Surveillance testing for COVID-19

See pages 4-5

(Above) Maj. Tim McGee, an assistant professor in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science department, places a swab into the nose of a cadet during the real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test Aug. 26 at Cullum Hall. The PCR test is a part of the random COVID-19 surveillance testing at West Point. The U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School tests 2.5% of cadets, about 115 total, randomly per week. About 1% of the USMA population to include DOD civilians, staff and faculty and 10% of clinical health personnel are tested every two weeks. About 100-150 Corps Squad athletes are also tested per week according to NCAA guidelines. Cadet athletes are required to do 100% testing within 72 hours of competition. (Left) McGee places a label on the viral transport media (test tube) that will hold the swab sample, which will then be transported to Keller Army Community Hospital for testing in the GeneXpert analyzer. Once the specimen is prepared and scanned, it is placed in the analyzer. Once in the GeneXpert, it takes about 50 minutes for the analyzer to provide a test result. The GeneXpert and PCR platforms look for a piece of RNA and if found, amplifies the strand so that the analyzer can determine if the specimen is positive or negative. Photos by Eric S. Bartelt/PV
Men and Women of the Corps:

I would like to start my remarks to you today with an admission. When I was first asked to speak on the topic of “Women’s Equality Day,” my reaction was one of ambivalence. The truth is, that as a woman myself, I did not grow up with any doubts about my fundamental equality. It never occurred to me that my gender made me less than equal to anyone, along any of the dimensions that really matter.

It did not make any sense to me to suspect that I was less than equal as a political or social being, or as an intellect. It never occurred to me to believe that somehow it would be right that my life choices should be less than those of any other human being as a product of my gender. So, why do we need “Women’s Equality Day”? Isn’t our fundamental equality — across genders — simply obvious?

It might be good to periodically remind ourselves that our first reactions are not always right. In my case, it did not take much reflection to recognize, unfortunately, that “Women’s Equality Day” has an important purpose. I may have enjoyed the luxury of growing up with no doubts about my equality, but that was a luxury, one that is not to be taken for granted. Just a quick look at the past and present reminds me that this is so.

This prized democracy of ours, the United States of America, built upon so many admirable ideals, is now 224 years old. Yet, only in much less than half that period — 100 years this month — have women had a guaranteed right to vote. And of course, that right was not “granted,” but rather it was fought for, with conviction, by many who paid a price for acting as their consciences demanded.

1920 — the year of the ratification of the 19th Amendment — was really not that long ago. It still somewhat shocks me when I think that both of my grandmothers — two admirable, brave and loving women — were born in years in which women in the United States did not have the right to vote.

Of course, “Women’s Equality Day,” is not only an appropriate response to our past, it also resonates due to the realities of our present.

This is not my area of academic specialization, but it does not take much research to uncover a few basic facts. Why, according to the Census Bureau, did women earn only about 80% of what their male counterparts earned in 2017? Of course, differences in earnings are either more or less stark when race and ethnicity are also taken into account.

In good news, in 2020, the number of women who are CEOs of Fortune 500 companies is at a record high. But that record high is 37 out of 500, which is still only about 7%. Finally, if women are 50% of the population, why do women constitute only about 24% of members of Congress?

Closer to home, I must also acknowledge how my own lived experience has been shaped by those who have fought for women’s equality. If Congress had not passed a bill, signed into law by President Ford, requiring the service academies to admit women, I would never have graduated from West Point as a member of the 10th gender-integrated class. I would not have enjoyed a rich and full career as an Army officer, full of meaningful relationships, and rich with opportunities to grow and to contribute.

For those of us in uniform today, our first and foremost challenge is not political or social activism, since in choosing to serve, we agree to voluntary constraints on some of our political activities. But there is still so much that we must do. Our units, our Army, will continue to live up to its highest ideals and achieve new levels of effectiveness when we foster diversity and respect is just the minimum. Diversity conceived generously — encompassing differences in socioeconomic background, race, ethnicity, experiences, perspectives and, yes, gender — brings with it marvelous possibilities to make us better — to grow as individuals as well as organizations. It is our job to realize that potential.

Thank you for your attention and your time.
A humble changeover between chaplains

For 20 years, Chaplain Col. Matthew Pawlikowski has made it his mission to embody the old adage “for God and country.” He had traveled the world, performing God’s work in Egypt, Afghanistan, Haiti and Germany. From 2012 to 2020, Pawlikowski served proudly as the U.S. Military Academy Chaplain, and now, at the twilight of his tenure as a chaplain here, it was officially time to retire. A recommendation needed to be made, but finding the right chaplain to replace him was, by no means, a simple task.

Nonetheless, Pawlikowski still recalls his first meeting with Chaplain Col. Keith N. Goode in 2000 during a Senior Chaplains Conference at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He remembered the charisma and worldly insight Goode exuded. Vibrant chaplains like Goode are what made Chaplain Conferences an experience to look forward to.

Through the years, Pawlikowski would attend the conferences to find inspiration amongst his colleagues and understand how industrious and dependable each chaplain was. Still, he also understood that not every chaplain was the right fit as a USMA Chaplain as he was searching for a replacement.

“The chaplain replacing me would need to have the right personality and talents to knowledgeably perform his chaplain services for the cadets at West Point,” Pawlikowski said.

At the beginning of the process, Pawlikowski remained uncertain for a while and did not consider Goode because he was working as the Chief of Chaplain’s executive officer in the Pentagon, where he would run the Chief of Chaplain’s staff.

Chaplain Col. Matthew Pawlikowski (above), former U.S. Military Academy Chaplain, is now retired and is currently serving as a priest at the Most Holy Trinity Chapel.


To Pawlikowski’s surprise, Solhjem decided to let Goode serve and fill Pawlikowski’s former position as a USMA Chaplain. Once Pawlikowski realized it was possible, he knew Goode was the right chaplain for the job.

“It was a miracle because I’ve been here before,” Goode said. “I was a regiment chaplain at West Point from 2004 to 2006, and I had always thought, ‘wow, wouldn’t it be fun if I could do that again?’"

Goode said providing the cadets a balance between a sound mind and unwavering faith is part of building their character and becoming efficient leaders for future generations.

It isn’t enough to preach the word of God. Getting to know the cadets and understand who they are as people will allow him to mend whatever hardships they may face in the future, Goode explained.

“What I’m doing here at West Point is not just what I do on Sunday,” Goode said. “It’s what I’m doing every day to shape them where 30 years from now these young men and women are leaders of the Army, the nation and of business all across America.”

Pawlikowski said as the USMA Chaplain, working with cadets is a privilege and you get to be involved in the formation of young adults who are forging their identities as servant leaders of the free world.

Through their journeys, the cadets will encounter hardships. Some of those challenging experiences will negatively impact them. However, the balance of willpower and faith is needed to persevere. The military will help sustain that willpower, but the chaplains will preserve the faith, Pawlikowski said.

“When I was a cadet at West Point in 1982, my classmates were Mark T. Esper, the secretary of defense, Gen. Joseph M. Martin, the incumbent Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, and the Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. I say that to give you an idea of the impact we are leaving on these cadets,” Pawlikowski said. “We are cultivating these young people who, 30 or 40 years from now, will be in those positions.”

Chaplain Col. Keith N. Goode is the current U.S. Military Academy Chaplain. He previously served at the Pentagon as the executive officer for the Chief of Chaplains.
As several cadets streamed into the cavernous, darkly lit second floor of Cullum Hall, the task at hand is anxiously simple for them — get swabbed for COVID-19. To fight complacency in a bubble environment, the U.S. Military Academy has continued its rigorous COVID-19 strategy from the summer with the proactive approach of executing surveillance testing on a weekly basis during the academic year.

Currently, as the testing strategy stands, the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School tests 2.5% of cadets, about 115 total, randomly per week. About 1% of the USMA population to include DOD civilians, staff and faculty and 10% of clinical health personnel are tested every two weeks. About 100-150 Corps Squad athletes are also tested per week according to NCAA guidelines. Cadet athletes are required to do 100% testing within 72 hours of competition.

With the testing strategy in mind, Col. Laura Dawson, USMA medical officer, attests that the living conditions in Central Area is easily susceptible to have a communal spread of any virus or bacteria like Strep Throat among cadets. The importance of a continual testing program for COVID-19 is vital to keeping it to a minimal impact to the cadets in order to test 30 to 40% of the barracks population. By late June, the Department of Defense would need to be tested weekly to detect and prevent a potential outbreak,” Dawson said.

“Putting a surveillance testing plan in place, and when developed appropriately for our community, it potentially allows us to identify an outbreak before there is significant growth,” Dawson said. “Ultimately, that is what you want from your surveillance program — you want to identify asymptomatic positives who could unknowingly spread the virus to those around them. After identifying a positive (result), now you want to direct efforts to determine if there is disease growth around the positive result.”

Laying the groundwork for the surveillance program began in late April as COVID-19 was exploding in numbers in the United States and the cadets were told to stay home in the latter part of the spring semester. The impetus of the surveillance testing plan, Dawson explained, was to identify and ideally suppress growth of the virus in the barracks while also testing within the community since the DOD civilian and military staff have daily contact with the cadets. Leading the development of a surveillance program that would address some of the unique features of the West Point community, members of the Department of Systems Engineering and the Math Department —Cols. Paul Evangelista and Matt Dabkowski and Lt. Col. Nick Clark — started working multiple modeling concepts aimed at determining the optimal program for COVID-19 surveillance testing at West Point.

“In April, as the academy was working toward graduation, we started talking about what would be next; how do we prepare for the summer and the academic year,” Dawson said. “And what would be a sustainable way of protecting our community in the COVID-19 environment. Unfortunately, with the novel nature of COVID-19, data and research on how to best conduct surveillance testing is not available.”

Dawson said there were concerns about what was the right percentage of random testing needed for it to be effective. Was it 5%, 10% or 40%? By late June, the Department of Defense released a Force Health Protection supplement providing guidance on randomization values for surveillance for different categories of individuals dependent on the mission, location and status.

“review the Office of the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Dawson watches over the staff during the testing process as the staff initially received training through Keller Hospital from two-to-four hours’ worth of training, depending on what their background was prior to the training. “They train on how to safely and properly don and take off the (personal protective equipment), proper technique for testing (swabbing) and how to place the specimen in the vial prior to handing it to the lab technician.” Dawson said. “Another important part of their training includes completing HIPAA training along with meticulous review of the patient’s identifiers that are printed and placed on the vial.”

The test used to determine COVID-19 is called the real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test, or PCR test for short. As Dawson describes, the PCR test begins with a long swab that is placed up the nose of the patient, gently “swabs” the tissue in the back of the cavity, then the swab is placed into a viral transport media (test tube) which protects the contents, then the specimen is transported to the lab at KACH. Specially-trained lab technicians then prepare the specimen under a safety hood before placing it into the GeneXpert analyzer. Once the specimen is prepared and scanned, it is placed in the analyzer. Once in the GeneXpert, it takes about 50 minutes for the analyzer to provide a test result. The GeneXpert and PCR platforms look for a piece of RNA and, if found, amplifies the strand so that the analyzer can determine if the specimen is positive or negative.

If someone tests PCR positive, most likely the person will be directed to complete 10 days of isolation. For cadets that test positive, they will stay in Building 624, or a similar building, for their 10 days. Once they have completed their 10 days and are without any medical symptoms, they can be cleared by a provider and released to return to duty.

Part of the learning curve with COVID-19 is that viral fragments, Dawson said, can stay in a person’s body for 30 to 90 days, and for some
people, maybe longer which has prompted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, along with other agencies, to move away from testing out of isolation after an initial positive COVID-19 test result. Emerging products may allow the academy testers to test for the active portion of the virus with saliva or a small drop of blood in the near future, but Dawson said while the PCR test isn’t a perfect test, it is the best platform they have to detect the virus at this time.

Kudos to everyone supporting the mission

Dawson speaks highly of the many individuals who have performed well under challenging circumstances while dealing and fighting COVID-19 within the community.

Keller Hospital’s laboratory, which is run by Capt. Jeff Baker, supports surveillance testing, normal hospital testing and handles the order and procurement of testing supplies, and has done an impeccable job, Dawson said. If a person tests positive, Baker also validates the results prior to releasing the results.

Once asymptomatic persons are identified as having a positive COVID-19 result from surveillance testing, they are informed of their results by a medical provider. They are then asked to complete an initial trace form and provide that to the USMA Trace Team.

“The USMA Trace Team works with Army Public Health to provide initial recommendations which could include having some people stay in their rooms/home until the Trace Team can complete all the required interviews,” Dawson said. “For a cadet who tested positive for COVID-19, they will most likely be required to complete 10 days of isolation in Building 624, which through the hard work of Team COVID (Majs. Jay Brend and Bryan Ralls) is equipped with desks, lamps and WiFi to help the cadets stay on track with their academic requirements.”

Since March, as the USMA medical officer, Dawson has assisted the USMA staff with medical plans and operations in the COVID-19 environment.

“A lot of what we do includes helping our community leaders and supervisors navigate questions and concerns about safely operating in our current environment,” Dawson said. “Putting the USMA Longitudinal Testing Program (LTP) together was a complete team effort with USMA staff, the Department of Systems Engineering/Math (Evangelista, Dabkowski and Clark) and KACH all working together for several months to make this happen.

“Col. Alicia Madore and her team at Keller set up and provided the hours of required medical training to support the LTP,” she added. “Capt. Baker and his crew worked around the clock to support surveillance testing along with supporting all the lab requirements of a 24/7 ER and hospital. Maj. Will Pitt and his crew set up, tested, transported specimens, tracked those tested and broke down and cleaned up after each testing event (during Cadet Summer Training and at Cullum Hall currently).”

“Maj. Marion Keehan, the brigade surgeon, and Maj. Chris Barber are providers who worked directly with the cadets to safely bring them back to West Point and they continue to work with them through sick call and clinic appointments to evaluate, treat and monitor their health,” she concluded.

Dawson gave the KACH staff high marks for its “mental and physical” gymnastics through the last few months of up-tempo work. However, the work will not go away in the foreseeable future as Dawson suspects that COVID-19 testing will most likely continue through academic year 2020-21.

But as KACH and several folks continue to work hard to keep the community safe, the community can still do its part by sticking to things that can keep them healthy such as the use of nonpharmaceutical interventions, or NPI.

“Looking around the country, we see COVID-19 continues to create challenges,” Dawson said. “Consistently using NPI, our community and surrounding partners are currently enjoying low COVID-19 disease prevalence and low positive testing rates. (Superintendent) Lt. Gen. (Darryl A.) Williams mentioned we have to earn this every day, and to do this we need to keep using NPI and fight complacency.”

Outside of four years working in medical school, Dawson has spent 26 years in the Army in quartermasters, aviation and the medical field, including being the deputy commander at Keller Hospital prior to her current post. However, in all that time she served, these last few months, Dawson said, “were definitely the most unpredictable, unique and trying experience.”

However, Dawson concluded, “But, at the same time, watching the West Point community come together to support the USMA Class of 2020 graduation, the execution of Cadet Summer Training, bringing the entire Corps of Cadets back to West Point and now watching these young men and women handle the adversity and overwhelmingly comply with NPI even though they know they are not the population at high risk for serious complications associated with a COVID-19 infection, it reinforces why USMA leads our Army, military and our country in any situation.”
Innovative Hacking For Defense (H4D) 3.0 course taught virtually

By Shawn Herndon
Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership and the West Point Leadership Center

The COVID-19 pandemic has driven changes in almost every aspect of our daily lives, from how we shop, interact with each other, to how classes are administered in an academic setting. This was especially true this summer at the U.S. Military Academy when 24 cadets from 15 different majors across nine academic departments virtually attended the Hacking for Defense (H4D) course July 1-22.

This innovation course (not cyber hacking) was offered for the first-time ever as a three-credit hour course and was made available to all majors as graduation credit. H4D is part of the West Point Leadership Center, which is “housed” within the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership.

This year’s 3.0 virtual edition was taught utilizing Microsoft Teams by Dr. Eric Lin, Col. Todd Woodruff, both faculty members of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership, with 75th Innovation Faculty serving as project coaches.

Course objectives included providing an understanding of lean startup, evolution and key parameters, and also enhancing cadets’ abilities to apply critical thinking skills and an analytical framework to future challenges through the performance of oral, written and practical assignments.

“In this course, we learn the lean startup method by doing it. Cadets develop the capacity to learn very quickly — in a matter of days — and it’s fair to say some teams understand problems at a level deeper than the subject matter experts they interviewed,” Lin said.

Hacking for Defense is a national innovation program and is taught primarily as a multidisciplinary graduate level curriculum at multiple prestigious universities (Columbia, Stanford, Duke, Georgetown and Johns Hopkins) and uses Lean Launchpad and Business Model Canvas methodologies to tackle the most pressing DOD problems at entrepreneurial start-up speed.

Twenty-four cadets from 15 different majors across nine academic departments at the U.S. Military Academy virtually attended the Hacking for Defense (H4D) course July 1-22. This innovation course was offered for the first-time ever as a three-credit hour course and was made available to all majors as graduation credit. H4D is part of the West Point Leadership Center, which is “housed” within the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership. This year’s 3.0 virtual edition was taught utilizing Microsoft Teams by Dr. Eric Lin, Col. Todd Woodruff, both faculty members of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership, with 75th Innovation Faculty serving as project coaches.

By leveraging Silicon Valley problem-solving techniques applied to innovation, students are taught to explore the root cause of problems and rapidly iterate through minimum viable products (MVPs) creating long-lasting solutions.

Cadets worked in six multidisciplinary groups of four individuals, and every group had a H4D instructor, an entrepreneur/innovator mentor and a senior DOD customer to help them understand and solve these problems. Teams innovated and interacted with beneficiaries, stakeholders, program managers, warfighters, customers, etc. to rapidly iterate prototypes and produce solutions to sponsors’ needs with real-world impact.

“While this class was much more intensive than I was expecting, I do not regret taking it one bit. In fact, I would like to take this learning experience a step further. Whether working on the same project concept or not, I will seek opportunities to practice the lean startup model,” Class of 2021 Cadet Brock Salgado said.

The six problems the cadets worked on during the course were Communication and Command & Control in Mega-cities, Officer Diversity, Non-lethal drone applications, Biometric and Health Monitoring for front line leaders, Rising Market and Telemedicine for Soldiers and civilians in forward areas at the 68W Medic level. Previous H4D groups have created solutions to problems in virtually every sector of national security.

“In H4D, this isn’t just about learning complex problems. Cadets learn how to work under tremendous pressure, they coalesce as teams, and they learn how to be thought-provoking leaders, not just task leaders,” Lin said. “It’s important, because this experience pushes them to lead when direction is uncertain and when the entire team, leader included, needs to accelerate their collective rate of learning.”

Final deliverables for the course (submitted by team) included full mapping of the knowledge network for the problem, a detailed analysis of the problem that contributed to the sponsor’s understanding and continued work on the problem, and a consultant like executive summary and video of concrete recommendations for robustly tested solutions using the network of subject matter experts.

“This was an amazing and incredibly informative course. I learned a lot over the past 15 days, and I look forward to applying it throughout my career,” a cadet participant said.

What lies ahead for H4D 3.0 at the U.S. Military Academy? Currently, the course is being added as an approved elective for Defense and Strategic Studies majors and if all goes well with the Curriculum Committee review, it should be offered during the next academic year as a full-semester course.
**NPM: ‘Disasters don’t wait. Make your plan today’**

By Thomas Slater  
West Point Emergency Preparedness coordinator, U.S. Army Garrison West Point

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster planning now and throughout the year.

As our nation continues to respond to COVID-19, there is no better time to be involved this September.

The 2020 NPM theme is “Disasters don’t wait. Make your plan today.”

Tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, flash flooding and severe winter storms are common occurrences in the Hudson Valley that can often lead to power outages and severe structural damage that can delay access to utilities and public services for days or weeks.

These threats should serve as powerful reminders to all of us that the West Point community is not protected from the outside world. Just as every emergency is local, preparedness starts at home.

We have an obligation to be aware of potential threats to our community and must take steps now to prepare ourselves, our families and our workplace for emergencies.

Throughout the month of September, the U.S. Army Garrison-West Point will be pushing out weekly messages and guidance to assist the community in building their preparedness plans.

Each weekly message centers on a particular subject with links to additional resources.

You can take steps now to help you prepare for an emergency and to cope if one does happen. To help you prepare (see below), we’ve provided step-by-step actions you can take beforehand to protect yourself and others.

For more details, visit [https://www.ready.gov/september](https://www.ready.gov/september).

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**Stay Informed**

- Know what hazards could affect your area, how to get emergency alerts, and where you would go if directed to evacuate. Utilize “Edge” as your browser.
- Check out:
  - [https://www.ready.gov/be-informed](https://www.ready.gov/be-informed)
  - [https://www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy](https://www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy)
  - [https://www.westpoint.army.mil/](https://www.westpoint.army.mil/)
- Register for Alert!
  - Call 845-938-8859 or email USAGWestPoint@usma.army.mil
- Register for FEMA’s Mobile Weather App
  - [https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app](https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app)

**Make a Plan**

- Your family may not be together when a disaster strikes so it is important to plan in advance.
- Knowing how to keep in touch and find one another will help your Family stay safe and cope with the confusion and fear that comes when emergencies strike.
- Check out:
  - [https://emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/plan/index.asp](https://emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/plan/index.asp)
  - [https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan)
  - [http://www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy/ra_make_a_plan.htm](http://www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy/ra_make_a_plan.htm)
- Don’t forget to rehearse your plan.

**Get Involved**

- There are many ways you can get involved to help further build a more resilient and prepared West Point community.
- Check out:
  - [https://www.ready.gov/get-involved](https://www.ready.gov/get-involved)
  - Take a free FEMA preparedness class
    - [https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx](https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx)
  - Participate in America’s Prepare-a-thon
    - [https://community.fema.gov/](https://community.fema.gov/)
  - Become a National Weather Service SkyWarn Spotter
    - [https://www.weather.gov/skywarn/](https://www.weather.gov/skywarn/)

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**Build a Kit**

- An emergency kit is a collection of basic items you may need in the event of an emergency. These items will be necessary if you will need to shelter-in-place or evacuate. Store supplies in an easy-to-carry containers, such as backpacks or duffle bags.
- Keep enough supplies on-hand to last 72 hours
- Don’t forget your pets.
- Check out:
  - [http://survival-mastery.com/skills/camp/the-72-hour-kit.html](http://survival-mastery.com/skills/camp/the-72-hour-kit.html)
As high school students, Soldiers and dependents look to continue learning in a COVID-19 environment, the Army has provided an online option to help students prepare for college.

Army offers college prep website amid pandemic

By Joseph Lacdan
Army News Service

FORT KNOX, Ky.—As high school students look to continue learning in a COVID-19 environment, the Army has provided an online option to help students prepare for college.

Whether or not a school chooses in-class or online learning, students can prepare for college using the Army’s college readiness website, March2Success, to augment their learning and study for entrance exams. Students can take practice tests for exams like the ACT, SAT, Medical College Admission Test and Dental Admission Test. The website provides an alternative for students unable to seek a tutor or join a study group due to pandemic restrictions.

"The COVID-19 pandemic saw parents homeschooling their students to end the current school year," said Larane Guthrie-Clarkson, chief of education for USAREC. “And if a parent is not an educator or is not a subject-matter expert in a particular subject and a student needs help, then we can put them into March2Success.”

With many schools’ start dates shifting, more students must turn to online resources like the Army’s March2Success site, she said. After COVID-19 forced nationwide school closures, active March2Success users dropped from 89,211 in May 2019 to 50,432 in May 2020, as many schools canceled some standardized testing.

During the summer months, the March2Success site could still help students prepare for the upcoming fall semesters while remaining at home, Guthrie-Clarkson said.

The webpage offers a wide palette of resources for high school students or adults taking undergraduate courses for the first time. Future Soldiers can also use the program’s study aids to prepare for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test. While the program has materials aimed at students in grades 8-12, Soldiers planning to attend college can access the online educational tools to prepare for the entrance exams or use the materials as a refresher course. Students can access the website’s free services at www.march2success.com.

Students study at their own pace, take pre-tests to determine their aptitude level and help educators manage their learning. The program’s users prep for the entrance exams first by taking a diagnostic pretest to determine their strengths and weaknesses. Students will then develop a study plan with goals tailored to each user.

“Students can sit there and use it anytime,” Guthrie-Clarkson said. “So they’re not restricted to a specific time of day unless parental instruction or teacher instructions work that way. For example, if I’m not good in, say fractions, I can practice fractions and it should increase my score.”

The program also has resources for potential recruits who are considering joining the Army. Using the mobile app, Career Navigator, they can learn about Army careers and locate recruiters from their smartphones. Guthrie-Clarkson said there have been discussions on how to expand the site’s features due to the need for online learning options.

In 2018, the Army added graduate program exams, the Medical College Admissions Test, the Dental Admissions Test and various nursing program tests to its list of features. The Stars Elements app allows students to build an educational foundation for chemistry and physical science with the use of interactive models, challenges and games.

Originally conceived in the late ’90s, the program provides a convenient resource for students who have limited access to teachers and tutors.

The program has added game-based learning to its curriculum, including sports-based apps GoArmy Edge Football and GoArmy Edge Soccer, where coaches and players can virtually design plays.

Recruiters have marketed the website at high schools across the country, though no commitment to military service is required. Guthrie-Clarkson said the Army provides the website as an education augmentation tool as a public service to the nation’s high school students.
The importance of connectedness

From the Army Resilience Directorate

Most of us have friends, family members or colleagues we talk to on a daily basis, but how many of those people in our lives do we feel close to? Strong connectedness—the level of closeness we feel to others—not only enhances our quality of life, it can also save lives.

During September—Suicide Prevention Month—the Department of Defense is focusing on Connectedness, using the slogan “Connect To Protect” to highlight how social connections and a sense of belonging can be a protective factor against suicide.

“Having that ‘connectedness’ with a friend or family member gives us the comfort of knowing we are not alone in (a difficult situation),” said Master Sgt. Kevin Edmondson, noncommissioned officer in charge, R21 and Training Division, Army Resilience Directorate.

“(That) there is someone who we trust to have our best interest at heart, to provide us with the best advice they can provide, or sometimes it’s just having the ability to reach out and talk to...someone that will listen without judging.”

But how do we build connection with others, how do we build the meaningful, close relationships that enhance our daily lives and serve as the foundation of support when we are going through tough times?

Authentic connection goes beyond acquaintance-level interactions, said Dr. Doreen Marshall, Vice President of Mission Engagement at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

“When we are promoting connections or connectedness, we are really talking about being vulnerable with someone else, being able to express feelings, being able to also receive that from another person,” she said.

Showing your authentic self, including your struggles and imperfections — in other words being vulnerable — is key to building close connections with others. Being vulnerable is often seen as weakness in our society, but according to Marshall, it’s the opposite.

“It’s actually hard to be vulnerable. It takes tremendous courage and strength to show vulnerability,” Marshall said.

Having the courage to risk showing vulnerability is especially needed of leaders in the Army.

“It’s hugely important when someone in a position of power, or who has status, is able to show some vulnerability,” Marshall said.

“When people are speaking out about their own mental health it almost gives the rest of us permission to do it because they are doing it in a very public way.

“It’s hard to connect with someone who appears not to have any challenges,” Marshall added. “It is in our humanness that we are able to (connect).”

By being open about their own struggles, showing vulnerability and forming connections, leaders model this behavior for others and create an environment where their Soldiers, family and friends feel closer to them and are not afraid to open up and talk about their own struggles.

“Transparency in Army leaders helps (Soldiers) realize that we are human, and we also experience challenges,” Edmondson said. “Many Soldiers believe that once you achieve a certain rank then all of the problems of the world go away ... that’s not the case at all. Ask any Army leader and I’m sure everyone can provide a situation where they too needed to seek assistance from a friend or professional to deal with a challenging situation.”

A first step leaders and Soldiers can take to create closeness and connection with others is by moving beyond surface-level interactions and inviting deeper conversations. Marshall encourages people to be proactive when initiating these conversations, as fellow Soldiers, leaders or family members who are struggling may not necessarily come to them first.

“When you are struggling with depression, it’s hard to see that there are people out there to help you, it’s hard to engage help,” Marshall said.

Try the following tips to deepen your connections and have “real conversations” with others:

• Don’t just ask how someone is doing, ask “How are you feeling?” or “How are you coping?”
• Put yourself out there. Reach out to someone struggling and ask, “What can I do to help you?” “How can I make this easier for you, how can I get involved?”
• Make space in your busy life to stop and really listen, say “This sounds important to you, and I want to hear more about how you are feeling.”
• Don’t necessarily give advice (unless asked), but instead ask people for their perspective, say “What do you think you need in this situation?”
• Share your own struggles. Currently, everyone is impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, so it is an opportunity to find moments of shared vulnerability with others.

If you’re struggling with your mental health, talk to your primary care provider for medical procedures, overseas missions (deployments, TDY or PCS) or readiness/training requirements.

Keller Army Community Hospital will administer a COVID-19 test to asymptomatic beneficiaries in the following categories:

• You are scheduled for or having a surgical procedure (inpatient or outpatient).
• You are a service member with a “travel medicine overseas deployment” requirement.
• You are a service member with a “training” requirement (military training, National Training Center or Joint Readiness Training Center).
• You are a service member scheduled for “official TDY travel overseas.”

Can I receive a COVID-19 test at Keller if I am ‘asymptomatic?’

By Keller Army Community Hospital

Army guidance is to only test COVID-19 asymptomatic beneficiaries who are scheduled for medical procedures, overseas missions (deployments, TDY or PCS) or readiness/training requirements.

Keller Army Community Hospital will administer a COVID-19 test to asymptomatic beneficiaries in the following categories:

You are a service member/military family who will PCS overseas.

If you are in the above categories, you can book a COVID-19 test through the Keller Army Community Hospital Appointment Center at 845-938-7992 or 800-552-2907, from 7 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Monday—Friday.

U.S. Military Academy cadets who require a COVID-19 test should coordinate through their TAC officer.

If a beneficiary is not identified in the above categories, is asymptomatic and wants a COVID-19 test — or needs a test for school/college, work/employment, etc. — you are able to go to one of the New York State COVID testing sites.

Testing locations can be found at https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you; or the NYS COVID-19 Hotline at 888-364-3065.

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. During September—Suicide Prevention Month—the Department of Defense is focusing on Connectedness, using the slogan Connect To Protect to highlight how social connections and a sense of belonging can be a protective factor against suicide.

September 3, 2020
September 3, 2020
Keller Corner: Weekly updates, COVID-19 info

For a one-stop shop of all updated coronavirus information, Keller Army Community Hospital notifications, how to stop the spread of COVID-19, federal/state/local guidance and the U.S. Military Academy and Army Garrison West Point webpages, visit https://kach.amedd.army.mil/West-Point-COVID-19-INFO/.

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and we “ALL” have a role in helping to prevent suicides. Keller Army Community Hospital and other mental health organizations and individuals across the U.S. and around the world are raising awareness of suicide prevention during September.

Suicide remains a major public health problem. It is the 10th leading cause of death for all Americans.

Each year, nearly 45,000 people take their own lives, and more than 375,000 people are treated in emergency rooms for self-inflicted injuries related to suicide attempts.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Lifeline can be reached by calling 1-800-273-8255 or visit http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/.

KACH establishes parking lot check-in initiative

Keller Army Community Hospital has established a “parking lot check-in” initiative in an effort to prevent the spread of illness and to facilitate social distancing by reducing the amount of beneficiaries in the waiting room.

As Keller clinics begin a staged re-opening of services and appointments, hospital traffic will increase proportionally.

The parking lot check-in initiative expands Keller waiting rooms by allowing routinely scheduled patients to remain comfortably in their vehicles in the Keller parking lot until their health care worker is ready to receive them for their appointment.

This method is voluntary and may not be suitable for every appointment type. The option will be explained to patients during appointment booking.

Patients who elect to check in via parking lot check-in will be instructed to call the front desk of their respective clinic immediately upon arrival at the Keller parking lot. The respective MSA will log the patient’s arrival and confirm their mobile number.

The appropriate clinic provider/nurse/technologist will be notified that the patient is waiting in the parking lot. The patient will be called and invited into the clinic when their provider/nurse/technologist is prepared for the appointment.

Behavior Health, Optometry/Ophthalmology and Nutrition Care are not participating in the initiative.

To schedule an appointment, call the Keller Appointment Center at 845-938-7992 or 800-552-2907, 7 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday. Beneficiaries enrolled in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Plus may make online appointments for Primary Care and Optometry at https://www.tricareonline.com.

KACH Pharmacy continues “in-car” dispensing

The Keller Army Community Hospital Pharmacy continues “in-car dispensing” as a way for patients to receive their medications.

This is being done to prevent the spread of illness and to facilitate social distancing by reducing the amount of beneficiaries in the waiting room.

The in-car, drive-up delivery is done in two easy steps:

1. Call the pharmacy prior to arriving. The pharmacy will prepare your medications to be ready when you arrive. Call 845-938-2271/6619/3812. The pharmacy staff will coordinate a time for you to come pick up your medication within about two hours.

2. When you arrive at the pharmacy, pull in to one of the numbered pharmacy parking spaces—in the upper parking area, and call the pharmacy again to have a hospital representative bring out your medications out to you.

Beneficiaries, or the representative, picking up medications must provide either a photocopy of their DOD ID card, or a high-quality photo (smart phone is acceptable) of the front and back of the beneficiary’s ID card.

Beneficiaries that are subject to restriction of movement (self-quarantine or self-isolation) can either coordinate through their chain-of-command for a representative to pick-up their medication, or a beneficiary’s sponsor or representative can pick up their medication.

In addition to these services, beneficiaries—who reside on West Point—can receive over-the-counter “cold packs” if you are exhibiting cold symptoms.

JOES lets KACH know ‘how we are doing’

Did you receive a Joint Outpatient Experience Survey (JOES) in the mail after your visit to Keller Army Community Hospital? If so, let us know how we did.

JOES has replaced the Army Provider Level Satisfaction Survey (APLSS). JOES will combine and standardize long-standing methods used by the Army, Navy, Air Force and Defense Health Agency/National Capital Region to learn about beneficiary health care experiences with the goal of making them better.

This single outpatient-visit based instrument will assist military treatment facilities with their goal of becoming a high reliability organization.

Keller requests that you don’t forget to fill out the survey if you receive it in the mail. Keller values you your comments and suggestions.

Keller clinics can receive up to $1,000 for each “completely satisfied” survey returned. Surveys returned with satisfactory marks help us keep our clinics up to date with the latest equipment and services available to you.

Keller Army Community Hospital

STOP THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE 6 ft

NO TOUCHING

NO CROWDS

GO ARMY!!! BEAT GERMS!!!
COVID-19 Risk Reduction

Important Information about Your Face Covering

MY COVER PROTECTS YOU

Your face coverings help prevent the person wearing the cover from spreading respiratory droplets when talking, sneezing, or coughing. Since people spread the virus without having any symptoms, wearing a face covering can protect others around you.

To the extent practical, the Department of Defense (DoD) requires all persons over the age of 2 in DoD property, installations, and facilities to wear face coverings when they cannot maintain 6 feet of social distance in public areas or work centers (not to include inside housing).

You DO NOT have to wear a face covering when you are:

- 6 feet or more away from other people
- Alone
- In your own home
- Exercising outdoors if social distancing

You SHOULD NOT wear a face covering when you are:

- Sleeping
- Having trouble breathing
- Conditioned (e.g., indwelling, taking sedative medication)

Proper wear of face coverings

- Clean your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after putting on, touching or adjusting the face covering.
- Inspect face coverings for visible dirt, tears, or holes before each use. Elastic should not break when stretched. Do not wear if wet or soiled.
- Follow these steps for putting your face covering on:
  - Hold the covering against the face, with the top part against the bridge of the nose and the bottom below your chin.
  - Secure cover to head.
  - For elastic bands, pull the bands over and behind ears, one at a time.
  - For ties, cover, use a bow knot, tie lower bands around base of neck and upper bands around crown of head.
  - Make sure your nose, mouth, and chin are covered. Ensure the areas around the nose, sides, and chin are tight, but do not restrict your ability to breathe.
- Do not place face coverings on anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance.
- If at any time it becomes difficult to breathe, immediately remove the face cover and social distance. If your condition does not improve, seek medical attention.
- After donning, avoid touching the face covering.

Page 2 of 2

For current COVID-19 information:
https://www.ssa.gov

The Military Health System COVID-19 Nurse Advice Line is available 24/7: 1-800-532-9555
https://www.health.mil

Healthy Face Coverings

- double layer polyester (not cotton) is best
- wear on nose and mouth
- not too tight on nose
- wash with soap and water daily

COVID-19 PPE: A practical guide to Personal Protective Equipment

- N95 masks and surgical masks cannot be used for PPE.
- Surgical gowns or plastic sheeting should be used as PPE.
- Goggles should be used for PPE.
- N95 masks and surgical masks should be replaced when damaged.
- N95 masks and surgical masks should be replaced when they become wet.

For current COVID-19 information:
https://www.ssa.gov

The Military Health System COVID-19 Nurse Advice Line is available 24/7: 1-800-532-9555
https://www.health.mil

Social Distancing 2019 (COVID-19)

SOCIAL DISTANCING

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed

Examples of activities to AVOID

- Group gatherings >10 people
- Visit or stay in your house
- Go to a drive
- Walk or bike
- Visit a friend
- Cook a meal
- Family party night
- Sleep in a dorm

Please exercise your own judgment and adhere to all federal, state, and local government guidelines when practicing social distancing.

Try these safer activities

- Go for a hike
- Read a book
- Listen to music
- Cook a meal
- Family party night
- Sleep in a dorm

For more information, contact your local Department of Public Health.
COVID-19: MWR facility and program updates

The following services are open:

- Army Community Service (ACS)—Open and operational. Leading closet is closed. Call ACS at 845-938-4621.
- Arts & Crafts—Arts & Crafts is open by appointment for framing and gift shop services. Appointments can be made by calling 845-938-4812 and will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. There is now an online store at https://webtrac.mwr.armymwr.com/programs/artscrafts.
- Automotive Center—It is open for “Self-Help” patrons and “Fleet Services” only. Hours of operation are 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. For complete details, visit https://westpoint.armymwr.com/programs/automotive-center.
- CYS Middle School and Teen Center (Youth Center Bldg. 500)—It is open for authorized DOD youth in grades 6-12. For COVID-19 rules and facility guidelines, visit https://westpoint.armymwr.com/programs/middle-school-teen-center-mst.
- CYS Youth Sports—Fall Youth Sports will commence Sept. 14-Nov. 5. Sports offered are soccer, flag football and the running club. Masks must be worn by all players and spectators. Registration is open until Friday. To register, call Parent Central Service at 845-938-0939/4458. See Page 13 for graphic.
- CYS Parent Central Services—It has new expanded appointment hours from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday–Friday for Lee CYS Facility, Bldg. 140. Walk-in registrations will not be facilitated at this time. To schedule an appointment, call 845-938-4458/0939/3969.
- CYS School Age Center Lee Area CYS Facility—It is now offering full Day Care 6 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday beginning Monday. Register now on militarychildcare.com. For details, call 845-938-8530/0941.
- MWR Fitness Center—Effective immediately, the MWR Fitness Center will be open 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 5:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. It is open for active duty, DOD civilians, military dependents and retirees. Active duty and DOD civilians only from 5:30-7:30 a.m. Monday–Friday. No visitors, contractors or other categories are allowed at this time. For complete listing of hours of operation and applicable rules, visit https://westpoint.armymwr.com/programs/mwr-fitness-center.
- Lake Frederick Recreation Area, Long Pond Swim Beach and Round Pond Recreation Area—All swimming areas are open. See https://westpoint.armymwr.com/covid19 for hours and details.
- West Point Bowling Center—Lanes are now open at regular hours without reservations needed. Food and Beverage in-house dining is now available with social distancing. In addition, it is open 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Monday through Sunday for food delivery and pick up.
- Outdoor Recreation (ODR) equipment checkout/rental—All products in its inventory are for renting. No delivery/set-up/pick-up at this time. All equipment must be picked up at its office. It is offering no contact pickup. Thorough cleaning/disinfecting is completed by staff before issue and at turn-in of each rented item. Hours of operation are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Monday.
- Leisure Travel Services—It is open by appointment only. Call 845-938-3601.
- Morgan Farm—It is open for pet grooming, pet kenneling, horseback riding lessons and horse boarding. For details, call 845-938-3926.
- Stony Child Development Center and School-Age Center—Open to all customers on space availability basis. For details, call 845-938-4798.
- West Point Golf Course—It is open for play, however, the driving range is closed due to construction. No clinics, lessons or events for the season. A full menu is now available.
- West Point Club—Now open from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday for lunch at 50% capacity. The Bistro 603 is Grab-N-Go from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and Dinner To Go should be ordered by 2 p.m. for pickup between 4-6:30 p.m. (no delivery).

The following services are closed or canceled (until further notice):

- BOSS.
- Adult Intramural Sports.
- Morgan Farm Summer Horseback Riding Camps (lessons still available).

Check the MWR Facebook page for updates at https://www.facebook.com/westpointfmwr.
**Safety with Oily Rags**

Oil-based paints, stains, and varnishes are often used for home improvement projects. It is common to use rags to wipe up spills or clean brushes. But wet rags can ignite on their own. They can start a fire if not handled carefully.

The same is true of the liquids themselves.

**How can rags start a fire?**

The oils commonly used in oil-based paints and stains release heat as they dry. If the heat is not released in the air, it builds up. That is why a pile of oily rags can be dangerous. As the rags dry, the heat is trapped. The heat builds up and finally causes a fire. Be aware that this does not happen with water-based finishes.

**How can liquids start a fire?**

Vapors from flammable and combustible liquids can ignite, causing a fire. These are liquids commonly used in household products. Gasoline, lacquers, and nail polish are just a few examples. There are many commonly used combustible liquids. Paint thinner, kerosene, and oil-based paints and stains are some examples.

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**RAGS WET WITH PAINT AND STAIN**

- Never leave cleaning rags in a pile. At the end of the day, take the rags outside to dry.
- Hang the rags outside or spread them on the ground. Weigh them down. Do this so they do not blow away. Note: They are not in a pile. Keep them away from buildings.
- Put dried rags in a metal container. Make sure the cover is tight. Fill the container with a water and detergent solution. This will break down the oils.
- Keep containers of oily rags in a cool place. Keep them out of direct sunlight. Keep them away from other heat sources. Check with your town to dispose of them.

**LIQUIDS THAT CAN CATCH FIRE**

- Flammable and combustible liquids should not be used near an open flame.
- Do not smoke when working with these liquids.
- If you spill liquids on your clothing, remove your clothing and place it outside to dry. Once dry, clothing can be laundered.
- Keep liquids in their original containers. Keep them tightly capped or sealed. Never store the liquids in glass containers.

**GASOLINE**

- Use gasoline only as motor fuel. Never use it as a cleaner. Never use it to break down grease. Never bring gasoline indoors, even in small amounts.
- Store gasoline ONLY in a container that is sold for that purpose.
- Make sure the container is tightly capped when not in use. NEVER store gasoline containers in a basement or in the occupied space of a building. Keep them in an outbuilding, a detached garage, or a shed outdoors.

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**Facts**

1. An average of 1,600 home fires per year are caused by instances of spontaneous combustion or chemical reaction.
2. An average of 800 home fires per year are started when oily rags catch fire or are ignited.

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**College Campus Fire Safety**

College students living away from home should take a few minutes to make sure they are living in a fire-safe environment. Educating students on what they can do to stay safe during the school year is important and often overlooked.

**Safety Tips**

- Look for fully sprinklered housing when choosing a dorm or off-campus housing.
- Make sure you can hear the building alarm system when you are in your dorm room.
- If you live in a dormitory, make sure your sleeping room has a smoke alarm, or your dormitory suite has a smoke alarm in each living area as well as the sleeping room. For the best protection, all smoke alarms in the dormitory suite should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.
- If you live in an apartment or house, make sure smoke alarms are installed in each sleeping room, outside every sleeping area, and on each level of the apartment unit or house. For the best protection, all smoke alarms in the apartment unit or house should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least monthly.
- Never remove batteries or disable the alarm.
- Learn your building's evacuation plan and practice all drills as if they were the real thing.
- If you live off campus, have a fire escape plan with two ways out of every room.
- When the smoke alarm or fire alarm sounds, get out of the building quickly and stay out.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking.
- Cook only when you are alert, not sleepy or drowsy from medicine or alcohol.
- Check with your local fire department for any restrictions before using a barbecue grill, fire pit, or chiminea.
- Check your school's rules before using electrical appliances in your room.

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**Candle Care**

Burn candles only if the school permits their use. A candle is an open flame and should be placed away from anything that can burn. Never leave a candle unattended. Blow it out when you leave the room or go to sleep.

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**Fires in dormitories are more common during the evening hours, between 5-11 pm, and on weekends.**

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**FALL REC SPORTS**

Season Runs September 14 - November 8

**Rec Soccer**

- Fall: 6th grade, $25
- Winter: 6th grade, $30
- Spring: 6th grade, $35

**Flag Football**

- Fall: 6th grade, $25
- Winter: 6th grade, $30
- Spring: 6th grade, $35

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**Coaches Needed**

Contact the Youth Sports Office at (434) 589-8555.
Web: westpointjcs.com

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**Make a Difference Become a Substitute Teacher!**

The Department of Defense Education Activity is accepting applications for Substitute Teacher for the 2020/2021 school year. Substitute teaching is a wonderful opportunity to work closely with the youth of our military community.

Apply today at:
Game times and TV assignments for all eight of Army West Point’s home football contests were announced Aug. 28.

**Army football announces TV schedule for all eight home games**

By Rachel Caton
Army Athletic Communications

Game times and TV assignments for all eight of Army West Point’s home football contests were announced Aug. 28.

All eight of the games at Michie Stadium in 2020 will be televised nationally either on CBS Television Network or CBS Sports Network.

The Army-Air Force game on Nov. 7 will kickoff at 11:30 a.m. and be broadcast on CBS Television Network.

The six games scheduled to air on CBS Sports Network will all kickoff at 1:30 p.m., including the season opener versus Middle Tennessee State Sept. 5. Additionally, the Oct. 17 contest at UTSA will also be on CBS Sports Network, with kickoff set for 1:30 p.m.

The 121st iteration of the rivalry game versus Navy will also be televised on CBS Television Network at 3 p.m. Dec. 12.

As previously announced, the BYU contest on Sept. 19 will kickoff at 3:30 p.m., on CBS Television Network.

Fan attendance at the first two games of the season, Sept. 5 and Sept. 12, will be limited to just the Corps of Cadets. Attendance at future games will be decided at a later date.
Army West Point football has added a game at No. 20 Cincinnati Sept. 26, as part of a home-and-home series. The game was announced Aug. 26.

Game one of the series will be at Nippert Stadium this upcoming Sept. 26, while the return game in the series is set for Oct. 4, 2031, at Michie Stadium.

The Bearcats are currently ranked No. 20 in the Preseason AP Poll. The Black Knights and the Bearcats have met six times in program history and the record is an even 3-3 in those games. The first game was in 1963 at Michie Stadium, a 22-0 victory by the Black Knights. The last meeting between the two clubs was in 2004 at Michie Stadium, where Army won, 48-29.

The game on Sept. 26 will be the first in Cincinnati for the Black Knights since a close 33-29 loss in 2003. UC leads the series 2-1 in contests played at Nippert Stadium.

The addition of the Cincinnati game completes the Black Knights’ 2020 schedule, adding to a previously announced 11-game slate. Game time and TV information will be available at a later date. See page 14 for details.

Currently, Cincinnati will start the 2020 season without fans at Nippert Stadium. The admittance of fans in the stadium later in the season will only be done if it is determined it can be done safely. There is no timeline on such a determination.

West Point Coronavirus information updates:

USMA PAO continues to provide the www.westpoint.edu/coronavirus page and has released coordinated external messages on USMA social media platforms. For more details, contact the West Point Public Affairs Office at paoinformation@westpoint.edu.