Twenty new graduates

(Above) Twenty cadets graduate from the U.S. Military Academy and become second lieutenants during a ceremony held in Robinson Auditorium Dec. 20. (Right) Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Curtis A. Buzzard presides over the ceremony and hands out diplomas as members of the 50-year affiliate class, USMA Class of 1969, provides the second lieutenant bars to the new officers. See Page 3 for story and photos on December Graduation. Photos by Tarnish Pride/PAO and Michelle Schneider/PV
Supe’s priorities, staff’s accomplishments highlighted at Town Hall

Lt. Gen. Darryl A. Williams hosted his semiannual staff and faculty town hall Tuesday. (Below) Williams and Command Sgt. Maj. Jack Love recognized staff and faculty from throughout West Point for their years of service and accomplishments during the fall semester. (Right) Williams outlined his priorities for the spring semester and updated those in attendance on Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville’s strategy prior to McConville’s visit to West Point. (Photos by Tarnish Pride/PAO)
December Graduation at West Point may be a smaller group of cadets than the ceremony in May, but the level of achievement is equal to those graduating on a traditional timeline. Twenty cadets marched into Robinson Auditorium on Dec. 20 to receive their diplomas and were cheered on by friends and family members in the audience.

“This represents a time of achievement and transition as these cadets become officers. They take the oath, pin on their second lieutenant bars and give their first salutes as officers. It is a day of reflecting on their educational and developmental journeys and thinking ahead to how they will contribute as leaders of character,” Dean of the Academic Board Brig. Gen. Cindy Jebb said. “They are a diverse group hailing from many parts of the country and a wide array of majors. We proudly send them to the ‘Big Army’ to represent the academy and defend our nation.”

The following cadets graduated as the December Class of 2019: Matthew Allgor, Jackson Darash, Cordarrell Davis, Randy Foristiere, Jinwon Heo, Camm Johnson, Jarrod Jones, Khodadod Kia, Sera Martorelli, James Nachtigal, Michael Neposchian, Paul Rivera, William Saum, Nicholas Schrage, Zachary Scott, Thomas Spell, Shafer Swann, Benjamin Turner, Eric Turner and Ethan Wood.

Despite the group’s academic challenges, health ailments or other issues that set each of the cadets back, they have officially completed their West Point journey and joined the Long Gray Line.

For some cadets, they are following in the footsteps of their other family members. “Our family has a history with the academy or a legacy. My father, my three uncles and two of my cousins have graduated from here. So, growing up in a dual military family, I was exposed to it and raised with those values and I was really motivated to serve,” 2nd Lt. Eric Turner said. “I keep joking about it with my family that I will not believe it’s real until I walk across the stage and they hand me the diploma. I’m very excited. It feels surreal.”

(Last) Twenty members of the U.S. Military Academy Class of 2019 salute during the December Graduation ceremony in Robinson Auditorium Dec. 20. (Above) A member of the Class of 2019 and new second lieutenant hugs a friend after the graduation ceremony finished.
West Point cadet overcomes trials, earns Foley award

As Camm Johnson approached the podium to speak at his mother’s funeral, he noticed how the church was filled with people as far as his eyes could see. In the back standing against the wall was a sea of gray; over 60 cadets from the U.S. Military Academy wore their dress uniforms to support him during his time of loss.

In a letter that recommended Johnson, 24, as a candidate for the Lt. Gen. Robert Foley Scholarship of Honor award, he was described as universally loved and respected by his peers for having an infectious positive personality by Company C-2 Tactical Officer Maj. Jonathan Leggett.

Johnson received the award Dec. 19 before graduating the following day, a non-traditional time of year to earn his degree and give his first salute as a commissioned officer. Despite his outstanding accomplishments and experiences at West Point, Johnson had to take six months off from the academy.

His mother was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2017 and her initial improvement gradually reached a plateau and then she started to decline. Johnson decided taking care of his mom was a priority. He knew he would never get time back with her and that graduation would always be there, so he exchanged his academy uniform to take on the role of a caregiver.

“We had conversations about what my mom wanted to see from us as life moves forward, which at the time was really difficult. Looking back, those conversations were so important to us. They were meaningful and helped us cope with everything in the moment,” Johnson said. “She wanted to be there to see me and my sister graduate and get married. It was inspirational to see her keep the faith, stay positive, fight the good fight and just be grateful for time she got to spend here.”

Mrs. Johnson passed away in January 2019, but this was not the first time he’d lost a parent to cancer. His father died when he was 5 years old in 2001.

“Going back and reading my dad’s notes, I found a letter after he just finished up a round of chemo,” Johnson said. “He said he couldn’t wait to come home and watch “Land Before Time” with his two kids. That was cool to read that he was battling through this and looking forward to something so mundane.”

Johnson said that once his father died, he moved with his mother and sister from Ohio back to Richmond, Virginia where they were originally from to be closer to his family again. He was surrounded by love to help fill the void, and life went on. His grandfather taught him how to ride a bike and his mother got him involved with sports.

Johnson was an active part of the local community throughout his upbringing and his mother was a big part of that. He said she was “the ultimate team mom” and gave friends a ride home from practice or let people get cleaned up and eat at his place after a game.

She was also an art teacher at schools like Mrs. Johnson passed away in January of chemo,” Johnson said. “He said he couldn’t wait to come home and watch “Land Before Time” with his two kids. That was cool to read that he was battling through this and looking forward to something so mundane.”

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He accumulated over 600 jumps and designed demonstration plans for football games and parades. He also trained underclassmen.

• Served as the Honor noncommissioned his junior year, which gave him the responsibility of investigating honor system violations and giving character references.

The award included a signed copy of “The Medal of Honor Portraits of Valor” book, the Scholarship of Honor Medallion personally engraved with a message from Lt. Gen. Foley and a gift certificate toward the purchase of a dress watch at the Cadet Store.

Johnson said upon returning to West Point that he realized the impact the institution and people he associated with have had on him. He shared that the parachute team, the instructors he got close with and people in the mechanical engineering department made up an amazing support group.

“I hope other cadets who deal with difficult circumstances in their lives can find support through West Point. The classmates I have gotten to know over the past four years are the most influential and inspiring people I have met, continuing to push me to get better each day,” Johnson said.

Johnson will soon become an Engineer officer at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington with the 2nd Brigade. He aspires to continue honing his field skills by attending ranger and sapper schools before starting his assignment.
C-2 Flying Circus takes flight with precious cargo

Story and photo by Capt. Jannelle Allong-Diakabana
USMA Public Affairs

Over the past few years, extensive barracks renovations and construction across the cadet area couldn’t go unnoticed at the U.S. Military Academy.

As a result of recent renovations, cadet companies have been shuffled around geographically like a deck of cards. Each cadet company brings with them foosball tables, televisions, furniture, photos, memorials of the fallen and even murals.

“The murals embody the soul and spirit of the company,” Capt. Carter Bell, Company C-2 Training Advising Counseling (TAC) Officer, said. “They differentiate us from the rest of the Corps and gives us our own unique climate and culture.”

The Flying Circus, Company C-2, has a special patch that bares the Snoopy trademark, which retired Col. Gus Stafford obtained formal approval to use from Snoopy’s creator, Charles Schulz, when he designed the company patch as a cadet.

“As a cadet, I wrote a letter to Charles Schulz and asked if the company could use Snoopy as a mascot,” Stafford said. “Years later as the West Point Chief of Staff, I wrote a letter to Peanuts Worldwide and received formal approval for the current C-2 patch.”

Stafford, an avid sign painter in his high school days and throughout his 33-year long military career, created the murals that decorate the current C-2 company common areas and hallways within Bradley Barracks.

“I drew cartoons, carved and painted as a distraction and to raise the spirits of my fellow Soldiers,” Stafford said.

Company C-2 solidified their mascot and motto in the fall of 1977 when their TAC officer Capt. Gary Lorenz, U.S. Air Force, buzzed through Central Area on a crop-dusting biplane over lunch formation during Army vs. Air Force week.

Stafford took the inspiration from his TAC’s spirit mission and Manfred von Richthofen’s squadron from the book, “The Red Baron,” and created several murals that are uplifting, identity-defining, popular and relevant. They also paid homage to the fallen members of C-2, with each of their names painted in the lower left and right-hand corners.

But now the company has been uprooted and they wanted to take their past with them into the future. Prior to C-2’s move into the newly-renovated Eisenhower Barracks over winter break, Stafford laid down the groundwork for the cadets by re-creating all the company murals on large pieces of plywood.

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“(This opportunity) created buy-in for company pride,” said Class of 2021 Cadet Austin Henson, C-2 Company First Sergeant.

When informed of the company’s upcoming move, Bell said, “I immediately made keeping the company murals a priority.”

Bell along with his TAC NCO, Sgt. 1st Class Joshua MacNary, maintain strong ties to the C-2 alumni community with monthly newsletters and via social media. They were able to reach out to Stafford after seeing a photo of him painting the original murals on an alumni Facebook page.

“I reached out to see if anyone had Gus’s contact information and we started coordinating to have the Class of 1981 return to help us recreate the murals,” Bell said.

Four former Flying Circus members were able to return for the recreation on Nov. 16.

“I am glad to see we still have a company dayroom so cadets can still come together,” said retired Lt. Col. Susan Neuman.

Class of 1981 did not have Netflix, iPad’s or wireless and so the importance of the cadet dayroom is something that may be taken for granted these days.

According to Neuman, each battalion had a computer lab with three computers located in what was formerly a utility closet.

“(The members of the Class of 1981) were really able to give us an idea of what the company used to be like, where we came from and provide direction for where the company is headed,” Bell said.

Members of the U.S. Military Academy Class of 1981 return to the C-2 Flying Circus to strengthen the Long Gray Line and help recreate the murals they originally painted in the cadet area.
Story and photos by
Michelle Schneider
PV Photojournalist

The ground was frozen as a World War II Soldier pounded icy mud and shoveled tree roots away. He was completely exhausted and his stomach growled endlessly, but he kept digging into the night. The fear of what’s to come grew during the four hours it took to dig his shelter against enemy fire.

As the rising sun burned away the dense fog, his view of the Belgium countryside was cleared just before the war began to surround him. The ground shook as Nazi German tanks drove through, causing a once peaceful morning to erupt with the thunderous sounds of bombs smashing into the earth while deafening machine guns shot off in every direction.

The Battle of the Bulge made history as one of the deadliest, bloodiest campaigns seen throughout World War II. Vince Speranza, 94, a former paratrooper from the 101st Airborne Division, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, lived to tell the tale of surviving combat during that record-low, brutal winter.

“Freedom’s not free. Someone will always have to pay the price and thank God we still have men like this who are willing to pay the price to keep America free,” Speranza said. “There’s still a hostile world out there. We want world peace, but it’s not there.”

You may recognize his name as the inspiration behind the production of “Airborne Beer.” The bottle’s label depicts a rosie cheeked American GI marching along with a helmet full of beer. If you order one in the town Bastogne, Belgium, it is served in a ceramic bowl shaped like the helmet Speranza used to bring beer to his injured comrades after the fight.

Speranza was miraculously unwounded after the Battle of the Bulge but served as a morale booster, visiting his injured brothers in arms and asking how they’re doing. He tended to what he described as a pitiful scene in a church that was used as shelter for the remaining Soldiers. Only one doctor and nurse worked around the clock tending to them. The rest of the medical personnel were murdered by the Nazis.

His friend and assistant machine gunner Joe had shrapnel in both legs. In a tough demeanor, Joe told him not to worry about it, but Speranza was still concerned. He asked if there was anything he could do, and Joe told him to go find something to drink. Speranza tried to buy everything in the immediate area was bombed to pieces, but Joe suggested he find a tavern.

Amongst the heap of crumbled buildings, broken glass and furniture, Speranza came upon a tavern that still had a bar. When he pulled the handle, beer came out. He could not find a bottle or a jar, so he used his helmet to bring beer back to the church. Everyone wanted a sip, so he left to supply a refill.

Upon his second return, the regimental surgeon, a major, was waiting for him. Speranza recalled the interaction between him and the officer.

“What the hell do you think you’re doing, Soldier?”

“Err, ahh… Giving aid and comfort to the wounded, Sir?”

“You stupid jackass, don’t you know that I have chest cases and stomach cases in there, that if you give them beer, you’ll kill them? Get out of here before I have you shot.”

“Yes, Sir.”

“Put that helmet on.”

“Yes, Sir.”

And with beer pouring down all over himself, he ran as fast as he could to his foxhole in case the major decided to change his mind. Sixty-five years later, Speranza returned to the battlefields in Bastogne. During his trip, he met some people who helped him discover he is a living legend. Speranza went most of his life never knowing that his actions were considered a well-loved story amongst locals or that he was famous in Europe.

Many of Speranza’s stories are delivered in a humorous and light-hearted way. Aside from his ability to engage listeners, there are darker stories that revealed the unmet needs of Soldiers downrange and divulged a realistic perspective of the horrors of war.

He visited the Modern Warfare Institute at the U.S. Military Academy as a guest speaker Dec. 6 and shared his stories with cadets.

“We’re really focused on helping cadets understand the importance that an individual can have,” Capt. Ed Olson, an instructor at West Point, said. “We also want them to understand what it was like to fight and provide some realism to what we read, see and hear about in their history classes to show what it was like to go through the trials and tribulations from a Soldier’s standpoint.”

Even though the 101st Airborne Division was victorious over the Nazi Germans, they still managed to bomb most of Bastogne to pieces, destroy their field hospital and steal medical supplies. The fresh snow was stained crimson after the fight; a lot of men valiantly fought to win while others died from their injuries. Aside from the Battle of the Bulge, there were other war stories Speranza talked about.

He said the most terrible experience he encountered was when his men liberated a concentration camp. As they marched into the forest, the smell of burned skin became denser as smoke grew thicker. Eventually they discovered a compound without any Germans around. There were two gates, 12-foot-high fences, dead bodies piled in a heap like garbage and an oven with human bones in it that was still hot.

They found skeletal victims with flesh clenching to their bones who looked more dead than alive. Weak from starvation, they used their elbows and knees to get around. One crawled up to Speranza’s dirty boots and said, “thank you,” while he kissed them. As Speranza began to lift him up from the ground, the man groaned in pain. He was told by leadership not to give them any food because they needed special diets and to leave them be.

“Some of the guys with me sat on the ground crying, others threw their hands in the air, others were shaking their head back and forth,” Speranza said in describing the anger and disgust he felt. Seventy years later, he vividly remembers that day and still feels a rush of blood to his head. Sometimes, when he’s alone and thinks about it, he said he lays out in all directions but finds nothing but air to stab at.

“We found out these people had not done anything. They had not revolted, they were only there because they were Jews. And to think, six million of them were put in places like this. That day, whatever respect we had for the German Army and people disappeared. We could not believe…” Speranza said as his voice started trailing as he was caught in the trauma of that day.

World War II Vet Speranza shares more of his war stories in his book, “Nuts! A 101st Airborne Division Machine Gunner at Bastogne.” Cadets were able to hear accounts from his memoirs in person at the Modern War Institute and met with him afterward. Each cadet individually expressed his or her gratitude for his visit, asked questions and took pictures with him.

“Bringing in people like this is probably the best thing that West Point can do, especially listening to veterans that have fought in wars other than Iraq and Afghanistan and their experiences,” Class of 2021 Cadet Joseph Canterbury said. “We grew up watching Saving Private Ryan and they were our heroes but bringing in people like that who are super motivated gives a whole other education than what we get in our day to day basis.”
Support our warfighters during National Blood Donor Month

By Dave Conrad
USAG West Point Public Affairs

January is National Blood Donor Month, and West Point is hosting an Armed Forces Blood Program blood drive Monday-Wednesday to support efforts to ensure our warfighters have the blood and blood products they need to make it home from the battlefield.

Between holiday travel, cold-and-flu season and bad weather disrupting drives, it is particularly challenging to keep enough blood on the shelves to care for our troops and their families.

The ASBP’s annual drive here at West Point helps get the year started off right, and relies on the support of our entire community to be a success.

Since 1962, the Armed Services Blood Program has served as the sole provider of blood for the United States military, according to their website. As a tri-service organization, the ASBP collects, processes, stores and distributes blood and blood products to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and their families worldwide.

The ASBP ensures that the blood is available at the very first line of treatment, according to Army Maj. Pavel Munnerman, OIC for next week’s drive.

“Today, blood is transfused on the battlefield. Combat medics carry bags of blood in their golden hour or golden second containers. MEDEVAC and SOF medics carry bags of Low Titer O Type Whole Blood, liquid plasma and red blood cells to start the transfusion at the point of injury. This treatment allows for the trauma patient to survive until they are delivered to the higher level of care,” he said. “Once an injured servicemember is stabilized and evacuated to a medical facility, they may be transfused with all available blood products. While there, they may require what we call the massive transfusions, when 10-500 different blood products are transfused into one patient.

“Each donor can provide only one unit of whole blood, so, saving one patient may require contributions from dozens of donors. In fact, if blood is not available it is collected from prescreened populations at the facilities,” Munnerman said. “Such collections are prone to errors and possible transmission of the blood borne infections, and may not be enough to save a patient. So, we provide FDA cleared, tested and safe blood products for our fighting forces abroad and at home. It means that blood products that we collect needed quality and quantity, and we ship these products on time.”

Frequent deployments and travel to malaria endemic regions keep much of the military population from donating, Munnerman said.

“Drives like the one at West Point, with a large population of donors who have not deployed, are critical in keeping the ASBP supplied.

Next week’s drive is open to anyone with access to the installation. The drive will be from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday at Eisenhower Hall.

Donors can walk in or make an appointment at https://www.militarydonor.com/, and select West Point as the sponsor.

Donors will receive a T-shirt and refreshments, and federal employees may be granted administrative leave for the time they are at the drive.

Don’t be alarmed—be prepared:
First Responders to conduct training at old elementary school

By Matt Cassidy
West Point Portection/Antiterrorism Officer

If you see firefighters, police officers, police vehicles and dogs on the grounds of the old West Point Elementary School later this month, don’t be alarmed. Although it could look real, it will be a training opportunity for our first responders.

The West Point Military Police and Fire Department, the New York State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation will conduct training from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Jan. 30, at the old, now vacant West Point Elementary School building.

On Jan. 27, the New York State Police Special Operations Response Team (SORT) will extend the training until 9 p.m. in order to use night vision technology.

The training will not interrupt school activities, but students, teachers and residents near the old elementary school should expect to hear some loud or unusual noises.

Some of the realistic exercises will include active shooter simulations and K9 training, and will use non-lethal flashbang grenades, paintball guns and smoke.

Safety and security precautions will guide all training activities.

Exercise officials expect there will be up to 15 police dogs involved. Please do not approach the dogs without speaking with an officer first. In most cases the dogs will be locked in their vehicles unless working.

If you have any questions, contact Matthew Cassidy, West Point Protection/Antiterrorism Officer, at matthew.cassidy@westpoint.edu or call 845-938-3650.
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.

Coaches Needed for Child and Youth Services Winter Recreation Sports (MWR item)

CYS Sports is looking for coaches for the Child and Youth Services’ Winter 2019 Youth Sports programs. Coaches are needed for Recreation Basketball and Volleyball.

Interested candidates can contact the Youth Sports Office at 845-938-3208.

Indoor Firearm Shooting now available at West Point (MWR item)

Come on down to the Tronsrue Marksmanship Center today. The center is located at 665 Tower Road, adjacent to the Gillis Field House.

Hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Recreational shooting is open to all DOD cardholders and their guests. There are gun rentals, ammunition and targets for sale.

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

101 Spin Basics with Paul (MWR item)

A 101 Spin Basics class with Paul is scheduled to begin at 5:40 a.m. on Wednesdays at the MWR Fitness Center Spin Room.

Paul will look at everything in and out of the saddle, from good fit to good position to good form.

For more details, call 845-938-6490.

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 time between 4:30-6:30 p.m. to 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 to six are available for a nominal fee.

For pricing and menu items, visit thewestpointclub.com or call 845-446-5506/5504.

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.

The Army Education Center—Testing Office

The Army Education Center at West Point offers the following Army Personnel Tests (APT)—AFCT, DLAB, DLPT and SIFT. We also offer the TABE and GT Predictor.

Testing is offered by appointment only. To make an appointment, call 845-938-3360 or email Janet Browne at janet.p.browne.ctr@mail.mil or Gwen Wallance at gwen.n.wallace.ctr@mail.mil.

The AEC is also an Authorized Pearson VUE Testing Site, open on a space available basis to Soldiers, civilian personnel, military contractors and family members who hold a government ID card.

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 transition service members can contact Drew Mierwa at drew.m.mierwa.ctr@mail.mil or stop by the Army Education Center from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Grace Baptist Church of Highland Falls services

West Point families are invited to attend services at the Grace Baptist Church, located at 54 Old State Road in Highland Falls. The church is near Thayer Gate.

Services are held at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday and at 7 p.m. Wednesday. Sunday School for all ages starts at 9:45 a.m. It also has 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.

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FEATURED EVENT

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

The Father-Daughter Dances will be held from 6-9 p.m. Jan. 17 and 18. The Mother-Son Dance will be held from 6-9 p.m. Feb. 7. Enjoy a dinner buffet with dancing and an on-site photographer for both events. Don’t forget to dress in Sunday’s best.

There is a nominal fee for both events. For more details and to register, call 845-938-5120.

WEST POINT MWR CALENDAR

JUST ANNOUNCED

Together, Listening & Connecting Workshop
The Exceptional Family Member Program is sponsoring a Together, Listening & Connecting Workshop from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 23 at Army Community Service, Bldg. 622. The snow date is Jan. 27.

The TLC Workshop will be covering Guardianship Article 17 New York State Law. It is presented by Anne Klinger from the Orange County Department of Mental Health.

El linger will discuss on going care of individuals with disabilities who are unable to make or communicate responsible decisions.

RSVP to Josephine.M.Toohey.civ@mail.mil to reserve your seat. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch. Light refreshments will be available.

For more details or to ask questions, call 845-938-5655.

West Point Staff and Faculty Noontime Walleyball
The MWR Sports Office will conduct Noontime Walleyball from 12:15-1 p.m. Wednesdays from Jan. 29 through Feb. 26.

It is open to all USMA personnel, DOD civilians, retirees and their dependents.

Games will be played at the Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center’s fourth floor racquetball courts.

For more details and to sign up, contact Paul Gannon or James McGuinness at the MWR Sports Office at 845-938-3066, or e-mail paul.g.gannon.naf@mail.mil or james.p.mcguinness.naf@mail.mil.

FOR THE ADULTS

Staff & Faculty Badminton Open Play League
The MWR Sports office will conduct the 2020 Badminton Open Play League open to all USMA personnel, DOD civilians, retirees and their dependents.

League play will be Tuesday evenings at the second floor Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center courts from Tuesday through March 3. Times will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Players of all ability levels are welcomed. Instruction is also available.

For more details and to sign up, contact Paul Gannon and/or James P. McGuinness at the MWR Sports office at 845-938-3066, or e-mail paul.g.gannon.naf@mail.mil and/or james.p.mcguinness.naf@mail.mil.

Basic Pistol Course
MWR Shooting Sports will be teaching a Basic Pistol Course Jan. 18. The classroom portion will begin at 9 a.m. at the Buffalo Soldier Pavilion located at 628 Hodges Place.

After the classroom instruction, participants will put into practice what they have learned at the Tronsrue Marksmanship Center located at 665 Tower Road (next to the Gillis Field House). Firearm rentals and ammunition are included in the price.

There is a nominal fee for this course, which includes firearm rentals and ammunition. This course satisfies the Orange County safety class requirement in order to apply for a pistol permit. Participants will receive a certificate.

Register by visiting the Tronsrue Range or calling the range at 845-938-1700.

West Point Community Skate
The West Point Community Skate at Tate Rink is ongoing for the 2019-2020 season.

There is a nominal fee per class. Call 845-938-6490 or stop by the MWR Fitness Center to sign-up.

Ski & Snowboard Lesson Registration ongoing
Are you or your family members in need of Ski or Snowboard lessons? Victor Constant Ski Area’s registration is ongoing for the remaining registration slots available for general public members.

You can enroll online at victorconstantski.com, or by calling our Victor Constant Ski office at 845-938-8810.

FOR THE FAMILIES

Broadway Tickets available at Leisure Travel Services
Leisure Travel Services has tickets available now for the 2020 season. The shows and dates include:

• Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Part 1 & 2—March 11.
• Frozen—March 24.
• Aladdin—April 22.
• Wicked—May 14.

Ticket prices vary and include transportation. All sales are final. No refunds and/or exchanges. For more details, visit westpoint.armymwr.com. To reserve tickets, stop in 683 Buckner Loop or call 845-938-3601.

Child & Youth Services Ice Skating Lessons
Child and Youth Services Sports and Instructional programs will have two skating sessions.

• Session 2: Jan. 19, 26 and Feb. 2. The make up day is Feb. 9. Session times are 2:30-3 p.m. for ages 3-5 and 3:30-4 p.m. for ages 6 and up.

All lessons will be held at Tate Rink. To register, call 845-938-0939.

West Point Child and Youth Services Hiring Event
The West Point Child and Youth Services hiring event will take place from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 22 at the West Point Museum. The museum is located at the Lucas Military Heritage Center, 2110 South Post Road, Highland Falls, New York.

West Point CYS is now hiring multiple Child and Youth Program assistants for its youngest group of children (ages 6 weeks to 5 years). Bring your resume and reference list (a minimum of two). All employees must pass a background check.

Child & Youth Services Intro to Swim
The CYS Sports and Instructional Programs will have swim classes from Jan. 26 through March 5 from 6:30-7 p.m. It is open to youth ages 7 to 18. Lessons will be held at Crandall Pool. There is a nominal fee for these classes. To register, call 845-938-0939.

Child & Youth Services Fine Arts Festival
The CYS Fine Arts Festival will be held from 5:30-7 p.m. Jan. 30 at the Youth Center, Building 500. Open to youth in grades 6-12 and their families.

The festival will have youth’s artwork on display for families to view and there will be light refreshments available.

For more details, call 845-938-8889.
West Point Museum’s new exhibition highlights 19th century reality at West Point

By the West Point Museum

The West Point Museum has opened a new exhibition featuring stereographs that allow visitors to experience West Point and the U.S. Military Academy as it appeared between 1860 and 1900.

Stereographs and their accompanying hand-held viewers are the 19th century equivalent to the virtual reality viewers such as Google Cardboard and Oculus that we know today.

Local photographers and large photography shops from New York City produced and reproduced hundreds of stereographs of the academy from the 1860s until the turn of the 20th century.

In 2014, the West Point Museum received a donation of more than 300 stereographs of West Point. The views in this exhibit highlight this remarkable collection and offer a look into cadet life and the military academy’s historic campus from the mid-19th century until the early 20th century.

The West Point Museum is the nation’s oldest federal museum. Its origins can be traced to the American Revolution.

Today, visitors can view the actual weapons, uniforms and memorabilia across American history as well as military artifacts from around the world.

MOVIES at MAHAN

Theatre schedule at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752.

Friday—“Frozen 2,” PG, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday—“21 Bridges,” R, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 17—“Knives Out,” PG-13, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 18—“Queen & Slim,” R, 7:30 p.m.

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

When the weather turns cold, it can bring a chill into our homes. Portable space heaters have become a popular way to supplement central heating or heat one room. If you plan to use portable electric space heaters, make sure to follow these tips and recommendations:

HEATER CHECKLIST
- Purchase a heater with the seal of an independent testing laboratory.
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from anything that can burn, including people.
- Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- Keep children away from the space heater.
- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed.

Types of electric space heaters
- Oil or water-filled radiator: Heated oil or water travels through the heater.
- Fan-forced heater: A fan blows warm air over metal coils.
- Ceramic heater: Air is warmed over a ceramic heating element.
- Infrared heaters: Heat is created by infrared bulbs.

Fact
Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters.

Alcohol Cadet Awareness

Do you want to drink less?
Do you want to quit drinking?
Do you want to learn more about alcohol habits?
Do you want to help a friend deal with a problem?
You should come by!!

Every Wednesday in TH500 (Thayer roof) at 1930
This program is anonymous for all who want to come
Led by cadets for cadets
Women’s basketball drops high-scoring affair

By JJ Klein
Army Athletic Communications

Army West Point women’s basketball found itself on the wrong side of an offensive shootout Sunday against Colgate. The Black Knights ended up falling to the Raiders, 100-93, at Cotterell Court in Hamilton, New York.

Sophomore guard Alisa Fallon and freshman guard Hope Brown each registered new career highs in scoring with 26 and 23 points, respectively. Army had two other members reach double-digit scoring as sophomore forward Lindsey Scamman dropped 15 and sophomore guard Sarah Bohn finished with 14. As a team, the Black Knights shot 52.1 percent from the field and 45.2 percent from beyond-the-arc.

Colgate had five members score in double figures: Abby Schubiger (20), Rachel Thompson (19), Taylor Langan (13), Alexa Brodie (13) and Haley Greer (10). Schubiger shot an impressive 10-of-11 from the floor, while Thompson was 6-of-9.

As a team, Colgate shot 63.3 percent and was 17-of-18 at the charity stripe.

Army game notes and highlights

- Army’s 93 points was the most the team has scored in a game since Dec. 16, 2017, when it topped St. Joseph’s Brooklyn 107-46.

- Army’s 28 assists not only represented a new season high, but it was also the first time the Cadets had 25 or more helpers in a contest since the St. Joseph’s Brooklyn game in 2017.

- The Cadets took care of the ball well, finishing with a season-low 10 turnovers.

- The most combined points scored in a half in Patriot League history had been 108, which Fordham (56) and Providence (52) set back on Dec. 7, 1991. Army and Colgate combined for 115 in the second half.

- Scamman has now reached double-figure scoring in nine games this season, tripling her total from last season.

How it happened

In the first quarter, Colgate shot 64.7 percent (11-of-17) from the field, though it only held a 22-18 lead after the first 10 minutes of play. Army shot at a 44.4 percent clip in the opening frame and managed to keep it close with eight points off Colgate turnovers.

In the second quarter, sophomore forward Kate Murray scored seven points on 3-of-4 shooting. Though, Colgate managed to build its lead to eight points heading into the break.

Army opened the second half hitting its first seven shots, including two 3-pointers. The Black Knights took the 50-49 lead with just over three minutes into the third quarter after Brown knocked down a pair of free throws. The score would continue to seesaw for the next few minutes.

Colgate managed to build a seven-point lead with just over a minute left in third, but the Cadets closed out the quarter with the next four points to make the score 72-69 heading into the final quarter.

Brown accounted for 13 of the Black Knights’ 34 points in the third, shooting 5-of-6 from the field. On the other end, Schubiger was a perfect 5-of-5 in the frame to total 10 points.

A layup from Scamman with 7:46 left in the contest gave Army the 79-78 lead, but Colgate quickly fired back to take the lead.

The Black Knights managed to tie it 90-90 with 2:30 left in the contest, but Colgate distanced itself to win the high-scoring affair.
Wrestling takes two of three matches at duals

By Frank Shala
Army Athletic Communications

The Army West Point wrestling team earned two quality dual wins Saturday at Christl Arena, as the Black Knights defeated both American University and Wyoming during their host West Point Duals.

Coming off a strong performance at last weekend’s Midlands Championships, Army (6-2, 1-0 EIWA) was back in dual match mode to start the new year.

Senior Trey Chalifoux (3-0), senior Noah Stewart (2-0) and sophomore Ben Sullivan (2-0) were all undefeated on the day to lead the team.

Sophomore Markus Hartman, senior Cael McCormick and senior Ben Harvey all earned two wins respectively throughout the day.

The Black Knights opened their day with a tough 19-12 loss to the No. 17 ranked Tar Heels of North Carolina. Army won four matches in its opener, including taking the last three, but couldn’t rally enough to catch the Heels.

Momentum swung into the Cadets favor in match No. 2. Army opened up its EIWA conference slate against American University, taking eight of 10 matches on the way to a 33-7 victory.

Army kept it rolling into the third dual versus Wyoming.

In a back-and-forth affair, the Black Knights split the opening four matches, before sophomore Hartman earned the first of three straight Army wins.

The Cowboys would make it interesting, taking both the 184 and 197 bouts, but Ben Sullivan sealed the 19-13 win with a 5-0 shutout win at heavyweight.
Nate Woody named football defensive coordinator

By Greg Kincaid
Army Athletic Communications

Army football Head Coach Jeff Monken announced the hiring of Nate Woody as defensive coordinator Jan. 2. A 29-year coaching veteran and a coordinator for 19 years, Woody comes to West Point after stints as a defensive analyst at Michigan (2019), defensive coordinator and outside linebackers coach at Georgia Tech (2018), defensive coordinator at Appalachian State (2013-17) and defensive coordinator at Wofford (2000-12). In addition to the hiring of Woody, Monken announced that John Loose has been elevated to Assistant Head Coach. Loose was the team’s defensive coordinator in 2019 and is in his second stint at Army, wrapping up his 14th season overall with the program. He was the linebackers coach under Bob Sutton (1992-99) and returned to West Point in 2014 to join Monken’s staff.

“We are thrilled to welcome Nate Woody to the Army Team,” Monken said. “Nate is a veteran coach that has led some of the nation’s top defenses year in and year out. Having faced his defenses in the past and seeing the production of his defensive units throughout his career, I am excited to have him leading our men at West Point.

“John Loose has been an influential leader during two of Army Football’s most successful eras,” Monken said. “He has a wealth of experience as a West Point coach and I know that he will continue to guide our program to success in his new role as assistant head coach.”

Woody, who brings an attacking 3-4 scheme to Army, was hired to run Georgia Tech’s defense in 2018. He worked under then Georgia Tech head coach Paul Johnson, who Monken was an assistant coach for with the Yellowjackets (2008-09), at Navy (2002-07) and at Georgia Southern (1997-01). In 2018, the Yellowjackets’ defense had a nose for the football as they were tied for fifth nationally in fumble recoveries (13), tied for 16th in total takeaways (25) and tied for 17th in defensive touchdowns (3).

Woody directed Appalachian State’s defense for five seasons. He took over a defense in 2013 that ranked eighth in the nine-team FCS Southern Conference in total defense the season prior to his arrival.

Under Woody’s leadership, his unit led the Sun Belt Conference in total defense three times and ranked among the top 30 in NCAA Division I FBS each of his last four campaigns at Appalachian State (2014-17).

“I’m appreciative to Coach Monken for the opportunity to come to Army and work with this outstanding group of young men,” Woody said. “I saw firsthand in Ann Arbor how well this defense can play in the near upset at Michigan earlier this season and look forward to the challenge of maintaining this proud tradition at West Point.”

Over his final three seasons at Appalachian State, the Mountaineers had average FBS national rankings of 15th in scoring defense, 19th in total defense, 28th in rushing defense and 28th in passing defense. Appalachian also averaged 24 takeaways, 19 interceptions and 35 sacks per season over the last three campaigns.

During that three-year span, the Mountaineers won 30 games, two Sun Belt championships and became the first program to ever win bowl games in each of its first three seasons at the FBS level.

Appalachian State blanked Mid-American Conference champion Toledo, 34-0, at the 2017 Dollar General Bowl. The Mountaineers limited the nation’s eighth-ranked offense to just 146 total yards (364 yards below the Rockets’ season average) and had four takeaways.

Prior to Appalachian State, Woody spent the first 22 years of his collegiate coaching career at his alma mater, Wofford (1988-93, 1997-2012), including 13 successful seasons as defensive coordinator (2000-12).

In his 13 seasons leading the Wofford defense, Woody built one of the Southern Conference’s most successful units. Wofford led the SoCon in total defense three times under Woody’s direction, including twice in his last three campaigns with the Terriers (2010 and 2012) and produced nine all-Americans and three SoCon Defensive Players of the Year.

In his final season at Wofford, the defense allowed just 16.6 points, 125 rushing yards and 305.9 total yards per game, good for tops in the SoCon in all three categories. The Terriers ranked among the top 10 in the FCS in total defense twice in his last three seasons—seventh in 2010 and ninth in 2012—and also led FCS (then known as Division I-AA) in takeaways with 41 in 2003.

Woody was a four-year starter at Wofford from 1980-83, playing two years at defensive back and two at outside linebacker.

He was an honorable-mention all-American, a two-time all-district honoree and served as the Terriers’ team captain in 1983.
No. 20 Army Hockey loses to No. 6 Ohio State in OT

By Ally Keirn
Army Athletic Communications

The No. 20 Army West Point hockey team fought to a 2-1 overtime loss with No. 6 Ohio State Saturday at the Fortress Invitational in Las Vegas.

Junior forward John Keranen put the Black Knights ahead 1-0 in the first period with an even-strength goal but the Buckeyes tied things up in the second which led to overtime.

Ohio State netted the game-winner 1:17 into the extra time.

How it Happened

• The Black Knights came out with high energy from the drop of the puck.
• Junior goalie Trevin Kozlowski recorded a save on a breakaway which helped spark the momentum Army needed to score.
• Keranen recorded his first-career goal with 2:46 to go in the first period to put the Black Knights on top 1-0.
• Junior defenseman Cody Fleckenstein’s pass got stuck on the outside of the net before junior forward Mason Krueger poked it out and passed it to an open Keranen in front for the score.
• Junior forward Dominic Franco was poised to put Army ahead but danced one off the pipe five minutes into the second stanza.
• The Buckeyes tied it up 1-1 with a shorthanded score with 9:19 on the clock in the same period.
• After battling it out throughout the third the teams went to overtime.
• Ohio State scored the game-winner 1:17 into the extra time to take the game by a 2-1 score.

Highlights and game notes

• It was the third meeting between Army and Ohio State with the trio being played in tournaments.
• Kozlowski posted 31 saves on the night including 12 in the third period.
• It was the second night in a row the Black Knights’ goal was scored by a freshman.
• Keranen notched his first-career goal in the game and his eighth point.
• Krueger produced assist number five on the year and 17 in his career.
• He now totals eight points in 2019-20 and 32 in his career.
• Fleckenstein had his fifth helper of the year and sixth point in the effort.
• Fleckenstein had his fifth helper of the year and sixth point in the effort.
• The junior now has six assists in his career and seven overall points.
• It was Army’s second overtime game this season.