs and create drawings at the N.Y. Comic Convention Friday-Sunday at the Jacob Javits Center in Manhattan.

Castro is the artist for "Scionic," a graphic novel in production. Castro will be at booth 1803 from 1-2:30 p.m. Friday, 12:30-2 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-noon Sunday.

For more information, visit **www.nycomiccon.com**.

Demographics lecture

The West Point community is invited to attend a lecture about demographics, geography and the environment at 9:50 a.m. Friday in Rm. 6004 of Washington Hall.

Richard Cincotta, director of the demographic and social science programs, long-range analysis unit of the National Intelligence Council is the speaker.

Wear red day

To kick off Heart Month, which is February, the American Heart Association is asking everyone to wear red Friday to raise awareness of heart disease in women.

Several area landmarks are turning red for the month including Central Hudson and Poughkeepsie Galleria Mall, Thunder Ridge Ski Area, Hunter Mountain, Mid-Hudson FDR Bridge and Marist College. Heart Healthy Breakfast is scheduled for 7:30-9 a.m. Feb. 19 at the Holiday Inn in Kingston.

Paul E. Lemanski is the guest speaker.

For more information about Heart Month or the breakfast, call 905-2137 or visit **www.GoRedForWomen.org**.

Concert

The West Point steel drum band is scheduled to play at 7 p.m. Sunday at Church of the Holy Innocents, 401 Main St., in Highland Falls. For more information, call 446-2197.

Garrison awards

The West Point community is invited to attend the garrison award ceremony scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at Eisenhower Hall's Crest Hall.

Red Cross classes

The American Red Cross is offering several classes in February. All classes are held at the Red Cross office next to the West Point Visitor's Center.

Registration is required, and walk-ins will not be accepted.

Classes include:

Adult CPR and automated external defibrillator from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Feb. 14 and 3:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 17;

Adult, infant and child CPR and automated external defibrillator from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Feb.13;

Standard first aid from 2:30-6:30 p.m. Feb. 14;

CPR for the professional rescuer from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Feb. 18;

Babysitter training from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Feb. 22;

First aid, adult CPR and automated external defibrillator from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Feb. 24;

EpiPen injector from 5-6 p.m. Feb. 27;

First aid for cats and dogs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Feb. 28.

To register, visit **www.nyredcross.org**.

Immigration lecture

The West Point community is invited to attend a lecture about Latino migration to Pennsylvania at 12:50 p.m. Feb. 12 in Rm. 5300 of Washington Hall.

Mark Reisinger, associate geography professor at Binghamton University is scheduled to speak.

For more information, call Richard Wolfel at 938-8798.

Prayer breakfast

The community is invited to attend a prayer breakfast from 9-10:30 a.m. Feb. 14 at Nichole's Restaurant on South Main Street in Highland Falls.

Guest speaker is Sister Joanne Dress of Orange County Catholic Charities. Proceeds from ticket sales go to Orange/Sullivan County Hospice.

For more information, call 446-3400.

Community welfare grants

The Daughters of the United States Army is accepting applications for community welfare grants.

Organizations wishing to make a grant request can pick up a grant application at the DUSA Gift Shop in the West Point Museum. Completed applications must be returned to the shop no later than 4 p.m. Feb. 15.

For more information, contact Lisa Adams at *adamsfour@hotmail.com* or 859-4220.

DUSA members wishing to serve on the grant committee should contact Adams as soon as possible.

Town hall meeting

Balfour Beatty Communities is hosting a town hall meeting from 7-9 p.m. Feb. 17 at the West Point Club Ballroom.

All housing residents are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served. The meeting also will be televised on the command channel.

Those who are unable to attend may call in questions at 446-5504.

PWOC special program

Johnnie Haines, a Christian counselor, is scheduled to speak about Biblical boundaries at 8:45 a.m. Feb. 18 at the Post Chapel.

Topics will include why God sends people to certain places and how to say no to overcommitments.

A fellowship luncheon will follow the program.

For more information, call Robin at 446-8798.

MP Company change of command

The West Point community is invited to attend the Military Police Company change of command at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 20 at Eisenhower Hall's Crest Hall.

Scout award dinner

The West Point community is invited to attend a dinner honoring past Eagle Scouts and Girl Scout Gold Award recipients at 7 p.m. Feb. 25 at the West Point Club.

There is no charge to attend. For more information, e-mail *james.morris@usma.edu*.

Infantry Ball

The 2009 Infantry Ball is scheduled for 6-11 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Eisenhower Hall Ballroom.

Guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. Michael D. Barbero, commander of the U.S. Army Infantry Center and commandant of the U.S. Army Infantry School.

For more information and tickets, send an e-mail to *darren.spears@usma.edu* or *jared.wilson@usma.edu*.

Community grants, scholarships

The West Point Women's Club is accepting applications for community grants and scholarships for continuing education and high school seniors.

Download applications at **www.westpointwc.com**, and e-mail *jkgilliam@hvc.rr.com* for more information.

Estate claims

Anyone having any claims on or obligations to the estate of Spc. Joseph Kwoczka, Medical Company, West Point should contact the Summary Court Marshal Officer, Capt. Jarrett Heffner, at 938-6874.

Art therapy

All female combat veterans in the West Point area are invited to attend free art therapy from 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays at Buffalo Soldier Pavilion. Therapy will be facilitated by Deborah Farber.

For more information or to register, call 938-0353.

Charity marathon

The West Point community is invited to participate in the Potomac River Run marathon May 3 to raise money for the son of Sgt. Michael Robertson.

Robertson was killed in Iraq, and his son was only 2 months old.

Firstie Daniel Krieger, who served in Iraq in Robertson's squad before coming to the U.S. Military Academy, set up a trust fund for Robertson's son.

A group of about 50 cadets already has commited to participating.

For information about how to participate or support the cadet runners, contact Krieger at *daniel.krieger@usma.edu*.

Baggers needed

The West Point Commissary is accepting applications for baggers. Call 938-3663, ext. 202 for more information.

PWOC spring session

The Protestant Women of the Chapel is beginning its spring session.

The group meets for fellowship and small group Bible study from 8:45-11 a.m. Wednesdays and 7-9 p.m. Thursdays at the Post Chapel on Biddle Loop.

Free child care is available. For more information, call Robin Meyer at 446-8798.

Newspaper carrier needed

Youth interested in delivering the "Pointer View" to the Lee housing area should call Theresa Gervasi at 1-800-295-2181.

Sales associate needed

DUSA Gift Shop is looking for a weekend sales associate.

Applications can be picked up at the shop located inside the West Point Museum.

For more information, contact Brandi Stokes at 446-0566.

NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752

Friday -- Marley and Me, PG, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday -- Bedtime Stories, PG, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday -- Yes Man, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

THE THEATER SCHEDULE ALSO CAN BE FOUND AT

WWW.AAFES.COM

Keller Corner

KACH closure

All outpatient clinics, laboratory, pharmacy and radiology will be closed Feb. 13 (training holiday) and Feb. 16 in observance of Presidents Day.

The emergency room will remain open.

Childbirth Preparation Classes

A four-week series of childbirth preparation classes will be held at KACH second-floor classroom. The four-week series will be held Feb 18, 25, March 4 and 11.

Call OBU at 938-3210 to register.

Free developmental screenings

Not all children develop the same way. Some need extra help.

If you have concerns about your child's communication skills, motor skills, self-help skills, learning, behavior, and/or social interactions, attend the free developmental/hearing screenings.

The screenings will be conducted at the Child Development Center in conjunction with Audiology, EDIS, and West Point School for ages birth to 5 years old.

Screenings will be held from 8:45 a.m.-2 p.m. Feb. 24 and are by appointment only.

Call to schedule an appointment at 938-6868/2698.

Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

Versatile White is a leader among leaders

By Eric S. Bartelt

Senior Day brings a lot of memories to the minds of athletes who endured, in general, four years of continuous ups and downs in their sport and everything else that is involved in their college experience.

Firstie Sally White endured quite a unique journey along her path to Senior Day Jan. 31 at Crandall Pool before Army's Swimming and Diving Tri-Meet versus Colgate and Lafayette.

The Corps of Cadets knows White as the deputy brigade commander, or second highest-ranking cadet, but she is also a highly intelligent, athletic cadet who hasn't taken a straight path to her current destination.

White got back into the pool for the tri-meet after missing a week of practice because she was ill, but enjoyed her chance to swim in her final home meet. It was a chance that she would have never imagined when she first arrived at the U.S. Military Academy.

White was not recruited to be a swimmer, and, in fact, she hadn't even taken a swim competitively since the eighth grade before her cow year at West Point. Her focus at first was as a walk-on for the Army women's basketball team.

Originally, she made the basketball team out of Beast Barracks, but as practices started intensifying for the upcoming season in 2005-06 she felt that her heart wasn't in it.

"I realized the time limits that were involved and my level of commitment wasn't exactly the same," White, who decided she had no further ambitions in basketball after winning a high school state championship her senior year, said. "So I decided it was best to the leave the team."

While the women's basketball team was headed to its first NCAA tournament that season, White concentrated on her academics and participated in a variety of company athletics.

She would get deeply involved in training for Sandhurst; however, she developed tendonitis in her Achilles from a ruck march practice that would cause her to go in another direction athletically.

"I got really bad tendonitis … and I couldn't run for six months or compete with the Sandhurst team," White explained. "So, to keep in shape, I did intramural swimming my yearling year and that's how I sort of got back into it."

During her yearling year, White participated in the Brigade All-Star Swim Meet and dominated in the 50m freestyle and 100m individual medley. White felt that her competitiveness and focus, other than her dominant performance, are what caught the eye of Army swimming head coach Mickey Wender.

"That meet was like going back to the days I swam competitively," White said. "I was pretty much in the zone and I guess (Wender) liked what he saw."

Leaving the basketball team didn't create much regret in her mind because of the whirlwind plebe year, but an invitation to join the swimming team at the end of her yearling year was a welcomed challenge at the time as she finally had a solid footing in other areas of her West Point experience. However, she didn't think too much about it so she wouldn't convince herself to not do it.

"I knew if I started to weigh the pros and cons and the time it would take away from school, the corps squad commitment and the almost infeasibility of coming back after having spent so much time out of the water, I would have persuaded myself to not swim again," White said. "But, I got so excited thinking about the possibility of being on a competitive swim team again that after mulling it over for a few days I decided to do it.

"I had always wondered what would have happened had I continued to swim through high school," White added. "When the opportunity arose to compete again, I knew I couldn't pass it up. While the lack of a six year training base put me at a frustrating disadvantage, the process of rediscovering and relearning the sport has been uniquely rewarding."

White is not considered one of the best on the team, and she may be looked at as one of the lesser talents on the squad but the six years away from competitive swimming does make a huge difference.

"It's really difficult, quite brutal to come back after a long layoff," Wender said. "Swimming is almost more of a lifestyle than it is a sport. You have to do it everyday and most days, twice a day, to compete at the Division I level.

"However, she's been so focused on her swimming and has been a real student of the sport … she's trying to consistently better herself, but it's tough because she's got a lot of ground to cover to make up for all that lost time," he added. "Her heart is in the right place and she tries to do too many things to where she pushes herself to the limit outside the athletic venue and she gets run down a lot."

White is always striving to do her best as Wender calls her an overachiever who has about a 3.9 GPA and has brought much leadership to the women's team.

"She's been a very good leader and we're lucky to have her," Wender said about his women's team captain. "I give her a lot of credit for taking on this challenge when there was a lot of questions marks, more questions than answers that she had about the sport and team (when she joined). But, she's been great and I selected her to be one of our graduate assistants next year because she cares so much about everything and has a great work ethic."

Firstie Sally White achieved three lifetime bests in the 100m and 200m backstroke and 200m freestyle relay, and a season best in the 50m freestyle Jan. 31 during Senior Day at Crandall Pool versus Colgate and Lafayette. Photo provided by Army Athletic Communications

The future military intelligence officer has found humility in the pool, which helped her prepare for the shock of being turned down for three different scholarships -- the Rhodes, Truman and Marshall.

"I think it worked out for the best as I was told throughout the process that I was almost a lock-in candidate, especially since my yuck year," White said. "It was sort of my primary plan that it was going to happen, but I honestly think it's for the best and I'm really excited to get out to the Army."

Not receiving a scholarship was a little disappointing especially since the Truman panel said she would be a great candidate for the Rhodes, but she doesn't look at it as a failure as may have been the case before she arrived at the academy. Now she looks at it as more of a way to spur her on to bigger and better things in the future.

"I would have considered it a failure (a few years ago), but having to deal with that (disappointment) and having to understand and derive a meaning from something that you didn't expect is a lesson that I learned from that situation," White said. "It happens very often in the pool … I know my relative talent in the water is not that great. My personality lends me to want to be the very best at everything I do even though I know I can't be.

"Training so hard at something and knowing because of the situation

See WHITE, page 13

Richard scores 28, Army defeats Bucknell 76-65

By Brian Gunning
Athletic Communications

Cow forward Cleveland Richard scored a career-high 28 points, including 20 in the second half, to lead the Army men's basketball team to a 76-65 win over Bucknell Jan. 31 at Christl Arena.

It was the Black Knights' season-best third straight victory.

Richard missed only four shots all afternoon, going nine for 12 from the field, including hitting all three of his shots from three-point range, and seven of eight from the free throw line.

The Houston native also added three rebounds, two assists and a steal in a team-high 38 minutes of work.

It was the highest-scoring game for an Army player since Jarell Brown dropped 35 in a 69-67 win at Navy Jan. 27, 2008.

"To tell you the truth, I really don't remember too much," Richard said. "We played well on defense, and the next thing you know, I look up and I'm scoring. I think I'm learning the system a little bit better."

Army (7-13, 3-3) has now won three straight regular-season games for the first time since 2006-07 campaign. The Black Knights are off to their best conference start since winning three of their first six that same season.

It is the first time since Army joined the Patriot League that the Black Knights have defeated the Bison three straight times.

Bucknell (5-16, 2-5) remained winless on the road, losing their 12th game of the season away from Sojka Pavilion.

"Our kids played good basketball," Army head coach Jim Crews said. "The first 10 minutes of the second half, we got out and ran and got some stops defensively. They got us out of our rhythm a little later in the second half, but we corrected ourselves. It was a great win and a really good week for us."

In addition to Richard, Cow guard Josh Miller tallied 13 points and tied for the team lead with six rebounds.

Miller did most of his damage from the free throw line, connecting on 7 of 11 attempts.

Cow guard Marcus Nelson also pulled down six rebounds and handed out a game-high five assists. Defensively, he blocked three shots, his second-highest total of the season.

The Bison had three players in double figures led by Darryl Shazier's 21 points, which included five three-pointers. Justin Castleberry added 15 markers, while Patrick Behan added 12 points and a game-high nine rebounds.

Army held Bucknell's G.W. Boon, who had been averaging more than 14 points per game during Patriot League play, scoreless.

Army started the game five of 18 from the floor, but hit 19 of its last 31 shots to finish the game at 49 percent.

It is the third straight game the Black Knights made at least 46 percent of their shots, a first this season.

The Army defense limited the Bison to 37.7 percent from the field, including a six of 20 showing from three-point range.

Army has now won five of its last seven Patriot League games at Christl Arena.

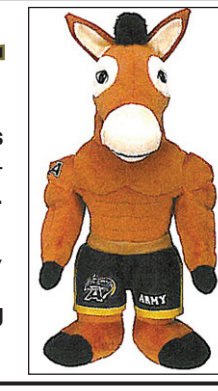
Cow guard Marcus Nelson had a strong game as he pulled down six rebounds and handed out a game-high five assists in a win against Bucknell Jan. 31. Eric S. Bartelt/PV

Black Jack Build-A-Bear

The first 1,000 fans who pay admission to attend Saturday's women's basketball Patriot League contest against Colgate will receive a one-of-a-kind Black Jack Build-A-Bear courtesy of the Army Athletic Association. The Black Knights and Raiders tip off at 1 p.m. at Christl Arena.

The stuffed animal features Black Jack, Army's animated mule mascot, who can be seen in attendance at almost all Army home events.

Tickets for Army women's basketball game can be purchased by calling 1-877-TIX-ARMY or by visiting www.goARMYsports.com.



WHITE, cont. from page 12

that I'm only going to be mediocre at best, it does go against everything that my life has been to this point," she added. "(Between swimming and missing out on the scholarships) I really had to re-evaluate what success is for me and why I do certain things."

In the grand scheme of things, White has been very successful in the classroom and as a leader at the academy.

White feels swimming has helped her grow as a person and that the academy has helped improve her in all areas of her life, especially her studies.

White has traveled to Turkey, Egypt and Jordan as a major in international relations with a minor in Middle Eastern Area studies. Last summer was a busy time for her as she traveled to Jordan to research political issues of the region with other West Point cadets and midshipmen from the Naval Academy.

Firstie Sally White (front right) marches with a cadet contingent at the presidential inauguration parade Jan. 20 in Washington. Photo by Cow James White

Also, last summer, she was battalion commander for the Prep School's basic training session, which lasted three weeks. Her performance in that job as well as other previous key leadership roles -- to include serving as the first sergeant at Prep School basic training the year before -- helped get the job as Deputy Brigade Commander.

Although the job doesn't involve much subordinate interaction for the Cary, N.C., native, it does offer an opportunity to see how the chain of command works with interaction with the regimental commanders. It is a job that is much different from her job as the battalion commander for the Prep School summer training.

"It gave me a good understanding of all the problems you can encounter, even something as simple as running (as a group)." White said. "More than any other leadership job I've had, it showed me that leadership is just a process of problem-solving, which is something that is hammered home at West Point all the time.

"I never really realized what it meant until I was in charge of an entire operation and the issues I had to deal with," she added. "I realized that my job as a battalion commander was almost like a CEO of a company, and how it's about getting things to run as efficiently and effectively as possible and getting people within an organization to take pride in that organization and add a fire to that process."

Her leadership roles were all a stepping stone to helping her rally her teammates as team captain this year and put everyone on course for a common purpose and team unity.

Being a team captain has been the ultimate learning experience for White, even more so than being the second highest-ranking cadet.

"I think my leadership experience as a team captain has been more developmental than any cadet position I've had by far," White, who oversees a team of 14 females, said. "I've learned more about myself, more about the dynamics of leading a team.

"There are two separate teams; I'm in charge of the girls' team but it's almost like a partnership with the men's captain to handle the problems over the season," she added. "I've put more time and effort into this job and this aspect of my life than anything else."

And, in the end, Senior Day turned out to be her most rewarding day in the pool at Army as she recorded her lifetime bests in the 100m and 200m backstroke and the 200m freestyle relay while getting a season best in the 50m freestyle.

"I have no idea where those swims came from, but it made for a memorable senior night on an individual level," White said, "though it would have been nice to have beaten Lafayette."

Hoey finishes tops in high bar at Air Force gymnastics meet

By Mady Salvani
Athletic Communications

Plebe gymnast Jonathan Hoey posted his first career win in highlighting No. 18 Army's performance Jan. 31 against No. 16 Air Force at the Academy's Cadet West Gym in Colorado Springs, Colo. The Black Knights' young squad fell to the Falcons, 329.10-309.60.

Hoey nipped Falcon all-around winner Nash Mills for medalist honors on high bar after outpointing him 13.15-13.10 in the next to last event.

Hoey's victory denied Air Force from claiming the winner in all six individual events, along with preventing Mills from being a double-winner after he had captured parallel bars in the previous event.

Cow Jonathan Grey turned in Army's second highest finish in the meet, placing runner-up on pommel horse scoring a 12.9.

He edged Air Force's Garret Canter by five hundreds of a point in denying the Falcons from sweeping the top two spots as it had done in four other events.

Unfortunately Grey, an all-arounder, suffered a minor injury during a tumbling routine on the next event, floor exercise, and coach Doug Van Everen pulled him as a precautionary measure.

Thus far this season, Grey was runner-up on high bar in Army's opener against No. 5 Penn State, and was sixth on parallel bars at the West Point Open.

Yearling Nolan Melson turned in a career high 13.85 and highest placing (third) on floor exercise, in the process denying the Falcons a sweep of the top three places.

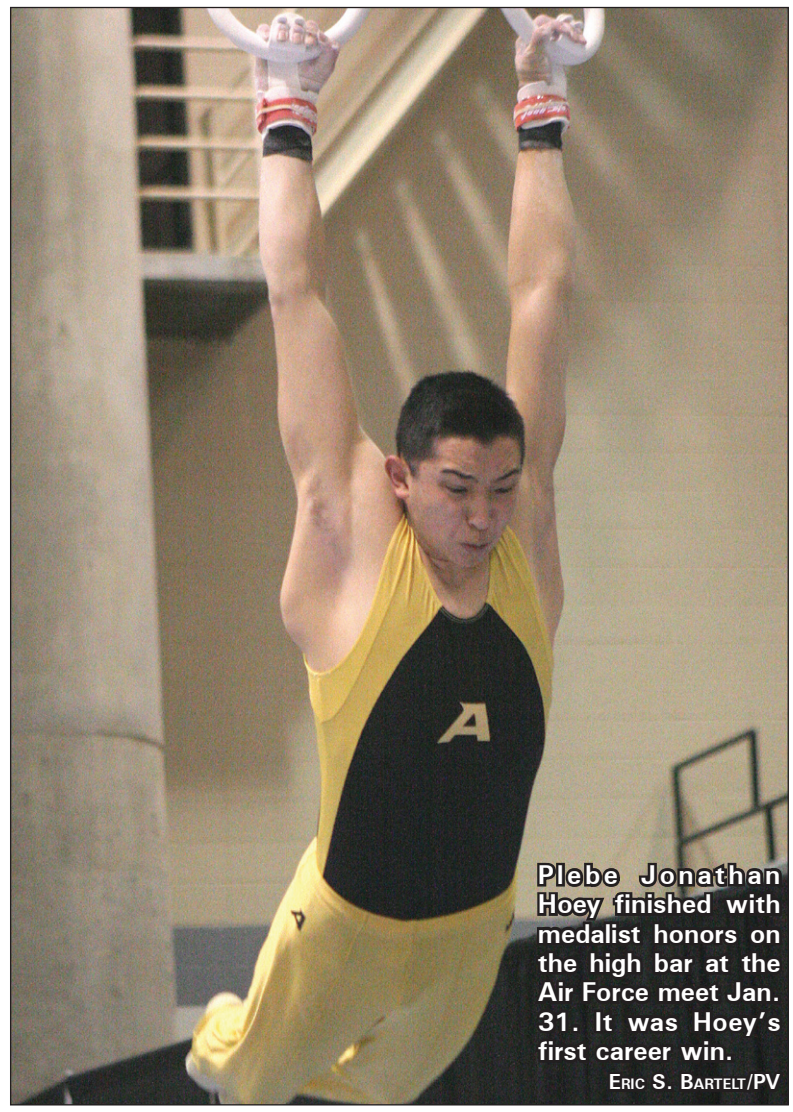
Firstie Justin Sappington led Army on high bar, tying for fourth place with a 12.9, while Plebe Tim Tieng turned in the Black Knights' top mark on both parallel bars (13.15) and vault (14.85).

Tieng was just shy of equaling his career mark on vault (15.0) while setting a season-high on parallel bars.

All-arounder, Yearling Ty Smith just missed equaling his season-high in the all-around scoring as he compiled a 77.05 composite. He turned in a season high on floor exercise of 13.65 to nip Hoey by 2/10s of a point for fifth place.

"We are moving forward with each meet and we are getting better" Van Everen said. "We have been taking our lumps with a young squad, but we are gaining experience which will pay off down the road."

The Black Knights (0-2) host No. 10 Navy in the "Star" match Saturday at Gross Sports Center.



Plebe Jonathan Hoey finished with medalist honors on the high bar at the Air Force meet Jan. 31. It was Hoey's first career win. Eric S. Bartelt/PV

Handball Tournament at Arvin

The Army Women's Handball team is holding its annual Laura Walker Invitational 5 p.m. Friday on the second and fourth floors of Arvin Gym. The West Point community is invited to watch the seven-team tournament in honor of the late Laura Walker, a 2003 USMA graduate, who was killed in Iraq in August 2005. Photo Provided

Staff and Faculty Basketball Standings

*Standings as of Feb. 2

NORTH DIVISON	W - L
1. DMI	19 - 1
2. DAD/ODIA	14 - 6
3. SYSTEM ENGRS	10 - 10
4. MEDDAC	7 - 13

CENTRAL DIVISION	W - L
1. MATH 1	15 - 6
2. DPE	8 - 12
3. BTD/USCC	6 - 15
4. SOCIAL SCIENCE	2 - 18

SOUTH DIVISON	W - L
1. HISTORY	15 - 6
2. W.P. GARRISON	13 - 7
3. GENE/DFL	13 - 8
4. D/LAW	13 - 8
5. USMA BAND	10 - 11
6. MATH 2	9 - 11
7. ENGLISH	8 - 13
8. EE&CS	2 - 19

Sports calendar

Feb. 6 - Feb. 14

Corps

Friday -- Hockey vs. Canisus, Tate rink, 7:05 p.m.

Saturday -- Rifle vs. Navy, Tronsrue Markmanship Center, 9 a.m.

Saturday -- Track and Field vs. Navy, Gillis Field House, Women (11 a.m.) & Men (3 p.m.)

Saturday -- Women's Basketball vs. Colgate, Christl Arena, 1 p.m. (Black Jack Build-A-Bear Giveaway to first 1,000 paid admissions.)

Saturday -- Women's Tennis vs. Rutgers, Lichtenberg Center, 1 p.m.

Saturday -- Gymnastics vs. Navy, Gross Center, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday -- Hockey vs. Canisus, Tate Rink, 7:05 p.m.

Sunday -- Women's Tennis vs. Binghamton (10 a.m.) & Seton Hall (3 p.m.), Lichtenberg Tennis Center.

Wednesday -- Women's Basketball vs. Holy Cross, Christl Arena, 7 p.m.

Feb. 13 -- Wrestling vs. East Stroudsburg, Gillis Field House, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 13 -- Women's Tennis vs. St. John's, Lichtenberg Tennis Center, 5 p.m.

Feb. 14 -- Women's Tennis vs. Temple (10 a.m.) & Manhattan (3 p.m.)

Feb. 14 -- Lacrosse vs. VMI, Michie Stadium, Noon.

Feb. 14 -- Men's Basketball vs. Lehigh, Christl arena, 4 p.m.

Club

Friday -- Women's Handball, Laura Walker Invitational (Seven Team Tournament), 2nd & 4th floors of Arvin Gym, 5 p.m.

Saturday -- Boxing, Army Boxing Show, Arvin Gym, 1:15 p.m.