The U.S. Military Academy at West Point held its graduation and commissioning ceremony for the Class of 2019 at Michie Stadium May 25. This year, 985 cadets graduated. The commencement speaker was Vice President Mike Pence. (Above) The class takes part in the traditional hat toss following the order of dismissal by First Captain David Bindon. (Right) Members of the class celebrate following the ceremony.

Photos by Brandon O’Connor/PV
Fulbright Scholarship to take Class of 2019 Cadet back home to Hungary

A path back home was the last thing 2nd Lt. Stephen Gracza, a member of the Class of 2019, expected to find when he arrived at the U.S. Military Academy.

The son of American missionaries living in Budapest, Hungary, Gracza’s journey to the academy took him across the Atlantic Ocean, through a pitstop in Texas and finally to the banks of Hudson River. Gracza was born in Budapest and grew up in the country, but even though he had never lived in America his plan from a young age was to come stateside for school and to serve.

“I have always felt the strong sense and urge to protect and defend people,” Gracza said. “Seeing the process of how my parents were able to stay in Hungary, it was through donations and sponsorships from U.S. churches. I wanted to give back to those types of communities and a country that supported that.”

The expectation was that his move to America to pursue a degree and a career serving in the Army would take him away from Hungary for good, but his time at West Point has presented him with multiple opportunities to return to the country he called home growing up.

Gracza studied international affairs with a focus on Eastern Europe and Russia while at West Point and his degree and ability to speak fluent Hungarian enabled him to receive an internship with the U.S. Embassy-Budapest. He spent five weeks serving as a liaison from the Defense Attaché Office and the Office of Defense Cooperation to the joint-NATO exercise series Saber Guardian. Gracza was awarded the Joint Service Achievement Medal by the Secretary of Defense for his work at the embassy.

“One of my jobs was making sure order movements and security patrols were completed correctly from the embassy side and speaking to media and helping them understand what the actual exercise was,” Gracza said.

After graduating from West Point and commissioning as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army May 25, Gracza will have another chance to return home to Budapest as a recipient of the Fulbright Scholarship, this time for two years. Gracza’s parents are not grads, they did not through his family, but that wasn’t the case.

The gift would have made more sense if he was going to wait that out, and I ended up sticking with the idea,” Gracza said.

Every decision he made from that point forward was geared toward preparing himself to attend the academy. He served as the team captain of the field hockey team growing up in part because he knew he would learn and be developed through that leadership position and it would help him get into West Point. He focused academically and physically and prepared himself to serve and give back to the country.

“I did not think there would be a route for me to go back to Hungary. It is definitely a pleasant surprise and change of initial plans while I was here,” he said.

He will also serve as a fellow at the Hungarian Association of Military Science, a think tank that looks at Hungarian military policy. His assigned branch in the Army is air defense artillery and the plan for the next two years is for him to look at how the Hungarian army uses air defense and help them to develop policy and strategy for how to incorporate it more fully into their national defense. Gracza is hoping the experience he gains as a Fulbright Scholar along with his language skills, time at West Point and work at the embassy will eventually enable him to work as an advisor to NATO operations or European command during his Army career.

“It is going to be a great opportunity to rekindle some friendships and I am looking forward to new ones through the graduate school experiences and the fellowship,” Gracza said. “I am looking forward to going back as an adult to a country and city I was a kid in.”

His path from Hungary to West Point and back again started at the age of 12. For Christmas that year when most kids were receiving video games or clothes, Gracza’s grandmother decided to give him a U.S. Military Academy cadet handbook.

The gift would have made more sense if West Point’s Long Gray Line had stretched through his family, but that wasn’t the case. Gracza’s parents are not grads, they did not serve in the military and, except for summer trips, Gracza had never even lived in the United States.

“After reading that, I told my parents I was going to go to West Point. They said we are going to wait that out, and I ended up sticking with the idea,” Gracza said.

Every decision he made from that point forward was geared toward preparing himself to attend the academy. He served as the team captain of the field hockey team growing up in part because he knew he would learn and be developed through that leadership position and it would help him get into West Point. He focused academically and physically and prepared himself to serve and give back to the country.
Class dismissed, next stop Army career

By Brandon O'Connor
Assistant Editor

Upon the order of “dismissed” from First Captain David Bindon, the cadets in the U.S. Military Academy’s Class of 2019 tossed their hats into the air, casting them aside as they began the next phase of their lives.

The white hats, gray uniforms and white pants are officially a thing of the past as the class leaves West Point behind to begin their careers as officers in the Army. Their cadet rank has been replaced by the bars of a second lieutenant and they will set forth to lead Soldiers throughout the world.

“America’s parents have given you our most precious possession, our sons and daughters, and they ask of you only one thing—lead them well,” Vice President Mike Pence, who served as the commencement speaker, said. “You have learned the habits of heroes and leaders. Now, you are going to join the fight. Men and women of West Point, no matter where you’re deployed you will be the vanguard of freedom and you know that the Soldier does not bear the sword in vain. The work you do has never been more important.”

May 25 marked the conclusion of the 47-month journey at West Point for the 985 members of the Class of 2019 as they graduated from the academy and joined the Long Gray Line of West Point graduates.

“These last few years were the most difficult four years I have had, but the most rewarding. I met some of the best people I have ever met in my life and I was able to make amazing connections I wouldn’t have made anywhere else,” 2nd Lt. Cassandra Mundekis, who will serve as a military intelligence officer at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, said. “Walking across the stage was probably one of the best parts of my life. The work you do has never been more important.”

May 25 marked the conclusion of the 47-month journey at West Point for the 985 members of the Class of 2019 as they graduated from the academy and joined the Long Gray Line of West Point graduates.

“The members of the Class of 2019 will serve in every branch of the Army and will lead Soldiers at Army installations throughout the world as they begin their service commitment.

“You all have completed and excelled at the most challenging leader development experience there is,” Lt. Gen. Darryl A. Williams, West Point superintendent, said. “You should be very proud, but today the real work begins … Today, you become a member of the long and proud legacy of men and women who, when history demanded it, answered the call to duty to stand in the gap, to protect and defend this great United States of America.”

The class includes cadets from all 50 states as well as 10 international cadets who will return to serve in their nation’s army.

After the presentation of diplomas to the class, they were officially sworn in as second lieutenants by Commandant of Cadets Maj. Gen. Steve Gilland.

“My father is in the military,” 2nd Lt. William Smith, who will serve as an engineer officer at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, said of why he chose to attend West Point. “He has been a lifelong officer. He introduced me to the idea and I always thought I wanted to serve. West Point seemed like the best way to do that. Part of me felt indebted to the Army because of all they’ve given my family.”

Following the graduation ceremony, the cadets dispersed throughout the academy to have pinning ceremonies where they received their second lieutenant bars for the first time. The honor of pinning the bars on the new graduate is traditionally awarded to a family member who has served or a mentor from their time at West Point.

“I think there are definitely going to be some tears,” Smith said of seeing the bars on his shoulder for the first time. “There is a lot of hard work that has gone into earning those bars.”
The Mixon Band of Brothers: The Strength of Three

The humid and muggy spring air blankets the Mixon brothers as they spend one of their last weeks together at the U.S. Military Academy. They take a quick break from parade rehearsals, cleaning their rooms and preparing for summer training to reminisce on their rare and fortunate situation of having three siblings attending one service academy simultaneously.

Hunter Mixon, the oldest of the brothers currently attending West Point and soon to be second lieutenant, prepares to drive four years' worth of belongings to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for Field Artillery Basic Officer Leaders Course.

“I will miss the people of West Point most,” Hunter said. “It’s a unique community of people where everyone truly looks out for one another, for the most part, and aspires to be great.”

Hunter commissioned with 985 members of the Class of 2019 on May 25 and was happy to have two of his brothers witness his journey and share his successful commissioning.

“It’s been good being their leader, showing them pitfalls, especially more so once they got here,” Hunter said.

The Mixons hail from an extremely diverse family. From left to right, Brandon, Harrison and Hunter. Hunter just graduated with the Class of 2019, while Harrison is Class of 2021 and Brandon is the Class of 2022.

“I did not find it difficult to assimilate once I got to West Point,” Hunter said. “Knowing that my (older brother was here with me) helped me a lot.”

Harrison, a Psychology major, has goals of becoming a Military Police officer once he commissions in May of 2021. He will attend Air Assault school and serve as a Cadet Field Training squad leader this summer.

Brandon, a member of the class of 2022, has been most fortunate to watch two older brothers live and lead honorably as future Army leaders.

He said goodbye to them on their respective Reception Days, helped their parents send them packages of junk food during CST, observed them compare individual performances on the humbling and lung-busting Indoor Obstacle Course Test, and admired their endless transformation from civilian to new cadet.

“Having a dad from West Point and a senior Intelligence officer. Their mother homeschooled them and their five other siblings, overseeing their early academic and artistic development.

"I was prepared for Beast. I wasn’t ahead of the game and that my leadership style drew others together and that they listened to him easily. He refuses to back down from a challenge, assessing and exploring his personal limits. His leadership style truly evolved after returning from administrative leave, which he says contributed to his increased humility, compassion and resilience.

With the graduating Class of 2019, only 82 cadets are the sons or daughters of West Point graduates. Hunter is one of them and it is no surprise this young man overcame any challenges while here.

“Having a dad from West Point and a senior officer, he showed me what true sacrifice looked like,” Hunter said. “I knew growing up that I could accomplish anything I put my mind too. My parents were steadfast in their support for me and after six years at the academy, I’ve finally made it to the promised land.”

The Mixons hail from an extremely supportive and adaptable family. Their father is a 1986 West Point graduate who retired from the Army after 30 years of service as a Military Intelligence officer.

Their mother homeschooled them and their five other siblings, overseeing their early academic and artistic development.

“I never imagined 33 years ago, that God would bless me with eight children and send at least three of them to West Point,” retired Lt. Col. Laurence Mixon said. “Seeing three sons follow close order behind me and begin careers in the Army fills my heart with tremendous joy today and great confidence for tomorrow. Beat Navy!”

Being children in a military family, the Mixon trio lived all over the world. They proclaimed their favorite and most memorable home was Fort Lewis, Washington, where their father was stationed the longest.

They all agree this home is where they made the most friends, attended a great church and had the tightest and strongest community.

After every mandatory lunch where 4,400 members of the Corps of Cadets eat together, the Mixon brothers make the time to shuffle through the tightly packed tables and overall mess hall business to meet up every day.

“Now we are all tight. Being at West Point has definitely strengthened that relationship,” Hunter said.

It can be heard among their fellow cadets during lunch, “There go the Mixon brothers!”

Hunter commissioned on May 25 as a Field Artillery officer. After he attends Field Artillery Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in the summer, he will move to Fort Drum, New York for his first duty assignment.

He chose Fort Drum to escape the humidity of the Hudson Valley and all the brothers admit they prefer the bone-chilling cold of the northeast to any other climate in the country.

Hunter hopes to return to West Point when it aligns with his military career, to be a Training Advising Counseling officer for future cadets.

With the end of daily room inspections, mandatory weekend military training and graded physical fitness tests along the windy and commonly used two-mile course, Hunter is thrilled to begin the next chapter and serve the nation as a second lieutenant.

“I look forward to performing well, being here for six years showed me that I can overcome anything,” he said.

As a second lieutenant, the pressure to be an exemplary leader of character is high.

“If I can set an example of a humble servant-leader, if I can codify and exemplify to my brothers what that looks like, then I can prepare them to be better officers when they pin on their second lieutenant bars,” Hunter said.
that had given so much to him and his family. When the Iron Curtain fell, Gracza’s parents answered the call to serve those who had been living under communism. They and their daughter moved to Hungary from Texas where they have remained for the last 28 years serving as missionaries for the Assemblies of God Church. Gracza and his brother were born in Hungary and spent their entire lives growing up in the country. “They call us third culture kids where it is a little bit of both,” Gracza said. “You are not completely American, you’re not completely Hungarian, but you’ve got both of them at the same time.”

He and his family spoke English at home, but much of his day-to-day life, including all of his schooling, was conducted in Hungarian. Some of their customs were melded and he is bilingual, but Gracza said in his mind he has always been American. English is his “mother tongue” and is the language he thinks and dreams in.

English and their American culture became something he and his parents and siblings shared with only each other suddenly became prevalent all around. Even with the challenges and despite having spent his entire life living in and growing up in Hungary, there was never a doubt for Gracza which country and culture he belonged to. From the time he received and read through the cadet handbook, America was the country he wanted to return to and serve.

Despite six years of preparation, Gracza’s first attempt to get into West Point was unsuccessful. Not to be deterred, he chose to attend a small private school in Texas for a year before reapplying. That year, despite not being in the plans, turned out to be a blessing in disguise for Gracza. It was the first time he had ever attended school in English and he was given the chance to make and work through mistakes that could have set him behind at West Point in a considerably more forgiving environment at the Texas school.

Looking back five years later, Gracza still can’t help but laugh at some of the adjustments he had to go through and mistakes he made. Even though he was fluent in English, many of the slang words his peers used were unfamiliar to him.

Coming from Hungary where his essays and work was mostly handwritten, the concept of double spacing an essay was foreign to him, and he learned very quickly that simply guessing at the definition wasn’t going to serve him well. “I probably should have looked it up, but I double spaced after every word,” Gracza said. “My professor laughed and said he’d let me edit it one more time. I got to make some mistakes and have some culture shock experiences in that one year in a more forgiving environment.”

After a year of adjustment and a second application, Gracza was accepted into West Point as a member of the Class of 2019. Now, five years after moving away, Gracza will be heading back home. His near-term goal is to use his time back in Budapest to build relationships with the Hungarian military and further his understanding of how they operate and their knowledge of how the American armed forces function. But, there is also the added benefit of reconnecting with old friends and being near his parents, who still live in Budapest, and his sister who works as a missionary in Slovenia.
McConville confirmed as next chief of staff, ‘people’ to be his top priority

By Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md.—The No. 1 priority for the next Army chief of staff will be people, whom Gen. James C. McConville says are the Army’s greatest strength.

“Winning requires unit cohesion, a cohesion built on a foundation of trained, disciplined and fit Soldiers who treat each other with dignity and respect,” McConville said, May 2, at his confirmation hearing.

On May 23, senators agreed and confirmed McConville to be the Army’s top officer, a position he said will allow him to ensure the service remains the most lethal and decisive land force in the world.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the next chief of staff of the Army,” the 1981 U.S. Military Academy graduate said after the announcement. “I look forward to the honor of having another opportunity to lead the Soldiers, civilians and families serving our nation’s Army.”

A senior aviator who has qualified on several helicopters, McConville was the vice chief of staff under Gen. Mark A. Milley, who has been nominated for chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Prior to his assignments to the Pentagon as the Army’s G-1 (personnel) and chief of legislative liaison, McConville was the longest serving commander of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

“Gen. McConville is an extremely accomplished Army officer and I’m supremely confident in his abilities as the next Chief of Staff,” Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper said. “He has played an instrumental role in almost every major decision the Army has made since becoming the Vice Chief of Staff and is the perfect leader to carry on our mission of preparing the Army for the future.”

In his hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee, the general said he is committed to eradicating sexual assault and harassment among the ranks, reducing suicides and making sure families have quality housing, healthcare and childcare.

“The Army expects a lot from their Soldiers and families and really to maximize the readiness of our Soldiers, they must know that the Army is caring for their families,” he said.

With 37 years of service, McConville also stressed the Army faces a critical point as it shifts from irregular warfare to great power competition.

“We will win by aggressively pursuing our priorities of readiness, modernization and reform,” he told lawmakers.

Among the Army’s six modernization priorities, McConville highlighted long-range precision fires as a key to gaining overmatch against near-peer competitors.

An extended-range cannon that can shoot rounds at least 70 kilometers is being developed, he said, as well as a precision strike missile and a strategic long-range cannon and hypersonic missiles.

“Future chiefs will no longer have to say that they are outgunned or outranged as we go into the future,” he said.

Modernization efforts, he added, will not only be about new equipment, but also implementing the multi-domain operations concept and a new talent-management system.

He said being part of a joint force, the Army can also effectively deter Russia and China, the two largest threats mentioned in the National Defense Strategy.

“The way we do that is working with our partners and allies,” he said, “and also having forces present or an ability to react to any type of malicious behavior.”

At the start of the hearing, McConville recognized his wife, Maria, a former Army officer herself, whom he said is responsible for all of his success.

“She is the foundation and strength of our family,” he said. “She often says to me, ‘don’t thank us for our sacrifice, thank us for our commitment.’ And I want to thank all of the spouses for their commitment in serving.”

The couple has three children—all now serving as officers in the Army.

Cadets and faculty advisor, Maj. Todd Mainwaring, from the United States Military Academy at West Point were recognized as the first-place winner of the Suburban Single-Family Division during the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2019 Design Challenge, announced April 16. The Solar Decathlon is an international collegiate competition, comprising two challenges—Design Challenge and Build Challenge—through which student teams design and build highly efficient and innovative buildings powered by renewable energy.

On May 23, senators agreed and confirmed Gen. James C. McConville, 1981 U.S. Military Academy graduate, to be the Army’s top officer, a position he said will allow him to ensure the service remains the most lethal and decisive land force in the world.

Courtesy Photo

Solar winners
Advancing the future of the Army in the Cyber Domain

TALLINN, Estonia—The annual International Conference on Cyber Conflict, hosted by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, addresses the most relevant issues concerning the cyber defense community.

Around 600 decision-makers, opinion-leaders, law and technology experts from the governments, military, academia and industry of nearly 50 countries met at CyCon in Estonia to address current cyber security challenges in an interdisciplinary manner.

“Attending CyCon gives cadets a unique opportunity to understand the challenges of cyberspace on the periphery with our NATO partners and allies,” Maj. Erik Korn, Army Cyber Institute cyber policy researcher, said.

This year, six U.S. Military Academy cadets from five different academic departments joined a cyber-focused Advanced Individual Academic Development, sponsored by the Law Department and the Army Cyber Institute at West Point, and traveled to Estonia for CyCon. The AIAD will continue to Poland and Germany for cyber-related activities and cultural experiences after CyCon.

“We see cadets understand the implications of cyber due to its multidisciplinary nature,” Korn said during the conference. “It is extremely important across the different academic disciplines that we understand how far reaching cyberspace is.”

Class of 2020 Cadet Matthew McCarriston is a civil engineering major and involved in the Cyber Policy Team, which won the international Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge in Switzerland earlier this year. He wanted to further his education within the cyber domain and saw this chance as a way to expand his cyber knowledge.

“Cyber relates to civil engineering by the actual application to critical infrastructure inside the U.S. and outside,” McCarriston said. “On this trip, I wanted to learn more about Estonian culture and also how Europe protects itself from cyberattacks.”

USMA’s AIAD program is a key portion of the institution’s margin of excellence concept. Cadets spend about three weeks during their summer academic break conducting academically enriching studies and cultural immersions.

These unique experiences broaden cadets’ perspectives and provide them with practical advanced education related to their field of study and real-world application of cyber in the military.

Class of 2022 Cadet Chloe Tran believes that cyber directly impacts her major, Defense and Strategic Studies, “because the world is becoming more connected through electronics and the media.”

When asked why she thought this AIAD was important, Tran explained, “I wanted to be able to talk with some of the greatest leaders in the world right now in the cyber field, and I saw it as a great opportunity.”
FEATURED ITEM

Second (Indianhead) Division Association reunion

The Second (Indianhead) Division Association is searching for anyone who served in the Army’s 2nd Infantry Division at any time.

For details about the association and its 98th annual reunion in Tucson, Arizona from Sept. 18-22; contact Bob Haynes at 2idahq@comcast.net or call 224-225-1202.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bass Club at West Point

The Bass Club at West Point is accepting new members.

The Bass Club shares angling knowledge, conducts tournaments, promotes sustainable fishing and performs community service in support of West Point outdoor recreation. Membership is open to military, DOD civilians, veterans of the Armed Forces and their dependents.

For more details, contact toddness@aol.com or go to http://pbwiminer.wixsite.com/bassclubatwestpoint.

Mine Torne Road and Stilwell Lake closures

Mine Torne Road and Stilwell Lake will be closed on the listed dates for military training.

• Mine Torne Road—7 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday; June 6, 21, 23, 25; July 3, 4, 5, 6, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; and Aug. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

• Stilwell Lake—7 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday; June 6, 21, 23, 25; July 3, 4, 5, 6, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; and Aug. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

Additional dates will be provided as summer training progresses. For details, contact Alec Lazore at 845-938-3007.

Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey Campaign

The Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) Campaign runs through June 25. Let your voice be heard.

All eligible civilians will receive an invitation to complete the FEVS via email link (see below).

West Point Golf Course Specials (MWR item)

Golf & Grub Special—Special includes 18 Holes, cart, anything off the menu and draft beer or soft drink.

All fees are included. Available weekdays after 10 a.m., weekends after 1 p.m., through Oct. 20. Weekdays $59, weekends $65.

Family Golf Special—through Oct. 20, 3 p.m. to 45 minutes before dusk on Fridays through Sundays.

Season pass holders pay $10, while active duty, retired military/DOD pay $25. All others pay $35, and it includes green fees and cart. Special kids meal price is $5 for children 10 and under.

To schedule a tee time, book a private outing, or for more details, call 845-938-2435 or visit golfatwestpoint.com.

Pizza Delivery Hours (MWR item)

West Point Bowling Center now delivers seven days a week.

Delivery times are 3-8:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 3-9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

For delivery, call 938-2140.

Dinner-To-Go Delivery Service for West Point residents (MWR item)

The West Point Club’s Dinner-To-Go is available Monday through Friday. Place your order by 2 p.m. that day and specify delivery time between 5-7 p.m. or a pick up time between 4:30-6:30 p.m. and pick up your meal at the West Point Club’s Benny Havens Lounge.

Delivery service is available for West Point residents only. Fifteen-minute parking is authorized for dinner pick up in front of the club. Servings for four or six are available for a nominal fee. For pricing and menu items, visit thewestpointclub.com or call 845-446-5506/5504.

Morgan Farm Open to the Public (MWR item)

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 938-9262.

EDUCATION and WORKSHOPS

Army Education Center

College courses are offered through the Army Education Center at West Point, located at 683 Buckner Loop.

Undergraduate classes:
• Mount Saint Mary College—Call Kathy Yasuf at 845-569-3633 or email kathy.yasuf@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.

Army Personnel Testing programs

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

Tests are free of charge to Soldiers. Call the testing center at 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 Mierva at drew.m.mierva ctr@mail.mil or stop by the Army Education Center from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday.

OUTSIDE THE GATES

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. Sunday. 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.river-fest.com and will be accepted until all spaces are filled.

There is no charge for RiverFest, and all are invited. Visit www.river-fest.com for up to date information.

Zoo Tour at Trailside Museums and Zoo, Bear Mountain State Park

Come join an educator for a tour to learn about the Trailside Museum and Zoo and its animals at the Bear Mountain State Park at 1 p.m. June 8.

It is family friendly and suited for all ages. Registration is required. For registration and more details, email Courtney.Larson@parks.ny.gov or call 845-786-2701, ext. 293.

West Point Town of Highlands Farmers Market

A new season of the West Point Town of Highlands Farmers Market from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. every Sunday from June 16-Oct. 27.

The first Farmers Market day, June 16, is a Customer Appreciation Day with live music. The next weekend, June 23, is a Food Truck Extravaganza.

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.

Highland Falls Library exhibit

The Highland Falls Library proudly presents an exhibit by photographer Stan Goldblatt, “The Appalachian Trail—Fort Montgomery Project: Portraits of Thru Hikers on the Appalachian Trail,” which is now open and runs through Oct. 4.

The Highland Falls Library is located at 298 Main Street in Highland Falls.

The library and the exhibit are open at 10 a.m. Monday-Saturday with various closing hours daily.

For details, contact Leslie Rose at brose@rcls.org or 845-446-3113.
Recreational Swimming now open

Take advantage of the newest popular outdoor swimming spot this summer—Round Pond Recreational Area, off Route 293. Be sure to check out the Jungle Joe bouncy, cornhole boards, great picnic, grilling spots and a sandy swim beach.

There is a nominal fee for this event, which includes a T-shirt. See Page 12 for advertisement.

Race registration is online at westpoint.armymwr.com, or day of the event. For more details, call 845-938-6497/6490.

For more information on swim passes, visit westpoint.armymwr.com/programs/swimming, or call 845-938-2985/3170/5139.

Kayak Tours and lessons with Outdoor Recreation Equipment Checkout Center

Visit ODR today and sign-up for one of its many tours or lessons throughout the summer. The checkout center is located at 648 Wilson Road behind the West Point Post Office. The first class of the season is Intro to Kayaking, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday. Tour Popolopen Creek/Fort Montgomery from 2-6 p.m. on Saturday and June 15. Tour Cold Spring from 9 a.m.-noon Sunday.

For more information and to register, call 845-938-0123.

Stand Up Paddle Yoga with Outdoor Recreation Equipment Checkout Center

Sign up today with ODR for Stand Up Paddle Yoga throughout the summer. The checkout center is located at 648 Wilson Road behind the West Point Post Office. Join ODR from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday and June 8 or 5:60 p.m. Sunday and June 10.

There is a nominal fee for these classes which include a paddleboard. For more information and to register, call 845-938-0123.

Free Fishing Weekend

Try fishing for the first time June 22-23 and become an ambassador to the sport.

All eligible patrons can fish on select West Point waters (Round Pond, Wilkins Pond, Bull Pond and Lake Frederick) without a West Point or NYS fishing license.

All other fishing regulations apply. Visit the Round Pond Store for all your baiting needs.

For more details, call 845-938-2503.

Great American Camp Out

Join MWR for a National Campout at the Round Pond Recreation Area Check in at 5 p.m. June 22 and check out at 11 a.m. June 23. Activities and breakfast are provided.

Are you a first time camper? We will assist with setting up camp. Novice? Just come out and enjoy a night under the stars. Patrons will be tent camping only. Limited tent packages available through ODR Equipment Checkout Center.

There is a nominal fee per person. For more details, call 845-938-2503.

FOR THE ADULTS

Ladies Spring Golf Clinic

There are Ladies Spring Clinic from 10-11 a.m. today at the Driving Range at the West Point Golf Course. Fee includes all dates listed. Andy Crane, PGA, is on the best teachers in the Hudson Valley. Crane will take you from range to course. Lessons are customized by skill level. Clubs are provided.

To register, call 845-938-2435 or visit golfatwestpoint.com.

MWR Sports Summer Volleyball Program

The MWR Sports office will conduct the 2019 Summer Volleyball Program. It is open to all active duty personnel, DoD civilians, retired personnel and all West Point community family members. The program will run only on Thursday evenings from today-Aug. 15. Games will be played at Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center from 6-8:30 p.m.

For details, call the MWR Sports office at 845-938-3066 or email james.p.mcgourty.na@gmail.com.

Framing and engraving with West Point Arts and Crafts

The custom framing experts at Arts and Crafts can turn any achievement into a timeless work of art.

Choose from more than 500 quality moldings, 450 acid-free mats and opt for UV-protective glass to prevent fading.

They also offer engraving for any special occasion. Give them a call for any special engraving items you may have.

Arts and Crafts’ easy and quick pricing allows you to design to your budget. For more details, call 845-938-4812.

Indoor Firearm Shooting now available at West Point

Come on down to the Tronsue 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. They have gun rentals, ammunition and targets for sale.

For more details and to register, call 845-938-1700 or visit westpoint.armymwr.com.

Champagne Sunday Brunch at the West Point Club

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.

There is a nominal fee for these brunches. Reserve your spot in advance at thewestpointclub.com. For more details, call 845-938-5120.

101 Spin Basics with Paul

A 101 Spin Basics class will start Wednesday at 5:40 a.m. on the West Point Driving Range at the West Point Golf Course. Paul will look at everything in and out of the saddle, from riding prep to your budget. For more details, call 845-938-5120.

FOR THE FAMILIES

MWR Summer Movie Night with Outdoor Recreation

Join MWR Outdoor Recreation for its outdoor movie “Coco” at 9 p.m. Friday.

Enjoy free movies on a giant inflatable screen at the H-Lot Fields located at 1202 Stony Lonesome Road.

Bring your own blankets and chairs. Movie concessions are available for purchase. For more details, call 845-938-0123 or visit westpoint.armymwr.com.

Father’s Day Brunch June 16

Join the West Point Club for its Father’s Day Brunch from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. June 16. The brunch will be held in the Club’s Pierce Room. There is a nominal fee for this brunch.

To make reservations, visit thewestpointclub.com. For more details, call 845-938-5120.

Outdoor Recreation Open House June 22

Come on out to the Round Pond Recreation Area from noon-3 p.m. June 22 for the Outdoor Recreation Open House.

Learn about fishing, hunting, skiing, camping, lodging, pavilions and equipment check-out. Enjoy the day’s events and rentals for free. For more details, call 845-938-2503.

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.

Round Pond Recreation Area open for the season

The Round Pond Recreation Area is now open through the summer and is located off Route 293, only three miles from Washington Gate.

Round Pond offers cabin, campsite and paddle boat rentals. 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.

FOR THE YOUTHS

Junior Golf Clinics

Junior Golf Clinics are available from 1-1:45 p.m. Saturday, June 15 and 29; July 27; Aug. 10 and 24; Sept. 7 at the West Point Golf Course Driving Range. Clinics are for ages 7-13.

Andy Crane, PGA, is on the best teachers in the Hudson Valley. He will take you from range to course. Lessons are customized to skill level. Clubs are provided. There is a nominal fee per session.

To sign-up, call 845-938-2435. For more details, visit golfatwestpoint.com.

Summer Art Camp Artopia Registration

MWR offers Summer Art Camp Artopia Explore-Inspire-Create. Registration is available via Webrac or in person during Arts and Crafts West Point’s regular business hours.

The Art Camp is open to two different grades: Grades 1-4, session 1: June 18-21 and session 2: July 9-12. Grades 5-8, session 1: June 25-28 and Session 2: July 23-26.

Classes are held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. There is a nominal fee for the camp. For more details, call 845-938-4812 or visit westpointartsandcrafts.com.

Kid’s Bowl Free Program through Aug. 30

Bowling is free for kids at the West Point Bowling Center when they sign-up online for the Kid’s Bowl Free Program.

Sign-up at kidsbowlfree.com/army.

For more details, call 845-938-2140.
Keller Corner

KACH Substance Use Disorder Clinic open

The KACH’s Substance Use Disorder Clinic (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.

KACH researchers are looking for runners; must be DoD beneficiaries

Researchers at KACH are looking for West Point-area runners to participate in a study testing a wearable shoelace pod for its ability to predict running-related injury risk.

The project is entitled, “START: Simple Technology Analyzing Running Technique in West Point-area runners; must be DoD beneficiaries”.

Participants will be asked to wear a lightweight (13 grams) shoelace pod for six weeks of physical training and running.

To be included you must:

• Be a DoD beneficiary (active duty, cadet or family member);
• Be between the ages of 18-50;
• Run at least six miles per week.

You cannot participate if you are currently on running restrictions or have a history of a pregnancy in the last six months. You on running restrictions or have a history

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).

Help KACH reduce, eliminate “No Shows”

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

Did you know that in Fiscal Year 2017, Keller had 3,107 ‘no-shows’? Did you know since, Oct. 1, 2017, Keller has 2,637 ’no-shows’? At approximately $75 per visit, these ‘no-shows’ resulted in a loss of $233,025 in FY17, and are currently resulting in a loss of $197,775.

There is a saying in the medical community that “an appointment missed by you, is an appointment missed by two”—1.) the appointment missed by the patient, and 2.) that missed appointment time that another patient could have had.

KACH asks 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 visit https://www. tricareonline.com/, and cancel so we can re-book that slot for another beneficiary.

We thank you, in advance, for your assistance, and for choosing Keller to provide your high-quality, patient-centered medical services.

For more information or to be a part of the study, contact Col. Donald Goss at 845-938-3067 or 910-420-0543, or at runwestpoint@ gmail.com.

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).

For more information or to be a part of the study, contact Col. Donald Goss at 845-938-3067 or 910-420-0543, or at runwestpoint@gmail.com.

MOVIES at MAHAN

Theatre schedule at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752.

Friday—“Aladdin,” PG, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday—“Breakthrough,” PG, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday—“Curse of La Llorona,” R, 7:30 p.m.
June 7—“Dark Phoenix,” PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

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

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.
West Point Band kicks off “Music Under the Stars” June 8

Story and photo by the West Point Band

The West Point Band will kick off its “Music Under the Stars” concert series with a performance by the West Point Jazz Ensemble titled “Get the Message!” at 7:30 p.m. June 8 at the Trophy Point Amphitheater at West Point.

Audiences are welcome to bring picnics, visit the beautiful and historic grounds at the U.S. Military Academy, and enjoy scenic Hudson River views at sunset.

This performance is free and open to all. Please RSVP by visiting westpointband.eventbrite.com. Registering for this event allows the Band to send you up-to-date concert information, such as weather cancellations.

The West Point Jazz Ensemble, comprised of members of the West Point Band, is proud to present this centennial tribute to percussion master and bandleader Art Blakey.

During his career, which spanned more than six decades, Art Blakey’s band, The Jazz Messengers, was considered the quintessential forum for musicians who wished to hone their talent and leave their own mark on the jazz scene.

Come join the West Point Jazz Ensemble for an incredible evening of music as they honor this iconic and influential jazz mentor.

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.

Six Track and Field members complete NCAA Preliminaries

By Nick Lovera
Army Athletic Communications

Six members of the Army West Point Track and Field team competed at the third day of the NCAA East Preliminary Championships on May 25 in Jacksonville, Florida.

Freshman Justin Young recorded a career-best time in the 110-meter hurdles, posting a 13.80. He finished just one spot below the final qualifying position for the NCAA Championships.

Senior Jeff Giannettino closed out his Army career with a 2.01-meter high jump performance.

Following the meet, Giannettino completed his West Point graduation and was commissioned into the United States Army.

Two Black Knights qualified for the NCAA Championships on Friday, as sophomore August Cook (javelin) and junior Michael Renard (discus) will compete at this week’s event in Austin, Texas.

Coach’s Corner: Head Coach Mike Smith

“The guys did a nice job this weekend. Two NCAA qualifiers is one more than we had last year and our other guys didn’t shy away from the competition. This meet is extremely competitive and for the most part the guys finished close to where they were seeded coming in.

“The highlight today was Justin Young in the 110 high hurdles. He ran well yesterday to advance to today’s quarters and then today he ran even better. He ran a sound aggressive race and just missed advancing to the NCAA meet. He was in a heat with the current world leader, so we knew it was going to be tough to win.

“For him to set a new personal best and finish 14th overall is pretty impressive. When you factor in that he is only a plebe it really is remarkable.

“We’ve got a group of guys that can leave here knowing what it takes to be successful and that will help them going forward and we have two guys that extended their season by another two weeks. Now we need to get those guys ready to compete and see what they can do against some of the best people in the world.”

Freshman Justin Young recorded a career-best time in the 110-meter hurdles, posting a 13.80. Photo by Army Athletic Communications
By Ally Keirn
Army Athletic Communications

After an outstanding four-year career on the men's lacrosse team, Johnny Surdick was honored with the U.S. Military Academy’s most prestigious athletic honor as he was presented with the Army Athletic Association Award. Surdick is the fourth men’s lacrosse only athlete to achieve this honor and first defensemen. Among Cadets who played football and lacrosse, he is the sixth AAA winner and third defensemen. He is the third men's lacrosse AAA Award recipient in nine years.

"John has been an impact player for us since the day he stepped on this campus," said head coach Joe Alberici. "He has been one of our top defenders on a defense that has ranked in the top 10 all four of his years here. He is a three-time All-American and a cornerstone for us. John is an extremely gifted player, but I am most proud of how he developed as a player and a leader, and I can't think of a more deserving person to win the AAA Award.”

Surdick, who hails from Odenton, Maryland, is a three-time USILA All-American and achieved first team honors during his senior season. He is a three-time All-Patriot League First Team selection and was named the Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year in 2019.

The senior captain garnered national recognition as the William C. Schmiesser Most Outstanding Defender Award earlier this week. Surdick was a Tewaaraton Award Semifinalist and is a Senior CLASS Award Finalist.

This past year, Surdick was drafted as the sixth overall pick in the inaugural Premier Lacrosse League College Draft. He was the top defenseman chosen in the draft. Surdick was also drafted in the Major Lacrosse League Draft this spring as the 19th overall pick and first selection in the third round.

In his career, Surdick eclipsed 150 ground balls (finished with 177) and 100 caused turnovers (finished with 103). He averaged 2.85 ground balls per game and 1.66 caused turnovers per contest. Each game Surdick was charged with guarding the opponent's top offensive threat, and was able to impact the flow of play from the faceoff to transition.

Surdick will join the Field Artillery Corps upon graduation and his first duty station is Fort Bliss, Texas.

Former Army lacrosse players to achieve the AAA Award include goalie George Slabowski ('84), attacker Jeremy Boltus ('11) and attacker Garrett Thul ('13). Midfielder Harry Wilson ('28), defender Charlie Jarvis ('69) and defender Lynn D. Moore ('70) played both football and lacrosse and were honored with the AAA.

Baseball heads to Lubbock Regional for NCAAs

By Kat Castner
Army Athletic Communications

The Army West Point Baseball team is heading to is second-straight NCAA Regional and this year the Black Knights are traveling to the Lone Star State.

The Cadets will face host No. 8 Texas Tech in a Friday afternoon matchup to kickoff the Lubbock Regional. That contest is slated for 4 p.m. at Dan Law Field at Rip Griffin Park. The other two teams at the regional are Dallas Baptist and Florida with those two squads playing at 8 p.m. on Friday.

Fans looking to obtain tickets can do so through the Texas Tech Ticket Office at 806-742-TECH beginning at 8:30 a.m. (CT) on Tuesday.

The regional format for the DI baseball championship is a double-elimination tournament format with the winning 16 teams advancing to Super Regionals, which will be held from June 7-9.

The top eight teams remaining will host the Super Regionals on-campus in a best-of-three series with the eight winners advancing to Omaha.

The College World Series will be held from June 15-25/26 at TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha, Nebraska. The eight Super Regional winners will compete in two four-team double elimination brackets.

Two winning teams from each bracket will play in a best two-of-three championship series to determine the national champion.
Halbrook earns prestigious AAA Award

By Nick Lovera
Army Athletic Communications

After completing one of the most storied careers in the history of the Army West Point Track and Field program, three-year captain Abby Halbrook received the U.S. Military Academy’s most prestigious athletic honor, the Army Athletic Association Award.

The AAA trophy is awarded annually to the male and female cadet-athletes who display the “most valuable service to intercollegiate athletics during their career as a cadet.” Johnny Surdick of the men’s lacrosse team was the male recipient of the honor.

In the 115th year of the award, Halbrook becomes the 12th women’s track and field athlete and just the third women’s cross country athlete to earn the honor.

Halbrook is a 12-time varsity letterwinner and is among one of the most accomplished athletes in the history of the program. In 2018, she was honored with the Mike Krzyzewski Award for Excellence in Teaching Character Through Sport.

The Tyler, Texas, native is a seven-time Patriot League individual champion in track and field and a 13-time Army-Navy Star Meet titlist. She led her team to five Army-Navy Star Meet victories and finished her career 4-0 against Navy at the indoor Star Meet. In 15 Star Meet events, Halbrook was defeated by a Naval Academy runner just once.

She broke seven Army West Point program records during her time at the academy and currently stands atop the school leaderboards in the indoor mile and 3,000-meter run and the outdoor 1,500-meter run and distance medley relay.

In her senior campaign, Halbrook won four individual Patriot League Championships. During the indoor meet, she put together one of the greatest performances in program history, coming from behind to win three different events en route to being named Patriot League Female Track Athlete of the Meet.

Halbrook will join the Military Police branch upon graduation and her first duty station will be South Korea.

Director of Track & Field and Cross Country, Mike Smith, on Halbrook

“When I arrived at the Academy in the fall of 2014, our cross country/track and field program was struggling to find success. Our women’s roster was thin in talent and depth and there was a general sense of hopelessness in our competitive outlook. The recruiting cycle was coming to an end and very few of our incoming recruits in the class of 2019 possessed the type of marks that would foretell of future success at the Division I level. Abby Halbrook was one of those incoming candidates.

“She was at the prep school recovering from an injury sustained at the end of her senior year. Truthfully, her high school career was rather unspectacular. She made it to the state championship in cross country one time and finished 22nd. She never made it to the state track and field championship and had rather modest personal best times in the mile and the two mile. There was nothing on paper to indicate that she was a program changing athlete. But that is what she became.

“It is not a coincidence that the rise of our program on all levels has coincided with the arrival of Abigail Halbrook. In my twenty-five year coaching career, I have been fortunate to work with some talented young men and women that have competed at the highest levels of our sport. The best of them have all possessed certain characteristics that define their success. I call those characteristics the “it” factor. Those athletes are fiercely competitive, they take responsibility for their performance, they are confident in their ability and they do everything that you ask them to do. If you add talent to the mix, you’ve got something special. That’s Abby. She is special.

“She changed the entire definition of what ‘good’ is for our program. You only need to see her race once to understand it. She would run herself into the ground rather than lose. Her grit and determination was on display week in and week out and that standard has permeated every aspect of our program. Our competitive outlook has changed, our vision has changed our recruiting profile has changed. We are where we are today because she set that new standard of excellence.

“We can debate all of her tangible success. We can compare her times and her records. We can count star meet wins and conference championships. We can look at all the statistical metrics and try to conjure a definition of what she has meant to this program, but in doing so we would miss the mark on Abigail. The real measure of what she has meant to this program is on a big picture level. She has taken every aspect of this program and elevated it. She makes everyone around her better. That’s the true measure of her value. She will be missed as much as anyone that I have ever coached. That is true on both a program and personal level. The world is getting a good one.”

Photo by Army Athletic Communications

Three-year captain Abby Halbrook received the U.S. Military Academy’s most prestigious athletic honor, the Army Athletic Association Award. In the 115th year of the award, Halbrook becomes the 12th women’s track and field athlete and just the third women’s cross country athlete to earn the honor.
Buddie named Army Athletic Director

By West Point Public Affairs Office

United States Military Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Darryl A. Williams officially announced today Mike Buddie as the academy’s athletic director to lead West Point’s intercollegiate athletic department.

“Mike has a proven track record in leading organizations and developing teams,” Williams said. “He exemplifies the ideals of this institution and he knows how to win in accordance with our values.”

The nationwide search by Army West Point Athletics Association Board of Directors in conjunction with Collegiate Sports Associates resulted in the selection of a director who embodies Army values to sustain a winning culture while educating, training and inspiring the next generation of Army officers.

Buddie arrives at West Point from Furman after leading the Paladins to a major resurgence on and off the field. He negotiated a multi-year partnership with Nike, produced the department’s first balanced budget and spearheaded an effort to bring the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament back to upstate South Carolina in 2017, while also landing two future tournament stops.

He also secured several major financial gifts, including a trio of $1 million dollar endowments in support of the football and volleyball programs.

Under Buddie’s leadership, the Paladins won 26 Southern Conference Championships and most recently a 73rd place finish among 294 NCAA Division I qualifying schools in Learfield Sports’ Director’s Cup competitions in 2018.

“We’ll truly miss Mike and all that he brought to Furman, but we’re excited for him as he pursues this new opportunity at the U.S. Military Academy,” Furman President Elizabeth Davis said. “Mike has done a tremendous job during his time here, and our athletics department has flourished under his leadership—we wish him well and are certain that West Point will be happy with his decision to add him to the team.”

Prior to Furman, Buddie spent a decade at Wake Forest where he oversaw a number of different areas with the Demon Deacons, serving as the sport administrator for baseball, women’s soccer and men’s golf squads while also working with the football and men’s basketball programs. He cultivated relationships with donors for major gift opportunities and oversaw construction, event management, multi-media and auxiliary revenue units. In addition, he was involved with contracts, conference issues, NCAA legislation and capital projects.

“I am thrilled and humbled to be joining the West Point community. To be surrounded each day by so many extraordinary people, and help shape future leaders, is truly a life-changing opportunity,” Buddie said. “I am so thankful to Lt. Gen. Williams, Corky Messner and the entire search committee for placing their trust in me to lead the Black Knights into the future.”

Buddie is a 1993 graduate of Wake Forest, where he was a three-year letter winner as a pitcher for the Demon Deacons baseball team. He was drafted by the New York Yankees in the fourth round of the 1992 MLB draft. During his career, Buddie was a Major League baseball pitcher for the New York Yankees and the Milwaukee Brewers from 1998 to 2002 and was a member of the Yankees’ 1998 World Series championship team.

A Berea, Ohio, native, and graduate of St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland. Buddie and his wife Traci have two children, Zachary and Zoe.

Army operates a 28-sport Division I intercollegiate athletic program, highlighted by its nationally recognized football team.

Under the direction of head coach Jeff Monken, the Black Knights finished 11-2 this season closing the year with a win over the Houston Cougars in the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl. Army West Point Football Team secured the Commander in Chief’s Trophy for the second straight year in its third consecutive win over Navy.

This year, Army teams won six Patriot League Championships in Men’s Cross Country (second straight year), Men’s Indoor Track and Field (first time since 2011), Men’s Lacrosse (second time), Women’s Tennis (15th time), Men’s Golf (12th time), and Baseball (second straight year).

Twelve members were individually recognized at the national level for their competitive athletic performances in the Patriot League.

Coach Monken won Mounger Coach of the Year and Lombardi Coach of the Year Awards. Mike Smith (Track and Field), Paul Peck (Women’s Tennis), Chad Bagley (Golf) all received Patriot League Coaches of the Year awards. Additionally, Coach Kevin Ward (Wrestling) received the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association (EIWA) Coach of the Year Award. Additionally, five spring and winter teams competed at the NCAA level: Men’s Lacrosse, Women’s Tennis, Men’s Golf, Gymnastics, and Baseball.