

POINTER VIEW®

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Brown (noon),
Harvard (2 p.m.) and
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Saturday at
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SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WEST POINT, THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

JANUARY 27, 2011



Celebrating 30 years of Freedom

The 30th anniversary of the Iranian hostage repatriation was observed Jan. 20-22 with 15 former captives and five members of the rescue team returning to West Point, the site of their original homecoming in January 1981. The entire Corps of Cadets formed a cordon along Thayer Walkway to salute and cheer their arrival Jan. 21 as the group started their day's activities, which included panel discussions with cadets and faculty, plus lunch in the Cadet Mess Hall. The hostages were held captive for 444 days from 1979-81 in Iran before their homecoming at West Point. See photos and story of the 30-year reunion on pages 8-9. TOMMY GILLIGAN/PV

SCREENING OF "RESTREPO"

The Oscar-nominated documentary, "Restrepo," on 2nd Platoon, Battle Company, 173rd Airborne Brigade, covers operation "Rock Avalanche" and the events that led up to the ambush in which Staff Sgt. Sal Giunta distinguished himself with valor that earned him the nation's highest award for Valor, the Medal of Honor.

The success of "Restrepo" has brought considerable

media attention and notoriety to the directors of the film, Sebastian Junger and Tim Hetherington. They have decided to take a break from their busy schedule to share their experiences in combat with the Corps of Cadets and the West Point community.

The Department of History's Center for Oral History is hosting a free showing of "Restrepo" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday

at Robinson Auditorium on the 3rd Floor of Thayer Hall. Immediately following the screening, Sebastian Junger and Tim Hetherington will be available for a book signing of "War" and "Infidel."

Both authors will also be available for a book signing at the Cadet Bookstore at 2 p.m. Tuesday, following a lecture with Military Science cadets.

A second chance to celebrate a West Point homecoming

Commentary by Mike Strasser
Assistant Editor/Copy

She was among the first inside the Haig Room, sitting alone and patiently awaiting the arrival of the former hostages, nearly 30 years to the day they made their historic homecoming to West Point. Was she with the reunion—a former hostage or family member? Or maybe a fellow reporter; she did have a note pad and camera on her lap.

Curiosity got the better of me and within moments I was interviewing Kathy Eagan, a lifelong resident of the area. Back in 1981, Kathy couldn't join the thousands lining the streets of Highland Falls up through Thayer Gate to cheer the homecoming party—she kind of had her hands full with the child-rearing and all back then. So she wanted to experience it the second time around, and as a DOD employee on, of all days, a Code Red, she had her chance Friday.

Kathy remembered 30 years ago when the Hudson Valley blossomed with yellow ribbons in support of the hostages' return. It was a time when the country was dented by a failing economy, mile-long lines at the gas station and, of course, a daily countdown—444 days to be exact—of the Iranian Hostage Crisis. The day the hostages were released was like



The Corps of Cadets showed their support when the former Iranian hostages, rescue personnel and family members returned to West Point Jan. 20-22 for their 30th reunion. West Point faculty and cadets benefited from the honored guests' experiences and insights during panel discussions. TOMMY GILLIGAN/PV

a collective release of tension in America, Kathy told me.

"It was euphoria everywhere," she said. "You can't imagine how excited everyone was for their return home."

As the tutor program director at the Center for Enhanced Performance, Kathy advises history majors in particular about the importance of finding that emotional connection with the subjects they study. A chance like this, to brush shoulders with those who lived that history, provides a remarkable opportunity to do that.

"What's history to them is our current events," Eagan said. "We lived that."

They may not have lived it, but the Corps of Cadets did their due diligence preparing for this visit. Whether sharing lunch at the Cadet Mess Hall or participating in the panel discussion, the cadets proved to be an attentive audience for these honored guests and the questions they asked were well-informed and relevant.

West Point is accustomed to hosting distinguished guests and VIPs—from presidents, ambassadors, generals and captains of industry. It's a privilege to see these future Army leaders benefit from these encounters. I think Firstie Jeremy Smith said it best. I felt bad stopping him for comments after a panel discussion because it was evident he wanted to approach the panel participants, probably to thank them or ask them another question. Smith said he was grateful for the opportunities he's had at West Point, because events like this are beyond what most students experience in a normal academic year.

"I think this shows how far above and beyond the typical academic curriculum really is here," the Life Sciences major said. "We have the opportunities as a group to honor the contributions of other people and really present them with a strong tour de force in their honor. I don't think you will see that anywhere else. I think it's advantageous for us as cadets and we really benefit from that."

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

See SUDOKU PUZZLE, Page 14

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Keller NCO first inductee into West Point Sgt. Audie Murphy Club

Story and photo by Mike Strasser
Assistant Editor/Copy

Noncommissioned officers of the Black Knights Sgt. Audie Murphy Club welcomed a new member as Staff Sgt. Gopal Singh became the first West Point inductee during a ceremony held at the Haig Room Jan. 19.

Singh, the hospital education NCOIC at Keller Army Community Hospital, is the ninth member of this elite club which recognizes NCOs who demonstrate superior leadership qualities and abilities characterized by the club's namesake.

While other members of the West Point chapter were inducted at former duty stations, Singh is proud to be the first to achieve this milestone here.

"First of all, it all still feels surreal; it's still sinking in," Singh said. "But second, I'm thinking about the commitment, and what I can do now that is expected of me to further not only the club but the NCO Corps. What can I do to make myself better, my Soldiers better and the Army better?"

If at first you don't succeed...

It took a second attempt before Singh earned membership, but he said the honor would have been worth as many tries as required. The West Point chapter is relatively new and Singh put in his paperwork when the first board convened, only a few months after he arrived on the installation. Singh had experienced various boards before, but the SAMC was unlike any other, he said.

"With other boards, you could study for specific subjects that most definitely will be asked. But with the SAMC board, it is all situational and you don't know from what angle they'll come from," Singh said. "It's also based on your experience, and I don't have a lot of experience. That's something I questioned about myself, whether I had enough experience to answer all of their questions."

The level of uncertainty he experienced was almost like going back to his first NCO board, Singh said. More so, the average board lasts about 20 minutes; the SAMC board can go beyond an hour.

"It was tough. A real eye-opener," Singh said. "I don't even have the words to describe it, really."

A lack of confidence and perhaps some self-doubt left Singh alone outside the board room that day certain he would need another shot to earn that coveted medallion. What was uncertain would be the scheduling of the next board.

With the words 'We don't think you're ready at this time, continue to try,' resonating with him, he decided to do just that. Singh continued to study, research and talk with club members.

"That was my whole goal now to get myself ready," Singh said. "I didn't know when the next board would convene; I just knew I was going to be there again."

Confidence Test

When that day arrived, Singh said he had the confidence he previously lacked, and a lot of support from fellow NCOs and at home. Together with his wife, Michelle, they spent hours reviewing the piles of Army knowledge printed on index cards.

On first glance, he said he thought he'd never commit Sgt. Audie Murphy's biography to memory—a must-do for any potential club member.

"She was instrumental for helping me memorize that bio," Singh said. "My wife made sure that there were copies posted on every mirror in the house, and made sure I always had a copy with me. At one point she memorized the first part of it herself and corrected me if I messed up."

To pass the board, a nominee has to be perfect, and Michelle made sure her husband met that standard.

"I'm always going to support him 100 percent, and all his endeavors," Michelle said. "I was there with him all the way, studying the flash cards, the late nights, and I'm so proud of his dedication to this. His induction means a lot, because it proves his dedication and the commitment he put in to earn this."

Singh said their two daughters were too young to fully understand why daddy was always standing at attention or why mommy was redecorating the walls with Audie Murphy trivia.

Returning to the board room, Singh had renewed confidence and more preparation. Still, it wasn't always easy to know exactly how to respond to this continuous barrage of questions. When answering a question, Singh said it's not only important to know regulations, but how to respond tactfully.

Consider this: What if you were to approach a sergeant major wearing glasses out of regulations, what would you say? Singh said normally a person would simply recite regulation, but in this situation with a senior NCO, it is important to consider carefully the appropriate words.

"They want you to answer tactfully, and the board will give you room to see where your thoughts will go, but you could get into trouble if you give too much detail," Singh said.

It was a good question, Singh said because it was military-based, but there were many variables to it. He made sure to respond tactfully, and when he saw the board members nod, he felt assured he got it right.

Exiting the board room depleted of energy, Singh awaited the deliberation of the board members who were reviewing everything from his uniform, his voice articulation, his military bearing and the answers he gave.

"Although I was confident and did so much better than the first time, I was still telling myself if I didn't make it I would prepare again, and keep trying until I did," Singh said.



Staff Sgt. Gopal Singh, the first member of the Black Knights Sgt. Audie Murphy Club to be inducted at West Point, shakes hands with Sgt. 1st Class Innocenzo Iorio, a fellow SAMC member. During the ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Mullaney, the highest ranking NCO at Keller Army Community Hospital, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Powell received honorary SAMC memberships for their exemplary service to the NCO Corps. Honorary SAMC medallions can be presented to senior NCOs who no longer qualify for regular induction due to rank.

That wasn't going to be necessary, because when the board brought Singh back inside, a round of congratulations followed. Even after the induction ceremony was over, Singh was still feeling surreally about the experience. While it may take a bit longer to process all the emotion, he said the ceremony itself was a memorable moment and wanted to thank those involved and those in attendance for taking part.

The road ahead

Singh said the motivation to be a better NCO got him into the club. It is this same drive for continual improvement and selfless service he will bring to the club as its ninth local member.

"You know that after your duty day is over, there's still work to do," Singh said. "It's what's expected of me, and I want to make sure that any where I go, I'm always working over and above everything I do."

Sgt. 1st Class Karen Moody, Black Knights SAMC president, works on the same floor as Singh at Keller, and has seen firsthand the kind of NCO he is. They were previously stationed together at Fort Stewart, Ga., where she served as his platoon sergeant in the 3rd Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade,

and they deployed in the same company in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While he was preparing for the board, Singh said he would e-mail her questions while she was still assigned at Fort Stewart.

"I've known him since he was a private," Moody, the medical surgical unit NCOIC, said. "He's always had the drive and dedication needed to become a SAMC member. And it's not only about the Soldier/NCO relationships he builds, but the commitment to Family and his church and community is very strong."

The U.S. Military Academy has a smaller pool of NCOs than the average Forces Command or Training and Doctrine post, but Singh hopes to reach out to those who can strengthen the membership of the West Point chapter. His advice: "Don't even wait to hear when the next board is; if the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club has crossed your mind, start studying now," Singh said. "Find members, ask about questions they were asked and feed off their experiences. Take a piece of paper and write out your strengths and weaknesses. If the PT test is a weakness, dial in on that. It may be overwhelming at first, but take it one step at a time."

500 days and counting ... but first, a celebration

Story and photo by Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

West Point has many traditions. Some date back to the 19th century, some are more recent, some traditions yet to come and others expanded upon.

Two celebrations close to a cadet's heart are 100th Night and 500th Night. The first began in 1871 for Firsties counting the 100 days before graduation. In 1871, cadets performed skits at the Mess Hall. Today cadets write, direct and produce a full-scale musical that is open to the public.

The second is 500th Night; the countdown to graduation celebrated by Cows and a tradition which began with the Class of 1965.

Classmates Roger Frydrychowski and Medal of Honor recipient, Paul "Buddy" Bucha, started the ball rolling having no idea they were starting a Corps tradition.

"The plan we submitted was, from our cadet perspective, a 'dream sheet' proposal. As we envisioned the concept, we decided to request authorization for details that back then were well beyond the norm. Specifically, our request for an off-post event in civilian clothes was unprecedented—as the Superintendent (Lt. Gen. James Benjamin Lampert) affirmed," Frydrychowski said.

Frydrychowski said although the superintendent gave his blessing for this

inaugural event, he stressed the event was a precedent and advised the Class of 1965 to set a good example, both in conduct and performance. He recalls the cadet dance band playing current tunes, some of which were not within the standards of the Corps of Cadets, like "The Twist."

"All went exceptionally well and I received notes from officers and their wives who attended as guests praising the class and the event," he added.

Frydrychowski had the opportunity to observe first hand what he began when he attended the 500th Night celebration for the Class of 2009 as a guest.

"Having responsibilities back (in 1965), I had to wait until a couple of years ago to enjoy a 500th Night celebration on a visit to the academy. Many years passed before I became aware that our Class of 1965 created a new tradition for the Corps," he said.

Today, 500th Night is a full weekend event. Cadets often take short trips, such as to New York City or sight-seeing around the Hudson Valley before and after the official post activities.

"I didn't go anywhere before (the event)," Cow Sulev "Grant" Sepp, class president, said. "I did damage control, so I stayed on post, but I'm going camping at a lake later with the guys ... roughing it."

The 46th celebration of 500th Night opened Jan. 22 with the Class of 2012 cadets



Gen. Raymond Odierno, commander of U.S. Joint Forces Command and guest speaker for the 500th Night Banquet, talks with Cow Joshua Miller and Gillian Rankin during the Commandant's Reception Jan. 22.

and their dates attending the Commandant's Reception at Cullum Hall. A banquet followed at the Cadet Mess Hall with Class of 1976 graduate Gen. Raymond

Odierno, commander of the U.S. Joint Forces Command, as guest speaker. The evening concluded with a formal dance at Eisenhower Hall.

Viva! Las Vegas offers plenty of action Feb. 11

Story and photo by Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

The West Point Women's Club has gone "all in" to make this year's Viva! Las Vegas a success. The annual fundraising event is scheduled from 6-11 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Thayer Hotel.

Come and enjoy an evening of dinner, gambling, a poker tournament, bingo and silent and live auctions.

"We included a dinner in last year's event and it was very well received so we are offering that again," Viva! Chairperson

Danielle Hamilton said.

"We will also have an acupuncturist/massage therapist on a cash basis with this year's event," she said.

West Point departments made and donated baskets for the silent auction, which will include exciting adventures.

"This year's participants can bid on a helicopter ride, kayak tour on the Hudson for four and tandem sky diving," Hamilton said.

Another auction item is a party package of laser tag at the Palisades Mall.

"The Viva! committee's contribution coordinator, Renee Callahan, went all

out bringing in some great prizes and events," Hamilton said. "We also have more contributions thanks to the departments who are usually very generous in creating gift baskets, but have outdone themselves this year. One department donated five gift baskets."

Tickets are available on the WPWC

website for the dinner and poker tournament at <http://westpointwomensclub.shutterfly.com>. Proceeds help support local and national grants and scholarships. Applications for these are on the website and must be postmarked by Feb. 28 for consideration.

For more information, contact Amy Lagrange at djaclagran@aol.com.



Plenty of action awaits at the Thayer Hotel Feb. 11 during the annual Viva! Las Vegas event.



Firstie Thomas Anderson, a Nuclear Engineering major, explains his research on neutron generation to interested cadets.

COURTESY PHOTO

Research Symposium showcases top talent in physics, nuclear engineering

By Lt. Col. Kraig Sheetz
Department of Physics and Nuclear Engineering

The Department of Physics and Nuclear Engineering held its second annual Research Symposium Jan. 12, with about 90 Physics and Nuclear Engineering majors and faculty gathered in the Haig Room for a two-hour program.

The symposium is designed to expose cadets and rotating faculty to the wide range of research opportunities available within the department. It was divided into roughly two equal parts—the first hour was a plenary session featuring guest speaker, Dr. Eric Dauler.

Dauler is from MIT Lincoln Labs and was recently recognized as the 2010 Innovator of the Year—an award given annually by R&D Magazine to a researcher under the age of 31 from an academic, professional or government organization. Dauler was chosen for this prestigious award for having demonstrated leadership in the development of superconducting nanowire single-photon detectors and Geiger-mode avalanche photodiodes.

His inspiring talk focused on how bright young scientists—like the cadets in the audience—can bring a creative idea from concept to reality.

After Dauler's talk, the plenary session continued with short presentations from the three research centers of excellence within the Department of Physics and Nuclear Engineering—the Photonics Research Center, the Nuclear Science and Engineering Research Center and the new Space and Missile Defense Research and Analysis Center, as well as from other faculty members not directly affiliated with a research center. Researchers described their current and future areas of research and discussed how cadets can become involved in cutting edge science and engineering. Afterward, cadets were able to talk with research faculty at various display booths and see hands-on demonstrations.

The symposium was a great success and the cadets and faculty involved directly witnessed how excellence in theoretical and applied physics and nuclear engineering contribute to the advancement of science and to the defense of the nation.

Fine Arts competition promotes talent among West Point youth

Submitted by the Boys & Girls Club of West Point

The Boys & Girls Club of West Point is one of more than 4,000 clubs across the country joining in a search to identify talented young artists.

The annual Fine Arts Competition is part of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Fine Arts Exhibit program.

BGCA's National Fine Arts Exhibit program is a

comprehensive initiative promoting young people's creativity and encouraging artistic skills and cultural enrichment.

As a participant in the National Fine Arts Exhibit program, the Boys & Girls Club of West Point may submit members' artwork in four age divisions and several categories.

Selected artwork will be screened at the regional level and a limited number will be sent to BGCA's Atlanta headquarters for judging at the national level.

Thirty-seven national winners will be named and their artwork displayed at special events throughout the year.

Congratulations to the following youth (see box) who participated and won in the West Point local Fine Arts Competition held Jan. 20 at West Point Youth Center.

West Point Youth Services will now go through the process of submitting these pieces of art to the region to compete against other local BGCA Fine Art contests in the Northeast.

2011 Fine Arts Competition Local Youth Finalists

Watercolor Category, Pastels:

- 9 and under: Jasmine Yusuf, age 6
- 9 and under: Allison Hanus, age 9
- 10-12: Marriam Aguirre, age 11
- 10-12: Ashley Mullaney, age 12
- 13-15: Warren Bias, age 13
- 13-15: Liana Keene, age 13
- 16-18: Kayleigh Waters, age 17

Monochromatic Drawing Category, Sculpture:

- 9 and under: Julia Prata, age 6
- 10-12: Rebecca Abbott-McCune, age 12
- 10-12: Ashley Mullaney, age 12
- 13-15: Oliva Watts, age 13
- 16-18: Kayleigh Waters, age 17

Multicolored Drawing:

- 9 and under: Grace Nwocki, age 6

Print Making:

- 10-12: Marriam Aguirre, age 11
- 13-15: Warren Bias, age 13
- 13-15: Ryan Reich, age 14

Combat Weapons Team trains with FBI Hostage Rescue Team

Story and photo by Cow Aaron Pool
Combat Weapons Team PAO

The West Point Combat Weapons Team recently visited the FBI Hostage Rescue Team's headquarters in Quantico, Va., to train on close quarters battle techniques.

Several members of the HRT were on site at their shoot-house facility to offer training and instruction that focused on updating CWT's close quarters battle techniques with some of the most current techniques used in the field.

For two days, the team trained in a crawl, walk, run fashion. Broken down into teams of five and 10 members, the CWT learned how to "flow" in and out of rooms like water. This particular method of clearing rooms requires intense focus and awareness by all members of the team since the order of who enters each room in a house is rarely the same.

As the training progressed, CWT members were used as both the friendly and opposing forces.

"Seeing the tactical situation from the opposing force's point of view really helped me improve how I attacked the problem as a good guy," Yearling Kyle Forward said.

Once the basics were in place, the team integrated in M4 and M9 weapons with simunition rounds. The simunitions, essentially real rounds

but instead of a bullet they have a non-lethal paint projectile, brought all the training together.

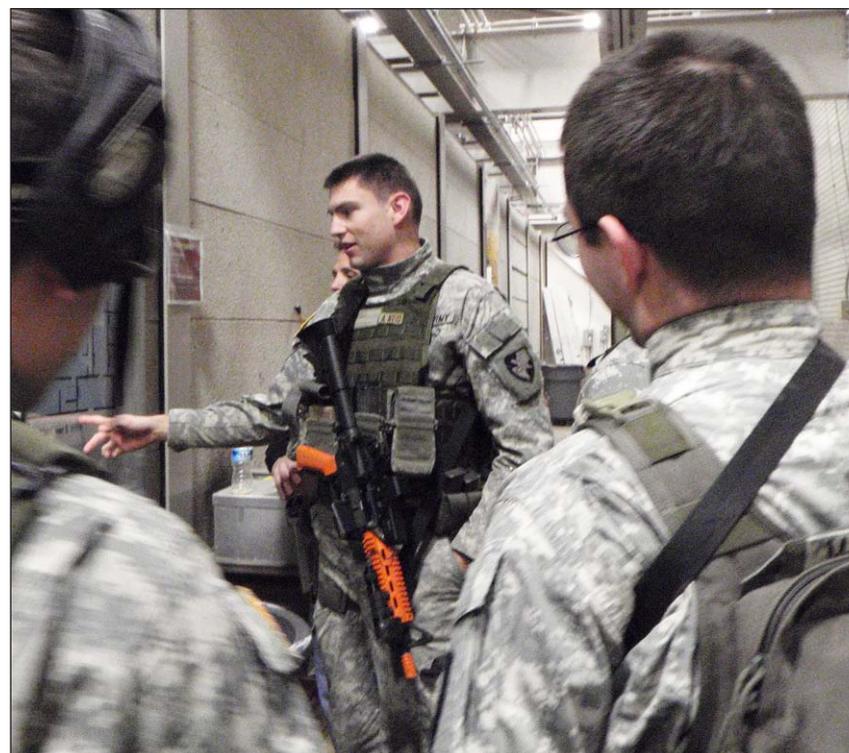
"The simunition training makes everything more realistic. It gets your adrenaline pumping, and when you get shot, you feel it," Cow Eric Gallagher said.

The different ways to think through problems and new tactics learned from HRT will help the CWT improve their close quarters battle techniques.

"A lot of these techniques are learned firsthand by HRT members in the field. Learning from their experience is a great opportunity for us to avoid some mistakes in the future," Firstie Michael Tovo said.

The FBI Hostage Rescue Team is the agency's only full-time counterterrorist tactical team. Established in 1983, the team can respond to any extraordinary hostage crisis or other law enforcement situation the FBI engages in, both domestic and abroad.

The Combat Weapons Team is a competitive team that trains cadets in combine tactics, techniques and protocols of military units, domestic police forces, government agencies and civilian security services to create a comprehensive foundation of skills in urban warfare and promote creative solutions to the problems involved in close quarters battle.



Firstie Phil Hayward briefs his team on the plan for the next iteration in the shoot-house facility.



TOMMY GILLIGAN/PV



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(Left) William "Bill" Gallegos, former U.S. Marine Corps guard, shakes hands with cadets along the cordon as he heads to the Jefferson Library where panel discussions were held Jan. 21. The 30th anniversary of the Iranian hostage crisis was observed Jan. 20-22 with 15 former captives and five members of the rescue team returning to West Point, the site of their original homecoming in January 1981. The entire Corps of Cadet formed a cordon along Thayer Walkway to salute and cheer their arrival as the group started their day's activities. (Above) Members of the Glee Club performed at the evening reunion dinner. The cadets performed several selections that their predecessors had sung for the former hostages upon their arrival at West Point 30 years ago.

A complete Iranian Hostage Reunion photo album is available at:
http://www.flickr.com/photos/west_point/sets/72157625751090019/

THEN AND NOW West Point community honors former Iranian hostages, recreating celebration 30 years ago

By Mike Strasser
 Assistant Editor/Copy

Thirty years ago, the U.S. Military Academy served as a historic waypoint when the nation cheered the return of a group of American citizens taken hostage from the U.S. embassy in Iran.

The West Point community took part in that celebration on Jan. 25, 1981, welcoming home the 52 hostages who enjoyed a few days of respite with their families on the installation at the Thayer Hotel.

West Point welcomed them back Jan. 20-22, as 15 former hostages, five rescue personnel and family members returned for a reunion and to share their experiences with the Corps of Cadets and faculty.

Re-creating their convoy through Highland Falls into West Point, they were met by thousands of cheering cadets who lined Thayer Walkway, applauding and shaking hands with the returning guests of honor.

Brig. Gen. Timothy Trainor, dean of the academic board, said the reunion was particularly poignant for him, having been witness to the original homecoming.

"It's an especially personal welcome for me, because lost in the sea of cadets that lined that cordon when you came through 30 years ago was Cadet Trainor," he told the reunion participants. "And there's another Cadet Trainor here today, my daughter [Cory], who just experienced the cordon coming through this morning. So there's a personal thread for me also."

Trainor said the former hostages, participants in the ill-fated 1980 rescue mission that was derailed by an aircraft collision at a desert staging area, and family members all serve

as examples of extraordinary service to America.

"Your insight into the events that unfolded 30 years ago today are invaluable," Trainor, a Class of 1983 graduate, said. "Invaluable in the fact that you were on the front line confronting religious, ethnic and political extremism, and an ideology of which many Americans were unaware, or to which we were certainly unaccustomed to at the time. It's an ideology that does not go unnoticed today at a time when America is at war on many fronts in a time of volatile, uncertain conflicts."

Like Trainor, Col. Mike Meese, a Class of 1981 graduate, stood roadside three decades earlier to witness the arrival of the hostages to West Point. The former social sciences major, now head of the academy's social sciences department, recalled reading about the embassy takeover in the newspaper. That morning, his national security class's instructor was absent because the Army officer was recalled to the National Security Council in Washington, D.C., to assist the administration with the crisis.

Cheering the hostages through the gates at West Point and later sharing a meal with them was a momentous occasion, Meese said.

"They served with honor and the values that we are teaching cadets every day, ... and I learned a lot just from seeing the example of these 52 great Americans who came to West Point 30 years ago," he said.

The reunion attendees had another chance to relive history when they returned to the Cadet Mess Hall, an event that three decades earlier Trainor described as a joyous event for the 4,400-plus cadets. Another generation of cadets made the experience just as memorable the second time.

"It was truly exceptional to have the hostages back at West Point for the 30 year commemoration of their release from

terror and return to freedom," Firstie Tom Witkowski, said. "I was overwhelmingly awestruck by the valor and resolve that each hostage and their families embodied to endure such a terrible situation. Eating lunch in the Mess Hall gave me a unique opportunity to meet these brave and courageous people who embraced unbelievable valor and strength. To me, they truly represent what it means to be an American."

L. Bruce Laingen, a Navy veteran of World War II, chuckled at the bottle of water in his hand, which bore, as most things at West Point do, the "Go Army, Beat Navy" slogan. Laingen, who served as the Iranian foreign ministry office's chargé d'affaires during the siege on the embassy, joined a panel discussion on Iranian-U.S. relations, with two fellow former captives -- Barry Rosen, former press secretary, and former senior political officer Victor Tomseth -- plus Wade Ishimoto, a member of the rescue team.

Other panels focused on the embassy takeover and crisis resolution, the hostage rescue mission and the 1972-79 Iranian revolutionary crisis.

The panels provided a wealth of insight, some levity and moments when tears simply couldn't be contained.

Paul Needham, an Air Force captain working in the embassy on temporary assignment, was in the security vault at the time of the takeover, destroying sensitive materials before surrendering. Standing twice before a firing squad — a scare tactic used by his captors, though none were shot — Needham said, he learned the value of inner strength, which steered his resolve through the 15-month ordeal. He found the America he returned to was much different from the one he left, he added.

"I left here in 1979 as a captain. People did not go to work in the Pentagon wearing their uniform; we were coming out of Vietnam and people were not proud to be Americans,"



TOMMY GILLIGAN/PV



TOMMY GILLIGAN/PV

(Left) Reunion participants were honored during halftime at the Army-Navy Men's Basketball game Jan. 22 at Christl Arena. (Above) It was a joyous and memorable occasion 30 years ago when the Corps of Cadets shared a meal with the returning hostages. The current generation of cadets tried to match that hospitality when the former hostages returned to the Cadet Mess Hall on Jan. 21. (Below) Firstie Nate Webster, of Uniontown, Pa., meets with L. Bruce Laingen, who served as the Iranian foreign ministry office's chargé d'affaires during the siege on the embassy. Laingen participated in faculty and cadet panel discussions on Jan. 21 where the former hostages and rescue personnel shared their experiences and insight with an attentive audience on several subjects related to the Iranian Hostage Crisis of 1979-80.

Needham recalled. "I came back here and the streets were lined with people [waiting] to see us. I still get choked up. It was extremely emotional coming here to West Point."

It was supposed to be a yearlong volunteer assignment for retired Air Force Col. David Roeder, one of the more senior military officers captured. Roeder said he spent a lot of time in solitary confinement, but was able to communicate for a couple of months with fellow captive Bill Daugherty in the adjoining cell without getting caught by the guards. Daugherty said it became an exercise in the leadership of one.

"The leadership of one can be very difficult," he said. "This can be just as difficult as leading a platoon or company, because you're your own worst critic."

Daugherty said he lived by two standards: to protect classified information and to do nothing that would harm another hostage. He also practiced intelligence gathering.

"I wanted to find out as much as I could about these guys, why they were doing it. ... I tried to remember every single thing, every single face, every single conversation," Daugherty said.

Barbara Rosen, an elementary schoolteacher, wife, mother and homemaker, first heard of her husband's capture when she was awakened by

a phone call from her mother-in-law. She was quickly thrust into a situation she was never trained or prepared to handle.

"I had to figure out how to go about dealing with all the problems that were now placed before me," she said.

During the first few months of her husband's captivity, Barbara said, she spent a lot of time sleeping to pass the time. She later found solace in advocacy work and giving media interviews. Thirty years later, she still has a vivid memory of coming to West Point on the homecoming trip.

"The roads were totally lined with Americans; there was a dog with an American flag tied around its neck," she recalled. "Men and women who were former hippies protesting the Vietnam War for years were out there waving American flags."

She told the cadets attending the panel discussion that while she was seeing everything at the time, she wasn't able to truly feel it. Today, she said, she had a second chance.

"This morning, when all of you were out there welcoming us to West Point, ... when you re-enacted it for us today, those feelings were so strong it brought tears to my eyes," she said, "and it did so for many of the others being welcomed."



TOMMY GILLIGAN/PV

FMWR Blurbs

Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship Program

Applications are being accepted until Monday for the Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship Program.

The scholarships are awarded to spouses of all uniformed servicemembers to include active duty, National Guard and Reserve, retirees and survivors.

The scholarship funds may be used for tuition, fees and school room and board.

For more information, visit the National Military Family Association website at www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/military-spouse-scholarships.

Black and Gold Volunteer Award ceremony

The West Point community is invited to the next Black and Gold Volunteer Award ceremony at 10 a.m. Feb. 3 at the ACS, Bldg. 622.

For more information, call 938-3655.

Coping with Deployment Course

A Mobilization and Deployment Program Coping with Deployment Course, presented by the American Red Cross, is scheduled from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Feb. 5.

This course provides hands-on tools to help cope with deployment and teaches adults how to support children as a result of changes they may experience due to deployment of a family member. The course will be held at ACS, Bldg. 622. For more information and to register, call 938-5654/0232.

Yuengs and Wings Super Bowl Party

Come join the West Point Club's Yuengs and Wings Super Bowl Party Feb. 6.

This event starts at the Club's Benny Haven's Lounge one hour before kickoff (kickoff is approximately 6:25 p.m.)

Also available will be a halftime Mexican buffet for an additional cost.

For more information, call 938-5120.

Bride's Brunch

The Bride's Brunch event will be held from noon-3 p.m. Feb. 20 in the West Point Club's Grand Ballroom.

Enjoy a wide variety of cuisine samplings from the Club. Meet with local vendors including bakeries, florists, photographers, cosmetologists and entertainers.

View linen and table settings for your special day in the Pierce Dining Room and a wedding ceremony set up in the Hudson

Room. Meet with the caterers and finalize your wedding plans all on the same day.

Any new wedding receptions booked from December 2011 through March 2012 will receive 10 percent off.

Free admission for brides with wedding receptions booked with the West Point Club.

There is an additional cost for all others who attend.

For more information, call 938-5120.

Life EDGE! "A Little Class of Manners"

Be prepared for the upcoming CYSS Father and Daughter Dance.

Etiquette classes are available at a fee for grades K-5 every Tuesday through Feb. 22 at Lee Area CDC.

For more information and to enroll, contact Parent Central (Lee CDC behind Subway) at 938-4458.

2011 AFAP Conference

Make your voice heard. The annual installation Army Family Action Plan Conference is Feb. 22-24.

If you have a suggestion for how the Army can improve your quality of life, we want to hear about it.

Submit an AFAP issue to be reviewed at the conference.

In addition, Soldiers, Family members, civilian employees, retirees and youth are invited to participate as delegates.

For more information, to submit an issue or register for the conference, visit www.westpointmwr.com/afap.htm or call Christina Overstreet at 938-3655 or e-mail christina.overstreet@usma.edu.

ACS inprocessing brief cancelled

The regularly scheduled inprocessing brief at 9 a.m. Feb. 23 at ACS has been cancelled.

For more information, call 938-2519/3487.

Army Family Action Plan outbrief

The entire West Point community is invited to the Army Family Action Plan outbrief to be held at 2:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at the West Point Club.

For more information, call 938-3655.

2011 Polar Fest

The 2011 Polar Fest is noon-7 p.m. Feb. 26 at the Victor Constant Ski Slope. Participants can pre-register from Feb. 1-25 at the Ski Slope sales office.

Registration fee includes food, drinks and activities, but does not include lift tickets or equipment rentals.

For more information, call 938-8810.

FMWR Community Skate Program

The FMWR Community Skate Program at Tate Rink continues every Sunday through Feb. 27.

Program hours are 3:30-5:15 p.m.

Admission is free, but patrons must provide their own skates.

In case of inclement weather, call the FMWR information tape at 938-2991 for updates for that day.

Art EDGE! Introduction to Comic Book Art

Art EDGE! Introduction to Comic Book Art for grades 6-12 takes place from 3-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays during February at the Youth Center (500 Washington Road).

Enroll at CYSS Parent Central or call 938-4458. Classes are free, but limited, so enroll early.

Experience the unique process of comic book art, learn to create superheroes, villains and tell your story the comic book way.

Join Victor L. Castro, a professional comic book penciler and comic book creator, as he takes you through the intricate process of comic book penciling and learn how it is done behind the scenes.

Castro has been published with Platinum Studios, Arcana Studios, Abbeville Press and the popular web series, "Haywire."

All You Can Eat Lunch Buffet

Come have lunch at the West Point Club's All You Can Eat Lunch Buffet from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Enjoy the buffet or pay as you go stations.

For more information, call 938-5120.

English for Language Learners Classes

ACS offers English for Language Learners classes from 9:30-11 a.m. Tuesdays at ACS, Bldg. 622.

Classes are geared to all levels of learning.

For more information and to register, call 938-2519/3487.

Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance

Enjoy a romantic dinner and dancing for two from 7-10 p.m. Feb. 14 at the West Point Club's Pierce Dining Room overlooking the Hudson River.

For reservations, call 938-5120.

NEW INFO

Tryout dates are from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday.

Tryouts are first come, first served with no reservations required. There will be chances to win prizes and meet some of your Army Golf team members.

For more information, call 938-2435.

West Point Family Support Group's Hearts Apart Support Group

The West Point Family Support Group's Hearts Apart Support Group, presented by ACS' Mobilization and Deployment Program, will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 12 and March 12 at the Lee Area Child Development Center (140 Buckner Loop).

This group meeting is for the Families of deployed Soldiers and those geographically separated. Dinner and special activities will be provided for the entire family.

For more information or to register, call 938-5654.

Family Spaghetti Night

Enjoy an "all you can eat" spaghetti dinner from 5-8 p.m. Feb. 17 at the West Point Club.

Enjoy fine Italian dining in the Club's Pierce Dining Room.

To make a reservation, call 938-5120.

West Point Career Expo cancelled

The West Point Career Expo scheduled for May 24 by ACS' Employment Readiness Program has been cancelled until further notice.

What's Happening

West Point Class of 1929 Gallery presents

The West Point Class of 1929 Gallery will present an artist's reception featuring the works of Raymond Sicignano from 2-4 p.m. Sunday. The exhibit is titled "Urban American Portraits."

The Class of 1929 Gallery is located on Eisenhower Hall's fifth floor.

RSVP for the reception to 938-6772.

The exhibit runs through March 6.

DUSA community grant season

The West Point Society of the Daughters of the United States Army's 2010-11 community grant season is open through Feb. 15.

Applications are available only at the DUSA Gift Shop, located within the West Point Museum.

Society of Daughters of the United States Army Scholarships

The West Point Chapter of the Society of Daughters of the United States Army high school scholarship applications are available at the James I. O'Neill H.S. guidance office.

The deadline is March 22. Eligibility requirements are noted in the application cover letter.

For more information, call Ginger Hopkins, West Point Chapter president, at 567-3643.

Balfour Beatty Communities Scholarship Applications

Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation is accepting academic scholarship applications for the 2011-12 academic year to reward high school and undergraduate students of military members residing in Family housing in need of financial assistance and recognizing their educational and leadership efforts.

Family housing residents at West Point with high school and undergraduate students are encouraged to apply for the BBCF scholarships valued up to \$2,500.

Applications, details and requirements can be found at www.bbcommunitiesfoundation.org.

Application deadline is April 15.

West Point Women's Club Cookbook

The West Point Women's Club is taking orders for its new cookbook, "Knights Around the Table." The cookbook has many new and exciting recipes.

To order a book, visit www.westpointwomensclub.shutterfly.com/cookbook, print an order form and mail it with payment to the WPWC address provided.

Garrison Awards ceremony

Everyone is invited to attend the Garrison Awards ceremony at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 16 at Crest Hall in Eisenhower Hall.

Presidents' Day Weekend salute

During the winter of 1782-83, Soldiers of the northern Continental Army anxiously waited in New Windsor for news of the peace treaty. Though peace might be announced, George Washington still ordered his Soldiers to train for battle.

From 1-4 p.m. Feb. 20 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 21, on Presidents' Day Weekend at the New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site reenactors will bring to life the Continental Army's final winter encampment with musket and cannon firings, blacksmithing, medical demonstrations and other aspects of daily life during those years.

Following musket and cannon firings, children can enlist in the Continental Army and drill with wooden muskets and get paid in Continental currency for their service.

The New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site is co-

located with the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor on Route 300, 374 Temple Hill Road, in New Windsor, N.Y., just three miles south of the intersection of I-87 and I-84.

For more information, call 561-1765, ext. 22.

In Newburgh, Washington's Headquarters at 84 Liberty Street has a full schedule of activities for the Presidents' Weekend to honor our nation's founding fathers and the Soldiers who fought for our independence.

Washington's Headquarters is open from noon-4:30 p.m. Feb. 19-21. For more information, call 562-1195.

NEW INFO

National Prayer Breakfast

The U.S. Military Academy Chaplain's Office will host its annual National Prayer Breakfast at 6 a.m. Feb. 11 at the West Point Club.

The guest speaker is retired Lt. Gen. James Campbell.

For tickets, contact the USMA Chaplain's office at 938-3316.

International Day observance updated

The installation Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Foreign Languages and the Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic are hosting this year's International Day observance from 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesday on the third floor of Thayer Hall. This is a change from the originally scheduled date of Wednesday, Jan. 26, which was cancelled due to weather.

The observance celebrates the U.S. Military Academy's international cadets.

For more information, contacts for the event are Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Morgan at 938-8456, Sgt. 1st Class Dwayne Key at 938-2581, Maj. Casey Moes at 938-2494 and Capt. Elizabeth Mason at 938-7082.

NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752.

Friday—Burlesque, PG-13,

7:30 p.m.

Saturday—Tangled, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday—The Next Three Days,

PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

THE THEATER SCHEDULE ALSO CAN BE FOUND AT

WWW.AAFES.COM.

Command Channel 8/23

Jan. 27-Feb. 3

Army Newswatch

(broadcast times)

Thursday, Friday and Monday through

Feb. 3

8:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The Point

(broadcast times)

Thursday, Friday and Monday through

Feb. 3

8 a.m., 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Keller Corner

Free Developmental Screenings

Not all children develop the same way... some need extra help. If you have concerns with your child's communication skills, motor skills, self-help skills, learning, behavior and/or social interactions, join us at our Free Developmental/Hearing Screenings.

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

This event is scheduled from 8:45 a.m.-2 p.m. Feb. 9 and is by appointment only. To register, call 938-2698/6868.

Smoking Cessation Program

Do you want to stop using tobacco? If you need help or information, contact Trish Titus, Family Practice Clinic RN, at 938-3244.

KACH Outpatient Clinic Closure

All outpatient clinics, laboratory, pharmacy and radiology will be closed Feb. 21 for Presidents' Day.

The emergency room will remain open.

Advance Medical Directive

Did you know that an Advance Medical Directive is a document in which you give instructions about your health care if, in the future, you cannot speak for yourself.

You can appoint someone you name (your "agent" or "proxy") the power to make health care decisions for you.

You can also give instructions about the kind of health care you do or do not want.

A Health Care Advance Directive is not limited to cases of terminal illness. In your Health Care Advance Directive, you state your wishes about any aspect of your health care, including decisions about life-sustaining treatment and choosing a person to make and communicate these decisions for you.

Advance Medical Directive forms are available in all outpatient clinics, admissions and dispositions.

Army Provider Level Satisfaction Survey

Don't forget to fill out and return the Army Provider Level Satisfaction Survey when you receive it in the mail.

We value your comments and suggestions.

Life Works at Balfour Beatty Communities

• **Cell Phones for Soldiers:** Help Soldiers overseas call home. By donating any old cell phone, you can provide calling cards for Soldiers serving overseas. The phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays Cell Phones for Soldiers for each donated phone—enough to provide an hour of talk time to Soldiers abroad. The drop off location is at 132 Bartlett Loop for the entire month of January.

Ellis scores 21, men's rally falls short 85-81

By Eric S. Bartelt
Managing Editor

Yearling forward Ella Ellis scored a season- and career-high 21 points, but came up short on a game-tying three-point shot with 10 seconds remaining as Army fell to academy-rival Navy 85-81 Jan. 22.

In front of a record Christl Arena crowd of 5,178, the Black Knights' (10-10 overall, 2-3 PL) dropped their second straight game in the Patriot League, while the Midshipmen (6-15, 1-4) snapped a four-game losing skid.

Navy led the game by 13 with 14:14 left, but Army stormed back to close the gap to one point with 28 seconds remaining.

Navy senior O.J. Avworo knocked down two free throws to put the game back to a three-point deficit for Army at 82-79, and from there Ellis missed an open three-point shot that would have tied the game in the closing seconds.

"Coach (Zach Spiker) tells us every day in practice, 'if it's an open look, it's a good look, knock it out,' and that's what I was thinking," Ellis said. "My feet were set, it was a great pass from underneath the basket ... I shot it with confidence, but it just didn't go down. I thought it was going in when it left my hand."

Despite the miss, Ellis had another strong game that included three three-pointers on the day and he achieved 21 points for the second straight game as he scored the same number at American Jan. 19.

The Black Knights started off strong and took their biggest lead of the game at 24-13 at the 12:14 mark of the first half after Ellis hit his second three-pointer of the game. Army hit six three-pointers within the first eight minutes to get the 11-point margin.

Army finished 14-for-30 from three-point range, tying an academy record for most three-pointers in one game, which was set earlier this season against Yale.

The 14 three-pointers upped the Black Knights season total to 194, which breaks the team's single-season mark of 188 set during

the 1996-97 season.

Unfortunately for the Black Knights, Navy shot lights out as well and hit 11 three-pointers on the day, including five from senior Jordan Sugars, who finished with 25 points.

The Midshipmen clawed their way back into the game to cut it to one point, 41-40, by halftime, and then opened up the second half with an 11-point run to put them up 51-41 at the 16:31 mark of the second half.

"We didn't do enough to get the win," Spiker said. "We didn't do enough defensively or offensively. We made some shots, but we could have played much better on the defensive end and it's a credit to them.

"Both teams can't play well usually in every facet of the game and they were much better on the offensive end than we were," he added.

It was a back and forth battle all day. Both teams had double-digit leads that would later evaporate.

The two rivals went toe-to-toe and Navy's head coach Billy Lange recognized in victory how far Army has come with its youthful squad.

"What Zach Spiker has done here is amazing because these are difficult places to coach, to win, to compete, and while we coach great kids, it's very challenging," Lange said. "They should be proud of where they're at right now. He's done a great job."

The team is getting a lot from its youthful core. While Firstie forward Jeremy Hence (17) and Cow guard Julian Simmons (11) scored their fair share, it was Yearling guard Jason Pancoe (eight points, six assists) and Plebe guard Josh Herbeck (16 points) who gave the team an extra lift through the game.

Herbeck scored all 16 of his points in the first half, including four from behind the three-point arc.

"We're a young team. Everybody is new in their role," Spiker said. "(As a team), we're seeing things for the first time and we'll learn from it. I'm happy to see the guys perform on this stage (in front of a packed crowd), but at



Yearling forward Ella Ellis (#13) fought off Navy senior guard Jordan Sugars to score a basket in the last minute of Navy's 85-81 win Jan. 22 at Christl Arena. Ellis' two-point shot and subsequent free throw drew Army within one point with 56 seconds remaining, but Army would fall short.

TOMMY GILLIGAN/PV

the same time, it's a lukewarm feeling because we're all judged on wins and losses.

"We made progress today and we're

going to learn from this, and we'll be a better program because of it," he added. "But it doesn't feel like it right now."

Baranek nets 18 for Army, but Navy takes win 55-46

By Eric S. Bartelt
Managing Editor

Despite Firstie forward Laura Baranek's season-high 18-point effort, Army (10-10 overall, 4-1 PL) dropped its first conference game of the season to academy-rival Navy 55-46 Jan. 22 at Christl Arena.

Featuring a battle of two undefeated foes within the Patriot League conference, Navy (12-7 overall, 5-0 PL) broke a 15-15 tie with nearly nine minutes remaining in the first half and went on a 12-2 run over the next six and a half minutes to put a stranglehold on the game.

Navy senior guard Angela Myers scored a season-high 22 points to lead the Midshipmen offensively, while Navy's defense stifled Army's potent offensive player, Firstie Erin Anthony, and held her to only 10 points.

"Navy came in with a very clear game plan and that was to take Erin Anthony out of the game," Army head coach Dave Magarity said. "It's pretty obvious that we've been playing well when she plays well. She's a big focal point of our offense. I don't think we were doing a great job of getting her the ball."

One of the biggest keys of the game was the versatility of Myers that gave Navy many open looks at the basket, especially from the three-point arc.

"We always struggle against (Myers)," Anthony said. "She's always ready, hardworking and never gives up—it's really hard to defend her. I think our biggest problem today was that we over helped on her a lot. We got killed when she would turn the corner and they would hit wide open threes."

Magarity agreed with Anthony's assessment and felt her cleverness with the ball was similar to many of the point guards he coached on the men's side while at Marist.

"(Myers) has such a great way of using her dribble drag and basically toys with you and finds people," Magarity said. "As soon as you turn your head, she exposes that and she just killed us. She was the difference in this game."

The Midshipmen finished the game with 12 three-pointers, but another key for them was their rebounding that led to 16 second-chance points.

"They had 14 second shots and scored 16 points off of second-chance points and that's the game in a nutshell," Magarity said. "We did not box out. We did not end possessions. We've been a pretty solid rebounding team. However, they are the best rebounding team in the league



Firstie forward Laura Baranek scored a season-high 18 points, but Army fell to its academy-rival Navy 55-46. Baranek also added six rebounds and five assists in the game.

TOMMY GILLIGAN/PV

statistically, and they proved it tonight."

Navy outrebounded Army 40-32 as Myers led the way in that department with eight.

While Baranek had a big game, the key for the Midshipmen defense was to stop Anthony or try their best to get the ball out of her hands. Navy doubled teamed Army's best player and it gave other players on the squad an opportunity to step up, but outside of Baranek, Army didn't get much from its other players.

"We were showing a double team to Anthony, so she would kick it out and the other players would have to beat us," Myers said. "Erin Anthony is their best player, and if Erin Anthony is not contributing then they will have trouble winning."

Navy took a 27-21 lead into the second half, but once the Midshipmen took a double-digit lead off of a Myers' three-

pointer at the 17:15 mark (36-25), Army never got it below double digits until Yearling Molly Yardley's three-pointer with 41 seconds left, which were the final points of the game at 55-46.

It was a tough loss, but Army has already circled its next meeting with Navy Feb. 19, which, if things continue to fall into place, may be for the Patriot League regular season title.

"It really sucks (to lose), but we know we have another chance to play them at Annapolis," Anthony said. "That one is going to count big time because with the way we're playing and the way they're playing, I feel that game is going to be key for us and we need to be even more focused and prepared (then we were today)."

Sports calendar

Corps

FRIDAY — MEN'S TENNIS VS. FAIRFIELD, LICHTENBERG TENNIS CENTER, 4 P.M.

FRIDAY — GYMNASTICS VS. SPRINGFIELD, GROSS OLYMPIC CENTER, 7 P.M.

SATURDAY — WRESTLING VS. BROWN (NOON), HARVARD (2 P.M.) AND BOSTON UNIVERSITY (4 P.M.), GILLIS FIELD HOUSE.

SATURDAY — SWIMMING AND DIVING VS. COLGATE AND LAFAYETTE, CRANDALL POOL, 1 P.M.

SATURDAY — WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. SETON HALL, LICHTENBERG TENNIS CENTER, 1 P.M.

Jan. 27-Feb. 3

SATURDAY — MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. BUCKNELL, CHRISTL ARENA, 4 P.M.

SUNDAY — WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. MARIST, LICHTENBERG TENNIS CENTER, 10 A.M.

Club

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY — PISTOL VS. MIT, USMMA AND YALE, TRONSRUE MARKSMANSHIP CENTER, 4:30 P.M. FRI. AND 9 A.M. SAT.

SATURDAY — VOLLEYBALL (MEN) VS. DIVISION TEAMS, ARVIN CADET PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER, 7 A.M.

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/ECS

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

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: Very Hard

See SUDOKU SOLUTION, Page 2

Cadets become masters of the sabre, foil and epee

By Sgt. Vincent Fusco
West Point Public Affairs Office

Their matches may not be nationally televised or come with massive tailgates, but the West Point Fencing Team trains as hard as any Army team to slice through the competition.

The team began their 2011 season hosting the annual West Point Fencing Invitational Jan. 22 at Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center. Robert Grieser, the head fencing coach, said they will take on other college teams in a series of large invitationals.

"Every competition is almost like training for the next competition," Grieser said. "You're all ramping yourself up toward the conference championships, the national championships (and) the postseason."

Other than actual competitions, a great deal of training goes into the cadets' performances. Grieser coordinates his training plans with Firstie Peter Kerkhof, the fencing team captain. The blade captains, who Grieser calls his "NCOs," are the top performers in each of the three weapons and also assist in conducting training.

"They have sufficient enough experience, most of the time from high school, that they're able to act as an auxiliary assistant coach to me," Grieser said. "When we're in a full, official practice, they work with me to help implement and facilitate the training, and they're doing a fantastic job at it. That's one of the keys to our success every year."

When the team looks to recruit new talent, they usually look for cadets with experience at the high school level. This allows Grieser, Kerkhof and the blade captains to train with everyone more efficiently with the relatively small amount of time the cadets have in between academic and military duties. Team captains and cadets will often take it upon themselves to use the fencing room whenever they happen to have the time for additional training.

Each of the three weapons is used in different styles of fighting. For example, the sabre dates back to the days of the horseback cavalry when a rider attempted to wound his enemy in the torso or arms. In competition, sabre fencers attempt to score points on these same areas.

The épée, which is the weapon of the modern pentathlon, is used to draw "first blood" on any part of the body from head to toe in competition. The foil, a training weapon, is used to score points on the torso only.

Grieser views sabre, foil and épée as three related, but different sports. Each requires their own type of training program.

Sabre involves more anaerobic exercise, to include weight training. Épée places a greater emphasis on aerobic activity such as five-mile runs or ruck marches. Foil is an even mix of both types of exercise.

"One thing I really wanted to improve on the team this year is our physical conditioning," Kerkhof said. "Being at West Point ... our base level of fitness is a lot higher than the other teams we're competing against. We need to maximize that, train for it during practice and use that advantage to get a lot more wins."

Other than being at their physical peak, it is also important for the cadets to maintain their mental and emotional focus to perform at their best during matches.

Every movement within each match can be affected by any of these factors if left unchecked.

"One of the greatest things about fencing is that you have to synthesize the mental, emotional and physical parts to form your best (performance)," Kerkhof said. "That will be valuable against competitors and hopefully as officers in the future."

Grieser credits Kerkhof with improving the club culture this year, citing a greater degree of cohesion and drive to work as a



Firstie Peter Kerkhof, fencing team captain, competed Jan. 22 at the West Point Fencing Invitational inside the Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center. This was the first competition of the regular season for the West Point team. Competition, photos and results are available at www.flickr.com/photos/westpoint/sets/.

MIKE STRASSER/PV

team. This is apparent in the performance of the épée team, which is currently the only undefeated fencing team in the country.

"It's going to be an even better year this year," Grieser said. "It's the Army way of doing things."



A Hull of a Goal

Mike Hull (#9) extended his consecutive point streak to four games with a goal and assist and Ryan Leets made 30 saves as Army rallied for a 2-2 overtime tie with Robert Morris Jan. 22 in an Atlantic Hockey Association contest in front of 2,297 fans at Tate Rink. Robert Morris, which received votes in the national polls last week, jumped out to a 2-0 lead before Army posted a comeback to collect a point for the tie. Army is now unbeaten in its last three games and stands at 7-14-3 overall and 6-8-3 in league games. Robert Morris is 14-8-3 overall and 9-6-3 in league play.

PHOTO BY PAUL RADER