Army romps to bowl win

The Army West Point Football team (above) gathers with the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl trophy after its 70-14 romp over the University of Houston Dec. 22 in Fort Worth, Texas. (Right) Excitement rushed through the Army contingent during the game as Superintendent Lt. Gen. Darryl A. Williams took his turn banging the drum with the Cadet Spirit Band. See Page 11 for the story on Army West Point’s bowl victory.

Photos by Class of 2019 Cadet Hallie Pound
The New Year means big changes for the U.S. Military Academy as it makes upgrades to its website, network and cyber presence.

Changes have slowly been rolling out over the last few months as the academy started the transition from USMA.edu email addresses to WestPoint.edu addresses operated through Microsoft’s Office 365 platform.

The transition to Office 365 will allow cadets, faculty and staff to collaborate on projects and share information anytime, anywhere and on any device through the cloud rather than being restricted to network capable devices.

“Security is paramount, but we also think that enabling IT in a way that people can work in the environment that we are used to now, which is work anywhere on any device, we are getting closer and closer to that as time passes,” Col. Edward Teague, West Point’s chief information officer, said.

West Point is currently serving as a pilot program for the Army by switching its network and email from Department of Defense controlled systems to commercially owned and operated ones.

The wholesale changes were instigated in the summer of 2015 after consistent problems plagued West Point’s email and network systems. While trying to fix the immediate problems, Teague said they dug deeper and realized that the consistent issues and tight security measures were impacting the way West Point did business and its ability to compete with peer universities such as Harvard, Yale and Stanford.

The process of fixing the issues began in earnest in November 2016 and will continue for the next three to five years as West Point adds more network lines while going from .Mil systems to .Edu systems, rolls out a new cloud-based email, overhauls its website and more.

“We are the Army’s only university, so my peers are Penn State, Harvard and Yale. My peer is not the POLITICO 18th Airborne Corps. I have to set the staff, faculty and cadets up here for success by giving them appropriate IT that is commensurate with the number one public university in the United States,” Teague said.

“We identified that there was a divide between what we needed to do as a university, as an academy, when you think about the university education missions versus what has to happen to be a military unit on a military network.”

The goal of the program, along with setting up West Point for success, is to serve as a model to the Army of what can be accomplished using commercial systems instead of building and running everything in house. West Point’s changes will take place throughout fiscal year 2019, then be optimized in fiscal year 2020, before collecting and analyzing data on the changes starting in fiscal year 2021.

“They are curious about what is a core competency. It made a lot of sense for us to manage our own email system a long time ago because not a lot of people had it and you couldn’t really buy something off the shelf. Now you can,” Teague said. “We are looking at what are those core competencies that the Army doesn’t have to be in charge of. I submit that email is one of them. I submit that websites are another and storage. These are commodities that you should be able to buy.”

The biggest change to an outside observer will be the new academy website. The completely revamped site was launched Dec. 20 at the web address WestPoint.edu, part of a branding transition from USMA to West Point.

The website redesign breaks free of the Army division mold of being a static site with basic information to a living site that is updated and used as your home for everything you need to know about the academy.

“It has taken considerable work to get to this point and has been a massive team effort from the entire academy,” Maj. Ireka Sanders, deputy director of Public Affairs, said of the new website. “It is exciting to finally see ‘Westpoint.edu’ come to fruition. It is also only the beginning. Every day, the site will be refined and improved to become better, stronger and more precise in hitting our communications objectives.”

Starting this month and continuing through 2019, West Point will also be breaking free from the DOD controlled .Mil network onto a commercially managed .Edu network. The network will be the same one used by Stanford and the New York higher education system, Teague said.

The goal with the changes is to enable cadets, faculty and staff to be competitive with their peers by having access to sites and information they need without facing the restrictions of a DOD network.

As part of the changes, they are also upgrading wireless capabilities throughout the academy, particularly in the barracks, to enable cadets to collaborate without being tied down to a wired connection.

The network changes are also part of the pilot program, which will demonstrate to the Army the ability to secure a cloud-based system, while at the same time enabling a free flow of ideas and greater accessibility.

“What we need is security that enables us,” Teague said. “It is the difference between identifying that there is risk outside so we shouldn’t go outside because it is big and dark and scary and it is big and dark and scary out there so I am going to put myself in a tank and I am going to do what I want, how I want and where I want. That is the kind of security we are going for.”

West Point has the advantage, unlike units in the field, of not handling classified information on a regular basis, which allows more network freedom. Teague said the end goal though is to enable the wider Army to expand its capability on building what on West Point is doing and ways to secure it to a greater extent.
Twenty-four members of the Class of 2018 graduate in December

By Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

Every year, West Point holds four graduation ceremonies, the traditional graduation in May and secondary graduations in June, August and December for those who were hindered by medical, academic or military challenges. This year’s December graduation was Dec. 21 with 24 Class of 2018 cadets graduating at Robinson Hall.

Although there is some disappointment and temporary disillusionment of not being able to graduate with their whole class, most come to the decision to continue because in the end, it is all worth it.

“It’s exciting that I finally made it,” Class of 2018 Cadet Charles Anderson said. “I wanted this commission so much that it was worth the wait.”

Anderson is an engineering graduate and his first post is at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

“I’m excited, it is just part of the journey,” Class of 2018 Cadet James Dobson said. Dobson graduated but will not be commissioned due to a medical disqualification.

“It can be real like that sometimes,” Dobson said.

Members of the Class of 1968, the 50-year affiliate class for the Class of 2018 were on hand in support of the graduates.

Dean of the Academic Board Brig. Gen. Cindy Jebb presented diplomas and commissioning bars to the graduates and spoke to the Class of 2018 in her graduation speech.

“I am honored to preside over this special occasion and I am very proud of our latest soon-to-be graduates and officers who have successfully completed the challenging leader development that West Point delivers,” Jebb said. “To our graduating cadets, I know you must be very excited to meet today’s benchmark. Graduation from West Point is a special occasion and you have much to be proud of. Today’s ceremony is a fitting day to years of physical, intellectual and military preparations. You persevered and congratulations. You are here.”

Jebb thanked the family, friends, staff and faculty in the audience for their support for the graduating cadets.

“There is a team of people behind every cadet,” Jebb said. “And we greatly appreciate all you have done to get them ready for today.”

Upon graduation, the Class of 2018 is entering a world of uncertainty with a constantly changing Army and Jebb advised the cadets to “embrace that uncertainty, it is the space in which you will thrive.

“And the journey you are about to undertake, you might heed the few words of Sir Edmond Hillary, the man who first conquered Mount Everest.”

While on top of Everest, I looked across the valley towards the great peak Makalu and mentally worked out a route about how it could be climbed. It showed me that even though I was standing on top of the World, it wasn’t the end of everything. I was still looking beyond to other interesting challenges.”

“You have taken on a challenge and climbed many mountains during your time as a cadet,” Jebb said. “As you celebrate your graduation, you should pause and appreciate how the West Point experiences have prepared you for your coming challenges.”
A great warrior reflects on 36-year career

By Brandon O’Connor
Assistant Editor

For more than 400 days in the Kunar Province of Afghanistan, Col. William Ostlund refused to let himself cry.

A lieutenant colonel at the time, Ostlund was the battalion commander for Task Force Rock, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade. Six hours into a 425-day tour in an area partially dubbed both the Valley of Death and the Valley of Fire, the battalion lost its first Soldier.

Hours after he assumed command of the area, Ostlund’s Soldiers found themselves in a firefight where their youngest paratrooper was killed. Pvt. Timothy Vimoto, the son of the unit’s Brigade Sergeant Major, was the first of 26 Soldiers killed and 143 wounded as they faced nearly daily combat and more than 1,000 contacts with the enemy during their tour.

Through each of the phone calls to the deceased Soldiers’ families, sometimes as many as five calls per Soldier, Ostlund held his emotions in check. As he made those calls, other Soldiers under his command were risking their lives in battles of their own, waging the war they were trained to fight and doing the job they had volunteered to perform.

A father to three boys of his own, Ostlund, who led six combat tours during his Army career, would adopt the Soldiers under his command as his sons and daughters.

Standing in an auditorium prior to their tour of duty he’d lay it bare for them and his family, when they were deployed his attention and his duty was to those he was charged with caring for, always ready, and, “move further, faster and fight harder than any other Soldier.”

“I have killed enemies of our country who threatened our way of life—with no remorse. I’m responsible for killing innocents and for that I am sorry,” he said. “Morally, I don’t take it as a game. I make the comment, ‘I am the only one on the blame line here.’ I haven’t got a pass on the Ten Commandments. There is a day when I’ve got to reconcile with that.”

Ostlund, currently the director of Military Instruction at the U.S. Military Academy, will retire following a 36-year Army career at the end of February bringing to an end what he refers to as his “decades long passionate affair with the Army.” That affair has left scars that Ostlund said he will now spend the second phase of his life atoning for, while at the same time he continues to work to serve the Army and the Soldiers and cadets he worked with in a new way.

“Bill is without a doubt one of the finest officers I ever worked with,” retired Adm. William H. McRaven said. “He is incredibly talented, both tactically and strategically. You can always, always count on him in tough times. As my executive officer, he brought all those qualities to the job. He never hesitated to tell me the truth and his advice and council was exactly what I needed when I needed it.”

Growing up in the 1970s in the post-Vietnam War era, Ostlund spent his free time reading every book he could about being an infantry Soldier. He originally tried to join the Marines, but when they couldn’t guarantee him a spot in Ranger school and joined the 1st Ranger Battalion earning the scroll he has worn on his arm ever since. The day he arrived with the 1st Rangers, the unit jumped into Granada as he waited for them back home.

He served for four years as an enlisted Soldier straight out of high school before switching to the Army National Guard, enrolling in ROTC and pursuing a college degree in order to become a commissioned officer at the advice of his mentors.

On Aug. 1, 1990, he arrived at his first post as a second lieutenant with the 101st Airborne Division, then the world changed. On Aug. 2, Iraq invaded Kuwait and on Aug. 7 Ostlund and the 101st got orders that they would be deploying to the Middle East as part of Desert Storm.

There was no time to prepare, and the unit, which hadn’t been deployed since Vietnam, was not ready. The unit deployed to Saudi Arabia on Sept. 11 where they were able to spend a few months training before joining combat.

It marked the second time in his short career when Ostlund arrived at a unit just as it entered into combat. It was those two experiences, one where he watched a trained and ready unit rapidly deploy and the other where he joined an unprepared unit as they deployed into a combat zone, that shaped and left an indelible mark upon his career.

In 1990, Col. William Ostlund (front row, far left) during his younger days and his first combat deployment during Desert Shield with 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 187th Infantry Regiment. COURTESY PHOTO

“Looking back, there are probably times in my career when I should have been able to more properly identify that I have given enough and my unit has trained enough,” Ostlund said. “I maintained this level of insecurity based on those two experiences that really kind of drove me to do as much as we could do in the unknown time we had left.”

Training and preparing his Soldiers for combat became the hallmark of Ostlund’s career. Unlike the early 1990s where combat was rare and units would go years without seeing it, now Soldiers must constantly be prepared. American forces have been in constant combat throughout the Middle East since 2001 leaving no room for complacency.

Ostlund and his unit’s focus on training was put to the test from the start of their 2007-08 deployment to the Kunar Province. After originally being told they would be deployed to Iraq, the unit was given new orders less than two months before departing. They were no longer going to a contested area in Iraq, but instead the most hotly-contested area of Afghanistan.

Six hours in, the brigade suffered its first casualty in a battle and for the next 425 days the combat never let up. Battle Company spent the deployment in the Korengal Valley, known as the Valley of Death, Able Company defended the Pech River and Chosen Company found itself in multiple large scale battles including the Battle of Wanat where 13 were killed and 27 were injured.

“Col. Bill Ostlund is the greatest example of leadership I’ve ever had,” Lt. Col. Mathew Myer, who earned a Silver Star as the commander of Chosen Company, said. “His demeanor, work ethic, moral ethical conviction and genuine care for soldiers has been my gold standard. I’ve done all I can to emulate his approach and his ability to adjust his leadership to benefit
those he leads. I also learned the importance of following through as a leader to ensure your unit knows that you stick to your word. As a leader, talk is cheap. Col. Ostlund taught me that your reputation to stick to your word benefits your unit.”

With 15 bases spread out over the region in constant combat, Ostlund had to trust the Soldiers under his command and the training they had gone through.

“Ultimately, I commanded the most decorated battalion in the global war with three living Medal of Honor awardees and over 400 other valor awards in that unit,” he said. “That is a legacy I am proud of. I am very proud of the men I led and will forever be connected to them.”

His focus on training led Ostlund to his seat at West Point where he is in charge of preparing the 4,000 cadets for life in the Army. For 18 months, he worked to reshape the training program to make sure no cadet would enter life as a Soldier unprepared.

“People will opine about the small retention of West Pointers, only 35 or 40 percent of them stay,” Ostlund said. “But every day I come to work, that means I interact with 1,600 to 1,800 cadets who are going to spend a whole military career serving their nation and some of them will give their life. That is a level of commitment that people should appreciate when they come here.”

Ostlund has served at West Point twice during his 36-year career. He also served with the Rangers on three separate occasions, with the 101st Airborne, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the 1st Infantry Division and more.

Maj. Gen. Randy George, current commander of the 4th Infantry Division, said, “In the end, the truth is, if I was going to combat, Bill would be my number one choice as a battle buddy and to share a foxhole with. If my kids were going to combat, I would want them under Bill Ostlund’s command. I really think that says it all.”

At the end of February, Ostlund will take off his Army uniform for the final time, and rise the next day with a new life ahead of him. He will then have the chance to mourn the Soldiers who sacrificed their lives and time to work with his family to heal the scars of a life divided between them and a commitment to his country. Unlike the Soldiers lost in battle, he will grow old and see his sons become men, but those young Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice and the tears he has shed in their memory in the years since will stay with him forever.

“I don’t think the worst thing in life is to die in combat,” Ostlund said. “Sometimes I wonder was that my pinnacle. Was that my time. When we lose a Soldier in combat, they are forever young. We are going to remember them as this young vibrant paratrooper. At the height of their life, that is how they are preserved in history. There are probably worse things than that.”

Commandant recognizes staff and faculty for service, achievements

The 77th Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Steven Gilland, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Kenny, hosted an award ceremony and town hall Dec. 17. Staff and faculty were recognized for their years of service and achievements during the ceremony. Awards presented were USCC Command Team coins, Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, Basic Army Instructor Badge and the Commander’s Award for Civilian Service. It was the first time that USCC awarded any staff with the Basic Army Instructor Badge upon successful completion of the Training and Doctrine Command’s require in accordance with TR600-21. Recipients were Sgt. 1st Class Allen Rollins, Sgt. 1st Class Dominador Rubang, Sgt. 1st Class Isaac White, Capt. David Black, Capt. Robert Davis, Capt. David Frost, Capt. John Goodwill, Capt. Ryan Scott, Capt. Zachary Willey, Lt. Col. Erik Kober and Beau Pendergraft. Additionally, Rick Metro (below) was recognized for 40 years of service. When the award presentation ended, Gilland thanked all the staff for a successful semester. He also discussed the importance of Force Protection, specifically the current and upcoming changes to the U.S. Corps of Cadets. Some of the changes, like the addition of turnstiles, will not only affect the Corps of Cadets, but also those who work in and around Cadet Area. The USCC Command Team, along with its staff and faculty, take pride in a job well done for AY19-1 and eagerly anticipate AY 19-2.

Photo by Bryan Illyankoff/USMA PAO
Fordham’s Grad School of Education and DMI Strengthen Partnership

By Capt. John Goodwill
Department of Military Instruction

Annually, U.S. Army officers are selected to serve as military science instructors in the Department of Military Instruction study at Fordham’s Graduate School of Education prior to their arrival at West Point. Recently, the Dean of Fordham’s Graduate School of Education, Dr. Virginia Roach, visited DMI to see her graduates training, educating and inspiring the Army’s next generation of combat leaders.

In 2016, DMI and Fordham’s GSE established a partnership that provided the opportunity for select DMI rotating faculty to attend classes at Fordham’s Lincoln Center Campus and earn a Master’s of Science in Education Degree in Curriculum and Teaching before instructing cadets in the classroom and training areas of West Point. While DMI is successful in hiring high-performing, rotating faculty fresh from the operational force with combat experience, the degree gained by Fordham’s partnership helps enable those officers to plan, deliver and assess effective instruction and training ultimately inspiring the future officers of our Army to combat success.

Army Capt. Colin Brodmerkel, a member of the first cohort of rotating faculty selected to earn the Fordham degree stated, “As a recent Fordham graduate, it was an honor to host Dr. Roach in my Military Science 200 classroom. The lessons I learned while attending Fordham’s GSE prepared me to design curriculum, deliver quality instruction and assess the proficiency of our cadets at West Point—a skill that I am grateful for.”

“Your graduates are committed to teaching excellence,” Col. William Ostlund, director of the Department of Military Instruction, stated to the Fordham visitors during a DMI overview brief. “Fordham is delivering what our department needs.”

Several current DMI faculty who have attended Fordham’s program have earned the Army Instructor Badge and are close to completing USMA’s Master Teacher Program, hosted by the Center for Teaching Excellence in Jefferson Hall.

Dr. John Craven, a professor in Fordham’s GSE who visited with Dr. Roach, said, “I’ve had the honor of working with two cohorts of DMI instructors enrolled in the MSE program...(the recent USMA visit) contextualized the significance of the role captains as instructional leaders serving to prepare future Army officers. For me, it is simultaneously humbling and inspiring to be reminded of the critical need to ensure that the USMA cadets receive the highest caliber, most effective and impactful instructional experience in their DMI coursework.”

The DMI students attending classes at Fordham’s Lincoln Center Campus in Manhattan support the strategic relationship to maintain military ties with New York City. The partnership between Fordham and DMI supports the readiness and lethality of our Army by ensuring thoughtful education, training and inspiration of our future Army officers—a relationship that is designed to ensure our Army wins the next major military conflict.

West Point Center for Oral History hits milestone with 500th interview

By Lt. Col. David Siry
Department of History

This week, the West Point Center for Oral History hit a milestone by posting its 500th interview online. One of the Dean’s research centers, the COH is funded as a “Margin of Excellence” program by the U.S. Military Academy’s Association of Graduates.

Its mission is “To record, preserve and present the stories of Soldiers, statesmen and others who have influenced the profession of arms, in order to inspire, educate and develop cadets, establish strategic outreach for West Point and the Army, and create new primary source material for scholars, with the purpose of contributing to the development of aspiring Army officers, enhancing the public’s understanding of the experience of the Soldier, and contributing to analytical discourse in the field of history.”

To accomplish its mission, the Center for Oral History casts a wide net, recording interviews with those who served, from private to general, family members, politicians, graduates of the service academies and others who have served, including in foreign militaries.


“Margin of Excellence” support has allowed the center’s leadership to travel to record interviews at veterans’ reunions in locations like Phoenix, Washington D.C., Clarksville, Tennessee, and Chicago. The center also travels to reach specific interview populations who are underrepresented in the COH collection, such as Vietnamese veterans and refugees in Westminster, California, and New Orleans.

The center has participated in both the Oral History Association and the American Historical Association conferences and is recognized as a leader in the field.

This coming spring, the center will attend the Society for Military History Conference with a cadet-led panel on using oral history to tell the story of both Soldiers and civilians in the Vietnam War.

C-SPAN also broadcast eight Center for Oral History interviews as part of a commemoration of the Vietnam War.

Supporting cadet education, the center has provided assistance to cadet senior theses, cadet projects and the Special Leader Development Program for Honor.

Cadets have also conducted multiple interviews in support of their research. Five hundred interviews online is a milestone, but it also represents a challenge to continue to grow, and to produce high-quality interviews that reach the widest audience possible.

The Center for Oral History uses no government funds whatsoever, relying exclusively on private donations through the West Point Association of Graduates. All of the Center’s published interviews are available online at www.westpointcoh.org, and new interviews are advertised on Facebook (West Point Center for Oral History) and Twitter (West Point COH).
Senior leaders commit to emergency preparedness—What about you?

By Dr. Christopher Hennen
DPTMS Emergency Manager

Workplace violence incidents have tripled over the last decade. According to the FBI, it is now the fastest-growing category of violence in the country. The Bureau of Labor Statistics ranks workplace violence second among fatal workplace injuries, ahead of falls, slips and trips.

Active shooter incidents, the most extreme form of workplace violence, have tripled in the last eight years, with an event occurring in the U.S. once every three weeks.

Active assailant incidents have occurred at colleges and military installations 22 times since 2000. Alarming, you are 18 times more likely to encounter workplace violence and an active shooter situation than a fire.

In today’s society, it’s more important than ever for organizations to make personal protection a high priority. The first operational reality of active shooter scenarios is that when seconds count, police are minutes away.

What leaders and individuals do—or fail to do—before an incident will be evident in response and recovery outcomes. Studies show that people are better protected from risks when they are proactive in developing and instituting policies, procedures and training designed to increase personnel safety and survivability.

To promote awareness and a shared understanding of the challenges that such an event would create at West Point, USMA Superintendent Lt. Gen. Darryl A. Williams chaired a Senior Leader Active Shooter Response Exercise last month.

The event provided a forum to discuss executive-level issues related to active shooter incident preparedness, and, should the unimaginable occur, opportunities to improve protection, response and recovery potential.

Along with the Commandant Brig. Gen. Steven Gilland; the Dean, Brig. Gen. Cindy Jebb; the Garrison Commander, Col. Harry C. Marson V; and key members of their staffs, attendees worked through the initial response challenges of a notional active shooter incident in the Central Area.

The results of this exercise will serve as a basis for readiness improvement, and preparation for a full-scale protection exercise in April. The senior-level crisis preparedness exercise, the first of its kind at West Point, demonstrated the seriousness with which West Point leadership takes the stewardship of the national treasure that is West Point—the protection of our people, our mission and our image.

Yet, preserving the safety, security and prosperity of our community requires the commitment of the whole community. Truly enhancing our resilience to an active shooter incident will require everyone to take responsibility for their own self-preparedness, working together to develop the capacity needed to enhance our collective safety and security in times of crisis.

What about you—are you prepared?

Earning German Badge

On Dec. 13, the “German Team West Point,” Lt. Col. Michael Breuer, German Liaison officer at West Point, and Sgt. Maj. Stephan Engel, Exchange NCO in the Department of Military Instruction, awarded 164 West Point and international cadets with the German Armed Forces Badge of Military Proficiency (GPB). A total of 469 GPB’s were awarded in 2018 at West Point, not only to cadets, but also to staff and faculty members, the West Point Band, the West Point Military Police, Soldiers of the Keller Army Community Hospital, U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School and the Cadet Summer Training Task Force.

Courtesy Photo
Logistics Readiness Center re instituted the full North - South Shuttle
Based on feedback from the Corps of Cadets and the West Point community, the Logistics Readiness Center re instituted the full North-South Post Shuttle effective Jan. 7 to include more stops along Thayer Road, Cullum Road and Washington Road, as well as reintroducing stops in Highland Falls at Spellman Hall/Visitors Center, and stops at the Child Development Center, PX and Commissary on Stony Lonesome.

The belief is this change will provide better transportation support to the Corps of Cadets and the entire West Point community.

For more details or questions about the new schedule, contact the LRC supporting TMP contractor, Akima Support Operations, at 845-938-2018.

Monthly yoga classes
TRIBE will offer free monthly Introduction to Yoga and Mindfulness Workshops and regular classes for active duty and family members.

These are available for unit PT sessions or for other unit or team functions and can be 45, 60 or 90-minute sessions. Learn the tools of physical practices of yoga and mindfulness that are aligned with the military’s culture from experienced military veterans and trained yoga instructors.

Please contact studio@nOMadalwaysatOM.com to schedule or get more information.

Volunteers needed for blood drive
Volunteers are needed for the Armed Services Blood Drive on 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 Activity 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.wallace@usma.edu for details or an appointment.

Army Personnel Testing programs
The Army Education Center at West Point offers Army Personnel Testing programs such as the AFCT, DLAB, DLPT, SHFT through the DA and DLI. Tests are free of charge to Soldiers.

Call the testing center at 845-938-3360 or email gwenn.wallace@usma.edu 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 Miera at drew.miera@usma.edu or stop by the Army Education Center from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday.

OUTSIDE THE GATES
Town of Highlands Chamber of Commerce 2019 Banner Program
Honor your veteran, active-duty, reservist or national guard service member in this very special way with a military tribute banner. These beautiful, patriotic 24”x48” banners honoring our heroes will be displayed from May through November 2019 along the main streets in the Town of Highlands.

Your family name or business name is printed on the banner as the proud sponsor of your military hero. Sponsorship orders will be taken from Jan. 15 through March 30.

For more information or to sponsor your military banner, visit highlandschamberofcommerce.com.

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 jkmamacita@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. Come find a great selection of clothes, books, sports equipment, jewelry and other household items.

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.

Additionally, the shop accepts gently used clothes, DVDs, jewelry, and small household and kitchen items.

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Women’s Ministry
Community, Faith, and Empowerment
Monthly Women’s Bible Study
First Session: Jan. 16, 2019
Time: 10 a.m. to noon
Location: 401 Morris Road (behind the Pool House)

• Child care is provided.
• Video sessions available, so you can join us from your own home/office
• Great opportunity to meet women in the community (Cadets, military, civilians)
• Contact 9kaunder@yahoocom if interested

Devotional Book and video:
Keep it Short by Karen Ehman
Keep it Short. What to say, how to say it, and when to say nothing at all.

Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019
7 PM – UTC
Eisenhower (Ike) Hall Ballroom

“A Knight to Remember”
Breakfast has returned to the West Point Club’s Bistro 603. Come on down and check out the West Point Club’s Bistro 603. Breakfast is served from 7-10 a.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, visit the Westpointclub.com. For more details, call 845-938-5120.

Badminton Tournament
The Family & MWR Sports office will conduct a “New” 2019 Noontime Badminton Tournament open to all USMA personnel 18 years of age and older. The league will be held at the Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center’s middle court of the second floor basketball courts.

Tournament play will be held on Mondays and Thursdays from 12:10-1 p.m. with make-ups on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at the same times.

Sign-ups are accepted by email at james.p.mcguinness.naf@mail.mil or by calling the MWR Sports office at 845-938-3066. Include your email and work and cell phone numbers.

Deadline for entries will be Jan. 18, with tournament play starting the week of Jan. 21. For more details, contact the MWR Sports office at 845-938-3066.

Victor Constant Ski Area projected opening
Weather permitting, the Victor Constant Ski Area will open later this month. Hours of operations are 3 p.m.-9 p.m. Monday -Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

For real time updates, call the ski hotline at 845-938-8810.

CYSitters Babysitting Certification Course
The CYSitters Babysitting Certification Course is designed to familiarize teens with the responsibilities of babysitting and also teach skills and techniques needed for sitters to become competent and caring.

Students will receive training materials, a certificate of completion and a wallet size babysitting course card. The free course for 11-year-olds takes place from 3-6 p.m. Jan. 25 at the Youth Center, Bldg. 500.

FOR THE ADULTS

MWR General Skate Program
The MWR Sports office is conducting the 2018-19 Community General Skate Program at Tate Rink. It is open to all West Point personnel, DOD personnel and families. All skaters must supply their own skates. The dates for MWR Community General Skate are as follows:

- Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3 and 17 and March 3—3:30-5:15 p.m.
- For more details, call the Skate Hotline at 845-938-2991.

Bridal Show at the West Point Club Jan. 27
Join the West Point Club from 1-4 p.m. Jan. 27, for their annual Bridal Show. Spend the afternoon with the West Point Club as we explore the wonderful land of bridal bliss.

Let the Grand Ballroom set the stage for this year’s wedding season with vendors and exhibitors dedicated to creating your perfect day.

Complimentary hors d’oeuvres, action stations and wedding cakes are available to sample.

For more information, call 845-938-5120.

Operation Body Rock
Join MWR for Operation Body Rock at 10 a.m. every Wednesday at the MWR Fitness Center. This is a three-month small group personal training series with Shannon.

A small fee will cover the initial baseline appointment, weekly workouts and templates, videos, meal plan and grocery list ideas, recipes and more.

To register, call 845-938-6490.

FCC provider positions available now
Family Child Care is certified in-home child care for children ages 4 weeks-12 years. FCC providers are authorized family members who operate as independent contractors in housing located on a military installation.

FCC offers flexible hours, a home-like environment and lower adult/child ratios. FCC allows providers to make their own schedule offering a full range of hourly, full-day and part-day care. Child and Youth Services is currently looking for new FCC providers. Family members who live in government quarters on West Point are welcome to apply.

FCC providers receive training and guidance on child care skills and the opportunity to provide child care while staying at home with their own children.

We also offer free advertising and referrals. For details, call 845-938-8528.

FOR THE FAMILIES

Father-Daughter, Mother-Son Dances
Calling all dads, grandfathers, moms, grandmothers, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and friends to the West Point Club’s annual Father-Daughter and Mother-Son Dances.

The Father-Daughter Dances will be held from 6-9 p.m. Jan. 25 and 26. The Mother-Son Dance will be held from 6-9 p.m. Feb. 15.

Enjoy a dinner buffet with dancing and an on-site photographer for both events. Don’t forget to dress in Sunday best. There is a nominal fee for both events. For more information, call 845-938-5120.

Part Day Preschool Openings
Spaces are still available in the Stony Child Development Center Tuesday and Thursday session of Part Day Preschool. Class hours are 9 a.m.-noon. The program utilizes the Creative Curriculum to facilitate the development of social, emotional, literate, fine and gross motor skills. Fees are based upon total family income. A USDA CACFP approved snack is served each day.

Questions please contact Parent and Outreach Services at 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. Their 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 information, call (845) 938-8530/0941.

ACS Family Advocacy classes
Earn a certificate after completing all four classes in the Army Community Service’s Family Advocacy series. The following classes are held at ACS, Building 622:

- Parenting Class—The first four Thursdays of every month from 1-2:30 p.m.
- Couples Communication Class—The first four Tuesdays of every month from 1-2:30 p.m.
- Stress Management Class—The first four Mondays of every month from 1-2:30 p.m.
- Anger Management Class—The first four Wednesdays of every month from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

To register, contact Sara Boychak at 845-938-0629 or email sara.boychak@usma.edu; or call Catherine Little at 845-938-0633. Or register online at www.westpointacs.as.me.

FOR THE YOUTHS

CYS Services Needs Sports Coaches
CYS Sports is looking for coaches for our following fall programs: JBK travel soccer, youth hockey, recreational volleyball and recreational soccer. For information on dates and times, call 938-8525.

School Age Center’s After School Programs
School Age Center offers programming with several different themes and activities for grades kindergarten through fifth grade. If you are interested in a before and after school program for your school age child, please sign up today. School Age Center also offers hourly options for children who would like to come on an hourly or daily basis. Call the Lee Area CYS Facility Front Desk for more information at 845-938-8530.

Wee Ones Open Play Group
Wee Ones Open Play Group welcomes children (infants through 4 years old) and a parent from 9:30-11 a.m. every Monday at the Youth Center Gymnasium, Building 500, across from West Point Schools. It is a time for the children to play, learn and make new friends.

Pre-registration is not required. There’s always something fun happening at Wee Ones. For the most up-to-date details, call Family Advocacy at 845-938-0629 or go to www.facebook.com/WestPointArmyCommunityService.

Wee Read
Wee Read welcomes children (infants through 4 years old) and a parent at 9-10 a.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Army Community Service (ACS) Resiliency Center, second floor of Building 626, near Buffalo Soldier Field.

Wee Read introduces children to basic literacy skills, books and reading. Pre-registration is not required.
Keller Corner

PT “Sick Call” at KACH will not be available Jan. 23-25

The Physical Therapy Sick Call, held at Keller Army Community Hospital for active duty members and their dependents, will not be available Jan. 23-25.

The Physical Therapy Department will be open.

The PT Sick Call will resume Jan. 28 for musculo-skeletal injuries on a walk-in basis—without an appointment at 7:30 a.m.

The intent of this 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 845-938-3324.

With the exception of Jan. 23-25, 2019, PT Sick Call is held at 7:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, except on federal and training holidays, and periodically as announced.

KACH Immunization clinic accepts eligible ‘walk-ins’ for flu vaccine

Keller Army Community Hospital would like to say “Thank You” to the nearly 800 people that received the influenza vaccine during one of our two flu drives. If you did not receive your flu vaccine, you still can.

The Keller Immunization Department—located on the first floor of Keller—is accepting “Walk-in’s” for eligible beneficiaries (active duty, dependents and retirees).

Immunization is open from 8 a.m.-noon, and 1-3:30 p.m. There will be no walk-ins accepted after 3:30 p.m. The goal is to vaccinate all our entire community, so we are encouraging all beneficiaries aged 6 months and above to come out.

KACH Substance Use Disorder Clinic open

The Keller Army Community Hospital’s Substance Use Disorder Clinic 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.

The SUDC is located in Building 656 and you can schedule an appointment by calling 845-938-7691.

Help KACH reduce, eliminate “No Shows”

Keller Army Community Hospital is asking for your assistance in reducing, and eventually, eliminating “no-shows”—missed appointments.

We ask that as soon as you realize you will not make your scheduled appointment, call the Appointment Center at 845-938-7992 or 800-552-2907, or by going to www.tricareonline.com and cancel so we can re-book that slot for another beneficiary.

We thank you for your assistance, and for choosing Keller for your medical services.

West Point Blood Drive to save lives of troops

By Erin Longacre
Armed Services Blood Program

West Point graduate, retired Maj. Joshua Mantz knows firsthand the importance of blood to our troops. In April 2007, the combined efforts of blood donors, surgeons and medics saved his life after he was killed by a sniper near Sadr City, Iraq.

Killed, because for 15 minutes Mantz had no pulse.

“I consciously said my last thought, took my last breath, and died,” said Mantz, recalling the ride from the site of the sniper attack back to Forward Operating Base Loyalty, where a determined medical team performed CPR on him for a full 15 minutes to keep his heart circulating what little blood he had left in his body.

Mantz struggled to stay conscious on the trip as his right thigh bled, where the bullet, fused with shrapnel from his platoon sergeant’s body armor, had severed his femoral artery.

He flat-lined at Loyalty, but was revived and rushed to the combat support hospital in Baghdad, where he underwent emergency vascular surgery and received nearly 30 units of blood.

“I would not be alive today without the soldiers who gave blood, and the dedication of the medical personnel who never gave up on me,” Mantz said.

Mantz’s story is miraculous, and for military medical professionals it’s a clear example of why they perform their duties with such passion.

Blood is needed every day for injuries sustained by our troops overseas, and to care for patients at home in military hospitals. The Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) is the tri-service military agency that collects, ships and transfuses blood to service members and their families worldwide.

The West Point community will have the opportunity to donate to the ASBP during its annual blood drive from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Jan. 17 at Eisenhower Hall.

Blood donated will be sent to care for troops injured downrange, as well as for patients in military hospitals worldwide.

The process is easy, safe and fast. Donors will be asked a few questions about their health and travel history to make sure they are eligible, and will have their blood pressure, temperature and iron level checked.

As a thank you, donors will get a long-sleeve athletic performance shirt and refreshments. In addition, the first 500 donors will receive a 10 oz. Yeti mug.

Donors must be at least 17 years old and free of cold or flu symptoms. Some travel restrictions are in place for overseas assignments and recent deployments.

For more information on eligibility, visit www.militaryblood.dod.mil or call 706-787-1014. Appointments are not required but are available for your convenience by visiting www.militarydonor.com and selecting the date and time most convenient for you. Enter sponsor code WESTPOINT or search by zip code.

ASBP Armed Services Blood Program

The West Point community will have the opportunity to donate to the ASBP during its annual blood drive from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Jan. 17 at Eisenhower Hall.

MOVIES at MAHAN

Theatre schedule at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752.

Friday—“Robin Hood,” PG-13, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday—“The Possession of Hannah Grace,” R, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday—“Green Book,” PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

(For movie details and updated schedules, visit http://www.aafes.com/exchange-stores/Movie-Guide/showtimes-West-Point.htm.)
**Army Football finishes season in AP Top 20**

**By Kat Castner**  
**Army Athletic Communications**

Army West Point Football achieved its final goal of the 2018 season when it was announced as the No. 19-ranked team nationally by the Associated Press.

“We are incredibly excited to have earned the recognition of the Associated Press as one of the nation’s top teams in 2018,” head coach Jeff Monken said. “Our team set a preseason goal to finish in the top-25 and I am so proud of this accomplishment for our players, our staff, and especially our seniors.

“This honor brings distinction to West Point, the Long Gray Line, and the men and women who serve our nation around the world in the United States Army.”

The Black Knights’ season was highlighted by an 11-win campaign, marking the first time in program history they’ve achieved that feat.

Another high point was winning the Commander In Chief’s Trophy outright in back-to-back seasons for the first time.
Four Cadets scored in double-figures as the Army West Point Men’s Basketball team claimed a 77-69 victory over Lafayette Jan. 5 in a Patriot League contest at Christl Arena.

Senior guard Cayne Edwards paced the Black Knights’ (6-9, 1-1 Patriot League) scoring attack that shot the ball at a 53-percent clip from the field against the Leopards (3-10, 0-2 Patriot League).

Edwards had a career-high 16 points on 8-of-8 shooting in just 16 minutes of action. Junior forward Matt Wilson enjoyed similar success down low, putting up 12 points to pair with a team-best eight rebounds.

Sophomore forward Alex King ended the afternoon with 13 points, while junior guard Tommy Funk notched a double-double with a game-high 10 assists. Sophomore guard Tucker Blackwell chipped in with nine points off the bench.

Army highlights and game notes
• Army secured its first Patriot League win of the 2018-19 season.
• The Black Knights defeated Lafayette at Christl Arena for the third straight year.
• Edwards’ 8-for-8 shooting performance marked the third time this season a Cadet made five or more shots in a game without recording a miss.
• It was the first time since Wilson went 11-for-11 against UMass Lowell on Nov. 17.
• Funk passed Ron Wilson for third in all-time assists with 426.
• The junior guard recorded double-digit assists for the sixth time in his career.
• He posted his fourth collegiate double-double.
• With one made 3-pointer, senior guard Jordan Fox took sole possession of seventh all-time at the Academy, passing Tanner Plomb.
• Army dished out 21 assists on 30 made shots.
• The Cadets scored 64 percent of their points from inside the paint.
• The Black Knights were disciplined defensively, and Lafayette did not go to the foul line once.
• Army scored 14 points off 11 Lafayette turnovers.

How it happened
• The first half against Lafayette played out similarly to Jan. 2’s outing versus Bucknell. Army was strong on both sides of the ball, shooting at a 53-percent clip from the field, while limiting the opposition’s quality looks at the basket.
• The ball was being moved around effectively and the Black Knights had 14 assists on 17 made shots. Funk manned the well-oiled offense by dishing out seven assists, and Edwards was the primary beneficiary after going 5-for-5 for 10 points.
• Army’s hot start resulted in a 17-point advantage at the half, 42-25. The 42 points tied the second-most scored in an opening half this season by the Cadets.
• In the second stanza, Lafayette came out swinging with a 9-2 run to pull within 10. However, the Black Knights’ lead grew to 15, 49-34, following a senior forward John Emezie 3-pointer and a score inside by Edwards with 14:58 on the clock.
• The Army lead hovered around 10 points for much of the half as the two sides began to trade baskets. With 3:08 left to play, Justin Jaworski buried a shot from deep to help the Leopards pull within nine, 69-60. That Jaworski three sparked a 9-2 run and a pair of Army turnovers ensued. It was a five-point game with less than two minutes to go, but the Cadets closed out the contest at the foul line after making six of eight free throws in the final 58 seconds of play to hold on for the 77-69 win.
Late run helps Women’s Basketball past Loyola

By Matt Faulkner
Army Athletic Communications

The Army West Point Women’s Basketball team closed out the game on a 14-1 run to earn the 69-57 victory over Loyola on Sunday afternoon in Patriot League action at Christl Arena.

Senior guard Jess Lewis dropped a season high 20 points thanks to 5-of-10 shooting from three-point land, while senior forward Madison Hovren tallied her ninth double-double of the season with 18 points and 16 rebounds.

Freshman forward Lindsey Scamman came off the bench and scored a career best 12 points and added seven rebounds in 19 minutes of action.

The Greyhounds were led by Taleah Dixon with 17 points, going 8-of-14 from the floor, while Stephanie Karcz posted a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Army highlights and game notes
• This was the 17th meeting between Army and Loyola in the series.
• Army has now won four games in a row against the Greyhounds with Sunday’s win.
• The Black Knights are now 12-5 all-time against Loyola and 7-2 at home.
• Sophomore forward Jessica Rawls made the third start of her career for the Black Knights.
• Junior guard Morgann Yancey has started in each of Army’s last five games.
• Freshman guard Sarah Bohn made the starting lineup for the first time during her rookie campaign.
• The starting lineup for today’s game was the seventh different one used by the Black Knights.
• Army shot 42.9 percent and is 4-1 when shooting over 40 percent from the field.
• The Black Knights had three players in double figures for the second time this year and are 2-0 in those game.
• Hovren reached double digits in scoring for the 11th time this season and 65th time in her career.
• Lewis started the run with four quick points and Hovren added five points.
• Army outrebounded the Greyhounds by a 45-32 margin.
• Army has now won four games in a row against the Greyhounds with Sunday’s win.
• Army hung onto the lead heading into the fourth at 39-37 with 10 minutes as Army led 16-9.
• Lewis also set a career best for rebounds with seven on the day.
• Army outrebounded the Greyhounds by a 45-32 margin.

How it happened
First quarter
• The Black Knights were led by Lewis’ three-point shooting as she was 4-of-4 from distance through the first 10 minutes as Army led 16-9.
• Army held Loyola to two points for most of the first but the Greyhounds got to within seven with the final five points of the quarter.

Second quarter
• Loyola came out of the break and went on an 11-2 run over the first five minutes to take a 20-18 lead on a layup by Dixon. Both Dixon and Courtney Vannoy led the visitors in the first half of the second quarter with four points apiece.
• Army crawled back into the game thanks to a jumper by freshman guard Alisa Fallon and then a 3-pointer from Bohn to cut the Loyola advantage to 26-23.
• Bri Betz-White hit a three of her own on the next trip down the floor and then Scamman dropped a three-point play

to make it 29-26 with 13 seconds remaining.
• The Greyhounds answered with a layup from Karcz to close the scoring at 31-26 with Loyola leading.

Third quarter
• The Black Knights came out ready to play in the third quarter and took a 39-37 lead with just under five minutes to play thanks to a 9-2 run.
• Scamman contributed by hitting two shots during the run, while Hovren added five points.
• Army hung onto the lead heading into the fourth at 48-46. Freshman forward Kate Murray had four points down the stretch of the third, while Bohn also hit a jumper.

Fourth quarter
• Loyola was able to gain a one-point lead at 56-55 with 3:16 left in the game, but Army didn’t panic.
• The Black Knights answered with a 14-1 run to close out the game for the 69-57 win.
• Lewis started the run with four quick points and Hovren finished it off with the final seven points, including going 7-of-9 from the charity stripe in the fourth quarter.

Senior guard Jess Lewis dropped a season high 20 points to help lead the Army West Point Women’s Basketball to a 69-57 victory over Loyola on Sunday afternoon in Patriot League action at Christl Arena.

**View the upcoming Army West Point Black Knights Schedule at WWW.Goarmywestpoint.com/calendar.aspx?vtype=list.**

Sports calendar

Corps Squad

| FRIDAY |
| 7 P.M.—MEN’S GYMNASTICS, WEST POINT OPEN PRELIMS, GROSS CENTER. |
| SATURDAY |
| 9 A.M.—RIFLE vs. NEBRASKA, TRONSRJUE MARKSMANSHIP CENTER. |
| 7 P.M.—MEN’S GYMNASTICS, WEST POINT OPEN FINALS, GROSS CENTER. |
| SUNDAY |
| 2 P.M.—WRESTLING vs. BINGHAMTON, CHRISTL ARENA. |

| WEDNESDAY |
| 11 A.M.—WOMEN’S BASKETBALL vs. LAFFAYETTE, CHRISTL ARENA. |
| 7 P.M.—MEN’S BASKETBALL vs. COLGATE, CHRISTL ARENA. |
| JAN. 18 |
| TBA—MEN’S TENNIS vs. CAL POLY, LICHTENBERG TENNIS CENTER. |
| JAN. 19 |
| TBA—MEN’S TENNIS vs. MICHIGAN STATE & YALE, LICHTENBERG TENNIS CENTER. |
| NOON—WOMEN’S BASKETBALL vs. NAVY, CHRISTL ARENA. |
| 2:30 P.M.—MEN’S BASKETBALL vs. NAVY, CHRISTL ARENA. |

**2 p.m.—Men’s Basketball vs. Navy, Christl Arena.**

**2:30 p.m.—Men’s Basketball vs. Navy, Christl Arena.**

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