

# IN PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY BRIEF



September 2019

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Soldiers celebrate 244th Army Birthday in style

229th names top drill sergeant

Spiritual fitness hike leads DLI students to nature

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The PoM InBrief is a command-authorized publication for the Monterey military community — published monthly 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, & veterans who access services at our installation.

Story ideas and submissions of original material are always welcome.

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*On the cover: A Sailor holds the U.S. flag during the Presidio of Monterey's annual 'Salute to the Nation' celebration at Soldier Field, July 3. PHOTO by Marcus Fichtl.*



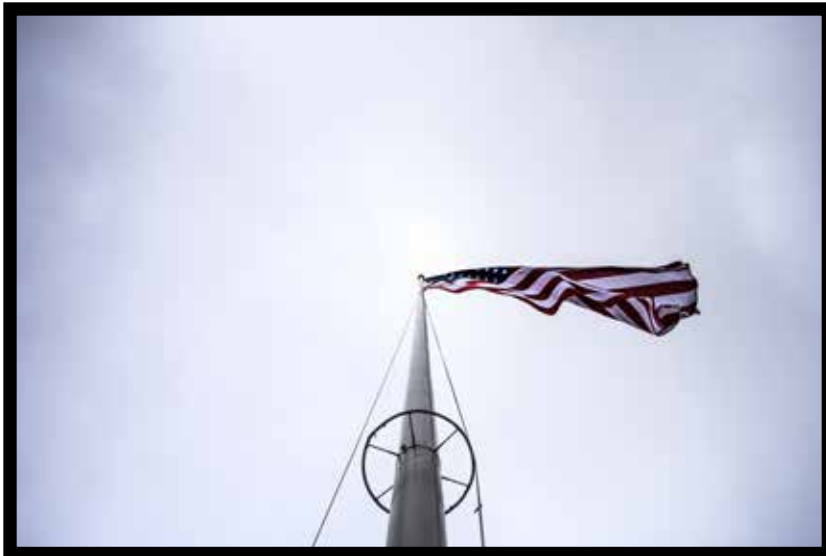
# Salute to the Nation



*A ceremonial battery from the 84th Training Command, Pacific Division, out of Camp Parks, fires one of 71 shots during the Presidio of Monterey's annual 'Salute to the Nation' ceremony at Soldier Field. Each 75 mm cannon is etched with values the Army holds close.*

Joseph Kumzak





*The garrison flag waves during the ceremony, it would be lowered after all 71 cannon shots were fired.*

Photos by Marcus Fichtl

#### Staff Presidio of Monterey

Seventy-one shots rang out during the Presidio of Monterey's annual Salute to the Nation, July 3, 2019.

The ceremonial battery from the 84th Training Command, Pacific Division, out of Camp Parks, Dublin, California fired one round for each state, ending with a 21-gun salute.

Gun salutes began as a naval tradition in the 1700s, when warships would fire their guns during an approach to a foreign port, letting the shore batteries know their cannons were empty and they meant no harm.

By the 19th century gun salutes evolved into a way for countries to honor each other as equals.

The United States was first formally recognized as an independent nation with a 9-gun salute, Nov. 16, 1776, when the Dutch governor of the Caribbean island of St. Eustatius honored the American brigantine Andrew Doria with a 9-gun salute. Today the 21-gun salute is used as a presidential and national salute.



*Sailors lower the garrison's U.S. flag overlooking Soldier Field, a special over-sized flag that required a team of ten Sailors to lower.*



*Cannons fire in front of the 50 U.S. state flags, one shot fired for every state in the U.S., in order of accession to the Union.*



*A child prepares for 71 cannon shots. About 500 service members and civilians attended the annual ceremony.*



# Border protection cadets visit Presidio

Marcus Fichtl  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — Nine Border Patrol Explorers from the southern Californian city of Chula Vista experienced military life during a first-ever visit to the Presidio of Monterey, July 1.

The cadets are part of a cooperative program between the Boy Scouts of America and U.S. Customs and Border Protection that gives 14 to 21-year-olds a hands-on opportunity to learn about federal law enforcement and other uniformed services.

The troop which hails from Explorer Scout Post 1326 near San Diego, wouldn't normally have made the 450 mile trek to Monterey, but a junior law enforcement competition in Modesto last weekend allowed for Monday's chance visit.

The Explorers' day began with a visit to the Defense Language Institute Spanish, Korean and Arabic classrooms, followed by a taste of military cuisine at the chow hall and a tour of the brand new Marine barracks.

Later they visited the Presidio Police Department at the Ord Military Community, where Army police officers showcased the inner-workings of the police station while answering a battery of questions about Army-styled federal law enforcement

Nicholas Munoz, 18, the explorer student-leader, won't get to enjoy ocean-view barracks when he leaves to become an infantryman at Fort Benning, Georgia, later this month; but said he saw "how important linguists are," calling their training "intense."

Jacqueline Aguirre, 19, who recently joined the explorer program, said she felt "empowered" seeing female service members excel at the language school.

"As a girl, it's impressive to see females in the Army,"



*Border Patrol Explorers from Explorer Scout Post 1326, Chula Vista, California, visit a police station's armory at the Presidio of Monterey, July 1, 2019. The Explorers are part of a cooperative program between the Boy Scouts of America and U.S. Customs and Border Protection that gives 14 to 21-year-olds a hands-on opportunity to learn about federal law enforcement.*

she said. "It gives me the encouragement that I can do it too."

The native Spanish speaker said the training resonated with her love of languages. Aguirre who had to learn English as a second language is now one French class away from graduating junior college. Next she plans on tackling Korean.

Ultimately, she hopes Monday's short visit will keep the fire behind her dream of becoming a forensic scientist at the FBI, ignited.

"I'm going to remember the dedication these people have and the expectations I need to push myself further," she said.



# LGBT observance brings story of acceptance

Marcus Fichtl  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — Five LGBT service members told their stories of struggle and acceptance, including one Airman who almost lost his dream career, in front of a packed house at the Presidio of Monterey, June 27.

“I fully expected to come into service, keep my nose down, not dare pick my head up unless I wanted to be mocked and ridiculed for who I am,” said Airman 1st Class Nathan Kemmerer to 250 of his peers at the military’s annual LGBT observance. “I’m glad to report I was wrong.”

Many on Thursday spoke about family strife, the toll of having to constantly come out, and being forced to “taste asphalt,”; but like Kemmerer who is a transgender Airman, they all spoke of the acceptance found in their new military family.

The pride celebration came one day before the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots — a landmark event in the LGBT fight for equality that saw patrons of a New York City gay bar push back against a violent police raid on June 28, 1969. Then 42 years later, in 2011 the military ended the ‘Don’t Ask Don’t Tell’ policy, allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly, and in 2016 lifted restrictions on transgender troops.

Defense Language Institute Commandant Col. Gary Hausman told the crowd at Weckerling Center that he believes LGBT troops have always served in the U.S. military, citing a belief amongst some historians that Revolutionary War hero and father of the Army’s Non-commissioned Officer corps, Baron von Steuben was a gay man.

“[Steuben] was characterized as having affections for members of his own sex,” Hausman said, citing historians. “He was being accused by the military of Prussia... for being a homosexual.”



*Airman 1st Class Nathan Kemmerer, assigned to the 517th Training Readiness Group, takes the stage to give his story about LGBT acceptance at the Presidio of Monterey, June 27.*

Prussia’s loss became America’s gain as Steuben trained an upstart nation’s Army and defeated the largest empire at the time for independence.

Hausman then addressed what he called the “elephant in the room.”

“How many heroes do we have in our military that are, or were, openly gay? The shame is that we don’t know,” he said.

Kemmerer said he found many of his first military heroes at his new Monterey home. Diagnosed with gender dysphoria in June 2018, Kemmerer was disenrolled from class and slated for separation under policy changes affecting some transgender service

members.

“I was fully expecting to be chopped-up, boxed-up and sent back home to Philadelphia,” he said.

His leadership then told Kemmerer they would “fight this,” even as they handed him separation papers.

Three months later Kemmerer won back his “dream” of being an Airman.

He now rocks a 3.5 GPA, has been Airman of Quarter and is president of the Teal Ropes — Airmen who fight sexual assault and harassment. He’ll graduate as an Arabic linguist in early 2020.

“Without the love, care and support from those around me,” said Kemmerer. “I would not be here today.”



*LGBT service members are recognized for telling their stories during an LGBT observance at the Presidio of Monterey, June 27.*



# Mother saves infant daughter's life with CPR

Marcus Fichtl  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif — Kristin Martin saved her infant daughter's life at her Ord Military Community residence, June 6, thanks to her quick-thinking and a firefighter who taught her CPR.

Martin said she was eating lunch with her two daughters when her one-year-old, June, began choking on a tortilla chip. The coughing fit soon escalated but nothing the 31-year-old mother of three from Tallahassee, Florida, did, dislodged the chip.

Martin dialed 911.

She sent her three-year-old daughter to her neighbors to get help as she took June to the front lawn, hoping for a good Samaritan to walk by; but no one came — neighbor or passerby. Martin was on her own.

The nurse-by-trade then did what she never expected she would have to do, she began CPR on her own daughter.

Muscle memory from a CPR class kicked in. Without hesitation she alternated between palm-faced back blows and chest thrusts, dislodging the tortilla chip just as firefighter Keith Fulton and Presidio's Engine 61 came blaring to the scene — a matter of moments Martin said felt like "forever."

Fulton called the scene he walked into "amazing." The only sign a life had almost been lost were the tears still rolling down Martin's face. Baby June was OK.

"I walked in and it was Kristin who was in obvious

distress, but her daughter looked amazing — not even crying," Fulton told Presidio Public Affairs in a phone interview Thursday.

According to Fulton, Martin saved her child's life in record speed, as his engine arrived no more than three minutes after dispatch and about 5-6 minutes after she made her 911 call.

Then the mother and firefighter realized that what

The 31-year-old Army veteran and Paradise, California native, who once cleared fires while deployed to Afghanistan said he began teaching CPR at the Presidio to overcome a fear of public speaking by sharing knowledge about something he knew well and believed in.

Fulton said the five-hour class certified by the American Heart Association teaches adult, child and infant CPR, use of the automated external defibrillator — a portable device that uses electric shocks to restart a heartbeat, and the use of a naloxone nasal spray to counter opioid overdoses. The class costs \$25 for local military residents, cheaper than the \$125 Martin said she saw offered outside the Ord community.

More importantly Fulton said, "[CPR] empowers you — it gives you to the power to intervene."

Martin agreed.

"I knew what I needed to do," she said. "Had I not known [CPR], I wouldn't have been able to save my own daughter's life."

On June 17, Presidio garrison commander, Col. Greg Ford, presented Martin an Award of Exemplary Action and Fulton the Civilian Service Commendation Medal for instructing

Martin and more than a hundred local residents on CPR the past five months.

For information on how you can get CPR/AED certified contact: Army Community Services at the Gen. Stilwell Community Center at (831) 242-7760 or the Presidio Fire Department at (831) 242-7701.



Presidio of Monterey garrison commander, Col. Greg Ford (left), presents Presidio firefighter Keith Fulton and local resident, Kristin Martin with awards for a June 6 rescue of Martin's infant daughter, June 17.

happened that day came because of a serendipitous meeting earlier this year.

"I was telling Kristin what a good job she did and that's when she told me, 'I took your [CPR] class,'" Fulton said. "Right off the bat I was emotional — proud, happy."

# Signal battalion opens new HQ at Camp Roberts



*Lt. Col. Julia Donley (right), 302nd Signal Battalion commander, and Maj. Keya Riggins, U.S. Army Signal Activity Camp Roberts commander, cut the ribbon to the new USASA headquarters building June 4 at Camp Roberts.*

**Joseph Kumzak**  
Presidio of Monterey

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif. — Eight years after breaking ground, Lt. Col. Julia Donley, 302nd Signal Battalion commander, and Maj. Keya Riggins, U.S. Army Signal Activity Camp Roberts commander, cut the ribbon to the new headquarters building June 4.

Originally breaking ground in 2011, the building

had a number of contracting setbacks delaying construction.

Operations officer, 1st Lt. Lyndsay Rathbun said “it’s been a long time coming.”

Built in 1962, the previous headquarters building is the oldest-continuous communications facility in

the world.

“A 57 year-old building is not the most efficient, and perhaps not the best suited for a workforce in 2019,” said Donley. “It was built for a workforce in 1962 — the mission has grown exponentially since that time, so people in the old building were crammed in there.”

Rathbun said the new headquarters has improved staff morale and work efficiency since they occupied the building in May.

“The overall morale, I think, shot through the roof — people stand up taller, there’s more pep in their step, there’s more smiles,” said Riggins.

She added, “If you’re not in the right environment, every small detail of another thing you’re doing, especially if you’re sitting at a computer all night or all day, becomes a larger problem.” I don’t want my team members ... soldiers and civilians to take that home to their families.”

Final construction faced challenges that further delayed the project. Riggins worked with Col. Greg Ford, Presidio of Monterey commander and Col. David Ray, district commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to resolve the challenges and get construction back on track.

The 6,880 square foot facility houses headquarters staff, DPW staff, police officers and the Navy research lab.

“The soldiers and civilians who work here will have a better quality of life. They definitely deserve it, the hard work they do here ... they deserve a beautiful place to work,” said Donley.

USASA Camp Roberts operates on a sub installation at Camp Roberts administrated by the Presidio of Monterey. Camp Roberts is located two hours south of the Presidio near Paso Robles.



# Army turns 244 years young

Marcus Fichtl  
Presidio of Monterey

MONTEREY, Calif. — More than 400 Soldiers and their guests celebrated the U.S. Army's 244th birthday with song, dance and the ever-traditional cake-cutting at the California central coast city of Monterey, June 15.

The ball, hosted by the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, brought celebrants, mostly students from the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language

School, to a packed Herrmann Hall at Naval Support Activity Monterey. Attendees gave speeches, ate three-course meals, and enjoyed traditional Arabic dance performed by Airmen language trainees at DLIFLC's Middle East II school.

Born June 14, 1775, America's premiere land force first raised its colors when the Second Continental Congress ordered the formation of ten infantry

companies from across the 13 original colonies under the command of George Washington. Then known as the Continental Army, the first multi-state American force immediately went to relieve local forces in Boston and six years later forced the surrender of British forces in Yorktown, Virginia. Today the Army's ranks, including active, guard and

*Continued next page*





Guests arrive at Herrmann Hall, Naval Support Activity Monterey, to celebrate the 244th Army birthday, June 15.

*Continued from last page*

reserve Soldiers, number nearly 1 million with about 180,000 deployed in more than 140 countries at any given time.

Pvt. Joshua Salmanson said it was “mind-blowing” to be a part of an organization as storied as the Army

The 18-year-old from Washington D.C. and Master Sgt. Theo De Hoyos, 45 — the youngest and oldest Soldiers assigned to the 229th MI Bn., bridged 28-years to cut the Army birthday cake together with a ceremonial sword.

Saturday’s sugary slice was the fourth confectionary

mark for the Salmanson Army clan.

“I have a twin brother in [South] Korea,” Salmanson said. “He’s cut three cakes in the last week.”

Sgt. 1st Class, Christie White, a drill sergeant with the 229th, and veteran of six Army birthday balls, said “this is where Army tradition starts.”

She hoped Saturday’s event would teach Army traditions to new soldiers like Salmanson.

“We do the POW/MIA ceremony and that’s something they really haven’t experienced yet,” the 31-year-



Pvt. Joshua Salmanson, 18, and Master Sgt. Theo De Hoyos, 45, both assigned to the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion cut a ceremonial cake at Herrmann Hall, Naval Support Activity Monterey, to celebrate the 244th Army birthday, June 15.

old from Shelton, Connecticut said, referencing the empty, standalone table set aside for those Soldiers who could not be there.

Hiam Kanbar, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education at DLIFLC, began her career as a language instructor in 1991 and told Presidio Public Affairs she has always made it a point to attend these “happy occasions,” with her military and civilian colleagues.

The Beirut native said, “seeing the people behind the student” is what makes the Army’s birthday ball special. “We get to meet our students, colleagues, and bosses outside the context of the classroom.”

Which service does their birthday bash the best? Not picking favorites, Kanbar laughed, “all of them.”

Before the official ceremony gave way to dance and disco-spotlights, guest speaker Everette Jordan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intelligence Community Integration, Department of Treasury, and former Russian linguist at DLIFLC, thanked the Soldiers in attendance for their service and sang a linguist version of Gilbert and Sullivan’s “I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General.”

Declaring — in rhyme — he and everyone there were the “very model of a modern language-analyst.”



# 229th names top drill sergeant

Staff  
Presidio of Monterey

The 229th Military Intelligence Battalion named Staff Sgt. Matthew Mubarak as the Defense Language Institute's top drill sergeant at the Presidio of Monterey on July 11.

Mubarak bested Staff Sgt. Patrick Burns during the week long competition that saw competitors test their sharpshooting skills, physical fitness, and ability to teach Army fundamentals.

The competitors traversed all of Monterey county during the competition traveling two hours south to Fort Hunter Liggett to conduct land navigation and shooting drills while also rucking 12-miles along the Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail, traveling from Seaside through Monterey to Lover's Point in Pacific Grove — then back again all while carrying 50 pounds on their backs.

Mubarak, a 29-year-old Houston native, will return to his home state of Texas Aug 19 - 22, to compete with the Army's other top disciplinarians at Fort Sam Houston near San Antonio in a bid to earn the title as the Army's best drill sergeant.

About 35 drill sergeants are assigned to the Presidio where they help mold Soldier-linguists in the ways of the Army profession while ensuring they have the leadership support necessary to learn their assigned language.





# Drill Sergeant of the Year Photos



Photos by Marcus Fichtl

Staff Sgt. Matthew Mubarak, drill sergeant at the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, searches for a land navigation point during the Defense Language Institute's Drill Sergeant of the Year Competition at Fort Hunter Liggett, July 10.



Staff Sgt. Matthew Mubarak answers questions before a military board as part of the Defense Language Institute's Drill Sergeant of the Year Competition at the Presidio of Monterey, July 11.



Staff Sgt. Matthew Mubarak, left, and Staff Sgt. Patrick Burns, drill sergeants at the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, qualify with their rifles during the Defense Language Institute's Drill Sergeant of the Year Competition at Fort Hunter Liggett, July 10.



Staff Sgt. Matthew Mubarak completes a situp during the Defense Language Institute's Drill Sergeant of the Year Competition at the Presidio of Monterey, July 9.



Staff Sgt. Matthew Mubarak, left, recites training instructions during the Defense Language Institute's Drill Sergeant of the Year Competition at the Presidio of Monterey, July 9.



Staff Sgt. Patrick Burns nears the midpoint of a 12-mile ruck during the Defense Language Institute's Drill Sergeant of the Year Competition at Pacific Grove, July 11.



# DLIFLC welcomes new assistant commandant

Tammy Cario  
Defense Language Institute

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — Air Force Col. Stephanie R. Kelley accepted responsibility as the assistant commandant of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in a change of command ceremony held at the Presidio of Monterey, June 24. Kelley also took over as the new commander of the 517th Training Group.

The outgoing assistant commandant of DLIFLC, Air Force Col. Wiley L. Barnes, the former commander of the 517th, relinquished responsibility in the ceremony presided over by Air Force Col. Ricky L. Mills, the 17th Training Wing commander at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas.

Kelley came to DLIFLC from Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, where she was a professor of Strategy and Security Studies in the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies.

Speaking to the Airmen at Soldier Field, she said, “Language is not just interpreting, but it’s connecting the meaning” and cultural context behind it. “You will ensure that our leaders understand not only what was said but what was meant,” because of their unique skillset.

Later she closed her speech with, “I look forward to meeting each and every one of you...”

Barnes, who is headed to the Pentagon in Crystal City, Virginia, challenged the 517th Airmen to keep improving themselves. “It is not a birthright what we are the most powerful nation on earth and the world’s most powerful Air Force. We have to earn it every day.”

He urged them to continue being great Airmen and first class linguists.



*Incoming 517th Training Group commander, Col. Stephanie Kelley receives the unit's guidon from Col. Ricky Mills, commander, 17th Training Wing during a change of command ceremony at the Presidio of Monterey, June 24.*



*Outgoing commander of the 517th Training Group, Col. Wiley Barnes stands in front of his formation during a change of command ceremony at the Presidio of Monterey, June 24.*

“It is not a birthright that we are the most powerful nation on earth and the world’s most powerful Air Force. We have to earn it every day.” — Col. Wiley Barnes



*Outgoing 517th Training group commander, Col. Wiley Barnes makes a shout-out during a speech at a change of command ceremony on the Presidio of Monterey, June 24.*



*The 517th Training Group guidon posts during a change of command ceremony at the Presidio of Monterey, Soldier Field, June 24.*



# McConville succeeds Milley as top Army general

Jim Garamone  
Defense.gov

Acting Army Secretary Ryan D. McCarthy swore in Gen. James C. McConville as the 40th Army chief of staff during an Aug. 9 ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Virginia.

McConville succeeds Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, who has been confirmed as the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and will take office at the end of September.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey also finished his term of office and was succeeded by Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston at the ceremony.

McConville stressed two things in his remarks at the event: winning and people. There are no participation trophies for war, he said, and the U.S. Army has to be prepared to win in any conflict it gets into. He also said that people are at the root of any success the service has had throughout its history, and that he will continue to emphasize their well-being and contributions.

Milley steps down after an eventful four-year tenure as the chief of the nation's senior service. McCarthy called the general's time in office "one of the most consequential in recent Army history."



Gen. James C. McConville, Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army, discussed progress on a fighting position with a Soldier from 277th Aviation Support Battalion, at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, on July 14. McConville toured 10th Combat Aviation Brigade's area of operations during exercise Saber Guardian 17 and recognized Soldiers' outstanding work.

Spc. Thomas Scaggs

Under Milley, he said, the service recovered from the readiness woes caused by sequestration and funding starvation. The Army shifted from a counterinsurgency and counterterrorism force to one confronting the threat of peer competitors such as China and Russia.

The service also looked to the future, and Milley put in place Army Futures Command so Army leaders will have the equipment, doctrine and training they need

to fight in a multidomain battlefield and win. "We need to move even faster in the future," McCarthy said.

Milley said the service's teams of soldiers and civilians are dedicated to ensuring the Army remains the preeminent ground combat force in the world. He thanked all soldiers in all components — active, Guard and Reserve — noting that the service cannot do what it does without all of them.

McCarthy, Milley and McConville all commented on the changes to the service, and all noted the changes were coming against the backdrop of fighting in

Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia. Soldiers are also providing assurance to allies in Eastern Europe, while other Army units are deploying to Korea.

Soldiers also are helping civilian agencies along the U.S. border with Mexico and continue to be ready to aid first responders in case of natural disasters such as hurricanes or wildfires.

"Our Army is incredible, and our Army is strong, and it is getting stronger," Milley said. "And the only way to explain it is the extraordinary work of our people."



# Spiritual fitness hike leads DLI students to nature



Photos by Zack Frank

**Zack Frank**  
Presidio of Monterey

FELTON, Calif. — A group of 28 service members and civilians led by Maj. Everett Zachary, Family Life Chaplain for the Presidio of Monterey, set off on a non-denominational ‘Spiritual Fitness Hike’ in the forests of central California July 27. The hikers gathered at the POM Chapel and ventured to Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park in Fulton. The group hiked six miles across hilly terrain, fallen logs and sandy meadows.

“I’m from the [Great] Smoky Mountains. For me it’s just nostalgic to get out there and hike these trails,” said Zachary. “It just reminds us we’re connected to nature, we’re connected to creation.”

The hike began with Spc. Brittany Taylor, Religious Affairs Specialist, guiding the group through the Redwood Grove Loop Trail, a path through a section of the park’s tallest trees. Along this trail POM students and employees discovered old-growth trees, fire-damaged tree trunks, banana slugs, numerous plant species and the Fremont Tree, a hollowed out redwood with a cavity large enough that the entire group fit inside it.

Among the most impressive sites along this loop was ‘The Giant’, a redwood that towers 270 feet tall and 17 feet wide. The base of the tree is so wide that it required 21 hikers to form a human chain around the trunk.

“Just getting transported off post is nice,” Spc. Melody Sobey, an Army student linguist in the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion said. “It’s a day trip, and I got to see more of California!”

The group spent the bulk of the adventure negotiating a series of trails intended to showcase the diversity of the region with ever-changing landscapes. The trails were constructed through steep ravines carved by creeks that cut through the foggy, coastal hills. These hilly climbs ushered the hikers from the forest floor to the pinnacle of the park, known as the ‘observation deck’. There, a wooden platform provided sweeping,

*Continued next page*





(ABOVE) Maj. Everett Zachary, Family Life Chaplain, speaks to service members about the importance of relationship from atop the 'observation deck' overlook.

*Continued from last page*

360-degree views of the surrounding mountains and Monterey Bay.

An interpretive panel attached to the observation deck reflected on the spiritual impact of nature with a quote from noted conservationist John Muir, reading, "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul."

While the group took a break to enjoy the scenery, Zachary reflected on the purpose of the Spiritual Fitness Hike. He spoke about the importance of relationships, and that people should not only care about helping others but also themselves.

"Hopefully today is a little bit of self-care," said Zachary. "You've got to take care of yourself - and if you take care of yourself, you can pour over into the lives of other people."

Following this talk the group made their way down the mountain via another series of paths, featuring additional overlooks and a cable bridge over a stream, before eventually arriving back at the parking lot. There the hungry hikers enjoyed food provided as part of the trip, before loading back into the vans and heading home to the Presidio.

These hikes are part of an ongoing series offered by the Chaplain's office. Many of the participants on



Spc. Melody Sobey, an Army linguist student assigned to the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, crosses a fallen redwood tree.

this month's trip have taken part in other outings offered by the command to enrich the souls of the students and staff, in addition to their mind. These outings occur the fourth Saturday of each month. September's trip will be to Pinnacles National Park.

If you are considering joining an upcoming trip, Zachary wants to stress the inclusiveness of these opportunities to commune with nature, saying, "our goal is to facilitate the faith of everyone, when we say 'all,' all means all."

For more information call the Chaplain's office at 831-242-5632





*(TOP-LEFT) Hikers from the Presidio of Monterey make their way through sandy meadows near the 'observation deck' overlook.*

*(ABOVE) Defense Language Institute students admire the size of trees along the Redwood Grove Loop Trail.*

*(RIGHT) A group of 21 hikers hold hands to form a human chain around 'The Giant', a redwood that towers 270 feet tall and 17 feet wide.*







SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

JUL 23 2019

Farewell Message from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Secretary of the Army

It has been the honor of my life to serve alongside the Soldiers, Civilians, and Families of our U.S. Army. As a Soldier for Life, having served twenty-one years in the Regular Army, Guard, and Reserves, I understand well the sacrifices endured by those taking up the profession of arms. I remain humbled by your commitment to our Nation and thankful for your willingness to serve.

When I became the Secretary of Army in November of 2017, we committed to three focused priorities: readiness, modernization, and reform. Over the past 21 months, the Army has made exceptional progress towards these goals. We implemented the Army Combat Fitness Test, extended the difficulty and duration of Infantry initial training, and eliminated a host of unnecessary requirements. We stood up Army Futures Command, are aggressively pursuing our six modernization priorities, and are driving innovation through our eight Cross-functional Teams. We aligned our budget to our top priorities, revamped our accessions enterprise, and are creating a market-based talent-driven personnel system. The list goes on and on.

Thanks to your hard work, readiness rates across the Army now stand at levels not seen in years. We've laid the groundwork to modernize the force for great power competition, and we've instituted reforms to maximize the use of every taxpayer dollar. None of this would have been possible were it not for the people – our most precious resource – who make up this great Army team.

Throughout my time as the Secretary of the Army, I had the opportunity to visit our Soldiers and Civilians all across the world. After meeting with troops deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, observing units training with our NATO allies in Europe, touring our depots and arsenals across America, and holding town halls with military families at home and abroad, I leave the Army inspired by your service and optimistic for the future.

As I assume duties as the Secretary of Defense, know that I'm confident in the Army's exceptional team of leaders, its dedicated uniformed and civilian workforce, and the strong families behind them. Despite the many challenges throughout the world, America's Army stands ready today to deter conflict and preserve peace, and if necessary, fight and win our Nation's wars. Thank you for your patriotism and your dedication to duty. You are and will ever remain the best of America.

Army Strong!

Mark T. Esper  
23<sup>rd</sup> Secretary of the Army



Secretary of the Army Mark Esper

U.S. Army



# Garrison Employee of the Month



## Employee of the Quarter: January - March 2019

Roger Wood Jr.

Mr. Roger Wood Jr. was recognized as the Presidio of Monterey's Civilian of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2019. He rose above other outstanding candidates who received recognition as Civilians of the Month from January to March. Mr. Wood's selfless service, professionalism, extraordinary performance, and unwavering commitment to the mission are truly noteworthy, and set the standard for others to emulate. Mr. Wood's exceptional performance in the quarter brings great credit upon himself, the Directorate of Emergency Services, the U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, and the United States Army.

## Employee of the Month: June 2019

Janice Quenga

Ms. Janice Quenga consistently performs at a very high level, but was spectacular during June. Additionally, Ms. Quenga established one of the best antiterrorism programs in IMCOM. Her relentless attitude to protect the Monterey Military Community has ensured the community has an effective Random Antiterrorism Measures (RAM) program. She developed, planned and scheduled RAM measures intended to address possible security threats to various locations throughout the POM Area of Operations. Janice is a team player whose positive attitude, strong work ethic and personal commitment has been instrumental in getting our multi-service community to enthusiastically support and embrace the installation's antiterrorism program. She epitomizes excellence and her personal commitment reflects great credit upon her, the US Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, and the United States Army.





# INBRIEF

*Don't miss the next issue...*

## MARINES TAKE ON THE MCMAP INSTRUCTOR COURSE

OCTOBER ISSUE

### Historian's Corner



### Suicide Awareness Month



### Anti-terrorism Awareness Month

