MAJ Singleton,

This one is mine. And I don't have to be the first entry. The probabilities are endless, at least for 24 hours, but 24 is finite.

If it were:

0000 This is not possible. MAJ Handandpuff is too fine an officer and soldier to be driving at 0000 in the morning. She would have been chauffeured if needed. So, she would not be driving and it was not 0000. That being said, she was heading to the airport (pick one) at this ungodly hour so that the Federal Government could save a few dollars on those damn city pairs of discount airline tickets (I speak for the weary travelers.) while reducing the productivity of the Major to zero for the next few days. This is also done to civilians. Ever wonder why we get useless, unintelligible e-mails at 0300. (In LTC Angel Colon's defense, he was traveling from California to D.C. at 4AM PST for an early morning Pentagon briefing. Once awake, always awake, in Latin -- dunkinia donutus.) Also, see 2400 hours.

0100 Although one would think this is close in time to 0000, I would suggest the Major has been made head of the social committee (been there, done that) for a big wig and in order to make a big splash at the upcoming luncheon she is on her way to the Carnegie Deli in NYC, 854 7th Ave, New York, NY 10019 (212) 757-2245, for a selection of corn beef, pastrami, roast beef, and Reuben sandwiches (did I say Kosher, no), knishes, and of course the famous cheesecake. Based on the distance between West Point and NYC, and being an esteemed member of the USMA POTW Mathaletes, and having correctly answered POTW 12 of the 2013-2014 season, MAJ Handandpuff has timed this to a "T." Unfortunately, there are accidents on the SBP. C'est la vie.

0200 As we say on Passover, why is this night different from all other nights? In this case why is 0200 different from all other times? I detect a Jewish theme creeping into this answer. I'm glad you asked, maybe you didn't, but we story tellers don't care. This is my time. It she were a wealthy woman (Fiddler on the Roof) she would have a wealthy husband and she wouldn't be traveling on the SBP at 0200. Meshuggunah. Really, I don't know why she is traveling at 0200 on the SBP. I'm an educated man, but I'm afraid I can't speak intelligently about the travel habits of William Santiago. Woops, wrong movie. Sometimes I lapse into that older character that Walter Pidgeon played in "The Seduction of Joe Tyman." Pidgeon, playing an elderly US Senator (aren't they all), has early stage Alzheimer (how would we tell today) and lapses into speaking French thereby confusing the people around him. Alan Alda co-stars. Anyway if her husband made a decent salary she would be driving but live on live on Park Avenue and be on her way one of those famous stores such as Saks 611 5th Ave, New York, (212) 940-2818, Tiffany 727 5th Ave, New York, NY 10022, (212) 755-8000, or Harry Winston 718 5th Ave, New York, NY 10019, (212) 399-1000, to name a few. Actually, these stores would be leading a path, perhaps an electronic path (how gauche), to her front door or to her iPad, respectively, as she would be such a valued customer. But as Marissa Tomei says in "My Cousin Vinnie," that didn't happen. So, she is on her way to the plebian Macy's for a jump on her holiday shopping. She is gearing up for the post-Thanksgiving sales and is doing a
little G-2, aka intelligence and reconnaissance (Hey, we civilians pick up on the military parlance.) for some of that "irrational exuberance," coined by Alan Greenspan, the former Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank (Hey, we read the WSJ sometimes.). She'll probably do the shopping for her husband and other relatives, too. Some things never change. See 2100 for additional insight.

0300 MAJ Handandpuff can't sleep. The Major decides a short relaxing car ride on the SBP will help encourage a restful sleep. She is wrong and instead of a 30 minute car ride she is stuck in traffic for two hours and is now less relaxed. As an angry calculus instructor she creates a take home test for her students. However, it has started to snow, about a foot and a half by game time, class time. Only two cadets show up for class. She hands out the tests and dismisses the two. Unbeknownst to her, the two cadets conspire to locate their fellow students and gets copies of the test to them. At the following class all but one student (He lived off campus. Hey, this really happened at RPI in the Fall of 1972 and I was one of those two students. I wanted to try out some new boots. The Carnegie (Andrew (steel), not Dale(public speaking)) building was on the opposite end of the campus. Call me crazy :) handed in the take home test. MAJ Handandpuff was not amused. "The greatest plans of mice and men ..." Steinbeck.

0400 This time reminds me of "Battle Cry" by Leon Uris. In this book the Marine Corps recruits complain about having to get up at 0400. One of the recruits has no such complaint. When asked he explains, "I grew up on a farm and we woke up at 3AM to milk the cows. The Marine Corps is giving me another hour of sleep." In an analogous situation (Really, is there anything analogous to the Marine Corps?) MAJ Handandpuff is up early to head down to the Time Square Army Recruiting station 200 W 43rd St New York, (212) 575-0450, to do her yearly recruiting stint. She is there to speak with the young men and women of the opportunities available in the US Army. Perhaps some will surprise the Army and make their way to West Point, where in addition to earning a fine education and becoming first class officers, they may become part of the NCAA division I football team and quiet my nearby Naval Academy graduates with whom I work and I have had to deal with the past few early Decembers. Yes this is a run on sentence. Army-Navy games do this to me and I'm not fixing that long sentence. Really, with all the articles on CTE I am extremely hesitant to endorse football on any level, including college. A hundred years ago President Theodore Roosevelt was concerned about college football. He was not wrong. No, I was not there at that meeting.

0500 This one is another easy one. As a physically fit person, she goes to bed early, gets plenty of sleep, eats regularly and is ready to start the day. What was the question again? Oh yes, the time of the accident. What was she doing on the SBP? She has relatives like me. The best hospitals are in NYC, Columbia Presbyterian, Lenox Hill, Sloan Kettering, and a few others. I've been to all of them, not for me but for relatives. There used to be a program on TV by Rod Serling (not "The Twilight Zone") called "Night Gallery." One of the episodes was called "The Sin Eater." As a person was about to die, the sin eater was summoned to eat the food and sins of the nearly departed. Like the sin eater, Major Handandpuff, like me, has been chosen to chauffeur the sick person to and from the hospital and again for the follow-up visits. She gets to sit around the whole day waiting for the one hour appointment or the two hour surgery expand to
the use up the entire day and evening. On the one day another relative volunteers to do this task the UN decides to have every world leader for a full week in NYC, which blocks every street, alleviating the "volunteer" from performing the chauffeuring and other tasks but still getting credit for "volunteering." (P.S. I ended up picking up the relative on the Jersey side of the George Washington Bridge.) There is one redeeming thing, one can stop at the Carnegie Deli more times, see 0100. Will MAJ Handandpuff be remembered in the relatives' wills, not likely. Oh well, NYC is still invigorating.

0600 It is Ground Hog Day (1993, Bill Murray) and the alarm clock (5:59--> 6:00, "I've Got You Babe" Sonny and Cher) has awoken Major Handandpuff. "Okay, campers, rise and shine, and don't forget your booties 'cause it's cooooold out there today." She is on the move on the SBP to Punxsutawney, PA to see if Phil the groundhog can see his shadow. She is tired of winter (Yes, it is November. Work with me on this one.). Any possible relief from winter via a belief in a mammal recognizing its shadow and communicating this to humans is worth a try. Hey, those 1600s fools in Salem, MA believed in witches. And a lot of people thought the Colts (17 point favorites) would beat the Jets in Superbowl III. And the Orioles would beat the Mets in 1969. Didn't happen, the Jets and Mets both won. Joe Willie Namath and Tom Terrific Seaver, 1969.

0700 Preparing for class

0800 Teaching class.

0900 Ibid. (Good Will Hunting, Matt Damon in the court scene.)

1000 Ibid.

1100 Ibid.

1200 Ibid.

1300 MAJ Handandpuff is trying to make an afternoon tea with her daughter and the latter's doll at The American Girl store on 609 5th Ave, New York, NY 10017 (212) 371-2220, for those not familiar with this company. (Bring your money, this place is not cheap.) By the way, if you didn't make reservation in July or earlier forget about afternoon tea in December. You can still pay outrageous prices for the dolls and the accessories. You can even stand in line and pay for someone to comb your daughter's doll's hair. As George Costanza (Seinfeld) would say, "That is an anathema to me." "Never in the annals of history have so many paid so much for so little," Michael "Churchill" Bogner. I think this is another part of parenthood.

1400 The weather outside is wonderful and the Major is hearing the Siren calls to the golf course down the road on the SBP, where else. It isn't the Jewish High Holidays and she isn't Jewish anyway (lots of great JHH golf jokes.). The question is whether to escape in the hopes that no one will notice. Another question is whether to invite a co-conspirator, a trusted person who can keep his/her mouth shut. Both are tough questions, aye mates'. Can this golf be counted as physical activity? Should she tell anyone? She ponders long and hard. She knows what Tom Sawyer would do. But this is Major Handandpuff.
She reasons golf is like a ballistic like study with lots like math. She decides to chance it, a great opportunity to try out her new hybrids before the annual USMA best ball tournament. Upon arrival, she finds the entire math department (You can reason anything in mathematics, like skipping out to play golf, from many different angles I would add.) at the golf course. She is paired (Why is this term "paired" used instead of something like "quaded?") with another three people and she enjoys the round of golf. The end. The reader is encouraged to improve or edit any of this or the other sections.

1500 As we say in medical school, "On the 5th tee."

1600 "10th tee."

1700 "15th tee."

1800 "19th hole, aka the bar."

1800b In attempt to make it back to campus before check-in time, a group of cadets in NYC for a wonderful lecture on "The Rising Sea Power of China" (The penalty for Army losing another one of those Army-Navy football games. Really, sea power for Army personnel, I don't think so.) at the Harvard Club 609 5th Ave, New York, NY 10017, (212) 371-2220, caused a fender bender on the SBP. MAJ Handandpuff was directed to assist in the accident resolution.

1800 Major Handandpuff is working hard at her desk and a fellow instructor has popped into her office to offer a pair of tickets to see musical Godspell at the Repertory Theatre in Albany. The fellow instructor has some credibility and although not of the same religious persuasion as the play, the Major and her beau are on the road to see the play. The music is wonderful and she even buys a CD and a shirt. The tunes ("Day by Day," "God Save the People," and "Learn Your Lessons Well") dance in her head as she goes back to her desk to finish her work.

1900 MAJ Handandpuff is driving her charges/cadets from a winning engineering/mathematics competition in Troy, NY with those not-so-now confident students of RPI. RPI may beat the cadets in hockey (not a lot of Canadian hockey players with dual citizenship) but the RPIers are no match for the cadets in academics, even with their average 800 Math and 400 English SATs scores. It doesn't help if you can't walk and talk at the same time. I know. And any cadet could do more pushup than the entire RPI student body combined. Half the RPI Navy ROTC freshman class failed the initial swimming test in 1972. I thought that unusual, am I wrong.

2000 This is a tough one. No one should be on the SBP at 2000 of their own free volition. Duty calls. A plane is returning from Afghanistan with troops under her command. Planes do not arrive at convenient hours. I know. Not only do the planes arrive at inconvenient hours to conflict with normal sleep, but once on the ground the people on the plane do not disembark until two to three hours later. Just in case, we arrive early and wait longer. It is amazing how Newtonian mechanics that seem simple are impeded by delays. We endure.
This one is easy. She is going to the bar where the piano player is Billy Joel. Too cute? "It's nine o'clock (9+12 =2100) on a Saturday, the regular crowd shuffles in..." Hey, you'd drink too if you had one of those days. Mr. Joel is my from neck of the woods in Suffolk County on Long Island. I went to school out there and he was beginning to be big. I remember he flipped his motorcycle over a car and his agent sent him to NYC to the real doctors for microsurgery on his hand/wrist. Harry Chapin ("Cat's in the Cradle" and "Flying in My Taxi) was already big but he died relatively young.

This one you won't believe. It comes from reading the NYTimes obituaries. MAJ Handandpuff is returning to campus on the SBP because she has acted as a bridge director at a NYC bridge tournament. Bridge is a game of probabilities and statistics. There are two parts to every hand, a bidding part and playing part. If one has the guts to run one of these tournaments he/she is called the director. Many think that there are only 14 words (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, spade, heart, diamond, club, double, redouble, and pass) allowed to be spoken in bridge but the 15th unofficial is "Director!" The director settles all disputes and his/her word is final. This job is not for the feint hearted. About 25 years ago there was a colonel from West Point who acted as director for these tournaments and then went back to his work following the tournament. You could look it up.

This one is easy, too. MAJ Handandpuff was rushing to NYC to get the New York Times (available around the city at any newsstand) hot off the presses. It goes to bed at 11PM and as a result misses every sporting event that ends around that time and just about all those that happened during the day as well. Hence, she also orders the Newark Star Ledger, one of the best sports section in NJ. There is some question whether this is cost efficient as the NYT is available in electronic format.

Most military personnel know that we civilians cannot tell military time. This one knows that 0000 = 2400, go see 0000.

I suspect this is over the top but you asked the question. Enjoy.