Senior right-handed pitcher Alex Robinett etched his name in the academy and Patriot League record books with a 21-strikeout performance in an 8-0 victory over Air Force May 1 at Johnson Stadium at Doubleday Field. Robinett made the final start of his collegiate career count with an electric outing that included at least two strikeouts in every inning. He struck out the side in three different frames, including the ninth to cap the three-hit shutout. The final five outs of the night came via strikeout as Robinett shattered the previous Army West Point record of 17 punchouts in a game. Steve Reich struck out 17 on two occasions in his career, accomplishing the feat in a seven-inning contest against Air Force in 1992 and again in 1993 against New York Tech in nine innings. Bob Kewley established the mark in 1960 against Yale before it was equaled by Eric Pedersen versus Princeton in 1968. See page 14 for story and photo.

Photo by Mady Salvani/Army Athletic Communications
New background check requirements for working with minors

By Collete A. Drouin
Supervisory Security Specialist, DPTMS

The Associated Press reported on Dec. 20, 2012, that “at least 31 people were suspended from Army day care centers in Virginia after criminal records are revealed.” This incident originated at the Fort Myer Child Development Center, and was the catalyst of Army Directive 2014-23 (AD 2014-23), Conduct of Screening and Background Checks For Individuals Who Have Regular Contact With Children in Army Programs, dated Sept. 10, 2014, signed by the Secretary of the Army, John M. McHugh.

The investigation initiated by Defense Secretary Leon Panetta uncovered that “10 of the 31 suspended workers were involved in minor criminal offenses, 13 were involved in assaults, six were involved in drug use and two were involved in fourth-degree sexual assault.”

The hiring practices of these federal employees did not include sufficient layers of checks to identify these issues which should be taken into account regarding individuals who are caring for children.

Fast forward to 2015 and the West Point community is slowly becoming aware of the new requirements that affect many of the big programs sponsored by the U.S. Military Academy that have to do with child-related activities.

These programs include the Army Summer Sports Camps, many of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, the USMA Band’s mentorship program, Directorate of Cadet Activities clubs, such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and one of the largest groups of volunteers, the Religious Services Organization.

These groups are made up of civilians, contractors, volunteers, active duty military and cadets. The active duty military and cadets have at least a Secret clearance, however this investigation is not sufficient to satisfy the newly required checks as directed in AD 2014-23.

The new requirements are a layer of security checks, with one level being a National Agency check with written inquiry childcare check for certain categories, then further layers to include state criminal history checks, installation records checks, which involve records checks by the Military Police, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program and the Family Advocacy Program.

A local civilian law enforcement check is also required. There are also forms to be completed to allow for self-disclosure of any sensitive areas, such as supplemental employment application form for Child-Youth Services positions, which asks questions regarding the subject’s arrest history for sex crimes, a crime involving a child, a substance abuse felony or regarding being assigned to resign or be decertified for a sexual offense.

While these checks are being conducted, it is essential to have cleared personnel so that programs can continue to be conducted. Some West Point personnel will remember that the West Point Child Development Center was closed for a short period of time during the summer of 2014.

This was an administrative file issue that resulted in not having enough cleared staff to provide line of sight supervision for those un-cleared. Right now, West Point’s priority is to ensure that all the various West Point child-related programs personnel are cleared sufficiently to be able to operate in accordance with AD 2014-23.

Once the checks are completed, what happens when derogatory information is identified? Derogatory information, according to AD 2014-23, is any finding result from a background check. Depending on the severity and nexus to the position it may be deemed as a mandatory disqualifier, discretionary or minor.

Mandatory disqualifiers prohibit an individual from working or volunteering in an Army sponsored child-related program.

Minor derogatory findings are reviewed and cleared through a Commander’s Memorandum. Discretionary findings are transferred to the area of the Installation Program Review Board.

The PRB is a multi-disciplinary group to include Child and Youth Services, Family Advocacy Program, Social Work Services, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Staff Judge Advocate, Installation Security Office, Installation Law Enforcement and Army Substance Abuse Program.

The group reviews the derogatory information and after discussion, votes regarding whether the individual is suitable to work with children.

This is forwarded to the individual’s commander, who ultimately makes a recommendation that is forwarded to the Department of the Army PRB.

The DA PRB is the final authority regarding personnel being authorized to work not under LOSS.

The process of clearing an individual who has been identified as having derogatory information can take considerable time (from a few weeks up to six months), so the importance of having cleared personnel to be able to operate a program and provide the supervision for personnel under LOSS is extremely necessary.

The required checks being conducted here at West Point are a huge labor-intensive responsibility, with the agencies tasked to accomplish this mission strain under the fire-hose of required checks.

For an idea of the population needing checks, Army Athletics has approximately 150 coaches and athletic trainers to be cleared; Religious Services has about 300 volunteers; Morale, Welfare and Recreation have more than 50 employees to check and then we have the other groups as noted previously.

West Point’s populations of personnel, who are involved in child-related activities, are part of the new requirements that the entire U.S. Army is also working on.

These new requirements will be conducted throughout the Army, ensuring that personnel working in child-related programs have undergone as many layered checks as possible and are not potential threats to the safety and well-being of our children.

Thank you for your hard work

Dear West Point community,

Spring has been extraordinarily busy here at West Point, with several major events taking place, on top of the normal day-to-day operations of our academy. I’d like to express my appreciation to the entire West Point team for all of your efforts in making these events a success.

In the past four weeks, we’ve hosted the annual Sandhurst Military Skills competition, bringing together more than 500 cadets from military academies and universities worldwide.

We’ve also hosted numerous conferences, such as the McDonald Cadet Leadership Conference, the Senior Conference, Mission Command Conference, the Conference of Service Academy Superintendents, and just this week, the Diversity Leadership Council conference.

We’ve also hosted the Board of Living Superintendents, which included a very successful panel discussion moderated by “Fox News Sunday” anchor Chris Wallace. These high-visibility events bring together distinguished guests from around the world, who have the opportunity to see West Point up close and they always leave with a positive impression of our academy.

I know that a lot of work goes into planning and executing these events, and often, that work is in addition to your primary duties. Thank you for your hard work and professionalism. Your efforts really do make a difference.

Also, a great job to everyone who took part in West Point Day at Fort Hamilton. This event, which featured a formal review and demonstrations by our cadet clubs, was a great success. One of my top priorities as Superintendent is continuing to build a partnership with New York City and West Point Day allowed us to highlight our academy while strengthening the bond between West Point and the people of New York City.

I also want to thank the many volunteers from the staff and Corps of Cadets who supported the recent Hudson Valley Special Olympics and last weekend’s annual Scout Camporee. West Point has a tradition of giving back to our community and I was overwhelmed to see our community selfishly give of their time and talents.

Our mission accomplishment is the result of the hard work and dedication of every member of the team, going above and beyond to get the job done. I’m proud to lead such an amazing group of professionals. Thank you for all you do in making West Point the world’s pre-eminent leader development institution. As always, you represent yourselves, West Point and the Army exceptionally well.

Go Army, Beat Navy!
Cadets display innovative capstone projects at Projects Day

With about three weeks before graduation, the Class of 2015 cadets presented their capstone projects or theses April 30 at various academic buildings in the central post area for the annual Projects Day.

Projects Day allows senior cadets an opportunity to present their senior theses or design projects in a public forum. Although Projects Day is mostly cadre-centered, other universities like the U.S. Air Force Academy, Columbia University, Stevens Institute of Technology and George Mason University also participated.

More than 277 projects or theses from all departments were presented to guest evaluators, industry and faculty from other schools and students.

“The projects have come a long way from a cadet standing in front of professors and regurgitating lessons learned in a classroom,” Dr. Elizabeth Velilla, assistant dean and director of research operations, said. “Now, these cadets are demonstrating their knowledge, understanding and application of the classroom to real-world problems. Many of the projects are a continuation of cadet experiences during the summer Advanced Individual Academic Development experiences.”

Cadets also competed for the Walter W. Hollis Award, which recognizes excellence in military operations research or systems analysis. The Hollis Award is co-sponsored by the U.S. Military Academy Department of Mathematical Sciences and the Department of Systems Engineering.

The Scott R. Clark Innovation for Soldiers Award is awarded to one Projects Day project that demonstrates an innovative approach to solving a problem of direct application to the Army.

Class of 2015 Cadet Marshall Malone received the Hollis Award for his Mathematical project titled “Catastrophe Mitigation: Safeguarding a West Point Supply Chain.”

“I wanted to create my own senior thesis and I wanted it to be an optimization problem that was applicable to West Point instead of something along the lines of mathematical theory,” Malone said. “I drew the inspiration for my thesis from my experiences during a summer internship with the National Security Agency and Sandia National Laboratories.”

Malone created an operations research based framework for analyzing the vulnerability of the West Point Mess Hall’s supply chain.

“I was quite surprised that I won,” Malone said. “It is definitely something that I am honored to receive because the competition was, in my opinion, working on projects that rivaled mine in their applicability. I think the judges were impressed with the potential of my framework’s application beyond the Mess Hall and into any Army supply chain.”

The winner of the Scott R. Clark Innovation for Soldiers Award is still pending.

Six cadets have been considered for patents by the Collaboration Innovation Lab at Picatinny Arsenal.

Class of 2015 Ryan Hbbie and his group in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department designed a project for MIT Lincoln Laboratory. Hbbie’s group designed a localized ground penetrating radar chassis to detect underground objects and then map it.

“The one they use now has its limitations,” Hbbie said. “It’s stationary and doesn’t work well in rough environments. The task was to design, build and test an articulating radar chassis for the Localized Ground Penetrating Radar.”

The design places sensors under the vehicle and in front. The chassis lifts a few inches from the ground to prevent bottoming out.

Class of 2015 Cadet Jorge Figueroa-Cecco explained his project, the Intelligent Ground Penetrating Radar, an autonomous robotic vehicle. The project is a continuation of the Intelligently Guided Ground Explorer (IGGE) “Black Night Rising” project.

“This is designed to navigate obstacle courses by following the white lines,” Figueroa-Cecco said. “It can create a map and we are working on attaching it to a GPS.”

IGGE has application potential for the military to detect terrorist IEDs and land mines.

“Over 40 Department of Defense, government, industry and corporate entities like Armament Research Development and Engineering Center, ASA Hammack, Lockheed Martin Corporation and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and others sponsored cadet projects,” Velilla said. “They came to West Point just to get insights that only the flexibly-minded, but academically rigorous, cadet can provide. These key senior leaders personally viewing their projects adds to the intensity of the grading experience. The professor may be looking for proper use of theory, but these senior leaders want to know if the problems are solved.”

Corporations and the Department of Defense look at projects for possible future use in the military.

Past projects developed devices to ease a Soldier’s burden in weight he or she carries, recharging batteries as a Soldier walks and an Exoskeleton, a device a Soldier wears to lessen fatigue by providing ankle or joint support.

Cadets train on Squad Power Manager for capstone exercise

Cadets from General Chemistry 102 spent their class periods April 21-22 outdoors trying to take advantage of the emerging spring sunshine to learn how Soldiers could use solar panels to harvest solar energy and minimize battery use and deployment during platoon-sized missions.

The lab exercise was part of CH102’s Capstone Lab experience, notionally placing them in lead of a platoon deploying to Liberia in support of civil operations to contain the Ebola outbreak.

Specifically, the lab educated cadets on the rates of discharge and recharge of a lithium ion conformal battery using the Squad Power Manager (SPM-612) and the AN/PRC-148 MultiBand Inter/Intra Team Radio under several sets of conditions.

The MBITR radio is the standard squad and platoon level radio used in the U.S. Army for the last several years.

The SPM kit is a versatile complement to energy production and transmission capabilities that can harvest energy from just about anywhere or anything. It consists of a number of cables, connectors, adapters and a 60-watt portable solar blanket.

The SPM-612 manages power through up to six ports, including two input ports and four output ports.

Cadets used the SPM-612 to measure the charge on the battery, the rate of discharge using the MBITR radio and the rate of recharge using the 60-watt solar blankets.

The lithium ion conformal battery is the power storage device that works with the Soldier Worn Integrated Power Equipment System (SWIPES) to greatly reduce the weight of batteries currently carried by Soldiers.

Despite the weather’s lack of cooperation, the capstone event was a success.

Next for these cadets’ application of the Squad Power Manager is Cadet Summer Training.

During CST 2015, the Squad Power Manager will be introduced to two companies as a test run to assess the application of the Squad Power Manager into future CSTs.

Class of 2015 Cadet Andrew Frakes explains a robot in applied robotics for installation and base operations April 30 during Projects Day, a day where cadets work on their thesis or capstone projects for the end of the year. Many industries, such as Lincoln Laboratories, fund projects and ask cadets to work on specific projects. This robot has the capability to eliminate unnecessary human exposure to dangerous chemical, biological or radiological environments by attaching gas, temperature and humidity sensors to the robot chassis.

Story and photo by Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

By Lt. Col. Ted Kaiser (C&LS) and Lt. Col. Mark Smith (G&EnE)
Thousands attend 53rd annual Scout Camporee

Story and photo by Kathy Eastwood

The 53rd annual West Point Invitational Scout Camporee May 1-3 saw more than 6,000 boys and girl scouts including Crew Venture troops, scout masters, parents and cadet volunteers invade Lake Frederick for a three-day camp out filled with activities. The Camporee is sponsored by the Scoutmasters Council, a cadet-run organization within the Directorate of Cadet Activities.

Wilderness survival, knowledge of baseball, the Commandant’s Challenge, which is lugging water jugs up and down hills, litter carry and first aid, drill and camouflage painting were just some of the challenges awaiting the scouts.

One of the favorite activities that scouts enjoy is anything that involves weapons—and cadet brass.

Scouts enjoy trying to get as much cadet brass as they can; it’s good for bragging rights—or trading.

“I like getting brass,” Thomas Gaines of Troop 45 from Mineola, New York, said. “We like meeting other scouts and like to trade things with them.”

This is the first time Gaines has been to the Camporee, but he is enthusiastic with seeing so many scouts from various areas.

Cadets from the Law Enforcement Tactics Club showed scouts what is involved when police break down a barrier or go after a dangerous bad guy.

“We are giving scouts a demonstration on room clearing and even had a taser demonstration,” Class of 2018 Cadet Ryan Ashley, who was a cub scout, said. “We also had canine officers here as well.”

“Seeing the police tactics is awesome and I like what the cadets have to teach us,” Gaines said.

Girl Scout troop 369 from Cumberland, Rhode Island enjoyed the Camporee for the second year in a row.

“It’s amazing, especially the mud crawling under (pretend) barbed wire,” Olivia Barboza said.

Many scouts braved the frigid waters of Lake Frederick to clean their clothes of mud and dirt—while still wearing them.

A new event this year was the cyber challenge, which always had long lines of scouts waiting to learn something about cyber crime and how the military is trying to deal with it.

“It’s been busy all day here,” Class of 2017 Cadet Kenny McGaffey said. “We have lap tops here the scouts can use briefly.”

This is the second year McGaffey has been volunteering at the Camporee.

“I have a great time helping out with the scouts,” he said. Helicopter flying, mules and static displays along with demonstrations from cadets rounded out the scouts experience attending the Camporee.

The 53rd Camporee concluded with the scout pass and review and awards ceremony with cadets and scouts ensuring clean-up of the site prior to departure.

History comes alive at Range 5 with weapons shoot

By Lt. Col. Jason Musteen
Department of History

You think history is about memorizing a textbook? The USMA History Department blew that notion away by putting history to practice with the Historic Weapons Shoot April 18. Guided by the faculty and upperclassmen of the department, members of the Class of 2018 extended the classroom onto Range 5, learning firsthand how advances in technology and firepower have changed the conduct of warfare.

Instructors and friends of the department taught select Plebes how to fire an array of historic weaponry from Civil War-era rifled muskets to Special Forces combat assault rifles.

The morning began with a demonstration of “Firepower through the Ages.” Paul Ackerman, the West Point History Museum curator, narrated as re-enactors fired period weapons.

The re-enactors included a 17th century Colonial Militiaman, a Revolutionary War Soldier and a Civil War Soldier all with increasingly sophisticated muskets.

These men were joined by re-enactors firing bolt action rifles that American Soldiers used in the Spanish-American War and World War I. World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War re-enactors fired semi-automatic and fully automatic rifles to round out the performance. Cadets saw how firepower of the infantryman changed rapidly over the three centuries. This prepared them for their own turn firing these weapons throughout the day.

The Plebes rotated through stations which included firing 20th-century weapons, firing Civil War era weapons and visiting re-enactor static displays.

Cadets fired the M1903A4 Springfield, M1 Garand, M1 Carbine and M14 Rifle as well as the FN FAL (L1A1) Rifle used by most other NATO nations during the Cold War. Additionally, everyone had a turn firing the Browning Automatic Rifle and the Special Forces combat assault rifle, the future of modern rifle technology.

For those not impressed by rifles, the History Department offered a variety of WWII submachine guns including the British Sten, the German MP 40 “Schmeisser,” the American M1A1 Thompson “Tommy Gun” and the M3 Grease Gun. All cadets were able to fire these weapons but each squad had to compete for spots as gunner and assistant gunner on the M1919 .30 cal Light Machine Gun.

While not firing these modern weapons, the cadets were instructed on firing Civil War era rifled muskets by local re-enactors, led by Chuck LaRocca, who volunteered their time, ammunition and powder to share with the cadets. These men instructed the cadets on the manual of arms for their weapons, guided each cadet through firing the muskets and drilled each squad through a volley fire.

Re-enactors were dressed mostly as regular Union Army Soldiers but were joined by some Union 5th N.Y. Zouaves and even a Berdan Sharpshooter. Cadets were able to shoulder the same weapons these Soldiers carried in the Civil War.

Interaction with the equipment and camp gear of the re-enactors was the objective while cadets waited to move onto the firing line. World War II re-enactors presented equipment and weapons to include a fully restored Willys jeep mounted with an M2 Browning .50 cal machine gun. Among these displays was a presentation by the Soldiers of the 20th Special Forces Group from the Massachusetts and New York National Guard. These Soldiers partnered with the History Department to instruct cadets on proper firing techniques for the M14 and SCAR rifles and provided medical coverage.

Through participation in the Historic Weapons Shoot, cadets gained a greater appreciation for those who have gone before them and for the study of history as a discipline. Class of 2018 Cadet Samuel Miller enjoyed the concentration of experience among both the commissioned and noncommissioned officers on the range that day. “Not only did each station have an officer that explained the history behind each weapon, but Special Forces operators from the 20th Special Forces Group were giving practical advice about how to properly engage the enemy.”
**Crew:** Army Crew competed in the 24th N.Y. State Collegiate Rowing Championships May 2 in Saratoga Springs, New York. On a perfect day for rowing, the cadets were able to judge their progress against 26 other collegiate teams from across the state of New York.

By all accounts it was one of the strongest showings in Army Crew history, capturing gold in six of nine events, finishing as the top collegiate club team, and earning the “Most Improved Team” Cup in the process.

The Varsity Men’s Eight set the tone for the day with a convincing win in its opening heat, sending the squad to the Grand Final later that afternoon. From there they would go on to win the gold, defeating perennial power house corps-squad-equivalent programs from Ithaca, Marist and RIT.

The winning boat was coxed by Team Commodore, Kyle Geiser, and powered by Courtland Adams, the team captain, as well as Dru Milke, Jon Gilbertson, Winston Park, Jeffery Wilkes, Ross Downum, Jeff Olsen and Dave Grossman as the stroke. The win marked the first time in program history that West Point was etched on the cup given to the top crew in this premier event.

The Varsity Women’s Fours continued the trend with the A boat cruising to a win in the heats and a 16-second victory over Binghamton, Marist, Canisius and Union in the Grand Final for its event.

The winning Army Women’s boat was coxed by Jordan Duran and powered by team captain, Caitlin Rowe, along with Annie Reindinger, Allie Noack and Rachel Anderson.

The team held on to the cup that they won the previous year—the only win for Army Crew in 2014 at the N.Y. States. The Army B boat went on to a second-place finish in the Petite Finals.

In a finals-only race for the Varsity Women’s Pair, Emma Spell and Arden Percoco won gold with a time of 9 minutes and 7.9 seconds, well ahead of the other five schools in the race.

The next win in a heat was posted by the Women’s Novice Four, coxed by Teresa Hinman with Sarah Beougher at stroke and Maria Blom, Simone Askew and Madeline Carlson filling out the rest of the boat. They would go on to capture the fourth gold for Army Crew with a 25-second lead over the nearest competitors from Union and Marist. The Army Novice B boat finished second in the Petite Finals.

The Novice Men’s Four A and B boats finished one-two in their heat, putting both boats in the Grand Finals where they would go on to finish fourth and sixth, respectively, just outside of medal contention.

The Novice Men next raced an Eight in a seven-boat finals only race. They would go on to lead the race wire-to-wire, just edging out RIT at the finish line by less than a second. The gold-medal boat included Michael Huang at Cox, Eric Danielson at Stroke, Charles Toch, Chris Wagner, John Brooks, Ethan Grogan, Steven Martin, Logan Leahy and Daniel Sharp in the bow seat.

In a boat combining four varsity and four novice rowers, Army Crew posted a second-place finish in the Men’s JV Eight race, losing by a boat length to RIT.

The final gold medal of the day for Army went to another mixed boat in the Women’s Open Four event. The gold-medal winning pair of Emma Spell and Arden Percoco joined novice rowers Emma Hanna and Ali Darby with Novice coxswain Maria Kruegler at the controls, defeating second-place Marist by almost three boat lengths of open water.

**Triathlon:** Six members of the West Point Triathlon team traveled to the U.S. Virgin Islands to compete in the Ironman 70.3 St. Croix triathlon Sunday.

The team was very successful with the top male, Class of 2018 Cadet Remington Ponce-Pore; female, Class of 2018 Cadet Paige Dougherty; and the OIC, Lt. Col. Ken Allen, each winning their respective age groups and earning a spot in the 2015 Ironman 70.3 World Championships.

The three women cadets—Dougherty, Class of 2017 Cadet KeriAnn Murphy and Class of 2018 Cadet Jennifer Niemann—earned first, second and third in both the women’s 18-24 year-old division and the women’s military division.

The men were just as successful with Ponce-Pore and Class of 2016 Cadet Thomas Hinds earning first and second in the men’s 18-25 year-old division and first and third, respectively, in the men’s military division.

Allen was first in the men’s 45-49 year-old division.

With the results of this race, the team has qualified a total of six cadets for the World Championships in the fall.
Astronaut Kimbrough speaks at Stevens Leadership Series

Story and photo by Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

Retired Col. and current astronaut Robert Shane Kimbrough, USMA Class of 1989, spoke to cadets April 27 at the Red Reeder Room in Washington Hall. Kimbrough spoke for about a half hour on the qualities of leadership hosted by the Stevens Leadership Development Speakers Series with another half hour opened to questions.

The Stevens Leadership Development Speakers Series is designed to bring in leaders from military and civilian industries to engage in a conversation about leadership with a select group of USMA cadets.

“We pin-point leadership development issues and invite speakers, who are always West Point graduates, to give advice,” Class of 2015 Cadet Frank Chen, cadet-in-charge, said. “They all have a cadet background. Kimbrough, as an astronaut will bring in a different perspective.”

Kimbrough began the speech by giving a little bit of his background as a cadet and the differences between them.

“When I was going to school here in the late ‘80s, there were no wars going on. You guys are here at a different time, so there may be a different mentality,” Kimbrough said.

Kimbrough talked a little about his career in the Army and at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, but mostly concentrated on what he sees as the most important aspect of leadership.

“The bottom line is that you have to care for your people,” Kimbrough said. “I’ve learned a lot at West Point about team building and relationships and I am big on relationships. If you take care of your people, they will do anything for you.”

Kimbrough said he knew when things were going bad at home for a Soldier and at times acted as a counselor or even helping a Soldier balance his checkbook, which allowed him to be an effective leader.

Often, when a West Point graduate arrives at a post and if you announce that you are from West Point, there can be some odd reactions.

“There’s a bit of a stigma attached,” Kimbrough said. “You have to know your stuff because if you don’t, your unit will pick up on that, but if you don’t, be honest with them, ask them for help. It will give them a sense of pride and it helps to build trust.”

Kimbrough explained that when he had a unit he would have frequent family outings as a way of getting to know his Soldiers and their families.

“That was a strong way to build a team. It helps families understand the big picture,” Kimbrough said. “A lot of times families don’t understand why Soldiers have to go on training missions. Having family outings allowed me to bridge that gap.”

Kimbrough also said leaders can be creative and create missions to train as a unit and related a personal story about one leader who was gung ho and something of a risk taker who devised a training mission to blow up a nuclear plant.

“A leader can be creative in training, create missions and train as a unit, like the leader I had that did some crazy training missions, but it helped me to understand how to handle risks. That will keep you sharp, by planning for contingencies after contingencies,” he said.

Once the forum was opened to questions, one cadet asked why he chose aviation, followed by other cadets asking questions about the space station and what it’s like in space.

“I wasn’t set on aviation here; at that time it was about the infantry. I did well enough to get into aviation, but I was very busy,” Kimbrough said. “Aerospace Engineering was tough, but I learned how to manage my stuff.”

Kimbrough will be going to the International Space Station again in 2016.

“Being a commander of the ISS is a big responsibility and a big honor,” Kimbrough said. “I am building a team now and when we show up, there will already be people there—Japanese, American and a Russian. It’s a very diverse atmosphere.

“Leadership,” Kimbrough added, “is also about self-management. For example, the official language on the space station is English and most everyone speaks it except the Russians, although the Russians on our crew speak good English. We generally have to keep our Russian language up when on a flight with Cosmonauts.”

Kimbrough received a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from the U.S. Military Academy in 1989 and a Master of Science Degree in Operations Research from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1998.

After his graduation from USMA, he entered aviation school and was assigned to Fort Stewart, Georgia.

He served in Southeast Asia in Operation Desert Storm as an attack helicopter platoon leader, aviation liaison officer and attack helicopter battalion operations officer. In 1994, he was assigned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as a commander of an Apache helicopter company.

Kimbrough completed his first spaceflight in 2008, logging nearly 16 days in space and 12 hours and 52 minutes of Extravehicular Activity in two spacewalks. Kimbrough currently serves as the Vehicle Integration Test Officer Chief for the Flight Crew Operations Directorate.

Radioactive!

Cadets taking Radiological Engineering Design (NE350) took a trip to local business, STERIS Isomedix, in Chester, New York, April 23 to see an example of how radiation is used in industry. Cadets experienced firsthand how gamma rays from a Cobalt-60 radioactive source are used to sterilize medical supplies. On that day, STERIS Isomedix loaded about 500,000 Curies of new Co-60 sources into one of their gamma-ray sterilization machines, reshuffled older sources and removed the oldest ones which were no longer sufficiently radioactive. Cadets gathered around the warm, shielded containers full of radioactive sources as they watched them being lifted by crane off a flatbed truck and lowered into a 25-foot deep pool of water where they were opened and loaded into the machine.

Courtesy Photo
Inspiring the Class of 2017 to serve

By Staff Sgt. Vito T. Bryant
U.S. Military Academy Public Affairs

Friends and family members of West Point graduates interred at the West Point Cemetery shared fond memories of their loved ones during the 10th annual “Inspiration to Serve” Cemetery Tour April 30.

The Class of 2017 rotated through 16 graveside stations that personified the impact of a life of service. A 1993 West Point graduate was among two sons who memorialized their fathers.

“The most important thing to my father was service,” retired Lt. Col. Bob Lenz said of his father who had the same rank and name. “He would always say that he didn’t care how he did it, but he was going to serve.”

Occasional wind gusts blew as the sound of chirping birds resonated throughout the ceremony. Periodically, the boards containing images and biographies of the deceased toppled, but the memories of their leadership and selfless service flowed undeterred.

Stretch Dunn, a retired colonel and 1966 graduate, exuded emotion as he spoke of his classmate, Capt. Thomas Hayes, IV, who was killed in action in Vietnam.

“In life, you come across two, maybe three mentors who have a profound impact on your life,” Dunn said. “God gave me Tommy. He was my mentor. I didn’t know it at the time, but he was.”

Dunn paused to take a breath and gathered himself as tears formed in his eyes.

“I really wish that (the cadets) would just get it,” Dunn said. “You have to be ambitious to be successful, but it’s really all about service. Serving your country.”

The tour, combined with the experiences of their first two years at the academy, is meant to inspire the cadets and re-emphasize the importance of embracing a life of service as they prepare to take the Oath of Affirmation in the fall.

“This thing is for life,” Dunn continued as he slowly looked toward a photo of his friend sitting in the corner of the canopy.

“Actually, it’s for more than life. Tommy continues to serve even after his death.”
ACI 101: What is the Army Cyber Institute? ... and why you should care

By Mike Brantley
USMA PAO

The Army Cyber Institute opened its doors here at Spellman Hall in October 2014 as the Army’s premier resource for strategic insight, advice and exceptional subject-matter expertise on cyberspace-related issues.

“(ACI) is a national resource … in the cyber domain, engaging Army, government, academic and industrial cyber communities in impactful partnerships,” Dr. Fernando Maymi, deputy director of the ACI, said. “These partnerships build intellectual capital and expand the knowledge base for the purpose of enabling effective Army cyber defense operations.”

Maymi says that the ACI leverages world-class cyber research fellows, Soldiers with operational cyber experience and the broader U.S. Military Academy community to identify, research and solve multidisciplinary cyberspace issues affecting the Army, Department of Defense and the Nation.

“Many of the problems being worked will become manifest in five to 10 years and fall outside the purview of any other Army organization,” Maymi said. “Our goal is that most problems we work are future ones, but in reality we also address shorter-term issues when appropriate. This process yields insights that inform both advice to senior leaders and the educational process at West Point, in the Army and even in other institutions.”

What exactly are cyberspace issues?

Cyberspace issues are opportunities and threats that are inherent to, or facilitated by, our global reliance on computing and communications technologies, Maymi said. He says that while it may be tempting to equate cyberspace with the Internet, cyberspace is much larger.

“For instance, a cyberspace issue could involve an embedded control system in a car or tank (not connected to the Internet) that an adversary could exploit in order to take control of the vehicle,” he said.

What kind of cyber leader is needed to combat the threats that bombard us daily?

The ACI is a USMA directorate that reports directly to the superintendent. It works with the dean in order to instill cyberspace issues into the academic development of every cadet.

Cyberspace leaders require all the leadership traits and skills that other cadets receive at West Point, but must also be as operationally capable as their subordinates, Maymi said.

“Whereas Infantry leaders must know how to employ their Soldiers and operate their weapons, cyberspace leaders must know how to employ their Soldiers and build their own weapons out of zeroes and ones and their own knowledge of how computers and networks work,” Maymi said.

“I think that West Point has done a good job preparing me to be an effective officer,” Class of 2015 Cadet Leo St. Amour, a computer science major, said. “As far as being effective as a cyber officer, … I can say that my computer science courses and my involvement in cyber-related clubs and teams has made me confident in my abilities and I know that I’m going to give whatever job I have my all.”

St. Amour, 22, from new Lenox, Illinois, said that it is an honor to have been selected as one of the first cyber officers to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy.

“I’m nervous. It’s a brand new field and no one knows what the career path of a cyber officer looks like or what jobs I will have in the future,” St. Amour said. “This does give me the opportunity to try and make a difference and shape the new branch. As an officer, I want to work as a developer and create the tools and exploits that will be used in operations.”

Class of 2015 Cadet Frederick Ulrich, 21, from Hidden Hills, California, echoes St. Amour’s comment about being selected as one of the first officers to hold the cyber insignia.

“The true ‘first wave of cyber warriors’ are the officers, civilians and NCOs who have helped stand up this branch,” he said. “The 2014 West Point graduates who branched MI and Signal with the guarantee that they would be switched into the cyber branch upon its creation have also given back so much to the Army and DOD cyber communities, and have also mentored me my past three years here.”

Ulrich also wants to give back to the West Point Electrical Engineering and Computer Science department and DOD cyber.

What kind of courses does USMA offer its cadets?

“We are identifying opportunities to expose cadets to cyberspace issues in all academic departments,” Maymi said. “EECS has the most mature lessons and courses, but others are also developing significant content in this domain.”

Two courses are currently offered by EECS that are directly relevant to developing cyberspace leaders: CS482 (Cyber Security Engineering), which deals with the defensive aspects of operating in cyberspace, and CS483 (Digital Forensics), which covers the investigative skills required both to understand an adversary’s attack as well as extract valuable information from a seized computer, he said.

Maymi says that the Department of Social Sciences has an elective course in Cyberspace Operations that deals with the intersection of technology and policy, co-taught by the ACI.

See ARMY CYBER INSTITUTE, PAGE 9

Col. Greg Conti, director of the ACI, describes what a Cyber Leadership Course modeled after Ranger School would be like at CyberTalks in September 2014.
ARMY CYBER INSTITUTE, cont’d from Page 8

Policy Fellow.

The English and Philosophy Department is developing a Cyber Ethics course, spearheaded by the ACI Ethics Fellow, and the History Department is incorporating fresh cyberspace content into its History of Technology course, spearheaded by the ACI History Fellow, he said.

“As we hire other Fellows in Systems Engineering, Psychology, Computer Science and Math, we will incorporate new cyberspace content into courses taught in those departments,” Maymi said.

Not all of the ACI’s work in cadet development falls neatly within one department. Two specific efforts that cut across disciplines include the Cadet Competitive Cyber Team and the Cyber Leaders Development Program.

The Cadet Competitive Cyber Team, or C3T, is open to all cadets regardless of academic major. It is run out of the EECS department, though the ACI assists with specific support and opportunities, Maymi said. He added that the team’s primary mission is to prepare for, and compete in, undergraduate cybersecurity competitions in order to improve their own computer and network security skills and to conduct outreach for the Army Cyber Center, the EECS department and USMA.

The Cyber Leaders Development Program identifies talent and helps grow future cyber warriors for our Army and the nation, Maymi said. He said that the program prepares select cadets to serve immediately upon graduation in highly specialized technical cyber security positions within U.S. Army Cyber Command and other organizations.

“Though the CLDP was created as a USMA program,” Maymi said, “we are now in conversations with Cadet Command to leverage it in ROTC programs nationwide. We are expecting the first pilot programs to launch in ROTC in academic year 2015-16.”
ANNOUNCEMENTS

West Point Commissary Case Lot Sale
The West Point Commissary will have a Case Lot sale from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. May 15-17.
There will be great savings on many items.

Gift Shoppe openings for May
The Gift Shoppe is open on Wednesdays in May from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. There are two special openings from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. May 15 and May 22.
The Gift Shoppe will be closed May 20 for the USMA Graduation receptions.

WPAOG Gift Shop hours
The West Point Association of Graduates Gift Shop will be open the following hours during Graduation Week:
• May 18—9 a.m.-6 p.m.
• May 19—9 a.m.-6 p.m.
• May 20—9 a.m.-6 p.m.
• May 21—9 a.m.-6 p.m.
• May 22—8 a.m.-6 p.m.
• May 23—6 a.m.-5 p.m.
• May 24—9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Garrison Awards and Retirement Ceremony
The next U. S. Army Garrison Awards and Retirement Ceremony is scheduled for June 26 at the West Point Club, Grand Ballroom. The rehearsal is mandatory for all awardees and will start at 12:30 p.m. The ceremony will commence at 1:30 p.m.
Refreshments and cake will be served after the ceremony for everyone. The cutoff date to have all awards into the Directorate of Human Resources is June 2.
Unfortunately, due to the large amount of work that goes into this ceremony, DHR will not be able to accept any last minute awards.

EDUCATION and WORKSHOPS

Upcoming West Point Soldier For Life—TAP Transition Workshops (updated)
Transition Workshops are designed to assist separating or retiring service members and their family members in preparing for a smooth transition to civilian life.
The workshops provide information on entitlements and services available, including the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans’ Benefits Briefings.
The Department of Labor also conducts an extensive employment workshop. Service members are required to begin the SFL-TAP no later than 12 months before transition.
Upcoming schedule dates are:
• June 1-5;
• June 22-26 (Executive/Retirement Level);
• July 13-17;
• July 27-31 (Executive/Retirement Level);

OUTSIDE THE GATES

Nature Museum’s Mother’s Day Nature Hike
The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum is offering a Guided Nature Hike for Moms at 10 a.m. Sunday at the Outdoor Discovery Center, on Muser Drive, across from 174 Angola Road, Cornwall.
Join environmental educator Lisa Mechaley for a Mother’s Day morning of fresh air and sunshine.
For details, visit hhnm.org or call 845-534-5506, ext. 204.

Pancake Breakfast
James J. O’Neill High School’s Girls Basketball team is hosting its inaugural “Breakfast of Champions” Pancake Breakfast 8 a.m.-noon June 6 at the JIOHS Cafeteria, 21 Morgan Road.
The breakfast offerings include pancakes, eggs, bacon, orange juice and coffee/tea. There is a fee for the event, cash or check.
For details, email to cathryn.biordi@hhmcasd.org.

Cornwall-on-Hudson RiverFest
The Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson will host its 18th annual RiverFest from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. June 6 at Donahue Park on the shores of the Hudson River.
The RiverFest will feature a full day of music and entertainment, children’s activities and a large craft and food fair. The day’s events will include live bands, river activities, food stands and non-profit groups and contributors.
RiverFest will accept vendor applications until all spaces have been filled. There is no charge for RiverFest. Visitors are invited to bring a blanket or lawn chair. Visit www.riverfest.com for up to date information.
For more details, call Wynn Gold at 845-534-7622.

Native Plant Sale at Nature Museum
The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum will be hosting its annual Native Plant Sale 9 a.m.-1 p.m. May 16 at the Museum’s Outdoor Discovery Center, on Muser Drive, across from 174 Angola Road, Cornwall.
Shoppers will find a variety of native plants selected to attract butterflies, honey bees and hummingbirds. Visitors will meet gardeners from the area who can provide guidance and information.
At the Native Plant Sale, shoppers can also enjoy free workshops including: “Identifying Invasive Plants” presented by Kali Bird, local ecologist and founder of Hike New York, and “Creating Islands of Native Plants” presented by Master Gardener, Karen Ertl.
For details and a listing of things for sale, visit hhnm.org or call 845-534-5506, ext. 204.

FEATURED ITEM

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
The 2015 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Observance is scheduled noon-1:30 p.m. Friday at the West Point Club.
The event’s guest speaker is Mae M. Ngai, professor of Asian American Studies and professor of History at Columbia University.
There is a fee for this event. Cadets must sign-up online at https://cis.usma.edu.
For details, contact the USMA EO Office at 845-7082, USMA Office at 938-8456 or the EO Program Manager at 938-3814.

IETD Computer Training Program
The Information Education and Technology Division is offering computer courses that include Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, computer skills, keyboard typing skills lab, Dell XT Tablet, Lenovo Tablet and Apple iPad information system.
Most courses are held over three days, 1-4 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday.
Courses are offered to O/Dean Staff and Faculty, and if space permits, to other departments and USMA affiliates (tenant organizations, USMA spouses and volunteers.)
Courses are held in Jefferson Memorial Library (Bldg. 758), 4th Floor, Room 414 (IETD Classroom).
For details, contact Thomas A. Gorman at 938-1186 or email Thomas.Gorman@usma.edu.

Army Personnel Testing programs
The Army Education Center at West Point offers Army Personnel Testing (APT) programs such as the AFCT, DLAB, DPLT, SIFT through the DA and DLI.
Tests are free of charge to Soldiers.
Call the Testing Center at 938-3360 or email gwenn.wallace@usma.edu.
Pearson VUE offers licensing and certification exams. Most tests are free of charge to Soldiers.
Call the Testing Center at 938-3360 or email gwenn.wallace@usma.edu for details or an appointment.

DANTES testing
The Army Education Center at West Point offers academic testing programs through the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) such as the SAT and ACT.
Pearson VUE offers licensing and certification exams. Most tests are free of charge to Soldiers.
Call the Testing Center at 938-3360 or email gwenn.wallace@usma.edu for details or an appointment.

 Mine and Military Engineering
 The Department of Human Resources
 • June 15-19 (Executive/Retirement Level);
 • June 22-26 (Executive/Retirement Level);
 • July 13-17;
 • July 27-31 (Executive/Retirement Level);
 • Aug. 10-14;
 • Sept. 14-18;
 Registration is required. Contact the SFL-TAP Office at 845-938-0634 to register or for more details.

West Point Band
The United States Military Academy
Yoga for Kids
EFMP and Hearts Apart Families, come learn and practice yoga. The yoga dates are 11:30 a.m.-noon June 11, 25, July 9, 23 and Aug. 6 and 20 for beginner classes and 12:15-12:45 p.m. on the same dates for advanced classes.
RSVP to Josephine Toohey at 938-5655 or Josephine.Toohey@usma.edu or Anne Marshall at 938-0232 or Anne.Marshall@usma.edu.

FOR THE ADULTS
Military Spouse Appreciation Day at the West Point Club
Come join MWR for lunch on this special day with your military spouse from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday at the West Point Club. With your purchase of a full-price lunch meal, your military spouse dines for half-price.
Gift bags will be given to all military spouses. For details, call 938-5120.

May trips with LTS
• See the museums of New York City, Friday. Leave West Point at 9 a.m. Leave New York City at 3:30 p.m. Visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Frick Collection at the Henry Clay Frick House or the Guggenheim. Explore Central Park. There is a minimal fee for this event. For details, call 938-3601.

BOSS Texas Hold’em and Call of Duty Tournament
• Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is having a fundraiser Texas Hold’em and Call of Duty Tournament at 5 p.m. May 15. Live music by “218 Detour,” prizes and finger foods. There is a fee to enter. For details, call 938-6497.

For the Families
West Point 5K/10K
Registration is now open for the West Point 5K/10K Saturday. Register online with www.active.com, keyword “West Point.” For details, call 938-4690.

FOR THE FAMILIES
Father’s Day Brunch and Contest
Join the West Point Club from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. June 21 for its traditional Father’s Day Brunch. Reservations are required by calling the Club at 938-5120.
Also, don’t forget to tell us all about your dad for the Club’s Father’s Day Contest. Tell us why he is so special and what makes him our “Dad of the Year.”
Send us your entry along with a picture of your dad via email or U.S. mail. Our panel of judges will review all entries and choose a winner by June 12.
Our winner will receive Renegades tickets plus complimentary Father’s Day Brunch for four at the Club.
Send your entry to: West Point Club “Father’s Day Contest” 603 Cullum Road, West Point, New York, 10996 or Catering@usma.edu.

Summer Art Camp
Journey with MWR around the globe as it reveals each continent’s most unique artistic cultures.
Our artists will explore mediums such as silk painting, basket weaving, cave painting, jewelry making and much more.
Camp dates are June 23-26, July 14-17, July 21-24 and July 28-31. Camps are for grades K-5, and will run each week from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Registration begins May 12. For details, call Arts and Crafts at 938-4812.

Ready, Set, Bake Program registration
The West Point Club launches its first Ready, Set, Bake culinary hands-on baking class for children 9-13 years of age.
Join Chef Brandon Truesdale three days a week and learn the fundamentals of measuring, preparation, sanitation, safety, packing and retail.
Two Sessions will be offered: June 15-17 and June 22-24 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. There is a minimal fee for these classes.
For details and registration, email Chef Truesdale at Brandon.Truesdale@usma.edu, call 938-5120 or visit westpointmwr.com/club.

Little Maestros Music Class
EFMP and Hearts Apart Families, join in on the music and fun. Bring your little ones and make music together from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. June 18, July 2, 16, 30 and Aug. 13 at ACS, Bldg. 622, in the Heritage Room.
RSVP to Josephine Toohey at 938-5655, Josephine.toohey@usma.edu or the program assistant Anne Marshall at 938-0232 or anne.marshall@usma.edu.

Horseback Riding Camps registration
Morgan Farm is gearing up for Summer Horseback riding camps. The camp dates are set and it is now accepting 2015 camp registrations.
Three- and five-day sessions will be offered.
Families of deployed service members receive a 10 percent discount.
For details, call 938-3926 or e-mail morganfarm@westpointmwr.com.

CYSSitter Babysitting Training
The West Point Club launches its first CYSSitter Babysitting training from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. June 11-12 at the Youth Center, Bldg. 500.
Attendance both days is necessary for certification, the training includes CPR and First Aid. For details and to register, call 938-3969 or email khia.wood@usma.edu.

FOR THE YOUTHS
Keller Corner

Keller information
Get up-to-date Keller Army Community Hospital information at http://kach.amedd.army.mil/ or on social media at http://www.facebook.com/kellerarmycommunityhospital.

Keller’s Obstetric Unit offers “Sibling Classes”
The Keller Army Community Hospital Obstetric Unit will offer “Sibling Classes” based on interest. The classes will be age appropriate for 3 years or older.
For details and/or to register for the class, contact the Keller OBU at 845-938-3210.

Keller offers Childbirth Education Courses
Are you expecting a child this summer or in the fall? Are you nervous because you’re not sure what to expect?
If so, join Keller Army Community Hospital’s Childbirth Education Class Series.
The course begins Wednesday and continues every Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. through June 10 in the Hospital’s 2nd floor classroom.
To register and/or get more information, contact Keller’s Labor & Delivery Unit at 938-3210.

LifeWorks at Balfour Beatty Communities

• Spring Fling and Mother’s Day Craft: Remember this Mother’s Day with a keepsake craft made by your children. Stop by Dragon Park in Stony II parking lot from 1-4:30 p.m. Friday for Mother’s Day craft and to pick up free flowers.
No registration required.

• Nature Stroller Group: Come take a one-hour hike at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum’s Outdoor Discovery Center in Cornwall Wednesday.
The popular Nature Stroller group will follow the gentle trails of the Outdoor Discovery Center and explore the field, pond and forest.
The trails are stroller and toddler friendly.
BBC will meet at the Visitors Center at 9:15 a.m.
To register for this event, email jgellman@bbgrp.com with the name and ages of each child attending by Sunday.

• National Chocolate Chip Day: Stop by 132 Bartlett Loop to sit, chat and have freshly made chocolate chip cookies May 15.
BBC will also be serving your favorite Java, tea or iced tea.

Commemorating Arbor Day

Phil Koury and Rich Hawkenberry from the Land Maintenance Branch of the Directorate of Public Works teamed with eight students from the West Point Middle School Environmental Club to plant a tree in celebration of Arbor Day April 24. Koury and Hawkenberry provided shovels and invited the students to actively participate, instructing them in the best planting techniques and teaching them the science behind successful tree cultivation. Koury also provided the students with related activity sheets, including a word search and a coloring book page. Currently in blossom, the flowering cherry ‘Autumnalis’ sapling (pictured above) is located at the intersection of Washington Road and Barry Road.

MOVIES at MAHAN
Theatre schedule at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752.

Friday—Avengers: Age of Ultron, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday—Home, PG, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday—American Sniper, R, 9:30 p.m.
May 15—Insurgent Two, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.
May 16—Home, PG, 7:30 p.m.
(For movie details and updates schedules, visit www.shopmyexchange.com/reel-time-theatres/West-Point-1044343.)

Celebrating military children
Children enjoyed fishing for ducks along with other activities such as face painting at the Month of the Military Child Carnival April 25 at the Youth Center. Also on hand were children favorite foods like hot dogs, hamburgers, popcorn and cotton candy. April is the Month of the Military Child, which is an awareness month established to celebrate the important role children play in the Armed Forces community.
Over the past couple of weeks, news organizations such as the Army Times and goArmyWestPoint.com have been spreading the word about a remarkable group of Soldiers who are preparing to climb Mount Everest in order to raise awareness about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and the high rate of suicides among military members.

The climb marks the launch of a program called U.S. Expeditions and Explorations (USX), a non-profit organization started by Class of 2015 Cadet Harold Earls, co-captain of the Army West Point Baseball team.

Over the course of this semester, I have had the privilege to speak with Earls several times about this project and his motivations for starting USX. His mission, and that of his new organization, is to “help Soldiers recover from the emotional struggles experienced in combat” through an emphasis on teamwork and rekindling a sense of purpose.

To do this, he and four other members of the Army Everest team plan to make history as the first group of active duty Soldiers to climb Mount Everest in March 2016.

Three of the climbers have personally struggled with PTSD and are still recovering. One of those members is Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Burnett, former USCC command sergeant major, who has also demonstrated his commitment to raising awareness about PTSD and suicide.

Regarding USX and why he decided to participate in the expedition, Burnett wrote, “I believe we can be a part of the solution and possibly stop some Soldiers, or at least one, from committing suicide.”

Earls echoed this commitment with a similar comment that “if we can save just one, it’s worth it.”

The mission of USX doesn’t end with Mount Everest. Earls is already planning expeditions for 2017 and 2018, and while they may not involve Mount Everest, they promise to be challenging and fulfilling for all of the members.

Mount Everest is more than the tallest mountain in the world, it is a symbol of the adversity and obstacles that everyone, including veterans struggling with PTSD, has to overcome and climb over every day.

Burnett will be climbing next year in honor of “Steven Burnett, Kevin Burnett, Maj. Thomas Kennedy, Sgt. Gene Hawkins, Sgt. Chase Stanley, Spc. Roberto Martinez and all the others who fought and died, so that we continue to enjoy the freedoms of our country.”

Raising awareness about PTSD and suicide is an important step along the path to making a difference in Soldier’s lives.

And just as Earls and his teammates will take their first step of many to climb Mount Everest in 2016, they challenge all of us to be aware of the people around us, and be a part of the solution.

Capt. Matthew Hickey, USMA Class of 2009, is the team leader of the expedition.

You can find updates on the group’s efforts and preparations on Hickey’s blog at www.armyeverest.blogspot.com.

The ninth annual Mike Krzyzewski Award for Excellence in Teaching Character Through Sport awards were presented to three coaches and three cadet athletes May 1 at the Cadet Mess Hall. The award, sponsored by the Department of Physical Education, recognizes West Point athletes and coaches (sport educators) for their outstanding commitment to the development of noble character through athletic participation and leadership. This year’s awards, a certificate and medal, were presented by Duke Men’s Basketball Coach Mike Krzyzewski, a 1969 USMA graduate and former Army basketball player and coach, to an athlete and coach in each sport category within the Corps of Cadets—Intercollegiate Athletics, Competitive Club Athletics and Company Athletics. The six 2015 recipients were Class of 2015 Cadet Joseph Drummond (Intercollegiate Athletics/Football—pictured to the left), Class of 2015 Cadet Melissa Wells (Competitive Club Athletics/Women’s Team Handball), Class of 2016 Cadet Andrew Pilkington (Company Athletics/Swimming), Coach Kevin Ward (Intercollegiate Athletics/Wrestling), Coach Lt. Col. G. Matt Burrow (Competitive Club Athletics/Crew) and Coach Maj. Helen Lilly (Company Athletics/Submission Grappling). Also recognized were five finalists for the award to include Class of 2015 Cadet Chandler Smith (IA/Wrestling), Class of 2015 Cadet Miguel Archuleta (CCA/Boxing), Class of 2016 Cadet Harrison Majors (CA/Soccer), Coach Brian Watts (IA/Golf) and Coach Donald Jackson (CCA/Cycling).
Robinett sets Baseball’s strikeout record

Senior right-handed pitcher strikes out 21 against Air Force

By Mark Mohrman
Army Athletic Communications

Senior right-handed pitcher Alex Robinett etched his name in the academy and Patriot League record books with a 21-strikeout performance in an 8-0 victory over Air Force May 1 at Johnson Stadium at Doubleday Field.

Robinett made the final start of his collegiate career count with an electric outing that included at least two strikeouts in every inning.

He struck out the side in three different frames, including the ninth to cap the three-hit shutout. The final five outs of the night came via strikeout as Robinett shattered the previous Army West Point record of 17 punchouts in a game.

Steve Reich struck out 17 on two occasions in his career, accomplishing the feat in a seven-inning contest against Air Force in 1992 and again in 1993 against New York Tech in nine innings. Bob Kewley established the mark in 1960 against Yale before it was equaled by Eric Pedersen versus Princeton in 1968.

“I thought I was going to break my career record, which was 12, but I had no idea I was even near 21,” Robinett said. “We had never played Air Force in my four years here, so to set the tone like that it was pretty good. We have two games tomorrow and Sunday, so hopefully we can carry this momentum through the weekend.”

Both Robinett and Air Force starter Griffin Jax looked sharp out of the gate with a pair of strikeouts in the first inning. Robinett equaled that effort in the second before senior left fielder Mark McCants started the home half of the inning by slicing a standup double down the left field line.

The next man up in the bottom of the second was junior center fielder Jacob Page, who reached with a seeing-eye single and took second on a passed ball with junior first baseman Ryan Levenhagen at the dish.

A ground ball to second scored McCants, but a throwing error allowed Levenhagen to move up as Page motored around to make it 2-0. Another passed ball sent Levenhagen to third prior to a groundout by sophomore second baseman Johnny Griffith that scored a third Army West Point run.

The Black Knights added a fourth tally when freshman third baseman Jake Clark worked a walk and freshman shortstop Jon Rosoff doubled him home as the home team went ahead 4-0.

Robinett gave up his first hit, a two-out single up the middle by Travis Wilke, but he recorded his sixth strikeout of the night to close the third inning with another zero.

The Army West Point right hander continued to cruise through the lineup with two more K’s in the fourth prior to the offense adding to its advantage in the fourth. Three straight doubles to start the inning by junior designated hitter Brock Davidson, Clark and Rosoff increased the lead to 6-0.

Robinett struck out the side in the fifth and again in the seventh to pull within one punchout of the record after Bradley Haslam went down swinging before stretch time.

“Robby was just doing his thing, he’s been like that all season,” junior catcher Ben Smith added. “I didn’t really have to do a lot except just be there for him. He’s got the internal motivation to do it himself and I was there to support him the whole way.”

Following a groundout to start the eighth, Robinett fanned Tyler Zaboknik to tie the mark and ended the eighth by getting Tyler Salek swinging. Wilke began the ninth with a swinging strikeout, before a backwards K was dealt to Adam Groesbeck, which his third strikeout looking and fourth overall.

Spencer Draws got the third Air Force hit with a single to the right side before Noah Pierce left the bat on his shoulder to end the record-setting effort by Robinett. His eighth complete game of the season increased his career total to 14 and advanced his 2015 record to 6-5. Robinett’s 22nd career victory slots him sixth in Patriot League history.

“It was a great effort by the whole team,” head coach Matt Reid stated. “Alex Robinett threw the ball extremely well and was electric tonight. I thought Jax threw the ball well too, we just made some hard contact and our guys offensively did a great job of having good quality at bats.”

The lead was pushed to eight runs when the Black Knights hung two more runs in the bottom of the eighth.

McCants, Rosoff and Page each finished the night with two hits, with Rosoff and Levenhagen driving in two runs apiece.

“I thought it was our best game of the year,” Reid continued. “We put everything together, baserunning, pitching, situational hitting, and good defense. It was all there and now we have a game tomorrow and want to go out with the same effort.”
Men’s Track & Field takes second at PL Championships

By Kelly Dumrauf
Army Athletic Communications

The Army West Point Men’s Track & Field squad claimed four titles in day two of the Patriot League Outdoor Track & Field Championships en route to a second-place finish May 2 at Shea Stadium.

The Black Knights placed 16 in the top-five, with 13 on the track and two in the field.

“I thought both of our teams performed very well today,” said head coach Mike Smith. “I was impressed with the way our kids competed. We had some things not go our way and we responded in other areas by stepping up and that’s what happens at track meets. It’s never over and when things don’t go our way you’ve got to respond, you’ve got to find a way to get the job done. We had that happen in a lot of places today.”

Tom Girardot set the pace early on, besting Joshua Ellis of American by .17 seconds to earn the conference crown in the 3000m steeplechase. His time of 9:00.11 surpasses the IC4A qualifying standard and sets a new career best by seven seconds. Teammate Jacob Fong placed 10th in the race, clocking a time of 9:39.33.

Senior captain Clyde Wilson captured his sixth consecutive 800-meter run title, third in the outdoor competition. He clocked a time of 1:51.26 to surpass the IC4A standard. Trevor Touchton placed fourth with a time of 1:52.03 while a late push from Alex Combs earned the freshman ninth with a time of 1:55.20.

“We had an outstanding day on the men’s side,” Smith said. “We had a number of great wins; Clyde Wilson in the 800 meters, our 4x400-meter relay, a plebe in the discus. I don’t have any more superlatives on what I did on the men’s side with the people that we brought to the meet. For us to get second, I thought it was outstanding. I’m proud of the guys, just a great team effort.”

Also competing in the 800-meter run was Nick Causey, who placed 11th with a time of 1:55.43; John Monday, who earned 13th with a time of 1:55.68; Nathan Fisher, who placed 19th with a mark of 1:57.47; and Dylan Chamberlen with a time of 2:01.36.

In just his first outdoor conference championship, plebe Dawson Hillis bested the field in the discus throw, recording an IC4A qualifying mark of 52.65 meters to earn the Patriot League title. The mark is a new career best for the Orchard Park, New York, native. Teammate Garrett Kohnke placed 15th in the event with a toss of 42.81 meters.

“We had a freshman in Dawson Hillis in the discus that was huge,” Smith said. “We just didn’t have enough of those people to win on the men’s side, Navy just has a great team and we weren’t able to catch them.”

Army West Point sealed its second place finish with a win in the meet’s final event, taking first in the 4x400-meter relay. The quartet of Wilson, Patrick Taylor, Stevyn Spees and Jose Santana clocked an IC4A qualifying mark of 3:12.22 to earn the top spot.

The Black Knights posted impressive marks in the high jump, earning two spots on the podium. Senior captain Tony Holland claimed second with a leap of 1.99m. Marcus Phillips led the way for Army West Point in the 400m hurdles, claiming third with a time of 55.32. Beavers captured fifth with a time of 55.48, while Hall earned 15th with a time of 1:03.24 after recovering from a fall.

In the 400m dash, Spees found the winners’ podium, placing third with an IC4A qualifying time of 47.89. Teammate Taylor placed sixth with an IC4A mark of 48.35 and Bradley Gibson earned 16th with a time of 50.26.

Santana earned two top-10 marks, taking fourth in the 100-meter dash with an IC4A time of 10.72 and sixth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.83.

Cody Burger led the way for Army West Point in the 1500-meter run, clocking a fifth-place time of 3:52.57. Fisher earned 12th with a time of 3:55.58, followed by Dylan Chamberlen in 13th (3:57.35), Ryan Smathers in 14th (3:57.45) and Causey in 15th (4:01.86).

The 4x100-meter relay quad of Taylor, Santana, Grant Jackson and Kenner Broullire placed fourth, clocking a time of 42.47 to surpass the IC4A standard.

In the shot put, Kohnke placed eighth with a toss of 15.10 meters and Hillis earned 10th with a mark of 15.00 meters.

Holland earned 10th in the triple jump with a leap of 13.73m.

“I thought both our men and our women achieved what we could achieve,” Smith said. “I can’t really ask for more. I’d like to win and I’d like to say that we were going to win and I’d like to say that we did, but for us to get second and third, I think those are significant performances.”

Army West Point will next compete at the ECAC/IC4A Championships in Princeton, New Jersey, May 15-17.

Softball earns fourth seed, berth in PL Tournament

By Mady Salvani
Army Athletic Communications

Army West Point Softball had to wait until the final weekend of Patriot League play to find out its fate, but it was well worth the wait as the Black Knights are part of the field for the 2015 Patriot League Tournament being hosted by top-seed Lehigh (35-7, 15-2 PL) today-Saturday at Leadership Park in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

“Certainly we are thrilled to be returning to the tournament,” Army West Point head coach Michelle DePolo said. “The fact that we needed to wait until the eleventh hour is a great testament to how competitive the league is this year. Teams keep improving and nothing comes easy.

“The team and staff have done a great job continuing to adjust to changes through a tumultuous season. I’m proud of all the hard work they put in and now reaping the benefits,” DePolo added.

Bucknell (32-18, 11-6 PL) is the No. 2 seed, Colgate (16-18, 9-8 PL) is the third seed and Army West Point (23-25-1, 9-9) earned the fourth and final spot after the Bison’s sweep of defending champion Boston University, 2-1, 6-1, eliminated the Terriers from a berth. Holy Cross and Lafayette also failed to qualify for the postseason.

It is the sixth straight year that the Black Knights have earned a tournament berth under head coach Michelle DePolo and the 22nd overall. It is the second straight year and eighth time that Army West Point has been seeded fourth.

Army West Point upset top-seeded Lehigh 5-1 in last year’s opening round after exploding with four runs in the top of the ninth to snap a 1-1 tie. In looking at the tournament field, the Black Knights were swept by Bucknell and Colgate during the regular season and took a 1-0 loss to Holy Cross.

Lehigh will host Army West Point at 12:05 p.m. on Thursday in the opening game of the double-elimination tournament followed by Colgate-Bucknell at 2:35 p.m.

The tournament continues with three games on Friday and two, if necessary on Saturday, with the winner of the tournament earning an automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament.

On Friday, the winners from the two opening rounds meet in Game 3 starting at 10:35 a.m. followed by Game 4 between the losers of Thursday’s games meeting in an elimination game at 1:05 p.m. The final game (Game 5) on Friday is at 3:35 p.m. between the winner of Game 3 and the loser of Game 4 to decide who advances to Saturday’s championship round. The tournament concludes at 12:05 p.m. Saturday with the two remaining teams.
Women’s Rugby claims ACR 7s championship

By Kelly Dumrauf
Army Athletic Communications

The Army West Point Women’s Rugby team completed an undefeated weekend of action from Anderson Rugby Complex, knocking off top-ranked Norwich in the American Collegiate Rugby Association 7s Championship to claim the title.

Army West Point defeated rival Norwich by a score of 22-7 in the title game to claim the conference championship, marking the second time on the weekend that the Black Knights defeated the top-seeded Cadets.

The Black Knights opened up Sunday’s action with a 24-5 win over American International in the final game of pool play. Kate Roose scored the first two tries of the game for the Cadets, with Nicole Heavirland adding a conversion, to put Army West Point up 12-0 at the break.

In the 11th minute, Heavirland posted her first score of the afternoon, successfully booting the kick to give the Black Knights the 19-0 advantage. A pick-and-run from Lindy Clark in the 13th minute would put Army West Point up by a mark of 24-0.

AIC added a try in stoppage time, failing on the conversion attempt, but the Army West Point lead proved too much as the Black Knights walked away with the 24-5 win to complete pool play as the only undefeated squad.

The Black Knights cruised to an easy 19-0 victory over Harvard in the semifinal game to propel themselves to a championship matchup with rival Norwich.

Against the Cadets, Army West Point got on the board first with a score from Roose, taking the early 5-0 lead in the fifth minute. Roose did it again, with Heavirland adding the kick, in the ninth minute to put the Black Knights up 12-0 at the half.

Norwich responded in the opening minutes of the second half, cutting the Black Knights’ lead to 12-7.

Kiersten Redmon would add a score in the 17th minute to regain the 10-point advantage and a big run from Chioma Odocha in the 19th minute sealed the deal for the Black Knights as they walked away with the 22-7 victory.

Men’s Lacrosse closes out 2015 with loss to No. 2 Notre Dame

By Matt Faulkner
Army Athletic Communications

Second-ranked Notre Dame got out to a 6-0 lead at the end of the first quarter and defeated the 18th-ranked Army West Point Men’s Lacrosse team, 17-8, May 2 in front of a Michie Stadium lacrosse record of 12,133 fans.

The Black Knights (10-7) were led by senior attackman John Glesener, who tallied four points in his final game. He started all 58 games of his Army West Point career and finished fourth all-time in points with 208. With the hat trick, he closed his career with 124 goals, which is sixth all-time on the Academy list.

Connor Cook recorded two goals in the loss and both Alex Newsome and Cole Johnson tallied two points in their final game of 2015.

Sam Somers stopped 11 shots in his last game of his career. He ends up with 24 career wins, including a career best 10 this season.

Notre Dame (10-2) saw Connor Doyle tally a game-high eight points with three goals and five assists. Matt Kavanagh netted a game-high four goals and added an assist, while Will Corrigan ended up with a goal and an assist. Shane Doss stopped 14 shots to earn the win.

“We never were able to string a couple of goals together,” head coach Joe Alberici said. “They seemed to be a little bit faster in the unsettled plays or loose ball plays. Credit goes to them, they got out to a quick lead in the game.”

The Irish jumped out to a 6-0 lead with six different goal scorers and led by six at the end of one quarter of play.

Corrigan led the way with a goal and an assist in the first and Doyle had two assists in the opening 15 minutes. Army West Point got the scoring started in the second frame with Glesener tallying the first of his two in the first half to get the Black Knights on the board at 6-1.

The Fighting Irish scored three of the final four goals of the opening 30 minutes. Kavanagh finished off the half with his second of the day and he also had an assist on Jim Marlatt’s goal at the 12:38 mark of the second quarter.

Glesener scored his third of the day and it came 31 seconds later. Michael Larrabbee followed that up with his third of the year on a nice scoop in the defensive zone, clear and finish to make it 12-4 with 3:44 remaining in the third.

The teams traded goals in the final minutes of the quarter with Cook scoring for the Black Knights and Notre Dame had a 13-5 lead.

Johnson cut into the lead with man-up goal coming 12 seconds into the final quarter to make it 13-6, but the Irish fired back with two tallies in a row and led 15-6 at the 10:27 mark. Cook scored his second of the day with 9:24 left to drop the Notre Dame lead to 15-7.

Once again the Irish, came back with two goals to make it a 10-goal advantage again. Alex Newsome closed out the scoring with man-up tally with an assists to Glesener and Notre Dame came out with 17-8 win.

Alberici talked about this senior class and the legacy they leave behind.

“I think it is a tremendous legacy,” Alberici said. “They are great skilled players, but that is just part of the story. They are great workers, great teammates and they did a great job leading this team all year long.”