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Inducting NCOs

Sgt. 1st Class Trenton Zaragoza, Sgt. James Aldridge and Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Lennox stood front and center during the reciting of the NCO Creed toward the end of the NCO Induction Ceremony at Mahan Hall Feb. 23. Forty noncommissioned officers were inducted into the brotherhood of the Army NCO Corps. Zaragoza, member of the 2nd Aviation Detachment, introduced Aldridge into the NCO Corps while Lennox, a member of the U.S. Military Academy Dental Clinic, introduced Staff Sgt. Josefino Majadas (not shown) during the ceremony. The guest speaker at the event was NORTHCOM Command Sgt. Major Robert Winzenried. For more on the NCO Induction Ceremony, see pages 8-9.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

Spring break safety—for a safe return

Reprinted from safespringbreak.org

Spring break is a time for college students to let loose of all the stresses and frustrations built up during the academic year. However, it is important to be cautious of not going to an extreme during a time of frivolity.

Here are some steps to take to make sure you have a safe return to West Point after spring break:

- On the road—buckle up, take breaks and be rested. If traveling in pairs, take turns behind the wheel and whomever sits shotgun should stay awake to keep the driver company.

Make sure everyone has a valid driver's license and the vehicle registration is in the car before leaving on the trip.

Arrive alive at your destination by obeying the speed limits and staying aware of construction sites.

- Hotels—be secure. If safes are provided, use them for any valuables you may have.

Keep doors and sliding doors locked, and don't let anyone into your room unless you trust them.

Make a mental note of where the nearest fire exits and stairwells are located in case you need to evacuate.

Know your roommates. Most sexual assaults occur between non-strangers and hotel rooms are the usual off-post location.

Use caution.

- Drinking—party smart. Be responsible. Pace yourself if you choose to drink and avoid hard alcohol or other powerful drinks that have fast effects. Remember, drunks are easy targets.

Be aware of alcohol poisoning. According to a University of Wisconsin study, 75 percent of college males and 43 percent of females reported being intoxicated on a daily basis during spring break.

If you do decide to drink, know the liquor laws of wherever you'll be vacationing. Drinking and driving is always a dangerous situation, so avoid this by having your safe mode of transportation planned before you go out.

Access a helpful tool right from your cell phone by visiting B4UDrink.org and estimate your BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration) levels anywhere and everywhere you take your mobile phone.

- On the beach—drinking in the sun can cause a bad sunburn and an even worse hangover.

The sun can maximize the effects of alcohol so keep this in mind if you party on the beach.

Take it slow and stay hydrated by drinking lots of water. If you start feeling faint or light headed, get to a shaded area and drink water immediately.

And don't be a lobster. Use sunscreen of at least SPF 15

and reapply often. Pay extra attention to ears, nose, face and shoulders.

Fair skinned individuals should wear sunglasses and even a hat. Avoid sun exposure during the hottest hours of the sun's rays and remember you can burn even when it's cloudy.

- Swimming—jumping into the water without a lifeguard is risky. Even the most experienced swimmer can get caught in an undertow.

In case you get caught in a rip current, swim parallel to the shore until the rip passes. Try to stay within the designated swimming area and always swim with a buddy.

- In the hot tub—alcohol dilates blood vessels and lowers blood pressure to dangerous levels.

The effects of alcohol are felt sooner and stronger in a hot tub. It can lead to unconsciousness and drowning.

- Going out—go out with your friends, go home with your friends. By doing this, you can look out for one another and get a friend home who is too intoxicated to be out.

Also, be on the lookout for signs of predatory drugs: extreme wooziness, confusion, difficulty standing and slurring speech.

If you notice these symptoms in yourself, find your friends immediately and tell them to get you out of there.

If you see these signs in a friend, do your friend duty and take him or her back to the hotel or to a hospital if symptoms are severe.

- Watch your pockets—there are many cases of people being pickpocketed by criminals who prey on tourists.

- Hooking up—no, not everyone is doing it. But if you do choose to have sex, make sure you're protected.

Decide before going on spring break what you're willing to do, and then get to work setting your boundaries early and often.

If you meet someone and decide to hook up, be up front with the person if sex isn't in the plan. Say something along the lines of, "Hey, good looking, I've had fun this evening, but no fornication tonight."

- Do not use illegal drugs and non-drugs—cocaine, marijuana and other illegal drugs are career-enders. Do not jeopardize your future for a short-term high.

Some seemingly non-toxic activities also can have traumatic results. For instance, sucking in helium from a balloon is safe for most people, but taking hits from pressurized helium tanks can lead to death.

- Have fun—make memories, but be safe and wise. Have a clear head and finish out this academic year strong. Be ready to serve something more than yourselves.

(Editor's note: A thank you goes to Lt. Col. Linda Emerson, West Point's diversity officer, for sending this article.)

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

See SUDOKU PUZZLE, Page 10

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Quality of life issues prioritized at AFAP Conference

Story and photo by Mike Strasser
Assistant Editor

Forty-two quality of life issues submitted by the West Point community were reviewed by 30 delegates during the three-day Army Family Action Plan conference Feb. 22-24 at the Lee Club.

Delegates divided into three workgroups and prioritized nine issues to present at the outbrief to the garrison commander and superintendent. They were also tasked with identifying strengths and weaknesses of West Point programs, services and support. In all, 38 issues currently active at the Department of the Army AFAP were reviewed and prioritized by importance to the West Point community.

The first presenters at the AFAP outbrief were 1st Lt. Denny Frey and Debbie Gerber, both new to the AFAP process. Frey, the West Point Warrior Transition Unit executive officer, joined the West Point community four months ago. He approached the tasking with skepticism, but soon became a believer that the process can create change in the Army.

"I can tell you after the three days that has been put into this, I not only am very passionate [about AFAP] but will be an advocate of the program going forward," Frey said.

This workgroup recommended accelerated and advanced math courses for each grade in DoDEA middle schools, whereas the only current options they found were online courses and grade-skipping. A second issue dealt with the commissary being closed on Mondays, which is an inconvenience to cadets and community members whose schedules make it impossible to shop during the weekend. Lastly, the workgroup discussed the lack of a full-time Gifted Education Teacher in smaller DoDEA middle schools.

Gerber said that nearly 20 percent of the West Point Middle School currently fits into DoDEA as gifted classification. The teacher who is responsible for developing and implementing programs to meet the needs of gifted students can only do so during three periods of the school day because of other teaching duties.

"This is an issue for all DoDEA middle schools that have small enrollments because staffing is based on enrollment and not on a program," Gerber, an Army spouse of 20 years and six-year member of the West Point community, said. "Our recommendation is that DoDEA provide at least one full-time Gifted Education Teacher to each middle school."

Chaplain (Maj.) Pinkie Fischer briefed on the workgroup assigned to review and prioritize 18 issues. The top three issues she presented at the AFAP outbrief focused on family employment.

"These top three issues focus on the Army taking care of the Army Family," Fischer, the 4th Regiment chaplain, said. "And due to the current economic conditions, we felt these three were the most pressing of the 18."

The issues presented dealt with the time restriction and one-time use of the Military Spouse Preference program and federal employment assistance for family members with disabilities.

Clayton Vermeesch, Ian Elliott and Malcolm Smith were the presenters for the youth workgroup. Vermeesch, a senior at James O'Neill High School, first participated in AFAP as a seventh grader at Fort Riley, Kan., and has participated twice at West Point.

He made a compelling case for providing college-bound military dependents better, more affordable options by waiving out-of-state tuition at land grant universities or universities where dependents have lived and attended school



This is the second year Clayton Vermeesch had participated in the Army Family Action Plan conference at West Point. Previously, he served in the AFAP youth workgroup as a seventh grader when his family was stationed at Fort Riley, Kan.

previously.

Students at West Point Middle School can take geometry as an eighth grade elective course, which is only available online. Elliott, a sophomore, said the lack of interaction between student and teacher creates a disadvantage.

"Learning through instant messaging with such a course as geometry is very difficult, I'm sure," he said. "The online curriculum does not prepare the student for New York State curriculum, like the Regents exam. The best solution is to have a live teaching program at the West Point Middle School."

Smith is an eighth grader who has lived at West Point for five years. He briefed on a need for special events targeting high school students exclusively. Besides Youth Services activities, teens are largely on their own, and organized events would allow more opportunities to build stronger relationships as community members.

The 33 issues that were reviewed by delegates but not prioritized are not discarded, according to Christina Overstreet, West Point AFAP program manager.

"Everyone who submitted an issue and provided contact information will receive a response as to why that issue was or was not prioritized," she said. "Those that were not prioritized may be because the issue is already resolved, or the submitter did not have all of the necessary details—there may already be a program or resource in place, for example."

She said issues are forwarded to the appropriate agencies, some of which can be resolved fairly quickly. Others are filed and can be resubmitted into the process.

West Point has seen its fair share of success coming out of the annual Army Family Action Plan conference since the program began nearly three decades ago. The Lee Child Development Center, which opened in 2010, was in response to a growing youth population on post.

Likewise, the Boundless Playground, the fitness center and covered bus stops all derived from community members voicing their concerns through the AFAP process.

"This process works," West Point Superintendent Lt. Gen. David H. Huntoon Jr. said. "There has been a movement to not

only create Army policy but actual legislation derivative of the work that happens in places like this. So I can assure you that I am a believer in this process."

Huntoon said he was impressed by the delegates' efforts and said West Point has a reputation for its quality of life, which comes from a continued focus on invoking change and the talented community who creates it.

"What you have produced once again are thoughtful, reasoned and actionable plans that the United States Army will take a hard look at ... and in many cases, move forward," Huntoon said. "You have chosen some remarkable topics here, and I'm struck by that because they are about family, they are about spouse employment and they are about a lifelong commitment to learning in the manner that you addressed education issues. They are about the future of our Armed Forces and the youth of our country. You've hit all the right markers and I couldn't be more pleased."

Upon approval of the superintendent, the issues will enter into the AFAP process and tasked to agencies for additional information and action. Updates will be briefed at an upcoming AFAP steering committee meeting in May, and issues will either remain active and worked locally or elevated to the DA level. Issues can also be closed as completed or determined to be unattainable.

The outbrief slides are available at the West Point AFAP website (www.westpointmwr.com/afap.htm) and updates will be posted there when available. The outbrief is scheduled for broadcast on the command channel at a later date.

Top Five West Point AFAP Conference Issues

- 1.) **Military dependents to receive in-state tuition for all land grant universities**
- 2.) **Lack of a full-time Gifted Education Teacher for DoDEA Middle Schools**
- 3.) **Lack of accelerated/advanced math courses in DoDEA for Middle School students**
- 4.) **Federal employment assistance for family members with disabilities**
- 5.) **Monday closure at West Point Commissary**

Most Critical Active HQDA AFAP Issues

- 1.) **Issue #596: Convicted Sex Offender Registry**
- 2.) **Issue #626: TSGLI for PTSD, TBI and Uniplegia**
- 3.) **Issue #629: Out of Area TRICARE Prime Urgent Care Authorization and Referrals**
- 4.) **Issue #614: Comprehensive Behavioral Health Program for Children**
- 5.) **Issue #644: Shortages of Medical Providers in MTFs**
- 6.) **Issue #673: Space-A Travel for Survivors registered in DEERS**

Polar Fest promotes winter fun for all

Story and photos by Mike Strasser
Assistant Editor

Despite the unseasonable spring-like weather, West Point got some winter back just in time for Polar Fest Feb. 25 with close to 500 attendees enjoying a day of fun at the Victor Constant Ski

Slope.

“Polar Fest is all about getting the community out and having a great time on the slopes,” Jordan Talbot, from West Point FMWR Commercial Sponsorship and Special Events, said. “Even those who aren’t skiers or snowboarders can enjoy everything we have to offer.”



Brian Mott, 12, records a time of 37.83 seconds to claim first place in his age group during the NASTAR snowboard races at the 2012 Polar Fest Feb. 25.



(Left) Abby Mayer entertains an outdoor audience with his Alps Horn during the 2012 Polar Fest at the Victor Constant Ski Slope. (Above) Scott Ratzner (sitting in red) represented the West Point Ski Patrol by besting all participants in the Hot Dog and Chili Eating Competition. (Right) Children formed a line as FMWR staff roasted marshmallows for s’mores.

That was evident from the crowds of people piling pulled pork onto their plates or venturing inside the lodge to listen to classic tunes played live by “That 80’s Band.” Children kept entertained with crafts, games and made s’mores over an open fire.

Talbot, who coordinated this year’s event with Courtney Chidgey, said the FMWR team likes to keep the itinerary consistent year after year, based on what attendees enjoy most from the event. One event that seems to change each year is the menu for the eating competition. In years past, participants had to gorge themselves on pizzas and pancakes; this year it was hot dogs and spicy firehouse chili.

Scott Ratzner had the stomach to beat out nine other competitors after finishing seven hot dogs and a bowl of chili, with a crowd of colleagues from the West Point Ski Patrol surrounding him for support. The key to winning, he said, is all mental.

“It’s all in the head,” he said. “I really wasn’t even hungry. But I got some great support from my fellow patrollers and one little kid in the front row.”

For Katie Wolf, Polar Fest was the

chance to test her new skills on the slopes. The mother of three just learned how to ski last year, courtesy of FMWR’s 10-lesson program, and earned a third-place medal in her age group at the NASTAR ski races.

“This is my third time at Polar Fest, but my first time racing,” Wolf, whose husband is a National Guardsman at Stewart Air Base, said. “They have excellent facilities here, helpful instructors and this is just a great time for families to get out on the snow, whether it’s skiing or snowboarding.”

Two traditional events, the Big Air and Slope Style competitions, were cancelled due to the lack of snow. Midway through the day, though, a couple spats of snow made its way onto the ground, with more projected this week.

“It just goes to show how unpredictable the weather can be, but it certainly made it feel a little more ‘polar,’” Talbot said. “Our staff at FMWR always does a really good job keeping the trails in great shape. It’s been a warm season here, but it still has been a fun season.”



Combat Weapons Team enters All-Army competition

Last year's team earned Combined Arms Championship title, looks to build on success this weekend

**By Class of 2013 Cadet Bruce Rush
Combat Weapons Team PAO**

The Combat Weapons Team will be representing West Point in a marksmanship competition March 3-10 that tests the shooting skills of Soldiers across the Army.

The annual competition is open to all Soldiers of any rank, from active, Reserve and National Guard units.

Teams will compete with the M16 rifle between 25-500 yards and the M9 pistol at distances of 7-35 yards. More than just a traditional shooting match, training sessions are built into the competition to increase shooter proficiency in training marksmanship skills.

The competition itself is designed to place the shooters under stress in order to challenge even the most experienced marksmen. This includes physical activity and the mandated use of iron sights.

In addition to marksmanship fundamentals, shooters must also grasp ballistic fundamentals and make on-the-spot compensations over a wide range of distances.

One of the stages includes a 1.5-mile run and then requires competitors to shoot the M9 at a distance of 25 yards in the standing, kneeling and prone positions.

Eight members of the Combat Weapons Team are competing in the match at Fort Benning, Ga.

Class of 2012 Cadet Eric Gallagher is leading the training



Class of 2014 Cadet Christian Reeves shoots during the M9 stage from the previous semester. The West Point Combat Weapons Team is defending its reputation as one of the best marksmanship units in the Army.

COMBAT WEAPONS TEAM PHOTO

for this year's team, which includes Cadets Thomas Snukis, Joshua Mathews, Kevin Collins, Brewster Tisson, Bruce Rush, Christian Reeves and William Price.

The competing team members were selected for their performance in both pistol and rifle shooting. They have been practicing twice a week, in addition to regular practices, to learn the necessary adjustments and techniques necessary for firing the M16 at targets up to 500 yards away. They added sprints into practices to push their stress levels while improving their accuracy and speed.

The Combat Weapons Team began informally in the 1990s and was established as the Combat Pistol Team in 1997. Eventually, it would expand in training, activity and weaponry. Under the tutelage of Master Sgt. Jose Gordon it outgrew the scope of a "Combat Pistol Team" and was renamed the Combat Weapons Team.

With the help of dedicated civilian instructors Craig Jackson, Joe Seuk and Gary Salman, in addition to the effort of several West Point noncommissioned officers and officers, the CWT has continued to evolve and succeed.

The CWT competes in several local pistol competitions throughout the year. The two biggest competitions are the All-Army competition and the Joint Service Academy Combat Weapons Competition against Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. Last year's West Point competitors produced the title of Combined Arms Champion and third place team overall.

Scoutmaster's Council shares memorable experience

Submitted by the Scoutmaster's Council

Cadets on the Scoutmaster's Council spent the Presidents Day weekend on a team-building exercise that grew into something much more.

They traveled to Breckenridge, Colo., where they skied and snowboarded at the local mountain and then took a trip into the back country for a little 'off-the tracks' riding. While in the back country, the cadets learned about the avalanches that had plagued much of the areas skiing this season.

Each cadet was certified in basic avalanche training and, as part of the daylong course, they were outfitted with back country

skis and split board snowboards to hike the backside of one of Colorado's many beautiful mountains. Once at the top, after nearly a 3,500-foot climb in elevation, the newly-minted back country skiers traveled down the fresh powder that Rocky Mountain skiing is famous for.

Spending three days at the resort was no break for these diehard ski fans who braved temperatures below zero at the peaks of mountains. Along with giant peaks and rock outcroppings, the mountain was also packed with wooded trails and terrain parks that challenged even the most seasoned of riders.

Cadets also toured the area to take in the culture and experience its history.

One such journey landed them in the world famous Vail Ski Museum in Vail, Colo. There they met and talked with a World War II veteran of the 10th Mountain Division, a unit currently deployed to Afghanistan. He sat down with the cadets

for several hours to discuss skiing, the war and, the most interesting to the cadets, his experience as a Soldier in the 10th Mountain Division. The end of this weekend marked an end to an experience that everyone would remember for a lifetime.

Researchers gather at WarriorWeb Workshop

Submitted by Lt. Col. Bruce Floersheim and Joanna Wade

A multi-disciplinary group of faculty members from across West Point participated in a full-day workshop supporting the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's WarriorWeb initiative Feb. 15.

Participants represented the Departments of Civil & Mechanical Engineering, Systems Engineering, Physical Education, Behavioral Sciences & Leadership, Chemistry & Life Science, History, English & Philosophy, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science and the Center for Enhanced Performance.

Included as well were representatives from the National Robotics Initiative, the U.S. Marine Corps, Natick Soldier Research Development and Engineering Center, U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine and MEDCOM, among others. Approximately 20 individuals from outside West Point attended in person, while several were connected from both coasts of the United States via virtual meeting software.

The workshop was jointly sponsored by DARPA and West Point's Center for Innovation and Engineering. This is the third such meeting, hosted every six months, to update fellow researchers on current R&D efforts, gain feedback from collaborators and build new teams for nascent lines of inquiry.

The group discussed current technology efforts

that are specifically directed at supporting the DARPA WarriorWeb and Army Decisive Soldier Initiatives.

Dr. Henry Girolamo, Advanced Technology Manager-Integration and Transition with SRDEC, described the workshop as enlightening.

"It was an excellent opportunity to hear about the Center's research on bio-mechanical systems, protection and the study of future Soldier systems," he said. "There are strong parallels between what the cadets are being educated in and the core areas of research and development at the U.S. Army Natick, Soldier Research Development and Engineering Center where the Soldier is at the Center of everything we do ..."

Presentations included updates on guidance from senior Army leadership, historical perspectives on the issues of Soldier load and its affect on physical and operational performance. Cadets and faculty briefed on the status of ongoing or planned research efforts to include studies on cognitive load, use of social networks to better identify the linkage between all relevant aspects of the Soldier load problem, use of energy harvesting systems to provide local power supplies and effects of mechanical prosthetic systems to enhance Soldier performance.

Dr. Bill Brechue, Center for Physical Development Excellence director, led discussions in two breakout sessions on new initiatives to address traumatic brain injuries and ankle injuries as part of the ongoing collaborative effort.



Dr. Matthew Flynn, History Department assistant professor, provides a historical perspective during the WarriorWeb Workshop at West Point Feb. 15. The event was jointly sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and West Point's Center for Innovation and Engineering.

PHOTO BY DR. LEDLIE KLOSKEY

Chandler cites renewed emphasis on professionalism

By Rob McIlvaine
Army News Service

With the successful completion of the mission in Iraq and a continued transition to Afghan security forces, the Army will begin to reduce force structure.

It will also identify the qualities needed by this downsizing force, said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III in a recent roundtable on Soldier professionalism.

“For me, there are three criteria to identify professional Soldiers:

- Competence, or the ability to do your job and do it well;
- Character: the understanding that a Soldier acts on behalf of the nation, rather than his or herself;

- Commitment: which is a personal calling to serve in the Army and the nation, before all else,” Chandler said.

Over the next six years, Chandler said the Army will reduce its active forces end strength from 570,000 to 490,000, which will include the reduction of at least eight brigade combat teams.

“We are committed to accomplishing these cuts in a controlled and responsible manner. But I want to stress—even though we are in a transition, our mission has not decisively changed. It’s to prevent war by our capacity, readiness and modernization, shape the environment in which we operate and when called to combat, fight and win our nation’s wars, decisively,” he said.

While the Army focuses a lot on competence, Chandler believes that character and commitment need a renewed effort and focus over the next several years.

“It’s easy to see competence. You take a look at a counseling statement, or an evaluation, or you ask the Soldier a few questions about his or her job,” Chandler said. “It’s not so easy to see character and commitment. For that, you really have to know someone.

“You really have to be that leader—the kind who guides,



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III spoke about Soldier professionalism in the face of reductions.

PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS SCOTT D. TURNER

mentors and leads by example,” he added.

As Chandler travels around the Army and talks with Soldiers, he said he talks about these three characteristics.

“And I talk about being professional. It is the cornerstone of being who we say we are,” Chandler said. “Our Soldiers have shown this professionalism over and again the last 10 years of conflict. It’s going to take professional Soldiers and leaders to tackle some of the issues we’re faced with now: post-traumatic stress, post-traumatic brain injury, wounded warrior care, suicide, sexual assault and harassment, hazing, and to manage our drawdown and transfer, and transition Soldiers with dignity and respect back into the civilian world.”

The Army must meet these head on, he said, to ensure Soldiers are not only receiving the care they need, but also are maintaining good order and discipline expected of the U.S. Army Soldier.

“I, along with the Army senior leadership, am committed to this and will not rest until we make significant and lasting improvements in all of these areas and more,” he said.

Over this past year, Chandler has traveled about 200,000 miles as the sergeant major of the Army.

“And wherever I go, I can’t help but be in awe of the professionalism, dedication and sacrifice our Soldiers, our family members and civilians display every day. Our Army is quite frankly the best trained, best manned, best equipped and best led force in our history,” he said. “We’ve proven ourselves in every engagement and continue to display the physical and mental toughness long associated with the word Soldier.”

Chandler also said the Army has spent the last few years analyzing and dialoguing about how to use the experience gained from the past decade of conflict to better understand the Soldiers’ role as professionals, from senior Army leadership down to the lowest private in the formation.

“Professionalism is built on a bedrock of trust—the positive relationship between the American people that is based on mutual trust and respect,” he said.



West Point trumpet player earns U.S. citizenship

(From left) Concert Band Brass Group Leader Master Sgt. Matt Wozniak congratulates Staff Sgt. Andrew Garcia upon the conclusion of his citizenship ceremony at the Court for the Southern District of New York in Manhattan. Originally from Canada, Garcia joined the West Point Band in December 2011 after receiving his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music in trumpet performance from the Manhattan School of Music. He recently joined 39 other West Point noncommissioned officers, including 10 other band members, at the 2012 NCO Induction Ceremony. To find out more about the West Point Band, visit www.westpoint.edu/band/index.htm or become a Facebook fan at www.facebook.com/westpointband.

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CHRISSEY CLARK/WEST POINT BAND

“No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of Soldiers.” — from the NCO Creed

2012 NCO Induction Ceremony

By Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

Forty noncommissioned officers gathered Feb. 23 at Arnold Auditorium for the 2012 West Point NCO Induction Ceremony.

The event was organized by the West Point chapter of the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club to celebrate the professionalism of the Soldiers who chose to serve as the “Backbone of the Army.”

The enlisted represented the Military Police Company, U.S. Military Academy Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the West Point Band, Keller Army Community Hospital, U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School and the Dental Clinic.

The auditorium was packed with fellow NCOs and senior leaders to welcome the junior enlisted into the Corps, to include the Corps of Cadets Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Burnett and West Point Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Powell.

“We were fortunate to have so many senior NCOs participate in this ceremony,” West Point Band Command Sgt. Maj. Cal Christensen said. “They all believe in this process and the importance of recognizing inductees. NCOs set the example for Soldiers and cadets.”

As members of the Army NCO ranks, sergeants bear the responsibility of taking care of Soldiers by ensuring they understand their responsibilities as part of a team representing the Army and adhering to the standards of military bearing and appearance.

Becoming an NCO is significant, Christensen explained, because a Soldier is going from being a follower to a leader. It is not easy becoming an NCO because there are sergeants’ boards to pass that require numerous hours of preparation



Sgt. Alexandria Corneiro, the audiovisual specialist in the Public Affairs Office, is congratulated at the reception line following the conclusion of the 2012 West Point NCO Induction Ceremony Feb. 23. KATHY EASTWOOD/IPV

and dedication.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to become an NCO,” Sgt. Alexandria Corneiro, audiovisual specialist in the Public Affairs Office, said. “It not only speaks to the potential you have to lead, but it pays homage to your dedication to being a Soldier and the work you put in to get to that point.”

At the ceremony, NCO inductees passed through an arch to symbolize the rite of passage from being young Soldiers to the ranks of the professional noncommissioned officer corps. Senior NCOs lit red, white and blue candles symbolizing valor/hardness, purity/innocence and perseverance/justice. Two additional black and gold candles were also lit, representing West Point colors.

“I was very proud to be officially inducted into the NCO Corps,” Sgt. Stephen Bonett, chaplain’s assistant, said. “I was surprised to see that my name was on the roster of inductees. I am very appreciative that my senior leaders gave me that opportunity to step through the portal and be a part of this proud tradition that is the right of all newly promoted NCOs.

“I also thought that the ceremony was prepared and conducted extremely well,” Bonett added. “It gave us young NCOs a chance to see what right looks like when putting together an NCO Induction Ceremony.

Eleven members of the West Point Band participated in NCO Induction Ceremony, to include Staff Sgt. Andrew Garcia, who also performed at the ceremony as a member of the Highlands Brass Quintet.

The guest speaker of the event was Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Winzenried, command senior enlisted leader for North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. NORTHCOM at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Winzenried told a story of when he was a jumpmaster in the 82nd Airborne Division and his Soldiers had to line up in front of their jumpmaster after a training session.

“I looked around and realized I had the longest line of Soldiers,” Winzenried said. “And I knew these Soldiers were serious. This is how you know you are an effective leader.”

Winzenried advised the newly inducted NCOs to focus on taking care of their Soldiers to be an effective leader and to help themselves by continuing their education.

First Sgt. Dwayne Key of Headquarters and Headquarters Company had the honor of introducing the HHC inductees into the stage, and he remembers fondly his own promotion into the NCO Corps.

“I felt as though I had become a member of an exclusive club and I wanted to use that membership to take care of Soldiers the way my mentors had taken care of me,” Key said. “I wanted to change the Army one Soldier at a time by doing the best I could to care for and train them and how they viewed the Army.”

Sgt. Steven Pettis, from USMAPS, which now comes under the U.S. Corps of Cadets, was impressed with the induction ceremony.

“I’ve wanted to become an NCO since I was an E-1,” Pettis said. “I never experienced an NCO induction before and for Command Sgt. Maj. Burnett to go all out like he did with getting certificates, the USMA Band, a packed house, a cake and coffee at the end—it made me feel more appreciated.”



Sgt. Michael Albertson, U.S. Army Medical and Dental Activity Command, walks through the NCO Arch during the induction ceremony Feb. 23. Albertson serves as a licensed practical nurse in the mixed surgical unit at Keller Army Community Hospital. Forty noncommissioned officers made that symbolic forward as they were welcomed into the NCO Corps. JOHN PELLINO/DPTMS



Command Sgt. Maj. Cal Christensen, the senior enlisted Soldier in the West Point Band lights a symbolic candle during the NCO Induction Ceremony on Feb. 23 at Arnold Auditorium. The ceremony is both a rite of passage and a celebration of newly promoted joining the ranks of the noncommissioned officer corps. JOHN PELLINO/DPTMS



The Highlands Brass Quintet performed at the NCO Induction Ceremony at Arnold Auditorium Feb. 23. Eleven members of the West Point Band were among the 40 noncommissioned officers to be honored on stage. PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. WILLIE CALOHAN/WEST POINT BAND



Sgt. Shaheed Zachary, from the West Point Military Police Company, signs his name into the NCO registry during the induction ceremony for 40 noncommissioned officers Feb. 23. JOHN PELLINO/DPTMS

Charge of the Noncommissioned Officer

I will discharge carefully and diligently the duties of the grade to which I have been promoted and uphold the traditions and standards of the Army.

I understand that Soldiers of lesser rank are required to obey my lawful orders. Accordingly, I accept responsibility for their actions. As a noncommissioned officer, I accept the charge to observe and follow the orders and directions given by supervisors acting according to laws, articles and rules governing the discipline of the Army, I will correct conditions detrimental to the readiness thereof. In so doing, I will fulfill my greatest obligation as a leader and thereby confirm my status as a noncommissioned officer.



2012 NCO Inductees

MEDDAC-Keller Army Community Hospital

- Sgt. Michael Albertson
- Sgt. Jacqueline Deane
- Sgt. Alan Galeana
- Sgt. Jeremy Harrison
- Sgt. Lauren Medford
- Sgt. Adam Wells
- Sgt. Elisabeth Yates
- Staff Sgt. Carlos Gonzalez
- Staff Sgt. William Parker

Military Police Company

- Sgt. Donnie Baulding
- Sgt. Jon Duquette
- Sgt. Steven Hartman
- Sgt. Robert Lowe
- Sgt. Christopher Mansour
- Sgt. Quy Nguyen
- Sgt. Paige Plumlee
- Sgt. Kerilyn Schwartzkopf
- Sgt. Eddie Sims
- Sgt. Anthony Wall
- Sgt. Joshua Weaver
- Sgt. Matthew Wesley
- Sgt. Shaheed Zachary
- Sgt. Timothy Gilbert
- Sgt. Omar Dejesus

USMA HHC

- Sgt. Stephen Bonett
- Sgt. Alexandria Corneiro

West Point Band

- Staff Sgt. Christine Clark
- Staff Sgt. Andrew Garcia
- Staff Sgt. Rachel Hertzberg
- Staff Sgt. Brandie Lane
- Staff Sgt. Bryan McKinney
- Staff Sgt. Torin Olsen
- Staff Sgt. William Owens
- Staff Sgt. Anna Pennington
- Staff Sgt. Megan Szymanski
- Staff Sgt. Christopher Venditti
- Staff Sgt. Jeremy Wissner

U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School

- Sgt. Steven Pettis

2nd Aviation Detachment

- Sgt. James Aldridge

USMA Dental Clinic

- Staff Sgt. Josefino Majadas

Keller Corner

Parking at Keller Hospital

Starting Monday, from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, all parking at Keller Hospital will be for patients, designated vehicles and visitors of the hospital only.

There will be approximately 90 parking spots available directly in front of the main entrance, the lower parking lot next to the construction fence and the parking area along Washington Road.

Childbirth Education

Keller works hard to provide expecting parents with the resources and education they need to be well prepared for their little one's arrival.

We are proud to offer courses in maternal and childbirth education to our community. The hospital will be offering a six-week child birthing course from 6-8 p.m. starting Tuesday.

The classes will cover having your baby at Keller, pain management, unexpected outcomes, newborn care, along with breast and bottle feeding.

For more information on Keller's child birthing course, call Debbie Peddy at 845-938-3210.

TRICARE Questions

Got questions? We have answers. Come to the West Point Education Center for an open TRICARE Question and Answer session.

All sessions begin at 3:30 p.m. The sessions are scheduled for March 13, June 21, July 11 and Aug. 23.

TRICARE Health Benefits Advisors provide individual service and can answer your questions and assist you with TRICARE issues.

PAWS for a CAUSE

There is a newly formed pet therapy team for West Point called "Paws for a Cause."

What does that mean to you? It means that you can visit with the dogs at the barracks from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. every Wednesday.

During colder weather, the dogs are taken inside to Bldg. 626 on the 2nd floor.

The registered therapy dogs trained many months. They're very eager and excited to meet everyone!

Please stop by and say, "hello."

For more information, call 845-938-4838.

Healthy Eating

Are you looking for nutritional information to live a healthier lifestyle? Join a registered dietitian from KACH on a tour of the West Point Commissary from 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday.

You will learn how to read and interpret food labels and choose products that are both healthy and tasty.

Please meet at the front entrance of the commissary.

Keller Under Construction

Please pardon our appearance as construction is taking place. We know that to expand our facilities, we'll need to change the way our patients and visitors arrive at Keller.

Although these changes are temporary, we want your visit to be as easy as possible. We strongly recommend that you allow extra time to reach us.

Plan to arrive at Keller at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time to allow for parking and arrival to your care location.

SHARP Response Team

24/7 Sexual Assault Response Coordinators

- Shelley Ariosto, Garrison: 914-382-8041;
- Maj. Missy Rosol, USCC: 845-401-3476;
- Lt. Col. Linda Emerson, Diversity Officer: 845-590-1249;
- Dr. Stephanie Marsh, USMAPS: 845-938-1950.

Support or More Information

- DoD SafeHelpline: 877-995-5247;
- www.safehelpline.org.

24/7 Victim Advocacy

- Dan Toohey, Installation: 914-382-8180;
- Dr. Donna Wiener-Levy, Center for Personal Development: 845-591-7215;
- On-call Behavioral Health: 845-938-4004;
- Duty Chaplain: 845-401-8171.

NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752

Friday—War Horse, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday—Joyful Noise, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday—Contraband, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

THE THEATER SCHEDULE ALSO CAN BE FOUND AT

WWW.SHOPMYEXCHANGE.COM

Life Works at Balfour Beatty Communities

• **Hearts Apart Indoor Picnic**—Army Community Service and Balfour Beatty Communities will host an indoor pot-luck picnic for the families of deployed Soldiers at ACS Bldg. 622 starting at 6 p.m. March 9.

The Hearts Apart picnic will feature a family movie, fun crafts, games and deployment-related activities.

To register for this event, contact Amy-Jo Johnson at 845-938-5654 or email amyjo.johnson@usma.edu.

• **CYSS/BBC Spring Break Mini-Olympics**—Child, Youth and School age Services and BBC are hosting a Spring Break Mini-Olympics from 2-5 p.m. March 12-16 at the CYSS Teen Center.

The Spring Break Mini-Olympics will simply test your nerve and dare you to let loose among other teens in a series of 12 events. The top three finishers in each event will receive an award from the Teen Center and BBC.

Command Channel 8/23

March 1-8

Army Newswatch

Today, Friday and Monday through March 8

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

The Point

Today, Friday and Monday through March 8

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

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

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

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.

See SUDOKU SOLUTION, Page 2
Difficulty: Hard

FMWR Blurbs

ACS' 2012 Army Emergency Relief Campaign kickoff

Everyone is invited to attend the AER Campaign kickoff from 1:30-2:30 p.m. today.

The ceremony will be held at ACS Bldg. 622 with light refreshments being served.

The AER Campaign will run through May 15 helping to make Soldiers and their families Army Strong.

For more information, call Amy Weyhrauch at 938-5839.

CYSS Sports and Fitness Spring Sports registration

CYSS Sports and Fitness Spring Sports registration is ongoing for military families and begins today for civilian families at Parent Central.

Registration will conclude for all March 16.

Waiting lists may be formed at any time, so parents are encouraged to register early.

For more information, contact the Youth Sports office at 938-3550/8896.

SAC Night new hours

Come join the fun at School Age Center Night from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday at the Lee Area CDC.

The theme is "Pajamas and a Movie," so come ready to have fun in your PJs. Activities include playing Freeze Dance, 4 Corners Game, Limbo Contest and making a tropical snack pack and fruit smoothies.

The evening will conclude with a movie. This event is open to students in grades 1-5 and the cost is minimal.

Reservations are required.

Call 938-0941 to reserve a night of fun.

CYSS Parent's Night Out (updated)

It's Parent's Night Out at Stony Child Development Center Saturday and March 30.

Drop off your child at 6 p.m., go out and enjoy some time to yourself.

Pick up your child by 11 p.m. A small fee applies. Reservations are required.

For more information, call 938-3921.

CYSS Hired! Program

Teens ages 15-18 who are interested in working in an internship program can earn \$500 for working 15 hours a week for 12 consecutive weeks.

The West Point Middle School Teen Center offers six free workshops, which are mandatory prior to working.

These mandatory workshops will be offered by appointment on the following months and days during spring semester:

- Wednesday, March 14, 21, 28;
- April 4, 11, 18, 25;
- May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30;
- June 6.

Contact Marion DeClemente, Workforce Preparation specialist, to schedule an appointment or for more information at 845-938-8889.

Mind, Body and Soul Training

Make time for yourself through ACS' Mobilization and Deployment Program. All classes for the Mind, Body and Soul Training will be held from 6-7 p.m.

- Resiliency Skill Development: Learn skills that enhance your ability to bounce back from life's road blocks.

The classes are Mondays during March at ACS, Bldg. 622.

- Physical Fitness: Walk, run or spin for better health. The classes are Tuesdays during March at the FMWR Fitness Center, Bldg. 683.

- Soul Searching and Stress Management: Learn about yourself through journaling, self-discovery and personal growth.

The classes are Wednesdays during March at ACS, Bldg. 622.

To register, call Amy-Jo Johnson at 938-5654 or e-mail amyjo.johnson@usma.edu.

ACS' Coping with Deployment Course

The ACS' Coping with Deployment Course, presented by the American Red Cross, will be held from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. March 12 at ACS, Bldg. 622.

This course provides hands-on tools to help families cope with deployments and teaches adults how to support children as a result of changes they may experience due to the deployment of a family member.

For more information or to register, call 938-5654/0232.

Shamrock 5K

The Shamrock 5K and Green Eggs and Ham breakfast presented by the FMWR Fitness Center and the West Point Club is scheduled for March 17.

Pre-registration at the FMWR Fitness Center is ongoing.

The race starts and finishes at the West Point Club with registration at 7 a.m. and the shotgun start at 8 a.m.

Cost of the race is one FMWR Fitness Center coupon. Cadets can register for free, but they must register.

After the race, visit the Club from 8:30-10 a.m. for an Irish breakfast with eggs and brew in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

Purchase a race package and receive a discount at the Club's Green Eggs and Ham breakfast.

For more information, call 938-6490.

West Point Career Expo

Join ACS from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. March 22 at the Thayer Hotel for a West Point Career Expo.

Meet with top companies to discuss career opportunities. Learn how to advance your career by meeting with top colleges and universities.

This Expo is brought to you by ACS' Employment Readiness Program.

For more information, call Randy Stephenson at 938-5658.

Spring Story Hour

The West Point Post Library, Bldg. 622, will begin its spring story hour sessions Tuesday.

The sessions are at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through April 17.

All West Point community children ages 3-5 are eligible. There are no fees.

Children must be registered each week.

Call 938-2974 or visit the library for more information.

Winter Madness Framing sale

Arts & Crafts Shop is having a framing sale now through April 30.

The craft shop is located at Bldg. 648 (behind the post office).

For more information, call 938-4812.

West Point 5K/10K

Registration is ongoing for the 8th annual West Point 5K/10K on May 12.

To register, go to active.com and type in the keyword "West Point" or call 938-6497 for more details.

Adaptive Ski and Snowboard Program

The West Point Ski Slope office is expanding the Adaptive Ski and Snowboard Program for those who require adaptive equipment and education.

The fee for this program includes a lift ticket, all equipment and four 1 1/2-hour lessons.

Times will be announced.

For more information, call 938-4637.

Round Pond reservations

Round Pond reservations are now being

taken for active duty servicemembers and other eligible personnel from 2-6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Round Pond reservation line is 938-8811.

FMWR to expand swim times

In an effort to promote fitness and reinforce that the West Point community is one team, the Department of Physical Education and the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will expand community swim hours outside of cadet instructional hours and practice/competition of the West Point Swimming and Dive teams.

Every evening through the week and all day Saturday and Sunday, Crandall Pool is available for FMWR to schedule open swim or community aquatic events.

FMWR is currently in the process of hiring additional lifeguards in order to expand the opportunity for community use.

Once lifeguards are hired, FMWR will announce the expanded hours.

DPE will also conduct open swim hours for cadets, staff, faculty and the community during the morning (5:45-7:15 a.m.) and afternoon hours (12:05-1:45 p.m.), Monday-Friday in Crandall Pool.

For updated information, call the Crandall Pool hotline at 938-2985.

NEW INFO

Sunday Brunch cancelled

The Sunday Brunch at the West Point Club's Grand Ballroom scheduled for 11 a.m.-1 p.m. March 11 has been cancelled.

For more information, call 938-5120.

West Point FMWR Survey

By the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

The appropriated funds received for recreational programs, management and overhead functions has been reduced significantly this year.

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is analyzing its programs and services to determine which programs to modify and which to discontinue.

DFMWR's decisions about programs and services will take into consideration many factors, to include the effect on Soldier readiness, popularity and whether or not the customer can get the service elsewhere on post.

As stated by the Installation Management Commander, a commitment to maintain the quality of support earned by Soldiers and families intensifies the need to operate more efficiently and effectively.

A survey is now available and will help identify which programs are most important to you—the Soldier, family member, civilian or retiree. The information gathered from this survey will be used to recommend changes to our current programs.

While responding to this survey is voluntary, we ask that you take a few minutes to complete it. Reliability of the results can only be achieved if our response rate is high.

For those of you who have family members who use our facilities and programs, we ask that you forward the link below to their home email account so they may have the opportunity to complete the survey as well. This should take no more than 10-15 minutes.

The survey is located at ...

<http://extranet.dean.usma.edu/oir/fmwr>

What's Happening

New Vehicle Registration hours

New Vehicle Registration hours begin today from 1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday at the Military Police Station.

WPWC 2012 Scholarship Applications available

Applications for the 2012 West Point Womens' Club scholarships are available now at www.westpointwomensclub.shutterfly.com.

They must be received or postmarked by Friday.

For questions, contact Bernadette Champine at bernwilder@hotmail.com or 978-930-5155.

WPWC 2012 Grant Applications available

Applications for 2012 West Point Womens' Club grants are now available at www.westpointwomensclub.shutterfly.com.

They must be postmarked by Friday.

For more information, contact Bernadette Champine at bernwilder@hotmail.com or call 978-930-5155.

Women's History Month Run

The William E. Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic, USCC SHARP and Respect Program will be hosting this year's Women's History Month Run at 6 a.m. Tuesday.

It is a three-mile formation run that starts at Washington Statue in front of Washington Hall. It will be an esprit de corps run with cadence calling. It is open to everyone.

For more information, contact Maj. Missy Rosol, USCC SHARP, at 938-7479 or email at melissa.rosol@usma.edu; Master Sgt. Timothy Morgan, USCC EOA, at 938-8456; or Class of 2013 Cadet Shelby Kincaid.

Army Education Center

John Jay College Master of Public Administration Program at West Point is now accepting new students for the Spring II Session.

The deadline is March 15.

For more information, contact Gwenn Wallace, JJC onsite administrator, at 446-5959 or email jjcwestpoint@yahoo.com.

DUSA Scholarship applications available

Society of the Daughters of the U.S. Army Scholarship applications are now available at the guidance offices of James I. O'Neill High School, Cornwall High School and Monroe-Woodbury High School.

Applicants must be a graduating high school senior and the son or daughter of an active, retired or deceased U.S. military servicemember whose family resides at West Point (or within a 35-mile radius) at the time the scholarship is awarded. Completed applications are due by March 23.

BBC Foundation scholarship applications

Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation is accepting scholarship applications from high school and undergraduate students of West Point's family housing residents for the 2012-13 academic year.

To apply for these scholarships, go to the Foundation's website, bbcommunitiesfoundation.org, and print out, complete and submit the application and all required materials to Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation at 10 Campus Boulevard, Newtown Square, PA 19073.

Applications must be received by April 15.

West Point Community Diving Club

The West Point Community Diving Club is offering learn-to-dive lessons at Crandall Pool in the Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center.

All ages and experience levels are welcome.

The ability to swim is a prerequisite.

Lessons are offered from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and from 11 a.m.-noon Saturday. There are also noon-1 p.m. and 1-2 p.m. Saturday lessons when available.

For more information, contact diving coach Ron Kontura at ron.kontura@usma.edu or 938-4207.

SAMC meetings

Noncommissioned officers interested in becoming a member of the West Point Sgt. Audie Murphy Club are urged to join SAMC members for study groups at 5 p.m. Thursdays at Nininger Hall.

For those who are interested in joining the SAMC, meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. in the Red Reeder Room in Washington Hall.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Joseph Willis at 938-7082.

Protestant Women of the Chapel Wednesdays

Protestant Women of the Chapel meets Wednesdays from 9-11 a.m. at the Post Chapel on Biddle Loop.

Childcare is provided. All women are invited.

For more information, contact Amy Griffin at ascgriffin@gmail.com.

Protestant Women of the Chapel Thursdays

PWOC offers an "evening" Bible study on the book of James is being offered from 7-9 p.m. Thursdays.

No childcare will be provided for evening studies.

For more information, contact Amy Griffin at ascgriffin@gmail.com.

2012 Army Summer Sports Camps

This summer the following sports camps will be held at West Point: basketball, track and field, distance/cross country, diving, hockey, boys lacrosse, soccer, softball, sprint football team camp, swimming, tennis, volleyball and boys wrestling.

For registration information, call 845-446-5007, ext. 119, or visit www.goarmysports.com for more camp specific information.

Cadet Shoe Drive

Cadets from Company F-4 are participating in the Groo's Shoes (Middletown) annual shoe drive for the poor of Orange County through March 19. The shoes can be new or gently worn.

Class of 2015 Cadet Jon Lindefjeld is coordinating the project.

The cadets will bring their respective shoe collections after spring break to a central location, then the shoes will be sent over to Groo's Shoes.

Dr. Frederick Pugh has a collection box near his office in Taylor Hall (first floor, Room 112). There are collection boxes currently in individual company areas.

For more information, call Lindefjeld at 412-480-1503.

NEW INFO

Pirates of Penzance at James I. O'Neill High School

The James I. O'Neill High School drama club will perform the Pirates of Penzance at 7 p.m. tonight and Friday.

There will be additional performances at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday. The musical will be in the O'Neill auditorium.

For more information, call Lt. Col. Holly West at 938-3334.

Ruck March awareness

The German Proficiency Badge/Wounded Warrior Ruck March will be held starting at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Be aware of the marching participants while traveling throughout post.

Book Signing

A book signing by author Clyde Cocke of his book "Pass in Review: An Illustrated History of West Point Cadets 1794-present" is from 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. Tuesday at the West Point Bookstore in Thayer Hall fourth floor.

Jewish holiday of Purim

The Jewish holiday of Purim, celebrating the biblical victory against Persian-era persecution, starts at sundown Wednesday and concludes at nightfall March 8.

To celebrate this holiday, the Jewish Chapel will host its annual Purim observance at 4:15 p.m. March 8.

The event will feature the reading of the Scroll of Esther and a holiday meal.

If you plan on attending, RSVP to Chaplain Shmuel Felzenberg at 938-2710 or 910-273-0767, or by email at shmuel.felzenberg@usma.edu.

Jewish Service cancellation

During the week of Spring Break, the Friday evening Shabbat Services normally held at the Jewish Chapel is cancelled March 16.

Alternate worship information can be obtained by contacting the chapel staff at 938-2710.

West Point Schools re-registration for SY 2012-13

The West Point Schools will be holding re-registration for both the elementary and middle schools during the week of March 26-30 in the elementary school conference room.

The registration hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. daily and from 5-8 p.m. March 28 in conjunction with the PTO's Book Fair Family Night.

Re-registration packets will be sent home on Wednesday. All returning families are asked to attend the re-registration, so do not send packets back to school with students.

If you are not returning to the West Point Schools next year, you may send in the withdrawal form with your student.

New student packets will be available during re-registration or you may pre-register new students online at <https://registration.dodea.edu>.

Basic Rider Motorcycle Course classes

The West Point Safety Office is offering Basic Rider Motorcycle Course classes during the months of March, April and May to the staff and faculty and the cadets.

The dates of the classes for the staff and faculty are:

- March 21-22, 7:45 a.m.-5 p.m.;
- April 25-26, 7:45 a.m.-5 p.m.;
- May 2-3 7:45 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information on location or to sign up for the courses, go to <https://apps.imcom.army.mil/AIRS/default.aspx>.

The dates of the classes for the cadets are:

- March 23-25;
- April 27-29;
- May 4-6. See the website above for location and time.

The Basic Rider Course is nearly a 15-hour program that provides classroom and actual motorcycle operator training in a controlled, off-street environment.

If you have a bike and helmet, please bring them with you. Bikes and helmets are available for use if needed.

Q & A

An athlete's perspective ...

Jimmy Rafferty

Once scoffed at with the notion of being a cadet, "Mr. Intensity" leads the Army wrestling team

Story and photo by Eric S. Bartelt
Managing Editor

He is "Mr. Intensity," and the intense nature inside him was driven from a time and place where people didn't take him so seriously. There was a time when a 15-year-old Jimmy Rafferty would have been scoffed at with the notion of being a West Point cadet, but now, nearly eight years later, he uses it as his vehicle to a lifetime worth of achievement.

A senior on the Army Wrestling team, Rafferty has gone through all the trials and tribulations that a cadet faces while also trying to solidify a spot in the starting lineup at 157 pounds and all throughout trying to do it under two different head coaches.

All the hard work that Rafferty has put in on the mat and in the weight room has culminated in his best season as he's tied for the most wins overall (23) with junior Jordan Thome and leads the Black Knights in dual victories with 10.

The native of Haddon Heights, N.J., who will branch infantry, spoke to the *Pointer View* about his confidence heading into the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association Championships Saturday and Sunday, what it means to be "Mr. Intensity," the challenges of being a leader and what a life-altering experience being at the academy has been for him.

Pointer View: *You currently have career-best totals in overall and dual victories this year; do you feel you're at your best, both mentally and physically, heading into the EIWA Championships?*

Jimmy Rafferty: "Absolutely. There has never been a time where I've felt more confident in my wrestling and there has never been a time where I've felt more confident in my mental toughness.

"I remember telling (former wrestling head coach Chuck) Barbee when I was in high school that 'I don't think I'm the best wrestler and that is certainly not why you should recruit me, but I know if I were to get into a Division I program I will be successful.' Even though I was just a kid then, I understood all I needed was some guidance and teaching—and that's what I got here."

PV: *The team is 5-2 in conference, 8-6 overall and has beaten two Top 25 teams this*

year ... thoughts about the team's season?

JR: "I think we did better than expected (from an outsider's point of view), but I think we did not do as well as we thought in our room. I don't think a lot of people were expecting us to beat anyone in the Top 25, but we beat two Top 25 teams. With that being said, did we accomplish all of our goals—no.

"We would like to win every match, but some of the matches we were just a little outmanned. But what I'm proud of is there was maybe one or two times where we went up against a team and we just didn't have all of our stuff, but it seemed every time we were out on that mat, we were ready to fight, ready to win and ready to battle.

"You just have to be ready to get after it and be violent, and I was proud to see that no matter what the score was our guys were going out there and gave everything they had that day."

PV: *Any wrestlers who stood out this year in your mind?*

JR: "You can look at the obvious guys who are having great seasons, but I'll be biased to my classmates. I'm very proud of Mike Gorman, Derek Stanley and Daniel Mills. They've stood to my left and right and they've been the best battle buddies I could have ever asked for in terms of leading the team. Travis Coffey and Orion Ross with their injuries weren't able to do the same, but I think they would have.

"I'm just so very proud of those three guys and their ability to mesh with the team and lead them from the front in every aspect of setting the examples that were necessary. Those three guys have had a tremendous impact on our team and season."

PV: *Who do you see as your stiffest competition at the EIWA Championships?*

JR: "The EIWAs at 157 has six national slots, so that tells you a little something about the bracket. Every single guy in that bracket will be a stud. Obviously, I have to point toward Kyle Dake (Cornell), who is a returning two-time national champion; Walter Pepperman (Harvard), who I have lost to twice now and is ranked in the Top 10; Daniel Kolodzik from Princeton, who is a great competitor and I love watching him wrestle; and Jake O'Hara, who is down the road at Columbia and he is also a tough guy.



Senior Jimmy Rafferty is having his best wrestling season at the academy as he's tied for the team lead in overall wins (23) with junior Jordan Thome and leads the Black Knights in dual victories with 10.

"You can look at all the competitors, but it really comes down to a period at a time and a match at a time. I don't even know who I've drawn yet but I will take the same mentality into every match, which is to exhaust myself with effort and focus to beat that guy I face. Records and accolades are great, but that's why we wrestle the matches."

PV: *On the mat, what do you consider your biggest strength?*

JR: "It comes down to having a lot of heart. It also comes down to a lot of pride in the program. I've always wrestled with a lot of pride being an Army wrestler. I think it's an honor, I think it's a privilege and I think it can very easily be taken away through many things here. I'm very prideful to be an Army wrestler. When I go out on the mat, I have that in mind that I want to represent the Army well. That is what keeps me going, keeps me going daily and I know that's my daily motivation, and all that transcends out there on the mat, but a lot of people will probably say it's my conditioning. However, Army wrestlers are conditioned, so that is what it comes down to and I'm proud and want to be an Army wrestler."

PV: *You earned the "Mr. Intensity" Award last year, what does it mean to you to be noticed for the energy and passion you put into the sport?*

JR: "It means more than I could ever tell you. I know people might think that's corny, but I think it's awesome. I get criticized all the time for being intense and being passionate, but how great of an opportunity do I have, to

be a young man here at this academy and I feel it's my duty to exhaust myself with every opportunity that's given to me here.

"Whether it's the books, the military training, the physical aspect in the wrestling room, any chance I get to accomplish something or make a positive impact on somebody else—I need to do my best to do that. Not to mention there are thousands of kids who want to be in my shoes so I owe it to them, I owe it to the people who I'm going to serve in the future and I owe it to my parents to represent the name Rafferty well.

"I don't feel a lot of people are counting on me (for anything) or do I feel like this is heavy weight on my shoulders, I just feel so lucky that I'm able to do this kind of thing. It's fun for me to grab life by the horns and do everything I can with it."

PV: *Head coach Joe Heskett said that you were one of the best leaders he's ever known and that you go well beyond the standard as a leader, and with all that mind, talk about the importance of leading this team and the challenges that come along with it?*

JR: "The leadership comment by Coach Heskett is often disputed by other members of the team and myself. However, I think that's really the greatest challenge there is. While I have some sort of legitimacy in the fact that I'm a firstie and the captain of the team, that doesn't mean a whole lot, that and a dollar will get you a sandwich really.

"You have to take in mind with what great leaders before us talked about, you

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McNeary, Viana achieve swim records at ECACs

By Christian Anderson
Army Athletic Communications

The Army men's and women's swimming and diving teams finished up competition at the ECAC Championships Sunday inside Lejeune Hall on the campus of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

The Army men racked up 493 points to place third out of 20 schools. The Black Knights finished just 10 points behind runner-up Bucknell (503). Navy won the team title with 744.5 points. Columbia (465.5) and Rider (405.5) rounded out the top five.

The Black Knight women, meanwhile, finished sixth out of 19 schools with 288.5 points. Navy captured the team title, accumulating 583 points.

Harvard and Marist tied for second place with 529 points, Towson (410) placed fourth and Rider (309) finished fifth.

"I am really proud of our entire team," Army head coach Mickey Wender said. "Our senior leadership has been tremendous all season long, and it continued this weekend.

"Our plebes have been as good as any group of freshmen that I've had in my time here," Wender added. "They've contributed in every way possible, both in and out of the pool, and they certainly came through in a major way at these championships."

The Army women were led by freshman Keeli McNeary, who shattered the 12-year old academy and plebe records in the 200 backstroke. The first-year standout touched the wall in 2 minutes, 2.07 seconds to place fourth and break the standards established by Stacey Kalota during the 2000 season.

Freshman Sam Allen posted a pair of top-15 finishes for the Black Knight women, placing 11th in the 200 breaststroke (2:23.82) and finishing 15th in the 200 butterfly

(2:09.83). Her time in the 200 fly represents a personal best.

Freshman Josie Antilla turned in a 14th-place showing the 1,650 freestyle, clocking the seventh-fastest time in academy history (17:27.42).

The Black Knights capped the evening by taking fifth in the 400 freestyle relay. The quartet of Phillips, freshmen Kristen Barta and Kristina Muller, and Hamilton teamed to complete the race in 3:34.54.

Freshman Will Viana produced the biggest highlight for the Army men, placing runner-up in the 200 butterfly with a personal-best time of 1:49.19. The clocking ties the 16-year-old plebe record and ranks as the fifth-fastest time in academy annals.

Viana was one of four Black Knights to score points in the 200 fly as junior Ayman Andrews (1:49.47), freshman Spencer LeeMurakami (1:54.02) and freshman

Michael Dustin (1:53.47) placed third, eighth and 10th, respectively.

Freshman Casey Woudenberg turned in a big performance in the 1,650 freestyle, placing sixth with the eighth-best time in academy history (15:56.38).

Junior Bill McCarty produced an eighth-place finish in the 100 freestyle, clocking a time of 46.20. The third-year swimmer posted a personal-best clocking of 45.72 in the preliminaries. Senior Byron Plapp, who was competing for the final time as a Black Knight, placed 14th in the 100 free (46.84).

Army dominated the one-meter diving event on the men's side as three Black Knights finished within the top eight. Junior Chad Drake led the way, finishing runner-up with a score of 253.20 points. Junior Vinny Franchino (234.70) and freshman Josh Urnezis (224.00) placed fifth and eighth, respectively.

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have to find a way to get them to trust you, believe in you and the only way that's going to come is by showing them how much you love them. It's really what I've learned is the best way I can do it. With peer leadership, while it's a challenge, I think it just takes time and attention. The right amount of time and the right amount of pressure on them, they'll hopefully start to mold and mend together. They're going to respect you to a certain degree, but for them to really respect you, it's going to take a lot and, hopefully, one day they'll love you and that's when they'll really start to follow you.

"With maturity and time, it's been a development process for me. To say that being an Army wrestling captain is an honor doesn't even scratch the surface. The men who have walked before me who have been Army wrestling captains, men like Ryan Mergen, Matt Kyler, Casey Thome, William Simpson, Phil Simpson, Whitt Dunning—these are guys I have looked up to my entire cadet career and only dreamt of being half as good as those men were.

"When I stepped into that role, you have to wear those stripes and they come with heavy shoes to fill. But, in terms of trying to inspire the guys and get them to where they need to be, like coach explained, it's trying to go above and beyond the standard and try to show them that just meeting what's expected for you is not enough—it's never going to be enough.

"You always have to try to push and push harder, and if you fall short you have to learn from those shortcomings. Whether I did a good job or not is unseen, but it's the best I had to give."

PV: *What has the academy experience done for you as a person?*

JR: "It's giving me lifelong friends that I could never replace. It's given me countless

lessons about how to be a young man, how to be a father, a husband and a leader—just countless lessons. It's given me something to look back on in the future when times get tough and I can look back to those experiences I had here and say, 'you know what, this is hard, but I can deal with this and get through this because I've been here before,' which means I can lean on the guys to the left and right of me and focus on my instincts and I'll be able to get through it.

"It gives me a lot of confidence to step out and make the next step. I know the challenges ahead are vast and difficult, and while I don't think I'm ready for those challenges by any means, I'm certainly ready and in a position to learn more to get to the point where I need to operate in those complex environments.

"If you told me when I was 15 that I would be a West Point cadet near graduation today, I would have just laughed and everyone would have laughed around me because I was a goofball. I wasn't really focused on my goals, although I knew I wanted to go here and a lot of kids laughed at me when I was a freshman and sophomore in high school telling me I would never be able to do this.

"That's always been a chip on my shoulder, so as I went through my high school experience I worked closely with my mom, she's a teacher, I worked closely with my guidance counselors and I just kept asking them, 'what do I have to do,' and I eventually fell in love with this place before I even showed up.

"Really, the academy has given me everything. I don't regret a day of being here. I'm so blessed that I had the opportunity to come here and I want to end it on a high note with my head held high and be proud that I was able to get through here. I just hope I can make my family, friends and brothers on the wrestling team proud."

ODIA I takes Noontime title



The Office of the Directorate of Intercollegiate Athletics Team I (in white) and Team Garrison played for the Staff and Faculty Noontime Basketball Championship Monday at the Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center. ODIA I won the best-of-three game series, two games to one, with a 45-26 victory in game three. In the first two games of the series, Team Garrison took a closely fought game one by the score of 29-27, but ODIA I stormed back to take game two 29-20 before winning the series in game three.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV