Learning the Ropes

Cadets and other Air Assault School course participants are taught proper slingload techniques by the Sabalauski Air Assault School instructors from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, May 28 in Central Area. Air Assault School qualifies Soldiers to conduct airmobile and air assault helicopter operations, to include aircraft orientation, slingload operations, proper rappelling techniques and fast-rope techniques. See Page 6 for photos from various training events to include the 10-day Air Assault School and Cadet Field Training.

PHOTO BY SGt. 1st Class Jeremy Bunkley/USMA PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
It’s that time of year again—look out for bears

By Chris Pray
Natural Resources Branch Chief

It’s that time of the year again … Time to plant annuals, open the pool, fertilize the lawn and chase bears. This week we’ve had three calls about bears on post, and that means it’s also time for the annual bear message.

The Eastern Black Bear at one time was a rare sight at West Point. About 100 years ago, a sighting would have been a newsworthy event and published in the papers, but the population has recovered very nicely throughout the Northeast and they are now common.

At West Point, we estimate that there are between 10-to-15 bears on or near the reservation at any given time. Some of these are old, wise residents who stick to the woods; others are itinerant juveniles passing through looking for a permanent home range.

Of the two, it is the inexperienced youngster most likely to be tempted by trash, but either bear can become a nuisance if easy food resources bring them into close contact with humans.

For those unaccustomed to seeing a bear outside of a zoo, finding one in the yard can be a bit startling. However, below are some tactics that can be effective.

Bears have no interest in us other than the food we leave around. No food, no bears. Never intentionally feed bears.

This habituates them to people and links humans with food in their minds—an extremely dangerous association.

Most aggressive bears have a history of experiencing rewarding human interaction and have lost their natural shyness. Feeding bears is illegal for this reason.

For a bear, trash is often the most efficient way to gather calories, and once established, the trash habit is a hard one to break.

Bears like sweet, greasy and smelly foods. Items of particular interest are bakery goods, bacon grease, rotten meat scraps and soda or juice containers.

Trash treated with a half a cup of ammonia or bleach added to a garbage bag prior to sealing it makes the contents unpalatable.

Bears, raccoons and feral cats really hate training. This is a good habit to start with. If you do see a bear, the best thing is to remain calm. Bears are generally cautious and will usually be all you need to scare the bear away. Make noise. Shouts, hand clapping and/or the use of pyrotechnics can be used as a deterrent.

If possible, watch the bear from a safe place and only put out the bait. Hazing only works if the bear sees no benefit to associating with humans, so community participation in controlling food attractants is vital for community success.

If you see a bear, the best thing is to remain calm. Bears are generally cautious and do not trust people. Usually, they will flee on their own.

Bear attacks are extremely rare, but can happen. During encounters it is best to:

• Do not approach the bear to get a better look or get a good photograph. Give it plenty of space;

Keep trash inside the garage or shed, and only put out the morning of pickup rather than the night before. Hinged garbage bins stored outside can be well secured with rope or ratcheting tie-down straps wrapped top to bottom.

Make sure all recyclables in recycle bins are thoroughly washed if stored outdoors, and do not allow a large amount of cans and bottles to accumulate. Where possible, compactors should be utilized. Off-post, bear-proof dumpsters are in place, but they are only useful if closed and latched.

Every effort to remove food rewards from the bear will pay out in fewer visits, less conflict and no messes to clean up for you and your neighbors.

Aside from trash, most homes have other attractants. For instance, pet food will be readily consumed. If pets are fed outdoors, bring any unused food inside nightly. Bird seed is another favorite.

Birds do not require supplemental food in spring and summer, and all feeders should be emptied and all fallen seed raked up.

Keep barbecue grills clean by burning off residual meats and grease after cooking. Bears are often interested in compost piles. If you are composting food scraps, manage your compost to minimize odor, consider a sealed composter, and be aware of animals visiting the compost.

Suspend activities if any sign, such as digging, is noted.

Fruit trees and gardens may bring in bears in summer and fall, so harvest your crops and clean up windfall fruit if bears are around.

In spite of all efforts, bears will wander onto the cantonment this summer. Nuisance bears are generally managed by hazing. Capture-and-relocate or culling of nuisance bears presents very specific hazards and is only done in extreme cases with participation from state game officials. In general, bears are hazed with pyrotechnics, pepper spray and an aggressive attitude.

The idea is to educate the bear so that it associates humans with not being an easy food resource, but with being a scary and uncomfortable experiences.

Hazing only works if the bear sees no benefit to associating with humans, so community participation in controlling food attractants is vital for community success.

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School children attend, excited by West Point’s STEM Workshop

Story and photo by Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

Roughly 120 seventh and eighth grade students from across the country traveled to West Point May 25-28 to learn something about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, or STEM. The event was hosted by the Center for Leadership and Diversity in STEM, led by CLD STEM Director Lt. Col. Tony Johnson, along with the Office for Diversity, Inclusion and Equal Opportunity and the Office of Admissions.

The CLD STEM program is funded by various corporations that allow children to spend a few days at West Point once a year, usually in the spring after graduation.

The STEM event offers programs for middle school children to get the chance to experience technology and math with some classroom activity, but mostly hands-on science to allow the students to see how STEM can apply to real-world technology like drones and robots.

The students learned some basic math in a classroom setting and learned to use a computer program to launch a drone and direct a robot’s movement, essentially seeing STEM in action.

Students must have superior academic performance, a good grade point average and a strong interest in attending college to be eligible to participate in the STEM programs. A strong interest in science and math, of course, is also helpful.

“The students are from all over,” Lori Sheetz, math instructor and STEM lead coordinator, said. “They are a pretty diverse group. Middle school children who are interested in STEM can apply on our website. We also have people who have been here before and people find out through their schools.”

Children in this program appeared focused in getting their robots moving or making sure other robots were moving in the right direction and even worked together to figure out a problem. They also had some fun with a kickball tournament, a tour of West Point and they resided in the cadet barracks.

The STEM programs were initiated because science and technology is becoming increasingly important worldwide. Children need to be prepared to adapt to ever-increasing technological advances to have the knowledge and skills needed in tomorrow’s workplace. Many STEM programs target underrepresented groups like females and minorities in the hopes of enticing them into an interest in the sciences as employers look for people who are educated and technologically capable.

For more information on the Center for Leadership and Diversity in STEM, email usma.stem@usma.edu.

The STEM Workshop provides students with an opportunity to learn about STEM disciplines through high-energy, hands-on projects such as programming robots and flying drones. These children are programming robots using a computer program.
West Point joins forces with DOD, NCAA for major study on traumatic brain injury

Story and photo by Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

Athletes and Soldiers are always at risk for traumatic brain injury, which is trauma to the brain from an external mechanical force that does not necessarily have immediate symptoms, but could cause permanent damage to the brain. This can be especially true with athletes and Soldiers who often receive multiple concussions.

What happens during a concussion is the brain shakes inside the head, hitting the interior skull and the two sides of the brain often causing bruising and, sometimes, bleeding.

Any brain injury needs immediate attention and assessment.


The purpose of the initiative was to promote cultural change on TBI, Soldier-athlete awareness and reducing the stigma caused by seeking treatment.

This year, USMA joined forces with the Department of Defense and the National Collegiate Athletic Association in a three-year grand alliance to understand TBI and how it manifests.

“The purpose of this study is to investigate the natural history of concussion in males and females by incorporating a multi-dimensional assessment of standardized clinical measures of post-concussive symptomatology, performance-based testing and psychological health,” Karen Peck, Keller Hospital athletic trainer, said.

Peck said the baseline begins by testing cadets during three two-hour sessions on Monday through Thursday with Friday as a make-up day which began May 18-22.

“The baseline testing consists of three parts,” Peck said. “Cadets will complete a questionnaire online that asks about medical history, concussion history and baseline symptoms.

“Cadets will then complete a computerized neuropsychological test. We will assess balance and give a neuropsychological test which can be administered on the sideline without a computer,” Peck added.

In the balance test, the cadets were asked to place their feet together, place their hands on their hips and close their eyes for about 20 seconds.

Then they were asked to put one foot in front of the other with their eyes closed, stand on one foot for 20 seconds and then repeated the test standing on a rubber pad.

Their reactions and movement were recorded.

Cadets will continue to be tested periodically for the three years to continue to access them during their usual cadet life of playing sports and military exercise.

Because brain trauma is not well understood, this large scale study of the natural history of concussions in both sexes and multiple sports will shed light on the neurobiological mechanisms of concussion symptoms and the trajectory of recovery.

By understanding the mechanism of TBI, medical care will improve and the signs of TBI will be more recognizable with coaches and commanders.
Crew: While most of academy and the Class of 2015 celebrated graduation, Army West Point Crew sent a small contingent of three boats to the American Collegiate Rowing Association (ACRA) National Championship Regatta to compete against more than 1,500 collegiate athletes from 61 colleges and universities from across the United States May 30-Sunday.

Rowing on the 2,000-meter 1996 Olympic venue on Lake Lanier in Gainesville, Georgia, Army West Point Crew brought home its first gold medals from the annual event, winning both the Women’s and Men’s Freshman/Novice Four events.

The competition for Army began with the Varsity Men’s Double, rowed by Cadets Brad Wagner and Nathan Townsend. With less than two weeks of training in the double, the men just missed a chance to row in the Grand Final and, ultimately, won the B final, making them the ninth place crew in the event.

Next up for Army was the Women’s Freshman/Novice Four, coxed by Cadet Allison Zablocky, and powered by Cadets Alison Darby, Emma Hanna, Maria Blom and Sarah Beougher as the stoke.

The women won their heat by 14 seconds sending them directly to the Grand Final race on Sunday.

The Novice Men’s Freshman/Novice Four followed suit with a win in their heat, edging out Northwestern and Ohio State to advance. Cadet Charles Toch stroked the winning boat, followed by Cadets John Brooks, Logan Leahy and Christopher Wagner in the bow, with Cadet Theresa Hinman in the coxswain’s seat.

In the Grand Finals on Sunday, the women’s boat rowed a superb race, winning by a huge margin of 12 seconds and beating boats from University of California-Davis, New Hampshire, Kansas, Grand Valley State, Georgia Tech, Denver and Liberty.

Soon after the women’s victory, the Novice men fought a heroic race with the favored crew from the University of Virginia.

A length down with 250 meters to go, the crew surged forward to finish 0.61 seconds in front of the Virginia crew, competing an Army sweep of the novice four events, and defeating Division I teams from the University of Oregon, Northwestern, California-Santa Barbara, Kansas State, Michigan and Washington State.

For the first time since 2009, Army West Point Crew sent boats to an ACRA national championship awards dock, where they were awarded their gold medals and a National Championship plaque, alongside their Novice Coach, Jen Kiesling, professor from the Department of History.

As is tradition in national-level races of this caliber, the winning teams received tribute shirts from their competitors, making for over-stuffed crew athletic bags on the return trip to West Point.

Kiesling summarized the weekend and the Crew season by saying, “The 2015 crew was the strongest, most cohesive team I have seen in 20 years at West Point. The women rowed with power and determination while the sheer guts displayed in the men’s come-from-behind victory over UVA reflected the quality of the entire Army rowing program.”

The future for Army West Point Crew is indeed bright. The team will carry these wins into the next season to live up to their revised motto for 2016: “One team of significance, worthy to win, committed to winning the right way.”
Cadets participated in UH-60 Black Hawk familiarization as part of Cadet Field Training May 28. During the training, members from the 10th Mountain Division, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd Squadron, Alpha Company, instructed the cadets on downed aircraft procedures, emergency operations and how to properly enter and exit the aircraft under combat situations.

(Above) Third-class cadets participate in Cadet Field Training during their second summer at West Point. CFT is a three-to-four-week program of instruction that emphasizes general military skills, individual preparedness training, preparations for extended field operations, and leading, participating in, and conducting small unit tactical operations. (Left) Cadets and Soldiers from across West Point participated in the Air Assault training course, ran by instructors from the Sabalauski Air Assault School, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. U.S. Army Air Assault School is a 10-day course designed to prepare Soldiers for insertion, evacuation and pathfinder missions that call for the use of multipurpose transportation and assault helicopters.
Clark Award

Winners of the Scott R. Clark Innovation Award for the most innovative project for Projects Day are (left to right) Zachary Lee, Tyler Sowell, John Beck, Ioannis Wallingford and Erin Kelly. Not shown are Brendan Mckinley, Sarah Lowe, Jason Rho, Joseph Samuels and Zachary Glass. Lt. Col Michael Benson and Maj. Daniel Fox, faculty advisors stand next to the cadets. The project was a heat pipe cooling shirt to be worn by Soldiers. Patent proceedings for this project have been initiated. The Scott R. Clark (USMA 1985) Innovation for Soldiers Award is an award given to one Projects Day project that demonstrate an innovative approach to solving a problem of direct application to the Army. The donor states, “This gift is to encourage cadets to demonstrate for Soldiers, innovations which can benefit Soldiers.” The award was given at a ceremony May 21 at Mahan Hall.

CGSOC Graduation at West Point

By Wendell Stevens
Assistant Professor, Fort Leavenworth

In a ceremony on May 21, Brig. Gen. Timothy Trainor, the dean of the Academic Board, and Brig. Gen. John Thomson, commandant, presented diplomas to 30 West Point captains and majors who completed the Command & General Staff Officer Course (CGSOC) through distance and blended learning.

These graduates, along with 12 more who were unable to attend the ceremony, finished this important professional military education requirement on top of normal instructor duties from September to May. Eleven of these graduates also earned the distinction of being in the top 20 percent of all distance CGSOC students.

In his remarks, Trainor reminded these officers that they are the “second graduating class” who depart West Point to serve at the operational level of the Army. Commanders will expect them to be the subject matter experts on operations, administrative and logistical issues.

They must also be organizers, builders of teams, facilitators of discussions and solvers of complex problems. They must also be ready to “educate, train and inspire” peers and company grade officers. Trainor also thanked Brig. Gen. Chris Hughes, deputy commandant of the Command and General Staff College, and Dr. Chris King, dean of CGSOC, for their support.

This ceremony was the culmination of almost two years of planning. In early 2014, Superintendent Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen, and the Dean requested that Fort Leavenworth’s Command and General Staff College develop a program to help West Point faculty complete CGSOC before they departed for operational assignments.

John Schatzel and Wendell Stevens of the Department of Distance Education served as lead instructors for Common Core Course and Advanced Operations Course, the two halves of CGSOC.

While officers in Common Core completed all their coursework individually, faculty in the Advanced Operations worked collaboratively as a staff group through the curriculum and three-week-long exercises.

This group also benefited from in person mentorship by the Superintendent and Dean during these events.

With the successful completion of this year’s pilot program, the blended version of CGSOC will again be offered this fall to all interested West Point faculty and staff.
‘Army Values’ key to dealing with workplace bullies

By David Vergun
Army News Service

Among the most effective strategies for dealing with workplace bullies and building effective teams and organizations is reinforcing values, Col. Kenneth Williams said.

Williams, who is with the Pentagon Chaplain’s Office, spoke in Washington D.C. May 27 at a seminar: “The Toxic Workplace: Dealing with a Bully.”

The Army Values, he pointed out, consists of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. Fostering an atmosphere of respect is paramount.

The other military services and many organizations have codes that are remarkably similar to the Army Values, he added, since those in attendance included civilians and personnel from the other services.

Before showing how values can be used to detoxify the workplace, Williams went over the symptoms of bullying and let everyone share their own experiences.

Bullying Symptoms

Bullies are easily identifiable by some or most of the following characteristics, Williams said: public humiliation, name-calling, gossiping, teasing, withholding information, ignoring someone, preventing access to opportunities, imposing impossible standards or deadlines, failure to give credit, repeated reminders of mistakes, manipulation, denial of wrongdoing, pitting folks against each other, arrogance and verbal abuse.

Williams asked the audience if they’ve ever encountered such a person. Everyone indicated that they had.

The chaplain then asked each to describe the effects this had on themselves and their organizations. Responses included stress, intimidation, feelings of being devalued, decreased productivity, avoiding the bully and a stifling of communications.

Williams then cited research backing up some of these effects from Drs. Mitch Kusy and Elizabeth Holloway, who authored a study in the Leader to Leader Journal, titled “Cultivating a Culture of Respectful Engagement,” in 2010.

They found that 68 percent of those surveyed who worked for bullies were less productive, 78 percent were less committed, 27 percent discouraged others from taking jobs with their employers and, “this is telling,” 13 percent refused to use their employer’s products.

Williams then asked the attendees to share their own experiences.

A Soldier described dealing with a bully who actually created a physically hazardous workplace.

A female related dealing with a female toxic boss. She said many quit and “others tried to make her look good so she’d get promoted up and outside the organization, which is what happened. That’s horrible to do that, but it was the only way out from underneath her.”

The chaplain then made a surprising revelation, saying he “worked for and with some very toxic people,” one of whom was a chaplain.

The chaplain, who was a bully, had “volumes of meetings that focused almost solely on himself,” Williams said. He sent out “a lot of emails questioning status, behavior, decisions, public criticism and humiliation of other chaplains. When things went good, he said, ‘look what I did.’ When things went bad, he said, ‘look at what you did.’”

Solutions to Bullying

First, showing what not to do, Williams said, is research from Dr. Barbara Broome, “Dealing with Sharks and Bullies in the Workplace,” published in the Association of Black Nursing Faculty Journal in 2008.

Broome equated bullies with sharks, since sharks usually have an exploratory look around to size up their prey. If the prey looks tasty and vulnerable, they go in for the kill.

In the same way as this, bullies size up their victims, Broome said. If the victims cry, go on the defensive or try to explain themselves, this incites more bullying.

“The shark knows it’s inflicted injury” and goes on a feeding frenzy, he said.

Also to be avoided, according to Broome, is ingratiating or befriending behaviors. This may work for a while, he said, but the shark can turn on you at any moment.

Williams summed up the research for dealing with bullies.

• Keep a detailed log of observed toxic behaviors;
• Ensure your organization has strong policies against bullying and against retaliation for confronting bullies;
• Raise awareness about bullying and its deleterious affects;
• Conduct training on workplace policies on abuse and harassment.

Confronting the Bully

While most people would probably try to avoid confronting bullies, this is a strategy that can actually work if done right, Williams said.

A tacticful way to do this is to appeal to the bully’s sense of personal ambition and competitiveness with data-driven feedback. This is best done in private in a one-on-one talk, he said.

The Soldier who earlier shared his experience about the hazardous workplace vouched for this technique.

He said he and his team collected data and facts on the hazards and presented it to him in a professional and non-confrontational manner. When the bully couldn’t refute the facts, he backed down.

Another tactic is to focus on your own internalized values such as trust to guide your behavior, Williams said.

In study after study, the organizations that have been shown to be the most effective employ values-based leadership where it’s used to evaluate performance.

People do what they’re supposed to do in a trusting relationship that doesn’t rely solely on rules for enforcement, he said. “Our behaviors either instill trust or detract from trust.”

It may be appropriate to confront the bully and gently remind him or her that certain behaviors detract from the organization’s trust and other values, he suggested.

Lastly, the “opposite of bullying is empowering,” he said. In a healthy organization, leaders “give people the power to act and make decisions. It’s all about trust.”
Mrs. B’s “Storytime with a Twist” comes to West Point

By Kim Morgan
West Point Elementary Teacher

Songwriter and speaker Mrs. Blake-Brekke (Mrs. B) entertained West Point Elementary School students May 12. “Military kids are my favorite kids in the world,” she began her speech, and launched straight into “Let It Go,” from Frozen, using her puppets and the hundreds of voices of excited kids to gather the energy for the show.

“Welcome to the B-hive,” Mrs. B shouted! And with that she launched into her “Storytime with a Twist,” telling funny stories and singing songs such as “There Are Bugs on the Farm,” and “Burp.” She even drew teachers into the act as they stood up and danced to the “Juanita Maria Bonita Bug Diva Cha, Cha, Cha.”

“I started writing stories for my own children, and sometimes I wanted to try to teach them lessons,” Mrs. B said. “As my children got older, I grew my stories and songs with them.”

Now, Mrs. B’s repertoire includes rap and rock and roll songs and stories with a twist that can entertain all ages. Coming from her experiences stationed in the south, Mrs. B told the Goldilocks story in a southern style with a southern belle mama, gruff papa and a funny baby bear voice that was a hit with the students.

In the end, Goldilocks ran out of the bear house, across the commissary parking lot and home … never to disobey her parents again.

The climax of the show was the rap song with the first line being, “We’re Military Kids. What’cha Think About That. We move things there; then we move them back.” The rap song allows for a lot of “attitude” as Mrs. B calls it, and it is full of the details of a military child’s life.

This theme song was the first break out hit for Mrs. B.

“My sister, who is also the illustrator of my books, was at Pearl Harbor, and she heard my song being sung,” Mrs. B said. “They invited us to come, and our first concert was on Ford Island in an outdoor theater with a view of the ships in the distance. It was awesome.”

Since her first concert in Hawaii, Mrs. B has traveled around the world to military bases singing songs and telling stories.

“My inspiration comes from my kids,” she said. “All four of them are military kids. I wrote most of my material by the time my youngest was 18. I saw fathers leave, families move, I saw the military experience through the kids’ eyes. I wanted most of them to be proud of who they were.”

Assistant Principal Dr. Kathy Maxey worked with the PTA to bring Mrs. B to West Point.

“I heard Mrs. B for the first time at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany. When I was there, my students dressed in jeans, T-shirts, and red, white and blue bandanas and joined Mrs. B in singing the signature song,” Maxey said.

Mrs. B’s “Storytime with a Twist” company began 11 years ago with that first concert on Pearl Harbor, and she entertained the West Point students with the same heart. She offers performances for military schools on a non-profit basis.

However, since students beg for more “funny voices,” her books and CD’s are available online. Mrs. B was a big hit at West Point Elementary School.

Of Rocks, Bats and Rattlesnakes: STEM Week at WPES

By Kim Morgan
West Point Elementary Teacher

If you build it, they will come.
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) took center stage at West Point Elementary School May 4-8 as students participated in the annual STEMposium. Guest speakers hailed from engineering firms to garrison commands, and the student activities were crafted to make complex ideas understandable even to the very young.

The curriculum focused on the building of the new elementary school set to begin this summer.

“STEM Week provided our students with the opportunity to learn more about the behind the scenes engineering aspects in regards to the planning of our new school,” Teresa Bodiford, STEM teacher at WPES and coordinator of the week, said.

“The guest presenters left our students spellbound and thrilling for more,” Principal Denise Cochenour said.

Rocks, bats and rattlesnakes figured into the lessons as students studied the impact of the construction on the natural environment as the building process needs to be sensitive to threatened and endangered species in the area. Kindergarteners understood the behavior of bats in a physical activity they participated in.

“I liked to be the bats eating the mosquitoes. But when the bats had to go sit down, there were more mosquitoes, so we need to keep the bats and not kill them,” a kindergartener said.

According to New York law, no bulldozing can happen while endangered bats are on the premises as the sound waves would interrupt the natural habitat. Thus, some work may be scheduled around nature.

Dr. Clarke, WPES teacher and the presenter on Echolocation, helped students understand the importance of working with the environment so that they grow to make sound engineering decisions with the earth in mind.

“It was great getting to work with each of the grade levels and discovering how they think,” Clarke said.

In one activity on the characteristics of rocks, students analyzed different types of rocks. Guest speaker Scott Deetz from the Corps of Engineers spoke about what rocks are chosen in building materials, and how existing rocks and soil impact building decisions.

Students were asked to choose a rock and discover its properties, assessing its usefulness in building materials.

One second grader said, “I liked how we got to pick the rocks. I didn’t know there were rules, but I did them. I smelled my rock and it was from a very windy place. I never knew you had to smell a rock. That was weird.”

Guest speaker Brian Osterhout, principal at MJ Engineering, traveled from north of Albany to discuss the environmental assessment his company is making on the project. In addition to talking about the animals, he discussed the point at which the engineering and architectural elements intersected.

“One of the environmental concerns is the visual impact in relation to West Point architecture and the public’s view from different scenic vistas,” Osterhout said.

The venerated West Point campus needs a school that will honor the age and tradition of the campus.

The engineering company is tasked with mitigating any negative environmental impacts to include those on threatened and endangered species.

“West Point ES is very fortunate to be embarking on an experience that naturally offers powerful learning opportunities as we correlate STEM instruction with the evolution of the students’ new 21st century school,” Cochenour said. “We are honored and humbled to be working with such brilliant engineers, field specialists and scientists from so many facets of the field.”
FEATUERED ITEM

Camp Buckner and Natural Bridge grounds closed
Camp Buckner and Camp Natural Bridge’s grounds, including their beaches, banks, picnic and recreation areas, are closed to all civilians, military personnel and their family members until Aug. 11, unless they are specifically assigned to or supporting Cadet Summer Training.

The Lake Popolopen boat launch parking lot and the lake itself are open only to boaters with a valid boating authorization pass from Round Pond.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

West Point Civilian Employee Council Meeting
The West Point Civilian Employee Council will hold its next meeting at 2:15 p.m. Friday in the Superintendent’s Conference Room in Taylor Hall.

Every full-time, non-bargaining unit civilian employee on West Point, less Title 10 personnel, is a member of the council and invited to attend.

The only topics or issues the council will not entertain are individual issues or union-related issues, as these have channels already established to work issues.

Also, request that anyone having a topic/issue for the council to discuss should send the details to vpsec@usma.edu.

Provide a point of contact and contact number in the event clarification on the topic is required.

Your input and participation is very much appreciated.

Avoid River Courts during AAS helicopter operations
The Air Assault School Officer-in-Charge, Capt. Nicholas Lomurro, is warning the West Point community of the hazards associated with helicopter operations occurring in the vicinity of the River Courts at South Dock.

Helicopter operations pose a significant hazard to bystanders in the form of flying debris generated by the helicopter rotor wash. The West Point Community should keep away from the River Courts during the dates and times listed below.

River Courts AAS helicopter operations dates are:
* Saturday—noon-3 p.m.;
* Tuesday—noon-3 p.m.;
* June 12—noon-3 p.m.;
* June 13—noon-3 p.m.;
* June 16—noon-3 p.m.;
* June 17—noon-3 p.m.;
* June 20—noon-3 p.m.;
* June 24—noon-3 p.m.

Gift Shoppe openings for June
The West Point Spouses’ Club has a wonderful Gift Shoppe with West Point and military-themed gifts, crafts and memorabilia, perfect for friends, family and colleagues.

Come check out its in-stock curtains during regular store hours, as well.

The Gift Shoppe is inside Bldg. 695 (formally the ITR office), between Starbucks and Subway.

For details, call Conklin at 845-938-0631 or email her at Sheryl.conklin@usma.edu.

Army Education Center
College courses are offered through the Army Education Center at West Point.

Undergraduate classes:
* Mount Saint Mary College—Call Shari Seidule at 845-446-0535 or email Sharon.Seidule@msmc.edu;
* Saint Thomas Aquinas—Call Erica Rodriguez at 845-446-2555 or email ERodrigu@stac.edu.

Graduate studies:
* John Jay College of Criminal Justice—Master’s Degree in Public Administration—Call Jennifer Heinsey at 845-446-5959 or email jjcwestpoint@yahoo.com;
* Long Island University—Master’s Degrees in School Counseling, Mental Health Counseling and Marriage and Family Counseling—Call Mary Beth Leggett at 845-446-3818 or email marybeth.leggett@liu.edu.

TheArmy Education Center is located at 683 Buckner Loop (between Starbucks and Subway).

Army Personnel Testing programs
The Army Education Center at West Point offers Army Personnel Testing (APT) programs such as the AFCT, DLAB, DLPT, SIFT through the DA and DLI.

Tests are free of charge to Soldiers. Call the Testing Center at 938-3360 or email gwenn.wallace@usma.edu for details or an appointment.

DANTES testing
The Army Education Center at West Point offers academic testing programs through the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) such as the SAT and ACT. Pearson VUE offers licensing and certification exams. Most tests are free of charge to Soldiers.

Call the Testing Center at 938-3360 or email gwenn.wallace@usma.edu for details or an appointment.

OUTSIDE THE GATES

Pancake Breakfast
James I. O’Neill High School’s Girls Basketball team is hosting its inaugural “Breakfast of Champions” Pancake Breakfast 8 a.m.-noon Saturday at the JOHS Cafeteria, 21 Morgan Road.

The breakfast offerings include pancakes, eggs, bacon, orange juice and coffee/tea. There is a fee for the event, cash or check.

For details, email to cathy.riori@gmail.com.

Cornwall-on-Hudson RiverFest
The Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson will host its 18th annual RiverFest from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday at Donahue Park on the shores of the Hudson River.

The RiverFest will feature a full day of music and entertainment, children’s activities and a large craft and food fair.

The day’s events will include live bands, river activities, food stands and non-profit groups and contributors.

There is no charge for RiverFest.

Visitors are invited to bring a blanket or lawn chair.

Visit www.river-fest.com for up to date information.

For more details, call Wynn Gold at 845-534-7622.

Cornwall Nature Museum hosts Turtle Tales
The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum will be hosting: Turtle Tales at 10 a.m. Sunday.

Join environmental educator Carl Heitmuller at the Museum’s Outdoor Discovery Center, on Muser Drive, across from 174 Angola Road, Cornwall for an exciting program about turtles.

After the program, Heitmuller will lead a walk to the wetlands in search of turtle habitats. Bring your binoculars.

There is a fee for this event. For details, visit hhnm.org or call 845-534-5506, ext. 204.

Boscobel’s annual Turtle Walk
Did you know the snapping turtle is New York State’s official reptile? About 1,200 of them live in the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, located just below Boscobel House & Gardens.

Boscobel will host its 21st annual Snapping Turtle Walk at 7:30 a.m. June 13. Members of the Constitution Marsh staff will be on hand to discuss the habits and history of these specimens.

There is an admission. Complimentary coffee and donuts will be available.

Purchase tickets online at Boscobel.org or at the door.

For details, visit Boscobel.org or call 845-265-3638.

The Buzz on Bees

Come celebrate Pol-linator Week with the Nature Museum.

A short illustrated presentation will describe bees and bee behavior. Learn why bees are so important to us and to the ecosystem.

Then take a guided tour of the honey bee observation hive and a walk in the meadow to observe honey bees and native bees at work.

There is a fee for this event. For details, go to hhnm.org or call 845-534-5506, ext. 204.
FEATURED EVENTS

Father’s Day Brunch and Contest
Join the West Point Club from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. June 21 for its traditional Father’s Day Brunch. Reservations are required by calling the Club at 938-5120.

Also, don’t forget to tell us all about your dad for the Club’s Father’s Day Contest. Tell us why he is so special and what makes him our “Dad of the Year.”

Send your entry along with a picture of your dad via email or U.S. mail. Our panel of judges will review all entries and choose a winner by June 12.

Our winner will receive Renegades tickets plus complimentary Father’s Day Brunch for four at the Club.

Send your entry to: West Point Club “Father’s Day Contest” 603 Cummil Road, West Point, New York, 10906 or Catering@usma.edu.

JUST ANNOUNCED

Friday Night Jam
The MWR Fitness Center is hosting a Friday Night Belly Dance Jam from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Friday.

There is a fee for this event. For details, call 938-6490.

Arts & Crafts June class schedule
• Tuesday—Cookies and Canvas: American Flag, 5-7 p.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult and will paint on a 11x14 canvas.
• June 16—Art Workshops: Peace, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For children in grades K-5.

There is a minimal fee for the above classes. For details and to register, call 938-4812.

Superintendent’s Scramble
Join Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen Jr. June 18 for the Superintendent’s Golf Scramble. Check in begins at 11:30 a.m. with a 1 p.m. shotgun start.

There is a fee associated with this event (fee includes cart, prizes and dinner). For details, call the Pro Shop at 938-2435.

Post Library closure
Effective July 1, the MWR Post Library, Bldg. 622, will cease all lending operations and services. Due to the ongoing financial reductions, the decision was made to close the Post Library. All authorized users are encouraged to sign up and register for the free Army MWR Library Online resources at http://mylibrary.us.army*biznet.com.

West Point children who are home schooled are authorized borrowing privileges at the West Point Elementary and Middle School under DODEA policy.

FOR THE ADULTS

Financial Readiness Classes with ACS
Want to achieve financial success? Take a class with ACS. All classes are held at Bldg. 622 from 3-4:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted.
• June 11—1st Term Financial Readiness, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
• June 17—Blissful Budgeting.

Summer Zumba
Just lose yourself in the music and find yourself in shape at the ultimate dance party.

Join Summer Zumba at Dragon Park with Lyndsay. Kids are welcomed.

Upcoming dates are June 11, 16, 18 and 23. For details, call 938-6490.

Become a Family Child Care Provider
Family Child Care is a great opportunity for those who want to stay home with their children.

You can become a certified provider and supplement your family’s income by caring for children in your home.

For details, contact Erin Faherty at erin.faherty@usma.edu or call 938-0086.

U.S. Army Arts & Crafts Contest
Submit, enter and win in the 2015 U.S. Army Arts & Crafts Contest for both novice and accomplished artists. Categories include ceramic, digital drawings, fiber, glass, metal 2D/3D mixed media, painting and wood.

The contest runs through July 31. For details, call 938-4812 or enter at https://cloud.mwr.army.mil/apprrac.

FOR THE FAMILIES

EFMP Family Event/PAWS for KIDS
As the weather gets warmer and calendars get fuller, remember your fun Exceptional Family Member Program events.

Come by to have some fun or meet other families with special needs you might have in common.

All our events are free and held at ACS, Bldg. 622 unless otherwise noted.
• Tuesday, June 16 and 23—PAWS for KIDS, 3:30-5 p.m.

For details, contact EFMP Program Manager Josephine Toohey at 938-5655 or Josephine.toohey@usma.edu or the program assistant Anne Marshall at 938-0232 or anne.marshall@usma.edu.

Flag Day 5K
Join the MWR Fitness Center for its Flag Day 5K June 13. Pre-registration begins Monday. There is a fee for this event.

Day of registration starts at 7 a.m., shotgun start at 8 a.m.

For details, call 938-6490.

2015 West Point Community Fair
Enjoy the opportunity to meet with representatives from the community agencies, organizations and local businesses from 4-6 p.m. July 29 at Eisenhower Hall, Bldg 655.

Army Community Service in celebrating 50 years of servicing our families, children and community needs.

For details, call 938-4621.

Horseback Riding Camps registration
Morgan Farm is gearing up for Summer Horseback riding camps. The camp dates are set and it is now accepting 2015 camp registrations. Three- and five-day sessions will be offered.

Families of deployed service members receive a 10 percent discount. For details, call 938-3926 or e-mail morganfarm@westpointmwr.com.

CYSS Babysitting Training
There will be CYSS Babysitting training from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. June 11-12 at the Youth Center, Bldg. 500.

Attendance both days is necessary for certification, the training includes CPR and First Aid.

For details and to register, call 938-3969 or email khia. wood@usma.edu.

Yoga for Kids
EFMP and Hearts Apart Families, come learn and practice yoga. The yoga dates are 11:30 a.m.-noon June 11, 25, July 9, 23 and Aug. 6 and 20 for beginner classes and 12:15-12:45 p.m. on the same dates for advanced classes.

RSVP to Josephine Toohey at 938-5655 or Josephine.toohey@usma.edu or Anne Marshall at 938-0232 or Anne_marshall@usma.edu.

JGBK Baseball Club need players to fill rosters
9U, 10U, 11U, 12U and 13U teams are looking for select players to add to their rosters for summer league play. Players selected will need to complete registration no later than June 14 at the Lee Area CYS Building.

For details, call 938-8896.

Ready, Set, Bake Program registration
The West Point Club launches its first Ready, Set, Bake culinary hands-on baking class for children 9-13 years of age.

Join Chef Brandon Truesdale three days a week and learn the fundamentals of measuring, preparation, sanitation, safety, packing and retail.

Two Sessions will be offered: June 15-17 and June 22-24 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. There is a minimal fee for these classes.

For details and registration, email Chef Truesdale at Brandon.Truesdale@usma.edu, call 938-5120 or visit westpointmwr.com/club.

Little Maestros Music Class
EFMP and Hearts Apart Families, join in on the music and fun. Bring your little ones and make music together from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. June 18, July 2, 16, 30 and Aug. 13 at ACS, Bldg. 622, in the Heritage Room.

RSVP to Josephine Toohey at 938-5655 or Josephine.toohey@usma.edu or Anne Marshall at 938-0232 or Anne_marshall@usma.edu.

Summer Art Camp
Journey with MWR around the globe as it reveals each continent’s most unique artistic cultures.

Our artists will explore mediums such as silk painting, basket weaving, cave painting, jewelry making and much more.

Camp dates are June 23-26 (sold out), July 14-17, July 21-24 and July 28-31. Camps are for grades K-5, and will run each week from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Registration is ongoing. For details, call Arts and Crafts at 938-4812.

The Missoula Children’s Theatre production of “Aladdin”
The SKIES Unlimited Program invites youth entering first grade through 12th grade in the fall to participate as cast members in the Missoula Children’s Theatre production of “Aladdin.”

Children of military personnel, Department of Defense civilians, as well as children residing in the Highland Falls/Fort Montgomery School District, are eligible to enroll.

The audition, rehearsals and show will take place July 13-17. There is a minimal fee for this program.

For details, call 938-8893 or email Kirsten Rautter at kirsten.rautter@usma.edu.
Keller Corner

Keller information
Get up-to-date Keller Army Community Hospital information at http://kach.amedd.army.mil/ or on social media at http://www.facebook.com/kellerarmycommunityhospital/.

Keller’s Obstetric Unit offers “Sibling Classes”
The Keller Army Community Hospital Obstetric Unit will offer “Sibling Classes” based on interest. The classes will be age appropriate for 3 years or older.
For details and/or to register for the class, contact the Keller OBU at 845-938-3210.

Physical Therapy “Sick Call” for Active Duty and Family Members
Active duty members and their dependents will be able to see a physical therapist at Keller, for musculo-skeletal injuries on a walk-in basis—without an appointment at 7:30 a.m.

The intent of this pilot program is for members of the West Point community who sustain new injuries to be able to quickly receive an evaluation, diagnosis and plan of care as soon as possible and without the need for a referral.

Research suggests that the sooner people with certain types of injuries see a PT, the sooner they recover.
The PT will assess the need for X-rays, other diagnostic studies, or other specialty care required. This time is not intended for chronic conditions that have been ongoing for weeks or months.
For these more chronic conditions, routine appointments can be made (also with or without referral) by calling 938-3324.
PT sick call will be held at 7:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, except on federal and training holidays and, periodically, as announced.

West Point Command Channel Channels 8/23
For the week of June 4-11
Army Newswatch
Thursday, Friday and Monday-June 11
8:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

MOVIES at MAHAN
Theatre schedule at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752.
Friday—The Avengers: Age of Ultron, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday—The Age of Adaline, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.
June 12—Hot Pursuit, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.
(For movie details and updates schedules, visit www.shopmyexchange.com/reel-time-theatres/West-Point-1044343.)

LifeWorks at Balfour Beatty Communities

- National Doughnut Day: Stop by 132 Bartlett Loop Friday to celebrate National Doughnut Day we will be serving the best Apple Cider doughnuts from Jones Farm starting at 3 p.m. until doughnuts run out.
- Father’s Day Craft: Join us at 132 Bartlett Loop to make a Father’s day craft from 10-11:30 a.m. June 17. Your child will decorate a pet rock to be used as paper weights for dad’s desk.
- June Yard of the Month: Nominate your own yard, your neighbor’s, a friend’s or any home on post that you feel deserves to be considered. Email nominations to BBC before June 25.

Children, please find your own pet rock, wash, dry and bring it to this event.
To register, email jgellman@bbcgrp.com by June 15, so that BBC doesn’t run out of supplies.

Army Birthday Concert June 13

By West Point Band

The West Point Band will kick off its “Music under the Stars” concert series with a performance in honor of the 240th Army Birthday at 7:30 p.m. June 13 at the Trophy Point Amphitheater at West Point. This concert is free and open to the public.

The band’s commander, Lt. Col. Andrew Esch, will take the podium and lead the band in an exciting program celebrating our Army’s 240th birthday and its proud history.
In keeping with tradition, the concert will feature a streamer ceremony commemorating the campaigns fought by Soldiers throughout our nation’s history, and will close with a cake-cutting.

Bring your family and friends, and join the West Point Band in honoring the Army’s history in a relaxing evening concert under the stars.
Established in 1817, the West Point Band is the Army’s oldest musical organization and continues to provide world-class music to educate, train and inspire the Corps of Cadets and to serve as ambassadors of the U.S. Military Academy and the Army to local, national and international communities.
For concert information, cancellations and updates, call 938-2617 or visit www.westpointband.com.
West Point Band news can also be found by following us on Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter.

ARMED FORCES VOTERS WEEK
29 June – 6 July 2015

IS YOUR VOTE YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU!

Need Assistance?
Christopher.Saugy@usma.edu
Installation Voting Assistance Office
Army Education Center (next to Subway)
Building 683 Buckner Loop, Room 3
845-938-4324
vote.westpoint@usma.edu

MINI JOB FAIR/NETWORKING EVENT!

WHEN: Friday, June 5, 2015 from 11:00am-1:00pm
WHERE: ACS, BLG 622 Swift Road

The fair will include between six and eight employers and is open to Active Duty Service Members, Veterans, DoD Civilians, Retired Service Members, and their Family Members.

A list of employers expected to attend will be posted to the West Point SFL - TAP Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WestPointACAP

For more information, please call 845-938-0634 or 845-938-5638.
New turf being installed at Michie, Shea

By Army Athletic Communications

Michie Stadium and Shea Stadium will have a new look in 2015. The playing surface at both stadiums are currently being replaced and will be completed over the summer.

Michie Stadium will celebrate its 92nd season this year as the home of Army West Point Football and will do so on new turf. Both the Men’s and Women’s Lacrosse teams also call Michie Stadium home.

Shea Stadium is the home of Army West Point Sprint Football and Track and Field.

Both Michie Stadium and Shea Stadium will have FieldTurf Revolution installed as well as new branding reflecting the Black Knights’ new logo.

FieldTurf Revolution, the result of innovative science, engineering and technology provides a soft, strong monofilament fiber with extraordinary durability and longevity.

A three-layer infill system and state-of-the-art SureLock coating method are underneath the turf.

Michie Stadium will have limited permanent markings on the surface, allowing for an easy transition from football to men’s lacrosse to women’s lacrosse.

All three sports use different line markers and with the new field, lines will be painted on for specific competitions.

Clark Companies, out of Delhi, New York, is handling both projects.

West Point Summer Softball League Standings

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**Regular season standings as of Tuesday. The season opening games Monday and Tuesday were rained out.**

First salute

Second Lt. Alex Gaff, Army West Point Softball player, received her first salute from Class of 2018 Cadet Taylor Gaff, her sister and fellow teammate, during a bar pinning ceremony May 23 at the Army Softball Complex.

Photo by Mady Salvani/Army Athletic Communications