

IN PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY BRIEF



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'Blackhorse' rides again

229th MI Bn. holds 'Griffin Games'

New, energy-efficient housing opens

Tributes to military spouses, children

April - May 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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Marine Corps detachment motivates with beach run



Photos by Presidio of Monterey

The Marine Corps detachment conducted a motivating 3-mile beach run at Del Monte Beach in Monterey on Wednesday, May 17. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Anna Maltese Voyne, the detachment's commanding officer, and senior enlisted leader, Master Gunnery Sgt. Jeffrey Rooke, led the run. The purpose was to increase physical endurance, build unit cohesion and enhance esprit de corps. Not only did those dressed in green on green feel a sense of motivation, but spectators on the beach as well. As the detachment finished the run, many pedestrians had congregated to spectate and several motivated "semper fidelis" shouts were heard from across the beach. Find more photos at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/presidioofmonterey/albums/72177720308372461>



New housing area for junior enlisted officially opens

The new Lower Stilwell housing development at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., is designed to LEED silver standards and features solar panels, Energy Star appliances, LED lighting and water-efficient fixtures.



Energy-efficient housing

Story and photos by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — Under sunny blue skies, the Presidio of Monterey celebrated the grand opening of a new, energy-efficient housing development for junior enlisted personnel on April 13.

Col. Sam Kline, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey; Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Traylor, USAG PoM senior enlisted advisor; U.S. Representative Jimmy Panetta; and Adam Hay, regional vice president of The Michaels Organization, cut a ribbon officially opening the Lower Stilwell housing development in Ord Military Community. The 44-acre, \$80 million development provides 108 new housing units.

“As we know, providing safe, affordable, accessible housing for our military personnel and their families is a top priority and exemplifies the Army’s ‘People First’ strategy,” Kline said during the ceremony. “The sacrifices our service members make in service to our country are immeasurable and it is our duty to ensure that they have a supportive community to call home. This is why we are so proud.”

The development represents more than 10 years of work with multiple partners, five command teams and more than \$80 million in locally generated reinvestment, Kline said. The garrison is thankful for everyone who worked on the project.

“We are thrilled to finally see it come to life,” Kline said.

The community of spacious single-family and duplex homes includes environmentally friendly features that will save energy and water. Many of homes have a view of the Pacific Ocean, and the ceremony took place in a park within the development, next to a large playground.

On average, the homes are 1,800 square feet, and are designed to LEED silver standards and feature



From left, U.S. Representative Jimmy Panetta; Col. Sam Kline, commander of USAG Presidio of Monterey; Adam Hay, regional vice president of The Michaels Organization; and Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Traylor, USAG PoM senior enlisted advisor, officially open the new, energy-efficient Lower Stilwell housing development at Ord Military Community, Calif., April 13.

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.

Panetta said the development will provide modern and safe homes for the troops and their families and benefit the whole Central Coast area.

Panetta, who grew up in the nearby Carmel Valley and has memories of hearing ordnance explosions at the former Fort Ord, said the Monterey Peninsula has a long tradition of serving service members.

The Lower Stilwell housing development joins the Major General William H. Gourley VA-DoD Outpatient Clinic, the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery and the Veterans Transition Center of California as examples of that tradition, Panetta said.

“It’s these types of things that demonstrate how important our military members, our veterans, are not just to our country’s security, but to our community’s security,” said Panetta, a veteran of the U.S. Navy Reserve.

The Michaels Organization partners with the Army to develop and oversee military housing on the Monterey Peninsula, and Hay thanked everyone who

Story continued next page



Housing (cont.)

helped make the development a reality.

Hay, a veteran, said he also wanted to thank all service members and veterans.

“We wouldn’t be here without them,” Hay said. “None of this is possible without them doing what they do every day, so if you’re a service member—past, present—thank you very much.”

The Parks at Monterey Bay manages local military housing for The Michaels Organization, and Victoria Atayde, community director for the Parks at Monterey Bay, also thanked everyone for their efforts to bring about the development’s opening.

“We are grateful to have the very supportive partnerships that help facilitate bringing this beautiful community to our service members and their families,” Atayde said.

Chaplain (Maj.) Mark Musser, USAG Presidio of Monterey chaplain, delivered the event’s invocation, noting that an unknown person once said, “A house is made of bricks and beams, a home is made of hopes and dreams.”

Musser prayed that the military families who live in the development will help support others by becoming involved in the community.

“May each of these new families embrace that when they come home, they are home because of their love for one another,” Musser said. “I ask for a blessing of protection around this new community and the police who stand watch for it.”

Above: A view of the new, energy-efficient Lower Stilwell housing development during the grand opening.

Far left: Kitchens in homes in the new Lower Stilwell housing development at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., include energy-efficient appliances and lighting.

Left: From right, U.S. Representative Jimmy Panetta; Col. Sam Kline, USAG PoM commander; Heather Kline; Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Traylor, USAG PoM senior enlisted advisor; Steve Bickel, USAG PoM deputy garrison commander; and Navy Capt. Paul Dale, commanding officer Naval Support Activity Monterey, show respect for the colors during the grand opening ceremony for the Lower Stilwell housing development, Ord Military Community.



Monterey service members earn German military badge

Story and photos by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — In a ceremony at the Presidio of Monterey's Berlin Wall Memorial on April 22, members of the German and United States armed forces demonstrated their friendship and fidelity as 75 U.S. service members received the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency.

German Air Force Lt. Col. Oliver Engels and German Navy Commanders Oliver Heinicke and Sidney Gottwald presented service members from the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard with the badge, which is one of the few approved foreign awards in the U.S. military and one of the most sought-after.

Testing for the badge took place over the course of several weeks in and around Monterey and included a ruck march, pistol qualification, physical fitness test and swim test. In addition, service members had to show they received first aid and Mission Oriented Protective Posture, or "MOPP," gear training and are proficient. Depending on how well they did in each event, those who passed could earn bronze, silver or gold medals. The U.S. service members earned 41 gold medals, 33 silver and one bronze.

Most of those who earned the badge are students at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center at the Presidio of Monterey and the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. Service members from all branches of the military attend the schools and serve at the installations.

Story continued next page



Top: German Air Force Lt. Col. Oliver Engels speaks to U.S. service members during a ceremony at the Berlin Wall Memorial, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., April 22. The service members spent several weeks earning the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge. **Right:** Engels, left, presents U.S. service members with German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge medals during a ceremony at the Berlin Wall Memorial, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., April 22.



German badge (cont.)

Engels, a master's degree student at NPS who provided German oversight for the badge, said U.S. service members inspired him with how committed they were to not only earning the badge, but the best score possible. In addition, they spent their free time on several weekends to complete the tests.

German service members must pass the badge's requirements once a year, Engels said, but not at the required levels for getting a gold, silver or bronze medal. "There is a basic passing requirement, which is not worth earning a badge for it," he said, "but it proves that you're still proficient in your basic military skills."

Tech. Sgt. Melissa Kagels, assigned to the Air Force's 314th Training Squadron, was the U.S. military's main organizer for the badge, and she said that not only does the badge give service members a chance to test their own physical abilities versus that of other countries, it also enhances camaraderie among service members from different branches of the U.S. military and an allied nation.

"You have people from every service working together and encouraging each other in these competitions," Kagels said. "It's also an opportunity to get to know our foreign partners."

Service members who earned the badge said they welcomed the opportunity to focus on their tactical skills, challenge themselves and learn how the German armed forces trains.

Spc. Heather Drury, a gold medal recipient assigned to the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, said testing for the badge allowed her to shake up her routine and focus on her tactical skills in a way that was fun and challenging.

"It was worthwhile to me," Drury said. "It was interesting to see the similarities and the differences [between how the U.S. and the German armed forces train]."



Top: A U.S. Airman, Marine and Soldier participate in the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge ruck march at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif., Feb. 25. **Far right:** U.S. service members participate in the 1,000-meter run for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge at the Price Fitness Center, PoM, Feb. 24. **Right:** A U.S. Sailor performs a flexed arm hang for the badge at the Price Fitness Center, PoM, Feb. 24.



Salsa dance classes a hit at Presidio of Monterey

Story and photos by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – First, Kaylan Pereira taught all her friends and family salsa dancing. Now she has the Monterey military community in her sights, and she has no shortage of interested dancers.

Pereira began teaching salsa at the Price Fitness Center this month, and the class is a popular addition to the installation's repertoire of free group fitness classes. Many participants are students at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, where service members from all branches of the military come to learn foreign languages. Pereira said she wants them to enjoy the class.

"I want to make it a very safe zone with no judgment," said Pereira, who volunteers to teach the classes. "There's no judgment. There's no test here. All these students have enough on their plates, so this is a place to let loose and stress free and not bring everything going on in their heads. They can just relax here."

Pereira is a civilian security specialist for the school's Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Office, and she learned salsa dancing from her Cuban mother while growing up in Miami.

"We learned [salsa] as a child," Pereira said. "Miami is a big melting pot of diversity, so we learned everything from salsa to bachata to pretty much anything from the Latin culture from a young age and we just continued, and now I perform it sometimes."

One of the friends Pereira taught to salsa dance is Marine Corps Capt. Kenny Vaswani, a student at



the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, and he serves as Pereira's assistant.

Vaswani said he began learning salsa dancing about three months ago, and with a teacher like Pereira, learning is easy.

"All you have to do is just listen to the music, listen to the steps," Vaswani said. "Once you get the rhythm, you just have to practice, practice, practice."

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Top: Kaylan Pereira, right, a civilian employee at the Presidio of Monterey who volunteers to teach salsa dance classes, helps Pfc. Madison Potteiger, center, and Spc. Philipp Clauss, assigned to the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, during a class at the Price Fitness Center, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., April 17. **Right:** Pfc. Devin Joseph, right, and Spc. Kayla Broady, assigned to the 229th MI Bn., participate in the class.





Salsa (cont.)

Pereira said that salsa dancing not only includes physical benefits, but social benefits as well.

“It brings out culture,” Pereira said. “It brings out sassiness. It brings out attitude and it also just brings out fun with whoever you bring, so you can learn a few moves, and you can use them in a social setting.”

For all the fun though, Pereira said salsa fits squarely in the realm of fitness.

Not only does salsa dancing include a lot of stretching, Pereira said, it is also good for dancers’ hip flexors, which are a group of muscles toward the front of the hip that help people move their legs and knees toward their bodies.

Service members who attended said they had a great time.

Army National Guard Pfc. Ashton Bowles said she used to compete in hip hop, jazz and contemporary dance, but wanted to learn salsa. The class started with a helpful pace, she said.

“Today was good,” Bowles said after the April 3 class. “Simple and easy. I think anybody can do it, and if you’re scared, you can do it. They’re really welcoming.”

Nicole Dansby, manager of the Price Fitness Center, said salsa dancing is a great addition to the facility’s fitness class line-up.

“With salsa, people of all ages can let go and have fun and dance together,” Dansby said. “Not only is it a full-body workout that targets all the muscles groups, it’s interactive and exudes a positive, electric energy.”



Top: Salsa dancers practice their moves at the Price Fitness Center, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., April 17. The classes meet the first and third Mondays of the month at 5:30 p.m., and will feature a different song and accompanying choreography each month. April’s song was “Mi Tierra” by Gloria Estevan, and students learned basic salsa steps and turns. For more on group fitness at the PFC, visit <https://presidio.armymwr.com/programs/pfc>

Left: Dancers mimic the salsa dance moves of Kaylan Pereira, a civilian employee at the Presidio of Monterey who volunteers to teach salsa dance classes, and Marine Corps Capt. Kenny Vaswani, a student at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, during a class at the Price Fitness Center, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., April 17.

Military kids serve too!

By Heather Kline
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — Military children serve, too. They are resilient and brave, and that's the very reason they have a whole month dedicated to recognizing them.

Every year, the Department of Defense observes April as the Month of the Military Child to honor the sacrifices made by military families worldwide and recognize the unique challenges of military-connected children. The Month of the Military Child also aims to highlight programs, resources and services available to support the overall well-being of military children, youth and teens.

Military children continue to thrive despite the challenges of having a parent, or both, serving in the Armed Forces. We asked a few of our own Presidio of Monterey military children some questions, and their answers might surprise you.

Amaya Cruz, 16, daughter of U.S. Army Command Sgt. Major Ernesto Cruz

Q: What do you like doing in the Monterey community/being stationed here?

A: "I love being stationed here as it is such a wonderful community. I feel safe to just walk around town on my own, and there are plenty of things to do to fill my days. The most prominent thing that I do in the community is that I'm an active part of the Monterey High Players, a theater group that does multiple shows a year! Our upcoming show is 'Something Rotten,' a comedic musical based in Renaissance England. Our first show is April 27th at the Outdoor Forest Theater in Carmel."

Q: What do you like about being a military child? Dislike?



Photo by Heather Kline, Presidio of Monterey

Lillian and Lucas Beavers, military children, salute the flag at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., April 9. They are the children of Air Force Master Sgt. Kevin Beavers.

A: "One thing I love about being a military child is the opportunity to see new places, experience new things. However, it also has its downsides, such as being forced to leave a place that you've grown familiar with and have begun to call home. You have to leave your friends. It's hard, especially when you lose those seemingly lifelong friends due to the sheer distance, but it eventually gets easier."

Q: How do you feel about your parent/s serving in the military?

"It can be a little scary at times, not knowing if my dad is coming home, but I honestly haven't had to worry about that in years. I'm proud of my dad. He's

come really far in his career, and I watch him do a lot of good. I've watched him climb the ranks over the years and every time he's gotten promoted, all I could think was, 'Woah. That's my dad.' I just hope that one day I could live up to the Cruz name, even if it isn't in the military."

Scarlett Traylor, 13, daughter of U.S. Army Maj. Jacob Traylor

Q: What do you like doing in the Monterey community/being stationed here?

A: "I love being in Monterey. I have great friends and

Story continued next page

it's beautiful here."

Q: What do you like about being a military child? Dislike?

A: "I like living in cool places, but I don't like moving every couple of years and always having to be the new kid and leaving my old friends."

Q: How do you feel about your parent/s serving in the military?

A: "I've never really thought about it, but I think out of all the jobs for your parents and my friends' parents to be, the military is a pretty cool job."

Hunter Traylor, 13, son of U.S. Army Maj. Jacob Traylor

Q: What do you like doing in the Monterey community/being stationed here?

A: "I like doing a handful of things like playing bocce ball, going to antique shops in Cannery Row or Pacific Grove, and visiting the aquarium from time to time."

Q: What do you like about being a military child? Dislike?

A: "What I like about being a military kid is that I get to move to a lot of different places and see new and different things."

Q: How do you feel about your parent/s serving in the military?

A: "I don't feel too much about my dad working in the military. But since he studies Russian now, it's really annoying because I can't hang out with him as much but sometimes it's not as bad as others like when his finals come."

Damon Traylor, 10, son of Army Maj. Jacob Traylor

Q: What do you like doing in the Monterey community/being stationed here?

A: "It depends on the season. In winter is the ice-skating rink, but most other seasons it is playing bocce ball at the wharf."

Q: What do you like about being a military child? Dislike?

A: "The good part about it is us going to a lot of places around the world. The bad part is friends because we move every couple of years. Other than that, it's kind of fun."

Q: How do you feel about your parent/s serving in the military?

A: "Good. It doesn't make a difference to me, other than Dad studying at [the Naval Postgraduate School], it's OK."

Lillian and Lucas Beavers, ages 9 and 7, children of Air Force Master Sgt. Kevin Beavers

Q: What do you like doing in the Monterey community/being stationed here?

Lillian (9): "I like going to the beach. We didn't really have beaches when we lived in Nebraska."

Lucas (7): "I have a lot of good friends and I like going to the Dennis the Menace Park."

Q: What do you like about being a military child? Dislike?

Lillian: "We get to travel a lot and see different places. I don't like that it takes four days to drive to Nana's house and that we have to move away from friends a lot."

Lucas: "Sometimes I get to go to my Dad's work. I don't like that we have to move a lot and I can't see my friends anymore."

Q: How do you feel about your parent/s serving in the military?

Lillian: "Sometimes he has to work far away, and we don't get to see him."

Lucas: "It makes me feel happy because it suits him."

It's no secret that military children face unique challenges and learn to understand what sacrifice means at an early age. They are exposed to a service culture and live and breathe patriotism. They are a source of inspiration for those around them. As displayed, it's inspiring to see military children render salutes as a way of respecting the flag and our country.



Courtesy photos

Above: Hunter, Damon and Scarlett Traylor are military children living in Monterey, Calif., where their father, Army Maj. Jacob Traylor, is stationed. **Top:** Amaya Cruz is a military child who lives in Monterey, Calif., while her father, Command Sgt. Maj. Ernesto Cruz serves in the Army.

Find more about the Month of the Military Child ongoing resources for children, youth and teens by visiting <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/parenting/children-youth-teens/month-of-the-military-child/>

Touch-A-Truck celebrates military children

Story and photos by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — For Barrett Robinson, 4, cement mixer trucks are not only big, but a big deal. Ever since he received a toy cement mixer truck from his grandparents, it has been his favorite toy.

Now, after attending the Presidio of Monterey's second annual Touch-A-Truck event at Ord Military Community for two years in a row, cement mixer trucks are Barrett's favorite truck as well. Barrett and his mother, Abigail Robinson, were among hundreds who attended this year's free event April 29, and Barrett was excited to explore a cement mixer truck in person again.

"Last year we could climb on the cement mixer, and he wanted to go again," Abigail Robinson said. "It's a really well-done event. We've really enjoyed it. We drive past all these trucks, and he loses his mind every time we see all of the trucks. I'm like, 'This is your chance to touch them.'"

PoM Child and Youth Services organized the event in honor of the Month of the Military Child, and it featured a variety of trucks (and other vehicles) for children to see, touch and explore. They included a PoM fire truck, a dump truck, military vehicles, Seaside Police Department vehicles, Monterey Peninsula School District busses and many more. The drivers also talked to children about their trucks, telling them information such as how it works.

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Top: A father looks on as his son explores the controls of a backhoe during the second annual Touch-A-Truck event at the General Stilwell Community Center, Ord Military Community, Calif., April 29.



Left: Presidio of Monterey community members explore a cement mixer truck during the annual Touch-A-Truck event at the General Stilwell Community Center, Ord Military Community, Calif., April 29.

Truck (cont.)

“This is a time of gathering, a community event,” said LaToya Maben, event organizer and Child and Youth Services outreach director. “Everyone can come together and have fun and bring the kids, mingle, just have a good time. We’re trying to bring the community together and show our appreciation for the military families and what they do on a day-to-day basis.”

Col. Sam Kline, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, attended with his wife, Heather Kline, and Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Traylor, USAG PoM senior enlisted advisor. He spoke at the event’s kickoff about the importance of the Month of the Military Child and military children.

“The sacrifice that you give, it does not go unnoticed,” Kline told the children. “It is a critical part of our national security, and you have a role. From the deepest depths of my heart, not only from my wife and myself and the command sergeant major, but on behalf of the Army: Thank you for your sacrifice.”

In addition to the trucks, the event featured informational booths from organizations such as Army Community Service, the PoM Dental Clinic, the Ord Community Commissary and the California National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Outreach. Children could also have their face painted, play with toys and navigate an obstacle course on mini-bikes.

Kline also thanked the volunteers who helped with the event. Hugo Ambriz-Tena, PoM Better Opportunities for Single Service Members advisor, said 10 BOSS volunteers assisted with the event, and they were glad to give back to the military community. BOSS has three pillars—quality of life, life skills and community service—and their volunteer work at Touch-A-Truck was an example of the community service pillar.



Above: A 7-year-old boy pulls the cord to activate the horn on an Army and Air Force Exchange Service 18-wheeler during the second annual Touch-A-Truck event at the General Stilwell Community Center, Ord Military Community, Calif., April 29.

Right: Capt. Keith Fulton of the Presidio of Monterey Fire Department gives the thumbs up while a 3-year-old boy explores a firetruck during the second annual Touch-A-Truck event at the General Stilwell Community Center, Ord Military Community, Calif., April 29. The PoM firetruck was one of the most popular trucks at the event, and firefighters provided fire safety information as well.



School liaison officer prepared for peak PCS season

Story and photo by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — As peak PCS season approaches, U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey School Liaison Officer Dana Ganaden is confident in her ability to help military families navigate everything related to schools.

“It’s important for people to know that I’ve walked in their shoes, and I’ve experienced the same struggles that they have,” said Ganaden, a military spouse for 26 years who helped her daughter change schools every two to three years.

The military moving season starts May 15 and continues to Sept. 30 each year, and thousands of military children will switch to a new school during that period. For those coming to Monterey, Ganaden provides all schooling information for the Monterey Peninsula, including public, private, charter and home-school options. Ganaden also runs the installation’s Youth Sponsorship Program, which can help military children get in touch with peers before they even arrive.

While members of the Monterey community have a good sense of how to welcome military-connected students, contacting Ganaden before arrival is helpful because of her expertise and ability to answer specific questions.

For example, Ganaden is familiar with the provisions of the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission, an interstate compact that provides uniform treatment as military children transfer between districts in member states.

The compact has helped military-connected students by allowing parents to receive a copy of

transcripts to hand deliver to a new school; allowing students to transfer from one state history class to another in the middle of the year; and requiring schools to give athletes a chance to try out for a team after the official tryout period, Ganaden said. Those are just three examples out of many.

In addition, the Youth Sponsorship Program can help immensely with socialization, Ganaden said. She also briefs family members about other social opportunities, such as the USAG PoM Youth Sports Program, clubs, and other organizations.

“Those types of things really help to bring connection and belonging very quickly so that there’s less of a feeling of loss from having to lose their past friendships,” Ganaden said. “They now have new friendships and new experiences that they can look forward to.”

Ganaden, who holds a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education and a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction, has worked for Army Child and Youth Services for more than 15 years, and started as the school liaison officer in January.

“I can say right off the bat that I can see the difference that a school liaison makes in helping youth find that sense of belonging and connection and those families being then able to focus on their mission knowing that their child has that sense of community,” Ganaden said.

Education is important to military families, and it is important they know school liaison officers are available, said Ganaden, who is available to help throughout the year, not just during PCS season. School liaison officers know the laws and can provide parents with the resources they need to advocate for themselves and their children.



Dana Ganaden, school liaison officer for U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, provides community members information during the Touch-A-Truck event at Ord Military Community, Calif., April 29.

Ganaden said she became an expert in removing educational obstacles for her daughter when she was a military child, and she looks forward to sharing her knowledge with others.

“I’m now in a position to be able to take down those obstacles and make that pathway clear for [military families],” Ganaden said. “I’m proud. I’m proud to be able to serve them and do that for them and their children.”

Contact Ganaden at dana.l.ganaden.naf@army.mil or (831) 915-0542. Learn more about the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission, often called the MIC3, at <https://mic3.net>

Lifelong military child reflects on Month of the Military Child

Story and photo by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — Harmony Jones, a senior in high school and member of the Monterey military community, has been a military child since she was born.

In her 17 years, Jones has lived in six places—spanning from Virginia on the East Coast to California on the West Coast. While the moves have presented challenges, they have ultimately contributed to her success. Her achievements include stellar grades, athletic success in field hockey, leadership roles at school and the title of Miss Monterey County USA 2022. April is the Month of the Military Child, and Jones shared how focusing on the positive has helped her thrive as a military child.

“Just stick with it. Every turn is going to be a new adventure and it’s going to be difficult,” Jones said, “but as long as you just keep some core values with you and learn from everywhere you are and not see it as an unfortunate circumstance [you’re going to be successful].”

Jones is one of 1.6 million U.S. military children, and each year the military community celebrates the Month of the Military Child in April to thank and support them for the unique and invaluable role they play. Jones said she is thankful for the recognition because the military lifestyle can be tough, and it is important to recognize the fact that it impacts children and spouses as well as service members.

“Military kids go through a lot as well and they deserve a little extra support and extra appreciation for what they do for their country,” Jones said.

Jones’ family includes her father, Marine Corps Capt. James Jones, an aviation supply officer stationed at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.; her mother, Brandi, organizing director for the Secure Families

Initiative, a nonprofit organization that represents military spouses, family members and veterans; and 15-year-old brother Jett. A senior at the Stevenson School in Pebble Beach, Jones plans to attend the University of Southern California next year and major in human biology with an emphasis in pre-med. Her goal is to become a surgeon.

On average, military children move every two to three years, and this causes unique challenges due to changes in schools and support networks, according to the Department of Defense.

As someone who has experienced several military moves, Jones said she urges military children to focus on the positive. Doing so builds resiliency.

“I developed a lot of resilience from constantly having to rebuild myself everywhere I have gone and make sure that I can still hold some core values,” Harmony Jones said. “That’s helped me get to where I am now.”

A core value that has helped her throughout her life is having respect for everyone, Jones said. She is also thankful for the support and guidance her family has provided her throughout the years.

Brandi Jones said she is proud of her daughter’s achievements and believes the Month of the Military Child is important.

In fact, Brandi Jones, a military child herself, said she thought it was so important when the family lived in Seal Beach, California, she became involved in her children’s parent and teacher organization helped organize Month of the Military Child events at her children’s school, where about a quarter of the student population was military connected.

That was in 2013, and the school has continued the recognition events since then, Brandi Jones said.

“It’s impacted thousands of military children over the years who have been stationed there and it gives



Courtesy photo

Harmony Jones, right, a military child and member of the Monterey military community, poses with her father, Marine Corps Capt. James Jones; her mother, Brandi Jones; and her brother, Jett Jones, at a Fourth of July celebration at the White House, Washington, D.C., 2022.

me so much peace knowing that they’ll never have to be not recognized or not included the way the first year was for our family,” Jones said.

As she looks to the future, Harmony Jones said she is thankful for her military upbringing. Although she is still young, living in different places has allowed her understand people have different perceptions of the world, and she has been able to take pieces of those places and implement them in her own life.

“I continue to remember everywhere that I’ve come from and how those places have impacted my life,” Jones said.

A Presidio of Monterey tribute to military spouses

By Heather Kline
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — In 1984, President Ronald Reagan established Military Spouse Appreciation Day with Proclamation 5184, recognizing the countless sacrifices and contributions made by military spouses since the days of the Continental Army.

In 1999, Congress officially made Military Spouse Appreciation Day part of National Military Appreciation Month to recognize the many sacrifices military spouses make, as they put their personal and professional aspirations aside for their service member.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day is observed annually on May 12 as a salute to all military spouses, past and present.

“On this special day I want to acknowledge the significant contributions of our military spouses and express my heartfelt appreciation for their commitment, dedication, resilience and unwavering devotion to family and community,”

said Col. Sam Kline, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey. “I see the Army’s center of gravity as the Soldiers and their center of gravity are spouses and family, which is to say that spouses play a key role in our nation’s defense.”

The sacred role of the military spouse can be challenging, as spouses take on a greater responsibility to relocate the family and ensure general life commitments are met. Military spouses are nurses, teachers, financial planners, culinary specialists, resource managers and more. Many sacrifice their own careers to keep their family unit together. They also fill critical jobs within our government and in their local communities. Some volunteer to offer support and find enjoyment in helping others or finding their own niche.

Thank you to the four Monterey military spouses who shared their personal experiences, perspectives and advice and for this article.



Alie Finocchiaro, Army spouse of Lt. Col. James Finocchiaro, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Inspector General

Q: How long have you been a military spouse? Were you also in the military or was the military lifestyle new to you?

A: “It’s hard for me to believe but
Continued next page



Athena Thiel, Army spouse, Maj. Robert Thiel, foreign area officer (in training)

Q: How long have you been a military spouse? Were you also in the military or was the military lifestyle new to you?

A: “I’ve been a military spouse for three years. I did not serve in the military, so the lifestyle was new to me. I’m continuing to learn what it means to

Continued next page



Jeffrey Molinary, Army spouse of Sgt. Valerie Guash, religious affairs noncommissioned officer

Q: How long have you been a military spouse? Were you also in the military or was the military lifestyle new to you?

A: “I’ve been a military spouse since the Spring of 2018. I am also a veteran. I served from 2013 to 2017, stationed

Continued page 19



Liz Dalton, Navy spouse, Cmdr. Matthew Dalton, commander of Information Warfare Training Command Monterey

Q: How long have you been a military spouse? Were you also in the military or was the military lifestyle new to you?

A: “I have been an official military spouse for almost 18 years (about

Continued page 19

Finocchiaro (cont.)

it's been 22 years! I did not grow up near a military community, and my only experience was a few uncles who were active duty; it was certainly not part of my day-to-day life. When we were married, my spouse planned to do five years and then get out to pursue a different career. Then September 11th happened, deployments began, and before either of us knew it five years had passed. He was gone for more than half of those first years, so I am very thankful for the support of our military family!

I had lived in the same home since I was 4 years old, and my parents still live there, so moving three times in those early years was different and difficult. For the service member, they start work and immediately meet people. For the spouse it takes effort to go out and meet other spouses or people in the community. I'm an introvert, so putting myself out there, inviting people to meet up, accepting invitations, it's all outside of my normal comfort zone. I'm thankful to say I've found some of the most amazing people around the world through opportunities only available to me because of my military affiliation."

Q: Tell us about your most memorable military spouse experience. Do you have a favorite duty station or dream duty location?

A: "Memorable isn't always good! We moved internationally from Belgium to Kansas when I was six-and-a-half months pregnant, and we had an almost 15-month-old. We knew that the housing wait was a nightmare, our car wouldn't arrive for at least six weeks, and household goods would take even longer. It was tough! Finding and establishing new healthcare, tracking down a home, just getting our feet on the ground, it was all exhausting. Also knowing we'd only be there for 10 months made me want to pack up and head home. But the [Child Development Center] was amazing, and my daughter loved it. We found a cozy home, not too far of a drive. When baby number two arrived, we were mostly ready to welcome her! I'm thankful for the spouses in my husband's unit, and the local friends I met.

As for my favorite duty station, that's a tough one. We've been stationed at nine duty stations and never in the same place twice. There have been good and bad things about all of them, but there's always something we miss. Maybe it's a great restaurant, or that amazing home, or the cool neighbors that we just clicked with. We have visited most of the bases again, showing our daughters where we lived before, they were born, or the house we lived in when they were born. It's been fun revisiting the memories, but I think my favorite duty station is the next one.

Q: What advice might you have for other military spouses?

A: "Reach out, volunteer, and join up! Before kiddos the best way I found 'my people' was through work or local volunteering. Once we had very young children, it became library reading groups and playground meetups. When they started school, I met fellow parents volunteering at after school events and activities. I've tried to grow my support group to include military spouses as well as local folks. A friend once told me that they didn't enjoy volunteering like I did, it wasn't fulfilling for her. I explained that it wasn't personally rewarding to me either, I just really liked the people I got to hang out with while we worked. Moving away from family meant that I built my own military family at each base we've lived at."

Q: Do you have any Monterey-specific advice? What is your favorite part of being stationed here?

A: "Embrace the tourist town! Go to a local show at the Forest Theatre, an outdoor theatre in Carmel. Meet friends for a fire on Carmel Beach or next to Asilomar Beach. Rent E-bikes and ride along the coast. Take the kids or pup for a walk in Jack's Peak Park. It's different living somewhere without a traditional base. The commissary feels far away even though it's less than 10 minutes, and nothing about Monterey feels 'normal' for our military family. Whether it's two years or five, we know it's only temporary! We try to plan one new adventure a month to keep things fresh."

Thiel (cont.)

be a military spouse, through my own experience as well as listening to others. However, I'm not sure that learning will ever end — which is quite exciting to me."

Q: Tell me about your most memorable military spouse experience?

A: "The most memorable experiences for me are when we get together as a military community to cheer on our spouses for their accomplishments. It reminds me how remarkable my husband is, how many amazing opportunities this military life gives us, and how lucky we are to be part of this big, beautiful community — all going through this life together. There's such a sense of patriotism and camaraderie, it's my favorite!"

Q: What advice might you have for other military spouses?

A: "To look at this life through the lens of opportunity. There are so many opportunities that it has to offer. To learn to think outside the box. To search for different ways of looking at things. This life is different, so we get to live differently! How fun and empowering it is when you look at it like that."

Q: Do you have any Monterey-specific advice for families who might be moving here this summer? What is your favorite part of being stationed here in Monterey?

A: "Where do I start? I absolutely love Monterey! There's so much to do here, Cannery Row, the Aquarium, the Wharf, 17 Mile Drive. Pacific Grove, Carmel-by-the-Sea and Carmel Valley are all such fun places to spend some time. You can take an easy day trip to Santa Cruz or Big Sur. We love going to San Francisco, Sacramento and even Los Angeles on longer weekends. It's so nice to come back to little Monterey after visiting big, busy cities. Since Monterey is a National Marine Sanctuary there's tons of incredible wildlife to see. It's simply beautiful here."

Molinary (cont.)

in Kansas and Colorado.”

Q: Tell me about your most memorable military spouse experience?

A: “My most memorable moment was not being able to PCS with my wife to Korea and deciding to stay in Alabama with a newborn and a kindergartener. It created a new perspective that I did not have, about how hard military life is from the spouses/family point of view.”

Q: Do you have a favorite duty station or dream duty location?

A: “Easy, Colorado. Anywhere, I lived in Colorado Springs and Pueblo and have seen the Denver area and would love to go back there. I’ve seen the area around [Joint Base Lewis McChord] in Washington state and is an area that reminds me of Colorado and wouldn’t mind being there as well.”

Q: What advice might you have for other military spouses? Do you have any Monterey-specific advice for families who might be moving here this summer?

A: “For my fellow spouses and from my point of view, my advice is to use every and any resource available to us. If you don’t know there are employment networks dedicated to helping us, find rewarding careers with employers that understand the situation we are in, every couple of years.

Plan and look at military housing as an option. Monterey can be a huge hit to the military family budget if not used to being in high-cost areas. Additionally, enjoy the outdoors, Monterey is one of the best military areas in the CONUS region, with a variety of activities that can be done all year long, which is a contrast to places like Drum, Irwin and Riley.”

Q: What is your favorite part of being stationed here?

A: “I’m a little biased here, but the weather. I grew up in the tropics and being in a place where I can wear as much or as little clothing as I want, regardless of the weather.”

Dalton (cont.)

17 years and two weeks to be exact). However, my husband and I dated for four years, while he was attending the Naval Academy. I think this should count too because it prepared me for the whole military spouse gig, miles apart, hard to communicate and seeing each other once every few months.

This lifestyle was completely new to both of us. We both grew up in the same Phoenix suburb. Our parents taught in the same school district, and we went to the neighboring all boy and all girl Catholic schools. In addition, I went to the same college as most of my high school friends. So pretty much we lived in the same place, around the same people are whole lives up until the Navy decided where to send us.”

Q: Tell us about your most memorable military spouse experience? Do you have a favorite duty station or dream duty location?

A: “Such a hard question. Every time our PCS process begins, I tell my kiddos the same thing, ‘How lucky are we to have lived in so many places that we love and will miss so much.’ Each duty station has been my favorite for a different reason. We have had 11 so far, so crazy to think about. I love all the duty stations where my kiddos were born (Lackland Air Force Base, Buckley AFB and Yokosuka Naval Base). I love Andrews AFB because my son Tate, who was seven months at the time, learned how to say helicopter in sign language there. He would constantly put his eyes to the sky every time he saw a helicopter take off or land and make the sign. We also had the best seats for the air show in our front yard. I loved Naval Amphibious Base Coronado because it is where we started this crazy Navy journey and later survived COVID times. Although, the second move there nearly stripped my sanity and resolve to continue this Navy journey. However, once things calmed down, we made best friends in our neighborhood and had the opportunity to live close to family again. I loved living the civilian lifestyle for one year in Chicago. I loved that my kids survived a Chicago winter, putting on all their snow gear before making the .3-mile walk to

school on snowy days.

I loved Japan the first time around when I learned the amazing support system that MILspouses create. When my middle child was hospitalized, while Matt was out to sea, I literally had to hand over my infant and kindergartener to other military spouses, so I could be at the hospital 24/7. Thinking about it today, I still get chills remembering how they stepped up and became my family, when mine was so far away. I loved Japan the second go round, when my daughter got to experience Japanese preschool. Such an incredible opportunity for all of us to truly experience another culture. I loved the house we bought in Virginia, in the most perfect neighborhood with amazing neighbors. Even though it wasn’t an official duty station, I loved that the kids and I got to move back in with my dad in Arizona for a few months, while Matt was TDY. The kids got the opportunity to be around grandparents daily. It’s so fun to think about all the regular family memories we have made in the backdrop of so many different places.”

Q: What advice might you have for other military spouses?

A: “When my friends from back home say, ‘I don’t know how you move so much.’ My answer is pretty simple: ‘Our family routines don’t change each time we move, just the four walls around us. We eat the same meals, do the same chores, have the same family rules and same furniture year after year. That makes change easier. Once all the boxes are unpacked, pictures are hung and furniture is placed, it feels like home.’ You will find your people and so will your kids. Right before every move, I panic that I’m not going to be able to find friends and neither will my kids. This has never happened! Your family will always find its place. Some moves are more challenging. However, being a part of this community means we are all in this together. If your transition is difficult, reach out to others, they will help.

USAG PoM scores 'hat trick' with energy project, plans more



Story and photos by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — To borrow a term from sports, U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey scored a “hat trick”—three scores in one game—with their energy-saving project in Bldgs. 619, 621 and 623, which are connected by hallways.

The first score was reducing the number of hours the heat was on when people are not in the buildings, which the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center uses for instruction. Then personnel slowed down the heating system’s fans, which decreased electricity use and increased heat distribution. Finally, they discovered they could reduce the use of bathroom fans, and electricity, by installing timers so they do not run when no one is in the building.

“The gas use in the building has really dropped, and of course so has electrical usage, and people are more comfortable, so this is a huge win,” said Richard Thorne, energy manager for USAG PoM. The expected savings is about \$4,000 annually.

As the world celebrates Earth Day on April 22, Thorne said the project is one example of how the garrison is trying to save taxpayer dollars and help the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The garrison also has other significant projects in the works.

For example, the garrison also plans to install solar panels and a battery on the Aiso Library, Thorne said. Not only does the library already have a meter that will allow them to monitor energy savings, it is also on a circuit that is near capacity. The project remove the library’s load on the circuit, and will further reduce the load by sending excess solar energy back onto the circuit for other buildings to use.

“A lot of times solar will produce a lot more energy

Story continued next page



Top: Richard Thorne, energy manager for U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, checks on Bldg. 622, a barracks for Soldiers, at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., April 14. **Above left:** USAG PoM has targeted Bldg. 622, a barracks for Soldiers also known as Bomar Hall, for energy savings. **Above right:** USAG PoM plans to connect the solar panels on top of the Price Fitness Center, shown here, with the nearby Belas Dining Facility.

Energy (cont.)

than what your building needs and that excess energy has to go somewhere,” Thorne said.

In addition, and in a similar vein, garrison officials would like to connect the solar array on top of the Price Fitness Center with the nearby Belas Dining Facility, Thorne said. The power would likely flow through above-ground power lines, since that would be the least expensive option, and the expected savings is about \$6,400 annually.

The circuit that provides power to that part of the installation is prone to power outages during windy and rainy weather, so connecting the buildings would significantly reduce the need to use the dining facility’s generator during power outages, Thorne said.

The solar panels at the fitness center provide about three times as much as what that building needs, so some of the extra power can go to the dining hall, Thorne said.

“Then, as the sun sets, your batteries can keep it going say for a couple of hours and then your generators will run until you want to close the dining hall for the evening at 10 o’clock or 11,” Thorne said. “So instead of your generators running all the time for a full day, now they’re just running for a couple of hours.”

In addition, garrison officials plan to reduce gas usage for heating in Bldg. 622, a barracks building for Soldiers, Thorne said.

The heating system relies on outside air temperature to determine when the boiler runs, and since the individual rooms do not have thermostats, rooms on the third floor, for example, can become hot when the outside temperatures are in the mid-range of 50 to 60 degrees, Thorne said.

“We’re looking at adjusting the outside air reset to be a little bit more aggressive, and that’s just programming,” Thorne said. “That’s very, very low cost and we can probably save 5 to 10% of our gas usage just by doing that.”

Community donates bl🩸🩸d



The Presidio of Monterey hosted the Armed Services Blood Bank Center - Pacific Northwest blood drive at the Price Fitness Center on April 18 and 19. Donors included Col. Sam Kline (above), commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey and many service members and civilians. The blood collected will support those deployed, families at home and their dependents, retirees and support operations at military treatment facilities.



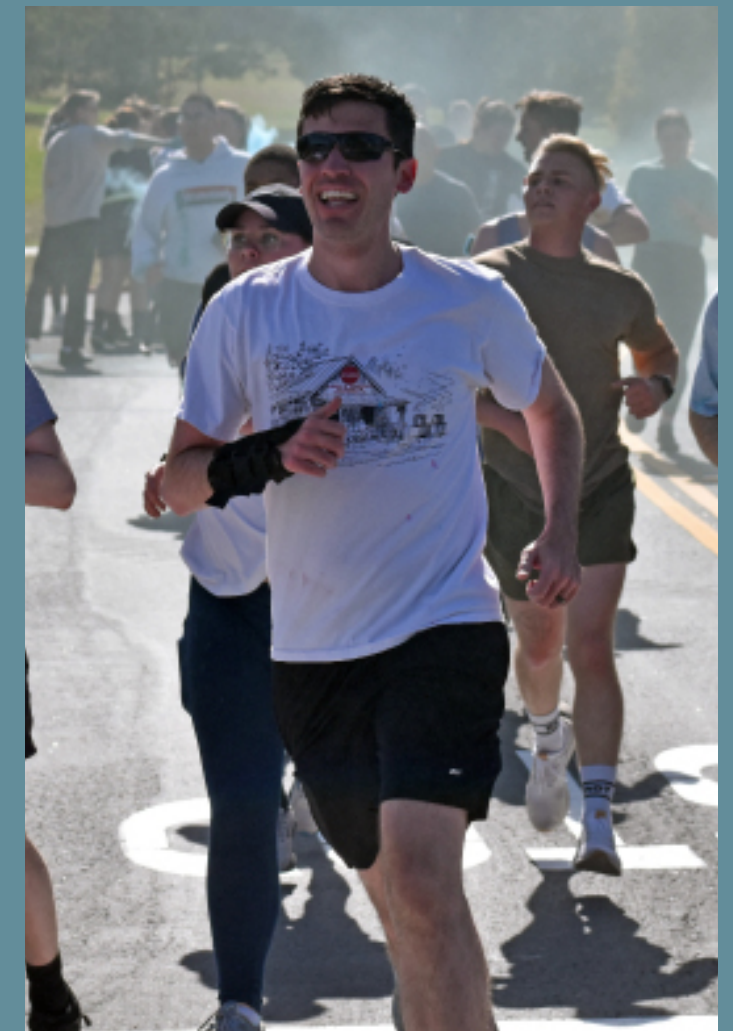
229th MI Bn. holds 'Griffin Games' for Resiliency Day



Photos by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs

Congratulations to Company B of the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion for taking top honors in the third annual Griffin Games at the Price Fitness Center on April 21. The friendly competition built esprit de corps within the battalion and also served as Resiliency Day. The events began at 7 a.m. with a 2.29-mile, uphill run from Soldier Field to the PFC and included competitions such as power lifting, combatives, tug-of-war and several others. Lt. Col. Christopher Gin, 229th MI Bn. commander, said the day was all about resiliency, and he was proud of the battalion's participation, team spirit and good sportsmanship. "When we talk about resiliency, this is what makes the Army," Gin said.

DLIFLC shows SAPR/SHARP support with 'Teal Run'



Photos by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs

More than 150 students and staff members with the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center participated in the 'Teal Run,' an annual event to show support for the victims of sexual harassment and assault. The 1.5-mile run on April 25 started at the Presidio of Monterey Hilltop track and ended at Soldier Field. The Teal Run doubled as a morale event and a chance for attendees to hear SAPR/SHARP messages from leadership.



PoM Youth Sports receives 'Better Sports' designation

Story and photos by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — The Presidio of Monterey Youth Sports and Fitness program has received the prestigious Better Sports for Kids Quality Program designation for the second year in a row.

Andrew Lipsig, director of U.S. Army Garrison PoM Youth Sports and Fitness, said parents have many choices when it comes to youth sports, and the designation allows them to take comfort knowing their child is in the best place possible to learn and compete in sports.

The National Alliance for Youth Sports, a nonprofit organization headquartered in West Palm Beach, Fla., announced April 20 that the Presidio had earned the designation, Lipsig said. The organization developed the designation based on the National Standards for Youth Sports, a guiding resource originally published in 1987. Any organization can apply for free.

The designation shows that PoM Youth Sports and Fitness has taken steps to ensure a safe, quality playing environment for children, Lipsig said. The program has proven it meets key requirements in five categories: written policies and procedures, volunteer screening, coach training, parent education and accountability.

Joaquin "Junior" Finona, acting director of USAG PoM's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said he is proud that the program received the designation again.

"The Better Sports for Kids Quality Certification is like a promise from NAYS to the parents that



Andrew Lipsig, right, director of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey Youth Sports and Fitness, and Garrett Martinez, assistant director, pose for a photo during a track and field meet at Seaside High School, Seaside, Calif., April 29.

this program meets the highest standards of programming and strives to give kids the best experience in recreational sports programs, but the most important part is that the program maintains its commitment to doing what is right for the kids," Finona said.

Lipsig said the PoM sports program features team sports such as soccer, basketball and baseball, as well as individual sports such as track and field. The program also includes martial arts in the form of karate and jiu jitsu. In addition, the program holds outreach activities with the garrison's school age and the CDC programs.

Children ages 4-14 can participate in team and

individual sports, and the karate and jiu jitsu classes accept participants up to age 18, Lipsig said.

The program's goals are designed to promote physical fitness and help participants learn sportsmanship, teamwork and fair play, Lipsig said.

The program recognizes that a certain level of competitiveness is important in sports and fitness, but also maintains that all sports are designed to be fun, and that everyone deserves equal playing time, Lipsig said.

Lipsig said he thanks the entire PoM Youth Sports staff for the collaborative effort that went into earning the designation.

Sun rises over bay during traditional Easter Sunrise Service



Photos by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey

As the sun rose over Monterey Bay on Easter morning, April 9, members of the Presidio of Monterey community gathered at Soldier Field for a traditional sunrise service that featured music, prayer and messages of hope. Chaplain (Maj.) Mark Musser, U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey chaplain, delivered a sermon, and the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Joint Service Choir sang songs. About 75 people attended the event, including Col. Sam Kline, USAG PoM commander, and his wife, Heather Kline. Chaplains followed the service with breakfast.



PoM chaplains host National Prayer Day luncheon

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



On May 4, our multi-service Unit Ministry Teams provided a collaborated effort to execute the National Day of Prayer Luncheon. When I was asked about this in the middle of March, I couldn't find anything that resembled continuity of such an event. The only shred of information that I could find was a similar event that took place over 10 years ago.

However, this was the perfect opportunity to bring this time-honored tradition of the Army Chaplain Corps to PoM. The bigger blessing was that we had our Navy and Air Force Unit Ministry Teams to join in along with the fact that our UMTs lacked experience with this event-training opportunity.

So, with less than two months until the event, it was time to get to work. A short history of the National Day of Prayer is it first was proclaimed by our former President, Harry S. Truman on July 4, 1952. Every year to follow, Americans have observed and or celebrated this day in their own tradition or way. Thus, when our former President, Ronald Reagan took office, he moved the day to be the first Thursday in May. The first thing I did was invite all UMTs to a meeting on the third week in March. Here I asked for volunteers. Why? To share a quote that I find powerful from the movie, "Pearl Harbor," "There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer." Under my leadership, I didn't want anyone tasked but rather asked to be involved. Why? Because of these three reasons: 1. We are celebrating our religious diversity in unity 2. We are honoring every man or woman who ever paid the ultimate price with their lives for our freedom (along with their families) 3. We are executing religious support under my commanding officer, Col. Sam Kline, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey.



Above: Presidio of Monterey and Defense Language Institute Foreign Language service members who read prayers bow their heads during the National Prayer Day luncheon at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., May 4. **Right:** Chaplain (Maj.) Paul Roman, keynote speaker, speaks during the luncheon. **Far right:** Service members fill their plates during the luncheon.



Photos by Senior Airman Tanner Cope, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center



Photo by Senior Airman Tanner Cope, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center

Members of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Joint Service Choir sing during the National Prayer Day luncheon at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., May 4.

Chaplains (cont.)

With seven in-process reviews held on Fridays at 9:30 a.m., we came together to discuss the “nuts and bolts” of what we accomplished in the last week, what needed to be discussed in the present, and our focus for the next week. I saw the perfect opportunity of having all branches of service actively involved on PoM. Also, we had a Jewish and Islamic Chaplain. It is a very rare opportunity to have a rabbi and

imama, let alone both together. Wow! So, I set the schedule, thought out the plan, and presented it to our team. They in turn gave me feedback, and we adjusted our event in a total team effort. We huddled together the day before the event and then for three rehearsals the event day, and then it was game time.

The event was executed by Navy Chaplain (Lt.) Christopher O’Riley serving as our emcee. Chaplain (Maj.) David Ditolla provided the invocation followed by our garrison commander’s opening

remarks. The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Joint Service Choir brought the house down with their amazing vocals. Spc. Drequan Dowtin read the Christian prayer. Airman 1st Class Micah Musser read the Jewish prayer. Chaplain Air Force (Capt.) Saleha Jabeen read the Islamic prayer. Staff Sgt. Daniel Hamilton read the Hindu prayer. Sgt. Wilsam Alicea read the Buddhist prayer. Sgt. Valerie Guash read the military/families prayer, and Air Force Staff Sgt. Tamera Gaskins completed the reading of prayers by praying for our nation/leaders. Chaplain (Maj.) Paul Roman brought a tremendous message from Psalm 15 about standing firm as a leader. Our DLI Joint Force Choir blessed us with more traditional-patriotic music, while O’Riley provided his closing remarks with Chaplain (Capt.) Jordan Dersch closing the event with a powerful benediction. Please know that this was a total team effort, but I need to highlight those who I know contributed in a special manner. Roman spoke with strong conviction and received several compliments for his message—he was the preacher I wanted for this event. Gaskins provided the DLI Joint Service Choir extra funding, and four Airmen served the event with superb servanthood as our extra working party. Guash and Pvt. 1st Class Gealoucie Smeiley organized the guest list, VIP list, ticket distribution and designed the tickets. My perfect wingman and Deputy Garrison Chaplain, Ditolla is a great battle-

buddy to bounce ideas off for sound advice. On a personal note, my son, Airman 1st Class Musser stepped up three days before the event to read the Jewish prayer because of our need. He now has firsthand knowledge of what the right looks like to take back to his base because he was involved more ways than just one with a team who were rowing in the same direction. Also, this will be the last time he and I will be together wearing our nation’s uniforms before I retire. For your viewing, please click on this site: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/stratcomm/albums/72177720308052088>

In closing, I want to express that I was very humbled to lead this team. These men and women did a magnificent job in such a short amount of time. We came together to set the bar for excellence in years to come. I want to thank our commandant, Col. James Kievit, for providing us the Weckerling Center. I would also like to thank Gene Koo, protocol specialist, for his servant attitude with providing us the protocol of the Weckerling Center for the success of the event. Last but not least, my commanding officer, Col. Kline for believing and permitting me to put a team together with his empowerment to get the job done. I look forward to next year’s event because the bar has been set, and our team provided structure to be built upon. Pro Deo Et Patria, “For God and Country.”

It's spring in Monterey and wildlife is everywhere



Photos by Winifred Brown, Presidio of Monterey

Spring is in the air in Monterey. Take a walk and see the wildlife around the peninsula. Fawns are showing up around PoM, seal pups are visible from the Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail near Hopkins Marine Station and goslings are at the Naval Postgraduate School and El Estero Lake — to name only a few.



Presidio of Monterey Museum packed with history



Photos by Winifred Brown, Presidio of Monterey



Looking for something to do this weekend? The Presidio of Monterey Museum, a short walk from the Presidio's Pvt. Bolio Gate, is open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum's exhibits cover the military history of Monterey from the Spanish empire to the present day. Created by a partnership between the City of Monterey and the Presidio of Monterey, the museum is located just off post in the Lower Presidio Historic Park. Not only is admission free, but so is parking, and since it is off post, it is open to the public—no military ID required. In addition, knowledgeable docents can answer questions.

Interested in becoming a volunteer docent? Contact Jordan Leininger at the city's Museums and Cultural Arts division at (831) 646-5648 (main office), (831) 646-1569 (desk) or leininger@monterey.org

To learn more, visit https://monterey.org/city_facilities/museums/discover_museums/presidio_of_monterey_museum.php

‘Keeping Tradition Alive’: ‘Blackhorse’ rides again at Presidio

Story and photos by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — When the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment “Blackhorse” Horse Detachment visits the Presidio of Monterey, it’s like two longstanding friends getting together for a reunion.

The 11th Cavalry Regiment was stationed at the Presidio from 1919 to 1940, and on Sept. 14, 1924, their shared histories became further united. That was the day lighting struck a 55,000-barrel oil tank in Monterey and ignited a fire so large and destructive that it took days to extinguish. The regiment’s “Blackhorse” moniker and patch emblem refer to the color all the unit’s horses turned that day because of the soot and ash in the air as they helped with firefighting efforts.

Meanwhile, two Soldiers gave their lives fighting the fire: Pvt. George Bolio, assigned to the 11th Cav. Regt., and Pvt. Eustace Watkins, assigned to the 76th Field Artillery Regiment. Leaders named a gate and road after both Soldiers, and the main gate and road into the Presidio still pay tribute to Bolio. Watkins Gate, at the former Fort Ord, no longer exists, but Watkins Gate Road still runs across Fort Ord National Monument. Those associated with the regiment and installation see a remembrance of the fire on a nearly daily basis—whether they know the history or not.

The detachment visits the Presidio nearly annually for the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center’s Language Day, an event that features

Story continued next page



Top: Members of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Horse Detachment demonstrate their skills during the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center’s Language Day at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., May 12. **Right:** An 11th ACRHD Soldier delivers a bugle call during Language Day. **Far right:** Soldiers assigned to the 11th ACRHD deliver the colors at the opening ceremony for Language Day.



Blackhorse (cont.)

cultural performances and displays. This year, on May 12, members of the detachment presented and retrieved the colors, met with service members, and displayed their riding skills with two demonstrations. They also toured the Presidio of Monterey Museum with a special presentation from Cameron Binkley, command historian for the DLIFLC, on May 11, and took a traditional ride on an area beach on May 13.

Today the unit is stationed at Fort Irwin, California, and Capt. Dave Richards, the detachment's officer in charge, said members of the detachment have a special appreciation for visiting the Presidio because it helps keep them in touch with their heritage.

"The motto of our horse detachment is 'Keeping Tradition Alive,' so this is a really unique trip for us that we do every year because we get to come back here where our actual roots are," Richards said.

All members of the detachment come from the 11th ACR, and members of the detachment vote to decide who joins after a two-week selection process, Richards said. Members are top performers from all military occupational specialties and do not have to have any experience with horses. It is a temporary assignment that usually lasts between 18 months and two years.

In addition to keeping the tradition alive at as many as 100 community relations events a year, the detachment's 20 Soldiers and 16 horses train almost exclusively for competitions, Richards said. They have won the U.S. Cavalry Association's national competition for the past four years consecutively and six times total—

Story continued next page



Top: Spc. Zachary Carroll, a member of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Horse Detachment, rides Comanche at the beach. **Right:** This undated photo shows the 11th Cavalry Regiment when it was stationed at the Presidio. The unit was stationed at the Presidio from 1919-1940. **Above:** Members of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Horse Detachment ride at Salinas River State Beach, Moss Landing, Calif., May 13.



Blackhorse (cont.)

the most of any horse Cavalry team throughout the Army.

“We take a lot of pride in being the best regiment and the finest in the land and being those national champions year after year after year,” Richards said.

Richards said the Cavalry horseback riding skills that Soldiers used in the early 1900s are the same skills that the detachment uses today.

“We use the appropriate tack, the appropriate saddles and bridles and bits that were used by the Cavalry in the early 1900s,” Richards said. “They’re all built to specification using manuals from the early 1900s that are still original, period-piece manuals. Everything is as exact and historically accurate as possible.”

That also includes the detachment’s uniforms and guns, Richards said.

Spc. Zachary Carroll has been a member of the detachment for one year and said the experience has changed his life.

“I’ve really found a new passion,” said Carroll, who is an Infantryman by MOS. “I never was a horse person before, but I have a lifelong obsession here. I get to come to work every day and work with this guy [Comanche, the horse]. It’s the best job in the world.”

Cpl. Sarah Alsup, a generator mechanic by MOS, has been a member of the detachment for about six months. She grew up with horses and joining the detachment was one of her main goals when she arrived at Fort Irwin.

In addition to working with horses every day, Alsup said the detachment’s impact on the larger world, as well as its heritage, make her especially proud to be a member.

“Ten [members of the detachment] came out here

and we interacted with almost a thousand in a few hours,” Alsup said, referring to Language Day. “That’s a pretty big impact if you stop and think about it.”

Alsup said she appreciated Binkley’s presentation about the unit’s history in Monterey and it helped her gain a deeper understanding of Army tradition.



“Getting to see where your unit has been, is kind of like seeing where your ancestors come from,” Alsup said. “We live by the motto, ‘Keeping Tradition Alive’ every day. We do it all the time. Every day we think about it. We talk about it, but now we actually get to see it, which is really good, because we can talk about things, but until you put them into play or get a real visual of what it is, you never really know. Now we know.”

Binkley said the detachment’s visit is meaningful historically because the Army quartered the 11th Cavalry Regt. at the Presidio between the World Wars. It is also an important part of Monterey’s local history.

“Older residents of Monterey may still recall the days when the mounted Cavalry’s performance

team drilled on Soldier Field or at other local venues during public demonstrations of their skills, quite similar to those shown by the detachment during Language Day,” Binkley said.

The regiment has a storied history dating all the way back to its creation in 1901 to support military actions in the Philippines through the Vietnam era until today, where the 11th ACR serves as the opposition force at Fort Irwin’s National Training Center, Binkley said.

The Army created the 11th Cavalry Regt. just a year before the establishment of the Presidio of Monterey, and it created both for the same reason—to support the rise of the United States as a Pacific power, Binkley said.

Richards said it is important to note that while the regiment has switched from horses to mechanized vehicles such as Humvees and Strykers, the basic principles of the Cavalry have not changed.

“The Cavalry has always been that formation that’s out front, scouting, scoping out the enemy, probing lines,” Richards said. “They’re the ones that are setting the conditions for the main fight and they’re gathering as much intelligence as they can for the commander to then decide, ‘This is how I want to go about solving whatever complex problem that is in front of me.’”

The detachment is one of six horse detachments throughout the Army, and while they play an important role in keeping traditions alive, it’s important for all Army units to honor their history and traditions, Richards said.

“A lot of Soldiers will tell you the reason they joined the military is for the men and women to their left and to their right that are fighting right beside them,” Richards said. “History is our tie-in to those people who were to the left and to the right of us going all the way back to the founding of the Army and our units.”

FROM THE HISTORIAN: DLI AND THE MEDAL OF HONOR PROJECT

By Cameron Binkley

DLIFLC Command Historian

During a White House ceremony on June 21, 2000, President Bill Clinton awarded the Medal of Honor to 22 Asian-American Soldiers from World War II. Conferring the nation's highest award to multiple recipients during a large ceremony implies extraordinary circumstances. Most of the men were Japanese American, collectively known as the Nisei, and they had endured strong racially based discrimination during the war by the very country for whom they were fighting. Nevertheless, proud and determined to prove their patriotism, many had willingly risked or lost their lives through acts of undoubted heroism. They were even recognized at the time, most with the Army's highest award for valor – the Distinguished Service Cross. Over time it had become clear, however, that then prevalent racial attitudes may have prevented many of these men from standing as candidates for the Medal of Honor.

When Dr. James McNaughton arrived at the Defense Language Institute in 1987 as the school's first command historian, he had no inkling of the brewing whirlwind of politics, history, and activism by veteran's groups and social justice advocates that would steer, if not dominate, his work. Most field historians are typically involved in historical issues of interest only to the local command and community. The institute's history is tied, however, to the Japanese language programs of WWII and thus forever linked to the Japanese American experience during that conflict.

For some time prior to McNaughton's arrival in Monterey, veteran's groups in Hawaii and Northern California had actively lobbied Congress, especially Hawaii's two U.S. Senators,



Courtesy photos

During a White House ceremony on June 21, 2000, President Bill Clinton awarded the Medal of Honor to 22 Asian-American Soldiers from World War II. Out of the 22, 20 were Japanese Americans, collectively known as the Nisei.

Daniel K. Inouye, himself a Nisei WWII veteran, and Daniel K. Akaha, another WWII veteran, to award the Medal of Honor to one Richard Sakakida. Speaking fluent Japanese, Sakakida served as an Army counterintelligence agent in the Philippines prior to the war. He later joined American forces fighting at Corregidor and was captured alongside Gen. Jonathan Wainwright while serving as his interpreter following Japan's surprise attacks against U.S. bases across the Pacific in late 1941. The Army review determined that Sakakida was ineligible for the Medal of Honor and awarded him the Distinguished Service Medal instead,

an important award, but not the one many felt Sakakida deserved. Disappointed Nisei veterans and their advocates then persuaded Congress to call for an overarching Asian American Medal of Honor review in the 1996 National Defense Authorization Act. As passed, Section 524 of the NDAA charged the Army with carrying out a records review of Asian Americans and Native American Pacific Islanders, including Japanese Americans, Chinese Americans, and Filipinos who had served with American forces. An earlier review for African American holders of the DSC from WWII had resulted in seven new Medal of Honor recipients.

Story continued next page

FROM THE HISTORIAN [CONT.]

McNaughton was known to historians at the U.S. Army Center of Military History and to Nisei veterans' groups because he had begun writing papers about the Nisei linguists in WWII. Indeed, he had also just secured a Secretary of the Army Research and Study Fellowship that enabled him to begin writing a book about the Army's WWII-era Japanese language programs. (CMH published his book, "Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II," in 2006.) When the Department of the Army tasked CMH to conduct the Asian American Medal of Honor review, the CMH Chief Historian, Jeffery J. Clarke, knew who to ask to lead the project.

In early 1997, McNaughton assembled a team composed of four historians, a Washington, D.C.-based contractor, and administrative staff to conduct a planned two-year project. It was more complicated than one might imagine. The plan was to review the Army's existing list of DSC holders to see if these could be upgraded to the Medal of Honor. But the list was not complete and original recommendations and general orders had to be found. They could be in many places, because Army awards were neither generated by a centralized process in the beginning nor later preserved in that way. The research strategy thus included not just a review of archival records and secondary sources but outreach to various veterans' groups, federal and state offices, and ethnic organizations. The team also hoped to use national news outlets to reach veterans or their families who could themselves supply vital information. Such outreach came with a cost, namely military sensitivity to discussing awards prior to approval and the fact that the project was inextricably bound up in the issue of racism. For example, one conservative newspaper called the Medal of Honor project the "latest experiment in affirmative action." Such reactions led to restrictions by Army Public Affairs that hampered

the investigative team. But once the word about the project got out, it took on a life of its own in Asian-American newspapers, magazines, and community organization newsletters. According to McNaughton, the team ultimately received much useful information from its outreach.

The team faced a difficult challenge – to find "incontestable evidence" to present to the Senior Army Decorations Board whose flag officers would independently decide on whether to approve the team's evaluations. Unfortunately, many personnel records were destroyed during the Japanese invasion of the Philippines while many more were wiped out by the St. Louis military records center fire in 1973. Without hard evidence, referrals could not be made for many who might have qualified. The board was also apparently rigorous in making decisions based upon whether the case at hand contained original DSC recommendations. If the historians had not found them, they denied the upgrade request. In the end, the board approved 22 Medal of Honor nominations, and all but two for Soldiers who had served with the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, units composed almost entirely of Nisei Soldiers who had seen hard fighting in Europe. The 442nd was already recognized as the most highly decorated military unit of its size in Army history, so the new accolade seemed entirely appropriate.

In fulfilling its mission, McNaughton's team had not sought to evaluate prejudicial practices



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Shane A. Cuomo

Barney Hajiro, Shizuya Hayashi and Ed Ichiyama pose in front of a C-17 Globemaster III named "The Spirit of 'Go for Broke'" during an arrival ceremony at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, June 14, 2006. The aircraft was named in honor of their unit, the 442nd Combat Regimental Team. Hajiro and Hayashi were among 22 Japanese American Soldiers to receive the Medal of Honor after a Defense Language Institute command historian review.

or norms of the past or even the present. It had also not sought to reevaluate yesterday's Soldiers by today's standards. Indeed, criteria for the Medal of Honor are no more precise than that an individual has displayed conspicuous gallantry in combat beyond the call of duty. The team believed its only goal was to apply rigor and historical acumen in obtaining sufficient documentation to allow a review board to judge a group of men by the timeless standards for heroic accomplishment that the medal symbolizes. The team's efforts allowed 22 Soldiers to pass that hire bar, an accomplishment that did bring greater focus to how much Asian Americans gave to help the United States win WWII.

To learn more, see https://history.army.mil/html/topics/apam/ap-moh2.html?fbclid=IwAR3XlySVEBhro2-ZxsEZdArP0i1c71eiiCSQY5C3dj3_Mh_3fZXayoi_nco

Remembering the Memorialized: CTI 3rd Class Price

Memorialization #27

Navy CTI 3rd Class

Patrick R. Price

1958-1987

Navy Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) 3rd Class Patrick R. Price, 1958-1987, graduated from the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's Russian basic course in 1985. He died during an EA-3B night landing attempt on the USS Nimitz in the Mediterranean Sea in 1987.

From Opp, Alabama, Price was fluent in Russian and Spanish and was also a gifted musician. At South Alabama College, Price joined the band, rifle squad and cheerleading team, and also volunteered regularly at a Baptist Children's Home.

"A dedicated professional and a super athlete, he left a lasting impression on all who knew him," reads the memorial plaque at the fitness center.

To learn more about Price, visit https://www.nsa.gov/Portals/75/documents/about/cryptologic-heritage/cryptologic-memorial/1980/CTI3_Craig_R_Rudolf_USN.pdf

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: Navy Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) 3rd Class Patrick R. Price, 1958-1987, graduated from the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's Russian basic course in 1985.

Right: Navy CTI 3rd Class Patrick R. Price

Far right: The memorial plaque in honor of Price at the Price Fitness Center, Presidio of Monterey.



Courtesy photos



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

June 3

BOSS Big Sur Hike

Join Better Opportunities for Single Service Members, better known as BOSS, for a great adventure as we make our way into Big Sur. The meet up location is at the Hobson Recreation Center at 9 a.m. We will hike in beautiful Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Transportation is provided and slots are limited. For more information, please contact (831) 242-0895. This trip is only for active-duty service members.

June 13

BOSS Council Meeting

Better Opportunities for Single Service Members invites single service members to attend the organization's council meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, 4:30 p.m. at the Hobson Recreation Center. For more information, call (831)242-0895.

June 15

Picnic with Parents

The Monterey Road Child Development Center will host a Picnic with Parents at 2:30 p.m. Parents can come enjoy afternoon snack and participate in outdoor activities with their little ones. RSVP is required. Contact the center for more information at (831) 583-1050.

June 16

CYS Training Day, Facilities Closed

Facilities will be closed to facilitate staff training. The focus of this training day will be active-shooter training, teambuilding, quality caregiving practices, and leadership development.

June 24

BOSS Beach Clean-up

Join Better Opportunities for Single Service Members in support of the Community Service Pillar for a local beach cleanup. Transportation provided. For more information, call (831) 242-0895. Only for active-duty service members.

BOSS Movie on PFC Lawn

Join BOSS and the Hobson Recreation Center for an outdoor movie evening. Snacks provided. For more information, please contact (831) 242-0895. Only for active-duty service members.

June 26-30

CYS New Employee Orientation

A week full of courses from CYS proponents, leadership and trainers to orient new CYS staff members. Courses include CPR and First Aid, child abuse reporting, discipline and guidance, and more.

June 27

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, please contact (831)242-0895.

July 1-22

Youth Soccer Clinics

Clinics are held at Hayes Park Soccer Fields. The Presidio Youth Sports staff will be teaching the participants the fundamentals of soccer and helping them to sharpen their skills. The clinics are for boys and girls ages 3-12. The 3-4 year old group will be a Start Smart (parent/child) activity. Each age group will have one weekday clinic and one Saturday clinic. For more information, contact youth sports at (831) 242-7809.

July 8

BOSS Drive-in Movie

Join Better Opportunities for Single Service Members, better known as BOSS, and the Hobson Recreation Center for an outdoor movie evening at the Aiso Library. Snacks provided. For more information, please contact (831) 242-0895. Only for active-duty service members.

July 11

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, please contact (831)242-0895.

July 13

New Kinder Orientation

The Porter Youth Center will host a New Kinder Orientation at 5:30 p.m. at the center. The event will include reviewing daily program and agendas, and taking all questions and concerns. Contact the center for more information at (831) 242-7823.

July 14

Ice Cream Social

Parents can enjoy an ice cream sundae with their child's classroom at the Monterey Road Child Development Center. Contact the center for more information at (831) 583-1050.

July 17

MRCDC Staff Meeting

The Monterey Road Child Development Center will hold its monthly staff meeting at 6:30 p.m. to build camaraderie and communicate as a team. Contact the center for more information at (831) 583-1050.

July 24

Back-to-School Orientation

Please join the Porter Youth Center for a back-to-

school orientation from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We will review new school locations, walking procedures, daily schedules and more. Contact the center for more information at (831) 242-7823.

July 25

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 the Hobson Recreation Center. For more information, please contact (831)242-0895.

July 29

Summer Expo

Join the Porter Youth Center for a back-to-school expo on Saturday, July 29, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come and get supplies for school and more. Contact the center for more information at (831) 242-7823.

August 2

Back-to-School

School starts! Contact your school for details.

August 5

MRCDC Open House

Parents can visit their child's classroom to see their child's growth and development and meet with teachers. Time to be determined. Contact the center for more information at (831) 583-1050.

BOSS Big Sur Hike

Join BOSS for a great adventure as we make our way into Big Sur. Meet up location is the Hobson Recreation Center at 9 a.m. We will hike in

beautiful Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Transportation is provided and slots are limited. For more information, please contact (831) 242-0895. Only for active-duty service members.

August 7

Youth Karate and JiuJitsu Fall Session Starts

The Youth Karate and JiuJitsu Fall Session will be held Aug. 7- Nov. 17. The program is for boys and girls ages 6-18. Classes are held at the Porter Youth Center Gym on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursday 6:30-7:30 p.m. For more information, contact youth sports at (831) 242-7809.

August 12

Youth Soccer Skills Assessment

The Youth Soccer Skills Assessment is the opening of the Fall Youth Soccer League. Players who are enrolled in the program demonstrate their skills, which allows the coaches and staff to create teams with even skill levels. Youth Sports will hold the assessments at Hayes Park Soccer Fields at the following times: 10 a.m. for 5-6 year olds; 11 a.m. for 7-8 year olds; 12 p.m. for 9-10 year olds; and 1 p.m. for 11-12 year olds. For more information, contact youth sports at (831) 242-7809.

August 14

Youth Soccer Practices Begin

Youth Soccer Team practices will begin the week of Aug. 14. Practices will be held at Hayes Park Soccer Fields. Teams will be selected on Aug. 12 after the skills assessment. Practice schedules will be determined on Aug. 12 and players will be contacted by their coaches with practice details. For more information, contact youth sports at (831) 242-7809.

August 15

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 the Hobson Recreation Center. For more information, please contact (831)242-0895.

August 29

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 the Hobson Recreation Center. For more information, please contact (831)242-0895.

September 1

PYC Training Day

Staff will have a training day at the Porter Youth Center and will be closed for programming. Day is a Friday. Contact the center for more information at (831) 242-7823.

September 2

BOSS Big Sur Hike

Join BOSS for a great adventure as we make our way into Big Sur. Meet up location is the Hobson Recreation Center at 9 a.m. We will hike in beautiful Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Transportation is provided and slots are limited. For more information, please contact (831) 242-0895. Only for active-duty service members.

CYS Training Day, Facilities Closed

Facilities will be closed to facilitate staff training. A representative from our partnership with Kids Included Together (KIT) will present on strategies to support challenging behaviors and build environments that support positive growth and development in children and youth.

September 4

BOSS Labor Day Breakfast

Join BOSS for free holiday breakfast at the Hobson Recreation Center. For more information, please contact (831) 242-0895. Only for active-duty service members.

September 8

BOSS Painting with a Twist

Join BOSS and the Family Advocacy Program for a night of painting and informational resources available for all Service Members. For more information, please contact (831) 242-0895. Only for active-duty service members.

Wheels Day at the PYC

The Porter Youth Center will hold a “wheels day.” Bring your scooter! Contact the center for more information at (831) 242-7823.

September 9

Youth Soccer Games Begin

All Youth Soccer games will be played on Saturdays. Home games will be at Hayes Park Soccer Fields. 9-10 and 11-12 year old teams may play games at other local fields if the league is playing with other programs. Game schedules will be provided

to participants by the end of August. For more information, contact youth sports at (831) 242-7809.

September 11-15

CYS New Employee Orientation

A week full of courses from CYS proponents, leadership and trainers to orient new CYS staff members. Courses include CPR and First Aid, child abuse reporting, discipline and guidance, and more.

September 12

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, please contact (831)242-0895.

National Hispanic Heritage Dress Up Day

The Porter Youth Center will commemorate National Hispanic Heritage Dress-up Day in honor and celebration. Contact the center for more information at (831) 242-7823.

September 26

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 the Hobson Recreation Center. For more information, please contact (831)242-0895.

News Briefs: **Army**

Fort Cavazos builds homes for success,



FORT CAVAZOS, Texas — The keys to the first home built in Heritage Heights, previously known as Chaffee Village, are almost ready to be handed over to its first resident, a junior enlisted Soldier and his spouse, come mid-June here.

Spc. Grant Boshaw, 1st Cavalry Division, and his wife Allison had the opportunity to visit their future home April 20. As they walked through, both commented on how wonderful the home was and how they couldn't wait to move in.

In all, Cavalry Family Housing, formerly known as Fort Hood Family Housing, and Lendlease, its parent corporation, have been actively working on 26 new homes which should be move-in ready come this summer. 39 more slabs have already been poured, with roughly 500 more homes to be built by January 2026.

[Click here to read more](#)

Fort Leavenworth plants memorial tree at park



FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kansas — The City of Leavenworth Parks and Recreation Department planted a tree for its Arbor Day ceremony in memory of Cody Clark April 28 at the Leavenworth Skate Park. Clark was a civilian employee with the Directorate of Public Works on Fort Leavenworth and member of the Leavenworth community. He was killed Jan. 31, 2023, when the front-end loader he was operating was struck by a train. He was 28 years old.

In opening remarks, Mayor Jermaine Wilson ceremoniously proclaimed April 28 as Arbor Day in the City of Leavenworth, explaining the social and environmental importance of celebrating Arbor Day as a nationwide holiday, while also honoring the life of Clark and the legacy he has left in the Leavenworth community. In 2009, Cody helped spearhead the design and construction of the skateboard park.

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Army modernizes safety and more



FORT NOVOSEL, Ala. — The Army is taking a modernized approach to safety and occupational health by implementing the Army Safety and Occupational Health Management System.

ASOHMS provides systematically managed SOH processes, which will enhance mission capabilities, reduce SOH-related mishaps and improve personnel readiness through effective risk management for Army organizations. Implementing ASOHMS ensures hazards and risk controls are well-thought-out and appropriate with the commensurate risk level, while maintaining effective controls. "Applying SOHMS strategies will modernize the way the Army manages safety and occupational health to increase resiliency and improve readiness through the use of effective management strategies," said Phillip Santee, senior safety manager at the Office of the Director of Army Safety.

[Click here to read more](#)

News Briefs: Navy

USS Cooperstown commissioned in New York



NEW YORK CITY, New York — The U.S. Navy commissioned its newest Freedom-variant littoral combat ship, USS Cooperstown (LCS 23) May 8 in New York City, New York.

Cooperstown is the first naval ship named after Cooperstown, New York, and honors the 70 Hall of Famers who served the United States during wartime in a range of conflicts spanning the Civil War, World War I, World War II and the Korean War.

“I am pleased to be here in my hometown of New York City to commission the Navy’s newest littoral combat ship, USS Cooperstown,” said Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro. “LCS 23 honors the baseball greats, who in service of our nation, sacrificed their baseball careers for us. I have full confidence that the officers and crew of this great ship will continue to honor their legacy.”

[Click here to read more](#)

Sailor provides lifesaving care



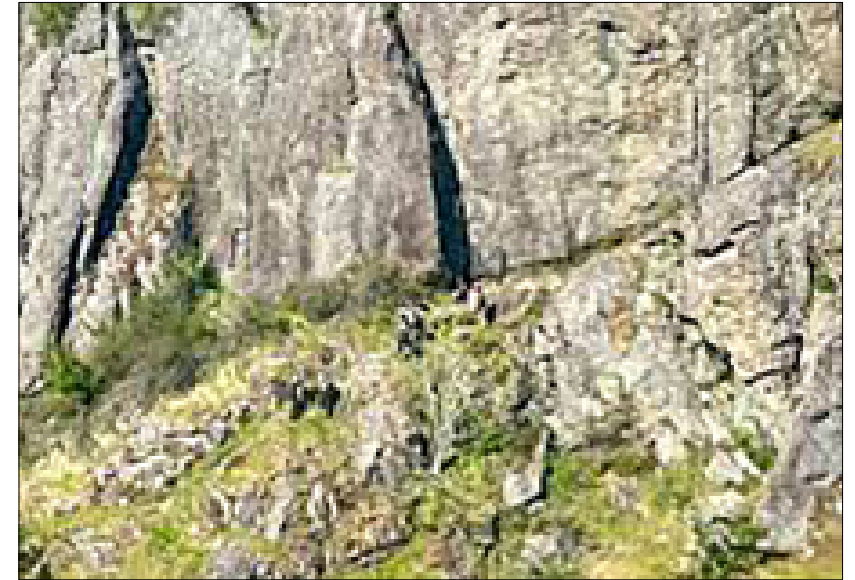
ROTA, Spain — Petty Officer 2nd Class Eleodoro Perez, a Naval Aircrewman assigned to Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 79, was driving home when he saw a commotion on the side of the road, April 1, 2023. He quickly pulled over his car and approached the group.

“After asking if they needed any assistance, I came out to find the gentleman on the ground was unconscious and had not received any attention by those surrounding him,” he said. “My patient assessment training quickly kicked in and proceeded to assess the gentleman.”

Perez is referring to one aspect of his daily job duties as a Naval Aircrewman Tactical Helicopter in the U.S. Navy. Perez, originally from Chino, California, joined the Navy in 2019.

[Click here to read more](#)

SAR rescues injured climber on Mt. Erie



NAS WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. — A Search and Rescue (SAR) team from Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island rescued an injured climber at the bottom of a cliff on Mt. Erie, Saturday, April 29.

Anacortes Fire Department was on the scene and requested NAS Whidbey Island’s SAR unit assistance with securing and transporting the injured to a medical facility due to the nature of the injury and the surrounding terrain.

The SAR crew launched from Ault Field at about 3:15 p.m. and were at the scene minutes later where they found the patient on a ledge near the cliff face at approximately 1,100 feet elevation. After two crew rappelled down to a ledge near the patient they were able to litter hoist the patient to the helicopter. The patient was then transported to St. Joseph Medical Center in Bellingham, Wash.

[Click here to read more](#)

Travis AFB hosts Project Tuskegee, AIM Event



TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — The 60th Air Mobility Wing recently hosted Air Force Global Strike Command for Project Tuskegee, Aviation Inspiration Mentorship event to encourage early interest in aviation here, April 28. More than 400 students from the surrounding schools and universities attended the aviation-focused event with opportunities to learn from Airmen and discuss career prospects as well as tour a B-1B Lancer from Ellsworth Air Force Base and a C-5M Super Galaxy, C-17 Globemaster III and KC-10 Extender from Travis AFB.

Project Tuskegee is an initiative to increase opportunities for Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets and other underrepresented students within local communities to be exposed to rated and non-rated career opportunities. This initiative partnered with Air Mobility Command and Travis AFB to garner aviation enthusiasm.

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605th AMXS crew chief embodies the warrior heart



JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. — Mobility Airmen that answer the call to serve at the Defense Department's only tri-service base learn to make an ally of resiliency.

For Senior Airman Austin Sondergard, a crew chief with the 605th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, recovering from a life-threatening condition meant waging a war of attrition against his own mind and body. His journey on the road to recovery, while fraught with daily challenges, is paved with the support of friends, family and a warrior heart's passion.

The Texas native is the first and only to serve in the Air Force from his family. A proud American, he answered the call to serve to broaden his life experience and for the opportunity to maintain heavy machinery.

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New process helps trainees become citizens



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — Fourteen trainees in basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland raised their right hands and are now the first to complete the new streamlined naturalization process making them U.S. citizens and allowing them to graduate as American Airmen.

Over the course of their seven and a half weeks of training in BMT, the trainees accomplished the necessary paperwork and took their citizenship test and oath of allegiance. The first three accomplished their process as early as April 11, and the remaining trainees by April 25. All were formally recognized as U.S. citizens at the Airman's Coin and Retreat Ceremony, April 26. Airman 1st Class Natalia Laziuk, 31, from Russia, was one of the first three Airmen to take the oath and become a citizen. Laziuk said she had been dreaming of becoming a citizen since she was 11 years old.

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News Briefs: **Marines**

Marine Corps holds leadership seminar at Howard University



WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Marine Corps hosted a Marine Corps Leadership Seminar at Howard University on April 21. Students from Howard University and George Washington University were invited to attend the seminar which included guest speakers and exercises focused on making leadership decisions, team building and problem solving, and a discussion on ethical leadership case studies.

The guest speaker was Lt. Col. Courtney J. Boston, executive officer, Officer Candidates School on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, who shared his experiences in the Marine Corps and insights on leadership, drawing on his extensive knowledge. Boston deployed in support of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and has held many leadership positions throughout his career.

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Forces combine for joint air, maritime training

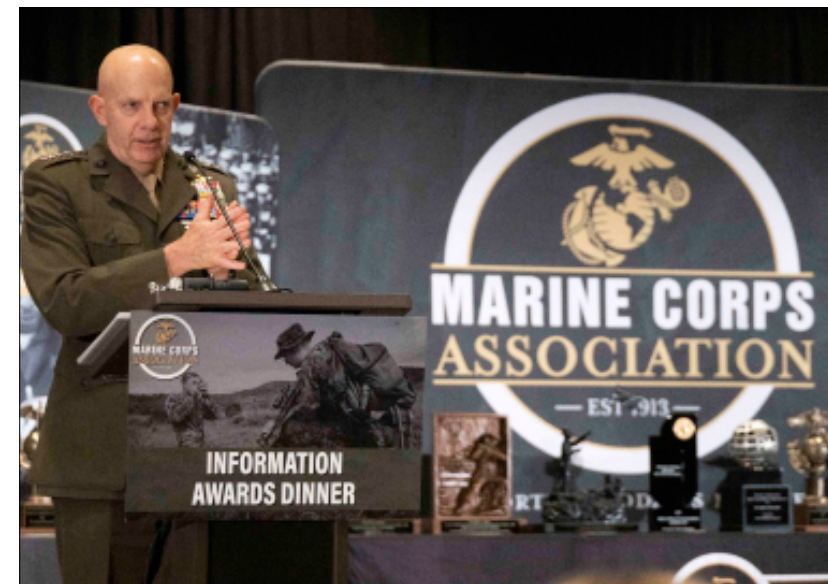


MANAMA, Bahrain — In May, Naval Amphibious Task Force 51/5th Marine Expeditionary Bridge Joint Terminal Attack Controllers embarked on Bahrain-based U.S. Coast Guard fast-response cutters to conduct joint training with both U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force aircraft in the Northern Arabian Gulf. The training involved five U.S. Coast Guard vessels and a group of Marine JTACs who sharpened their tactical skills by controlling U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II and U.S. Navy P-8 Poseidon aircraft.

“This was an excellent opportunity for all five crews to be shown the potential of joint maritime and air operations,” said U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Sehng Hwang, Commanding Officer of U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Clarence Sutphin, Jr. “It really allowed us all to see the specific lethal capability that something like the A-10 has.”

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Information awards event honors Marines



ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Marine Corps Association fourth annual Information Awards Dinner, administered by the Deputy Commandant for Information, recognized Marines, civilian and units from around the Corps for their superior performance, making an impact in the information environment, April. 20.

The annual Information Awards Dinner recognized 15 individual awards and 4 unit awards chosen from information communities including Intelligence, Command, Control, Communications and Computers, Cyber, Psychological Operations, Space, Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations, Communication Strategy and Operations and civil affairs. DC I convened a board of senior field grade officers, senior enlisted Marines, and civilian Marines to review nominations and select award winners.

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Final photo: Grandma's Little Goat

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

Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center students studying the Russian Language perform a Russian folktale called, "Grandma's Little Goat," during the 71st Language Day at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., May 12. In this version of the story, grandma saves her little goat from wily wolves who want to eat her. Students at the school not only study languages, but the cultures surrounding them.