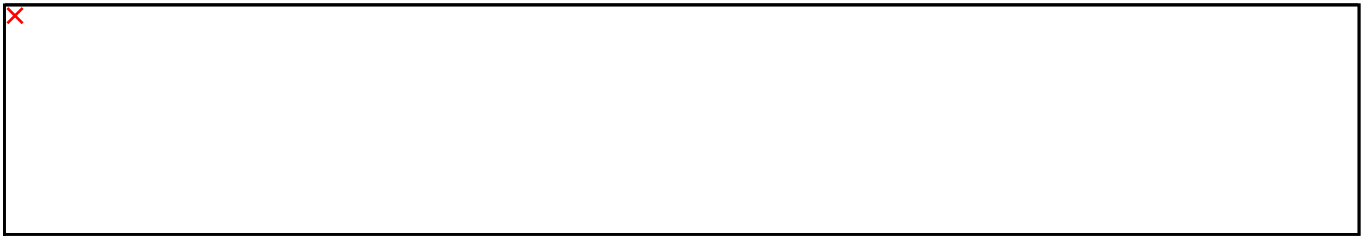


# Sports Days athletes prepare to defend title



*Thomas Zimmerman Army War College Public Affairs Office*

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March 16, 2010 -- The competition will be intense for the Commandants Cup during the 2010 Jim Thorpe Sports Days April 22-24 at Carlisle Barracks.

The annual events pits students from the Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force, Coast Guard, Interagency and International Fellow students against each other in an annual match up of the nation's senior service schools.

Participants from the Air War College, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National War College, Army War College and the Marine War College will compete in this year's games.

For the last few weeks teams have been coming together and practicing day and night in preparation for the games. A few of those students who will represent the Army War College are profiled below.

### Multi-sport athletes

**Air Force Lt. Col. Richard Nolan**, will do his best to help the Army War College win not one, but three events during Sports Days as he competes in basketball, volleyball and tennis.

"I probably would have played more by my wife barred me," he joked. Nolan has been a life-long athlete and 21-year career officer.

"In my younger days I played for several base basketball and volleyball teams," he said. "I haven't played tennis competitively since high school, but thankfully, over the years I've always run into good Air Force tennis players and golfers."

Nolan joined the Air Force in 1989 and started as an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile launch officer.

"After four years, I was selected to attend the Education With Industry program with Aerojet Electronics and cross-train into the contracting officer career field."

For the past 16 years Nolan has served in multiple contracting assignments to include being a contracting squadron commander at Aviano Air Base in Italy and the acquisition manager for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs

of Staff. His next assignment will be to take over the Department of Defense contracting in Iraq.

Like Nolan, **Lt. Col. Scot Arey** said he hopes that his skills will help him keep the Commandants Cup at the Army War College by being a two-sport threat.

First he hopes his skills at tennis help his chances at sports days' glory.

"I hope to make the tennis team still," he said. The competition for the team slots is tough and there are many very good players. This includes both the US as well as the international officers."

The career Army Aviation officer spent the last two years on the Army staff at the Pentagon. Before that he served at a battalion command in Honduras with JTF-Bravo and Fort Hood with 4th Infantry Div for more than four years.

Arey will also participate in some running events, specifically the 5-mile run and the relay team.

Also pulling a "Deion Sanders" act will be **Lt. Col. James Ryan**, who entered active duty in 1988 as a Quartermaster officer through the ROTC program at Saint Bonaventure University. He will compete in both volleyball and soccer.

Soccer is his first love, having played for more than 27 years he said. He has been playing volleyball for about six years.

Ryan's most recent assignment was on the Department of the Army Staff, Directorate of Logistics, G4, as chief of the Logistics Initiative Group from 2008-2009. In this role, Ryan was responsible for all information and strategic messages delivered to the Director of Logistics.

Brazilian **Lt. Col. Frederico Sampaio** will also take to the fields for three sports during the games, for the tennis, soccer and volleyball teams.

The life-long athlete has played tennis, soccer, volleyball, and swimming for most of his life as well as participating in pentathlons and half-marathons.

His career in the Brazilian military started in 1985 at the Agulhas Negras Military Academy in Brazil. Sampaio has served most of his career in the Amazon region and as an instructor at the academy. In between he has had a variety of deployments and multi-national assignments.

"I completed some tactical military courses like a jungle warfare, paratrooper, jump-master, mountaineering, desert warfare courses in addition to regular courses of a military career like, captain school, and a command and staff college," he said. "In 2001 and 2002 I was a military observer in the tri-border of Croatia, Bosnia and Montenegro, the former Yugoslavia." From 2005 to 2006, he was a staff officer for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti Headquarters. His most recent position was as an instructor and operations officer at the Agulhas Negras Military Academy.

## **Sports Days overview**

During the three-day series of sports competitions, student athletes participate in 14 sporting events to include women's one-mile relay, men's two-mile relay, women's 5K run, men's five-mile run, men's and women's bowling; men's and women's golf; racquetball; basketball; soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball.

In addition to individual medals in each event, the college that accumulates the most points will be awarded the Commandants Cup which keeps the trophy until next year's competition. The opening ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. on April 23 on Carlisle Barracks' Indian Field, located at the corner of Ashburn Drive and Forbes Avenue.

### **Jim Thorpe Sports Days history**

The event is named after Olympian Jim Thorpe who grew to national fame in football, track and other sports. He also attended the Carlisle Industrial Indian School.

Thorpe participated in the 1912 Olympic Games and blew away the competition in both the pentathlon and decathlon and set world records that would stand for decades. "This year's event marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary that Thorpe was named first team All-American.

In 1950, the nation's press selected Thorpe as the most outstanding athlete of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and in 1996-2001, he was awarded ABC's Wide World of Sports Athlete of the Century for his Olympic accomplishments and as a professional football player.