

WTU signs Army Warrior Health-Care Covenant



West Point Garrison Commander Col. Dan Bruno, left; Col. Mike Deaton, Keller Army Community Hospital commander; and Capt. Curtis Edwards, West Point Warrior Transition Unit commander, sign the Army Warrior Health-Care Covenant during a ceremony Feb. 27 at the Buffalo Soldier Pavilion. Spc. Timothy Strobel, who has been assigned to the WTU the longest, and Pfc. Joseph Kasfeldt, the unit's newest assignee, look on. The covenant reaffirms the Army's dedication to providing the tools necessary for wounded Soldiers to heal. "We are committing back to the warriors and their Families and thanking them for their service," Edwards said.

Story and photo by Emily Tower
Staff Writer

Specialist Warren Goguen has a little trouble remembering people and appointments some times, and while he has expected Warrior Transition Units to which he has been assigned to understand this affect of the traumatic brain injury he sustained in the Middle East, none did until he came to West Point.

"They have treated me like a Soldier," Goguen said proudly. "Most of the time, I have been treated as less. But here, there is a warm feeling. I'm extremely happy they transferred me here."

Goguen described his memory loss as "terrifying" and said he is grateful the WTU helps him keep track of paperwork and appointments so he can concentrate on getting better.

The West Point WTU has been striving to help Soldiers recuperate from combat wounds, illnesses and other injuries for months, WTU Commander Capt. Curtis Edwards said.

Goguen and the rest of the unit were witnesses to the signing of an important contract Feb. 27.

Garrison Commander Col. Dan Bruno; Col. Mike Deaton, Keller Army Community hospital commander; and Edwards signed a giant copy of the Army Warrior Health-Care

Covenant at Buffalo Soldier Pavilion. Soldiers for which the covenant is designed to serve commuted from parts of New England and New York to witness it.

The covenant was put into words last year and has been driving the West Point WTU's work since November, Edwards said. But signing a copy of the covenant—during the Army's Year of the Noncommissioned Officer—with the Soldiers watching was important, he said.

"We are committing back to the warriors and their Families and thanking them for their service," Edwards said.

"We want (wounded warriors) to understand the Army's commitment to them and know how important it is to us as an organization," he continued.

The Army Warrior Health-Care Covenant basically thanks wounded warriors and their Families and promises to provide help, programs and a positive environment to help Soldiers concentrate on healing their minds, bodies, hearts and spirits.

Deaton compared the covenant to the Army Values and Warrior Ethos because it places all WTUs under the same value system Armywide.

"It's following the same train of thought and philosophy," Deaton said.

Sgt. Scott Issler wished other WTUs to
See WTU COVENANT, page 4

Regimental TAC remembered as great role model

By Emily Tower
Staff Writer

When it comes to role models, few could reach the level of Lt. Col. Jeanne Hutchison, her superiors, peers and U.S. Military Academy classmates said following her unexpected death.

"Jeanne was a superb member of the U.S. Military Academy team and an integral part of the U.S. Corps of Cadets," Brig. Gen. Michael Linnington, USCC commandant, said in a prepared statement Feb. 27. "She was an exemplary role model, coach, teacher and mentor to her more than 1,100 cadets."

Hutchison, 2nd Regimental Tactical Officer, died Feb. 26 at Westchester Medical Center following a sudden illness. She was remembered for her work with the Army swimming and diving team, her involvement in the West Point Jewish community and her dedication to duty.

Hutchison, USMA class of 1988 (nee Britanisky), set a handful of swimming records as a cadet, including fastest times in the 100-meter and the 200-meter backstrokes.

She set her records as a plebe and then gave up her beloved sport to concentrate on her academics.

"I think it says a lot about Jeanne and her priorities in life that she gave up her love of swimming and the pride that would have come with more swimming achievements to achieve a higher goal of graduating from

West Point and becoming an Army officer," Lt. Col. Robert Bartholet, Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science instructor and Hutchison's classmate, stated in an e-mail.

While she missed swimming, her classmates said she didn't regret her decision to prioritize.

"Jeanne was one of the hardest working classmates I knew," Lt. Col. Greg Graves, a math instructor currently deployed to Iraq, stated in an e-mail. "She never let things get her down, and she displayed true character. She was a great example of the kind of leader that West Point strives to develop."

After coming to West Point as a regimental tactical officer in July, Hutchison, 43, began working with the swimming and diving team and was a role model particularly to the female swimmers, said Mickey Wender, Army head swimming and diving coach.

"Having her name on the record board brought her instant credibility with the swimmers," Wender stated in an e-mail. "She was incredibly generous with her time and was involved in almost every aspect of our program. She was a trusted advisor and very well-respected by all the coaches and swimmers and divers alike."

Hutchison, a signal officer, had coached swimmers at other duty stations and set up a triathlon training group at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Bartholet said.

Hutchison also was active in the West

Point Jewish community. She was a regular at weekly services and joined cadets at the Chaplain's Times during Beast Barracks.

Because she was so involved, a special honor was reserved for her at her funeral Tuesday at the Jewish Chapel.

"In our tradition, the body of the deceased does not enter the synagogue due to the sanctity of the location," Rabbi Carlos Huerta, Army major and West Point's Jewish chaplain, stated in an e-mail. "Exceptions are only made for those remarkable members of the community who have made selfless contributions that have greatly impacted its members. This honor is being given to (Lt. Col.) Hutchison by the members of the Jewish community for her love, dedication and selfless service."

She was buried at West Point Cemetery following the service.

Hutchison also was awarded posthumously the Legion of Merit at the funeral. The award's citation describes her as a stellar leader of "profound influence and achievement."

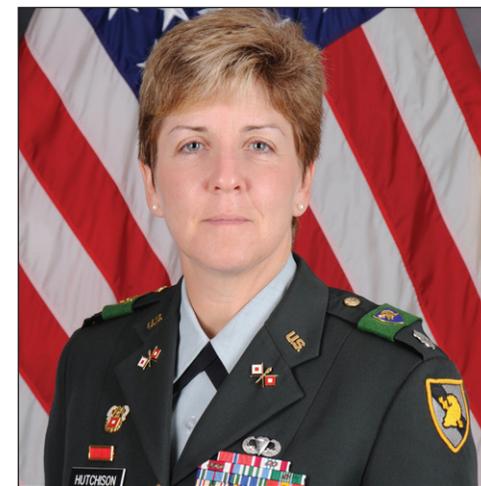
Her military awards and decorations also include the Bronze Star Medal; Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two oak leaf clusters; Meritorious Service Medal, three oak leaf clusters; Joint Service Commendation Medal; Army Commendation Medal, two oak leaf clusters; Joint Service Achievement Medal; Army Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal with bronze star; Southwest Asia Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Korean

Defense Service Medal; Kuwait Liberation Medal; Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge; and Parachutist's Badge.

Along with the bachelor's degree in education psychology from USMA, Hutchison held a master's degree in management information systems from the University of Maryland.

Hutchison is survived by her husband, retired Lt. Col. Robert Hutchison, and two teenage children.

The Hutchison Family requests donations to charities or to Hutchison's memorial fund at the West Point Jewish Chapel in lieu of flowers.



Lt. Col. Jeanne Hutchison

Community Point-of-View Plan ahead for safe travels during spring break

**Commentary by Joe Senger
Directorate of Plans, Training,
Mobilization and Security**

Spring break is just around the corner. Those who plan on getting away for a break should keep in mind that situational awareness is paramount.

The following precautions will help in the planning and enjoyment of a safe adventure and help ensure you do not become a victim. Remember, if you see something, say something.

Travel safety:

- All West Point personnel traveling OCONUS, contact John Cronin in the West Point Installation Security Office at 938-2971 for guidance on all pre-travel requirements and to receive an Area of Responsibility brief in accordance with Army Regulation 525-13, Antiterrorism.

For additional precautions, check out the State Department Web site for country-specific and up-to-date travel information at www.travel.state.gov/travel_1744.html.

- Additionally, travelers are reminded that if needed, Country Clearance Requests must be submitted through the U.S. Military Academy G-3 office at least 30 days before traveling OCONUS.

Of the 224 countries in the world, 88 countries require CCRs be submitted by military personnel on leave as a pre-travel requirement.

Check the Foreign Clearance Guide Web site, www.fcg.pentagon.mil/, for the latest guidance of pre-travel requirements. If a CCR is required, contact Steve Stokilo, G-3 International Affairs Division, at 938-0325.

The following measures can be used with certain obvious changes in other mass transit systems such as trains, ships and buses:

- Use a reputable travel agency. If you

don't know anything about the agency, call the state Consumer Protection Division to find out if there are any complaints against it.

- Avoid unnecessary delays in unsecure areas of the airport such as ticket counters. If possible, also get a seat selection and boarding pass from the agency.

- Plan an arrival at the airport that allows quick movement through the processing lines. Once there, spend as little time as possible in unsecure areas. Check luggage at the curb, if possible, and move through the security checkpoint right away.

- If there is a long layover that can't be avoided, wait in the secure area (lounge or restaurant). Avoid vulnerable areas such as ticket counters and gift shops outside the secure area.

- When arriving at the destination, observe the baggage claim area from a distance and wait for the crowd to thin out before claiming luggage. Never leave baggage unattended at the airport.

- If using a rental vehicle, do not leave anything of value in plain view. Lock it in the trunk or store it in a hotel room. Thieves target rental vehicles.

Upon arrival at the destination:

- When checking into a hotel, avoid street-level rooms because they are easily accessible to illegal entry, bomb attack and drive-by shootings. Conversely, do not accept a room above the 10th floor. Many fire-fighting teams do not have ladders that will reach above the 10th floor.

- Know the location of emergency exits.
- When out of the room, leave the lights and radio or TV on to make it appear someone is in the room. Keep room keys with you. When in the room, sleep away from the window, keep the door locked at all times and use the security chain.

See SPRING BREAK SAFETY, page 3

Letter from Keller Commander

Recent encephalitis death is not related to meningitis death

Several people have asked whether there is a connection between the teacher who recently died of meningitis (inflammation of the covering of the brain), and the officer who just passed away from encephalitis (inflammation of the brain itself).

It's a reasonable question.

When two people in the same small community succumb to diseases of the brain, people should ask if there's a connection.

Fortunately, the answer is no. There is no connection between the two.

The teacher's illness was caused by a bacteria called streptococcus pneumoniae. We are certain about that. The cause of the officer's illness remains unknown. We are certain, however, that it was not caused by streptococcus pneumoniae. Because of that, we can say unquestionably that the two cases are not related.

Several weeks ago we did treat another post resident who had encephalitis. The resident fully recovered. However, the cause of this encephalitis, like the officer's, remains unknown. As a result, we have reason to question whether there is any relationship between those cases.

As a precaution, our Preventive Medicine section is investigating any possible connection between the resident's encephalitis and that of the officer's. We are asking the Preventive Medicine section at our next higher headquarters, the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command, to oversee our efforts.

I have full confidence in our Preventive Medicine staff. Independent review, however, ensures we examine every possibility. That's something we owe the West Point community.

At this point, there is no public health concern with regard to encephalitis. If that changes, the West Point chain of command will inform the community by every means available.

Encephalitis means inflammation of the brain. The most common cause is herpes simplex virus. Other causes include a variety of mosquito- and tick-borne illnesses, to include West Nile virus. Because most cases of encephalitis are mild, most go unreported. Estimates on the number of cases in the U.S. range from 0.05 to one case per 100,000 people per year.

The majority of cases of encephalitis are clinically indistinguishable from any other viral flu-like illness. More severe cases are similar to meningitis, and can cause severe headache, sudden fever, drowsiness, confusion and seizures.

Good hygiene remains the best defense against infectious disease. Frequent hand washing, use of hand sanitizers, coughing and sneezing into your sleeve and keeping your hands away from your eyes, nose and mouth all help prevent disease transmission.

Aside from the normal concerns that arise during cold and flu season, we know of no public health concerns for West Point at this time. If that changes, the chain of command will let you know as soon as possible.

Michael A. Deaton, M.D., Ph.D.
COL, MC
Commander, Keller Army Community Hospital

AER Campaign kicked off Monday

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

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.

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

Difficulty: Easy

See SOLUTION, page 11

SHARP

The members of the Sexual Harrassment/Assault Response and Prevention program are Col. Jeanette McMahon, Shelley Ariosto (Garrison), Dan Toohey (Victim Advocate), Maj. Maria Burger (USCC), Capt. Vanara Nevels (ODIA) and Maj. Elizabeth Scioletti (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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Local and National News

2002 grad dies in Afghanistan

By Emily Tower
Staff Writer

U.S. Military Academy graduate Capt. Brian M. Bunting was killed in action Feb. 24 while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Bunting died in Kandahar, Afghanistan, when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle. He was 29.

Bunting, who was nicknamed "Bubba," was a member of the Individual Ready Reserve and was attached to the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Syracuse, N.Y.

He graduated from USMA in 2002 after serving as an enlisted Soldier.



Captain Brian M. Bunting

A viewing is scheduled for 3-7 p.m. Friday at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Bunting's hometown, Potomac, Md., according to the funeral home handling the arrangements.

A Mass is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday at the church. Burial is scheduled for 11 a.m. March 16 at Arlington National Cemetery.

Bunting is survived by his wife, Nicole; a son, Connor; an unborn child; two brothers; three sisters; his father; and grandparents. He was preceded in death by his mother.

Bunting's relatives are remembering him fondly.

"How lucky we are to have had Bubba in our lives," his sister Stephanie wrote on a memorial Web site. "There was not one person who met him that could utter a negative word. How lucky we are that Bubba went to war to fight for our country and defend us."

Bunting's military awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal, three oak leaf clusters; National Defense Service Medal; Korean Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Combat Action Badge; Parachutist Badge; and Air Assault Badge. He will receive the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medal posthumously.

The Bunting Family requests donations be made to the USAA College Savings Plan for Bunting's two children at P.O. Box 83444, Gaithersburg, Md., 20883, in lieu of flowers.

SPRING BREAK SAFETY, cont. from Page 2

- Don't carry all credit or bank cards in your wallet or purse. Carry the minimum amount of cash will be needed. Traveler's checks are the best bet when on vacation.

- Keep purses or backpacks between your feet when sitting down at a restaurant or café.

- Never leave them hanging over the back of a chair. Lock all valuables, including passports, when not in use in the hotel safe.

- If the hotel employs security guards, get familiarized with their uniforms and equipment. Also know the proper procedures for obtaining their services.

- Write down the emergency numbers for the police department at your destination.

- If traveling abroad, keep passports in a secure location at all times.

- Always use the buddy system. There is safety in numbers, and it is best to do things

DCA employee Conklin, 62, died

From staff reports

Bartholomew "Bart" E. Conklin, 62, of Bloomingburg, a storeroom attendant for the Directorate of Cadet Activities at West Point for 15 years and a longtime resident of the area, died Feb. 19 in Middletown.

"Bart Conklin was a dedicated and energetic employee and friend. Over the years, he assisted hundreds of clubs and was an integral part of the success of many class weekends," Sally Britt, DCA Supply officer and Conklin's supervisor, said.

"He was always there to help, supporting every mission within DCA and the academy. His sense of humor and helpfulness will always be remembered. He truly was all for the corps. He will be greatly missed," Britt continued.

Conklin served in the Air Force for 21-and-a-half years, including serving during

the Vietnam War.

He was a disabled veteran and received the Purple Heart and numerous other awards, including a Meritorious Service award.

An avid hunter and bowler, Conklin also was a mentor and role model to many with an uplifting sense of humor.

He was a member of the National Rifle Association, Ulster Heights Hunting Club and the American Legion.

He was the widower of his first wife, Donna Conklin.

Survivors include his wife, Brenda, an admission assistant in the Directorate of Admissions; two sons; two daughters; three step-daughters; two brothers; and five grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Services were Feb. 23 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Walden and burial was at Fantinekill Cemetery in Ellenville.



Bart Conklin

as a group.

- Ensure someone at home has all the information about the trip including hotel phone numbers, the names of the members of the group, flight plans (if any) and the times you should arrive at the destination and return from vacation.

- Call someone when you reach the destination, and make periodic checks during your stay.

- Keep any beverages with you and in your sight at all times.

- Do not drink and drive.

- Take the time to visit the Antiterrorism Level I training site at <https://atlevel1.dtic.mil/at/> before a trip to get reacquainted with the training.

Following these tips and revisiting the AT Level I training site will help ensure a safe return with memories to share with friends.

Office of the G-1 launches new 'My Army Benefits' site

By Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

WASHINGTON —The Army's G-1 staff launched a redesigned Web site recently that consolidates all Army benefits information at one location and includes calculators that Soldiers can use.

The <http://MyArmyBenefits.us.army.mil> site has calculators that allow Soldiers to see how much money they can expect to receive upon retirement or how much their family would receive if the unthinkable happens.

"Soldiers owe it to their family to let them know they will be taken care of if something happens," Lt. Col. Jay Carlson of G-1, the program manager for the site, said.

The site also lists information about 150 different benefits ranging from child care to education assistance. Fact sheets are provided

on a variety of family services, recreation programs, Space-A travel, Army Emergency Relief, health care, spouse employment assistance and many other programs.

In addition, there are 54 state and territory fact sheets that break out different benefits for Soldiers who live in each state.

"The state/territory benefits page is helpful because all I had to do was click on my state on the map and I could see all the benefits my state offered," Staff Sgt. Michael O'Brien said. "Also it lets you estimate your retirement pay which is a cool thing to know."

The retirement calculator allows Soldiers to figure out what their benefits will be under the three different retirement systems: High Three, Final Pay and REDUX.

"MyArmyBenefits is the Army's one-stop official resource for all benefits information," Carlson said.

Until now, there was no one place to go for

benefits information, Carlson said, explaining the information was "disseminated through a broad variety of channels."

Benefit resource locators are part of the site, along with special wounded warrior and casualty modules.

The survivor planning calculator provides a personal report projecting lifetime Social Security and survivor's benefits. The report also factors in the Thrift Savings Plan, Servicemembers Group Life Insurance lump-sum payments and other benefits.

The benefits calculator is a good vehicle to assist Soldiers and spouses as they plan for the future, giving them peace of mind, Carlson said.

Personal data for the calculators is drawn from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

The calculators, including one for disability benefits, require Soldiers to log in using their

Army Knowledge Online password.

The only weakness of the site, according to one of its designers, is that the calculators currently are available only to active-duty Soldiers. However, Carlson said plans are underway to develop benefits calculators for National Guard and Reserve Soldiers as well.

Other sections of the site already address reserve-component Soldiers. One is the deployment planning toolkit. This section provides information about mobilization and deployment support, family assistance, pay and allowances and programs such as the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

Sergeant 1st Class Pete Mayes said he was impressed with the site.

"I'm scheduled to deploy downrange sometime this year," Mayes said. "And this would be a great benefit to my wife and daughter."

CORRECTION/ADDITION

In the Feb. 26 story about Dental Health Month activities on page 3, the West Point Women's Club was inadvertently omitted from the story. The WPWC also gave the Dental Activity a grant to support the program, allowing DENTAC to provide the dental kits to students at the West Point Schools.

Sunday, 2 a.m.
Set your clocks forward.



WTU COVENANT, cont. from page 1

which he has been assigned had the covenant when he was assigned to them. He felt he was often ignored, and his needs were not met. When he came to West Point, though, he knew the covenant already was in place.

"They really do live by it," Issler said, explaining the unit worked diligently to get him appropriate housing, among other things. "They have done what they can for me and my family. (The covenant) is not just a piece of paper."

The Army Warrior Health-Care Covenant

- We are grateful for the contributions of warriors and their families.
- We will provide warriors and their families the highest quality of care and services possible to honor their contributions to our nation.
- We will provide the assistance needed by warriors and their families during the healing process.
- We will provide initiatives and programs for warriors and their families that support their transition back to duty or their continued service to our nation as a veteran.
- We will provide an environment that is conducive to healing by focusing on body, mind, heart and spirit.



West Point Admissions wins awards

Yearling Daniel White; Maj. Paul Island, Admissions marketing officer; Firstie Dave White; and Cow Susan Baker check for their photos and others they know in the 2008-09 Admission's catalog and video/CD ROM they recently produced. West Point set the gold standard in the college catalog group and earned a silver award in the Video/CD Rom Viewbook category in the 24th annual Admissions Advertising Awards by Higher Education Marketing Report. "We are very proud of our success in this competition," Col. Deborah McDonald, West Point's director of admissions, said. The Admissions Advertising Awards is the largest educational advertising awards competition in the country. This year, more than 2,000 entries were received from more than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools from all 50 states and several foreign countries.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

Community Features and Photos

Cadets teach middle school about amateur radio

Story and photo by Emily Tower
Staff Writer

A crackle of static and a few squeaky moans from a radio's speakers left students at West Point Middle School wondering if they were in the middle of a science-fiction movie.

The students pondered Feb. 25 contacting outer space or someone in "Star Wars" as the cadet-in-charge of the U.S. Military Academy Cadet Amateur Radio Club adjusted some dials and flipped some switches.

The static broke into an unfamiliar language. Jaws dropped as Yearling Tom Dean explained the language was German.

"We called all the way to Italy last night when we were testing this," Dean told the class as students quickly quizzed each other on their German speaking skills.

After demonstrating the radio's ability to pick up chatter from around the world, cadets explained how amateur radios are used during emergencies, such as after natural disasters have wiped out telephone lines and cell phone towers. They told the students about the far-away places they've radioed—Antarctica, Australia, outer space.

If they could talk to astronauts on this thing, the students were eager to try it.

"This is whiskey two kilo golf yankee requesting CQ, CQ, CQ," fifth-grader Katrina Nnadozie said into the radio's microphone as if she'd done it a thousand times before.

Katrina used the club's call sign with the universal code for "I want to talk," which is CQ, to see who was listening. Because the cadets in the club are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to operate amateur radios, they could allow the students to attempt to contact others around the world with their guidance.

Katrina repeated the call sign and code several times and waited for someone to answer. She hoped someone special in Washington would hear her.

And if anybody responded, she hoped it would be "President Barack Obama," she said matter-of-factly, so she could ask him "if he likes being the president."

Lindsey Shannon, a fifth-grader, would have enjoyed talking with her friends in Germany. Her friend, Michelle Wigger, thought chatting with someone in Egypt would have been great.

"I've watched a lot of shows about Egypt and think it would be cool to talk to someone there," Michelle, also a fifth-grader, said. "I would ask them what is their favorite food, and what do they like to do."

Penelope Combs, also a fifth-grader, thought getting in touch with her Greek roots would have been a highlight.

The girls have made some long-distance phone calls to talk to Family as far away as Mexico and have chatted with deployed parents over the Internet. But, their first opportunity to talk to someone over a radio came with the cadets' presentation.

Unfortunately, nobody ever answered Katrina's requests. Dean thought the sun's energy might be interfering with the radio's signal, which was almost as cool to the children as hearing someone in Germany speak in their classroom.

Dean and Plebe Michael Johnston encouraged the children to visit the Boy Scout Jamboree in early May to try the radios again. The club will be supporting the Jamboree and frequently helps Boy and Girl Scouts with merit badges and other projects.

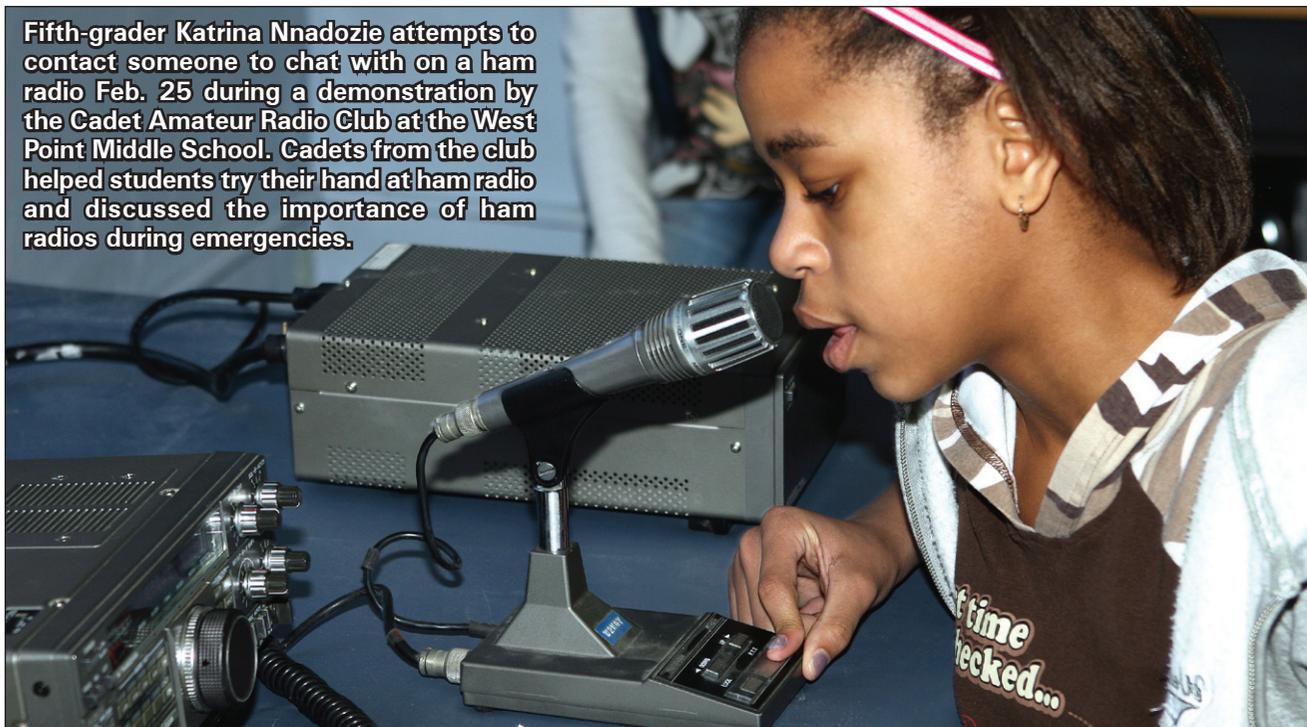
The club maintains antennae on top of Bartlett Hall and keeps in practice in case their skills are needed during an emergency.

The cadets admit they also chat on the radios just for fun. They keep a collection of cards documenting whom cadets have called. Dean and Johnston have found cards dating back to the 1930s and evidence of calls to East Germany and to the Challenger, the space shuttle that exploded in 1986, during one of its earlier missions.

The West Point Schools students got to hear about the amateur radios through an enrichment program that offers a choice between a presentation or study hall.

Past programs have included presentations from the West Point Band's Hellcats, astronaut and USMA alumnus Lt. Col. Shane Kimbrough, USMA Arabic instructor Col. David DiMeo and Olympic and USMA swimming coach Mickey Wender.

Fifth-grader Katrina Nnadozie attempts to contact someone to chat with on a ham radio Feb. 25 during a demonstration by the Cadet Amateur Radio Club at the West Point Middle School. Cadets from the club helped students try their hand at ham radio and discussed the importance of ham radios during emergencies.



Cadets introduced to infantry branch at ball

Story and photo by
Emily Tower
Staff Writer

When terrorists flew airplanes into the Twin Towers in New York City, Firstie Sean Innes felt an overwhelming need to be near the Big Apple.

"It was kind of a weird calling," Innes said. "I pay attention to those kinds of feelings."

Innes, who has wanted to serve in the military his entire life, learned about the U.S. Military Academy in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and decided he should try to become an Army officer.

Once at USMA, Innes decided to follow in the footsteps of his favorite mentors, who all happen to wear proudly light blue on their dress uniforms, and branch infantry. He accepted an extra three years onto his service obligation just to do it, too.

"I felt like it was always something I wanted to do," Innes said. "I was drawn to the qualities in infantry officers and want to develop those in myself."

Innes cited "humility, devotion to selfless service and humble confidence" as infantry qualities he admired.

These qualities were celebrated

Feb. 27 at an infantry ball held at Eisenhower Hall.

The ball was designed to welcome cadets who have branched infantry to the queen of battle and introduce them to some of the infantry's traditions.

"It is a wonderful opportunity to interact with officers and (noncommissioned officers) who have been there," Firstie Heritier Diakabana, who will be commissioned an infantry second lieutenant at graduation, said. "These are traditions we have to get used to, and I'm grateful to West Point for exposing us to them."

Some of the traditions included toasts to the country, Army, fallen Soldiers and ladies and a grog ceremony, which honors the different lands in which the infantry has fought, complete with Brig. Gen. Michael Linnington, commandant of the U.S. Corps of Cadets, and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mahoney, USCC senior NCO, testing the grog brew by drinking it out of an old combat boot.

Also during the ball, several infantry officers and Soldiers were honored with the Order of St. Maurice, which recognizes top infantrymen.

St. Maurice led the Theban Legion in ancient Rome and was

martyred after disobeying several orders to kill innocent civilians.

Nine officers and NCOs received the Order of St. Maurice during the infantry ball. They were Lt. Col. Brock Jones, Lt. Col. Peter Kilner, Maj. Ryan Wylie, Maj. Jamie Uptgraft, Capt. Shaun Chandler, Capt. Albert Vigilante Jr., Master Sgt. Christopher DuBois; Master Sgt. Victor Rivera and Sgt. 1st Class Joe Chadwick. Capt. Renee Vigilante received the Shield of Sparta, which recognizes an infantryman's wife who displays exceptional volunteerism.

"This is very special to me," Albert Vigilante said about the award. "It is great to be recognized by my peers. I have seen many guys do far more than me, and I feel undeserving of it. Nonetheless, I am very appreciative, very humbled."

Exposing future officers to such great infantry examples as the Order of St. Maurice recipients was the best part of the ball, Maj. Gen. Michael Barbero, commander of the U.S. Army Infantry Center and commandant of the U.S. Army Infantry School, said.

"I'm very impressed with the future infantry leaders," Barbero, who was the event's speaker, said. "As the chief of infantry, I'm pleased we are attracting the best to infantry. These are tremendous



Major Gen. Michael Barbero, commander of the U.S. Army Infantry Center and commandant of the U.S. Army Infantry School, bestows the Order of St. Maurice upon Lt. Col. Brock Jones, Dept. of Military Instruction course director, during the infantry ball held Feb. 27 at Eisenhower Hall. The award recognizes top infantry Soldiers and officers.

young cadets who want to serve with the best."

Some 187 cadets branched infantry in the USMA class of 2009, Linnington said.

Of those, many took an extra three years onto their service obligation to be in the infantry, just like Innes, who took an extra three years on top of that to get his duty

station of choice, Hawaii.

"I don't look at it as what I might be missing in life," Innes, who will be serving a minimum of 11 years in the Army after graduation, said. "If you look at life as what you're missing, you're setting yourself up for failure. It's all about your perspective. I'm setting myself up on a path I'm passionate about."

Safe winter driving often equals lower fuel costs

By Pat Horne
DPW Energy Awareness Committee

While winter is waning, safe driving and fuel conservation still are important during what's left of the season's cold weather.

Safe driving habits often are the same ones that conserve fuel.

One habit to get into is slowing down in severe weather. Driving at higher speeds in winter weather causes sliding, spinning tires and a potential for accidents. Driving at reasonable speeds conserves fuel by avoiding hard starts, spinning wheels and hard stops and slides, which cause a car's engine to work harder to speed up.

Traveling too slowly can be just as dangerous. Maintaining speed up inclines is important to preventing slides. But, traveling faster than the speed limit up an incline will burn extra fuel as the engine works against gravity to move the weight of the car.

Before traveling, drivers should make sure vehicles are properly outfitted for winter.

Tune up and check the engine; belt drives; fuel, cooling and heating systems; safety equipment lights; signals; wind shield wipers and washer fluid; spare tire; suspension shocks and struts; brake pads; rotors; lines and fluid levels; and tires

for wear and pressure.

Tune ups are important for fuel economy. In a combustion engine, fuel and oxygen are ignited, which results in exhaust. Most newer cars have computers that monitor and adjust fuel, oxygen and ignition levels to most efficiently produce power.

During tune ups key components are replaced such as spark plugs, timing belts, exhaust gas sensors, and fuel and air filters to help produce clean, efficient power.

Getting tune ups also help the environment by ensuring engines create less pollution and lessen the change of a break down.

Check tires during tune ups to make sure they are the proper type and have ample tread for winter driving. Snow tires might be needed in areas with significant amounts of snow and ice. All-weather tires usually are sufficient in light snow, rain and dry conditions.

Proper tire pressure is essential. A tire low on air pressure could blow out if it overheats. Adequate tire pressure also helps maintain the best possible fuel mileage.

Extra weight in the vehicle helps with traction during snow and ice, but too much weight can reduce fuel economy. Remove added weight from above the drive axle during bad weather.

Clear snow and ice off the car to decrease weight and to

keep other drivers safe by eliminating snow and ice that could fly off and hit another car. Luggage, ski, bike and boat racks also can add drag and reduce fuel economy and should be removed when not in use.

Newer cars need almost no warm up. The computer-controlled engine block and the antifreeze and oil can be warm within 30 seconds of starting the car.

Launch of "I+NY" Campaign to recruit 10,000 volunteers is vital to Red Cross Month initiative

From Staff Reports

The American Red Cross in Greater New York marks March as Red Cross Month with several key initiatives and events designed to honor the tradition that goes back to 1943 when President Roosevelt, in his role as honorary Red Cross Chairman, declared March as Red Cross Month to support fundraising efforts and volunteer recruitment drives for Red Cross activities during World War II.

Beginning Monday, ARC/GNY launched its new "I+NY" campaign which, in accordance with an agreement from Gov. David Paterson, borrows from the iconic "I♥NY" logo.

The campaign's primary goal is to recruit 10,000 volunteers to help prepare for a major disaster in greater New York.

The campaign, which features current Red Cross volunteers from the greater New York area, will serve as a call to action for New Yorkers to Red Cross New York through volunteering, preparing for emergencies and donating.

With nearly \$3 million in donated media, the ads will reach millions of people in Greater New York where they live, work and play with a multi-channel mix that includes out-of-home, digital and print media.

Additionally, the campaign will have squads of street teams on segways wearing "I+NY" T-shirts and buttons who will hand out ARC/GNY literature throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn. Other activities include:

- Launching an "I+NY" YouTube campaign with a dedicated You Tube Channel—www.youtube.com/iredcrossny. People who upload videos on how they "Red Cross New York" will receive an "I+NY" button, and will be entered into a contest to win an "I+NY" T-shirt.

- Sponsoring an I+NY outreach day March 25 at Madison Square Park in Manhattan where volunteers and employees will provide passersby with information about emergency preparedness and lifesaving skills training.

- Kicking off the HEROES for the American Red Cross campaign, a grassroots/local effort where individuals, local businesses, schools, faith-based groups and civic clubs pledge to raise \$1,000 for the Red Cross. Learn more at www.nyredcross.org/heroes.

- Encouraging New Yorkers to stock up on preparedness items—first aid kits, emergency "Go Bags" flashlights, crank radios and more—at a 20 percent discount at the Red Cross Store—online at www.nyredcross.org and at ARC/GNY area Offices in each of the five boroughs.

For further information, and a complete list of all of March's activities go to the Red Cross Month landing page on www.nyredcross.org.

Red Cross Month is full of opportunities for the community to engage with ARC/GNY.

Command Channel 8/23

March 5-12

- **Army Newswatch**
(broadcasts times)
Thursday-Friday, Monday-March 12—8:30 a.m.,
1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- **RCI meeting**
(broadcasts times)
Thursday and March 12—7:30 p.m.
Monday—9 a.m.
Wednesday—2 p.m.

A Spouse's Point of View

A Few Pointers for New Spouses

By Janine Boldrin

With the upcoming 10th month anniversary of our living on West Point, I reflected upon what I have learned since arriving. As many military spouses know, each post has its unwritten rules that you usually learn through trial and error. And maybe I can save some newcomers a few bucks, a little time and maybe a parking ticket or two by passing along a few pointers.

For instance, if upon arriving at West Point had I known that Main Street in Highland Falls was recently redesigned based on the size of a Mini-Cooper, I would have never decided to navigate my (insert absurdly large SUV name that most Army Families like to own) downtown my first week here; thus avoiding what has now come to be known as "the time mommy got into an accident with all of us in the truck."

And had I adopted the philosophy of "the shopperette will most likely not stock (insert any item that you run out of on a Monday)" a bit sooner, I could have spared myself many trips up the hill to come back down empty handed. (Note: if you are interested in purchasing any kind of beer or wine, rest assured that you will find it there.)

As for those bleary-eyed mornings when I woke after being up with a sick child all night, I should have thought: Press 1. The

nice recorded voice of the Keller Appointment Line may have been what caused me to miss getting one of the much-coveted same-day appointments several times. I should have never listened to the recorded voice's whole spiel. So here's a hint: just Press 1 to be connected with a live person and (hypothetically) get an appointment.

This is a gem that I only learned last week. Most long-timers (except me!) know that the posted commissary hours aren't truly the hours it is open. The doors really open at 9 a.m. during the week. There seem to be some loose rules limiting your shopping during this time, but maybe this foreshadows the dreamy possibility of the store being open on Mondays.

And a few fast facts that will serve newcomers well from my months here. Yes, AAFES gas pumps are slower than any others. And, yes, the ones at West Point may seem to be set to pump extra slow on blustery winter days. So, if the sun doth shine on a winter day when your tank is slightly low, hightail it up the hill to fill it up.

Yes, your child will need a physical for Basket Weaving Class. Make the appointment as soon as you touch ground on West Point. And, if you've never experienced a New York winter, make sure you're careful when you dust the snow off of your windshield.

It seems DOD stickers don't stick well on a frosty window when the wires of a brush run over it.

(Sadly, I had to learn this lesson twice).

In conclusion, let me just say: \$185 plus \$65 a day from the minute your car hits the lot. And left, right, bear left onto 9W—directions to get your car if it gets towed off of West Point. Not that I know this from personal experience. But do be aware that using "snow" as an excuse for not seeing the parking lines is not an acceptable defense.

You may want to clip this column out, stick it in an envelope and mail it off to the spouse of your new sponsored Family. Please jot a few of your own ideas on the edges. Who knows, they might thank you with a nice lunch at Subway when they get here. Just remember, don't go at noon because that's when half of West Point seems to be eating there.

(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 email her at janineboldrin@gmail.com.)

Keller Corner

Weight-loss surgery

Candidates for bariatric or weight-loss surgery have been dieting and exercising without losing weight or maintaining weight loss.

Keller Army Community Hospital offers laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding in addition to laparoscopic bypass and laparoscopic gastric sleeve resection procedures.

These procedures are performed with the latest laparoscopic equipment and instruments using minimally invasive techniques.

Obesity is the most costly and common

nutritional problem in the United States and is close to smoking as the most frequent cause of early preventable death.

Obesity significantly increases risk of diabetes, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, arthritis, coronary artery disease, sleep apnea and venous stasis. Obesity also increases the risk of cancer of the breast, colon and endometrium. Weight loss can significantly decrease the risk of these medical diseases and premature death.

For more information, call the General Surgery Clinic at 938-6850 or ask your primary care manager for a consultation.

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. Upcoming events include:

- **Luck of the Irish**—Stop by the Balfour Beatty Communities office Wednesday for a magic key to an Irish treasure chest. If your key opens the treasure chest you win the prize inside.

- **Leprechaun gold treasure hunt**—Stop by 132 Bartlett Loop for the leprechaun gold treasure hunt from 2:30-4 p.m. March 17. A mid-day snack of green treats will be available to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

- **Scavenger hunt**—Join the community for a nature scavenger hunt from 1-2:30 p.m. March 19. Participants will meet at Stony Lonesome 11 playground.

Each team will be given nature clues and will need to collect items from clues given to teams. Children of all ages are welcome.

Contact Gellman, LifeWorks coordinator, at 446-6407 or jgellman@bbcgrp.com with any questions or suggestions.

What's Happening

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.

Fish fry

Holy Innocents Church, located at 401 Main St. in Highland Falls, is hosting a fish fry every Friday during Lent from 5-8 p.m. Friday, March 13, 20, 27 and April 3.

Fried tilapia and catfish, chicken tenders, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw and rolls are on the menu.

A movie will be shown beginning at 6 p.m. each night.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call 446-2197.

Group walk

Volkssport Club of West Point will have a group walk Saturday in Highland Falls.

The walk has 5- and 10-kilometer trails through the village of Highland Falls and onto West Point.

The walk is free, and a fee can be paid for AVA credit. This qualifies for AVA special programs, authors and literary landmarks, cemetery stroll, courthouses, historic churches, museums, riverwalk America, U.S. president, veteran memorials, walking waterfalls and firehouses.

All participants are invited to breakfast at Park Restaurant on Main Street, Highland Falls, at 9 a.m. Walk registration will be at 10:15 a.m. at the West Point Visitor's Center. For more information, call 845-446-4709.

Book fair

The West Point Elementary and Middle Schools' Parent-Teacher Organization book fair is scheduled for 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-March 12 at the middle school's gym.

Shopping for parents also is available 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday.

Family shopping is scheduled for 7-8 a.m.

and 5:30-8 p.m. Wednesday.

Book signings

New York Times Bestselling author Greg Mortenson, author of "Three Cups of Tea," is scheduled to come to the USMA Bookstore for a signing from 2-3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Craig Mullaney, author of "The Unforgiving Minute: A Soldier's Education," and Roger Miller, photographer for "West Point: An Inside Look at the Long Gray Line," will be signing copies of their books beginning at 9:30 a.m. March 13.

Artist Bruce Frank is scheduled to sign copies of his paintings with depictions of West Point on March 14. The bookstore is located on the fourth floor of Thayer 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 and infant CPR, automated external defibrillator: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. March 12 and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. March 21;
- CPR for the professional rescuer: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday;
- Adult CPR, automated external defibrillator: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. March 14;
- Responding to emergencies: 4:30-8:30 p.m. March 16-20;
- EpiPen injector: 8:30-9:30 a.m. March 20;
- First aid: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. March 24;
- First aid and adult CPR, automated external defibrillator: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. March 26.

To register, visit www.nyredcross.org.

Jazz concert

A jazz benefit concert with the two-time Grammy-nominated Tierney Sutton Band takes place at 7 p.m. March 15 at Mount St. Joseph in New Windsor.

The show is to benefit Orange County AHRC, which is a not-for-profit company

serving children and adults with disabilities.

For tickets, call 561-0670 ext. 1137 or go to www.orangeahrc.org.

Maple sugaring tour

Commemorate the Quadricentennial with a tour of the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum's sugar bush.

Maple sugar tours start every half hour from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. weekends through March 22. Learn about the development of maple sugaring through 400 years of New York state history.

Women's History Month observance

West Point's Equal Opportunity Office is sponsoring a Women's History Month observance luncheon at 11:30 a.m. March 30 in the West Point Club's Grand Ballroom.

Guest speaker will be retired Col. Christine Gayagas, U.S. Military Academy class of 1984. For tickets or more information, call 938-2621/7082.

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.

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.

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, when 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 committed 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.

Reading efficiency course

The Reading efficiency course, RS102, begins March 23. The course is open to cadets. Faculty and staff may be placed on a waiting list for the course.

The course has 10 lessons designed to help increase reading speed without a significant loss of comprehension. There is no homework, text, out-of-class assignments or WPRs/TEEs.

Classes are offered during B, E, H, K and L hours of the cadet schedule. All classes take place in the reading lab in JH002, located in the basement of Jefferson Hall. The course syllabus will be sent before classes begin.

For more information or to enroll or be put on the waiting list, call 938-3421 or e-mail yk8716@usma.edu.

Yard sale

The semi-annual West Point yard sale is scheduled for April 4. The rain date is May 9.

Glass factory tour

Gillinder Glass Factory in Port Jervis is offering tours March 29 and May 10. Visitors can see glass making and glass blowing techniques the factory has used since 1861.

Groups are welcome with advance reservations. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.gillinderglassstore.com or call 856-5375.

NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752

Friday -- Frost/Nixon, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday -- Hotel For Dogs, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday -- My Bloody Valentine, R, 9:30 p.m.

THE THEATER SCHEDULE ALSO CAN BE FOUND AT

WWW.AAFES.COM

TSP TICKER

MARCH share prices (as of 3/2)

C Fund	--	- 0.80 (8.1444)
S Fund	--	- 0.94 (9.4855)
I Fund	--	- 1.00 (10.6648)

FMWR Blurbs

Inprocessing briefings

To improve services for incoming Soldiers and Families, Army Community Service inprocessing briefings will take place at 9 a.m. Wednesdays in the ACS Training Room.

These briefings provide information about ACS programs and the West Point community.

Soldiers must attend to receive an ACS signature on their inprocessing checklist. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

For more information, call Ciara Luna, Relocation Program manager, at 938-3487.

Summer camp applications

Applications for School Age Services summer camp for military Families not enrolled in SAS before/after school childcare will be taken beginning at 8 a.m. today and Friday at the Child Development Center, Bldg. 1207.

Camp applications for previous summer camp attendees will be taken beginning at 6:30 a.m. Monday and Tuesday at the CDC.

Applications for new campers will be taken beginning at 8 a.m. each day March 11-20 at the CDC.

Applications can be found at www.westpointmwr.com under the School Age Services section.

For more information, call Tara Balfe at 938-4458.

Fitness training sessions

Upcoming fitness training sessions include the Army Ten-Miler self-paced challenge at 8 a.m. Saturday at the FMWR Fitness Center, a cross-fit challenge at 9 a.m. Saturday at Arvin Cadet Physical Fitness Center and a bench press with 5K run at the FMWR Fitness Center.

For more information, call 938-6490.

Texas Hold'em

FMWR is hosting a Texas Hold'em tournament at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Buffalo Soldier Pavilion, Bldg. 628.

Entry forms and payment can be dropped off at ITR, Bldg. 695, through Friday.

Entry forms are available online at www.westpointmwr.com.

Walk-ins will be accepted the day of the event on a space-available basis.

This event is open to civilians, Soldiers and Family members 18 years and older.

If interested, please call 938-6497.

Bunco night

The West Point Club will be hosting bunco night at 6 p.m. March 12.

There will be food and the chance to win gift cards and other prizes. No experience

is necessary, but participants must be 18 or older to play.

Make reservations by calling 938-8185.

Defensive driving

The next defensive driving class will take place 8 a.m.-3 p.m. March 14 at ACS, Bldg. 622.

To register, call 938-2401.

AFAP committee

A commander's AFAP steering committee meeting is scheduled from 1:30-4:30 p.m. March 17 at the Jewish Chapel.

West Point agencies will report on the 16 new AFAP issues from the 2008 conference and the remaining six outstanding AFAP issues.

Members of the West Point community are welcome to attend.

Responses for issues submitted to AFAP but not prioritized/selected by the workgroups are available online at www.westpointmwr.com/afap.htm.

For more information, call Jen Pagio at 938-3655.

Job fair

ACS and ACAP are hosting a job fair from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. March 26 in the Crest Room of The Hotel Thayer.

Two military spouses will be hired to support this event. Companies and organizations recruiting at the event come from West Point and New York, Colorado, New Jersey, North Carolina, Florida, Massachusetts, Texas, Virginia, Illinois and Washington, D.C.

For more information, call Amy-Jo Johnson at 938-5658.

Basketball party

Yuengs and Wings at the West Point Club takes place March 26-29 and April 4 and 6. A special menu is available 6-10 p.m. while NCAA March Madness is playing.

Prizes will be given away March 28.

For more information, call 938-5120.

Mother's Day essay contest

The West Point Club's Mother's Day Essay Contest began Sunday.

Write about why your mom is special and why she should be Mom of the Year.

Send the entry along with a picture of your mom via e-mail or postal mail.

Reference "Mother's Day Contest" on all entries and mail to The West Point Club, 603 Cullum Road, West Point, NY 10996 or e-mail to nancy.amendola@usma.edu.

The winner will be announced May 1 and will receive a day at the spa plus four

complimentary Mother's Day brunch tickets for May 10.

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.

Parenting class

ACS is hosting a parenting class about living with teenagers at 6:30 p.m. April 15, 22 and 29 at ACS, Bldg. 622.

For more information and to register, call 938-3921.

Musical tickets

Free tickets to see "Guys and Dolls" at Albertus Magnus High School in Bardonia are available to military Families.

Performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. April 3-4 and 2 p.m. April 5.

To reserve tickets, call 938-6127 or e-mail joel.flowers@usma.edu by March 6.

The high school is located at 798 Route 304.

AER campaign

Army Emergency Relief campaign will continue through May 1.

For more information, contact Amy Weyhrauch at 938-5839 or amy.weyhrauch@us.army.mil.

Half-marathon training group

FMWR announces a half-marathon training group to prepare runners for the New Jersey half-marathon May 3.

Training begins Wednesday, and the group will meet twice a week for 15 sessions.

All runs are led by Certified Personal Trainer Andrea Ingram.

Call the Fitness Center at 938-6490 to sign up or e-mail everywomanfitness@hotmail.com for more information.

Story hour

Story hour at the Post Library is scheduled for 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday through 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.

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.

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.

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.

Solution to Weekly Sudoku

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

FOR PV HOME DELIVERY PROBLEMS CONTACT MATT O'SULLIVAN AT THE TIMES HERALD-RECORD AT (845) 346-3214 OR BY E-MAIL AT MOSULLIVAN@TH-RECORD.COM.

Elliot surprises at Brigade Boxing Open

Story and photos by
Eric S. Bartelt
Assistant Editor

Twenty-two fighters took to the ring Feb. 24 at Hayes Gymnasium during the 53rd annual West Point Brigade Boxing Open, and the spotlight shined the brightest on one of Army's newest boxers.

Plebe Tyler Elliot took home the Most Valuable Boxer of the evening, chosen by ESPN announcers Joe Tessitore and Teddy Atlas, with his second round technical knockout of Yearling Charles Paddock in the 195-pound weight class.

Elliot fought in only his fifth bout of the year, three during the BBO tournament, and surprised many with his victory after finding himself behind after the first round.

"I got my (butt) handed to me in the first round and then coming back in the second round to win really shocked me," Elliot said. "As far as earning the (MVB), it was more of a situational thing because (Paddock) beat me up in the first round and then I got a few good hits to daze him and from there I just took it to him."

There were plenty of factors that led to Elliot falling behind early including fighting on television for the first time with the bright lights and excitement of the brigade championships, but he felt it really stemmed back to the weekend before during a loss to a U.S. Coast Guard Academy opponent.

Against the USCGA opponent, Elliot was a victim of a technical

knockout because he wore himself out with a quick flurry in the first round and decided to change his approach in the bout versus Paddock.

"I beat (the Coast Guard opponent) up really well in the first round, but then by the second and third rounds he got inside on me and really wore me out," Elliot said. "So in the (BBO) I restrained myself and I was determined to make it all three rounds and didn't want to die out and embarrass myself in front of everyone by standing there not throwing any punches.

"I tried to keep my cool during the first round and defended myself even though I lost significantly," he added. "However, in the second round (Paddock) did what I did last week where he showed signs of fatigue, I landed some good power punches to his head and he kind of went into a daze and from there he stopped defending himself and I took the opportunity to pick him apart to get the victory."

The crowd jumped up and went wild after Elliot knocked down his veteran opponent, an opponent whom Army boxing coach Ray Barone feels should win the national championship at 195 pounds.

"I think Chad (Paddock) may have been a little overconfident after the first round and came in with his hands a little low and as he walked in, he got caught (with a power punch) and once he got caught with the hard punch I think it threw him off," Barone said. "I knew Tyler (Elliot) was a good



Plebe Huseyn Panahov (right) catches Plebe James Brousseau with a right hand, but Brousseau fought back to earn the victory in the 156-pound weight class Feb. 24 at the 53rd annual West Point Brigade Boxing Open in Hayes Gymnasium.

boxer and he works very hard and is fundamentally sound and he has a great future with the team, he's got all the tools—he's strong, big, works hard and is not afraid. Still, I expect Chad to win the national championship."

Elliot credits Paddock, who won the West Point BBO heavyweight championship last year, as being a guy who has shown him a lot this year in and out of the ring while another guy he credits as an upperclassman influence is Firstie Jody Chapman.

"The starters are responsible

for the experience I get and I've been sparring with Jody Chapman and he's shown me a lot as has Paddock," Elliot explained. "They beat me up, but I see what I need to improve on."

Chapman, the only firstie on this year's Army boxing team, earned the victory in the 185-pound weight class over Cow A.J. Pisano in a three-round decision.

All the fights the rest of the night ended in three-round decisions including the third straight brigade title for 165-pound champion Cow Ryle Stous, who also is looking toward his second straight national championship in April at the NCAA Boxing championships at the University of Maryland, as he defeated Yearling Scott Ginther.

Last year's Most Outstanding Boxer of the West Point BBO, Yearling Terrell Anthony, earned another hard-fought win when he bloodied his opponent Yearling

Ricky Garcia. Last year's 125-pound BBO champion, Yearling Danilo Garcia, who also was the 125-pound national champion, earned another brigade open win with a victory over C-3 company mate, Plebe Fabian Lopez.

For the second straight year at 112 pounds, Yearling Josef Grohoski defeated Yearling Kyle Kiriya. At 119 pounds, because Cow Matt Longo was ill, there was no contested bout. At 132 pounds, Yearling Johnny Garcia earned his second consecutive title at 132 by defeating Cow Jevon Thomas.

Also earning victories on the evening were Yearling Luis Clasby over Cow Deonte Dawson (147 pounds), Plebe James Brousseau over Plebe Huseyn Panahov (156 pounds), Cow William Myers over Cow Alois Renggli (175 pounds) and Cow Cedric Fraser over Yearling Artem Boyev in the final bout in the heavyweight class.



Yearling Danilo Garcia (right) sneaks a left hand to the face of his 125-pound opponent, Plebe Fabian Lopez. Garcia would go on to win his second Brigade Boxing Open and is now looking to earn his second national championship at 125 pounds in April.



Plebe Tyler Elliot (right) fought off a furious first round by Yearling Charles Paddock, who won at the BBO last year at heavyweight, to earn a technical knockout victory in the second round.

Always the fighter, Stous works toward second championship

Story and photos by
Eric S. Bartelt
Assistant Editor

Earning his third consecutive Brigade Boxing Open championship Feb. 24 wasn't as hard as the first one he earned two years ago, but boxing is relatively easy compared to growing up in San Diego with six siblings, three of whom were adopted.

Cow Ryle Stous is about as strong and competent of a cadet one will ever meet at West Point, and much of that is born out of his background.

His parents, Gary and Mickey, were not rich but were compelled by compassion to adopt three children with the four children they already had because of their missionary background in Mexico and Latin America.

Stous said with seven children in the household, six of them boys, it was second nature for him to box, even though he didn't start officially boxing until he got to the U.S. Military Academy. His hectic home life led to his comfort in the ring and his ability to overcome his opponents.

"I have the ability to stay calm when I'm boxing and I contribute that to my siblings because they created a war zone while growing up," Stous said. "We were always boxing each other and doing rigorous stuff like that, so I feel at home while I'm boxing."

The 23-year-old Californian did not come directly to West Point from high school as he joined the Army as an enlisted Soldier. Early into his enlistment, depending on how one looks at it, Stous received a bad break when he broke his leg and tore ligaments in his ankle during airborne school and from that his job as an 18 X, which is a Special Forces option, was terminated.

"At that point, I didn't have a place to go to because I wasn't allowed to be shipped while I was on crutches," Stous said. "I was waiting for orders for a new duty station when I got accepted to the academy. I did put in a packet, but it wasn't the No. 1 thing I was thinking about at the time."

"My injury helped me decide on coming to West Point," he added. "I had given up the thought of higher learning (when I quit community college), but it was kind of a weird twist of fate that I wound up here at one of the most rigorous academic academies in the world because I wasn't thinking about it, I was thinking about going Special Forces."

While disappointed that his dream of being in the Special Forces was not achieved, the opportunities that the academy has offered him since have more than made up for that initial disappointment.

Stous went to the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School before he came to West Point, and that's where he picked up boxing as a sport. Initially his dream was to play football as he did in high school; however, he was still recovering from his ligament damage in his ankle. So once he got to West Point, because he couldn't play football in the fall, he chose boxing.

"I picked up boxing to pass the time and knew West Point had a good program, and I stuck with it," Stous said. "I'm glad I did stick with it because it's been a lot more fun. It's a good time winning."

Winning three Brigade Opens was nothing compared to winning the national championship at 165 pounds last year when he earned a 4-1 decision in the national final versus Travis Murray of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Murray had beaten Stous in the finals at the regionals two



Cow Ryle Stous (right) earned his third Brigade Boxing Open by defeating Yearling Scott Ginther in a three-round decision Feb. 24.

weeks before the nationals, and his redemption at the nationals led to Army boxing's first-ever team national championship.

"Ryle (Stous) is very perceptive and he knew what that guy did to beat him and he knew what he had to do to beat the other guy," Army head boxing coach Ray Barone said. "Ryle came back with a strategy because the guy would switch up to southpaw every once in awhile and Ryle was ready for it and as soon as he did it, bang, he hit the guy."

"I was pretty certain when the final bell rang that we won the championship based on (Ryle's) performance," Barone added. "Winning the national championship (off his bout) last year was pretty fitting because of Ryle's presence, his work ethic and his being a complete cadet."

The combination of his boxing skills and important victories, his solid grade point average (3.5 GPA) and his overall work ethic led to him being named team captain this year as a cow. He's the first boxer to be named captain as a cow during Barone's tenure as boxing coach at Army.

"Ryle is tenacious and is extremely competitive and is a guy who sets the example in all realms and leads from the front," Barone said. "His leadership is important to the team as they perceive him in a good light. He leads from the front academically and physically in the ring, so it's easy to have a guy like him say, 'let's pick it up,' because it's like having a Michael Jordan on the team."

"You don't argue with what he brings to the table," he added. "They respect the fact that he's been a national champion, a good student and a leader."

Stous credits boxing for helping give him discipline and direction at the academy and more than just in the ring.

"It gives you a reason to keep your head up high on a daily basis and gives me something to look forward to," Stous said. "It's a great opportunity to develop the skill of boxing for four years and gives you confidence in other areas in life."

Boxing is just one of the things he's been able to enjoy during his time at the academy. Last semester, Stous was able to participate in the semester abroad program as he traveled to Mexico.

Stous didn't compete in boxing during the fall semester, but he did participate in jujitsu while in Mexico.

For him, it was a chance to return to a country where he spent a lot of his time while growing up as a son of active missionaries.

"My whole motivation to learn Spanish to begin with was

my parents being missionaries in Paraguay," Stous said. "We did a lot of missionary work in Mexico as well while I was growing up and I would always go on those trips. Every time I would come back from those trips, I would be more motivated to learn Spanish."

"(The semester abroad) was the most exciting thing I've done at the academy outside of being on the boxing team," Stous added. "Absolutely, hands down, I can't think of anything else that would compare to that experience."

A tough guy at heart from an unorthodox family, Stous said one of his first toys as a child he received was a machete that his parents gave him to cut grass in the yard, and ever since then he's been a selfless-serving young man who has been chopping down obstacles along the way.

The next obstacle he wants to chop down is getting his team another national championship, and he's extremely excited at the chance, especially as captain, to get another national team and individual title.

"As a captain, my main focus is for us to win again, and to do that we must all work together to maximize our potential and best train to our own individual means," Stous said. "The pressure to live up to our own expectations doesn't guarantee anything in this sport because a lot of things can happen from injuries to many other variables, so I don't want to be too confident."

"We got to go out and do the exact same thing we did last year, which is work hard to make sure it happens again," he concluded. "We try to minimize the pressure by taking care of the details of our training and maintain the underdog mentality. The other teams and boxers aren't going to throw in the towel just because we're Army boxing, we got to go out and earn it."



With his ability in the ring and earning good grades in school, Cow Ryle Stous (right) became the team's first cow to become captain under Coach Ray Barone.

Army earns PL fourth seed with Bucknell win

By Brian Gunning
Athletic Communications

LEWISBURG, PA.—Army opened the second half on a 19-2 run to break open a two-point game and cruised to a 70-53 win over Bucknell in Patriot League men's basketball action Feb. 28 at Sojka Pavilion.

The victory improved the Black Knights record to 10-18 overall and 6-8 in the conference and clinched the fourth seed and a quarterfinal home game in the Patriot League Tournament.

Wednesday's home game against fifth-seeded Lehigh marked Army's first game at Christl Arena in the postseason since the current format of higher seeds hosting was put into effect.

It marked Army's first Patriot League Tournament game as the higher seed.

Plebe guard Julian Simmons led the Black Knights with a career-high 21 points against Bucknell.

The rookie fired in a career-best five three-pointers and grabbed a career-high five rebounds.

Simmons was one of four Army starters to score in double figures.

Cow guard Josh Miller tied his season high with 18 points, nine of which came from the foul line.

Firstie center Doug Williams scored a season-high 14 points and just missed a double-double with

nine rebounds.

Cow forward Cleveland Richard chipped in with 12 points, his 10th double-digit game in the last 12 outings.

For the first time since the Brown game Nov. 26, Army had as many as four players score at least 10 points.

Bucknell's (7-22, 4-10) Patrick Behan led all scorers with 23 points, 17 of which came in the first half, and completed the double-double with a game-high 12 rebounds.

Behan was six for 10 from the floor and five of six at the line in the first 20 minutes but mustered only two field goals and two free throws after halftime. It was his fifth consecutive 20-point game.

Justin Castleberry scored 11 points for the Bison.

The Army defense limited Bucknell to only 30.4 percent from the field and just 21.1 percent from three-point range.

The Black Knights outrebounded the Bison, 41-38. For the fifth time this season, Army held the edge on the glass.

Army shot 41.8 percent for the game, including 50 percent in the second half, and was nine of 18 from three-point range.

Army's six Patriot League wins tie the program's best showing and marks the first time the Black Knights have reached that mark in consecutive seasons.



Plebe guard Julian Simmons knocked down a career-high 21 points at Bucknell Feb. 28 to help earn Army a fourth-place seed in the upcoming Patriot League Tournament. Army hosted the quarterfinal Wednesday against Lehigh.

ERIC S. BARTELT/PV

The win was also the Black Knights' second straight road win after five consecutive losses away from West Point.

Wednesday's quarterfinal game against Lehigh marked the third straight season that the Black Knights and Mountain Hawks

have met in the Patriot League quarterfinals.

Army took the previous two meetings, both in Bethlehem, Pa.

West Point to sponsor two teams for the Army Ten Miler, registration opens April 1

The annual Army Ten-Miler will open registration April 1 for the Oct. 4 race in Washington. The race is open to military and civilians to compete for top awards in more than 27 divisions.

Last year's race sold out in 21 days. Because this is the 25th anniversary of the ATM, it is expected to sell out by mid-May. Participants are encouraged to register early at www.armytenmiler.com.

West Point's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is sponsoring two teams—one with four active-duty personnel and one with four Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers personnel.

All potential team members must register as individuals first at www.armytenmiler.com.

To qualify for either team, potential members must run in the West Point 5k-10k event. Those with the best scores will be chosen for one of the two teams. Teams then must register by Aug. 8.

The field for the ATM has been expanded to 30,000 participants, up from 26,000 in 2008.

CLUB RESULTS

• **Men's Rugby:** What "American Rugby News" deemed one of the games of the week turned out to be quite a showing Feb. 28 at State College, Pa.

Army, despite a number of injuries, held off Penn State to earn a 30-30 tie in regulation.

Army played a good overall game, pressing the play continually through most of the match.

Cow flanker Bobby O'Neill had an outstanding effort with three tries, and the backs, particularly the centers, and Yearling flyhalf Dave Geib, had outstanding games as well.

The Black Knights started the scoring early in the first half with a multi-phased attack that ended with a 50-meter race down the sideline by O'Neill. Geib received the ball from Firstie scrumhalf John Wagner, spun it wide through the centers where O'Neill received a short pass and outran five Penn State defenders.

Army came back after the Nittany Lions tied the game, with a try by Geib. Mid-phase, Geib, with a short line on the blindside, switched fields, broke the line and dodged two defenders before taking it in from about 30 meters out.

After Penn State tied the game at 10, it was 15-10 before halftime when O'Neill scored on the best play of the match. The centers ran a dynamic line and Cow Mike Sheehan took a pass from Geib and pulled it across to O'Neill, right in front of the outstretched arms of the defender and he went in untouched.

The second half started off with a scary moment as Sheehan took an illegal hit to the face that knocked him out of the game.

Army went up 20-10 when Cow Andrew Dill took an inside line from 20 meters out and pushed his way through multiple defenders to get a try.

Penn State bounced back to make it 20-15. Army added two more tries as Geib read the gap and took the ball in from more than 20 meters out.

O'Neill scored one more time off a great lineout set up by his own kick, chase and pressure.

Penn State responded. However, with two unanswered tries that tied the game at 30 and, with West Point knocking on the doorstep of the try zone in the closing seconds, the whistle was blown to end the game.

Sports calendar

March 7-17

Corps

SATURDAY -- WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. QUINNIPIAC, LICHTENBERG TENNIS CENTER, 9 A.M.

SATURDAY -- LACROSSE VS. AIR FORCE, MICHIE STADIUM, NOON.

SUNDAY -- WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. MARIST (9 A.M.) & COLGATE (NOON), LICHTENBERG TENNIS CENTER.

MONDAY -- MEN'S TENNIS VS. FURMAN, LICHTENBERG TENNIS CENTER, 3 P.M.

TUESDAY -- SOFTBALL VS. FDU (DH), ARMY SOFTBALL COMPLEX, 3 P.M. & 5 P.M.

MARCH 14 -- GYMNASTICS VS. WILLIAM & MARY, IOWA & SPRINGFIELD, GROSS CENTER, 2 P.M.

MARCH 17 -- LACROSSE VS. LEHIGH, MICHIE STADIUM, 7 P.M.

Club

FRIDAY -- WOMEN'S LACROSSE VS. DELAWARE, DALY FIELD, 6 P.M.

SUNDAY -- WOMEN'S RUGBY VS. NAVY, ANDERSON RUGBY COMPLEX, 1 P.M.