

POINTERVIEW

VOL. 64, NO. 48

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

TSP TICKER

December changes [as of 12/12]		
C FUND	+ 0.48 percent	
I FUND	+ 1.07 percent	
S FUND	+ 0.50 percent	

DECEMBER 14, 2007

Firstie earns Marshall

By Jim Fox
Assistant Editor

Cadet 1st Class Melvin Sanborn, of Wilmot, N.H., was one of 37 Marshall scholars announced Nov. 30 by the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission.

He is the 33rd cadet to accept a Marshall scholarship since the academy began competing in 1982.

Sanborn will be attending the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London where he will pursue a one-year Master of Arts in International Studies and Diplomacy, and a one-year Master



Cadet 1st Class
Melvin Sanborn

of Arts in Chinese Studies.

The Chinese major said he was in complete disbelief when he found out he had earned his scholarship.

"I was hardly able to respond," the future military intelligence officer said. "Honestly, I still haven't been able to grasp the reality of this opportunity."

The 25-year-old said he thinks his degree will give him some new insights on leadership and diplomacy.

"My involvement in the expansive educational environment in London will help me to oppose some of the anti-intellectualism that occasionally damages the Army's capabilities and reputation," Sanborn said. "My degree in diplomacy will hopefully also help me to develop my leadership style and give me new perspectives on negotiation."

Sanborn plans on completing his military schooling after completing his master's work in the summer of 2010.

The Marshall Scholarship is given annually to at least 40 U.S. citizens for two years of academic study in the United Kingdom.

Classmate Cadet First Captain Jason Crabtree also earned a Marshall Scholarship, but declined it in favor of the Rhodes Scholarship he had also earned.

INSIDE



See SNOWMAKING, page 6

By Jim Fox
Assistant Editor

Captain Adam P. Snyder, of Fort Pierce, Fla., died Dec. 5 in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device in Bayji, Iraq the day before.

The 26-year-old infantry officer was a 2004 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Snyder, a baritone in the Cadet Glee Club, was assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 327th



Gingerbread House decorates Cadet Mess

Zachary Gillon, a baker at the Cadet Mess Hall, added some 'refreshing' touches on the gingerbread house made annually for the Corps of Cadets Friday. The house, built over a wooden frame, takes roughly a week to complete and is displayed during the cadet Thanksgiving dinner through the holidays. This year's house used 200 graham crackers, 200 pounds of flour, 300 lights (inside and outside), 25 pounds of candy and 250 cookies to decorate the structure.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

'04 grad and former Glee Club member killed

Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Academy classmate Capt. Jevan L. Willis, the Southwest Outreach Officer for the Directorate of Admissions here, remembered Snyder as a very sharp and squared away cadet.

"He was the kind of guy that was always prepared," Willis said. "He would help you out in any way that he could. I remember on many occasions when there was a task that no one wanted to do -- he was

the cadet that would step up and volunteer and take the lead when nobody else would.

"My condolences go out to his family and I'll keep them in my prayers," he added.

Snyder is survived by his mother, Frances Frazer, of Fort Pierce, Fla., and his father, Joseph Snyder, of Vero Beach, Fla.

His unit held a memorial service over the weekend in Iraq. Fort Campbell held its monthly Eagle Remembrance Ceremony Wednesday.

Funeral services are being held

today in Fort Pierce, Fla.



Capt. Adam P. Snyder

Community Point-of-View

Holiday gift and decoration safety tips



Members of the West Point Community,

In this Holiday Season I would like to extend my thanks to you for your efforts this past semester. For more than 200 years, West Point staff and faculty have taught, coached and mentored cadets, America's best and brightest, as they prepare to become leaders of America's Army.

When making those New Year's resolutions, include staying safe and coming back with renewed excitement. The Corps returns the first Monday in January and then in February we have 100th Night. Before you know it May 31 will be here -- Graduation Day -- and another 1,000 cadets will join the Long Gray Line.

As you celebrate this holiday season, especially those who have deployed Family members, the Nation thanks you. May you find strength and fulfillment in knowing that you bring hope and peace here and abroad, to millions of oppressed people around the globe. America and America's Army is a beacon of relief from oppression.

Judy and I wish you and your Families a joyous and safe holiday season, and a Happy New Year.

LTG Buster and Judy Hagenbeck

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

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

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

See Solution on Page 9

Commentary by
Mike Virgintino
American Red Cross

The holiday season is a wonderful time of the year to celebrate with family and friends. The American Red Cross in Greater New York encourages everyone to remember that safety is the primary consideration during the festivities.

For gifts:

- Always follow manufacturer guidelines.
- Check for certification by product safety testing organizations.
- If a toy or game, be aware of choking hazards for small children. Or, be aware of dangerous toys that might have sharp edges and points.
- For small children, avoid

ribbons, strings and bags that can pose a hazard.

When decorating your home:

- Hang decorations out of reach of children.
- Don't forget about your pets. Chocolate will make dogs very sick. Poinsettias, popular holiday plants, are toxic to cats. Pets can and will get into decorations and holiday goodies, so keep them out of reach.

- Monitor open flames -- keep a close eye on candles and fireplaces and never leave either unattended.

For your community:

- Bring some cheer to neighbors who may be disabled or elderly, especially if they live alone. Check on them often all year long. Make sure they are safe and help them prepare in advance for an emergency. Learn if they

have special medical needs, if speech/communication barriers exist or if they depend on oxygen, a wheelchair or a service animal.

- Create a neighborhood team that will know how to assist those who may need an extra hand during an emergency.

If "safety" is on your gift list this year, the Red Cross Store at www.nyredcross.org has first aid kits, hand-crank radios and flashlights (no batteries needed), and even a first aid kit for your pet.

SAPR-P

The members of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program are Col. Jeanette McMahon, Shelley Ariosto [Garrison], Dan Toohey [Victim Advocate], Maj. Maria Burger [USCC], Maj. Kim Kawamoto [ODIA] and Lt. Col. Tasha Williams [Dean].

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

Cadets can also call the sexual assault support helpline at [845] 591-7215.

West Point Soldiers and civilians needing assistance can call [845] 938-3369.

POINTERVIEW®

Lt. Gen.
Buster Hagenbeck,
Superintendent

Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty,
Director of Communications

Irene D. Brown
Chief, Command Info.
938-8366

Linda Mastin
Editor, **938-2015**

Jim Fox
Asst. Editor, **938-8365**

Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor, **938-3883**

Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer, **938-3684**



This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army, USMA or West Point.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or the United States Military Academy of the firms, products or services advertised.

The Pointer View® is an unofficial publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of USMA.

The Pointer View® is printed by the Poughkeepsie Journal, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive contract with USMA. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the USMA or the Army.

The Pointer View® is published weekly by the USMA Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 600, West Point, N.Y. 10996

(845) 938-2015

Printed weekly by the
Poughkeepsie Journal
POUGHKEEPSIEJOURNAL.COM

For information, call
(845) 437-4789

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source.

READY WEST POINT: Be prepared for winter storms

Commentary by
Henry Cervantes
Emergency Plans Specialist,
DPTMS, USAG West Point

A major winter storm can last for several days and be accompanied by high winds, freezing rain or sleet, heavy snowfall and cold temperatures. People can become trapped at home, without utilities or other services. Heavy snowfall and blizzards can trap motorists in their cars. Even small accumulations of ice can cause a significant hazard.



Winter storm risks in our area include sleet, freezing rain and ice storms. Sleet is raindrops that freeze into ice pellets before reaching the ground. Freezing rain is rain that falls onto a surface with a temperature below freezing; causing it to freeze on surfaces, forming a glaze of ice. An ice storm occurs when freezing rain falls and freezes immediately on impact.

Everyone should have a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio with a tone-alert feature to keep informed of weather watches and warnings issued in your area.

A National Weather Service WATCH indicates that conditions favor the occurrence of a certain type of hazardous weather. For example, a Winter Storm WATCH means a winter storm is possible in your area within 12 to 36 hours.

An NWS WARNING indicates that a hazardous event is occurring or is imminent in about 30 minutes to an hour. Local NWS forecast offices issue warnings on a county-by-county basis. A winter storm WARNING means a winter storm is occurring, or will soon occur, in your area.

A blizzard WARNING means sustained winds or frequent gusts up to 35 miles per hour or greater and considerable falling or blowing snow (reducing visibility to less than a quarter mile) are expected to prevail for a period of three hours or longer.

Plan for Winter Storms:

Develop or update your family

disaster plan. Discuss what to do if a winter storm WATCH or WARNING is issued.

Everyone should know what to do in case the family is not together. Snow removal equipment should be on hand and in good working order. Keep your car's gas tank full for emergency use and to keep the fuel line from freezing.

Make sure everyone understands the hazards of wind chill, which combines the cooling effect of wind and cold temperatures on exposed skin.

Low body temperature is called hypothermia. Warning signs include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion. If detected, immediately seek medical care. If none is available, begin warming the person slowly. Warm the body first, not the arms and legs. Warming the extremities first drives the cold blood toward the heart and can lead to heart failure.

Get the person into dry clothing and wrap in a warm blanket, covering the head and neck. If necessary, use your own body heat to help. Do not give the person alcohol, drugs, coffee or any other hot beverage or food.

Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused when that tissue is frozen. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, ear lobes or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately. If you must wait for help, slowly warm affected areas.

During a Winter Storm:

Stay indoors and dress warmly. Wearing layers of loose-fitting, lightweight clothing will keep you warmer than one bulky sweater. Eat regularly. Food provides the body with energy to produce its own heat. Drink liquids such as warm broth or juices to prevent dehydration. Avoid caffeine and alcohol, which cause dehydration.

Conserve fuel. Winter storms can last for several days. Great demand may be placed on electric, gas and other fuel distribution systems. Lower the thermostat to 65 degrees Fahrenheit during the day and 55 degrees at night.

If you must go outside during a winter storm, wear layered clothing, mittens or gloves, and a hat. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs

from extremely cold air. Keep dry, changing wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat. If you go out to shovel snow, do a few stretching exercises to warm up your body.

Avoid overexertion, such as shoveling heavy snow, pushing a car or walking in deep snow. Walk carefully on snowy, icy sidewalks. Watch for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.

Winter Driving Tips:

Have your cars winterized before the winter storm season. Keep a windshield scraper and small broom in your car for ice and snow removal. Have a disaster supply kit for each of your cars.



Traveling during winter weather can be hazardous. Plan long trips

carefully and travel during daylight. If possible, take at least one other person. Let someone know your destination, your route and when you expect to arrive.

If your car gets stuck along the way, help can be sent along your predetermined route. Avoid driving during sleet, freezing rain, freezing drizzle and dense fog -- these serious conditions are often underestimated.

If you do get stuck, stay with your vehicle. Don't leave the vehicle to search for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards. Disorientation and confusion come very quickly in blowing snow. Display a trouble sign to indicate you need help. Hang a brightly colored cloth (preferably red) on the radio antenna and raise the hood (after snow stops falling).

Do minor exercises to keep up circulation; try not to stay in one position for too long. If more than one person is in the car, take turns sleeping. If you are not awakened periodically to increase body temperature and circulation,

you can freeze to death.

Occasionally, run the engine to keep warm. Carbon monoxide can build up inside a standing vehicle while the engine is running, even if the exhaust pipe is clear.

Experience has shown that running the heater for 10 minutes every hour (or 5 minutes every half hour) is enough to keep occupants warm, will reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and conserves fuel. Use the heater while the engine is running, keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow and slightly open a downwind window for ventilation.

Winter storms can make driving and walking extremely hazardous. The aftermath of a winter storm can have an impact on a community or region for days, weeks or even months.

Contact your local National Weather Service office or American Red Cross chapter for more information.

You can also visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency Web site at www.fema.gov.

Army recruiting offers \$2K referral bonus

Submitted by
The Albany Army
Recruiting Battalion

Soldiers, U.S. Military Academy cadets, ROTC contracted cadets, future Soldiers, Army component retirees and Department of the Army Civilians may receive a \$2,000 Referral Bonus for referring anyone, except immediate family members, if those referrals result in an enlistment into the Army or Army Reserve.

The United States Army Recruiting Command developed the Army Referral System-SMART for referrals online through an established Army AKO user account.

Upon receiving the referral at HQ USAREC, the information will be submitted for contact and pre-qualification screening. Once contact and pre-qualification screening is completed, the referral information will be sent to the nearest recruiting station.

The recruiting station will contact the referral and set up an appointment to discuss enlistment opportunities and continue processing the individual for enlistment into the Army or Army Reserve.

The \$2,000 Referral Bonus is paid in two lump sums as follows: \$1,000 will be paid to the sponsor once the Soldier (referral) has begun Basic Training. Payment should be received within 45 days of the Defense Finance and

Accounting Service's verification that the Soldier is in fact in Basic Training. The second \$1,000 will be paid to the eligible sponsor once the Soldier has completed and graduated from One Station Unit Training or Advanced Individual Training and that graduation has been verified by DFAS.

For complete details on the Referral Bonus Program and eligibility, visit the ARS-SMART Web site at <http://smart.goarmy.com>.

Army personnel to launch new pay, personnel system

Compiled by Linda Mastin
Editor

The Army is getting ready to launch a new pay and personnel system in 2008 that will streamline personnel processes and integrate the active-duty, National Guard and Army Reserve components, according to Col. Patrick Devine, Program Director for The Army Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System.

DIMHRS, part of a Defense Department initiative, will be implemented Oct. 1, 2008, at all Army installations and within all service components.

A commercial product, DIMHRS will take the pay and personnel data from all three components of the Army and put it in a single database accessible online 24 hours a day. A key feature of the system is that it integrates the pay and personnel systems, so that when a personnel action is taken, the system automatically will trigger any associated pay change, Devine said.

A DIMHRS team spent Tuesday and Wednesday at West Point, meeting with members of the Human Resources staff.

"DIMHRS is not only for the Army," said West Point Director of Human Resources Michael Billello. "All the uniformed services will be using DIMHRS in the near future, creating seamless transitions between the services for pay and personnel actions."

"This system, when fully operational, will provide a uniform system for all the Armed Forces," he continued. "Military personnel stationed at West Point -- Soldiers and cadets -- will begin

using DIMHRS Oct. 1, 2008, to conduct their personnel and pay transactions."

According to Karen O'Dell, Chief of the Personnel Automation Branch here, there will be briefings about the systems for all personnel at West Point Jan. 14, 2008, at Robinson Auditorium. Briefings will be held in Robinson Auditorium for majors, Sgts. 1st Class and GS-9 and above from 9 to 10:30 a.m. All Human Resource and Finance professionals, captains, Staff Sgts. and GS-8 and below will be briefed from 2 to 4 p.m.

DIMHRS goes toward solving the problem of multi-component units, or those units made up of Soldiers from the active duty, National Guard and Army Reserve, Devine added. In the past, these units had to deal with six different personnel systems and three pay systems, he noted, and DIMHRS will consolidate those into one system.

A big benefit that DIMHRS will

give National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers is continuity of pay when they are mobilized, Devine continued. In the current environment, National Guard soldiers go through five different sites from mobilization to deployment and have to complete paperwork and be certified at each location, he said. When DIMHRS is launched, all military pay will be handled in the one system, and is coordinated with personnel data, so problems can be avoided.

"In a DIMHRS environment, it's one record per Soldier for military personnel and pay, so all that information is shared and it further expedites his entitlements and getting his compensation," Devine said.

A unique aspect of DIMHRS is that it will allow Soldiers to access their records and make certain self-service changes, such as a change of address or requesting a personnel action, Devine said. In this way, every Soldier will be a user of the system, and all supervisors, including Army civilians who supervise Soldiers, will be required to know the system so they can process leave requests, awards and evaluations, he said.

See DIMHRS page 5

December 24 is federal holiday

By Stephen Losey
Federaltimes.com

Most federal employees will have a little more time for last-minute Christmas shopping this year: President Bush announced Dec. 6 that feds will have Dec. 24 off.

But U.S. Postal Service employees and other workers essential to national security, defense or other public needs will not get Christmas Eve off, the Office of Personnel Management said.

"President Bush acknowledges the important contributions America's federal employees make each day to ensure the success and security of our nation," OPM Director Linda Springer said.

"So in the spirit of the season, President Bush is making it possible for these dedicated Americans to spend this precious four-day period with family and friends."

TSP equity funds post losses

By Brittany R. Ballenstedt
Govexec.com

The most reliable funds in the Thrift Savings Plan made minimal gains for November, while all other funds lost ground.

Fixed-income bonds represented in the 401(k)-style federal employee retirement plan's F Fund posted the greatest gains last month out of the five basic investment options, rising 1.88 percent. The fund's yearlong growth stood at 6.25 percent.

The government securities (G) fund, which is the most reliable, earned 0.33 percent last month. But the fund's 4.8 percent 12-month return remained the lowest in the TSP.

The S Fund, which invests in small- and mid-sized companies by tracking the Dow Jones Wilshire 4500 Index, dropped the most in November, falling 5.65 percent. The fund's 12-month gains were 6.03 percent.

The C Fund, comprised of common stocks on the Standard & Poor's 500 Index of the largest domestic companies, experienced losses of 4.2 percent. It had the

second-highest returns for the year, however, coming in at 7.76 percent.

The international investments represented in the I Fund dipped last month as well, falling 3.72 percent. But the fund's 17.54 percent 12-month return remained by far the highest in the plan.

The TSP also has life-cycle (L) options, a blend of the five basic funds that automatically grows more conservative as investors near retirement. All five L funds experienced losses in November.

L 2040, intended for employees with a target retirement date around the year 2040, dropped 3.36 percent; L 2030 fell 2.94 percent; L 2020 lost 2.33 percent; and L 2010 went down 1.21 percent. The L Income Fund, designed for employees with planned retirements in the very near future, experienced minimal losses of 0.44 percent for the month.

All the L funds posted gains for the year. The L 2040 Fund continued to show the most long-term growth, coming in at 9.66 percent over 12 months. L 2030 grew 9.09 percent, L 2020 gained 8.70 percent, L 2010 earned 7.50 percent and L Income made 6.15 percent.

DIMHRS, cont. from page 4

The self-service system will help Soldiers avoid traditional written or verbal processes that can be time consuming and costly. All Soldiers and anyone who supervises or provides support to Soldiers will be impacted by DIMHRS. All personnel actions will be electronically routed and signed.

The tentative training for West Point Military Personnel Division change agents will start in May 2008. They will serve as the local facilitators at West Point. All Soldiers will receive distance learning training, which will be available for all users, to learn how to correctly initiate the various self-service functions within DIMHRS. West Point's point of contact is the Chief, Personnel Automation Branch, Karen O'Dell, at 938-8463.

The DIMHRS Web site, at www.armydimhrs.army.mil, also will have all the training materials available to Soldiers, Devine said.

(Editor's Note: Information taken from a Dec. 7 American Forces Press Service story by Sgt. Sara Moore.)



Glee Club members meet Chairman at USO Gala

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Navy Adm. Michael G. Mullen speaks with members of the West Point Cadet Glee Club at the 46th Annual USO of Metropolitan New York Armed Forces Gala in New York City, Dec. 6. The Glee Club performed before an audience of about 500. They also performed at a concert at the N.Y. Public Library on Saturday.

DOD PHOTO BY NAVY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS CHAD J. MCNEELEY

Delivery problems?

FOR PV HOME DELIVERY PROBLEMS CONTACT VALERIE MULLANE AT THE POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL AT (845) 437-4730 OR BY E-MAIL AT VMULLANE@POUGHKEE.GANNETT.COM.

Voting Assistance Information

For the 2008 Elections Calendar from the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site, go to www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag/appendix_i.pdf or call the West Point Voting Assistance NCOIC, Sgt. 1st Class John Castillo at 938-8450.

U.S. Military Academy Band West Point, New York

A Hudson Valley Holiday Concert Event

December 15 - 7:30 p.m.
December 16 - 2:00 p.m.

Eisenhower Hall Theatre



Mid-Hudson Ballet Company

Free and Open to the Public
www.usma.edu/band
or call 845-938-2617

Community Features and Photos

West Point Ski Slope staff hopes for a 'White Christmas'

Story and photo submitted by MWR

While most of us are focused on getting ready for the holidays, the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation Ski Area staff is busy preparing for the upcoming ski season and hoping for an early opening. While an early start to the season would certainly make West Point skiers happy, it is no small feat -- most people are not aware of the factors that must gel to create the snow that makes skiing possible.

Good ski conditions depend on a dense snow base of 6-10 inches or more to prevent grooming equipment and skiers from making contact with the earth. It takes 12 inches of natural snow to compress into one inch of suitable base or several feet of the white stuff to provide a minimal base.

Man-made snow is very dense and provides an almost immediate base without compacting because it is actually projected frozen water droplets that freeze before reaching the ground. The Victor Constant Ski Area covers all of its terrain by using snow machines with compressed air or large fans that catapult the water into the air.

To ensure timely snowmaking, the area has purchased additional new electric snow machines and air/water guns.

Snowmaking is difficult and unpredictable in the Hudson Valley as compared to more mountainous regions. West Point's close proximity to sea level means the area has warmer temperatures and higher humidity than in higher elevations. Before snowmaking can commence, temperatures have to be at or below 26 degrees Fahrenheit with low humidity. The higher the humidity, the colder the temperature needs to be to maintain the snow layer.

Colder temperatures and dryer air also create larger droplets and optimal snowmaking conditions. Once ideal weather conditions are predicted for two to three days

or more, snowmaking begins. Snowmaking is conducted 24 hours a day, weather permitting, until all the trails are open and a sufficient base is accumulated to sustain good conditions in the event of a thaw.

In the event of a heavy rain, the ski area may temporarily close to allow the snow to "drain out" and to avoid icy conditions upon re-freezing due to skier traffic and compaction. The entire slope is then covered with the fresh powder necessary for an optimal skiing experience.

To open a trail and ensure safety, it must be snow covered to a minimum of 40 feet wide.

Trails are typically opened in the following order: the Beginner's Slope, Rod Smith Run, Holman Trail (under the chair lift), Terrain Park, East Run and Nose Dive (to the extreme left of the slope).

Safety remains the ski area's No. 1 priority. Certified ski patrollers are always on staff when Victor Constant is open. All skiers and snowboarders are required to obey the skier's code and facility rules and to stay clear of any operating equipment on open trails. The area is used for skiing and snowboarding only -- all sledding and tubing is restricted to the golf course.

The Victor Constant staff asks all sledders to use extreme caution when sledding because of the inherent danger and low



Snowmaking equipment at Victor Constant Ski Slope will begin working 24 hours a day, weather permitting, once ideal weather conditions are predicted for two to three days or more.

supervision.

For more information about the Victor Constant Ski Area, including operating hours, fees, lessons and rental equipment, visit www.westpointmwr.com.

Delivery problems?

FOR PV HOME DELIVERY PROBLEMS
CONTACT VALERIE MULLANE AT THE
POUGHKEESE JOURNAL AT (845) 437-
4730 OR BY E-MAIL AT VMULLANE@POUGHKEE.GANNETT.COM.

State-of-the-art equipment improves KACH OR

Story and photo by
Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

One of Keller Army Community Hospital's two operating rooms has now gone state-of-the-art with the addition of an all-in-one equipment management and visualization system.

NuBOOM, which offers minimally invasive surgery capability, features cabinet and shelf space to efficiently house medical and video equipment.

The NuBOOM has two nine-foot booms with 35-inch extension arms for precise, six-axis monitor positioning and a touch-panel control system to easily select the video source for each monitor.

The equipment was installed Nov. 19-21 and first used to do an ankle arthroscopy to clean up scar tissue Nov. 26.

Colonel Thomas M. DeBerardino, director of the John A. Feagin Jr. Sports Medicine Fellowship and head team physician for all Army athletics at West Point, is very impressed with the functions the NuBOOM offers to improve the operating room experience for doctors, staff and patients.

"It's designed to make the operating area more ergonomically efficient and helps rapid turnover time between cases, so there's less equipment moving in and out of the operating room," DeBerardino said. "Often times, before the NuBOOM, everything we would use in a case would be on a wheeled cart of some sort, including the arthroscopic tower ... now, we've got everything contained on one tower that's permanently bolted to the floor in a 2x2 (foot) footprint with these nine-foot articulating arms that have four high-definition TV monitor screens, so we can view everything right in front of us -- it's equivalent to a pilot's heads up display."

To have a true digital image of the entire surgical pathway all the way through the recording, viewing and capturing of the whole surgical procedure is a great benefit to the doctors, he said.

"The image is clearer and looks much more magnified, so we can see the subtle differences or pathologic changes in the joint, at the cartilage, meniscus or ligament level, that we didn't appreciate before," DeBerardino explained. "You can see with more clarity

what you're looking at. With the higher definition it's all about the details down to the half millimeter. It's not like you're looking through a snowstorm or a grainy picture."

DeBerardino, a 1985 USMA graduate who graduated from medical school in 1989, has been working at Keller since 2001. On average he does 30 surgeries a month, mostly on knees and shoulders. So when a doctor like DeBerardino is averaging a surgery per day, it's important to have the equipment to help eliminate as much of the stress and fatigue that can accompany a more complex surgery.

"Before, with the old tower, we only had one (standard definition) monitor and there would usually be more than one surgeon and sometimes up to three or four for the more complex cases," DeBerardino stated. "For us all to have a vantage point to look directly at one full clarity screen was an ergonomic challenge.

"One of us would have to look 180 degrees for an hour, looking the other way doing (a surgery) behind you, it was like working in a mirror doing something very high tech. But now, each doctor has his or her own monitor and can see what's in front of him or her," he added. "Now, we don't have to do the mental gymnastics of going left is right or right is left and basically working backward."

The benefits for the patient are greatly enhanced from not only the psychological aspect of seeing a less cluttered operating room, but the efficiency of less time on the surgical table.

"(Using the NuBOOM) will significantly reduce the risk of infection, so anything we can do to minimize surgical time is directly related to a decreased risk of an infection for the patient," DeBerardino said. "Although we have a negligible incidence of



Keller Army Community Hospital doctors perform a fresh osteochondral allograft, which in this procedure means implanting a donated patella into a patient's defective knee.

infection, because we do procedures with a low scale of infection risk, there is a statistical benefit to decreasing the surgical time, the time the patient is cut open to finish. That is what this system appears to succinctly do for us."

The innovation of NuBOOM is great for hospitals like Keller, which are older and where the structure of the building can't handle other advanced systems that hang from the ceiling.

"It was great that we didn't have to change the structure of the building," DeBerardino said. "We would have had to take the roof off the ORs, but it would have been really hard to come in with cranes and rebuild the framework of the ORs to support the tremendous weight that a top-down system would have required ... just to get to that point we would have had to shut down the ORs for months."

"This is a perfect system for retrofitting and upgrading an OR setup like ours with two OR suites and (for) a small hospital that wants to use cutting edge technology," he added.

According to DeBerardino, Keller is the first hospital in the Army to use the NuBOOM, but there will be about 50 more who will get them throughout the Medical Command in the next year or so. Also, according to Maj. Amy Roy, head operating room nurse at KACH, operating room No. 1, which still has an older tower system, should be equipped with the NuBOOM by the end of the spring.

"We're going to have a confluence to where both operating rooms will be symmetrical and that's our ultimate goal," DeBerardino said. "We would have liked to have done both at once, but it is a funding

thing ... it's just under a million dollars per room."

Roy talked about how the NuBOOM has made her staff's job easier, but she also said that the system will help more specialties than just orthopedics.

"We not only want orthopedics to use the NuBOOM, but we want all the other services that operate here -- general surgery, OBGYN, ENT and those (other) services that do scope cases," Roy said.

Orthopedics has been the primary user to this point because the instrumentation needed for scoping has arrived for orthopedics, but not for other surgical needs. General surgery instruments are different than what is needed for orthopedics because of the size and shape of the instruments that are used and the areas that are performed on during those surgeries.

More Holiday safety tips: decorating, lighting, food

Compiled by Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

The holiday season is upon us and stress levels are on the upswing. Shopping, decorating, traveling and cooking bring safety hazards to the forefront because we may not be as observant and careful due to all the running around we tend to do during this season.

The following are some general safety tips to help make this holiday pleasurable and safe.

Home Holiday safety decorating tips:

Assemble and inspect all tools and materials before beginning actual decoration installation. If using a ladder, check the condition



of rails, rungs and brackets before positioning or climbing it. It is a good idea not to use a metal ladder when installing electrical decorations if possible, to avoid the risk of potential shocks. Set ladders so the feet are on a stable, even and clean dry base.

■ Decorations should never block any means of exit nor access to utility shutoffs, including faucets, outlets or meters. Be sure your street address numbers are not blocked by decorations.

Indoor holiday lighting tips:

■ Buy/use only lighting sets and extension cords that bear the Underwriters' Laboratories or Factory Mutual label and are specifically marked for indoor use.

■ Make certain to take the time to unroll/untangle and inspect each set of lights for worn insulation, bare/frayed wires, broken or cracked sockets and loose connections. If these are found, do not attempt to repair the set, just throw it out.

■ Be careful not to overload electrical outlets. Always look for the manufacturer's recommendations on the number of light sets that can be strung together and other precautions listed on the packaging. If no manufacturer's instructions are available, the general rule is no more than three sets of lights per



single extension cord.

■ Always unplug lights before doing any maintenance work on them

Outdoor holiday lighting tips:

■ Do not use nails or tacks to hold lights in place. String them through hooks or insulated staples. Never pull or tug lights to remove or disconnect them. Use only



lighting sets and extension cords that are specifically marked for outdoor use.

■ Plug all outdoor electric decoration into circuits with Ground fault circuit interrupter protection to avoid potential shocks.

■ If using a ladder, avoid contact with overhead power lines when setting up the ladder, stringing lights or working on the roof.

■ Wherever extension cords and light sets are connected together outdoors, keep the connections dry by wrapping them with friction tape or plastic.

Food Safety

■ Bacteria are often present in raw food. Fully cook meats and poultry and thoroughly wash raw vegetables and fruits. Never combine raw poultry and vegetables together.

■ Wash cutting boards and preparation surface between uses, especially after raw meat is handled.

■ Be sure to keep hot liquids and food away from the edges of counters and tables, where they can be easily knocked over by a young child's exploring hands.

■ Wash hands frequently and make sure that children do the

same.

■ Never put a spoon used to taste food back into food without washing it.

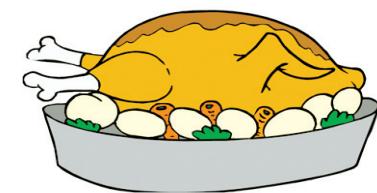
■ Keep raw foods and cooked foods separate and use separate utensils when preparing them.

■ Always thaw meat in the refrigerator, never on the countertop.

■ Foods that require refrigeration should never be left at room temperature for more than two hours. For questions concerning holiday turkey preparation and cooking, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555.

Using a few safety precautions will allow for a happy and safe holiday season.

(Editor's Note: Compiled from various safety Web sites including the National Safety Council and U.S Department of Agriculture. For Tree Safety information, refer to the Dec. 7 *Pointer View®*, page 2).



Community Leisure

What's Happening

WPWC

The West Point Women's Club Gift Shoppe will be open Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. for your holiday shopping.

Christmas tree sale

The Fort Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department is having its annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale/Fundraiser.

The times are weekends 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and weekdays 3 to 9 p.m.

The location is Route 9W, Fort Montgomery, N.Y., at the Fort Montgomery Firehouse Parking Lot, three miles south of West Point.

For more information, call (845) 446-3542.

Highland Falls holiday events

Monetary donations for food and supplies are being accepted in the Village of Highland Falls Mayor's office to support the Christmas Day dinner at the Sacred Heart Cafeteria.

Make checks payable to "The Community Christmas Dinner" and mail to Sacred Heart Church, 353 Main Street, Highland Falls, NY, 10928.

The Mayor will also have a

"Toy Box" in the lobby of Village Hall until Dec. 21.

Gifts for children in the categories of "tot," "child," and "teen" can be dropped off Mon. through Fri. from 1 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 9 to 11 a.m. on Sat.

A collection for area pets is also ongoing.

Call the Mayor at (845) 446-3400 for more info.

The Mayor is also in touch with Santa again this year and will help send mail to the jolly old elf c/o The Mayor, 303 Main Street, Highland Falls, N.Y., 10928.

In order to get them to St. Nick in time, the letters need to be at Village Hall by Dec. 21. To

ensure a response, the letters must include the child's name, address and written legibly, preferably by a parent or guardian.

Post Exchange holiday hours

Today -- 6 a.m. to midnight

Sat. -- 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sun. -- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mon. - Thur. --

9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Dec. 21-22 -- 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Dec. 23 -- 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Cadet Chapel services

There will be a Cadet Christmas Leave Eve Candlelight Service Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., at the Cadet Chapel.

The traditional Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service will be held Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

MLK luncheon

The West Point community is invited to the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. observance Jan. 16 from 11:30 a.m. until 12:50 p.m., in the West Point Club Grand Ballroom.

Former NBA player Kevin Johnson is the guest speaker.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or by calling 938-7082/2621.

Solution to Weekly Sudoku								
9	2	5	4	3	1	6	8	7
8	3	4	7	6	9	2	5	1
1	7	6	2	8	5	9	4	3
3	5	9	6	1	4	8	7	2
2	1	8	3	9	7	5	6	4
6	4	7	8	5	2	3	1	9
5	6	1	9	7	3	4	2	8
4	8	3	1	2	6	7	9	5
7	9	2	5	4	8	1	3	6

NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater
at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752

**FRIDAY -- FRED CLAUS, PG, 7:30 P.M.
SATURDAY -- BEE MOVIE, PG, 7:30 P.M.**

THE THEATER SCHEDULE CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT WWW.AAFES.COM.

DPW Notes

Move RVs from behind Commissary

Relocate all RVs to D Lot not later than close of business Dec. 21. A major interior renovation of the West Point Commissary is scheduled to begin in early January and last for approximately nine months, which will impact RV parking.

During the project, the contractor will renovate/replace refrigeration units, lighting, some of the flooring and other interior features of the

Commissary. The Commissary will remain open during the renovations.

To supply a staging area for the contractor, all RVs, trailers, etc., currently located on the grassy area behind the Commissary and between the Commissary and the Fire Station need to be moved to D Lot.

Leaf vacuum ops extended

Leaf vacuum operations have been extended until Dec. 21.

Boy Scouts, DPW help community Think Green



Members of West Point Boy Scout Troop 23 glued brass discs (above right), to 10 storm drains along select academy curbs Nov. 17 to help inform the community that the drains empty directly into the Hudson River and many area streams. Troop 23's Kurt Weir (upper left), Patrick Weir (inset), Troop 23 Asst. Scoutmaster Lt. Col. Alan Weir and DPW Environmental Intern Steve Polacek glued the discs to help promote the Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System Program. For more information about the MS4 Program e-mail StormWater@usma.edu.

PHOTOS BY GERARD MACRI/DPW

MWR Blurbs

Sealed bid date change

Please note the change of date for MWR Service Division's Sealed Bid Sale on a selection of vehicles. Sale dates go through today on all items.

These items can be viewed at West Point Auto Shop (Bldg. 648), from 1 to 3 p.m. today.

Bids may be submitted no later

than 3 p.m., today.

For more information, call 938-2074.

Mystery Shopper

Become a Mystery Shopper and receive free services at various MWR activities -- it's fun and easy.

To apply, go to www.westpointmwr.com



WPES visits CME

Maj. Justin Highley (right), provides junior flight instruction to WPES 2nd graders Nov 30. Two 2nd grade classes traveled to the Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering to learn about the importance of math, science and engineering in education. Students participated in presentations on aviation and on the experiences of Col. Fred Meyer in the making of a Discovery Channel Production on Ancient Superweapons.

PHOTO BY ROBIN MEYER/C&ME

westpointmwr.com, fill out the application and return it to Elizabeth Harrington, Bldg. 681, room 202.

For more information, call 938-8186.

Santa Suits for rent

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is renting out four complete Santa Suits for \$25 a piece as part of a fundraising event for BOSS.

Contact Connie Woodley at 938-6127 for more information.

WPGC end of season sale

The West Point Golf Course end of season sale continues until Dec. 21. The WPGC Pro Shop is open Mon. through Sat. from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Save on equipment, apparel and more.

For more info., call 938-2435.

Angel Tree

Sponsor an angel in the West Point community through Operation Angel Tree -- select an ornament from the tree in the AAFES lobby to guide you in purchasing a gift.

Gifts may be unwrapped and put back under the tree by Dec. 14. For more info., call 938-6497.

Help design the new GC coin

Be a part of West Point history -- design West Point's next Garrison coin. Submission deadline is Jan. 11.

Submit original artwork to Elizabeth Harrington, Bldg. 681, room 202.

For contest guidelines, go to www.westpointmwr.com

and select "special events and attractions."

Crandall Pool closed

Crandall Pool will be closed during MWR swim time from Monday until Jan. 11.

Ski and snowboard lessons

Learn to ski and snowboard. Take lessons at Victor Constant Ski Slope.

Sign-ups are ongoing.

For more information, call 938-3726.

Ski tuning & repair Shop

Have you tried the Tuning & Repair Shop at West Point Ski Slope?

For more information, call 938-3726.

Keller Corner

KACH closure

All outpatient clinics, laboratory, pharmacy and radiology will be closing at noon Dec. 21 and will also be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1.

The emergency room will remain open.

Infants and Toddlers Well Visits

Educational & Developmental Intervention Services would like to remind all parents to remember to complete and return the Ages and Stages Questionnaires at their well visits.

It is an important way that EDIS partners with the providers to get maximum information about a child's development during an appointment and should help to encourage parents to discuss any concerns with their provider.

Do we have your correct address and telephone number?

In order to better serve you, please report any address changes or new telephone numbers to the Outpatient Records Office located on the 1st floor or call 938-2561.

Childbirth Preparation Classes

Four Class Series -- Jan. 2, 3, 9 and 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., KACH 2nd floor classroom.

Call OBU at 938-3210 to register.

If your due date is January, February or early March, this class is for you.

Command Channel 8/23

Dec. 14 - Dec. 21

FRIDAY

8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSPATCH
1 P.M. ARMY NEWSPATCH
6 P.M. ARMY NEWSPATCH

MONDAY - DEC. 21

8:30 A.M. ARMY NEWSPATCH
1 P.M. ARMY NEWSPATCH
6 P.M. ARMY NEWSPATCH

The Black and Gold awardees for the month were honored Monday. They are, first row: Patty Bastianelli (left), Janet Suchan, Rachel Schmoyer, JoAnna Sperling, Cheryl West, Sgt. Chris Woodley, Heidi Harding. Second row: Darlene Johnson, Cindy Anderson, Joan Finnegan, Sgt. Daniel Pickering. Third row: Garrison Commander Col. Dan Bruno, Greg Williams, Nils Anderson, Col. Curtis Carver, Maureen Batchelder, Amy Robert, Spc. Darnell Harris, Col. Edward Naessens, Cathy Kilner and Donnie Hunt. The Andersons were named the Volunteers of the Month for December.

Black and Gold volunteer awardees honored



VINNIE GUARIGLIA/DOIM MMB

Army and Community Sports

Women's basketball looking to build off of 24-win season

Story and photos by
Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

Army women's basketball played third-ranked Rutgers University, last year's National Championship finalist Saturday at Madison Square Garden in New York during the second annual Maggie Dixon Classic.

Although they lost 59-42, the team has been very competitive and successful for the past two-plus years, and the Rutgers game was no different even after they lost senior guard Cara Enright to an ankle injury in the first couple of minutes of the game.

The team is 5-4 early in the

season and has some tough games ahead against teams like perennial powerhouse Connecticut, head women's basketball coach Dave Magarity feels that the team needs a better challenge early to prepare them for league play.

"We didn't lose our third game until the middle of January when we were 17-2 last year," Magarity said. "It's all relative, because last year our schedule was less challenging. Although it wasn't by design, it just worked out that way."

"We had a strong team come back. We had all our starters except for Megan Vrabel," Magarity explained. "While I don't think our schedule affected our ability to play in the league, you do need to play a

tough non-conference schedule to get ready for the league."

However, Magarity does feel you need to find a perfect balance because while you want to play extremely tough competition to make your team better, there is a need to provide confidence builders along the way.

"The only way you build confidence is by winning," Magarity said. "Winning becomes a mindset and becomes a habit, as does losing. I think we'll be okay. We're still trying to figure out how to replace the seniors we lost."

"Losing Jen Hansen and Erin Begonia left a big hole in this lineup," he added. "(Hansen) really complemented Cara Enright because she was such an outside threat that people couldn't just worry about Enright all the time. If they did, then Hansen would make them pay for it."

Now, Magarity has been tinkering with the lineup to get the right formula, which has included moving junior guard Alex McGuire to a more natural shooting position than the point guard position she had been playing since the middle of her freshman year.

"Alex is so steady, reliable and one of the most consistent kids I've ever coached," Magarity said. "But, I didn't want to saddle her with having to be the point guard. (Freshman point guard Nalini) Hawkins gives me that flexibility."

Enright faces constant double teams and McGuire has found her shooting stroke to lead the team in scoring (12.8 points per game) this season.

"With Hawkins finding (McGuire) and getting her shots," Magarity said, "and McGuire not having to create everything on her own as the point guard is a great option for us."

Hawkins has been steady since she took over at the point and is now the third leading scorer on the team with 11.2 points per game, plus she leads the team in assists (32). She has been named Patriot League "Rookie of the Week" twice and is quite surprised by her meteoric rise.

"I never thought I would play this much early, maybe a couple of games," Hawkins said. "This is Division I basketball, not high



Freshman guard Nalini Hawkins has provided apt ball skills at the point guard position this season. She also has a knack for scoring placing third on the team with 11.2 points per game.

school basketball, but everything has just come to me and I don't even know how I get those points. But, in the end, I have 14 points in a game and I'm like, 'How did I do it?' and I can't explain it."

Playing Rutgers Saturday was big for Hawkins because she got to play against a Big East school she grew up watching on television in the Washington, D.C. area, and to see if she could match their skills.

"It was interesting to play against girls who were recruited over you and see what you can do against them," Hawkins said. "But, the fact that we were playing them at Madison Square Garden, I can't even explain how it felt with so many great players having played on that floor and the fact I got an opportunity to play against a highly-ranked team. It meant a lot to me."

Hawkins, who chose Army over Bucknell, American and Colgate, felt welcomed from the recruiting process through today by the upperclassmen.

One of the most impressive upperclassmen is Enright, who has led the team in scoring in each of her first three years and is second all-time in points (1,441) at Army. Her mantle is littered with many awards such as the Patriot League "Rookie of the Year" in 2005, PL

"Player of the Year" in 2006 and is a two-time, first team all-conference guard.

The future Air Defense Artillery officer is driven to always do her best and to always help the team. She has experienced great things at Army with its only NCAA Tournament berth in 2006 that came at the heels of a dramatic victory over Holy Cross in the Patriot League Championship, which is her greatest moment as a player.

But, most of all, it's been her being an integral part of the renaissance of Army women's basketball that also led to a 24-6 record last year, the most wins in school history at the Division I level.

"It's been great to be a part of it," Enright said. "Somebody once told me, 'that we have helped women sports here,' and that's the best compliment ever, especially at the academy. Women are obviously the minority, but to be able to help women's sports here is a huge tribute to the team."

Although Enright's ankle injury will not keep her out of the lineup for future games, it was disappointing to be hurt in the Rutgers game especially considering what the,



Senior guard Cara Enright ranks second all-time in points (1,441) at Army through Dec. 11. She is exactly 500 points from Army's all-time scorer Katie Macfarlane.

See WBB on page 13

ARMY LACROSSE VISITS WALTER REED

By Tim Volkmann
Athletic Communications

WEST POINT, N.Y. -- Members of the Army lacrosse team traveled to Washington, D.C., Dec. 6 to visit the Walter Reed Medical Center.

In conjunction with the Wounded Warrior Project and the Warrior Transition Brigade, 29 players and four officer representatives spent the afternoon visiting with the wounded Soldiers recovering at the facility, after taking a tour

of the Capitol Building and the Department of Homeland Security earlier that morning.

"It was a really great experience for our guys to take part in," said trip organizer Lt. Col. Glenn Waters, one of the team's officer representatives. "It was a healing tool for the Soldiers who were able to share their combat experiences while venting a bit about what their lives have been like since being wounded. It was also an opportunity for our guys to hear first-hand

accounts of being in combat and dealing with injuries."

The Wounded Warrior Project, a program designed to ensure Soldiers receive the support they need after being injured in combat, provided transportation for the team's trip to Washington.

The team had the opportunity to meet with members of the recently created Warrior Transition Brigade, a staff of Soldiers at Walter Reed that focuses solely on caring for wounded Soldiers'

needs and making their transition back into the Army or civilian life as seamless as possible.

The Black Knights also raised money for Fisher House, a program which provides families of injured Soldiers a place to stay during the recovery process.

"We had the chance to see how the Warrior Companies are set up and also talked to a bunch of out-

patients about their experiences, how they are doing and how they are moving forward with their injuries," said senior captain Justin Bokmeyer. "They were really upbeat and very encouraging to us. It was a good growing experience for the team because we really took the focus off of us and just focused on the Soldiers. We got a glimpse

See LACROSSE on page 14

WBB, continued from page 12

especially considering what the game meant as part of the Maggie Dixon Classic. Coach Dixon was someone Enright held in high regard, having been a member of Dixon's team prior to her unexpected death due to heart arrhythmia.

"She influenced all of us and showed us how life should be and is a person I admire," Enright said. "It was hard (to leave the game) because that's the last time I'll play in the (MDC). I was pretty hurt by it, but still being a part of it was good enough to me."

While the team is striving to get back to their ultimate goal of making their second NCAA Tournament, young players are coming out of nowhere like Hawkins and freshman forward Erin Anthony, just like senior forward Stephanie Stone did two years ago and junior forward Courtney Wright did last year by leading the Patriot League in rebounds as a reserve player.

But, no matter who steps up from the underclass ranks, Magarity believes it will be his seniors that will lead them where they need to go.

"Enright, Stone, (Margaree) King and (Anna) Wilson, those four seniors have been through so much here and have a chance to be the most victorious class in school history as a Division I program," Magarity said. "It's a great goal and a great ambition for them to do that, but in the end, it isn't about the number of wins you have, it's about winning at the end of the year and playing our best basketball in March."

"We've got to make sure we don't get sidetracked like we did last year in the first round of the playoffs after winning 24 games," he added. "It was heartbreaking, but for us, the ability to go into the NCAA Tournament is such a big deal."



From left to right: Lacrosse cadets Craig Massie, Alex Morse, Erik Haniuk, Sean Reppard, Justin Bokmeyer, Scott Rosenshein, Kevin LoRusso and Jay Larson met Pfc. Donald Axtell during their visit to the Walter Reed Medical Center last week.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Viti speaks at JBK award banquet

By Ben Liotta
JBK President

The Junior Black Knights Awards banquet was held Saturday at the West Point Club. The special guest speaker, Army senior fullback Mike Viti, was the star of the show.

Viti was on hand to present four JBK players with the Black Lion Award, but his impressive motivational speech to the players was the highlight of the evening.

With the eyes of the JBK contingent fixed on the burly Viti standing at the podium, he spoke of setting goals, being true to oneself and never giving up.

The message from the Army football captain from Pennsylvania was if you want something bad enough and, if you work harder than anybody else, you can achieve

anything.

Viti was also gracious with his time in signing autographs and taking pictures with JBK players. After Viti's speech, the 2006 Army Black Knight Black Lion Award recipient, was presented with his very own number 33 JBK jersey, and Viti then proceeded to hand out the JBK Black Lion Awards.

The Junior Black Knights players awarded the Black Lion were: from the Mighty Mites -- Eddie-Joe Barry, from Division 1 -- Kyle Liotta, from Division 2 -- Thomas Kwieciak and from Division 3 -- Sean Kilner. The Black Lion is awarded to a player who best exemplifies qualities of leadership, selflessness and putting the team ahead of himself. It is awarded in memory of Army football player Don Holleder.

The JBK Mighty Mites, 2007



Army football senior fullback Mike Viti (third from right) presented the Black Lion Awards to the JBK Black Lion Award recipients Saturday.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JBK

Mighty Bowl Champions, received their championship trophies as well as their league trophy.

The Mites championship day back in October included wins

against some of the leagues strongest programs as they beat Goshen, Newburgh and Middletown to claim the championship at Michie Stadium.

Intramural Basketball Standings

Unit "Nighttime" Intramurals as of Monday

TEAMS	W - L
1. MEDDAC	4 - 1
2. STEWART MARINES	4 - 1
3. STAFF & FACULTY	2 - 1
4. 105TH ANG	1 - 3
5. MPs	0 - 5

NORTH DIVISION	W - L
1. CME/DSE	8 - 2
2. NSSB/DEAN	6 - 5
3. DMI	5 - 4
4. DAD/ODIA	5 - 4
5. DPW	3 - 7
6. MEDDAC	3 - 8

Staff & Faculty "Noontime" Intramurals as of Wednesday

CENTRAL DIVISION	W - L	SOUTH DIVISION	W - L
1. MATH 1	5 - 2	1. USCC/BTD	6 - 1
2. DLAW/SJA	5 - 4	2. MATH 2	5 - 4
3. SOC. SCI.	5 - 4	3. USMA BAND	4 - 3
4. PHYS/CHEM	4 - 4	4. DFL/GENE	3 - 3
5. ENGLISH	3 - 5	5. HISTORY	0 - 7
6. DPE	3 - 6		

LACROSSE, cont. from page 13

into what these guys had been through and what it would be like to be in their boots."

Earlier that morning, the team met Republican Chief of Staff for the Homeland Security Committee Robert O'Connor (USMA '87) and his staff, and received a tour of the Capitol Building and the Homeland Security Committee room.

"It was a great opportunity for

our guys to meet some individuals that continue to proudly serve their country after leaving the Army," Waters said, "as well as some civilians that are serving their country in ways other than being in the military."

The Black Knights open their 2008 lacrosse season Feb. 16 when they host VMI at Michie Stadium at 1 p.m.

Sports calendar

Dec. 14 - Jan. 13

- DEC. 22 -- MBB VS. DARTMOUTH, CHRISTL ARENA, 1 P.M.
- DEC. 29 -- HOCKEY VS. CONN., (IN STORRS, CONN.), 7:15 P.M.
- DEC. 30 -- HOCKEY VS. BROWN OR FERRIS ST., (IN STORRS, CONN.), 4 OR 7:15 P.M.
- DEC. 31 -- WBB VS. CONN., (IN HARTFORD, CONN.), NOON.
- JAN. 2 -- MBB VS. BROWN, CHRISTL ARENA, 7 P.M.
- JAN. 5 -- MBB VS. PORTLAND, CHRISTL ARENA, 1 P.M.
- JAN. 5 -- WBB VS. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY, CHRISTL ARENA, 3:15 P.M.
- JAN. 9 -- WBB VS. WAGNER, CHRISTL ARENA, 7 P.M.
- JAN. 11 -- M&W INDOOR TRACK, (HEP./PENT.), GILLIS FIELD HOUSE, NOON.
- JAN. 12 -- M&W INDOOR TRACK, GILLIS FIELD HOUSE, (HEP./PENT.), 9 A.M., OTHER EVENTS BEGIN AT 11 A.M.
- JAN. 12 -- WBB VS. COLGATE, CHRISTL ARENA, 1 P.M.
- JAN. 13 -- WRESTLING VS. RUTGERS, CHRISTL ARENA, 4 P.M., VS. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY, 6 P.M.