West Point participates in Opening Day at Yankee Stadium

The U.S. Military Academy Corps of Cadets and Cadet Color Guard presented the colors prior to the New York Yankees' Opening Day game against the Baltimore Orioles March 28 at Yankee Stadium. (Not shown) USMA Band vocalist/section leader MaryKay Messenger sang "God Bless America" during the seventh inning stretch.

Photos by Brandon O'Connor/PV (above and left) and Frank DeMaro (right)
Preparedness Exercise to test West Point’s readiness

Submitted by Christopher G. Hennen
Emergency Manager, DPTMS

Although West Point has served as an impenetrable citadel of Army values for more than 200 years, it is not similarly invincible from the acts of a determined adversary. As members of this community, we all must be prepared—through education and action—to respond rapidly and capably to a full range of potential threats. Readiness is our most potent defense against any foe. The question is, “Are we ready?”

West Point officials are committed to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of community members; the protection of property; and the sustainment of essential installation operations should an emergency occur.

Normal day-to-day procedures are not sufficient for assessing effective emergency response, as extraordinary emergency measures must be implemented quickly if impacts on lives, property, utilities and operations are to be kept to a minimum.

To assess our emergency response procedures and capabilities in real time and within a real-world environment we—as a community—conduct a full-scale emergency preparedness exercise each year that allows us to gain the in-depth experiences that only an extraordinary event can provide.

After more than six months of planning, West Point will conduct a community-wide emergency readiness exercise April 24, incorporating elements of an active shooter response, the installation’s Mass Warning and Notification System (MWNS) and the ability of each other to address the threat and resulting consequences. In addition, this exercise will enable West Point officials; emergency first responders and managers; host and tenant organizations; the Corps of Cadets; West Point Schools and Child Development Centers; and community members to participate in an assessment of their emergency preparedness procedures and capabilities.

Active shooter incidents are among the most dynamic acts of violence that we might encounter. West Point Superintendent Lt. Gen. Darryl A. Williams is committed to the belief that a timely and capable response to an incident involving an active assailant at West Point will be crucial to safeguarding lives, operations and the image of this institution and the United States Army.

As such, he intends for this exercise to stress and assess West Point’s preparedness, response and consequence-management plans and capabilities throughout the installation in a near-realistic, challenging and safe operating environment. The end state is the achievement of all training objectives, a more engaged and prepared community and an improvement plan that enhances our protection posture.

On April 22 and 23, specific Random Antiterrorism Measures (RAMs) for the month of April will be assessed throughout the installation. On April 22, West Point will test the MWNS, and West Point Schools, Child Development Centers and USMAPS will conduct intruder-response drills. On April 24, the “bang” occurs when a simulated active shooter attack causes chaos and mass casualties in Central Area.

Initially, all personnel are expected to respond to protection directives (e.g., lockdown), and anticipate short-term restrictions on movement and access to West Point. Please consult your organization’s Emergency Management Coordinator for specific operational impacts.

While the exercise scenario, extent of damage and level of threat are based on a hypothetical situation and are not intended as a forecast of future harmful events, they do reflect the potential threat to personnel, our Armed Forces and college campuses across the country.

This exercise—the last of several emergency preparedness exercises conducted this year, and among the most comprehensive undertaken at West Point—is part of West Point’s continuing commitment to obtaining valuable insights to guide future preparedness and response efforts.

The Command Information Channel will run an informative video entitled “Surviving an Active Shooter—LA County Sheriffs” between April 8-12.

You can obtain additional information by contacting Dr. Christopher Hennen at 938-7092 or email Christopher.g.hennen.civ@mail.mil.

Are you ready?

Army West Point Track and Field provides outreach to VA Hospital

By Class of 2019 Cadet Cassie Mundekis and 2nd Lt. Francesca Gay

Each year, as spring break rolls around, the Army West Point Track and Field team packs its bags and travels to warmer weather for its annual training trip. This year in Irvine, California, the cadets took a break from their afternoon practices to visit the Long Beach VA Medical Center.

During their guided tour of the on-ground facilities, cadets were given the opportunity to reach out to passing veterans and spend time communicating with past and present brothers and sisters in arms.

The opportunity to connect with the veterans gave cadets an appreciation of those who served before them. This experience brought joy to the eyes of the veterans who were given the chance to talk to and see the youth that will be joining the profession of arms as future Army lieutenants.

Class of 2020 Cadet Benjamin Petrella shared his experience interacting with two veterans, Marty and Donald. Naval veteran Marty was confined to a wheelchair due to blindness while Donald, who served in Vietnam, needed a walker due to a bone infection. Donald would push Marty around in his wheelchair to reach his 10,000 steps every day to maintain strength and Marty’s wheelchair would act as a walker for him to maintain balance.

Petrella recalled, “It was really cool to see how the two men worked together to make up for each other’s disabilities. They have somewhat of a shared background, they get along well, and they know they’re not a burden to one another. I wish all veterans had that kind of friendship.”

Many of the cadets found the outreach a rewarding experience and enjoyed the time connecting with the veterans.

“It was important we had this opportunity,” freshman distance runner Jamir Gibson said, “because someday that might be us. These people deserve to be respected for their sacrifices and it was rewarding to see how it boosted their morale.”

Handing out T-shirts and enthusiastically greeting the passing veterans had an evident impact on the veterans’ community.

“IT has a huge effect, I always say that the VA is not the only solution for veterans because we are only part of the continuum of care that should be there for our veterans,” Beam said.

“We can fix a broken arm, but if we have to fix someone’s smile or if we haven’t made someone feel good about who they are or what they have done, that is where you guys come in. I don’t want to look at it like it is a medicine in its traditional sense. But neither can I dismiss what it does for the souls of the people who got to see you guys.”

At the end of the outreach event, the track team toured the Fisher house, a housing facility dedicated to assisting the family members of long-term resident veterans. The interactions with veterans reminded the whole team that beyond the current mindset of training and competing lies a future of giving and sacrifice as members of the Army Officer Corps.

Lind Ferarra joined the team for the visit and spoke to our group at the conclusion of the event. Three of her sons graduated from West Point and they were all on the Army Track and Field Team. Her son, 1st Lt. Matthew Ferrara (USMA Class of 2005, Silver Star Recipient, and posthumously promoted to captain), was killed in action serving our country when he was deployed to Afghanistan in 2007. Our OIF, Todd Crowder, had the opportunity to interact and mentor Marcus Ferrara (USMA Class of 1997) during Beat when Marcus was CIC of the fast run group. Additionally, Crowder coached Matt
Colonel Cecil Marson, West Point Garrison commander, is fully aware of the stakes at hand. When it comes to the housing at West Point and the more than 700 occupied residences, it is his job to make sure the families are living in safe, clean and habitable homes.

“At the end of the day, if there are any questions about where the buck stops on housing, it is me,” Marson said during a town hall in February. “I know I will be judged on my tenure here at West Point on how I fix your housing issues. It is pretty simple to me. I have to figure it out, and I have to get it fixed.”

In the past month, the Garrison has hosted multiple town halls, leadership has stepped foot in every home on post, including some visits by Marson and Lt. Gen. Darryl A. Williams, U.S. Military Academy superintendent, and staffing has been reassigned to make sure the housing issues are being attacked head-on.

Ranging from a backlog of smaller work orders like broken doorknobs to houses with substantial issues such as mold, Marson said it is a 24/7 process between his staff and the staff at Balfour Beatty Communities, the private contractor who manages the housing on post, to make sure residents’ concerns are addressed.

Step one of a process has been to work toward hiring four new people for the government housing office. In the meantime, staff has been reassigned from other departments to the housing office to serve as stopgaps. So far, personnel from the Directorate of Public Works, the auditor’s office and the Logistics Readiness Center have been placed in the housing office.

They have been divided into three teams, along with the full-time staff in the office, to go through every part of the housing on post and rectify issues. One team is working on quality assurance and oversight control within the work order backlog. The second team is looking at the system as a whole to find where the breakdowns are. That includes the work order system, staffing levels, finances and partner incentive bonuses, which are suspended. The third team is looking at the barracks, both for cadets and enlisted Soldiers.

The four new staff members will include a housing manager and three people whose primary job will be to inspect housing and help with quality assistance and quality control. The partner has also added a resident engagement specialist who has already started.

“When the original agreements were signed, there were a certain number of people assigned to all the housing offices to fill all these critical roles to do the oversite,” Marson said. “Based on restructuring and personnel reductions, it has been a gradual descent down a hill where less and less oversite was given, and

**Upcoming SAAPM events**

- **Invisible War Screening**—7:30-9 p.m. today at Bartlett Hall/Kendrick Auditorium. The event is open to all.

- **Walk-a-Mile**—11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday at Thayer Walk area. The event is open to all.

- **Denim Day**—All day April 15. Everyone is allowed to wear denim.

- **Take Back the Night**—7:30-9 p.m. April 15 at Cullum Hall Ballroom. RSVP by Tuesday to Lt. Col. Mindy Kimball at 938-5421.

- **Heath Phillips, Survivor Story**—7:30-8:30 p.m. April 29 in USCC area and 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. April 30 in USMAPS Auditorium.

**Work continues to rectify system backlogs and significant repairs needed to on-post housing at West Point**

we got to where we are today. Unfortunately, it took this critical mass to happen, but at the end of the day the positive of it is everyone is aware, and now we are tackling these issues. We are going to get after it and get back to a solid footing on housing.”

To help identify immediate quality issues within the houses, West Point, and other posts throughout the armed forces, have partnered with Adaptiv to do third-party inspections of homes with environmental concerns and give non-biased assessments of whether there is an issue and what needs to be done to remedy it.

BBC has also begun the process of having a third-party contractor inspect all of the housing HVAC systems on post. The inspections started Monday in the vacant houses as a test and will roll out across post in the next six to nine months with priority being given to residents with prior complaints. Water lead testing is also available on a case-by-case basis with work being done at the Army level to assess the ability to do further testing.

“Fortunately to date West Point has had zero reports of elevated blood levels and the Garrison is working closely with Keller Army Community Hospital to make sure testing is available for concerned residents,” Marson said. “That said, we did some testing, and we did find some faucets in some homes on some of their sinks that did have some elevated levels of lead. We have gone in to start to mitigate those.”

The biggest issue, though, is in the work order system, Marson said. Part of the problem is the system is backlogged because there are homes with significant problems that are necessitating the use of a lot of the available resources. Marson estimated there are between 20 and 30 homes with significant issues including plumbing, water issues or mold that have to be rectified and include a full case management style approach juggling multiple parties and contractors.

The work order issues have also been exasperated because of problems with the actual system of putting in, tracking and closing work orders. A first step toward rectifying those issues went live Monday with the rolling out of BBC’s Rental Café app, which will allow residents to place, track and archive work orders. West Point is the first of BBC’s armed forces locations to have the app rollout to residents.

“If (residents) have issues, they’ve got to let us know … These things are challenging, and a lot of focus is going to help tackle these issues,” Marson said. “The residents are going to have to be patient with us and help us to make sure we get to where we need to go. We’ll do it. Our goal is to give them safe, acceptable housing and that’s what we’re working toward.”
By Brandon O’Connor, Assistant Editor

For two days, teams from throughout the world will be put to the ultimate test of endurance, leadership and military skill as they compete to earn the title of Sandhurst champion.

Sandhurst was first held in 1967 and in the years since has grown from an internal U.S. Military Academy competition to one including teams from throughout the world. This year’s competition will be held April 12-13 with teams testing their military skills against a series of grueling obstacles.

Until this year, the competition had included a team from each of West Point’s 36 companies, but a fall competition was used to select the top 12 company teams to compete in Sandhurst next weekend. West Point cadets will also compete.


As the Army prepares to fight the wars of tomorrow, the Army Cyber Institute at West Point is at the forefront of making sure American forces are ready to fight and win in a changing world.

ACI took a major step toward utilizing every resource at its disposal March 27 with the signing of a memorandum of agreement with the 335th Signal Command. The signing of the MOA formalizes a partnership that began in January and adds 10 reserve Soldiers to the ACI team to assist with cyber research during their reserve drills.

The MOA was signed by Lt. Gen. Darryl A. Williams, superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, and Maj. Gen. Peter A. Bosse, commanding general of 335th Signal Command.

The agreement enables ACI to tap into the diverse experience of the reserve Soldiers, who are top cyber experts in the reserve force.

“Ours is to fight and win thanks to the incredible work of the warriors assembled here today,” Lt. Gen. Darryl A. Williams, superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, and Maj. Gen. Peter A. Bosse, commanding general of 335th Signal Command, said.

“Tactical requirements,” Class of 2020 Cadet Daniel Archer, Company C-3 squad leader, said. “The competition will test squads on functional fitness, ruck marching ability as well as a myriad of tactical tasks so it is a constant challenge to balance these training requirements in our limited available time.”

The competition itself starts April 12, but the teams will be spending the week at West Point taking part in the Modern War Institute’s Sandhurst Conference and training for the competition. This year will also be the first time the teams are competing in a relay race to determine their start times for the first day of the competition.

“Teams will compete in what we are calling an order of march relay race,” Onischuk said. “Each squad leader selects the three fastest members of their team to compete in a relay race. It will generate a rank of 1-49, and those teams will then be able to select their starting positions for Friday.”

The relay race follows a 4.5-mile course starting at Buffalo Soldier Field, winding through post with baton passes at Michie Stadium and Keller Hospital and then ending at Quarters 100 alongside The Plain. The order of finish will determine a draft order for teams to select their start time.

“We have gone out of our way to publish the route and the information to the external teams,” Onischuk said. “We have advised them to conduct a reconnaissance of the route when they get here. We are being pretty transparent so we can, to the greatest extent, equalize any familiarity cadets might have to the terrain here. We think it is going to be pretty high drama.”

The race will take place Monday afternoon, following the Sandhurst Conference. The conference, which has been a part of Sandhurst since 2016, will include guest speakers and breakout sessions to teach competitors about Army tactics and strategy.

The external teams will have the chance to spend the rest of the week going through training to prepare for the competition. While the actual, nor even the number of, obstacles will be made available to the teams, the training is designed to help them prepare for the what they will face.

“We are sponsoring the training and resourcing it, but they are executing their own training plans,” Onischuk said. “Given the ambition to make the competition as level as possible between West Point cadets and our external teams, we go out of our way to make sure they are resourced well and have the appropriate time to reach a level of competence that is going to set them up for success.”

Friday morning, the teams will set off in 25-minute intervals starting at 6:30 a.m. on four teams stepping off from in front of Quarters 100 in each window. That will begin a competition that stretches through the night and will finish Saturday afternoon.

Last year, the Air Force Academy team claimed its first title with the Royal Military College-Canada, Sandhurst Red. University of North Georgia and West Point Gold rounding out the top five. All five of those teams are back again this year.

ACI signs MOA with 335th SC to formalize partnership

As the Army prepares to fight the wars of tomorrow, the Army Cyber Institute at West Point is at the forefront of making sure American forces are ready to fight and win in a changing world.

ACI took a major step toward utilizing every resource at its disposal March 27 with the signing of a memorandum of agreement with the 335th Signal Command. The signing of the MOA formalizes a partnership that began in January and adds 10 reserve Soldiers to the ACI team to assist with cyber research during their reserve drills.

The MOA was signed by Maj. Christopher Manuel, ACI research fellow, said. “Schools do experiences that can’t be gained through a career spent serving solely on active duty.”

“A lot of times if you look at the way people are trained, they are trained to think a certain way,” Chief Warrant Officer 4 Christopher Manuel, ACI research fellow, said. “Schools do that, and it is very hard to get outside of that box. We are out of that box. We may have learned to do things a certain way within the military, but what we do in our civilian jobs sometimes is far outside what we do in the military. I think it really is going to help the Army.”

The research teams will be working on projects including preparing cities to withstand cyberattacks to their power grids, making sure the Army is mission ready in the cyber realm and more. The current agreement is for two years, with work already underway.

“For the Army Cyber Institute, we are getting a level of expertise that we would not otherwise have,” Lt. Col. Erica Mitchell, chief of Strategy and Policy at the Army Cyber Institute, said. “Our people have been active duty since day one and continued through the Army, so we haven’t had people out working in the energy industry … It is a huge boon for my team to bring in that level of expertise.”

Lt. Gen. Darryl A. Williams, superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, and Maj. Gen. Peter A. Bosse, commanding general of 335th Signal Command, sign a memorandum of agreement between the Army Cyber Institute at West Point and the 335th Signal Command’s Army Reserve Cyber Operations Group. The memorandum formalizes a partnership between ACI and the 335th for 10 reserve Soldiers to work alongside active duty Soldiers to improve the Army’s cyber capabilities.

Bosse said the reserve Soldiers who were selected to participate in the partnership are, “The top 2 percent of the more than 700 cyber warriors we have in the Army Reserves.”
Women’s Team Handball: Army West Point Women’s Team Handball held its annual Laura Walker Memorial tournament March 22-23, starting with an opening ceremony to honor 1st Lt. Laura Walker (right) who was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2005.

The tournament featured a brigade open with a total of 10 teams comprised of cadet company teams, battalion teams, BTD, DPE and Water Polo.

Competing on both Friday and Saturday, the brigade open tournament ended with a championship game between Company I-4 and BTD that went into overtime with Co. I-4 (above) emerging as the champions.

Company C-3 battled with DPE and earned a third-place victory.
Civil War symbolically ends: Grant at Appomattox

By Sherman Fleek
USMA Historian

The siege of Petersburg, Virginia was a foreshadowing of the Great War in Europe 50 years later. There have always been trenches, barriers and sieges of castles, fortresses or cities in history, but the use of modern heavy artillery and explosives and many miles of entrenchments was new and different. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant decided to out flank the Confederates by making a risky river crossing of the James River in mid-June 1864.

Of course, Gen. George Meade, commanding the Army of the Potomac, executed it. Grant wanted to push on and capture Petersburg, a railroad hub city a few miles south of Richmond. Gen. Robert Lee was caught unaware at Cold Harbor waiting for the Federals’ next move. The Federals rapid movement and bridging of the James River was totally unexpected. Having interior lines, though, Lee was able to send some forces quickly to defend the southern approaches of Richmond.

Grant nearly took Petersburg and would have, if a subordinate commander had not been sluggish and had entered the town, which was lightly defended, the entire situation would have changed.

The opportunity to take Petersburg was gone, which would have probably caused the fall and abandonment of the Rebel capital, Richmond. Thus, the two armies entered into a stalemate of trench warfare that lasted nine months and cost tens of thousands of lives. As on the Western Front later in France, the campaign became a war of attrition, where yards cost hundreds of lives on both sides.

For the common soldiers, the fighting became a contest with no hope of victory or end in sight. Yet, there was little doubt that Lee’s weak and starving army could sustain this type of warfare very long. To Grant it was only a matter of time; he knew the end was in sight.

At 5:30 a.m. July 30, a huge explosion ripped through the Confederate lines at Petersburg, now famously called "the battle of the Crater." Union soldiers who were coal miners dug a mine shaft several hundred feet long under the enemy lines, and then denoted tons of explosives.

Though two divisions of Federal troops had trained for two weeks concerning how to enter the crater and what to do—they faltered. Then a division of U.S. Colored Troops (African-American) also entered the fray and took heavy casualties.

The Union troops during the fight, both white and black regiments, gave no quarter to many Rebels who tried to surrender. The Crater was a disaster with some 4,000 Union casualties and only 1,500 Southern men. The mastermind behind the operation, Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside, commander of the IX Corps, was relieved. The gloom of trench warfare continued. Though Grant knew of the concept and tacitly approved it, the failure was haunting.

Through the winter the lines expanded more and more to the west, until in March 1865, Lee and his forces had reached its end of endurance and men. Dozens of soldiers were deserting every day and the remaining troops were starving and disease was killing many daily.

Lee finally determined to save his army by breaking out. He planned a diversion attack at Fort Stedman while the rest of the army moved west out of the trenches. Seeing the feint, Meade counterattacked along the entire Confederate line in early April rupturing it in several places.

Lee had no choice but to abandon his earthworks and try to escape to the west. Grant had anticipated this, and the cavalry corps under Gen. Phil Sheridan was ready and defeated a force led by Gen. George Pickett at Five Forks on April 1, 1865.

Now the classic military tactic of a pursuit developed as the Federals quickly responded. Lee pushed his army west and the Federals pursued in a parallel column south of the Rebels. Other Union forces broke through the defenses at Petersburg, took the city on April 3, and then marched on Richmond and captured the capital of the Confederacy as President Jefferson Davis and his government fled.

After a week of fighting and pursuit, Lee realized that he could not out run and escape Grant’s closing column. On April 8, Grant dispatched a courier to offer surrender terms to Lee but was refused.

The next day, April 9, Lee finally succumbed to the obvious and said, "Then there is nothing left for me to do but to go and see Gen. Grant and I would rather die a thousand deaths."

At about 3 p.m., Grant and Lee met at the McLean House at Appomattox Station and a short time later, Lee surrendered his exhausted and starving army of some 50,000 men to Grant. The first thing Grant did was issue rations and medical attention to the surrendered host. The now famous image of Grant with muddy boots and informally dressed in a field uniform accepting the surrender from Lee in dress uniform with sword and sash, lives on in American memory. This was not the end of the Civil War. Other field armies and cities were yet to cease fighting or surrender, but it was the most symbolic defeat of the war.

Gens. Ulysses Grant and Robert Lee met at the McLean House at Appomattox Station at 3 p.m. April 9 and a short time later, Lee surrendered his exhausted and starving army of some 50,000 men to Grant. The first thing Grant did was issue rations and medical attention to the surrendered host. The now famous image of Grant with muddy boots and informally dressed in a field uniform accepting the surrender from Lee in dress uniform with sword and sash, lives on in American memory. This was not the end of the Civil War. Other field armies and cities were yet to cease fighting or surrender, but it was the most symbolic defeat of the war.

Editor’s note: This is the ninth article in a series on Ulysses Grant until his statue dedication at West Point on April 25.)
FEATURED ITEM

Spring Organ Recital at Cadet Chapel
Throughout the spring, West Point will offer organ recitals at the Cadet Chapel. The next recital is 2:30 p.m. Sunday by Michael Rowlands.

The following two weeks, April 14 and 21, there are no organ recitals due to Palm Sunday and Easter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Death Notice for Cadet Peter L. Zhu
Anyone with debts owed to or by the estate of Cadet Peter L. Zhu should contact Capt. Jae Y. Yu, the Summary Court officer for the Soldier.
Zhu passed away at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, New York on Feb. 28. Call Yu at 856-206-2536 or email him at jae.yu@westpoint.edu.

Highland Falls Men’s Softball League
The Highland Falls Men’s Softball League is looking for teams to add for the 2019 season. There is an approximately 20-game schedule that begins in early May and continues through early August. The games are at 6–7 p.m. Monday–Thursday.
There is flexible scheduling for games available. Contact Aaron Falk at the Recreation Department at 845-446-4280 for more details or to sign up.
League fee is $200/per team, plus $25/per game umpire fee. The deadline for sign-ups is April 15.

Yoga
TRIBE—Teach Resiliency, Increase Balance and Endurance—Yoga, is offering a weekend workshop for certified yoga teachers and active duty military who are interested in bringing the physical and mindfulness practices of yoga to the military.
This is a 12-hour course that is registered under Yoga Alliance for CEC’s. The workshop is scheduled for April 26-27 in Highland Falls.
For more details, email tribeyogamilitary@gmail.com.

EDUCATION and WORKSHOPS

Army Education Center
College courses are offered through the Army Education Center at West Point, located at 638 Buckner Loop.
Undergraduate classes:
• Mount Saint Mary College—Call Cynthia Laudato at 845-569-3252 or email cynthia.laudato@msmc.edu; and
• Saint Thomas Aquinas—Call Gina Erazo at 845-398-4102 or email gierazo@stac.edu.
Graduate studies:
• John Jay College of Criminal Justice–master’s degree in public administration—Call Jennifer Heiney at 845-446-5959 or email jheiney@jjay.cuny.edu; and
• 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.

Employee Assistance Program
West Point Garrison offers an Employee Assistance Program that provides free and confidential counseling for civilians, family members and retirees.
The program offers services from 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Monday–Friday. The EAP is located at 656 Eichelberger Road.
For details, call 845-938-1039.

DANTES testing
The Army Education Center at West Point offers academic testing programs through the Defense Education Support for Non-Traditional Education Support 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 845-938-3360 or email gwenn.t.wallace ctr@mail.mil for details or an appointment.

OUTSIDE THE GATES

Introduction to Bird ID
Join an educator from Trailside Museums & Zoo for a brief presentation at the Bear Mountain Inn and learn some new birding skills and practice them on a bird walk around Hessian Lake.
The event takes place at 9 a.m. April 20 at Bear Mountain State Park and meet in front of the Bear Mountain Inn.
It’s a family-friendly program suited for ages 10 and up.
Registration is required. For more details and registration, email Courtney.Larson@parks.ny.gov or call 845-786-2701, ext. 29.

22nd annual Cornwall-on-Hudson RiverFest
The Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson will host its 22nd annual RiverFest from 11 a.m.–6 p.m. June 2. As always, RiverFest 2019 will be held at Donahue Park along the Hudson River and will feature a full day of music and entertainment, children’s activities and a large craft and food fair.
The day’s events will also include live bands, kayaking, food stands and non-profit groups and contributors.
RiverFest is currently accepting vendor applications. Applications can be downloaded from www.riverfest.com and will be accepted until all spaces are filled.
There is no charge for RiverFest, and all are invited. Visit www.riverfest.com for up to date information.

AWANA Program
Join the AWANA Program to learn more about God, memorize bible verses, game time and fun.
The program is scheduled from 4:15-5:45 p.m. Sunday evenings for Kindergarten-12th grade at the Youth Center and 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds at the Post Chapel Nursery.
The program runs through May 5. For details, contact Jane Kimbell at jvkimanacita@gmail.com.

Grace Baptist Church of Highland Falls services
The West Point family is invited to attend any and all services at the Grace Baptist Church, located at 54 Old State Road, in Highland Falls. The church is close to Thayer Gate.
The church holds services on Sunday morning (Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service at 11 a.m.), Sunday evening (6 p.m.), and Wednesday evening (7 p.m.), as well as seasonal Bible studies for men, women and college-aged young people. Transportation is provided as needed.
For details on the Grace Baptist Church, visit www.gracebaptistny.org.

Holy Innocents Thrift Shop in Highland Falls
The Highland Falls Holy Innocents Thrift Shop at 401 Main Street, Highland Falls, is open to the public. The shop is open Wednesdays 3:30-5:30 p.m., Thursdays 9 a.m.–1 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Armed Forces Day Community Ceremony
SIFT through the DA and DLI. Tests are free of charge to Soldiers. Call the testing center at 845-938-3360 or email gwenn.t.wallace ctr@mail.mil for details or an appointment.

Army Career Skills Program
The Army’s Career Skills Program (CSP) prepares Soldiers for civilian employment through first-class apprenticeships, on-the-job training, job shadowing, internships and employment skills training. Soldiers are eligible to participate in an Army CSP up to 180 days prior to separation from the Army and after completion of the mandatory five-day SFL-TAP workshop.
The use of permissive temporary duty (PTDY) to attend a CSP more than 50 miles away from the Soldier’s duty station may be granted at the commander’s discretion.
Interested transitioning service members can contact Drew Mierwa at drew.m.mierwa ctr@mail.mil or stop by the Army Education Center from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Monday-Friday.
FEATURED EVENT

West Point Brew Fest 2019
Join MWR for its third annual West Point Brew Fest from 7-10 p.m. April 12 at the West Point Club.
A special VIP hour is from 6-7 p.m. Vote for your favorite local and national brews. However, the VIP section is sold out. Enjoy live music by the Benny Havens Band.
There is a nominal fee for this event. To register online, visit thewestpointclub.com.

JUST ANNOUNCED

NAF Property Sealed Bid Sale
A Nonappropriated fund bid sale is open for excess golf ground equipment to include: Slasco Speed Roller, Toro Hydrojector and Aerifier.
Viewing dates are Monday and Tuesday and can be viewed at the Golf Maintenance Building 1223, Route 9W North.
Items are sold “as is,” with no refunds or guarantees. Bids must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., April 12. Submit your bid in an envelope to FMWR, Attention Services Division, Building 681, Room 206, West Point, NY 10996.
For more details, call 845-938-4632.

Indoor Firearm Shooting now available at West Point
Come on down to the Tronsrue Marksmanship Center today. The center is located at 665 Tower Road, adjacent to the Gillis Field House. Hours of operation are 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday-Friday.
Recreational shooting is open to all DOD cardholders and their guests. We have gun rentals, ammunition and targets for sale. For more details and to register, call 845-938-1700 or visit westpoint.armymwr.com.

FOR THE ADULTS

Walk-a-Mile in Observance of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM)
Take a little time out of your day to support a worthy cause. The Walk-a-Mile will be held from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday. The walk starts and ends at the Thayer Statue area on The Plain. Open to all members of the West Point Community.
For more details, call 845-938-5657.

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater is back at the West Point Club
The first event of 2019 with the Murder Mystery Dinner is scheduled for April 26 and themed “Springtime for Murder.” Enjoy Hors d’oeuvres and cash bar at 7 p.m., dinner and show at 7:45 p.m. There is a nominal fee for this event.
Reserve online today at thewestpointclub.com. For more details, call 845-446-5504.

Champagne Sunday Brunch
Join the West Point Club for the Champagne Sunday Brunch. Sunday Brunch is from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Pierce Dining Room and runs through Nov. 17.

101 Spin Basics with Paul
A 101 Spin Basics class with Paul is scheduled at 5:40 a.m. on Wednesdays at the MWR Fitness Center Spin Room.
Paul will look at everything in and out of the saddle, from good fit to good position to good form.
For more details, call 845-938-6490.

Breakfast returns to the West Point Club’s Bistro 603
Stop by on your way to class or the office and check out the West Point Club’s Bistro 603.
Breakfast is served from 7-10 a.m. Monday through Friday.
For a complete menu, visit thewestpointclub.com. For more details, call 845-938-5120.

FOR THE FAMILIES

Morgan Farm Summer Riding Camps
Registration opens Friday for Morgan Farm Summer Riding Camps. The camps begin June 24. There are five-day and three-day camps offered for ages 5 and up. For more details, call 845-938-3926.

Morgan Farm Open to the Public
Morgan Farm offers birthday parties and horseback riding lessons, so come check out the farm today.
Host your child’s next birthday party at Morgan Farm with three different party packages to fit your budget.
Morgan Farm also offers riding lessons for beginner through advanced riders. These lessons are suitable for ages 5 and up. Horse boarding is available at the stables for a nominal fee.
For more details, call 938-3926.

Round Pond Recreation Area open for the season
The Round Pond Recreation Area is now open through November and is located off Route 293, only three miles from Washington Gate. Hours of operation are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday.
For more details, call 845-938-2503 or visit MWR on the web at westpoint.armymwr.com.

Part Day Preschool Openings
Spaces are still available in the Stony Child Development Center Tuesday and Thursday session of Part Day Preschool.
For more details, call 845-938-4458.

Early Childhood & School Age Hourly Care
Lee Area CYS Facility has space available for hourly care for ages 6 weeks to 5 years and Kindergarten through fifth grade. The mission is to provide a variety of experiences for children through planned developmentally appropriate activities.
Reservations can be made through WebTrac. There is a nominal fee for this service.
For information on dates and times, call 938-8525.

Early Childhood & School Age Hourly Care
Lee Area CYS Facility has space available for hourly care for ages 6 weeks to 5 years and Kindergarten through fifth grade. The mission is to provide a variety of experiences for children through planned developmentally appropriate activities.
Reservations can be made through WebTrac. There is a nominal fee for this service.
For more details, call 845-938-8530/0941.

FOR THE YOUTHS

Month of the Military Child Kickoff event
April is the Month of the Military Child. A fun-filled event, hosted by Child and Youth Services, in conjunction with West Point Family Homes, is scheduled from 3-6:30 p.m. April 5 at the West Point Housing Community Center.
There will be games, art and crafts, popcorn, cotton candy, hot dogs and face painting. For more details, call 845-938-3969.

School Age Center Summer Camp Registration ongoing
School Age Center Summer Camp is back. Summer Camp placement is ongoing at MilitaryChildCare.com. The Summer Camp program will be from 6 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 17-Aug. 26.
For more details, call 845-938-4458/0939.

CYS Services Needs Sports Coaches
CYS Sports is looking for coaches for our following spring programs: running club, flag football, recreational basketball, recreational soccer and modified track and field.
For information on dates and times, call 938-8525.

Wee Ones Open Play Group
The Wee Ones Open Play Group is scheduled from 9:30-11 a.m., April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6, 13, 20; June 3, 10, 17 and 24 at the Youth Center Building 500.
Wee Ones Open Play Group is designed for your little one to play, learn and make new friends. Simple drop-in and play. Wee Ones invites children, birth through four years of age, and their parents. No charge for participation. Visit our Facebook page for weekly reminders and pictures.
For more details, call 845-938-0629.

Wee Ones Reading Group
The Wee Ones Reading Group is scheduled from 10:30-11:30 a.m. April 4, 18, May 2, 16; June 6, and 20 at the ACS Building 622 Conference Room.
Each session, the Wee Ones invites you to listen to a story and participate in themed, fun-filled activities that promote speech development and learning. Wee Ones invites children, birth through four years of age, and their parents. No charge for participation. Visit its Facebook page for weekly reminders and pictures.
For more details, call 845-938-0629.
Keller Corner

KACH to recognize Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month

KACH will recognize Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month (SAAPM) throughout April with social media posts, participation in West Point’s Denim Day and a speaker event.

The Keller Facebook page will provide SAAPM information every Thursday in an effort to not only reduce, but eliminate sexual assaults and rape... “One is one too many.”

Keller is scheduled to provide a SAAPM information table, in the Pharmacy/Laboratory waiting area, on April 15. Keller will join the West Point community in raising awareness during the “Walk A Mile” event on Wednesday and will participate in West Point’s recognition of “Denim Day.”

Additionally, Keller will welcome Heath Phillips, a military sexual assault victim, during our speaker event at 11 a.m. April 30 at the USMAPS Auditorium.

Phillips has chosen to be a speaker to relay his life, the effects it has had on him, the obstacles he had/must overcome and, most importantly, educate our military with regards to the damage sexual assault and hazing does to anyone (to include males).

The discussion will include sexual terms that may not be appropriate for young children.

KACH recognizes Autism Awareness Month

Keller Army Community Hospital will recognize Autism Awareness Month throughout April with social media posts and information tables.

The Keller Facebook page will provide Autism Awareness information every Monday in an effort to promote autism awareness, inclusion and self-determination for all, and to assure that each person with autism spectrum disorder is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life.

Keller’s Educational & Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) staff has scheduled information tables at Keller’s Primary Care Department (April 16), Lee CDC (April 17) and Stony CDC (April 18).

The EDIS staff will be readily available to answer your questions, schedule and conduct an evaluation to determine an accurate diagnosis, and assist in improving resiliency and the quality of life for families with special needs.

KACH Nutrition Care provides weight management sessions

Are you looking to establish a healthier “You” in 2019? KACH’s Nutrition Care Department can assist you with focusing on weight management.

The Nutrition Care team, which includes dieticians, can assist you with a comprehensive weight management program with a goal of assisting with making permanent changes to your diet, sleeping and activity habits to promote long-term weight loss success.

To schedule an appointment with someone from the Nutrition Care Department, call 845-938-7992 (KACH appointment line) or 845-938-2374 (Nutrition Care Department).

KACH Substance Use Disorder Clinic open

The KACH’s Substance Use Disorder Clinic Care (SUDCC) is open to cadets, active duty service members and beneficiaries who are interested in seeking help independently.

The clinic provides substance use disorder clinical care, including assessment, education, treatment, rehabilitation and aftercare, for cadets, service members and other beneficiaries within an integrated medical and behavioral health model to enhance health and readiness.

It is preferred to have individuals seek education and treatment on their own, in hopes to prevent them from possibly experiencing an alcohol or drug related incident. Seeking education and treatment independently does not require command involvement or an official enrollment into the program.

The SUDCC is located in Building 656 and you can schedule an appointment by walking in from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday or calling 845-938-7691.

MOVIES at MAHAN

Theatre schedule at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752.

Friday—“Dumbo,” PG; 7:30 p.m.
Saturday—“A Madea Family Funeral,” PG-13; 7:30 p.m.
April 12—“How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World,” PG; 7:30 p.m.
April 13—“The Prodigy,” R; 7:30 p.m.
April 13—“Greta,” R; 9:30 p.m.

(For movie details and updated schedules, visit http://www.aafes.com/exchange-stores/Movie-Guide/showtimes-West-Point.htm.)

Earth Day 2019

Presented by the Highland Falls Library
And Community Garden at Holy Innocents

April 27, 2019 10 am - 2 pm at The Highland Falls Library

2019 Palm Sunday, Holy Week & Easter at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Chapel

- 5 p.m., April 13: Mass
- 10:30 a.m., April 14: Palm Sunday
- 5 p.m., April 14: Mass
- 7 p.m., April 18: Mass of the Lord’s Supper
- 7 p.m., April 19: Good Friday Service
- 9 p.m., April 20: Easter Vigil
- 10:30 a.m., April 21: Easter Sunday Mass

Exhibits, Give Aways
- Composting and Recycling Information
- Gardening Activities for the whole family
- What about Solar?
- Make a Poster for the Library
- How to Save on Energy Costs

For more information contact Olga Anderson 917-509-1200
Olga.anderson2gmail.com
West Point Tax Center is accepting new returns/drop offs through Friday

By Capt. Hilarie Wiley
Legal Assistance Attorney
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

The West Point Tax Center is currently operating on the fourth floor of Building 606. Hours of operations are 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Currently, the center’s last date when it will be accepting new returns/drop-offs this year is Friday.

Additionally, instead of scheduling appointments, all patrons (except for cadet candidates) will come in person to pick up paperwork to complete.

This paperwork will be available in Building 606 in the hallway outside of regular hours of operations for those who need this flexibility.

After filling out the forms, patrons will meet with a tax preparer, who will review the paperwork for completeness before accepting it.

Clients will leave the paperwork with the preparer and when the tax return is complete, they will be notified to return a second time to sign their tax return and receive a copy of the return for their records.

This year, eligible patrons of the tax center will be limited to include:

• Cadets, cadet candidates and gold-star families and also:
  • Active duty service members and retirees and their dependents who meet the following six qualifications:
    (1) Taxable income was under $100,000;
    (2) Do not itemize deductions;
    (3) Did not receive income from their own business or farm;
    (4) Did not receive income from more than one rental property;
    (5) Did not receive self-employment income or alimony;
    (6) Are not required to file Schedule D for capital gains.
  If you are eligible for services at the West Point Tax Center and the center did not prepare your 2017 tax return, then please bring a copy of your 2017 tax return with you.
  If you are ineligible for services at the West Point Tax Center, then please consider using one of the following alternative free services:
  • Military OneSource MilTax (www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/tax-services or 800-342-9647);
  • IRS Free File Program (www.irs.gov/individuals/military);
  • TaxSlayer Military (www.taxslayer.com/efile/discount-military-tax-filing);

If you have questions, contact Capt. Hilarie Wiley at hilarie.wiley@westpoint.edu.

Pet Fire Safety

Pets give us comfort, friendship, and unconditional love. Our connection to them can be among the strongest relationships in our lives. But pets can cause fires. We need to be careful with pets in the home.

SAFETY TIPS

• Pets are curious. They may bump into, turn on, or knock over cooking equipment. Keep pets away from stoves and countertops.
• Keep pets away from candles, lamps, and space heaters.
• Always use a metal or heat tempered glass screen on a fireplace and keep it in place.
• Keep pets away from a chimney's outside vents. Have a "pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from the fireplace. Glass doors and screens can stay dangerously hot for several hours after the fire goes out.
• Consider battery operated, flameless candles. They can look and smell like real candles.
• Some pets are chewers. Watch pets to make sure they don't chew through electrical cords. Have any problems checked by a professional.

SMOKE ALARMS

• Have working smoke alarms on every level of the home. Test your smoke alarms at least once a month.
• If the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.
• Never go back inside for pets in a fire. Tell firefighters if your pet is trapped.

West Point Band presents “American Tapestry” in Connecticut

By the West Point Band

The West Point Band will continue its Masterworks Concert Series with a performance titled “American Tapestry” at 2 p.m. Sunday in Ridgefield, Connecticut. The concert will take place at Ridgefield High School, located at 700 North Salem Road.

This concert is free and open to all; no tickets are required.

Join the West Point Band for this family-friendly performance of music by some of your favorite American composers, from Aaron Copland’s famous Hoe-Down to selections from “The Patriot” by John Williams.

An entertaining mix of patriotic fare is complemented by the virtuosic prowess of featured soloists Staff Sgt. Andrew Dougherty on Bruce Broughton’s “Tuba Concerto,” and Staff Sgt. Manuel Ramos on Weber’s “Concertino, Op. 26” for clarinet.

Bring your family and friends for an afternoon of musical treasures performed by the Army’s oldest band.

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 845-938-2617 or visit www.westpointband.com. West Point Band news can also be found by following us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter.

New Program at West Point

USAG West Point Leadership hotline
Call 845-674-7693

*This hotline will be monitored 24/7 by a member of the West Point Garrison leadership team.
Late surge helps Women’s Lacrosse defeat Lehigh

By Matt Tedino
Army Athletic Communications

The Army West Point Women’s Lacrosse team finished on a 5-1 run to claim the program’s first-ever victory over Patriot League foe Lehigh with a 15-13 win March 30 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

It was a high-scoring affair as the Black Knights (9-3, 2-2 Patriot League) needed double-digit goals to leave the Lehigh Valley with a 15-13 win against the Mountain Hawks (4-7, 0-4 Patriot League).

The Cadets were in an early hole, but the scoring efforts of sophomore attack Jackie Brattan, freshman attack Caroline Raymond and junior midfielder Samantha Stewart propelled Army to its second consecutive league win. The trio combined for 13 of the team’s 15 goals as Raymond and Brattan posted five apiece, while Stewart added three.

Stewart also played a pivotal role as a distributor, handing out a team-best three assists for six points.

Army highlights and game notes

- Brattan tallied five or more goals for the second straight outing.
- The sophomore needed just seven shots to reach her scoring total.
- It was her eighth hat trick of the season.
- She became the first Cadet in program history to record five or more goals in back-to-back contests.
- Raymond’s five goals was a career high.
- The rookie posted just her second hat trick of the year and is now tied for ninth in all-time scoring with 22 career goals.
- Brattan and Raymond are the first duo in program history to both score five or more goals in a game.
- Stewart notched the fifth hat trick of her junior campaign.
- Her three assists moved her to fourth all-time.
- Junior defenseman Taylor Korpela led the Army defense with three caused turnovers, which was a career high.
- Junior attack Juliana Dworschak won six draw controls.
- Freshman attack Olivia Carter handed out two helpers.
- Army put 21 of its 28 shots on goal.
- The Black Knights were 13-of-15 on clears.

How it happened

- Lehigh opened the game by winning the draw control and scoring the first goal of the night at the 28:54 mark. Less than 20 seconds later, Army answered once Raymond drove past her defender and toward the goal, before ripping a shot into the back of the net.
- The Mountain Hawks wasted no time recapturing the lead and used a 4-0 run to take the advantage. The run came to an end once Carter found junior midfielder Rilee Scott in front of the net for the easy Army score that trimmed the deficit to three, 6-4. Lehigh would get that goal right back, but with 25:58 left to play, Brattan and Stewart powered Army to a 3-0 run. That run gave the Black Knights their first lead of the game, 10-9.
- Several minutes passed before Lehigh got back on the scoreboard and a 3-0 run allowed the Mountain Hawks to regain the lead.
- The run came to a halt once Raymond scored her third goal of the night with 17:25 remaining, cutting the deficit to one, 12-11. The rookie’s goal sparked a timely 5-0 run that helped the Cadets go ahead, 15-12, with 5:01 on the clock.
- Lehigh defense, found a lane and flew to the goal before putting one into the back of the net, cutting the Mountain Hawks’ lead to two, 6-4.
- The two sides traded a pair of goals in the remaining 10:20 of the stanza and went into the half with Lehigh on top, 8-6.
- Raymond got the Black Knights going in the second half with an early score. Lehigh would get that goal right back, but with 25:58 left to play, Brattan and Stewart powered Army to a 3-0 run. That run gave the Black Knights their first lead of the game, 10-9.
- Several minutes passed before Lehigh got back on the scoreboard and a 3-0 run allowed the Mountain Hawks to regain the lead.
- The run came to a halt once Raymond scored her third goal of the night with 17:25 remaining, cutting the deficit to one, 12-11. The rookie’s goal sparked a timely 5-0 run that helped the Cadets go ahead, 15-12, with 5:01 on the clock.
- Lehigh managed to get one more goal in the closing minutes, but junior goaltender Maddie Burns and the Army defense prevented any further damage.
Women’s Tennis falls to Navy in ‘Star’ Match

By Stephen Waldman
Army Athletic Communications

The Army West Point Women’s Tennis team fought hard against service-academy rival Navy in the annual Star Match but dropped a 4-3 decision to the Midshipmen March 30 at the Malek Tennis Center.

The Black Knights fell to 15-6 on the season and 4-1 in the Patriot League, while the Midshipmen improved to 20-6 and 3-0 in league play.

Army captured the doubles point for the 17th time this season following freshmen Stephanie Dolehide and Caroline Vincent’s decisive win in the top flight.

Navy managed to take four of the six singles matches, however, with Meghana Komarraju clinching the match for the Mids on court five.

How it happened
Singles
1. Sophomore Ana Joyner def. Ansofi Wreder, 6-0, 6-2;
2. Kaylah Hodge def. senior Kirby Einck, 6-3, 6-2;
3. Freshman Caroline Vincent def. Annalise Klopfer, 1-6, 7-5, 7-5;
4. Katreina Corpuz def. freshman Stephanie Dolehide, 6-3, 6-4;
5. Meghana Komarraju def. freshman Paola Bou, 6-4, 7-5;

Doubles
1. Freshmen Stephanie Dolehide/Caroline Vincent def. Amanda Cyr/Catalina Rico, 6-3;
2. Aimee Dervishian/Annalise Klopfer def. senior Melanie Allen/sophomore Ana Joyner, 6-1;
3. Freshman Sam DiMaio/senior Kirby Einck def. Miranda Deng/Kaylah Hodge, 6-1.

Army highlights and game notes
• Army won the doubles point for the 17th time in 21 matches this spring.
• The Black Knights are 15-2 in 2019 when winning the doubles point.
• DiMaio and Dolehide won the 10th doubles match of their rookie campaigns.
• Einck notched her 10th doubles win of the year as the senior captain improved to 7-1 in doubles dual action.
• Joyner evened her singles dual record at 6-6 with her second straight win over Navy in the top flight.
• Vincent improved to 4-3 in singles duals with her first-career win at the No. 3 position.

Freshman Stephanie Dolehide (above) teamed with freshman Caroline Vincent to win No. 1 doubles, 6-3, against their Navy rivals March 30 at Malek Tennis Courts. Navy would go on to win the “Star” Match 4-3 over Army West Point.

Photos by Eric S. Bartelt/PV
Strong pitching, hitting leads Army Softball to series win

By Stephen Waldman
Army Athletic Communications

A strong pitching performance by senior pitcher Renee Poirier of the Army West Point Softball team and a balanced offensive effort guided the Black Knights to an 8-0 run-rule victory in the series finale Sunday at Lafayette in Easton, Pennsylvania.

The Black Knights, who improved to 15-19 on the season and 4-2 in Patriot League play, received a stellar pitching performance from Poirier in the circle as the Plainville, Massachusetts, native struck out seven over five innings of work while allowing just two hits.

The offense was clicking early and often as the visitors slugged nine hits on the afternoon, including a Taylor Drayton home run and a double by sophomore catcher Ally Snelling. Snelling boasted a game-high three hits with her double to go along with a walk, run scored and RBI. Drayton drove in a team-high three runs in the game as well.

How it happened

* Sophomore leftfielder Drayton spotted the Black Knights a two-run lead before Lafayette had an at-bat with a two-run homer in the Army pitcher. 
* Drayton collected her third RBI of the game with a sacrifice fly to score Livingston before a Snelling single plated Yoo. 
* The Black Knights continued their relentless attack in the fifth when junior designated player Emily Ballesteros slashed a single to left that scored freshman pinch runner Tessa Leman to make it a 6-0 game. 
* The Clayton, N.C., native became the fifth Cadet to record double-digit RBI this season as she brought her 2019 total to 12. 
* Yoo led off the second with three consecutive hits that included a double by sophomore catcher Ally Snelling. Snelling tied Yoo for the team lead with her eighth multi-hit effort and recorded her first two league series.

Drayton slugged her third home run of the season, joining rookie rightfielder Bianca Gonzalez.

* Poirier took over sole possession of 10th place on Army's all-time wins list, breaking a tie with Kristen West with her 29th career victory.
* Drayton set the tone early with a big two-run home run in the first inning. And we did a nice job of playing offense and extending that lead in the second.
* The Black Knights continued their relentless attack in the fifth when junior designated player Emily Ballesteros slashed a single to left that scored freshman pinch runner Tessa Leman to make it a 6-0 game.

Coaches' corner

* Interim head coach Bob Beretta—“I was very pleased with the mindset we brought into (Sunday’s) game. We had a much better approach at the plate from the moment we stepped off the bus. Taylor Drayton set the tone early with a big two-run home run in the first inning. And we did a nice job of playing offense and extending that lead in the second.
* “I thought Renee (Poirier) was dominant. She was overpowering throughout the game in difficult weather conditions. It was cold, windy and rainy, and none of it seemed to bother our club today. We brought a championship mindset to the field and just kept attacking.

Senior pitcher Renee Poirier of the Army West Point Softball team guided the Black Knights with a strong pitching effort to an 8-0 run-rule victory in the series finale Sunday at Lafayette in Easton, Pa. Poirier, a Plainville, Mass., native struck out seven over five innings of work while allowing just two hits.

Renee epitomized that. She located four pitches for strikes and was unhittable for most of the day. She also ripped a single, stole a base and scored a big run for us in the second inning. I couldn’t be happier for her. She really seems to be rounding back into form.”

* “Hopefully Sunday’s performance will carry over and we can get on a run. We’ve been so close to taking off all year. We seem ready for that to happen now.”

Sports calendar

Corps Squad

Friday 4 p.m. — Men’s Tennis vs. Boston University, Malek Tennis Courts or Lichtenberg Tennis Center.

Saturday Noon — Baseball vs. Lehigh (DH), Doubleday Field.

Noon — Softball vs. Colgate (DH), Army Softball Complex.

Noon — Men’s Lacrosse vs. Boston University, Michie Stadium.

3 p.m. — Women’s Lacrosse vs. Lafayette, Michie Stadium.

Sunday 10 a.m. — Men’s Tennis vs. Lehigh, Malek Tennis Courts or Lichtenberg Tennis Center.

Noon — Softball vs. Colgate, Army Softball Complex.

Noon — Baseball vs. Lehigh, Doubleday Field.

Wednesday 3:30 p.m. — Softball vs. Marist (DH), Army Softball Complex.


Noon — Baseball vs. Lafayette (DH), Doubleday Field.

1 p.m. — Men’s Tennis vs. Navy, Malek Tennis Courts or Lichtenberg Tennis Center.

**View the upcoming Army West Point Black Knights Schedule at www.goarmywestpoint.com/calendar.aspx?vType=list.