

# IN BRIEF

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY

FINISH



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**Women's History Month profiles**

**January - March 2023**



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The PoM InBrief is a command-authorized publication for the Monterey military community — published bimonthly by the Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs office.

We publish information of interest to members of our community — including all service members, military families, civilian personnel and veterans who access services at our installation.

We always welcome story ideas and submissions of original material.

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# USAG PoM quarterly awards ceremony, by the numbers



Photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey

Numbers figured prominently at the U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey's Quarterly Awards Ceremony on Jan. 31. The garrison welcomed 31 new employees, recognized 445 combined years of federal service, and presented 10 certificates of appreciation, seven certificates of achievement, 13 Civilian Service Achievement Medals, and two Civilian Service Commendation Medals. In addition, Col. Sam Kline, garrison commander, also asked employees to keep in mind three things every single day: 1) Believe in what you do. 2) Do your best every day. And 3) Treat everybody with dignity and respect. "I'm very grateful for all of you," Kline told employees.





A large group of soldiers from the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion are lined up at Carmel Beach, participating in a 'Griffin Grit' workout. They are all leaning forward, splashing water, and wearing dark athletic gear. The background shows the beach, the ocean, and some people walking in the distance.

# 229th MI Bn. chaplain holds 'Griffin Grit' workout at Carmel Beach

*Soldiers assigned to the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion participate in the "Griffin Grit" workout at Carmel Beach, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Calif., March 6.*



# Focus on resiliency

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — After six weeks of classroom training on resiliency, Soldiers assigned to the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion hit Carmel Beach on March 6 for a workout.

The event, Griffin Grit, is the capstone to Griffin Mindset, a chaplain-led class that helps Soldiers learn how to build resiliency. The 40-minute workout had Soldiers in and out of the water, up and down the dunes and back and forth across the beach as the late afternoon sun began to set behind the ocean. By the end, Soldiers used words such as “great,” “fun” and “fantastic” to describe the experience.

Chaplain (Capt.) Jordan Dersch, the 229th MI Bn. chaplain who runs Griffin Mindset and Griffin Grit, said Griffin Grit is a highlight for him each quarter.

“It’s not the most rigorous workout you’ll ever have, but it’s good enough to make you feel uncomfortable, to maybe push [the Soldiers] out of their comfort zones, into the sand and water,” Dersch said. “You’re doing it with all of your battle buddies to really push you forward. We do the low crawl, high crawl, bear crawl up and down the dune. It’s really fun.”

Griffin Mindset meets for two hours a week for six weeks, and organizers hold Griffin Grit a week after the course graduation. While the battalion’s chaplains’ office runs the program, the classes are a 229th MI Bn. command program, and Lt. Col. Christopher Gin and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Suppes, the battalion’s command team, did the workout with the Soldiers.

The 229th MI Bn. has seven companies, and Gin said that leadership from each company also participated.

“It’s part of our whole battalion resiliency program,” Gin said. “We’ve been doing this for about a year now and it allows the Soldiers an opportunity to get out of the classroom, meet one another and then learn some life skills that are centered on the Army values.



*Soldiers assigned to the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion participate in the “Griffin Grit” workout at Carmel Beach, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Calif., March 6.*

We’re really happy that the chaplains are leading it, but our whole staff really supports it.”

Dersch said the 229th MI Bn. chaplains’ office built most of the curriculum around the concept that not everything in life is within our control, but if we focus on taking positive actions on what we can control, we can reduce stress and increase success.

The idea behind Griffin Mindset is to reduce stress through mental readiness and spiritual readiness practices, Dersch said.

Suppes said he likes the fact that the classes show Soldiers how to make it through the tough times and take on increasingly difficult challenges.

“Throughout their careers, they will have a series

of ups and downs and ebbs and flows,” Suppes said. “It’s just a matter of how you pass the tough times to enjoy the good times.”

Many of the Soldiers who participated have been in the Army for about a year. They are students at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center and the Presidio of Monterey is their first station after basic training. Several said they expect to use what they learned in the class not only in their Army careers but in life in general.

“What we do here is stressful, and most people look at stress as a bad thing. I know I did,” said Pvt. David Shumate. “It’s just something you avoid, but in Griffin Grit and Griffin Mindset, they teach you ways to look

*Story continued next page*



# Resiliency (cont.)

at stress as a good thing and you learn to use it to your advantage, and it's helped me already."

Pvt. 1st Class Randall Oreth-Leal said he was skeptical at the beginning of the class because he didn't know if he would learn anything new, but he did. Most notably he learned to always keep going.

"I know it sounds simple, but I think there's art and soul to it. Keep pushing," Oreth-Leal said. "Keep going because that's where the life is in the Army. It's all about your mindset."

Dersch said Griffin Grit was not always a mandatory part of Griffin Mindset, but Gin changed that, and the results have proved positive.

"People who might not have wanted to go out actually really enjoyed that they did," Dersch said. "They change their perspective, really opening up their perspective and growing individually and professionally, mentally and spiritually. That's our goal with it. That's what Griffin Mindset is all about. That's what Griffin Grit is."

Dersch said the program supports the Army's "H2F" initiative, which stands for "holistic health and fitness" and is outlined in Field Manual 7-22, which covers physical readiness training. The initiative's goals are to optimize Soldier personal readiness; optimize physical and nonphysical performance; reduce injury rates; rapidly rehabilitate and recondition Soldiers; and improve overall Soldier and unit morale and effectiveness.

About a third of the battalion's Soldiers take Griffin Mindset, Dersch said, and about 600 Soldiers have taken the class so far. The program encourages Soldiers to share what they have learned with other Soldiers. "A huge focus of it is peer-to-peer mentorship," he said.

In addition, other installations that fall under U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and U.S. Army Forces Command have used the program,

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**Above:** Chaplain (Capt.) Jordan Dersch, 229th Military Intelligence Battalion chaplain, leads Soldiers in a "Griffin Grit" workout at Carmel Beach, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Calif., March 6.

**Far left:** Soldiers assigned to the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, including Lt. Col. Christopher Gin, battalion commander, center, in green, run down a dune.

**Left:** Soldiers assigned to the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, including Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Suppes, center, practice their planks.







**Left:** Soldiers assigned to the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion workout with kettlebells during the 'Griffin Grit' workout at Carmel Beach, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Calif., March 6. **Top:** A Soldier crawls up a dune during the workout. **Above:** Lt. Col. Christopher Gin, commander of the 229th MI Bn., thanks Chaplain (Capt.) Jordan Dersch, 229th MI Bn. chaplain for leading the workout.

## Resiliency (cont.)

Dersch said.

Dersch said the battalion falls under DLIFLIC, and he developed the concept for Griffin Grit with the DLIFLC chaplains' office. In addition, Dersch thanked Spc. Darius Brown and Spc. Drequan Downtin, religious affairs specialists, for their help putting together the event.

After the March 6 workout, Soldiers ran down the dune and farther into the water than they had during the workout, splashing as they went. While getting sandy and running into 51-degree water might not always qualify as a morale booster, it was this time.

"This was great," said Spc. Anton Fritz. "This was fun. Normally my company doesn't do PT on Mondays. It's like an added session for me."

Pvt. Marcus Adams agreed, calling the event

"fantastic." It was a fun way to teach the importance of pushing through difficulty, he said.

"The workout doesn't get any easier, but as you put in the work and as you keep pushing through, you'll find the reward," Adams said. "You'll be able to wash yourself off, get rid of all the muck you've built up over the course of your time here, or the time in your career, and you'll be able to become stronger because of it."



# Military spouse orientation offers 'priceless' information

By Heather Kline  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — The Presidio of Monterey Spouse Orientation gives spouses an opportunity to receive briefs on benefits, resources, specific programs and numerous leisure opportunities afforded them while they are stationed in Monterey.

On Jan. 18, guest speakers from across the installation explained where to find medical clinics, childcare facilities, local schools, employment opportunities, relocation assistance, housing advisement and the exceptional family member program — just to name a few.

The Presidio of Monterey is a multi-service garrison, which brings its own unique challenges when communicating available services across a broad audience. Venues such as this orientation help spouses understand, in plain language, what services are offered and how garrison personnel care of people.

The USAG PoM command team of Col. Sam Kline, garrison commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Traylor, senior enlisted advisor, challenged spouses to meet someone new, seek answers to their questions and start building a network of friends and contacts.

Kline asked experienced spouses to mentor those new to the military family and share their experiences. "The military family is strong, but it's through our relationships that make us powerful," he said.

*Story continued next page*



**Top:** Col. Sam Kline, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, speaks during the Spouse Orientation at PoM Army Community Service, Ord Military Community, Calif., Jan. 18. **Right:** Col. Sam Kline, left, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, and Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Traylor, garrison command sergeant major, speak during the Spouse Orientation at PoM Army Community Service, Ord Military Community, Calif., Jan. 18.



*Photos by Heather Kline, Presidio of Monterey*



# Orientation (cont.)

Katilynn Snow, manager of the ACS Employment Readiness Program, organized the orientation, which takes place quarterly and includes about 15 briefings.

“This is an important spouse orientation to attend since everything is spread out through the Monterey area and this isn’t your typical command,” Snow said. “This is where spouses can learn without searching on their own, as well as start to meet other spouses they can connect with.”

The idea is to have spouses, regardless of how long they been married, to come and see what we have to offer, Snow said. “That’s why this spouse orientation program is valuable,” she said.

Brandi Jones, a military spouse who attended the orientation, said there is always something new to learn about the military.

“Even after 18 years I’m still learning things and even after having a master’s degree in education, I’m still learning because I don’t think we ever stop learning. It’s been such a helpful event,” Jones said.

Jones said she appreciated that garrison personnel briefed at the orientation in person. “Traditionally you just see their names online,” she said. “It was also good to hear that you’re so hands on and willing to help, even if it’s not necessarily your job.”

Dominique Corker, military spouse who attended, said she and her husband arrived in Monterey only two weeks ago, and she was grateful to have the opportunity to learn about the community firsthand.

“I just desperately need to learn about the area,” Corker said. “We hear a lot of different things, but I thought it’d be nice to just sit down and be around other people and get to learn.”

Corker said she plans to recommend the orientation to other spouses. “The information is too priceless,” she said. “You need to come here and learn.”



Photos by Winifred Brown, Presidio of Monterey

**Top:** Dominique Corker, center, a military spouse, participates in a group activity during the orientation.

**Far right:** Joaquin “JR” Finona, acting director of Presidio of Monterey Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, speaks during the orientation. **Right:** Chaplain (Maj.) David Ditolla, family life chaplain for U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, speaks during the orientation.





# PoM hands over first keys in new, energy efficient housing area for families

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey welcomed the first residents to the new, energy-efficient Lower Stilwell housing development with an official key handover ceremony Jan. 19.

“We are truly blessed to receive this opportunity,” Spc. Darius Brown, a religious affairs specialist with the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, told an audience of more than 35 people during a ceremony marking the occasion across the street from his new home. He will live there with his wife Markeisha and their 4-month-old daughter Janai.

The 44-acre, \$80 million housing development is located in the Ord Military Community and provides 108 new housing units for junior enlisted personnel. The development includes environmentally friendly features that will save energy and water, spacious floorplans, a big playground for children and more. Many of the homes, including the Browns’, have a view of the Pacific Ocean.

Col. Sam Kline, commander of USAG PoM; Adam Hay, regional vice president of The Michaels Organization; and Casey Vazquez, community manager for The Parks at Monterey Bay, welcomed the Browns to their new home at the ceremony. The partnership between the Army and Michaels develops and oversees military housing on the Monterey Peninsula, while The Parks manages the properties.



*Spc. Darius Brown, a religious affairs specialist assigned to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, and his wife Markeisha, stand on the balcony of their new home after a ceremony celebrating the opening of the Lower Stilwell housing development at Ord Military Community, Calif., Jan. 19.*

Kline said the key handover represented more than 10 years of planning, resourcing and financial work on the part of Army officials and their partners at Michaels and the Parks.

“Thank you for all the people who put this all together,” Kline said.

Hay, a veteran, said talking about the quality of the new housing almost gets him choked up. “I’ve been doing this for almost 20 years — privatized property management — and I’ve never seen houses like this,” he said. “It’s a long time coming that we can actually do this for military families.”



*Markeisha Brown, third from left, holds up the keys to the new home she will share with her husband, Spc. Darius Brown, and their 4-month-old daughter Janai, in stroller. From left, Adam Hay, regional vice president of The Michaels Organization, Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Traylor, senior enlisted advisor for the U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, and Col. Sam Kline, commander of USAG PoM, stand with the Browns in front of their new home.*

*Story continued next page*





**Top:** The home that the Brown family will live in at Ord Military Community, Calif. **Above:** The Brown family will enjoy this view of the Pacific Ocean from the balcony of their new home in the Lower Stilwell housing development, Ord Military Community, Calif. **Right:** Col. Sam Kline, right, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, shakes the hand of Spc. Darius Brown, a religious affairs specialist assigned to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, shortly after Brown accepted the first set of keys to a home in the new Lower Stilwell housing development at Ord Military Community, Calif., Jan. 19.

## Housing (cont.)

Vazquez presented the Browns with their keys and a welcome basket, and Brown thanked not only Vazquez and the Parks for their help securing the house, but everyone else involved.

Markeisha Brown, who unlocked the door after the ceremony and could barely contain her excitement as she and her husband walked through their new home, said she was extremely thankful.

“It’s the start of a new year with a new house and we have a new baby, so everything is just new, starting fresh,” said Markeisha Brown, a child and youth program assistant at the nearby Monterey Road Child Development Center. “I work down the street, two minutes away, so I’m very familiar with the neighborhood. Now I’m actually a part of it.”

Oscar Ordonez, housing manager for the garrison, said the Parks, which manages the development, will move residents into homes as they become available. The homes are for military families only, and housing officials will follow the regular application and waiting list procedure to fill the homes.

On average, the homes are 1,800 square feet, and are designed to LEED silver standards and feature solar panels, Energy Star appliances, LED lighting and water-efficient fixtures. LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a green building standard focused on environmental sustainability and energy efficiency. The “silver” standard means the houses will be approximately 30% more energy efficient than the average home.



# PoM, stakeholders, come together for storm response

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — As U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey officials prepared for a full-scale emergency exercise scheduled for Jan. 26, a real emergency situation emerged in the form of nine “atmospheric river” weather events in three weeks.

The weather from Dec. 26 to Jan. 17 brought rain and heavy winds that not only caused leaders to activate the post’s Emergency Operations Center, but led them to prepare shelters, evacuate 18 service members, dependents and civilians who live off post, and keep dining facilities open late after barracks lost power. Leaders also stayed on top of emerging threats such as falling trees, frequent power outages, and at one point, limiting base access due to projected flooding of the two main roads servicing the Monterey Peninsula. Although the flood waters came close, and essentially would have made the peninsula an island, the highway closures didn’t happen.

Col. Sam Kline, USAG PoM commander, said he is proud of how the garrison team and stakeholders, such as local military organizations and municipalities, came together during the storms to ensure life, health and safety of our service members and families while continuing the mission.

“As the threat increased, our protection capacity to address our tenant needs increased,” Kline said. “It helped that we were preparing for the full-scale exercise, and we were well-suited to take on challenges the storms presented.”

USAG PoM has an intergovernmental service agreement with the City of Monterey *Story continued next page*



**Top:** A work crew uses a chipper to remove tree debris at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Jan. 13.



**Left:** Caution tape surrounds fallen tree branches on the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Jan. 11. It is important for community members to know they should immediately call (831) 242-5536 if they see a fallen or weak tree. In emergencies, call 911. People should also stay out of forested areas during heavy winds and be sure to heed warning signs that say ‘do not enter’ or ‘caution.’



## Storm response (cont.)

for on-post maintenance, and the agreement proved important for base operations, Kline said. For example, the rainfall made trees unstable due to their shallow root systems and the saturated ground, and the trees became prone to falling. The garrison worked closely with garrison emergency services and the city to provide warnings and remove debris as quickly as possible.

In the end, the total damage cost an estimated \$396,000, but there was no loss of life or limb, and the garrison is solidly in the recovery phase.

Kline said frequent and coordinated communication on all levels — with Maj. Gen. Tony Hale, senior commander of the Presidio of Monterey and commanding general of Fort Huachuca and the U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, Headquarters Department of the Army, as well as local military and municipal officials — proved essential to keeping the garrison safe.

In addition, U.S. Army Installation Management Command Deputy Director for Protection Floyd Williams was scheduled to travel to the Presidio to evaluate garrison performance during the full-scale exercise. Despite the exercise's cancellation, Williams still made the trip to the Presidio and provided valuable guidance and input regarding how the garrison responded.

Kline said he would like to thank all of the above for their assistance.

As the garrison's recovery from the storms continues, garrison and city leaders look back on the experience with pride in their response and confident they can integrate lessons learned in future exercises and emergencies.

For example, Joaquin "JR" Finona, acting director of the PoM Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said MWR officials worked closely with the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion to prepare two emergency shelters during the storm.



**Above:** Col. Sam Kline, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, holds an after-action review in the garrison's Emergency Operations Center at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Jan. 23. **Right:** Cots stand ready for use in a prepared shelter at the Gen. Stilwell Community Center, Ord Military Community, Calif., Jan. 18.

Soldiers set up one shelter with 48 cots, generators and a registration center at the Gen. Stilwell Community Center at Ord Military Community in about 45 minutes, Finona said. "It was pretty amazing," he said.

Soldiers from the unit also secured equipment for another shelter at the Price Fitness Center on the Presidio, but it did not become necessary to set it up, Finona said. It also did not become necessary to use the shelter at Ord Military Community.



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Finona said he and the MWR team learned ways they could improve next time, and preparing the shelters was a valuable experience.

Similarly, officials with the garrison's Logistics Readiness Center, often called the LRC, ensured adequate supplies were on hand, such as food and fuel, in the event the peninsula was cut off due to county flooding. Brian Clark, LRC director, also coordinated with the contractor that runs the installation's dining facilities to provide Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center students a place to study during frequent power outages in some barracks. Many had important tests coming up.

Bethany Pinkas, a logistics management specialist for the LRC, said the first call about a power outage in the barracks came in Monday, Jan. 9, a little before 5:30 p.m. By the DFACs' closing time of 7 p.m., garrison and contract officials had a solution coordinated to keep the facilities open later. Another outage occurred Wednesday, Jan. 18, and officials kept the DFACs open again.

Both nights the Belas and Chay dining facilities stayed open until 10 p.m. to provide light, heat and studying capabilities for the service members who had a power outage in their barracks, Pinkas said. A manager stayed late, as well as staff to help cleanup.

"The response shows the teamwork between the LRC and the garrison and their capabilities, as well as the contractor's willingness to support service members," Pinkas said.

Another situation that required constant



*A doe stands next to a partially cleared fallen tree on the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Jan. 13.*

attention and coordination was the falling trees and branches on post.

Mike Tope, an assistant forester with the City of Monterey who often works at the Presidio due to the IGSA, said more than 15 trees fell at the Presidio since the beginning of the year and during the storms. Providing warnings, clearing debris and looking for weak trees became a 24-hour job.

One night at about 7 p.m. a tree fell across Mason Road, blocking the road to motorists, Tope said, and he responded immediately since he lives in the area. The

city calls a contractor to remove trees, and that is what happened in this case.

"It was a very significant, large tree that was suspended against the building [Pyeatt Barracks, in Building 827], so we called our primary contractor, and they came out with a bucket truck and a crane to rig out all the wood out and open the road," Tope said.

In the future, it is important for community members to know they should immediately call (831) 242-5526 if they see a fallen or weak tree, Tope said. In emergencies, call 911. People should also

stay out of forested areas during heavy winds and heed caution signs.

Now that the storms have ceased, Kline said he looks back and is confident that garrison personnel built relationships and rehearsed processes that will prove beneficial long into the future.

"I'm proud of our team," Kline said. "I'm proud of the local military and government officials and their ability to include the Presidio of Monterey and the Naval Postgraduate School in their calculus."



# Ungulates abound: PoM assesses on-post deer population

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey



PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — Anyone who has ever spent time on the Presidio of Monterey knows the installation has a significant population of deer. Those who have wondered how many there are can look forward to receiving an answer.

The black-tailed deer on the Presidio are a subspecies known as Columbian black-tailed deer, and U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey officials have hired contractors to conduct surveys of the installation's population, said Julia Parish, natural resource manager for the PoM Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division.

The idea is to gain knowledge on how to manage the deer and their habitat for the safety of community members and to gauge their impact on the endangered plant species of Yadon's piperia, Parish said. The surveys began Jan. 26 at midday and an hour after sunset, with a vehicle driving at speeds of between 5 and 10 mph on the Presidio's main roads. At night, personnel used high-lumen spotlights to see the ungulates.

In about one hour, after covering about half of the Presidio, the team of four counted more than 70 deer, Parish said. "That's been really exciting," she said.

This is the installation's first deer survey, Parish said. Officials plan to hold two more later this year and hope to repeat the process for another four years.

"That's how you can get a baseline understanding and statistically significant understanding of your population," Parish said. "It takes about five years."

Parish said she hopes to have this year's results in August or September.

In terms of safety, Parish said officials want to understand the population size and where the

*Story continued next page*



**Top:** Julia Parish, natural resource manager for the Presidio of Monterey Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division, observes deer off Pvt. Bolio Road during a deer survey at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Jan. 26. **Above left:** A buck at the Presidio of Monterey. **Above right:** A doe walks along the fence line at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Jan. 26.



# Deer (cont.)

deer are eating to understand what kind of human interactions may be occurring on the Presidio.

“I know one of my concerns just driving around the Presidio is potential car strikes, especially with fawns,” Parish said. Fawns are often less aware of their surroundings and potential dangers.

This year, due to the recent rain and increase in food for the deer, it is likely there will be more fawns than usual when they are born in the spring, Parish said. The mating season, also called the rutting season, takes place in November and December and the gestation period lasts between six and seven months.

Officials also want to know if the deer population is increasing and possibly impacting Yadon’s piperia, which is a type of endangered orchid, Parish said. A photo of the plant accompanies this story, and people should be on the lookout for it and avoid going near it.

If the surveys find the deer population is harming plants or causing safety problems, installation officials will work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop a management plan, Parish said.

Officials could decide to erect fencing to keep deer out of certain areas, Parish said. Or, if human safety is an issue, personnel could plant deer-resistant landscaping throughout the Presidio’s housing areas to prevent deer from congregating near parking lots and busy roads.

Options to manage the deer population would be nonlethal, Parish said.

In addition to the surveys, Parish said it is important for residents and personnel on the Presidio to take safety precautions around deer.

It is important that humans keep their distance from deer, especially fawns, because they can be dangerous if they feel threatened, Parish said. People should not leave small children or pets outside unattended.

Also, people should give deer plenty of room to maneuver away, Parish said. They should maintain a minimum distance of 250 feet (approximately one city block) between themselves and any pets, and the deer.

Also, if a deer approaches, do not run, Parish said. Instead make noise, wave your arms, and back away slowly.

People should also keep their dogs away from deer and provide enclosures for outdoor pets, Parish said. “Dogs can spook wildlife and that can cause negative interaction in various ways,” she said.

It is particularly important that those who live on the Presidio do not feed the deer human food, Parish said.

“Feeding deer human food actually causes them to slowly starve to death or make them really sick,” Parish said. “If you have a garden, enclose it to prevent deer from coming into your yard.”

Never feed or attempt to “tame” a wild or feral animal, Parish said. Command Policy 27 USAG PoM Command Policy 27 prohibits it, and it could be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Another issue this year will also be a likely increase in the number of ticks on post because ticks often attach themselves to deer, Parish said. It is important that community members keep that in mind and take precautions against ticks.

Contact Parish at (831) 242-6736.



**Above:** Bucks spend time at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Jan. 26. **Right:** One of the reasons USAG PoM is assessing the deer population to determine if it is impacting Yadon’s piperia, shown here. The plant is on the endangered species list and protected. Members of the Presidio of Monterey community should be on the lookout for it and stay away from it.





# PoM installs solar chargers for vehicles

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey has installed three solar-powered chargers for electric vehicles on post, beginning the garrison's mandated switch to electric vehicles.

Michael Dudley, USAG PoM transportation officer, said the installation has two electric vehicles so far, but officials plan to bring in many more in fiscal years 2023 and 2024 to replace the installation's gas-powered fleet. By reducing carbon emissions and dependence on fossil fuels, electric vehicles help combat climate change.

The initiative comes in response to Executive Order 14057, "Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability," which requires the Department of Defense to transition its nontactical vehicles to a 100% zero-emission vehicle fleet. That includes 100% of light-duty acquisitions by 2027, and 100% of medium- and heavy-duty acquisitions by 2035.

The Army, however, plans to meet the standard early, Dudley said.

The chargers are located at Building 518 at PoM, which is the Tin Barn; Building 235 at PoM, which houses the Logistics Readiness Center offices; and Building 4435 at Ord Military Community, which houses the Environmental Division of the Directorate of Public Works.

The garrison has assigned the two electric vehicles to the LRC and the USAG PoM Fire Department's Fire Prevention division, Dudley said.

Rich Thorne, energy manager for the garrison's Directorate of Public Works, said U.S. Army Installation Management Command paid for the



Jedarrin Thompson, right, a contractor, trains Rich Thorne, left, energy manager for the U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey's Directorate of Public Works, and Ron Rodriguez, an electrician with the City of Seaside, on the garrison's new solar charger for electric vehicles at Ord Military Community, Calif., Jan. 12.

chargers, and other garrisons have received them as well.

Thorne said he and LRC officials intend for the stations to get the installation through its first year with electric vehicles and then they will add more.

"I worked with LRC to figure out where the highest densities of electric vehicles are being deployed to in the first year, and that determined where these charging stations are going, so we can meet the needs of as many vehicles as we can in the first year," Thorne said.

The stations feature solar panels that charge batteries, and the solar panels move throughout the

day to maximize the amount of sunlight the panels receive, Thorne said. The system also uses a GPS device to determine where the sun is supposed to be located.

In addition, Thorne said he will be able to monitor online when someone is using a station, when the station is discharging electricity and the condition of the battery.

The charging stations are only for government vehicles, Dudley said, and not for personal vehicles. Thorne said users will need a code on their phone with a QR scanner to use a station.

*Story continued next page*



# Chargers (cont.)

Dudley said the garrison has 64 vehicles, and the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center has 33. Those are the on-post vehicles the LRC manages and plans to eventually switch to electric.

There are other vehicles on post that the Navy and Marine Corps, for example, manage, and while they still fall under the executive order, their exact timeline may differ, Dudley said.

President Joe Biden issued Executive Order 14057 on Dec. 8, 2021, to fight climate change, create jobs and improve the economy, according to the order.

“As the single largest land owner, energy consumer, and employer in the Nation, the Federal Government can catalyze private sector investment and expand the economy and American industry by transforming how we build, buy, and manage electricity, vehicles, buildings, and other operations to be clean and sustainable,” the order reads.

The installation’s full-sized electric vehicles are not the installation’s first electric vehicles, however, and federal initiatives to fight climate change with alternative-fueled vehicles go back more than a decade.

For example, in 2010 the Presidio of Monterey added five Low Speed Electric Vehicles to its fleet. The LSEVs have basic accessories, such as a heater, windshield wipers, seat belts and cargo areas. The fully enclosed vehicles have a top speed of about 30 mph, receive electricity through a regular outlet and can travel approximately 30 miles per charge.

The Army bought LSEVs in response to Executive Order 13514: Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance, a mandate that encourages the acquisition of alternate-fueled vehicles to save energy, money and reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions. Former President Barack Obama signed it in October 2009.

Contact Dudley with questions at (831) 242-6450.

# USAG PoM Soldier reenlists



**Top:** Col. Sam Kline, left, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, administers the Oath of Enlistment to Sgt. Valerie Guash, a religious affairs specialist with the garrison, at Lovers Point, Pacific Grove, Calif., Feb. 22. **Above:** Guash poses for a photo with well-wishers after the ceremony. **Right:** Kline and Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Traylor, USAG PoM senior enlisted advisor, present Guash with a certificate of enlistment and her husband, Jeffrey Molinary, with a certificate of appreciation.



# PoM kicks off Army Emergency Relief campaign with color run

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey



PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey kicked off its Army Emergency Relief campaign with music, food and splashes of color during the AER Color Run on the installation Saturday, March 4.

Nearly 120 runners and walkers participated in the 5K event, which featured a warm-up session for stretching, a disc jockey playing popular music and food for sale. Volunteers at three stations threw cups of colored powder at runners to decorate their white T-shirts and create a visual spectacle during the run.

At the starting line, Command Sgt. Maj. Ernesto Cruz, senior enlisted advisor for the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, spoke about the importance of contributing to AER. As the Army's own nonprofit organization, it helps Soldiers by alleviating financial distress with grants, zero-interest loans and scholarships to active duty and retired Soldiers and their families.

Cruz noted that AER can help with more than 35 categories of services, such as initial rent, housing expenses, homeschooling and remote-schooling requirements, Cruz said. Over the past year, PoM's AER program has helped more than 87 families with more than \$177,000 in grants and loans.

Cruz challenged the audience to nearly double last year's \$24,000 in AER donations to \$45,000. "We don't like to meet the standard," he said. "We exceed the standard."

Army Community Service runs the program at individual bases, and Cruz directed run participants to the ACS tent for more information. Those who did not attend the run, however, can contact Charles Lyons, the PoM AER officer at ACS, any time to inquire about donating.

*Story continued next page*



**Top:** Runners participate in the U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey AER Color Run at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., March 4. **Above left:** Command Sgt. Maj. Ernesto Cruz, senior enlisted advisor of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, talks about the importance of donating to Army Emergency Relief before the start of the run. **Above right:** Runners participate in the run.



# Color run (cont.)

Without contributions, the program will eventually run out of money, Lyons said, and if that happens, Soldiers in need will turn to payday lenders and banks that charge higher interest rates.

“So, it is always good to donate, no matter if it’s one dollar,” Lyons said.

Lyons said it is also important that community members know AER at PoM can help service members from all branches of the service. Most service members at PoM are students at DLIFLC, and they hail from all branches of military service.

“Here at the Presidio, we work with all aid societies,” Lyons said. “We represent all aid societies and we contact those aid societies when their branch of service needs help. It’s like a family.”

AER has provided more than \$2 billion in financial assistance to 4 million Soldiers since 1942. Last year alone, it provided more than \$65 million in assistance to 31,000 Soldiers and families. AER’s Career Skills Programs provided \$2.1 million in grants to retiring and separating Soldiers, helping ease their transition into the civilian workforce.

The organization can usually help with emergency needs for rent; utilities (not including cable); food; emergency and PCS travel; personal vehicle repair; up-front funeral expenses of parents, spouse, or child; emergency medical or dental expenses.

AER cannot help with nonessential needs; ordinary leave or vacation; fines or legal expenses; debt payments; home purchase or improvements; purchase, rental, or lease of a vehicle; funds to cover bad checks; marriage or divorce.

The AER campaign runs through May 15. To learn more, visit [ArmyEmergencyRelief.org](http://ArmyEmergencyRelief.org) or contact Lyons at (831) 242-5501. See also <https://presidio.armymwr.com/programs/aer>



**Above:** A runner participates in the U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey AER Color Run at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., March 4. **Far right:** McGruff the Crime Dog dances with a runner before the start of the run. **Right:** A volunteer throws color on a runner.





# 229th MI Bn. Norwegian Foot March awards



**Photos by Winifred Brown**  
Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs

*Lt. Col. Christopher Gin and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Suppes, command team of the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, held an awards ceremony at Soldier Field on Jan. 18 for the 160 Soldiers who completed the Norwegian Foot March in October 2022. Those who earned the pin marched a demanding 18.6 miles at Fort Ord National Monument with a 25-pound ruck under time constraints. **Clockwise from top:** Gin and Suppes honor the Soldiers who had the best times in the march. Gin speaks to Soldiers during the ceremony. The command team honors Pfc. Samuel Ferrone, center, for being the first finisher. Staff Sgt. Mackenzie Kurtz, center, receives a Golden Griffin for being the first woman to finish the march. On the field, company leaders presented finishers with pins.*



# Chaplains honor 'Immortal Chaplains' for their sacrifice

By Chaplain (Maj.) Mark Musser  
USAG Presidio of Monterey Chaplain



Photo by Noah Rappahahn, Presidio of Monterey

**Above:** Chaplain (Capt.) Jordan Dersch, right, 229th Military Intelligence Battalion chaplain, prepares to hand a life jacket to Col. Sam Kline, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, during a ceremony honoring the Four Chaplains at PoM, Calif., Feb. 3. **Right:** When a German submarine struck the U.S. Army Transport *Dorchester* Feb. 3, 1943, four Army chaplains spread out among the Soldiers, calming the frightened, tending the wounded and guiding the disoriented toward safety. They were: Lt. George Fox, a Methodist; Lt. Alexander Goode, a Jewish Rabbi; Lt. John Washington, a Roman Catholic priest; and Lt. Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister. As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts saw the four chaplains with their arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Survivors also heard them offering prayers and singing hymns.



Courtesy photo

This year we commemorated the 80th year of the "Immortal Chaplains," who are also known as the "Dorchester Chaplains." It is a timeless effort of the Army Chaplain Corps to acknowledge these Servants of God who greatly impact our corps to this very day. We celebrated, reflected upon, and attempted to grasp the service and ultimate sacrifice that



these men made. Our Garrison and Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Unit Ministry Teams came together on Friday, Feb. 3 in our chapel for a memorial service. Chaplain (Capt.) Joseph McCall and Chaplain (Capt.) Jordan Dersch really blessed us with a tremendous reenactment and monologue for our audience that honored each of these heroes. Their contribution spoke to our hearts and challenged our minds with the impact of what this day is truly all about. Our audience left uplifted and without dry eyes that demonstrated an "I got it now" attitude.

On Feb. 3, 1943, the U-233, a German submarine, sunk the SS *Dorchester* right off Newfoundland in the Atlantic. The SS *Dorchester* departed from New York on Jan. 23, 1943, in route to Greenland carrying at least 900 passengers. Please note that the SS *Dorchester* was a converted liner in World War II for War Shipping Administration for troop support. In fact, the Coast Guard cutters, *Escanaba* and *Comanche*, were part of the convoy. However, on this very early morning, a vicious torpedo attack changed their lives forever, and it became the second-worst sea disaster in WW II. At this time, I want to share with you the impact that this historic event has upon my life, along with some encouragement of how we can apply this into our lives.

Whether or not you consider yourself to be religious,



# Chaplains (cont.)

this one thing stands true: We all are spiritual beings. Therefore, I want to share a scripture from my Christian Faith that can be applied in both concepts of religion and spirituality: "He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also put eternity in their hearts, but man cannot discover the work God has done from beginning to end." This scripture is from Ecclesiastes Chapter 3, Verse 11, of the Holman Christian Standard Bible.

In my faith, I accept that God created all things seen and unseen (Genesis Chapter

1). Therefore, on the sixth day, God created human beings. It was there that our Creator placed eternity into our hearts. Henceforth, even in the highest of learning and education, humankind cannot fathom what this eternity is all about. What I find fascinating and to be true is that on the morn of Feb. 3, 1943, eternity was real and awakened the souls of these 900-plus humans on board the SS Dorchester! It was here that the Four Chaplains kicked into

action as they served the Soldiers to board lifeboats, surrendered their personal life jackets, ministered to the needs presented to them, prayed, sang hymns while they locked arms together to go down into the freezing water as eternity opened her door. So, I want to speak to this in one

point with one question, "What is your call?"

I believe that we all have a call on our lives, whether we practice a religion and or acknowledge our spiritual well-being. Why? Well, it goes back to the topic of eternity. Without debating

what a call is, you can accept this as "purpose." What purpose do you have in your life? What is/are your hopes and dreams? What do you want to achieve that is greater than yourself? You see, this word "call" has power. This word "call" can be understood deeper within when you understand your call because of the Caller. Eternity has been placed into your heart and is present the very moment you acknowledge that there is something you can do that is bigger

***'Eternity has been placed into your heart and is present the very moment you acknowledge that there is something you can do that is bigger than yourself!'***

**- Chaplain (Maj.) Mark Musser**



Photo by Noah Rappahahn, Presidio of Monterey

Chaplain (Capt.) Joseph McCall speaks during a ceremony honoring the Four Chaplains at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Feb. 3. The Four Chaplains, also referred to as the Immortal Chaplains or the Dorchester Chaplains, were four World War II chaplains who died rescuing civilian and military personnel as the American troop ship SS Dorchester sank on Feb. 3, 1943.

than yourself!

When these Four Chaplains locked their arms and went into the freezing waters, eternity became real ... it was not imaginary, nor was it debatable. Nor do I believe this Jewish rabbi, Catholic priest, and two Protestant pastors argued or debated their theology. I believe that eternity became real to them because they first understood their call. As my commander, Col. Sam Kline, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, has shared in several audiences where I have been

present, do these three things: 1. Believe every day is an opportunity to make a difference. 2. Do your best every day in your life and at work. 3. Treat everyone everyday with dignity and respect. On behalf of our DLI and Garrison Unit Ministry Teams, we are "One team, one mission-serve!" To the Four Chaplains, "thank you" isn't enough. We thank you for the opportunity to grasp that eternity is time encompassed from the past, in the present, and with the future that comes, God bless.



# Service members prove the 'Presidio Has Mad Talent'

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — Service members stationed at the Presidio of Monterey have proved yet again that the “Presidio Has Mad Talent.”

Not only can service members sing and dance, they play piano, guitar and violin as well. They also have the fortitude necessary to get up in front of an audience of their peers on a Friday night and perform with enthusiasm.

Six service members took home prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 for first, second and third place during a two-night competition Jan. 27 and Feb. 3. The competition featured singing the first night and general talent the second night, and those who performed said they did it for the enjoyment.

“It’s an amazing feeling,” said Army Pvt. 1st Class Zoei Scott Williamson, who won the talent competition with her dancing partner Airman 1st Class Renee Scott. “We weren’t really looking for a prize. We were just out there to have fun, so the fact that we won is absolutely breathtaking.”

Army Pvt. 1st Class Gabriela Reed, who came in third in the talent competition for her rendition of “Honey Pie” by the Beatles, said she decided to participate because enjoys singing and it had been a while since she had sung in front of an audience.

Reed said she especially liked seeing the other performances during the show and it’s nice to see service members showing off their talents and having a good time.

Navy Seaman Joel Anderson, who came in third in the singing competition, said being able to get up



Airman 1st Class Megan Ameigh sings “Viva La Vida” by Coldplay during the “Presidio Has Mad Talent” competition at the Hobson Recreation Center, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Feb. 3.

in front of a live audience and perform again after Covid was a rewarding experience.

“Singing has always been a passion of mine and being able to share my story through song is one of the most influential things I can do as a musician, so I am thankful that the Presidio hosted such a competition,” Anderson said.

Anderson said he was shocked and honored when he won third place.

Steven Hossman, manager of the Staff Sgt. Kenneth R. Hobson Recreation Center, where the contest takes place, said he commends the service members who perform.

In addition to providing free entertainment for their fellow service members, they also help their military careers by getting used to performing under pressure in front of an audience, Hossman said. For example, it can only help in the future with tasks such as briefings, he said.

“It’s easy to do karaoke, but to get on the stage in the spotlight with your name up on the wall, it’s just a different feeling,” Hossman said.

The Presidio’s Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation holds the competitions every six months, Hossman said. They are open to active-duty service members and their family members who are 17 and older.



# Talent (cont.)

The competition couldn't have taken place without judges, and those who volunteered said they were glad to help.

Navy Seaman Gideon Eele, one of three judges, said he volunteers at the Hobson as much as he can, especially for karaoke on Friday nights, and the reason is simple: "I go through class with these guys. I see how stressed people get during the weeks, and I love seeing everybody just trying to let loose on Friday nights."

Likewise, Army Pfc. Kevin Davis, who served as a judge and master of ceremonies, said he was glad to assist because the competition gives everyone a chance to show their talents.

"The arts are great for not only boosting morale, but also for your mind and creativity," Davis said, and that ultimately helps the Presidio's service members, who are mostly students at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, learn their languages.

In addition to Anderson, Reed and Williamson and Scott, Navy Seaman Lyla Alvarez came in first in the singing competition with her rendition of "Anyone" by Demi Lovato; Seaman Apprentice Gabrielle Szigeti came in second in the singing competition with "Zombie" by the Cranberries; and Seaman Nathaniel Elgin took second place in the talent competition by playing the violin.

Performers received up to 30 points for technical ability and up to 20 points for stage presence, professionalism and audience enthusiasm.



*Clockwise from above: Seaman Nathaniel Elgin plays violin in the "Presidio Has Mad Talent" competition at the Hobson Recreation Center, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Feb. 3. Army Pvt. 1st Class Gabriela Reed sings "Honey Pie" by the Beatles. Army Pvt. 1st Class Zoi Scott Williamson, left, and Airman 1st Class Renee Scott perform a step dance. Sailors swept the singing competition Jan. 27. From left, Seaman Joel Anderson, Seaman Apprentice Gabrielle Szigeti and Seaman Lyla Alvarez pose for a photo after coming in first, second and third, respectively.*





# PoM BOSS cleans up local beach

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — One of Monterey's most popular beaches is cleaner after a visit from the Presidio of Monterey's Better Opportunities for Single Service Members program on Saturday, Feb. 25.

Nearly 20 service members accompanied Hugo Ambriz Tena, the installation's BOSS advisor, to pick up trash at Del Monte Beach. The BOSS program, at Army installations throughout the world, has three guiding pillars: quality of life, community service and recreation and leisure.

This visit was a good way to fulfill the program's community service component and give back to the community, Tena said. BOSS organizers try to hold a beach cleanup once a quarter, he said. The Presidio of Monterey's main gate is a short walk to the Pacific Ocean and there are several beaches in the area.

Service members who participated said they appreciated the opportunity to get out in the community and make a difference.

Army Cpl. Aysha Sweilem said she arrived at PoM about a month ago and became involved in BOSS right away after having a great experience with the organization at her previous installation, Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington.

Sweilem said that she not only discovered she enjoys volunteering with BOSS, but she also likes getting to meet other service members — some of them from other branches of the military.

While BOSS is called "Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers" at most installations, the title includes all service members at PoM because most members are



*Service members with the Presidio of Monterey's Better Opportunities for Single Service Members program clean up Del Monte Beach in Monterey, Calif., Feb. 25.*

students at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, and service members from all military branches attend. Similarly, JBLM is a joint base between the Army and Air Force.

In terms of the beach cleanup, Sweilem said everyone, service members included, wants to visit clean beaches.

"The beach is a place that a lot of people come to and hang out at and it's really important that they come to a clean beach," Sweilem said. "It's important that we leave our oceans beautiful, where everybody can come hang out."

Likewise, Army Pvt. Kaleb Calhoun said he enjoys

volunteering to help the community, increase his knowledge of the world through new experiences and meet other service members.

"[Today] I got to meet this really cool Marine," Calhoun said. "We talked about how he's going to start [studying the Indonesian language] soon. I just wanted to get out and show the community that we're working for them, trying to clean up the beach."

During the event, at least two members of the Monterey community thanked service members for their work. "That's super cool," said one man when a service member told him who they were and what they were doing. "Thanks for doing that!"





**Above:** Hugo Ambriz Tena, advisor for Presidio of Monterey Better Opportunities for Single Service Members and recreation specialist for PoM Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, poses next to the memorial plaque for Staff Sgt. Hobson at the Hobson Recreation Center at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Jan. 6. **Left:** Tena speaks at the beginning of the “Holiday Cookie Decorating” event at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Dec. 9, 2022. Jillian Santilliane, victim advocate for the PoM Family Advocacy Program, stands right.

# PoM BOSS advisor is ‘legit the best’

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — Hugo Ambriz Tena, BOSS advisor at the Presidio of Monterey, wants service members to have fun, enjoy themselves and make friends at the organization’s events, but his main goal aims even higher.

Most of the service members at the Presidio of Monterey are students at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center and Tena said he wants them to be the “best linguists in the world.”

Together with U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Traylor, and Navy Seaman Joel Anderson, BOSS president, Tena relies on the program’s three pillars — quality of life, recreation and leisure and community service — to organize events that help make his goal a reality.

“It’s really important for [service members] to destress because they’re so busy Monday through Friday,” Tena said. “When they come to our activities, they get a break, so eventually they go back to their classes on Monday with a free, open, calm, clear mind, which helps them with their studies.”

At most Army installations, BOSS stands for Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, but at PoM, it stands for Better Opportunities for Single Service Members because service members from all military branches attend DLIFLC. In 2022, PoM BOSS surpassed expectations by holding 34 recreation and leisure events, 14 community service events and eight quality of life events.

Many BOSS events take place at the Staff Sgt. Kenneth R. Hobson Recreation Center, which serves as BOSS headquarters. Tena also serves as a recreation specialist for

PoM’s Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation at the facility, and for that portion of his position, he draws on recreation facility experience that goes back to fifth grade.

Tena grew up in nearby Salinas, California, and graduated from California State University at Monterey Bay with a Bachelor of Arts degree in collaborative health and human services, with a concentration in social work and public administration. As a child, however, he began going to the Bread Box Recreation Center, a community center for youths, after school in Salinas. He later worked at the facility, and a lot of his philosophy on community-building comes from his experience there, he said.

For example, in the nearly four years since Tena started working at PoM, he has kept the center open on holidays, including Thanksgiving and Christmas, and he said he learned how important it is for a recreation center to stay open on holidays when he worked at the Bread Box.

“Here at the Presidio, I’m a firm believer that no service member should be alone during the holidays,” Tena said. “The Hobson is home away from home.”

For Thanksgiving in 2022, more than 20 service members expressed their thanks by writing positive Interactive Customer Evaluation comments about Tena.

“We love Hugo, and we really appreciate that he opened up the Hobson on Thanksgiving Day,” read one comment. “Not everyone lives near Presidio of Monterey and him opening up the Hobson really gave me a place to go instead of just being in the barracks. Hugo is legit the best.”

*Story continued next page*



# BOSS advisor (cont.)

Tena said he also learned at the Bread Box that a smile can make someone's day, and he continues that philosophy at the Hobson.

One of the BOSS pillars that Tena said he and the service members especially appreciate, is community service.

"We go out to the community; we make a difference," Tena said. "We've done beach cleanups. We do El Estero [Park] clean ups. We help the local high school with their football games. At least for me, whenever I volunteer, it almost makes me feel like a better person, so I feel that helps [service members] with their language courses."

BOSS is an Army program, and each program throughout the Army includes a leadership triad of a civilian advisor, the garrison command sergeant major and a BOSS president who is a service member. BOSS supports the overall quality of life for single service members, including single parents, and helps to maintain and improve readiness. It also helps identify issues and concerns by recommending improvements through the chain of command.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston has shared lines of effort for the BOSS program that include building cohesive teams; increasing mental, physical and emotional fitness; providing discipline that will lead to fewer adverse actions; and training to promote readiness and resiliency through personal growth.

Traylor said the BOSS pillars, Grinston's lines of effort and an emphasis on life skills help himself, Tena and Anderson shape the program and maximize its effectiveness.

"The environment [at PoM] changes, but it gives us some structure to be able to work towards and that's just making a better force, a healthier force, a more disciplined force, a ready and resilient force, which is what everybody wants to do," Traylor said.

By design, BOSS events help maintain and improve service member readiness, Traylor said. For example, one of the most popular events for PoM BOSS has been hikes in Big Sur, a beautiful, sparsely populated area by the Pacific Ocean that includes several state parks.

"In this environment, where they're trying to learn a language, it's very demanding," Traylor said. "We provide [service members] activities where they can take a break for a short period of time, do something they love, meet different people, share their experiences, just expand, just make those social and emotional connections with other folks and get away from the books for a short period of time."

Traylor said Tena is passionate about helping service members, and the BOSS program provides him with opportunities to do exactly that. In addition, Tena is good at building connections with service members, talking with them and giving them advice.

After a successful 2022, Traylor said he looks forward to working with Tena and Anderson this year on goals that will improve the BOSS program even more.

Anderson said he has worked with Tena since he became the BOSS president nearly two years ago, and Tena's expertise with BOSS helped him immensely as he got up to speed with the program.

"There's just something about Hugo, and it's just Hugo and it's hard to explain, but he's always such a positive person," Anderson said. "I think that he always has so much energy that he pours into making sure every student's life here is the best it can be. He's always trying to get to know people, trying to make sure that their needs are met."

Tena's energy is infectious, Anderson said. "It really helps so many people on base just feel like they're at home and I would definitely say the BOSS program is definitely what it's become for me," he said. "It's just a home, especially being away from my actual home."



*Hugo Ambriz Tena, advisor for Presidio of Monterey Better Opportunities for Single Service Members and recreation specialist for PoM Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, stands in front of the Hobson Recreation Center at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Jan. 6.*

Joaquin "JR" Finona, acting director of PoM FMWR, echoed Anderson's sentiments.

"Hugo understands and can relate to single service members' mindset and has a deep passion for the program," Finona said. "Hugo goes above and beyond expectations and always thinks outside the box on programs/events he feels service members would be interested in. Hugo displays initiative, knowledge and has a unique skill set which is why he's successful as MWR BOSS advisor."

Tena said he is thankful for the advice and mentorship that Col. Sam Kline, garrison commander, and Traylor; Finona, and Steve Hossman, his supervisor at the Hobson, have provided him. He is also thankful for the Hobson's great team, which makes the service members feel comfortable.

"Everyone is a different shape, different color, different ethnicity, different beliefs, but I think here we're very respectful," Tena said. "We're very easy to talk to, which is as we should be, but I think a lot of service members really appreciate that we're here for them."



# PoM couples craft enduring relationships

Story and photos by Heather Kline  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, in cooperation with Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center chaplain teams, hosted a “Crafting an Enduring Relationship Ceramic Night” relationship enrichment event on Friday, Feb. 24. Using a Monterey pottery cooperative venue, PoM’s Military Family Life Counselor, Chaplain (Maj.) David Ditolla, brought couples together for an evening out.

“This event allows us to focus on our most important relationship, the one with our significant other. In our busy culture, we sometimes forget that life isn’t just about finishing tasks—it’s about enjoying the journey with the people we love most,” said Ditolla.

Chaplain (Capt.) Joseph McCall wove in marriage enrichment techniques while local professional artist and Air Force spouse, Johanna Keefe, reinforced lessons using clay as a foundation. As a military spouse who has moved all around the world, Keefe knows the importance of finding creative ways for spouses to spend time together.

“Marriage is not always easy in the military, finding new and creative ways to spend time together is important and necessary. This is a way to create something together and truly connect and bond,” said Keefe. “These collaborative pieces are authentic souvenirs of our time here on the Monterey Bay.

Building memories that live in an object that can be passed through families and will live for thousands of years is exciting too. I am so grateful to be part of a wonderful community of creative and loving

*Story continued next page*



**Top:** Sgt. Valerie Guash, a religious affairs specialist assigned to USAG PoM, and her husband Jeffrey Molinary participate in the “Crafting an Enduring Relationship Ceramic Night” relationship enrichment event in Monterey, Calif., Feb. 24. **Right:** Chaplain (Maj.) Calvin Park, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center chaplain, and his wife participate in the “Crafting an Enduring Relationship Ceramic Night” relationship enrichment event.





# Ceramics (cont.)

friends. I want to share this creative work with everyone, it is a passion that keeps me connected to my community.”

Using clay as their tool, service member couples at the event exercised their creative prowess to build their relationships while also creating ceramic artwork that will serve a greater purpose.

A dual military couple, Capts. Steve Spencer and Cristelle Villamena-Spencer were happy to have a night out. Demonstrating military connectiveness, the Spencers stated that a military teen babysat their two children which allowed them to participate in a real date night.

“Times like these where you build something together help to strengthen your relationship like the clay we used as a foundation to make something of our own,” said Steve Spencer.

Jeffrey Molinary, an Army spouse and veteran, said he liked being on a date without his children where he could just connect with his wife, one on one. “Being in this kind of environment helps to humanize everything. Having PoM and DLI senior leaders involved was meaningful to me,” added Molinary.

As the evening closed, McCall reminded participants that creating pottery is like maintaining personal relationships: It takes time, care and dedication.

To learn about future events, contact the USAG PoM Religious Services Office at (831) 242-5281 or (831) 242-5233. Visit them online at <https://home.army.mil/monterey/index.php/my-fort/all-services/chaplains-1>



**Top:** Johanna Keefe, right, a military spouse and artist, teaches pottery techniques during the “Crafting an Enduring Relationship Ceramic Night” relationship enrichment event in Monterey, Calif., Feb. 24. U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, in cooperation with Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center chaplain teams, hosted the event. **Right:** Capts. Steve Spencer and Cristelle Villamena-Spencer, right, a dual-military couple, participate in the “Crafting an Enduring Relationship Ceramic Night” relationship enrichment event in Monterey.





# CYS steps up hiring with job fairs

**Story and photos by Winifred Brown**  
Presidio of Monterey

**PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif.** — The Presidio of Monterey's Child and Youth Services has stepped up hiring for child-care providers by holding on-the-spot hiring events.

The installation's child-care facility for young children has had a waitlist due to a shortage of employees, and the organization's goal of 100% capacity is now in sight, said Joaquin "Junior" Finona, acting director of PoM Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Officials were able to hire 13 applicants at their most recent Feb. 11 hiring fair, and they hired another 10 about three months ago, Finona said.

Holly Keller, coordinator for PoM CYS, said the new employees are a huge asset to the facility and parents.

“PoM CYS will be able to open a closed infant classroom and offer more care to working families at PoM,” Keller said. “Additionally, we will be able to increase spaces in rooms that have been limited due to staffing.”

Keller said she has worked in the child-care field for more than 12 years and has worked for the federal government for all but two of those years.

“I have found CYS particularly rewarding because the amount of support military-related caregivers receive, and I love to spread that message to young professionals in early childhood,” Keller said. “Military day-care systems are a model for the nation in terms of training and opportunity.”

Those who missed the hiring event can apply any time on USAJobs, Keller said. The job's official title is "Child and Youth Program Assistant."

Not only is the starting pay \$19.52 an hour, but there



*Applicants participate in the CYS On-the-Spot Hiring Fair at the Monterey Child Development Center, Ord Military Community, Calif., Feb. 11.*

are several benefits, Keller said.

For example, military spouses or civilians can create a lifelong career in CYS because they can transfer to any installation throughout the world with a guaranteed position in CYS, Keller said.

In addition, employees can register for college and obtain credits toward a degree with the required Virtual Lab School Module training, Keller said.

CYPAs can also use their training and work experience to receive a Child Development Associate Credential, Keller said. The credential is similar to an associate degree and would typically cost upwards of \$200, but Army CYS offers it for free to all CYS employees.

Employees can also use their training to move up the ladder in CYS toward management positions, Keller said.

CYS entry-level employees start in flex positions without accrued leave and insurance, but depending on their experience or education in early childhood education or related fields, they can negotiate for those benefits, Keller said. Most employees move into a benefited position within six months of hire.

From date of hire to working with children takes about 30 days due to on-boarding, background checks, and training requirements, Keller said. The completion of the VLS Modules takes up to 18 months to complete.



# CYS hiring (cont.)

Marli Jennings, a CYPA hired at the November 2022 hiring fair, said she knew from past volunteer experience that she likes working with children, and the hiring fair inspired her to apply and become a professional.

The hiring process through the job fair was fast and easy, Jennings said, and after about two months of paid training, she started working directly with the children about a week ago and enjoys it.

"It's been great," Jennings said. "I love the kids here."

The position for CYPA is a continuous announcement, and CYS is always hiring and looking for new caregivers. Contact Keller at [holly.l.keller2.naf@army.mil](mailto:holly.l.keller2.naf@army.mil) for more details. To view the USAJobs announcement, visit <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/697610100>

Applicants must have a high school diploma or General Equivalent Diploma and be able to communicate in English orally and in writing. High school students who are 17 years old and a dependent of a service member or Department of Defense civilian employee are eligible based on verification of student status at the time of application.

CYS Parent Central Services is located in Building 4260, Ord Military Community, and it provides one-stop registration for all CYS programs, including child-care at the Monterey Road Child Development Center, the Porter Youth Center, and Family Child Care, as well as for a variety of activities that include sports and camps. For more information visit <https://presidio.armymwr.com/programs/cyss>

## Mayor recognizes Soldier for volunteer work



**Top:** Bruce Delgado, right, mayor of the City of Marina, presents Pvt. Kaleb Calhoun, assigned to Company A, 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, with a letter of appreciation at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Feb. 24. Delgado thanked Calhoun for volunteering with the French Broom Abatement Project at East Garrison/Fort Ord. **Right:** Delgado speaks to Soldiers. **Above:** Capt. Taylor Beauchemin, commander of Company A, 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, presents Bruce Delgado, mayor of the City of Marina, with a company coin.





# Ord commissary named best large commissary in US

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — On March 7, the Defense Commissary Agency recognized Ord Community Commissary as the United States Best Large Commissary – Bill Nichols award recipient in the FY 2021 Best Commissary Awards. The commissary previously received the runner-up awards for 2018, 2019 and 2020.

The agency presents awards in five categories determined by store location and size, and has named the awards in honor of government officials who protected the commissary benefit and championed quality-of-life issues for the military community and their families.

Judges considered nominations based on tangible and intangible qualities such as a friendly environment, a well-run store, good work ethic and sense of a cohesive team. Tangible qualities included sales, commissary customer service survey, organization, cleanliness and visual appeal, safety, accountability, recycling and solid waste diversion, photo portfolio, display contests and special events.

“Congratulations to each of the winners and runners-up,” said Robert Bunch, executive director for store operations. “Each of these stores went above and beyond to provide their patrons with the commissary benefit, and their dedication and hard work has been recognized with this award.”

The winning stores shared some common themes. They focused on

reaching their patrons where they were, getting them excited about events in their stores and the stores’ presence in the communities they served. They also made sure to give their employees the time and space to flex their creativity while providing the commissary benefit.

“By focusing on community engagement and outreach events it has allowed us to educate eligible patrons that may not gather their information on the internet,” said Alex King, store director at Ord Community. “Older generations still really value in-person interaction.”

The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Stay connected to your commissary benefit or learn more about the Ord Community Commissary at their homepage.



*Courtesy photos*

**Top:** The Ord Community Commissary in Ord Military Community, Calif., serves service members and retirees in the Monterey area. **Above left:** Shoppers pay for their groceries at the Ord Community Commissary. **Above right:** An employee at the Ord Community Commissary stocks the meat display.



# Women's History Month at PoM: Three stories

In honor of Women's History Month, Presidio of Monterey public affairs shares the stories of three women serving the Monterey military community who epitomize resiliency, strength and commitment to our nation. These women bring nearly a century's worth of collective experience within the military community and positively impact the lives of service members and families each day.

Over the years, they have observed countless changes for women in the military community while serving as active-duty service members, volunteers, spouses, mothers, military children, civilian employees and leaders. Their contributions significantly benefit our nation through the positive impact these women have in the communities they live in. Here are the stories of Liz DeLise, Zoe Merritts and Stephanie Schafer, edited for length and clarity.



## Liz DeLise

### 1) What is your history serving and working around the military community?

I was born into the military community. My dad served in the Army for 24 years, and then I have only had three years of my life where I wasn't a military dependent. My husband didn't join until after we were married and later in our relationship. I met my husband when we were in grad school. My husband is enlisted in the Army, and we have five children from 15 to 6 years old and two dogs.

*Continued page 35*



## Stephanie Schafer

### 1) What is your history serving and working around the military community?

I graduated high school in 1978 and two weeks later I was in basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, on my way to becoming military police. At the end of that enlistment, I served the whole in Germany, I joined the National Guard. I served as a noncommissioned officer until took a break in service for family reasons. After my break in service, I reenlisted, but in the Navy Reserves. I

*Continued page 36*



## Zoe Merritts

### 1) What is your history serving and working around the military community?

I joined the Navy in 2012 as a nurse after watching both my parents serve for 21 years. I was a maternal/infant nurse where I took care of mothers and their newborns at Camp Pendleton, California. I then transferred over to same-day surgery and post-anesthesia care unit for the remainder of my time. My family: husband is a Marine at the Naval Postgraduate School, and my two boys, ages 3 and

*Continued page 37*



# DeLise (cont.)

I am the director of Saturday runs for the “wear blue: run to remember” organization and the local coordinator for the group.

## **2) When did you first begin serving or working with the military community and how are you serving today?**

I began serving with the military community with the chaplains’ office when I was little. My mom used to work for the chaplain’s office at Fort Drum, New York, when I was younger and so I’ve also always been involved in our Military Council of Catholic Women. We do have an unofficial group here right now that I’m involved in and we’re working on contracting a priest with the diocese. I’ve always been involved in that aspect as well. Then of course whenever there’s a family readiness group, I try to stay involved.

Today, I am the director of Saturday runs for the “wear blue: run to remember” nonprofit organization and the coordinator for the group here locally. We meet to run and remember fallen service members the first Saturday of every month at 8:30 a.m., down at Lower Presidio, right outside the gate so that anyone and everyone can join. However, if there’s ever an MWR event, like there was this month, we will be at the MWR event to help support them. Over the years, my role with wear blue has grown and I now get to also do some work with the White House, such as when they had a conference on health, hunger and nutrition.

## **3) What do you find most rewarding about serving the military community?**

I find watching service members grow over their careers most rewarding about serving the military community. For example, a few new service members had their first wear blue experience here in Monterey and went on to their first duty station in San Antonio, Texas, which also has a wear blue community. I had the opportunity to see them as volunteers in December at the Rock

‘n’ Roll San Antonio Marathon; they are now going to be mentors for our Gold Star Youth Mentorship Program in San Antonio as well. I’ve also loved watching service members go from either struggling on their PT run or wanting to improve their PT run time to then being participants in our For the Fighting program and running the Army Ten Miler. It’s also been an honor every time I’ve been invited to a promotion or award ceremony of a service member. Army family is real, we have built relationships and consider some friends to be nieces and nephews or brothers and sisters, etc.

My Bumpa [mother’s father] is 95 years old. He served during World War II and actually was at Fort Ord back then. He rarely spoke about his military service, but he always instilled a sense of volunteerism and the importance of giving back to our community. My mother continued to instill this lesson in me; that giving of your time and talent to your community is just as important; that even if you don’t have the financial means to give to others, volunteerism plays an important role that cannot be monetarily measured. Continuing this lesson to my children is my why; being a volunteer and leader in the community also gives me gifts in return and I’m ever grateful for the community that I’ve been able to be a part of. The military life is a unique one and it’s great to be involved with people who understand what you’re experiencing.

## **4) Throughout your career working with the military community, what types of changes have you seen for women? What has changed most?**

There are more opportunities for involvement at a professional level. It’s not just care packages. I feel like when I was younger and my dad was in Desert Storm, back in the 1990s, I feel like it was baking and care packages and stuff like that, but it’s grown to be so much more, and you see women also developing professional skills alongside their volunteer work. It’s not just providing meals or providing care packages. Now women are executing events that are family days and organizational days and runs and all these different things and having engagement with leadership to help bridge that

gap of understanding between what goes on back home versus what they know. You see way more of that and way more collaboration between the two. And there are more opportunities for all women, regardless of their age and their spouse’s rank. Before, when my mom volunteered, it was only the sergeant major’s wife and the commander’s wife, whereas now, I served as the FRG leader of our company back when my husband was a sergeant. So, you can have those roles and opportunities now with more involvement.

## **5) You have a wealth of experience working as a woman in the military community, and you are a leader. What advice can you offer to other aspiring female leaders in the military community?**

I feel it’s important to stay involved. That is one thing my mom taught me long ago. But it’s also important to have your boundaries and to know when to ask for help. People want to help. People genuinely want to help. You don’t have to take all the things on by yourself, and sometimes the person that you would least expect is just waiting to be asked. Never be afraid to ask for help and to build your bench, build your team up and have others join you in the cause.

Also, don’t be afraid to tell your story. I feel like more and more stories are finally being shared, are finally coming out how women have served over the years. With wear blue we collaborate with other organizations and one of them is the Military Women’s Memorial. It’s been great to get to know the people who work there and to get to know the stories that they share as well. They do a really beautiful job of not just having the physical structure there in Arlington, Virginia, but of sharing all of those stories of women and their service. It shows the things that women did that they weren’t necessarily supposed to do. It’s really cool to see the advances that women have made over the years and how much they’ve been involved without people realizing it. I feel like as women sometimes we hold back our stories, so just don’t be afraid to share your stories. It’s truly part of history.



# Schafer (cont.)

gave up rank to do it. It seemed like a good idea at the time, but this is advice I would give to any service member: Don't give up stripes for anything! I did, and it took a few years to earn them back. I did get to go to the Navy intelligence schools and that was very interesting. But the Navy wasn't really for me, so when I graduated, I got a branch transfer back into the National Guard. I worked in Army Intelligence the rest of my career, mostly on various active-duty orders or deployments, and occasionally just being a regular Guard Soldier.

## **2) When did you first begin serving or working with the military community and how are you serving today?**

I originally enlisted in 1978, but I started as an Army civilian in 2014 while I was still serving in the National Guard—a lot of Guard Soldiers do both. I spent 2005-2014 doing what's called "order hopping." So, that's when you spend most of your time on various sets of orders. While order hopping, I've done counter drug work, various deployments, and even went to language school twice. That's how I ended up here. I had been at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center as an Arabic student. As I got close to graduation, my first sergeant asked if I would like to become a platoon sergeant. I thought DLI without homework! What's not to like? Of course I said yes, and I ended up doing that for two years.

At the end of that two years, I was offered an opportunity to build the Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program for DLI because that needed to be stood up. After I had built the SHARP program, the Garrison approached me and offered me the opportunity to build a Garrison SHARP program when I got off orders. I saw the opportunity for steady employment and not having to worry about lining up orders to make sure I have a job. In October of 2014 I became a Department of the Army civilian. My first DA civilian role was serving as the Garrison SARC. Now

I serve as the Workforce Development Program Analyst within the Directorate of Human Resources. I help guide workforce training developments and help employees access the larger organizational training opportunities that exist. I also manage the awards program and organize the quarterly garrison awards ceremonies. It's rewarding because I get to help people move forward in their careers in one capacity or another.

## **3) What do you find most rewarding about serving the military community?**

This is where my patriotism really comes out. I joined the Army as a baby—and that really colored my world view and how I feel about my country, military service, and the importance of having a strong functional military. I loved serving my country, having those battle buddies, and all the opportunities you get for leadership at such an early age. There's so much opportunity for growth—and the military has grown so much from the standpoint of how it takes care of its Soldiers and the services that are available. I just really like being a part of something that matters so much.

Personally, a career in the military has afforded me a great opportunity to see the world. I've spent time in Germany, Afghanistan, Jordan, Crete, Morocco, China, Japan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, afloat off the Asian Coasts, and time aboard a Tunisian Ship in the Mediterranean. I've worked with the Marines, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, National Security Agency, Department of Homeland Defense, and national counter-drug operations. I've also spent time training various Middle Eastern and North African militaries. Where else can you get that kind of life experience?

## **4) Throughout your career working with the military community, what types of changes have you seen for women? What has changed most?**

When I first joined the military, allowing women into the Military Police Corps was brand new. I don't know if we were the first—but we were one of the first to be in joint male and female basic training together. It was ... not real great. There

was a lot of sexual harassment at that time. When we get to our units, the established MP units aren't used to having women around and a lot of guys did not want us there. You'd show up to your unit and there were a lot of assumptions about you just because you're a woman. We had to work our butts off and perform better than everyone to overcome those preconceived notions, just to be accepted as a Soldier. As a woman you really had to work so hard to get that respect.

Sexual harassment policy has improved significantly since then. For a long time, there wasn't anything about sexual harassment. Then there was Prevention of Sexual Harassment, or POSH, which was pretty weak. Now, there is the SHARP program, and even the policy in that program has come a long way from when it stated.

The uniforms have changed significantly. When I first joined, the women's uniform was so bad! We were still wearing the "pickle" suits back then. We went from a special women's uniform that was just terrible with buttons up the side and material that ripped easily. The boots had no tread and were pointy and awful. As we were getting done with Advanced Individual Training, we were allowed to wear the men's uniforms which were more durable and comfortable and the men's boots were wider and had tread. We changed over as fast as we could. And finally, in recent years, uniforms specifically designed toward women have been made available.

The opportunities for women have become so much better over the years. I see a lot more inclusivity among service members now than when I first started out. It was such a fight to have women MPs and now we have women Rangers. That's a long way!

## **5) You have a wealth of experience working as a woman in the military community, and you are a leader. What advice can you offer to other aspiring female leaders in the military community?**

*Continued next page*



# Schafer (cont.)

Don't be afraid to own your space. You have a right to be here. You have a voice. Use it. There are going to be people who don't want to hear what you have to say. That's going to happen to everyone, regardless of gender, so don't immediately assume it's about gender. Don't look for reasons to be offended. You will be offended sometimes. Don't waste your time being upset about it. Get up and keep moving forward.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. If you aren't getting the answers you're looking for, ask elsewhere. Don't stand back waiting for someone to give you the things you want. Go get it!

# Merritts (cont.)

5, and I were stationed at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California, where I came back to working for the Marines as a nurse at the on-base child development center. I worked there for one year, and then moved over to the New Parent Support Program, where I was able to then transfer to the Army while stationed at NPS for the past 15 months. I've been serving the military in some sort of capacity for a little over 10 years.

## **2) When did you first begin serving or working with the military community and how are you serving today?**

Currently, I run the New Parent Support Program with the Army. Since taking the job 15 months ago, I've really been able to put my mark on the program. I have created the Baby Boot Camp class which teaches expected parents about pregnancy, labor and delivery, newborn care, mental health, and Shaken Baby Syndrome. I have also created to support groups: New Parent Support Group and Lactation Support and Education Group. The New

Parent Support Group was small at first—one to three mothers and the young babies. Now, every Wednesday, I see roughly seven to 14 mothers and their babies attending. The group is really to connect these new families to one another to have “tribe.” As part of New Parent Support, I do home visits as well. During home visits, with families, I help them achieve their goals. This could be anything from nutrition to sleep to child development to self-care for parents. The program is made to make sure parents and families are set up for success. I want to see them thriving and knowing they have the abilities and tools they need to do so. I also put on events and collaborate with other community resources such as the Birth Network of Monterey, Parenting Connections, Blue Star Families, and many more.

## **3) What do you find most rewarding about serving the military community?**

I love being able to connect people to resources and to other families. The military can be very isolating, especially when you just had a baby. The New Parent Support Group has become a family. Most weeks, one mom is bringing in clothes or diapers for another mom and everyone is sharing resources and advice. I love to see the connections being made. The same goes with the Lactation Support Group. I remember being a new mother and having no idea how to breastfeed. Those first few days to months are crucial, and new parents need the support and education about breastfeeding to have the will and motivation to continue. I have had so many new mothers come into the group or during an at-home consult just need reassurance that they are doing OK and their babies are thriving. Giving these women the encouragement that they absolutely deserve is rewarding in itself. Most of the time we focus on the babies and children in a family, when more time/energy should be focused on the parents. The military is stressful on the entire family and being able to support the parents as they are starting their new journey can help immensely.

## **4) Throughout your career working with the**

## **military community, what types of changes have you seen for women? What has changed most?**

Just in the past few years a lot of legislation has changed to help women in the military. The increased maternal leave has been the biggest win. I remember when women were only given 42 days of leave after having their babies. Six weeks is not enough time to heal mentally and physically after a baby. So much bonding and learning occurs in the fourth trimester (0-3 months after birth). The increased leave allows for this to take place and for mothers, when it is time to head back to work, hopefully have an easier transition. I also have seen a positive switch towards encouraging breastfeeding and breast pumping while at work. Allowing women to be able to pump while on active duty increases maternal bonds with their babies even when they are separated.

## **5) You have a wealth of experience working as a woman in the military community, and you are a leader. What advice can you offer to other aspiring female leaders in the military community?**

Find something you are passionate about. I had no idea for quite some time what I wanted to be, and to be honest, I still haven't completely figured it out. I do know that after I had kids, I felt extremely depressed, lonely, and isolated. I don't want other women feeling this way. I want them to have someone whom they can talk to and feel safe with. A lot of what I wanted for myself, I was not finding. My advice would be to start small with your aspirations. Just helping one person can lead to helping several more people later on. People talk, they can help spread the word on important matters. So just talking and helping one person, in turn, will set in motion the help for more. Lastly, just listen. People wanted to be heard. They want to tell their stories and be understood about their personal experiences. I think that is where we can make the most difference. By listening, we can learn a lot more than by just acting on what we think might be best.



# FROM THE HISTORIAN: Bugle Calls – The Origins of Army Music

By Cameron Binkley

DLIFLC Command Historian

Have you ever wondered why you hear a bugle playing taps every evening on Army bases around the world? Playing taps is a tradition going back to the Civil War when the tune was first heard at Harrison's Landing, Virginia, in July 1862. The inspiration of Maj. Gen. Daniel Adams Butterfield, who adapted 24 notes from the longer score of an earlier Army drill manual, the short plaintive air became so popular that both sides of the conflict adopted it. Today, taps is well known for its frequent playing at memorial ceremonies, but its original purpose was to signal to Soldiers "to extinguish lights," whether wax- or gas-powered. In other words, get to bed. Now, of course, we say "lights out." Actually, "extinguish lights" was an early alternate name for taps, which is one of three basic tunes commonly heard on an Army base. The others are reveille and retreat. Reveille begins the duty day while retreat marks day's end.

But what's with the bugle? Armies have used loud sound devices for thousands of years to coordinate the movement of troops and sometimes to invoke fear in an enemy. One imagines Scottish warriors charging into battle with their Great Highland bagpipes. Practically, if you think about it, before mechanical clocks, even the most mundane activities of military life were hard to regulate. How do you rouse Soldiers from bed or assemble them en masse at prescribed times? Pocket watches weren't affordable for most Soldiers until the late 19th century. Thus, communicating a commander's orders either during the noise and confusion of battle or across a large encampment was nearly impossible without some type of sound device. Drums and fifes (a small pipe) were used by the



*A U.S. Army bugler at the Presidio of Monterey, ca. 1936-1939.*

British in colonial times and were inherited by the Continental Army. These instruments, however, were most suited for European-style set-piece battles and proved unwieldy for frontier fighting against the French and their American Indian allies. Chaotic skirmishes and counter insurgency-like operations led the British to adopt a more convenient device to issue clear sharp sounds – the reliable unkeyed bugle, which was already used in hunting. Played easily by a mounted trooper, the U.S. Cavalry adopted the same instrument, which saw widespread use during innumerable, if often tragic campaigns against native peoples throughout the 19th Century. With drill and practice, Soldiers learned the meaning of the various tunes and to respond accordingly. The device became closely associated with Army use and its image was often used to create unit insignia.

During the early 20th century, Soldiers in garrison would have heard bugle calls played by a musician directly into a large acoustic megaphone emplaced near the main flagpole or parade ground. In the 21st century, the tradition of playing bugle calls on military bases has readily survived, but many posts now use recorded

versions broadcast through a PA system. When reveille or retreat is heard, it also means that the national flag is being raised or lowered. If outdoors, by long-standing tradition, all military personnel and civilians should face the flag (or the sound of the music). Uniformed members should stand at attention and salute while civilians should place their right hand over their heart. Drivers in vehicles during reveille or retreat should safely pull to the side of the road and stop. Typically, gates will be closed during this ceremony.

Despite its advantages in sounding orders, the bugle and even its more sophisticated cousin, the trumpet, had musical limitations. Thus, military bands remained popular around the world for live performances and morale boosting activities of all sorts. Until World War II, the U.S. Cavalry even maintained several mounted bands, deployed strictly for use in parades and other public events. Today, the bugle call is no longer needed to communicate a commander's orders in battle. However, the tradition of using bugle calls is deeply engrained in Army culture. It remains a distinctive practice, like uniforms and drill, that separates military from civilian life.

Incidentally, taps and other bugle calls are not capitalized in this article because U.S. Army public affairs follows the Associated Press Stylebook, which does not capitalize them. Many disagree, but the idea is that bugle calls, as signals, are meant to convey information and thus are not truly songs or compositions.

To hear the U.S. Army Band, Pershing's Own, play taps, click here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bfe4TxvUOiw>



# Remembering the Memorialized: Nicholson

## Memorialization #23

**Lt. Col. Arthur D. Nicholson, Jr.**  
**1947-1985**

Lt. Col. Arthur D. Nicholson, Jr., 1947-1985, was a graduate of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's Russian basic course in 1980.

A member of the Soviet guard killed him in East Germany while he served with the U.S. Military Liaison Mission, and U.S. Army investigators determined that Soviet leadership "officially condoned, if not directly ordered" his death, according to the U.S. Army.

The military posthumously awarded Nicholson the Legion of Merit and the Purple Heart, and in an unprecedented move, promoted to lieutenant colonel upon approval of the President. Three years later, the Soviet Union expressed "regret" over Nicholson's death.

Historians consider Nicholson the last American casualty of the Cold War.

To learn more about Nicholson, visit [https://www.army.mil/article/99179/major\\_arthur\\_d\\_nicholson\\_jr\\_last\\_cold\\_war\\_casualty\\_this\\_week\\_in\\_history](https://www.army.mil/article/99179/major_arthur_d_nicholson_jr_last_cold_war_casualty_this_week_in_history)

To learn more about the men and women memorialized at the Presidio of Monterey, Defense Language Institute and former Fort Ord visit the memorialization page on our website: <https://home.army.mil/monterey/index.php/about/memorialization>



**Above:** Nicholson Hall is Bldg. 848 on the Presidio of Monterey. Lt. Col. Arthur D. Nicholson studied Russian at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center before working in Germany during the Cold War.

**Right:** Lt. Col. Arthur D. Nicholson

**Far right:** The memorial plaque in honor of Nicholson at Nicholson Hall, Presidio of Monterey.



Courtesy photos





# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## April 1

### Downtown Capitola Day Trip

Explore our neighboring cities with BOSS as we make a day trip to downtown Capitola, Calif. Destress at the beach, and come back to PoM with a fresh mind. Transportation provided; meet up at the Hobson Recreation Center at 11 a.m. For more information, please contact (831) 242-0895. Only for active-duty service members.

## April 1-30

### Month of the Military Child

During the month of April, we celebrate the 36th annual Month of the Military Child. Throughout the month we have planned activities at the Child Development Center. We will kick off our celebration at 4 p.m. April 3 with a parade to celebrate the resilience and strength of our very own military kids. Another highlight of the month is April 14: Purple Up Day. Everyone is encouraged to deck themselves out in purple to show support for military children.

## April 3

### Lactation Education and Support Group

For any mother breastfeeding or breast pumping or

any parent who may want more information. Topics include "Introducing Solid Foods," "Returning to Work," "Breast Pumping" and more. Every Monday at 10:30 a.m. in the ACS Gold Room. For more information, please contact Zoe at [zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil](mailto:zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil) or direct message her through the New Parent Support Facebook page. Babies welcome.

## April 3-7

### NAEYC Week of the Young Child

The National Association for the Education of Young Children will hold its annual observance of the Week of the Young Child. Each day of the week has its own theme. Each day individual classrooms at the Child Development Center will be planning activities to celebrate in alignment with a national theme: April 3, Music Monday; April 4, Tasty Tuesday; April 5, Work Together Wednesday; April 6, Artsy Thursday; April 7, Family Friday.

## April 4

### Joint Services Inprocessing Briefing

Newly arrived and need information about the installation? It's mandatory for service members and optional for spouses. From 6:30-10:45 a.m. at the Tin Barn, PoM. For more information, contact Charles Lyons at ACS (831) 242-7660/6890 or [charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil](mailto:charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil).

## Playgroup

Children and parents: Playgroup is for infants to 4-year olds. This is a fun place to play and bond with your child. Join the group every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the ACS Gold Room. For more information, please contact Zoe at [zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil](mailto:zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil) or direct message her through the New Parent Support Facebook page.

## Walk and Talk Through OMC

Come walk and talk with EFMP every Tuesday (weather permitting) 10-11 a.m. This is a child-friendly event, and you're welcome to bring items such as strollers and tricycles. Meet up at ACS and walk along in Ord Military Community. Contact EFMP at (831) 242-7660 for more information.

## April 5

### New Parent Support Group

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## Furthering Your Education

Interested in furthering your education? Join us



as we explore careers, schools, and scholarships. This is open to all DoD dependents, including high school students who are thinking about college. Bring a laptop to get the most out of the class. RSVP by email [katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil). Can't attend the class? Reach to Katilynn to schedule a sit down.

## April 5- May 31

### Youth Track & Field Program

Presidio Youth Sports Youth Track & Field practices will be held on Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m. at the Hilltop facility on the Presidio of Monterey.

## April 6

### Operation Combat Hunger

Blue Star teams up with New Parent Support for Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Military Child to assist with combating food insecurity. Vendors will provide resources to the community on ways to assist in the Monterey area. This event will also have resources for EFMP families, families looking for employment and veterans. Contact Zoe Merritts at (831) 887-4927. Location is Army Community Service building, lower lot from 3-5 p.m.

### Licensure Reimbursement

Are you a military spouse who wants to learn about how to get reimbursed for a professional license? Join us the first Thursday of every month at 10:30 a.m. in the ACS Gold Room. Email [katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil) for more information or to register. Can't make the class? Schedule a sit down with Katilynn.

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## April 7

### Good Friday event

The 229th Military Intelligence Battalion and USAG PoM chaplains' offices team up for a Good Friday joint-services event entitled, "The 7 Sayings of Jesus on the Cross." The solemn reflection on Christ's great sacrifice begins at 6:30 p.m. at the PoM Chapel. Contact [Joseph.McCall@DLIFLC.edu](mailto:Joseph.McCall@DLIFLC.edu) for more information.

### Egg Hunt

BOSS will host a holiday egg hunt at the Child Development Center. Great opportunity for single parents to engage and participate in recreational activities with their children. The event will take place from 3:30-4:30 p.m. For more information, please contact (831) 242-0895.

### BOSS After-Hours Egg Hunt

The Hobson Recreation Center and BOSS will host their annual after-hours egg hunt at 9 p.m. Service members have five seconds to grab as many eggs as possible. Goodies, candies, fun door prizes and more. For more information, please contact (831) 242-0895. Only for active-duty service members.

## April 9

### Easter Resurrection Sunrise Service

Celebrate Easter with singing, sharing and celebrating "The Day that Death Died," during the Resurrection Sunrise Service from 6:45-7:45 a.m. at the Soldier Field bleachers. Coffee, hot chocolate and breakfast food afterward. Featuring the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Joint Service Choir. Contact [Joseph.McCall@DLIFLC.edu](mailto:Joseph.McCall@DLIFLC.edu) for more information.

## April 10

### Lactation Education and Support Group

For any mother breastfeeding or breast pumping or any parent who may want more information. Topics include Introducing "Solid Foods," "Returning to Work," "Breast Pumping" and more. Every Monday at 10:30 a.m. in the ACS Gold Room. For more information, please contact Zoe at [zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil](mailto:zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil) or direct message her through the New Parent Support Facebook page. Babies welcome.

### Youth Karate

Youth Karate Session begins. Classes are for ages 6-17. Classes take place on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Porter Youth Center Gym. Contact Parent Central Services at (831) 242-7765.

### MRCDC Dress up Days

Each month the Child Development Center plans



fun dress up days to show our spirit. This month's dress up day is Backwards Day: Wear Your Clothes Backwards.

## April 11

### Joint Services Inprocessing Briefing

Newly arrived and need information about the installation? Mandatory for service members and optional for spouses. From 6:30–10:45 a.m. at the Tin Barn, PoM. Contact Charles Lyons at ACS (831) 242-7660/6890 or [charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil](mailto:charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil).

### Walk and Talk Through OMC

Come walk and talk with EFMP every Tuesday (weather permitting) 10-11 a.m. This is a child-friendly event, and you're welcome to bring items such as strollers and tricycles. Meet up at ACS and walk along in Ord Military Community. Contact EFMP at (831) 242-7660 for more information.

### BOSS Council Meeting

Single service members are invited to attend PoM Better Opportunities for Single Service Members (BOSS) council meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, 4:30 p.m. at Hobson Recreation Center. For more information, contact (831) 242-0895

### National Pet Day

Pets are an important part of our families. We encourage Monterey Road Child Development Center families to bring in photos of their furry family members to share with us!

## April 12

### New Parent Support Group

Do you have children between the ages of 0-12 months? Join us every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in the ACS Gold Room as we discuss various topics such as infant routines, sleeping, development and more. For more information, please contact Zoe at [zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil](mailto:zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil) or direct message her through the New Parent Support Facebook page.

### Marketing Yourself

Have questions about how to market yourself with social media? Join us every second Wednesday at 1 p.m. to learn the dos and don'ts of professional social media. This class will cover such topics as Facebook, LinkedIn and other platforms you may need to be successful in your career. RSVP at [katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil).

## April 13

### Job Success and Interviewing Skills

Want to learn more about interviewing skills? What to wear for an interview? Questions you should ask? Join ACS for Job Success classes every second Thursday of the month. Email [Katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:Katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil) for more information or to register. Can't make the class? Schedule a sit down with Katilynn.

### Baby Bootcamp

This is an educational class for expecting parents. Topics will include "Nutrition for Mother and Baby," "Newborn Care," "Labor and Delivery" and more.

Registration is required to attend. Please email Zoe at [zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil](mailto:zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil) or direct message her through the New Parent Support Facebook page. Gift bags will be given to each family in attendance so please RSVP.

### Kinder/SAC Open House

The Kinder/SAC Open House-Lip Sync Talent Show & Spaghetti dinner is from 5:30-7 p.m. Call (831) 242-7765 for more information.

### MRCDC Dress Up Day

Each month the Child Development Center plans fun dress up days to show our spirit. This month's dress up day is Crazy Hair Day: Do Your Best to Look Your Craziest.

## April 14

### Youth Program Open House

The Porter Youth Program Open House-Pin Knock Out & Spaghetti dinner is from 6-7 p.m. at the Porter Youth Center. Also, Purple Up Day and kinder/SAC field day for the Month of the Military Child.

## April 17

### Lactation Education and Support Group

For any mother breastfeeding or breast pumping or any parent who may want more information. Topics include "Introducing Solid Foods," "Returning to Work," "Breast Pumping" and more. Every Monday at 10:30 a.m. in the ACS Gold Room. For more



information, please contact Zoe at [zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil](mailto:zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil) or direct message her through the New Parent Support Facebook page. Babies welcome.

## April 18

### Joint Services Inprocessing Briefing

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### Playgroup

Children and parents: Playgroup is for infants to 4-year olds. This is a fun place to play and bond with your child. Join the group every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the ACS Gold Room. For more information, please contact Zoe at [zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil](mailto:zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil) or direct message her through the New Parent Support Facebook page.

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### Navigating USAJOBS

Want a new job but need tips and tricks for navigating USAJobs? Join us every third Tuesday

of month in the ACS Gold Room at 1 p.m. Email [katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil) for more information or to register. Can't make the class? Schedule a sit down with Katilynn.

## April 19

### Spouse Orientation

Open to all military and Department of Defense spouses. Join us once a quarter in the ACS Gold Room. Spouse Orientation is from 9 a.m. to noon and Career Exploration will be from 1-3 p.m. (We encourage everyone to bring their resume if they have one.) Email [Katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:Katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil) or call (831) 242-7660 for more information or to register.

### New Parent Support Group

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### MRCDC Dress up Day

Each month the CDC plans fun dress up days to show our spirit. This month's dress up day is Camouflage Day: We Can't See You.

## April 20

### Resume Building

Join us every third Thursday of the month in the ACS Gold Room at 10 a.m. This class will help you build a master resume you can tailor for a variety of

jobs. Email [katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil) for more information or to register. Can't make the class? Schedule a sit down with Katilynn.

### Help Me Plan a Smooth PCS

Need help with understanding a PCS move? Plan My Move helps you create personalized moving checklists, and offers tips about housing, transportation and more. Registration is required. Call or email Charles Lyons at ACS at (831) 242-7660/6890 or [charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil](mailto:charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil).

## April 21

### Earth Day Garden Party at CDC

Families, please come join us as we create a garden in honor of Earth Day. We will bring the supplies. You bring the labor and love. From 4-5:30 p.m.

## April 24

### Lactation Education and Support

For any mother breastfeeding or breast pumping or any parent who may want more information. Topics include "Introducing Solid Foods," "Returning to Work" and "Breast Pumping." Mondays at 10:30 a.m. in the ACS Gold Room. For more information, please contact Zoe at [zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil](mailto:zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil) or direct message her through the New Parent Support Facebook page. Babies welcome.

## April 24-28

### Scholastic Book Fair at CDC

Reading to your child supports cognitive



development and develops a special bond with your child. Come and purchase some books to grow your home library. Purchase of books helps grow our classroom libraries too! We are looking for parents to volunteer to run the cash register. Please sign-up at the front desk at Monterey Road CDC.

## April 25

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BOSS invites single service members to attend PoM BOSS council meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month, 4:30 p.m. at the Hobson Recreation Center. Contact is (831) 242-0895.

### MRCDC Dress up Days

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## April 26

### New Parent Support Group

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## April 28

### Youth Program Lock-in

The Youth Program Lock-In and Operation Megaphone are from 6 p.m.-7 a.m. at the Porter Youth Center.

## April 29

### Touch-a-Truck

See, touch and explore a large variety of trucks from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the General Stilwell Community Center, Ord Military Community. This is a free, fun event for all ages to learn about vehicles of all shapes and sizes. Call (831) 242-5820 for more information.

## May 1-5

### National Caregiver Appreciation Week

This is a time to show support for your children's caregivers. Contact the centers Parent Advisory Board for more information at (831) 583-1051.

## May 1

### Lactation Education and Support Group

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### PYC Summer Camp

Sign up now for the Porter Youth Center Summer Camp, which is from June 5-Aug. 4 and includes weekly field trips with guest speakers, specialty clubs and activities. Orientation for new families is May 25. For more information contact (831) 242-7823.

## May 2

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## **May 3**

### **New Parent Support Group**

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### **Furthering Your Education**

Interested in furthering your education? Join us as we explore careers, schools and scholarships. This is open to all DoD dependents, including high school students who are thinking about college. Bring a laptop to get the most out of the class. RSVP by email [katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil). Can't attend the class? Reach to Katilynn to schedule a sit down.

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Need help with understanding a PCS move? Yes, it can be very stressful, and you can prevent that stress by attending this important briefing. Plan My Move helps you create personalized moving checklists, and offers tips about housing, transportation, finances and more. Registration is required. Please call or email: Charles Lyons at ACS at (831) 242-7660/6890 or [charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil](mailto:charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil).

## **May 5**

### **5 de Mayo Theme Night**

Join the Hobson Recreation Center for a theme night at 8 p.m. as we celebrate 5 de Mayo in America. Refreshments available for purchase. Let's dance the night away with a sombrero!

## **May 6**

### **Santa Cruz Redwoods Hike**

Once again, BOSS will take a trip to the Santa Cruz Redwoods for an amazing hike. One-of-a-

kind experience. Slots are limited. Transportation provided, meet up the Hobson Recreation Center at 9 a.m. For more information, please contact (831) 242-0895. Only for active-duty service members.

## **May 8**

### **Lactation Education and Support Group**

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## **May 11**

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Want to learn more about interviewing skills? What to wear for an interview? Questions you should ask? Join ACS for Job Success classes every second Thursday of the month. Email [Katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:Katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil) for more information or to register. Can't make the class? Schedule a sit down.

## **May 12**

### **Pastries with Parents at MRCDC**

Parents, as your child's first and most important teacher, we celebrate you! Stop by the Child Development Center and grab a pastry and something nice to drink on your way to work.

## **May 15**

### **Lactation Education and Support**

For any mother breastfeeding or breast pumping or any parent who may want more information. Topics include "Introducing Solid Foods," "Returning to Work" and more. Every Monday at 10:30 a.m. in the ACS Gold Room. Contact Zoe at [zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil](mailto:zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil) or direct message her through the New Parent Support Facebook page. Babies welcome.

## **May 16**

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### **Navigating USAJOBS**

Want a new job but need tips and tricks for navigating USAJOBS? Join us every third Tuesday of month in the ACS Gold Room at 1 p.m. Email [katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil) for more information or to register. Can't make the class? Schedule a sit down with Katilynn.

## **May 17**

### **New Parent Support Group**

Do you have children between the ages of 0-12 months? Join us every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in the ACS Gold Room as we discuss various topics such as infant routines, sleeping, development and more. For more information, please contact Zoe at [zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil](mailto:zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil) or direct message her through the New Parent Support Facebook page.

## **May 18**

### **Resume Building**

Ready to get that master resume started? Join us every third Thursday of the month in the ACS Gold Room at 10 a.m. This class will help you build a



master resume you can tailor for a variety of jobs. Email [katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil) for more information or to register. Can't make the class? Schedule a sit down with Katilynn.

## Help Me Plan a Smooth PCS

Need help with understanding a PCS move? Yes, it can be very stressful, and you can prevent that stress by attending this important briefing. Plan My Move helps you create personalized moving checklists, and offers tips about housing, transportation, finances and more. Registration is required. Please call or email Charles Lyons at ACS at (831) 242-7660/6890 or [charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil](mailto:charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil).

## May 23

### Joint Services Inprocessing Briefing

Newly arrived and need information about the installation? It's mandatory for service members and optional for spouses. From 6:30–10:45 a.m. at the Tin Barn, PoM. For more information, contact Charles Lyons at ACS (831) 242-7660/6890 or [charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil](mailto:charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil).

### Walk and Talk Through OMC

Come walk and talk with EFMP every Tuesday (weather permitting) 10-11 a.m. This is a child-friendly event, and you're welcome to bring items such as strollers and tricycles. Meet up at ACS and walk along in Ord Military Community. Contact EFMP at (831) 242-7660 for more information.

### BOSS Council Meeting

BOSS invites single service members to attend PoM

BOSS council meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month, 4:30 p.m. at Hobson Recreation Center. For more information, contact (831) 242-0895.

## May 25

### Kinder/SAC Summer Camp Orientation

The orientation for new summer camp participants begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Porter Youth Center.

## May 26

### MRCDC, PYC closed for day

The Monterey Road Child Development Center and Porter Youth Center will be closed for a staff development day.

## May 29

### Salute to the Military

SOS, OCC and the San Jose Giants will host Gold Star Survivors during the annual Salute to the Military Game. The event is only open to Gold Star Family members. Contact Nate Pleasantbey, [nathaniel.e.pleasantbey.civ@army.mil](mailto:nathaniel.e.pleasantbey.civ@army.mil).

### Memorial Day BBQ

The long weekend calls for a Memorial Day BBQ at the Hobson Recreation Center hosted by BOSS from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Enjoy a free delicious cheeseburger, chips and refreshments. Contact (831) 242-0895. Only for active-duty service members.

## June 5

### PYC Summer Camp

The Porter Youth Center Summer Camp is from June 5-Aug. 4 and includes weekly field trips with guest speakers, specialty clubs and activities. Schedule includes: June 5-9, My Future; June 12-15, Spaced Out; June 20-23, Heroes & Villains; and June 26-30, Surf's Up. For more information contact (831) 242-7823.

## June 6

### Joint Services Inprocessing Briefing

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## June 7

### Furthering Your Education

Interested in furthering your education? Join us as we explore careers, schools, and scholarships. Open to all DoD dependents, including high school



students who are thinking about college. Bring a laptop to get the most out of the class. RSVP by email [katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil). Can't attend the class? Reach to Katilynn to schedule a sit down.

## June 8

### Licensure Reimbursement

Are you a military spouse who wants to learn about how to get reimbursed for a professional license? Join us the first Thursday of every month at 10:30 a.m. in the ACS Gold Room. Email [katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil) for more information or to register. Can't make the class? Schedule a sit down.

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## June 9

### Let's Talk Healthy Boundaries

Join the Family Advocacy Program and BOSS as we talk about health boundaries and relationships. Also, make your own ice cream sundae. Active-duty service members only. For more information, contact Jillian Santillanez at ACS 242-7660/5863 or [jillian.j.santillanez.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jillian.j.santillanez.civ@mail.mil).

## June 12-15

### PYC Summer Camp: Spaced Out

Summer Camp program registration information is available at Porter Youth Center at (831) 242-7823 and Parent Central Services at (831) 242-7765.

## June 13

### Joint Services Inprocessing Briefing

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## June 14

### Marketing Yourself

Have questions about how to market yourself with social media? Join us every second Wednesday at 1 p.m. to learn the dos and don'ts of professional social media. This class will cover such topics as Facebook, LinkedIn and other platforms you may need to be successful in your career. RSVP at [katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil).

## June 15

### Job Success and Interviewing Skills

Want to learn more about interviewing skills? What to wear for an interview? Questions you should ask? Join ACS for Job Success classes every second Thursday of the month. Email [katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:katilynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil) for more information or to register. Can't make the class? Schedule a sit down with Katilynn.

### Family Field Day at Monterey Road CDC

We invite parents to come spend the afternoon with the children at the Monterey Road Child Development Center playing a variety of games and activities while getting some fresh air and exercise. From 3:30-4:30 p.m.

## June 20

### Joint Services Inprocessing Briefing

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### Playgroup

Children and parents: Playgroup is for infants to 4-year olds. This is a fun place to play and bond with your child. Join the group every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the ACS Gold Room. For more



information, please contact Zoe at [zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil](mailto:zoe.r.merritts.civ@army.mil) or direct message her through the New Parent Support Facebook page.

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## Navigating USAJOBS

Want a new job but need tips and tricks for navigating USAJobs? Join us every third Tuesday of month in the ACS Gold Room at 1 p.m. Email [katilitynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:katilitynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil) for more information or to register. Can't make the class? Schedule a sit down with Katilynn.

## June 20-23

### PYC Summer Camp: Heroes and Villains

The Porter Youth Center's summer camp program has a variety of themes, and registration information is available at Porter Youth Center at (831)242-7823 and Parent Central Services at (831)242-7765.

## June 22

### Resume Building

Ready to get that master resume started? Join us

every third Thursday of the month in the ACS Gold Room at 10 a.m. This class will help you build a master resume you can tailor for a variety of jobs. Email [katilitynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil](mailto:katilitynn.m.snow.civ@army.mil) for more information or to register. Can't make the class? Schedule a sit down with Katilynn.

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## June 26-30

### PYC Summer Camp Theme: Surf's Up

Summer Camp program registration information is available at Porter Youth Center at (831) 242-7823 and Parent Central Services at (831) 242-7765.

## June 27

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## Ongoing

### Fitness Classes at Price Fitness Center

**Zumba:** Tuesdays at 5 p.m. and every Friday at 3:30 p.m.

**Inferno Pilates:** Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

**Salsa:** First and third Mondays at 5:30 p.m.

### Intramural Sports

If you're interested in joining intramural sports, please contact the Price Fitness Center at (831) 242-5557 or email [pommwr.intrmural@gmail.com](mailto:pommwr.intrmural@gmail.com).

### 'wear blue: run to remember'

Join members of the Presidio of Monterey community as they meet every first Saturday of the month for a 5K run in remembrance of fallen service members. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Lower Presidio. Contact [lizdelise@wearblueruntoremember.org](mailto:lizdelise@wearblueruntoremember.org) for more information about the runs.



# News Briefs: Navy

## George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group Returns to Souda Bay, Crete



SOUDA BAY, Greece — The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), along with the embarked staff of Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 10, arrived in Souda Bay, Greece, for a scheduled port visit March 10.

This port visit to Souda Bay follows Neptune Strike (NEST) 23-1, a vigilance activity focused on increasing NATO interoperability for a stable, secure, and prosperous Europe.

“Our sustained, integrated operations with our allies during deployment has been invaluable to strengthening our relationships and integrated deterrence in the region,” said Rear Adm. Dennis Velez, commander, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 10, George H.W. Bush CSG. “We look forward to visiting Souda Bay after a busy at sea period with our NATO

[Click here to read more](#)

## Springfield Visits Republic of Korea during Indo-Pacific Patrol



BUSAN, Republic of Korea — The Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Springfield (SSN 761) departed Busan, Republic of Korea (ROK) following a scheduled port visit as part of its routine operations in the Indo-Pacific, March 1.

During their time in port, Springfield hosted multiple ship tours for members of the U.S. and ROK navies, and participated in a day of cultural outreach at local Korean Buddhist temples.

“Pulling into Busan in the milestone year of the 70th anniversary of the ROK-U.S. Alliance is a privilege for this hardworking crew,” said Cmdr. Andy Domina, Springfield’s commanding officer. “Springfield is America’s submarine—a group of Sailors dedicated to the mission and proud ambassadors of our country!” than 30 years.

[Click here to read more](#)

## ‘Top Gun’: Maverick Star Visits George H.W. Bush



ADRIATIC SEA — Top Gun: Maverick producer and star Tom Cruise, writer and producer Christopher McQuarrie, and editor Eddie Hamilton, along with Ted Lasso star Hannah Waddingham departed the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) after completing a visit, March 3.

The team led a Top Gun: Maverick viewing in the ship’s hangar bay and took time to visit with Sailors aboard the ship during their visit. The ship and its crew has been deployed since departing Naval Station Norfolk on Aug. 10, 2022.

Throughout its deployment, the George H. W. Bush Carrier Strike Group (CSG) has worked alongside NATO allies and partners to increase interchangeability and increased capacity for the Alliance.

[Click here to read more](#)



# News Briefs: **Army**

## First permanently assigned U.S. Soldiers arrive in Poland



POZNAN, Poland — U.S. Army V Corps reached another large milestone that has set the foundation for future Soldiers who permanently change their duty station to become new members of Victory Corps forward at Camp Kosciuszko, Poland. V Corps has offered Soldiers the opportunity to conduct a Permanent Change of Station, known as PCS, to the camp, which will further enhance readiness and show further commitment to NATO allies and partners.

The corps' forward element recently received their first PCS Soldier, Sgt. Walter Malecki, a security cooperations specialist who was previously a student at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. The permanent presence of V Corps Soldiers in Poland plays a vital role by boosting and assuring operational readiness.

[Click here to read more](#)

## New Army brand redefines 'Be All You Can Be' for a new generation



WASHINGTON — For the first time since 2001, the U.S. Army has introduced a new brand that redefines what it means to “Be All You Can Be” for a new generation. Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston made the announcement during a much-anticipated launch event at the National Press Club. The brand and its accompanying campaign spotlight the countless opportunities the Army provides youth to explore their passions, build community and become the best versions of themselves.

“At a time when political, economic and social factors are changing how young Americans view the world, the new Army brand illustrates how service in the Army is grounded in passion and purpose,” said Wormuth.

[Click here to read more](#)

## US Army, Thai paratroopers supported by US Air Force during Cobra Gold 23



PATTAYA, Thailand — The U.S. Air Force's 15th Wing successfully supported a personnel drop operation while in an eight-ship formation on Mar. 3, 2023, during one of the largest multilateral theater security operation exercises in the Indo-Pacific.

Operation planning took place on Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, from Feb. 27 to Mar. 2, 2023, before dropping over a combined 600 U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division and Royal Thai Army soldiers over the Kingdom of Thailand as part of Exercise Cobra Gold 2023. U.S. Army Col. Todd Burroughs, commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, mentioned that nearly 150 Thai soldiers were integrated to jump alongside the U.S. Army.

“They are very proficient and they are ready to roll as part of Task Force Falcon,” said Burroughs.

[Click here to read more](#)



# News Briefs **Air Force**

## New paint design for 'Next Air Force One'

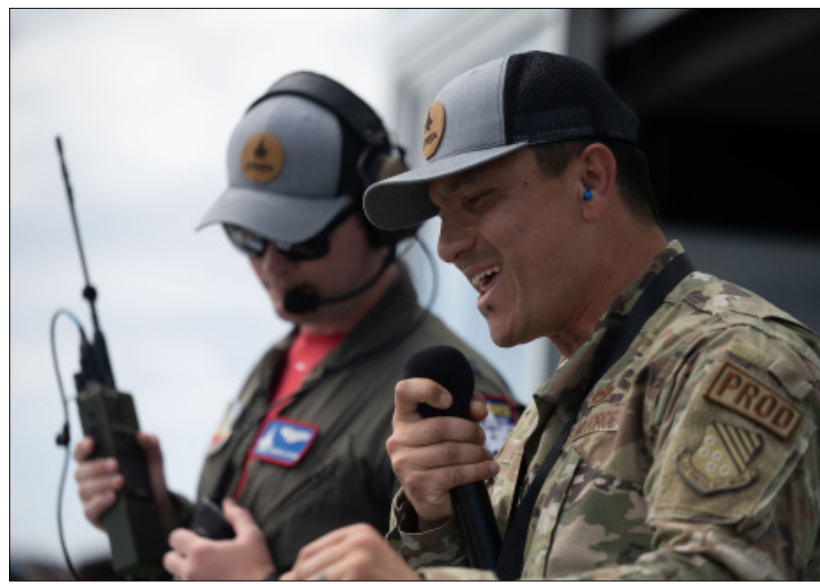


WASHINGTON — President of the United States Joe Biden has selected the livery design for the “Next Air Force One,” VC-25B, a design that will closely resemble the livery of the current Air Force One, VC-25A, while also modernizing for the 21st century.

While accounting for the VC-25B’s larger 747-8i aircraft, the VC-25B livery has three primary differences with the VC-25A’s livery. The light blue on VC-25B is a slightly deeper, more modern tone than VC-25A’s robin’s egg blue. Additionally, the VC-25B engines will use the darker blue from the cockpit area vice the VC-25A’s robin’s egg blue. Finally, there is no polished metal section on the VC-25B because modern commercial aircraft skin alloys don’t allow for it. A formal contractual decision for a VC-25B livery was not required until this year for Boeing to conduct engineering, certification preparation, and supplier selection activities for the program.

[Click here to read more](#)

## US brings airpower, community to Australian airshow



AVALON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Australia — A sea of spectators begins to stand, creating a wave effect; they’re there to watch a show—and that’s exactly what they’ll get. One by one they turn their phones to camera mode to capture one of the U.S. Air Force’s most lethal aircraft in its element.

The F-22 Raptor was one of the many aerial demonstrations for AVALON 23, the 2023 Australian International Aerospace & Defence Exposition and Airshow, Feb. 28 through March 5, where roughly 172,000 people attended over the course of six days.

At this year’s airshow the U.S. Department of Defense featured the B-52H Stratofortress, C-17 Globemaster III, M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, AH-64 Apache, F-22 Raptor, three different aircraft from the tanker fleet, a C-5M Super Galaxy, and many more.

[Click here to read more](#)

## AFGSC commander discusses mission, modernization at Warfare Symposium



AURORA, Colo. — Gen. Thomas A. Bussiere, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, spoke to hundreds in attendance and thousands more via live stream at the 2023 Air and Space Forces Warfare Symposium in Aurora, March 7.

“Integrated deterrence is enabled by credible forces that are backstopped by a safe, secure, effective nuclear deterrent,” he told the audience.

Bussiere discussed the threats facing the nation, the National Defense Strategy and what is needed from the Global Strike perspective to win in this new era of strategic competition.

“Air Force Global Strike Command is foundational to our nation’s defense,” Bussiere said, mentioning, “right this minute, our warriors are ready. This is an obligation we take very seriously.”

[Click here to read more](#)



# News Briefs: **Marines**

## Commandant, Sergeant Major of the Colombian Marine Corps visit U.S. Marines



NEW ORLEANS, La. — The Commandant of the *Infantería de Marina Colombiana* [Colombian Marine Corps] and Sergeant Major of the Colombian Marine Corps completed a weeklong visit with the U.S. Marine Corps, starting in New Orleans, La., Feb. 28, 2023, and ending at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., March 3.

Brig. Gen. Jorge Federico Torres Mora and Sgt. Maj. Julian Adolfo Medina traveled across continents to discuss key topics affecting both countries' Marine Corps and to advance the elite fighting forces through an enduring friendship between individuals and their organizations. The visit came just weeks after U.S. Marine leaders attached to U.S. Southern Command went to Colombia to gain insight on their riverine training program, discuss future military exercises, and to forge relationships.

[Click here to read more](#)

## SLTE 2-23 lays the foundation for future force development with addition of 'Mad Max' exercise



TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA — Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command began the MAGTF Distributed Maneuver Exercise Feb. 13, with the 7th Marine Regiment leading the exercise at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

MDMX, also referred to as "Mad Max," is designed to test the MAGTF's operational capabilities in austere, multi-domain, offensive and defensive operations against adversaries at a regimental level.

"Mad Max is a large-scale, live-fire combined arms exercise," said U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Nick Leeds, assistant operations officer with Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group, MAGTF-TC. "It is designed to integrate all the elements of a Marine Air Ground Task Force."

[Click here to read more](#)

## Interagency coordination enhances training evolution for NCOs



QUANTICO, Va. — Deafening roars of motivation echo from the entrance of Little Hall as 66 Marines stand at attention and shout the Marine Corps noncommissioned officer's creed on Feb. 16.

These Marines are the graduates of Corporals Course 1-23 and they represent 19 different units from Marine Corps Base Quantico and the National Capital Region.

From the time they step on the yellow footprints, drill instructors teach Marines to take immense pride in their heritage, traditions, and mission. In fact, the growth and improvement mindset remains steadfast from recruit training until the end of a Marine's career. The Marine Corps facilitates this approach to training through professional military education.

[Click here to read more](#)





## Final photo: Reveille

*Photo by Winifred Brown, U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs*

*Each morning at Army installations throughout the world, reveille signals for Soldiers to stand-to for morning roll call and accompanies the raising of the national colors. At the Presidio, we have service members from all branches of the military, and thanks to the Airmen who raised the colors here Feb. 8.*