

# **IN** PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY **BRIEF**



**229th MI Bn. land navigation competition**  
**Antiterrorism Awareness Month**  
**Volksmarch**  
**Chaplain update and more**

**Oct./Nov. 2021**



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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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# In this edition (click on links)

<a href="#"><i>Raceway presentation of the colors</i></a>	3
<a href="#"><i>229th MI navigates Ord National Monument</i></a>	4
<a href="#"><i>Military Spouse Orientation aims for resiliency</i></a>	7
<a href="#"><i>Volksmarch provides outdoor fun, vaccinations</i></a>	9
<a href="#"><i>PoM crushes Antiterrorism Awareness Month</i></a>	11
<a href="#"><i>New, energy efficient housing 'goes vertical'</i></a>	13
<a href="#"><i>PoM FD teaches Cub Scouts fire safety</i></a>	15
<a href="#"><i>Community remembers fallen service members</i></a>	17
<a href="#"><i>Army BRAC hosts walk through Ord cleanup area</i></a>	19
<a href="#"><i>USAG PoM Chaplain (Col.) Meyners retires</i></a>	21
<a href="#"><i>'Grand Old Man' of Chaplain Corps at PoM</i></a>	22
<a href="#"><i>'Chaplain's Corner' column</i></a>	23
<a href="#"><i>PoM 'connects to protect' for Suicide Awareness</i></a>	24
<a href="#"><i>USAG PoM recognizes civilian excellence</i></a>	25
<a href="#"><i>From the Historian: Training at former Fort Ord</i></a>	26
<a href="#"><i>Remembering the Memorialized: Cook</i></a>	27
<a href="#"><i>Community calendar</i></a>	28
<a href="#"><i>News briefs</i></a>	29
<a href="#"><i>Preview of next edition</i></a>	34


# Raceway presentation of the colors



**Photos by Noah Rappahahn**  
Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs

*The Presidio of Monterey and Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center joint service Color Guard presented colors Aug. 14 at the WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion. The reunion is the largest event during Monterey Classic Car Week, and some describe it as a living museum because of the variety of cars from different eras they represent. Some cars date back to pre-1920. The cars race by invitation, and organizers accept them based on the car's authenticity, race provenance and period correctness. The color guard's participation in the event is another example of how PoM is proud to partner with the local community.*





# **229th MI Bn. 'Warrior Nerds' hold competition, focus on land navigation skills**

*Members of Company D, 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, travel to a land navigation point during a battalion-level land navigation competition at Fort Ord National Monument, Calif., Aug. 7.*



# Tactical skills

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – The “Warrior Nerds” of the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion put the emphasis on “warrior” as they sharpened their land navigation skills during a battalion-level competition at Fort Ord National Monument Aug. 7.

“A big part of a Soldier’s journey through [the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center] is to make sure that they keep their focus on being a Soldier,” said Lt. Col. Matthew Upperman, commander of the 229th MI Bn. “It’s why they joined. They’re Soldier-linguists, ‘Warrior Nerds,’ and part of that recipe is doing things that apply to the tactical side of their job.”

In all, 36 Soldiers from six companies took part in the competition, which included a written exam and four hours to find five points on the monument’s more than 7,000 acres. The teams traveled between seven and nine miles on foot by the time they completed the course.

The battalion splits up companies according to which language the Soldiers study, and Company C, which studies Arabic, came in first. Company A, which studies French, Spanish, Hebrew, Indonesian, Pashto and Urdu, came in second, and Company G, which studies Korean, came in third.

Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Reynolds, 229th MI Bn. noncommissioned officer for training and competition organizer, said land navigation is a perishable skill, so it is important for Soldiers to maintain it.

“It’s a good way of reminding them about their basic Soldier tasks,” Reynolds said. “Even though they are military intelligence Soldiers, they are riflemen first. We are all riflemen first and then everything else is second.”



*A Soldier assigned to the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion helps his team navigate during a battalion-level land navigation competition at Fort Ord National Monument, Calif., Aug. 7.*

The skills are also important because anyone could someday find them necessary for survival, Reynolds said. He learned this personally when rebel fighters removed him from his home in Monrovia, Liberia, when he was a teenager.

“I still remember the day, Friday, Aug. 10, 1990,” Reynolds said. “I stepped out of my house, because I got pushed from my house by rebels, into unknown territory, and for that first year and a half I just had to learn how to survive, navigating the country, just like [the 229th MI Bn. Soldiers] are doing right now.”

It was a serious situation, Reynolds said, and he kept it in mind as he set up the competition’s land navigation course.

*Story continued next page*



*Soldiers assigned to the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion take a written land navigation exam during the battalion’s land navigation competition.*



# Tactical skills (cont.)

“For me this is personal, seeing [the Soldiers] out here and learning this significant, great life skill,” Reynolds said. “It’s pretty important for them.”

As a Soldier, Spc. Michael Hardin, a member of the winning Co. C team, also recognizes the importance of land navigation skills. Every Soldier needs to know them well, he said, particularly during a deployment or in the field.

“You never know when you’re going to be called upon by your team,” Hardin said. “Maybe you’re the only one that can get that group out of there. You need to all work together to find the safest way and the quickest way to get out of there.”

The day included good competition, Hardin said.

“We ran a lot of the course, and I think that happened to be what really got us through to win at the end,” Hardin said, “and just smart route planning before we started out.”

Meanwhile Sgt. Andrew Bautista, a member of the Company D team, said the competition was a good teambuilding event and he was glad to see his teammates shine.

“If we had an issue, then they all just came together and fixed what was wrong,” Bautista said. “It was fun.”

Upperman, who accompanied the Co. C Soldiers on the land navigation course and ran about seven miles with them, said the battalion holds warrior skills competitions like this once a quarter, and the next one will test the Soldiers’ shooting skills.

“I think it’s a great opportunity for Soldiers to do things that are unique to being in the Army,” Upperman said of the Aug. 7 competition. “It’s certainly a break for them to get out of the classroom, and get their language out of their minds for a little bit. On a day like this on the Ord National Monument, you can’t ask for better scenery.”



From left, Spcs. Bryan Roukie, Julian Taitague and Taylor Julian, all assigned to Company D, 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, participate in a battalion-level land navigation competition at Fort Ord National Monument, Calif., Aug. 7.

**Far right,** Spc. Julian Taitague, assigned to Company D, 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, helps his team navigate during the competition. Soldiers took turns leading the teams.

**Right,** Sgts. 1st Class Aaron Reynolds, left, and Michael Turner, assigned to the 229th MI Bn., confirm grid coordinates before the battalion’s land navigation competition. Reynolds organized most of the competition.





# Military Spouse Orientation aims to build resiliency

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. - As a military spouse for 18 years, Margo Kwasnoski knows the value of attending a military spouse orientation at a new duty station.

"I always feel as though I have so much to learn," said Kwasnoski, who arrived here three weeks ago and was one of about a dozen spouses who attended the Presidio of Monterey Military Spouse Orientation Aug. 23. "Every assignment is unique and different and poses different challenges."

The orientation included 12 in-person briefings on a variety of subjects such as health care, housing and Army Community Service programs, and took place in the General Stilwell Community Center at the Ord Military Community. Participants observed COVID 19 mitigation measures such as wearing masks, social distancing and using hand sanitizer.

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Londers, command sergeant major, U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, told spouses that installation officials organized the orientation to help ensure they receive important information that will improve their lives at PoM.

"Our service members are the strength of our nation, but the strength of our service members are their families," Londers said. "If there's anything that we can do to provide services and support to make your tour here at the Presidio of Monterey better, it's what we're here for."

*Story continued next page*



**Above**, Misty Gilbert, front, a military spouse, listens to a speaker during the Presidio of Monterey Military Spouse Orientation at the General Stilwell Community Center, Ord Military Community, Calif., Aug. 23. **Below right**, Angelica Sagastume, a work and family life specialist for the Navy Fleet and Family Support Center at La Mesa Village in Monterey, speaks during the orientation.

***"Our service members are the strength of our nation, but the strength of our service members are their families."***

***— USAG PoM CSM Robert Londers***





# Orientation (cont.)

Military spouse orientations are important because while service members participate in the Joint Services In-Processing Briefing when they arrive at PoM, they don't always share that information with their spouses, Londers said.

Several spouses said PoM was their first duty station, and among them was Emily Daub, a military spouse whose husband attended basic training in February.

Daub said she learned a lot of useful information and appreciated that organizers printed presentation slides so she would have phone numbers handy.

"A lot of the information would have been helpful to know [before we moved here], but even now, it's helpful to have the information now going forward to future stations as well as continuing here," Daub said.

Kwasnoski, meanwhile, said she thinks organizers struck the right balance of information and did not overwhelm new military spouses with too much.

"It's a lot to take in ... so it can be very overwhelming, but I think it was very good, a nice welcoming environment and friendly faces," Kwasnoski said. "And even if somebody doesn't retain everything, at least they have a contact."

Charles Lyons, a PoM Army Community Service program specialist and the orientation's organizer, said this is the installation's second military spouse orientation, and he plans to hold them monthly. The next one is from 9:30 a.m. to noon Oct. 18, also at the General Stilwell Community Center.

Military spouse orientations are important because they help spouses know about services available to them within the military community, Lyons said.

"They come and get this information and it builds resiliency in families," Lyons said.

To register for the next PoM Military Spouse Orientation, contact Lyons at (831) 242-6890 or email [charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil](mailto:charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil). Registration is required.



*Top, Scott Huntley, Presidio of Monterey police officer, speaks during the Presidio of Monterey Military Spouse Orientation at the General Stilwell Community Center, Ord Military Community, Calif., Aug. 23. Far right, James Brockman, deputy director of the California Medical Detachment, speaks during the orientation. Right, Marlen Lucero, a military spouse, listens during the orientation as her daughter, Scarlet, 2, plays.*





# Volksmarch provides outdoor fun, information and vaccinations

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – The Volksmarch here Aug. 28 drew military service members, families and civilian employees out of their homes and into the installation's nature preserve for a 2.1-mile hike that included ocean views and plenty of sunshine.

"I thought it was fun," said Spc. Brandon Muñoz, a Soldier and student at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center who participated with four friends from class. "I wanted to come here just to get out of my room, get some vitamin D and hang out with the boys."

The Volksmarch featured an easier route for families and a "challenge route" for those with an appreciation for steep inclines. Both routes were the same length, and after the hike, participants could visit community information booths and buy German-themed foods from PoM Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Meanwhile, a DJ played music and kept the atmosphere festive.

In addition, members of the Monterey Fire Department held a COVID-19 vaccination clinic. Chief Tom Joyce of the Presidio of Monterey Fire Department and MFD Assistant Chief Jim Courtney said they are proud of the partnership between the city and the installation.

"It's amazing the support that the city of Monterey Fire Department provides to the Army and the Presidio of Monterey Fire Department," Joyce said.



From left, Noah Sheppard, Iman Javanmardi, Sam Chase, Andres Ramirez and Brandon Muñoz, military service members and students at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, hike during the Volksmarch at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Aug. 28.

***"We're proud to be partners with Monterey City Fire Department and everything that they do for our community."***

***— PoM Fire Chief Tom Joyce***

"We're proud to be partners with Monterey City Fire Department and everything that they do for our community."

Courtney said he encourages everyone to get vaccinated, and the department is happy to help the community—especially those who serve our country.

*Story continued next page*



Loki Clark, dog of Danielle and Brian Clark, hikes with his tennis ball during the Volksmarch.





## Volksmarch (cont.)

Eight other organizations also staffed tables at the event, including the installation's antiterrorism programs and The Cost of Courage Foundation, which provides scholarships and financial assistance to veterans, children and siblings of service members killed in action.

Kelly Estes, who started The Cost of Courage Foundation, headquartered in San Jose, Calif., seven years ago, said she was grateful to lend support to the event with cookies, stickers and information.

Nearby, Janice Quenga and Glen Harrison, antiterrorism officers for the U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey and DLIFLC, respectively, provided people with antiterrorism awareness information, helped sign people up for the ALERT! Mass Warning Notification System and asked people to take a Department of Defense survey on antiterrorism.

This was the third volksmarch at the installation since November 2020, and 140 people participated, said Junior Finona, business and recreation chief for PoM FMWR.

PoM FMWR officials plan to hold volksmarch events quarterly, Finona said, and the next one will be around Halloween. Since the nature preserve features many trails, organizers hope to add more routes for hikers.

Muñoz said he didn't know what to expect from the Volksmarch, but he was glad the event got him out of his barracks room and onto the nature preserve.

"I think I'll do it more often, just go around, walking around in nature," Muñoz said. "My favorite part was reaching the very tip top and seeing the view of the [Monterey Peninsula]. It was a nice view—just seeing the ocean. I would encourage more people to do this."



**Top**, Lt. Col. Daniel Bolton, director of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's Foreign Area Officer Program, takes a photo of the ocean view during the Volksmarch at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Aug. 28.

**Far left**, Elaine Vrolyks, PoM school liaison officer, and Dave Slater, a functional technology specialist for Children and Youth Services, PoM, gear up for the "challenge route".



**Left top**, Ian Bolton, 5, gives Sparky the Fire Dog a high five.

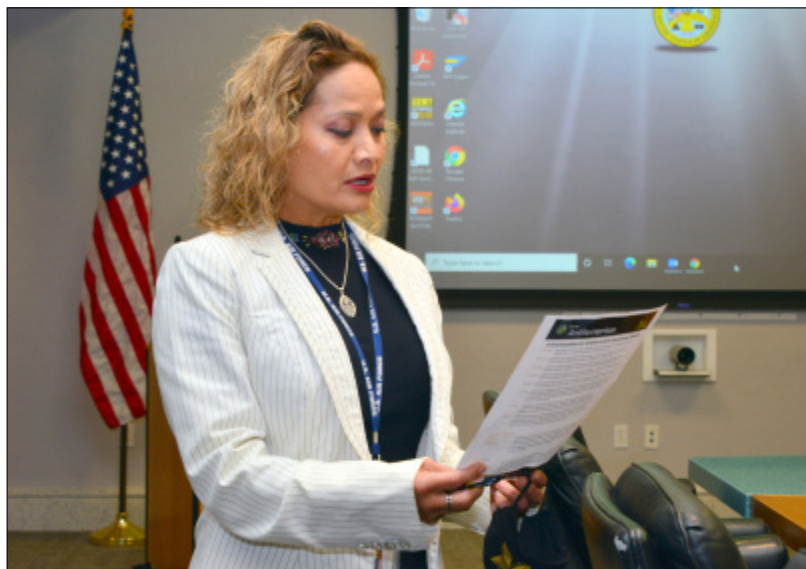
**Left**, Kirsteen Gomez hands a Presidio of Monterey Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation customer a bratwurst.



# PoM builds antiterrorism awareness with drills, training, more



Police officers with the Presidio of Monterey Police Department participate in an active-shooter drill at the Price Fitness Center, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Aug. 5.



Janice Quenga, U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey antiterrorism officer, reads the Antiterrorism Awareness Month Proclamation at garrison headquarters, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Aug. 24.



Sgt. John Butz of the Presidio of Monterey Police Department escorts Marine Corps Cpl. Sabrina Romerohiggins, who played the part of an active shooter, during an active-shooter response drill at Presidio of Monterey, Calif., July 26.

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – Antiterrorism Awareness Month is officially over, but members of the Presidio of Monterey community now have plenty to practice throughout the rest of the year.

This year's awareness efforts included an active shooter drill, a proclamation signing, distribution of a Department of Defense survey, four antiterrorism-themed movie nights and several community outreach events. In addition, as a warm up, organizers held another active-shooter drill and vehicle search training for security personnel in July.

"It's a true team effort," said Janice Quenga, antiterrorism officer for U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, about the installation's efforts. The garrison worked in partnership with the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's antiterrorism program and other organizations on the installation, such as the Directorate of Emergency Services and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, to make it all happen.

To illustrate that partnership, Col. Varman Chhoeung, commander of USAG PoM, and Col. James A. Kievit, commandant of the DLIFLC, signed the Antiterrorism Awareness Month proclamation together at garrison headquarters Aug. 24.

Antiterrorism Awareness Month goes beyond the month itself, Chhoeung said, and those who live and work on the installation pay attention to it year round to keep the community safe.

In a video message before the signing, Maj. Gen. Donna Martin, in her now-previous role as Provost Marshal General of the Army and commanding general of CID, stressed the importance of reporting suspicious behavior. "Seeing something and saying something can save lives," she said.

*Story continued next page*



# Antiterrorism (cont.)

Chhoeung said an increase in reports and investigations at PoM show the “See Something Say Something” message is working.

Kievit also stressed the importance of antiterrorism aspects such as “See Something Say Something,” noting that they will help protect the community and the greater community at PoM, the Ord Military Community and the rest of the surrounding area.

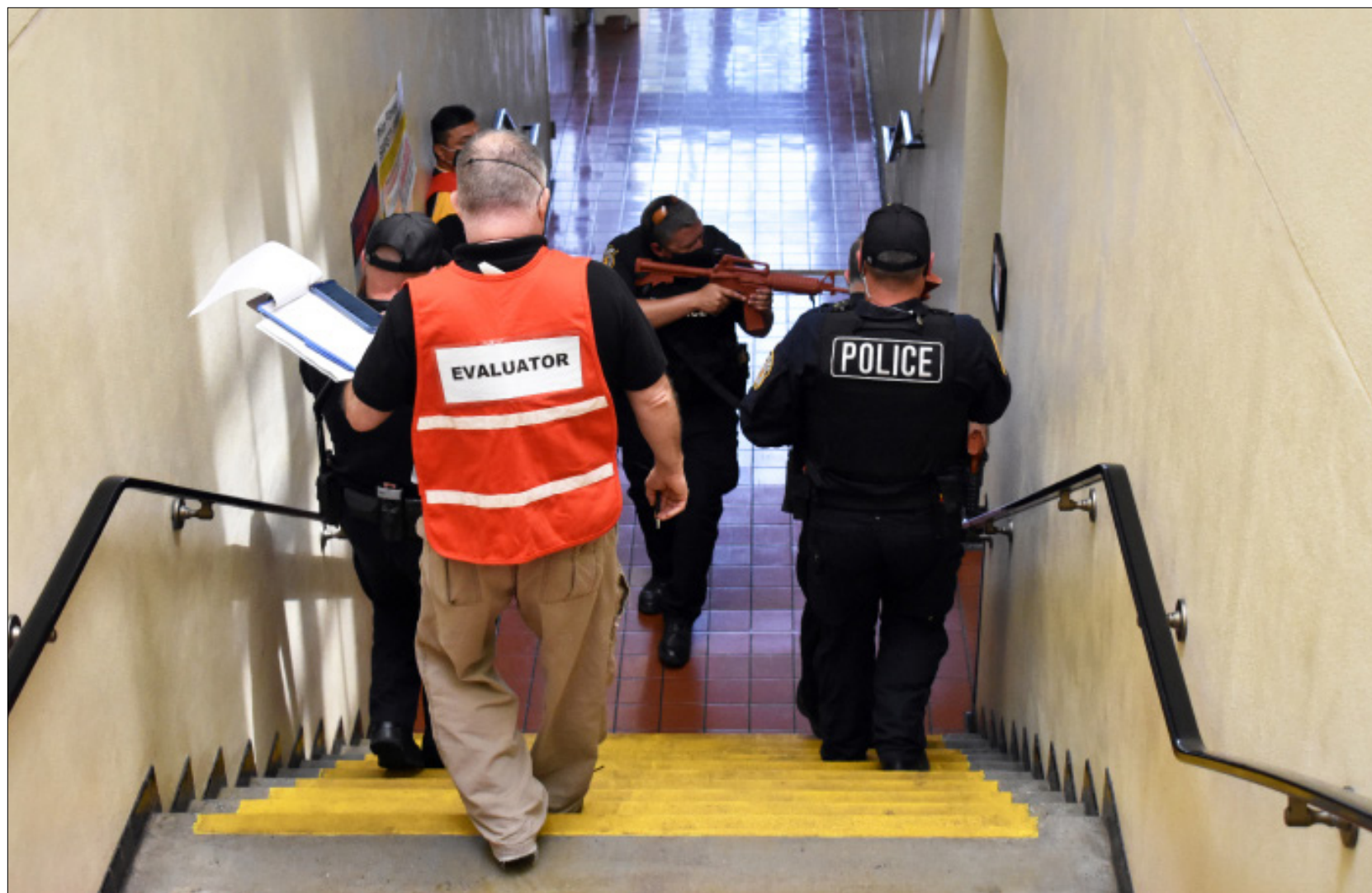
*Earlier this year, the U.S. Army Provost Marshal General’s antiterrorism division recognized the DLIFLC antiterrorism program with the Best Small Unit (Below Brigade) Award Antiterrorism Program Fiscal Year 2020.*

Glen Harrison, antiterrorism officer for the DLIFLC, said that in addition to working with the garrison, he has been holding antiterrorism awareness training and working with the language school’s antiterrorism officers to conduct random antiterrorism measures.

“It’s important to get that awareness information out, especially with what’s going on in the world right now,” Harrison said.

In addition, Harrison said he has been conducting drills to ensure people know how to safely evacuate buildings.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Army Provost Marshal General’s antiterrorism division recognized the DLIFLC antiterrorism program with the Best Small Unit (Below Brigade) Award Antiterrorism Program



**Above,** U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey personnel participate in an active-shooter drill at the Price Fitness Center, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Aug. 5. **Below,** Officer Eli Calderon, a Presidio of Monterey security guard, participates in the same active-shooter response drill.

Fiscal Year 2020, according to an announcement from the U.S. Army Provost Marshal General.

Quenga said she appreciates the support Harrison and his team provide the garrison.

At the proclamation signing, Chhoeung said the partnership between the garrison and DLIFLC goes beyond antiterrorism.

“The relationship between DLI and the garrison is really a one-team relationship,” Chhoeung said. “We work together in all aspects for support of the mission of training linguists for the Department of Defense. When I look across the room, I don’t see two different teams. I see one team working together towards the same mission.”







# Presidio of Monterey 'goes vertical' with energy efficient family housing

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – Junior enlisted service members and their families are one step closer to moving into 108 brand new homes after officials raised the first wall of the Lower Stilwell housing development Sept. 8.

The 44-acre, \$80 million housing development is located in the Ord Military Community and officials expect to have the homes ready by next summer. The development includes environmentally friendly features that will save energy and water, spacious floorplans, a big playground for children and more.

Col. Varman Chhoeung, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, and Ted Lim of The Michaels Organization LLC, lifted the first wall together during the Lower Stilwell Going Vertical ceremony at one of the home sites. The partnership between the Army and the business develops and oversees military housing on the Monterey Peninsula.

"It is a public-private partnership that makes this all work," Chhoeung said at the ceremony. "I am incredibly proud to be here and to be a part of this. This team has done outstanding work."

Several USAG PoM and Michaels Organization officials attended, and Lim spoke about the features that make the homes environmentally friendly.

"These brand-new, single-family duplex homes will be the first all-electric neighborhood and are designed to LEED silver standards," Lim said. "These homes will feature solar panels, Energy Star appliances, LED lighting

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**Top**, Col. Varman Chhoeung, left, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, raises the first vertical wall of the Lower Stilwell housing development with Ted Lim of The Michaels Organization LLC, the Army's commercial partners in developing and overseeing military housing on the Monterey Peninsula, at the Ord Military Community, Calif., Sept. 8.

**Left**, from left, Col. Varman Chhoeung, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey; Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Londers, command sergeant major of USAG PoM; Steve Bickel, deputy garrison commander; USAG PoM, Lucy Bautista, housing management program analyst; PoM Directorate of Public Works, Oscar Ordonez, PoM DPW chief of housing; and Jack Poling, PoM DPW director, pose for a photo with the wall.



# Housing (cont.)

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 percent more energy efficient than the average home.

The development also includes many quality-of-life amenities, Lim said.

“Serving as the centerpiece of the neighborhood is a ‘super park’ that will feature playgrounds, picnic areas, barbecue grills, a fitness loop complete with pet stations and, of course, fitness equipment,” Lim said.

On average, the homes will be 1,800 square feet, Lim said.

Also, as the site for the wall-raising event illustrated, some homes will have ocean views of Monterey Bay. “These houses on Monterey Road will be the envy of a lot of the neighbors,” Lim said.

Oscar Ordonez, USAG PoM head of housing, who once lived on the former Fort Ord as a young Soldier, said the development gives junior enlisted service members exceptional housing for their money.

For example, the homes all have at least three bedrooms and include modern appliances, a two-car garage and indoor laundry rooms, to name a few advantages, Ordonez said.

Service members can secure the housing with their housing allowance, Ordonez said, and it provides far more value than they could possibly get off post.

The 2021 “Basic Allowance Housing” rate for junior enlisted service members, or those between the ranks of E1 and E4, is \$2,418 a month if they have dependents, according to [PresidioOfMontereyHousing.com](https://www.presidioofmontereyhousing.com). As of August, the average rent in Monterey was \$2,263 and the average apartment size was 786 square feet, according to [RentCafe.com](https://www.rentcafe.com).

The new housing provides other advantages as well, Ordonez said.

“It also allows them to reside in a military neighborhood



*Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Londers, command sergeant major, U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, hammers a nail to help brace the first vertical wall during the Lower Stilwell Going Vertical ceremony at the Ord Military Community, Calif., Sept. 8.*

amongst their fellow service members, where they can go out into the local neighborhood amenities and know the families using them are just like them,” Ordonez said.

Since the Presidio of Monterey itself only has 37 housing units for families on post, most families who live in military housing on the peninsula reside at the nearby La Mesa Village in Monterey or the Ord Military Community, which has roughly 6,000 residents and is near Seaside.

Chhoeung said the military community needs more housing for junior enlisted service members, and the development will help fulfill that need.

The development is part of an ongoing process of tearing down old housing and building new housing, officials said.

Ordonez said the new development replaces 180

Capehart Wherry-type homes built between 1958 and 1962.

Lim said that unlike purely private ventures, the public-private venture between the Army and the Michaels Organization relies upon the cash flow generated from operations.

“It took seven years to save up for this neighborhood, and that’s how these projects generally work,” Lim said. “They are self-funded and independent from government financing.”

Subject to Army approval, the partnership next plans to redevelop 42 homes near Doe Park in OMC, Lim said.

Chhoeung said it is important to remember that quality military housing contributes to readiness and the mission of training linguists and officers.



# PoM FD teaches Cub Scouts about fire safety

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – When members of the Presidio of Monterey Fire Department visited the Monterey Cub Scout Camp here July 29, they continued a time-honored Scout tradition of teaching through active participation.

Not only did the firefighters answer questions about a fire truck they brought to the camp, they allowed the Scouts to climb into the cab and sit in the driver's seat. Then, in the department's Fire Safety and Prevention Trailer, Scouts received hands-on training in interactive rooms and practiced escaping a fire through a window.

"It's been wonderful to have the Presidio of Monterey Fire Department come out," said Darcy Fowler, director of the four-day camp that began July 26 and drew Cub Scouts from around the Monterey Bay area. "It's really great to teach kids about fire safety, not only outdoors ... but they're teaching them about indoors also."

PoM Fire Inspector Officer Jay Gonzalez said it is important for people to know the department conducts fire safety training for a variety of organizations throughout the region, and not just to Army organizations.

"Our goal is to make sure that we're educating them, telling what needs to happen in case of fire," Gonzalez said. "Call 911. Get out of the house. Where is your meeting point? By educating them, everybody is safe and everybody is living another day."

The department's 27-foot-long Fire Safety and Prevention Trailer includes interactive kitchen and

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Firefighter Andrea Kiser with the Presidio of Monterey Fire Department answers questions during the Monterey Cub Scout Camp at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., July 29.



Makena Matias, a member of Cub Scout Pack 451 in Turlock, tries on a firefighter's helmet during the Monterey Cub Scout Camp.



Cub Scouts exit a Presidio of Monterey Fire Department fire truck during the Monterey Cub Scout Camp.





Cub Scouts await their turn inside the Presidio of Monterey Fire Department's Fire Safety and Prevention Trailer during the Monterey Cub Scout Camp at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., July 29.

## Fire safety (cont.)

bedroom scenarios that are complete with digital flame, smoke and sound effects. There is also a smoking toaster, a smoking outlet and a prop phone to "call" 911. In the bedroom, people can climb out a window and down a ladder.

Alexander von Benedikt-Fowler, 10, an Arrow of Light who belongs to Cub Scout Pack 135 in Seaside, said he had a lot of fun participating in the training.

"I don't actually know which was my favorite," Alexander said. "I liked the truck because it was

really cool, but also the fire [trailer] where we learned about the safety was awesome. So I don't know which one I like more, but I just like it all."

His big takeaway, however, was that he and his family need to make a fire escape plan for their house, Alexander said.

Likewise, Ignacio Matias, 6, a Tiger who belongs to Cub Scout Pack 451 in Turlock, said he enjoyed the fire safety instruction.

Ignacio said he learned how to crawl along the ground with a towel to avoid smoke, and to put the towel underneath a door to prevent more smoke



PoM Fire Prevention Officer Alikea Publico shows Cub Scouts how to make a fire exit plan in the department's Fire Safety and Prevention Trailer.

from coming into a room. He also learned he could wipe the windows to see out and then jump out a window.

In addition, "If there was a fire in the oven, I would just call 911," Ignacio said.

The fire-safety instruction was one of several activities the Scouts participated in during the camp, said Jason Leach, the camp's program director.

The camp's theme was "Weird Science," and the Scouts learned how to make Alka Seltzer rockets, created art with fizzy paint comprised of baking soda, vinegar and dye, studied knot making and practiced knife safety while whittling, Leach said.

Cub Scouts are in grades first through fifth, and Leach and the other camp organizers made sure to keep all 38 of them busy throughout the camp.

"The Scouts arrive around eight o'clock in the morning, and we help get the Scouts in their cars around three and we watch them go 'ka-thonk,' sound asleep," Leach said.

Organizations interested in scheduling a fire safety lesson with the trailer should contact PoM Fire Prevention Chief Cory Prough at (831) 242-7544.



# PoM, local community come together to remember fallen service members

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – More than 200 people gathered at Lovers Point Park in Pacific Grove Sept. 17 for a memorial service honoring the lives and sacrifice of the 13 service members killed in action at the Kabul Airport on Aug. 26.

The event highlighted military and municipal partnerships that help build a strong sense of community on the Monterey Peninsula. The City of Pacific Grove and the Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce hosted the event, and it featured two speakers from the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center. In addition, City of Monterey provided a fire truck with a large American flag that hung on a ladder over the event.

Marine Corps Lt. Col. Timothy Mayer, commander, Marine Corps Detachment, DLIFLC, delivered the event's keynote speech. He memorialized each of the fallen 11 Marines, one Navy Corpsman and one Soldier and talked about the meaning of military service.

"[The service members] made the ultimate sacrifice trying to help people they didn't even know," Mayer said. "That's what people sometimes forget about military service: Yes, we train to fight our country's battles and ultimately to win our nation's wars, but we also serve to

*Story continued next page*



**Top**, from left, Master Gunnery Sgt. Jeffrey T. Rooke, senior enlisted leader, Marine Corps Detachment, Presidio of Monterey, Gunnery Sgt. Matthew Archbold, and Sgt. Joan Lee salute for the national anthem at Lovers Point Park, Pacific Grove, Calif., Sept. 17, during the "Afghanistan Servicemembers Memorial" for the 13 service members killed in action at the Kabul Airport on Aug. 26.

**Left**, more than 200 people gather at Lovers Point Park for the memorial. The Monterey Fire Department provided a fire truck and large American flag for the event.



# Memorial (cont.)

defend the defenseless and to support those willing to fight for their freedom.”

Mayer said he did not know any of the fallen, but he knows many service members like them.

“The service members that were killed are much like the young service members you see here in Pacific Grove, enjoying the beach, hiking at Garrapata [State Park] or enjoying an afternoon on Cannery Row or at Fisherman’s Warf,” Mayer said. “They are patriotic, dedicated, unflinching and selfless.”

Service members at DLIFLC impress him daily with their enthusiasm for service and life, Mayer said.

“The service members we memorialize today do not have that future,” Mayer said. “We lost 13 souls on Aug. 26 that were serving on a righteous and a just mission. They were doing what their nation asked of them. They had families, friends and people that cared for them. They were each unique.”

Army Chaplain (Maj.) Chester Olson, a DLIFLC chaplain, was one of 10 local religious leaders to speak.

“Service and sacrifice are two words that exemplify the life and commitment for military men and women, but it is love that sustains service and sacrifice,” Olson said. “Love, especially in the midst of grave danger, love for God, love for country, love for family and love for friends.”

Olson recounted a story about a Marine in the Battle of Guadalcanal during World War II who said the fighting was so intense all he could do was put his head down and pray.

“When he was asked how he kept going, his response was this: That he kept going ‘because of the people on his right and on his

left,’” Olson said. “And although their faces kept changing, I kept on fighting. I kept on fighting for the person on my right and on my left.’ And that is love.”

Olson then quoted the Bible’s Gospel of John 15:13, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Joe Amelio, a Pacific Grove city council member and DLIFLC test administrator, said he formed the idea for the memorial because he felt it was important for the community to honor the fallen service members. Although four were from California, they were not from the local area.

Amelio said when he first read the news, his reaction was that someone had to act, so he called Moe Ammar, president of the Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce, and they began organizing the event.

“I just felt in my heart that we needed to do something,” Amelio said.

The names of the fallen service members are: Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo, 25, of Lawrence, Massachusetts; Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole L. Gee, 23, of Sacramento, California; Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover, 31, of Salt Lake City, Utah; Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez, 22, of Indio, California; Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan W. Page, 23, of Omaha, Nebraska; Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez, 22, of Logansport, Indiana; Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza, 20, of Rio Bravo, Texas; Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz, 20, of St. Charles, Missouri; Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum, 20, of Jackson, Wyoming; Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, 20, of Rancho Cucamonga, California; Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui, 20, of Norco, California; Navy Corpsman Maxton W. Sowiak, 22, of Berlin Heights, Ohio; and Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss, 23, of Corryton, Tennessee.



*Above, Lt. Col. Timothy Mayer, commander, Marine Corps Detachment, Presidio of Monterey, speaks at Lovers Point Park, Pacific Grove, Calif., Sept. 17, during the “Afghanistan Servicemembers Memorial” for the 13 service members killed in action at the Kabul Airport on Aug. 26.*



*Right, Sailors salute for the national anthem during the memorial.*



# Walk inside Ord cleanup area features tank, terrain, more

Story and photos by Winifred Brown  
Presidio of Monterey



Members of the public participate in a guided nature walk inside the Fort Ord Impact Area, Fort Ord National Monument, Calif., Sept. 18.



Hikers take photos of a M58 Tank, part of the "Patton" family line of armor, during a guided nature walk inside the Fort Ord Impact Area.



William Collins, environmental coordinator, Fort Ord Field Office, Army Base Realignment and Closure Office, opens the gate to the Fort Ord Impact Area at the start of the walk.

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – After a thorough safety briefing, more than 100 members of the public received a sneak peek inside the former Fort Ord munitions impact area that will become a Bureau of Land Management recreation area when cleanup is complete in eight to 10 years.

Hikers registered in advance for the Sept. 18 event and had a choice of a 3.75-mile or 1.6-mile guided nature walk in the fenced-in area. Most chose the longer walk, and along the way they not only saw the beautiful landscape, but a variety of native plants and an old Gama Goat off-road vehicle, an M59 Armored Personnel Carrier and an M58 Tank, part of the "Patton" line of armor.

The Fort Ord Field Office of the Army Base Realignment and Closure office began the environmental cleanup of the area about 30 years ago, and personnel from the office organized the event to highlight their stewardship of the area. It is currently part of Fort Ord National Monument under joint Army and BLM management, but will become solely BLM property when the cleanup is complete.

In addition to experienced tour leaders, organizers had a team of about 20 staff members on hand to answer questions. Also, Jane Styer, a volunteer with the California Native Plant Society, joined the long walk and provided information about plants.

Before everyone set off, Betsy Hibbits, a contractor supporting the BRAC office, provided a 10-point safety briefing that included everything from staying hydrated to being aware of mountain lions in the area. She made one point especially clear, however.

"The number one safety consideration is always munitions, so stay on the roads," Hibbits said. "If you see by any chance something shiny or metallic on

*Story continued next page*



# Nature walk (cont.)



A hiker takes a photo of the Military Operations on Urban Terrain, or MOUT, test site, also called Impossible City, during a guided nature walk inside the Fort Ord Impact Area, Fort Ord National Monument, Calif., Sept. 18. Organizers stressed that the site is off limits, and cameras are present to detect trespassers.

the ground, don't touch it. In fact, if you see anything on the ground that you didn't drop, don't pick it up."

William Collins, environmental coordinator, Fort Ord Field Office, Army BRAC office, opened the locked gate and led the longer tour. He has worked on the project for nearly 29 years and answered many questions along the way.

Collins said the guided nature walks are his favorite part of the job.

"I started off as a wildlife biologist and now I end up managing the cleanup with munitions, soil and water, so I don't usually get out in the field like I used to," Collins said. "So this is an opportunity to share what the Army's been doing for the last 30 years."

***"This is an opportunity to share what the Army's been doing [with the Fort Ord Impact Area] for the last 30 years."***

***— William Collins, Fort Ord Field Office, Army BRAC***

The walk was also an opportunity to spread the word that the area is dangerous and trespassers must stay away, Collins said.

"When you see the signs and the fences that say 'danger,' 'keep out,' 'explosives,' we ask that you take that seriously," Collins said. "We've had a lot of trespass in the restricted area. People have been killed and injured because of munitions on Fort Ord, and although it hasn't happened in the recent past, we just want to keep it that way."

The walk also took participants within view of the Military Operations on Urban Terrain, or MOUT, test site, often called Impossible City, and Collins asked participants to stress in any social media posts they made that the area is off limits.

"There are a lot of cameras around this site to detect trespass," Collins said. "Something that happens quite frequently is the Army's security, BLM's security, capture a lot of people hopping the fence ... and we get those guys."

Seeing the military vehicles brought back memories for some, including Collins.

"I actually used to drive a Gama Goat, this six-wheeled thing," Collins told tour members. "We used to throw that out of an airplane with a parachute, and we'd jump out after it and after it hit the ground we'd pull it off the platform and drive it away."

The vehicles will remain on the site as BLM interpretive exhibits, Collins said.

Eric Morgan, manager of Fort Ord National Monument for BLM, spoke at the event's beginning and participated in the long walk.

When the monument opened about 10 years ago, it received about 300,000 visitors a year, Morgan said, but now that figure is up to about 1.5 million.

Morgan said one of the reasons he believes the monument is the best in the United States is because it has a rich history and has been home to unique inhabitants.

"It's of course home of the Ohlone Esselen—this is their hunting grounds—but it also is a former home of one of the greatest militaries on the planet," Morgan said. "It was the home of the 7th Infantry [Division] for quite some time, and we love to honor all the Soldiers that went through the gates of the former Fort Ord."

Participants enjoyed the tour and found it informational.

Brittan Carlson, a walk participant from Pacific Grove, said that in addition to the beautiful scenery and nice weather, the volunteers did a great job of interacting with everyone and pointing out aspects such as flowers, points of history, the specific impact areas and the cleanup.

"I want to do this every time they have it and I hope they are able to keep doing it," Carlson said.

Melissa Broadston, a contractor who runs the BRAC community relations office and leader of the event's shorter walk, said the BRAC office has hosted the guided nature walks annually for the past 10 years, and they usually take place in May because that is when many wild flowers are in bloom after the rains at that time of the year.

Due to the COVID pandemic, organizers postponed this year's walk, but the next walk will take place May 14, 2022, Broadston said. Watch for details on how to sign up and learn more about the project at [www.fortordcleanup.com](http://www.fortordcleanup.com).



# USAG PoM Chaplain Col. Meyners retires

Story and photo by Noah Rappahahn  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – Col. Varman Chhoeung, garrison commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, and the PoM Religious Services Office hosted a retirement ceremony Aug. 12 at the PoM Chapel in honor of garrison chaplain, Chaplain (Col.) Eric R. Meyners. Meyners received his commission in 1999 and has served in a broad range of chaplain positions across the Army over 22 years of service, most recently at PoM where he was promoted to colonel.

Chaplain (Col.) Joseph Fleury, interim USAG PoM chaplain, presided over the ceremony. Fleury welcomed the Meyners family to the ceremony and thanked them for their commitment to the Army and to the nation.

“There is so much that could be said today, after all these years. But it’s impossible to put into words all that has transpired over the last 22 years,” Fleury said. “Whenever I find myself in these types of situations, I often revert to the language of poetry, which moves us beyond the present moment, to a space that transcends any particular time and place.”

Fleury then recited “A Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost before thanking the entire Meyners family for committing to the less common career path of an Army chaplain.

“Eric, you and Louis, along with your entire family, have certainly taken the road less traveled, and what a difference it has made,” Fleury said. “I know



Chaplain (Col.) Eric R. Meyners, right, former U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey chaplain, and Chaplain (Col.) Joseph Fleury, interim USAG PoM chaplain, shake hands during Meyners' retirement ceremony at the PoM Chapel, PoM, Monterey Calif., Aug. 12.

that your paths were often busy, chaotic and hectic. But your ministry, your healing touch and your smile got to light the path and guide the way for thousands of Soldiers and their families.”

Fleury’s remarks were followed by a family tribute, retirement and spousal accolades which included Meyner’s wife, Lois, and their adult children Gustav, his wife Jacqueline, Mason and Elsa. Also in attendance were Meyners’ parents, whom he thanked for giving him the values that have guided him throughout his career.

“Dad, I want to thank you and Mom for the Christian faith, and the values you have instilled in me. They ground me and guide me and I appreciate it,” said Meyners. “Gustav, Mason and Elsa, I am so proud to be your Dad. You bring so much joy to my life and I am so glad to see the people you have grown to be. Louis, thank you, I love you and will walk any path with you.”

Finally, Meyners thanked God for the many blessings afforded to him, especially for a fantastic Army career. Following the formal retirement ceremony, RSO hosted a reception in the back of the chapel.



# Welcome to the 'grand old man' of the Chaplain Corps

By Noah Rappahahn  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – In June, the Presidio of Monterey welcomed Chaplain (Col.) Joseph A. Fleury, who will be serving in an interim role as U.S. Army Garrison PoM senior chaplain while awaiting permanent change of station, or PCS, orders to Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. Fleury arrived to PoM this summer after serving most recently at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Arlington, Virginia.

Ironically, Henderson Hall is named after Archibald Henderson, whom Marines widely know as the “grand old man of the Marine Corps.” He served 52 years in the Marines, and 39 years as the commandant. Much like Henderson, Fleury holds a similarly impressive service record.

Born in 1951, Fleury is the oldest active-duty service member across the Department of Defense, and is one of three chaplains who are part of the retiree recall system. As the eldest active-duty service member, PoM is privileged to have the Army’s own “grand old man of the Chaplain Corps” serving here, if only for a short period of time.

Fleury first entered the Army in 1988, officially retired at the age of 62, and has continued to serve the last eight years in a retiree recall capacity to help fill the need for Catholic chaplains in the Army. PoM is his 26th Army assignment.

“While there are just shy of 1,500 active-duty chaplains across the Army right now, there are only



*Courtesy photo*

*Chaplain (Col.) Joseph Fleury, interim U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey senior chaplain, is the oldest active-duty service member in the Department of Defense.*

approximately 75 Catholic chaplains. Proportionally, we do not have enough Catholic chaplains to support the need across the Army—we need to be closer to 300.”

As a result, Fleury’s time at PoM will be short-lived as he prepares for the PCS move to Schofield Barracks on Oahu, where the Chaplain Corps has identified a greater need for his service as Catholic chaplain.

“I am working with the Chaplain Corps now to finalize my orders to Tripler and to identify my re-

placement here at PoM. Regardless of who is here, it’s important to know that [the Religious Support Office] is always here offering religious worship services, religious education services and pastoral counseling such as marriage, personal and group counseling.”

RSO enables spiritual readiness for DoD personnel at PoM by providing and coordinating prioritized religious support services and programs while providing pastoral leadership and support for the members of the PoM military community. Contact the RSO at (831) 242-5281.



# Chaplain's corner: Lessons learned from COVID

By Chaplain (Maj.) Ben Ellington  
Presidio of Monterey Religious Services Office

The last 19 months have been a weird world of learning. I now know more about masks, teleworking, antibodies, and social distancing than I ever wanted to know. In fact, before if you stood six-feet away from me I assumed I just offended you somehow. Now I wonder if you are worried I am going to get you sick or if you truly do not like me.

While there are many weird things I learned during COVID, there are many wonderful things as well. In this last year and a half I have learned way more about my family. I have seen what it takes just to get up and out the door to school, or what they are learning in class. I have also learned much more about the pressures on our young people and how much an encouraging word goes a long way. In addition, I have learned if I have computer or electronic issues I do not need to call tech support, I just need a teenager.

Also, I have learned a ton more about my teammates and what it takes to do their jobs. Especially as in the COVID environment it seems we have all had to cover for each other. It is amazing how difficult someone else's job is when we have to do it ourselves. Plus, through TEAMS I have met many of your children, grandchildren, spouses, and even

*'The bottom line is that there are many things I wish I had never learned through this pandemic, but there are so many things I am glad I discovered.'*

*-Chaplain (Maj.) Ben Ellington*

pets. It has been such a blessing to meet everyone as you allow us a window into your world. We always discuss our families at ceremonies and meetings but rarely do we get to meet them. As strange as it sounds, COVID has allowed me to meet more families through camera lenses and speaker phones.

Last, I do not know about the rest of you but I have thanked God for fresh air more in the last few months than ever before. One chief joy I have is walking out of a building and taking off my mask. I pause and breathe in that fresh Monterey air! Who knew that just removing a small piece of cloth could make such a big difference? However, it is not just the air I enjoy about being outside, it is being outside! I came from Fort Knox, Kentucky,



Courtesy photo

Chaplain (Maj.) Benjamin Ellington, deputy command chaplain, U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey

when COVID started and it would be in the high 90s and humid until about this time of year. POM is way more outdoor, COVID-activity friendly. Outside allows me to social distance but also draw closer to the Creator as I bask in His creation.

The bottom line is that there are many things I wish I had never learned through this pandemic, but there are so many things I am glad I discovered. It reminded me of Romans 8:28 where Paul states, "All things work together for good." While I sure am ready for this pandemic to end, I know in the end that in some weird ways it was a blessing! Go love on your family and friends and stay safe!



# PoM 'Connects to Protect' during Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Story and photo by Noah Rappahahn  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – During September, the Army elevates the conversation about suicide prevention, support resources and steps anyone can take to protect one another against suicide. The 2021 theme of suicide prevention month is “Connect to Protect: Support is Within Reach.”

Around the Presidio, Army substance abuse program specialist and suicide prevention program manager, retired Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Josémanuel “José” Bernal has been busy giving educational classes and distributing critical resources across the installation.

Bernal joined the Presidio in May after a 20-year career in the Marine Corps. He has found his new purpose as an Army civilian, encouraging people to connect with those around them to inspire hope and healing in those who may be struggling.

“After a career in the Marine Corps, I wasn’t exactly sure what I would do after. I am from Hollister, so I returned home and tried to find a job. Let me tell you, that transition is not easy,” Bernal said during a professional military education (PME) at the base theater. “Being from Hollister, I always knew that PoM was here and now I feel so fortunate to be working here. I get to be surrounded by service members again and I am in a position where I know I can help and make a difference. That is a dream come true.”

In addition to a series of suicide prevention PME’s



Retired Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Josemanuel "Jose" Bernal speaks to service members about Suicide Prevention Awareness Month at the Hobson Recreation Center, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Sept. 15.

given throughout the month, Bernal also worked with the Religious Support Office (RSO) to communicate messages to the entire Monterey military community from the chaplains at PoM.

One message, from 229th Military Intelligence Battalion Chaplain (Capt.) Jordan A. Dersch, offered the following message encouraging the community to find hope through connection.

“Suicide is the extreme and tragic outcome of one individual losing hope and lacking opportunity to connect with others to inspire hope. Hope can be found in many places. Some find their hope in their spirituality, ‘put your hope in the Lord...’ one might say. Another might find hope in those around them.

‘Be connected through community,’ one might say. Another may find it in their family, ‘Find comfort in those related to you.’ No matter the place, hope inspired keeps the spirit churning. Be aware of those around you, and strive to connect. Life is worth living. Take opportunity to be positively intrusive, and show that you care. The opportunities are immense; only you can take hold of them.” - 229th MI BN Chaplain (Capt.) Jordan A. Dersch.

Resources are always available and support is always within reach. For more resources about suicide prevention, visit your unit chaplain, call the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255), text 838255 or visit <https://www.armyresilience.army.mil/suicidepreventionmonth>.



# USAG PoM recognizes civilian excellence with awards



*Left, Col. Varman Chhoeung, garrison commander, U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, recognizes Coleman Skillingstad as civilian of the third quarter for overseeing the Emergency Operations Center and making technical improvements that help PoM better respond to crises.*

*Below left, Chhoeung recognizes Bobby Kim, Financial Readiness Program manager, as the July civilian of the month. Due to his oversight of the 2021 Army Emergency Relief campaign, donations increased 34 percent over last year. PoM's 2021 AER campaign was one of the most successful across the entire U.S. Army. As a result, Kim will also receive the first-place award of the 2021 Army Active Duty AER Campaign for small installations in October. The Sergeant Major of the Army will present the award at the Association of the U.S. Army annual meeting.*

*Below middle, Chhoeung recognizes PoM Police Capt. Jimmy Webb as the June civilian of the month. Webb also received an Army Commendation Medal for assisting Officer Roger Wood, Jr., and his family by collecting hundreds of hours of voluntary leave donations as Wood fought a losing battle with cancer. Webb also coordinated a dignified remembrance service and internment with full honors.*

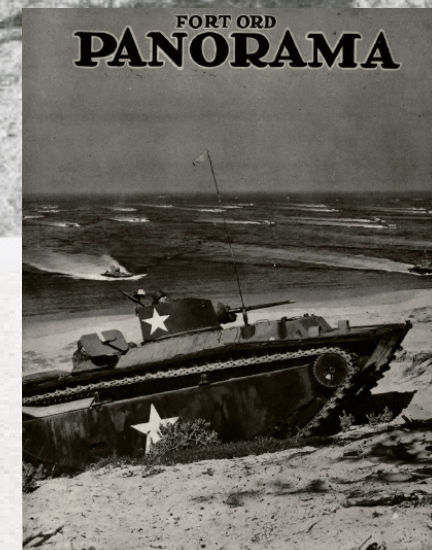
*Below right, Officer Michael Mancini of the PoM police department, is the August USAG PoM Civilian of the Month. Mancini routinely displays the highest degree of compassion and empathy while engaging with the local community. His extra effort in building positive community relations sets the example for all other officers to emulate while working with the local community. In addition, Mancini's keen sense of humor puts smiles on people's faces.*





# FROM THE HISTORIAN

## Combat training at Fort Ord



*Left, artillery Soldiers assigned to the 76th Field Artillery pose with their 75mm cannon at Camp Ord, ca. 1930s. Above, an amphibious battalion of the 18th Armored Group conducts a mock assault on the beach at Fort Ord, July 1945. Right, the 7th Infantry Division "Lightfighters" deploy for a training exercise from a C-130 transport, ca 1980s.*

By Cameron Binkley

DLIFLC Command Historian

During three quarters of a century, through half a dozen wars and conflicts, the Army used Fort Ord for a variety of purposes, but mainly training. Most historians prefer to study battles, but it is at places such as Fort Ord that the Army builds combat units and where young men and women learn the skills needed to transform from civilians into Soldiers, a critical component of military power.

The Army purchased the first portions of the post during World War I to serve as a field artillery range. Horse drawn artillery practiced rough driving across sandy hills and range-finding targets from observation points, including one named after Pvt. Eustace Watkins who died firefighting in 1924. Cavalry Soldiers also drilled there, practicing field

maneuvers and shooting from a saddle.

The post expanded to mobilize combat units for World War II. Twice its original size, the base acquired miles of beachfront property. Training continued, but with changes. Infantry Soldiers learned how to fire anti-tank weapons while the cavalry disappeared, a victim of mechanization. The most striking change was the arrival of the 18th Armored Group whose battalions of "Bronco-Busters" - amphibious tractors - practiced numerous invasions of Monterey by dodging rollicking seas, tank traps, and dense smoke ignited to obscure landing operations. Amphibious tactics developed at Fort Ord were applied in the Pacific campaigns and on the beaches of Normandy. Indeed, Gen. George Marshall visited Fort Ord just a few days before D-Day to observe the group in

action and to set his mind at ease.

Later, as a basic training base, Fort Ord's rifle ranges grew to match a constant influx of new recruits. In the 1960s, Soldiers practiced counterinsurgency and a mock Vietnamese village sprouted in the chaparral. During its last decades Fort Ord hosted the 7th Infantry division, which in the 1980s practiced light infantry, urban warfare, and rapid deployment tactics and was marshalled to use them from Fritzsche Army Airfield for Operation Just Cause.

If an army marches on its stomach and endures through spirit, then it wins by training, the more the better. That was the purpose of Fort Ord in the 20th century and why a drill sergeant statue once guarded its gate.



# Remembering the Memorialized: Cook

## Memorialization #11

**Col. Donald G. Cook**  
**1934-1967**

The U.S. Marine Corps sent Col. Donald G. Cook to Vietnam in late 1964, where he served as an adviser to the Vietnamese Marine Division until he was wounded and captured by the Viet Cong 18 days later.

Cook was the first Marine POW in Vietnam, held as a prisoner of war from Dec. 31, 1964 until his death from malaria at age 33, in 1967. He posthumously received the Medal of Honor and a promotion from captain to colonel.

During nearly three years of captivity, Cook took responsibility for the men around him, according to the Department of Defense.

He shared his food and small amounts of medicine with other prisoners and took care of them when they were struggling, despite his deteriorating health due to exposure, deprivation, malnutrition and disease. Cook refused to stray from the U.S. Military Code of Conduct, despite enemy efforts to break his spirit.

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>.



*Cook Hall is Bldg. 613 on the Presidio of Monterey. Col. Donald Cook had studied Mandarin Chinese at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center before deploying to Vietnam in 1964, and officials dedicated the building to his memory in 2014. Fluent in several languages, Cook worked in intelligence and interrogation for years before volunteering to go to Vietnam in December 1964. Cook was born in Brooklyn, New York, in August 1934.*

*Right, Col. Donald G. Cook.*

*Far right, the memorial plaque in honor of Cook at Cook Hall, Presidio of Monterey.*

*Courtesy photos*







# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## October 4

### Fire safety with 'Sparky'

Join the PoM Fire Department's fire prevention team from 9-10 a.m. at the OMC CDC for a fire truck driveby with Sparky the fire prevention dog. See Sparky the same day from 3-4 p.m. at the Porter Youth Center, OMC. Call (831) 242-7544 for more.

## October 5

### Fire safety at OMC

The PoM Fire Department's fire prevention trailer will be at the OMC PX from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and at the OMC Commissary from 1-4 p.m. for fire extinguisher training and more. Call (831) 242-7544 for more.

### EFMP Support Group

This is a nonclinical support group, and families can share information with other families while learning from one another. 2:30-3:30 p.m. at General Stilwell Community Center (OMC) Next class: Nov 2. Call or email Kyong Turner LCSW, at (831) 242-7660/7690 or [kyong.turner.civ@mail.mil](mailto:kyong.turner.civ@mail.mil).

### Walk and Talk through OMC

Walk and talk with EFMP every Tuesday 10-11 a.m. This is a child friendly event, and you're welcome to bring strollers, tricycles, etc. Meet up at ACS, General Stilwell Community Center. Lace up your sneakers, bring your water, and put on your sunscreen. For more information, call (831) 242-7660.

## Joint Services Inprocessing Briefing

Newly arrived and need information about the current installation? It's mandatory for service members, but spouses are welcome. 6:30-10:45 a.m., Tin Barn, (PoM) Next classes: Oct. 12, Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, Nov. 9, Nov. 16, Nov. 23, Nov. 30. Contact Charles Lyons at (831) 242-7660/6890 or [charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil](mailto:charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil).

## October 6

### 'Plan My Move' briefing

Need help with understanding a permanent-change-of-station move? "Plan My Move" helps with housing, transportation, finances and more. 2:45-4 p.m. Tin Barn, (PoM). Next class Oct. 20. Contact Charles Lyons at (831) 242-7660/6890 or [charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil](mailto:charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil).

### Fire safety at PoM PX

The PoM Fire Department's fire prevention trailer will be at the PoM PX from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for fire extinguisher training and more fire safety education. Call (831) 242-7544 for more information.

## October 7

### Financial Readiness Training

ACS financial readiness training is open to all military personnel, civilian employees and their families, but service members in IET and their spouses are especially encouraged to attend. 8:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m. at the Tin Barn (PoM). Next class Oct. 21. Topics include credit, banking, budgets and more. Call or email Bobby Kim at ACS 242-7660/5501 or [bobby.t.kim.civ@mail.mil](mailto:bobby.t.kim.civ@mail.mil).

## October 8

### Purple Pumpkin Giveaway

ACS is giving away pumpkins and purple paint to all DoD families to bring awareness to domestic violence. RSVP your pickup time by calling (831) 242-7660 or emailing [jillian.j.santillanez.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jillian.j.santillanez.civ@mail.mil).

### '5 Love Languages' & Burritos

Join ACS and BOSS for burritos while you learn about love languages. Each person will complete the quiz and receive a free copy of the book "5 Love Languages" by Gary Chapman. Active-duty only, 7 p.m. at the Hobson Recreation Center. Contact [jillian.j.santillanez.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jillian.j.santillanez.civ@mail.mil) or call (831) 242-5863.

## October 9

### PoM Fire Department Open House

Join PoM FD at the Ord Military Community station, 4400 Gen. Jim Moore Blvd., from 5-9 p.m. for an open house and movie night. Visit the fire prevention trailer, receive extinguisher training and more. Call (831) 242-7544 for more information.

## October 10-25

### Army Ten Miler, Virtual Edition

Register now at <https://www.armytenmiler.com/registration/individual-registration/>. Use code B2S for 10% discount. Note you will be required to submit your run results at <https://active.app.link/ArmyTenMiler> immediately upon completing your race, but no later than Oct. 26.



## October 11

### Columbus Day BBQ

Enjoy a free lunch, 11 a.m. at the Hobson Recreation Center. Free burgers, hot dogs and refreshments for active-duty members only. Call (831) 242-5477.

## October 12 & 19

### 'Pick a Partner'

This is a two-part healthy relationship series. Build on your communication skills, learn to set boundaries and pick healthy partners. The classes will discuss "How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk or Jerkette" and participants will receive a free copy. On PoM at 4 p.m. but you have to RSVP. Contact jillian.j.santillanez.civ@mail.mil or call (831) 242-5863.

## October 14

### BOSS council meeting

Single service members are invited to attend PoM BOSS council meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month, 4:30 p.m. at the Hobson Recreation Center. Next meeting Oct. 28. Call (831) 242-5477.

## October 15

### La Mesa Fall Festival

While having fun at the festival, don't forget to visit the PoM Fire Department's fire prevention trailer from 4-6 p.m. for fire extinguisher training and more. Call (831) 242-7544 for more information.

## October 16

### Pumpkin Carving

Join BOSS, SAPR and SHARP for a fun night pumpkin carving. All supplies will be provided, plus free pizza and refreshments. 7:30 p.m. at the Hobson Recreation Center, Bldg. 843. Call (831) 242-5477.

## October 18

### Military Spouse Orientation

The Military Spouse Orientation helps bridge the gap between military spouses and community agencies with information about several community programs, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. in the ACS Gold Room. Open to all active-duty military spouses, regardless of branch of service. Registration required. Call (831) 242-6890 or email charles.a.lyons.civ@mail.mil.

## October 20

### 'Looniversity'

Every Wednesday from 3-4 p.m., first through sixth graders can participate in an eight-week course that focuses on subjects such as aerospace and rocketry, pyrography (wood burning) and more. To sign up your child, call the Porter Youth Center at (831) 242-7823.

## October 23

### BOSS Fright Night Fiesta

Grab your friends and celebrate with us in your favorite costume. Starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Hobson Recreation Center. Costume contest prizes: Scariest Costume \$100; Most Creative Costume \$50; Funniest Costume \$25. Call (831) 242-5477.

## October 29

### OMC Trunk-or-Treat

While at the OMC Trunk-or-Treat at 4260 Gigling Road, visit the PoM Fire Department's fire prevention trailer from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Call (831) 242-7544.

## November 6

### Painting with a Purpose

This event is a partnership between BOSS, SHARP and SAPR to bring an evening of self-care, fun and

socializing. All supplies provided. Show up at 7 p.m. at the Hobson Recreation Center, Bldg. 843, for a great time and free waffles and ice cream. Active-duty only. Call the Hobson Recreation Center at (831) 242-5477.

## November 12

### STD/STI awareness

BOSS, along with SHARP and SAPR, will team up to help educate and bring awareness to the importance of practicing safe sexual activities and with proper consent. 8 p.m. at Hobson Recreation, Bldg. 843. Call the Hobson Recreation Center at (831) 242-5477.

## Every Friday

### Youth Program Friday Nights

Middle school and teens (DoD & military families) are welcome to hang out at the Porter Youth Center for free from 6-10 p.m. For fun activities and dinner provided. Contact Porter Youth Center at (831) 242-7823.

## Fitness Classes

### Price Fitness Center

Zumba every Tuesday at 5 p.m.; Self Defense and Martial Arts every Monday and Friday, 4-6 p.m. and every Saturday at 10 a.m.-12 p.m.; Spin Class- every Saturday 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Circuit Training every Wednesday at 5 p.m. Contact is (831) 242-5557.

## School breaks

Oct. 4-8, Nov. 22-24, Dec. 20-Jan. 4

Porter Youth Center provides full day care for MPUSD's school breaks. Each day consists of activities based around our "5 Service Areas" and include field trips, special guests, and specialty clubs. To sign-up, call (831) 242-7823.



# News Briefs: Navy

## Navy establishes new medal to honor fallen civilians



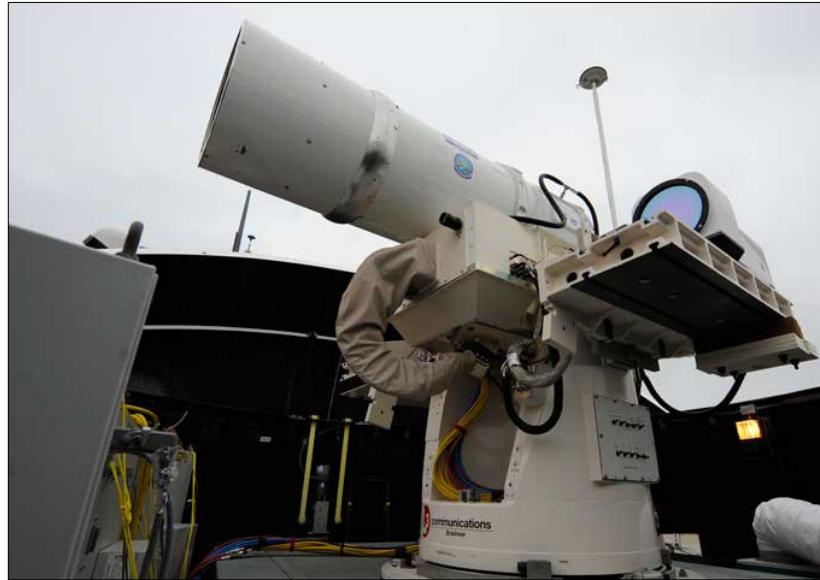
WASHINGTON — Department of the Navy civilian employees who are killed or sustain serious injury through considerable personal sacrifice in the performance of their duties are now eligible to receive the Angela M. Houtz Medal for Fallen Civilians.

The award honors the fidelity and essential service of civilian employees who were killed or sustain serious injury in the performance of their official duties as a result of criminal act, natural disaster, terrorist act, or other circumstances as determined by the Secretary of the Navy.

The medal is named for Angela M. Houtz, a Department of the Navy intelligence analyst killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

[Click here to read more](#)

## NPS hosts high-energy laser working group to address DoD domain needs



MONTEREY, Calif. — The Naval Postgraduate School hosted the latest annual Laser Lethality Technical Area Working Group sponsored by the Joint Directed Energy Transition Office, Aug. 24-26. The event brings together the joint services to collaborate and present sponsor-funded research results, as well as for laser lethality subject matter experts to review programs, technical efforts and results.

The lethality community also provides technical review of service products.

“Laser weapon systems provide a complementary, layered defense option to existing weapon systems and offer great potential to fill warfighter gaps from the air, land and sea,” said Dr. Chris Lloyd, Distinguished Scientist for Navy Laser Weapon Systems Lethality at Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren.

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## Two upcoming documents will reveal how the US Navy should fight



WASHINGTON — An ongoing Global Posture Review and a 2022 update to the National Defense Strategy will provide the U.S. Navy more clarity on what its roles and expectations are in the future, as the maritime space increasingly sees activities that the service considers aggressive but under the threshold of war.

Both China and Russia are taking part in these gray zone activities — in the competition phase of the warfare spectrum, but not yet reaching the crisis phase. In these instances, the Navy can’t respond kinetically like it would in conflict, but a lack of any response is not a precedent the service wants to set.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday told reporters there are still questions on what the Pentagon and the Biden administration will want the Navy to do and buy to prepare for this environment.

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# News Briefs: **Army**

## Army to create independent entity to oversee sexual assault cases



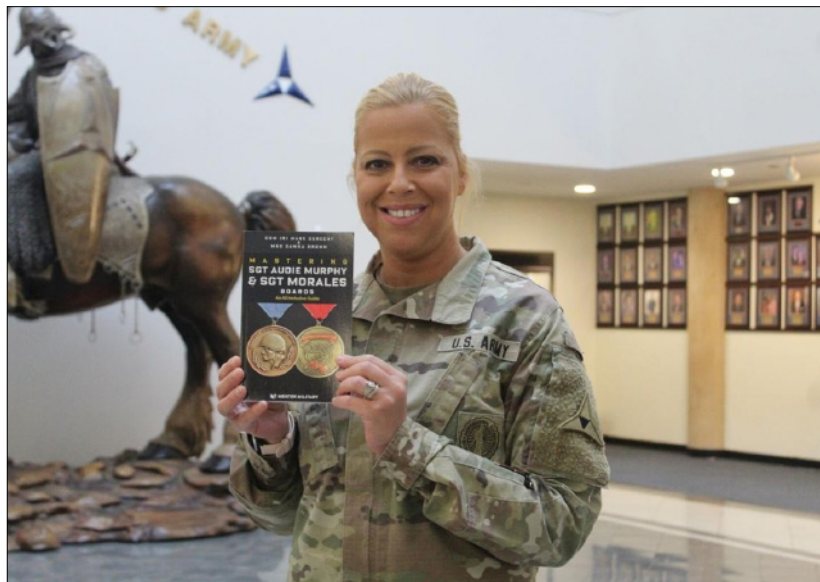
WASHINGTON — To better protect Soldiers from sexual harassment and assault, the Army will establish an office designed to make decisions to take action on such crimes, the service's top civilian leader said Sept. 7.

"We have a moral responsibility to take care of our Army family like it's our own family," said Secretary of the Army Christine E. Wormuth during a livestream of the National Discussion on Sexual Assault and Harassment Prevention at America's Colleges, Universities and Service Academies.

Under direction from the Defense Department, each of the nation's military branches will create similar offices amid growing concerns of sexual harassment and sexual assault cases in the armed forces. Previously, commanders bore the responsibility of prosecuting sexual assault cases.

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## Fort Hood Soldier authors board guide



FORT HOOD, Texas — In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, while other people were catching up on their favorite television shows, Master Sgt. Dawna Brown challenged herself to write a book about the SGT Audie Murphy Club and Board.

"I work with a lot of Army Reserve and National Guard. A lot of our Soldiers don't know a lot about Audie Murphy because the boards are only held at active duty installations," Brown, senior Reserve component career counselor with Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, III Corps, explained. "I chose to write the book to help all individuals of all Army components learn about the club and help them with their ability to complete and develop a streamlined knowledge across the Army."

Brown teamed up with retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Gerecht.

[Click here to read more](#)

## Army Field Artillery, Infantry Soldiers test newest dismounted GPS devices



FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. — Airborne Soldiers from Fort Campbell, Ky., tested two new GPS navigation systems here that could allow the Army to better shoot, move and communicate in a GPS degraded environment.

Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment and 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division assessed the GPS solutions, called Dismounted Assured Positioning, Navigation, and Timing System.

They conducted missions in a variety of scenarios to understand DAPS' in a realistic environment.

"The Soldiers played a significant role in helping the Army develop a replacement for the legacy Defense Advanced GPS Receiver," said Col. Dylan Randazzo, director of the Intelligence Electronic Warfare Test Directorate.

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# News Briefs **Air Force**

## US, Slovenian armed forces partner in bilateral exercise

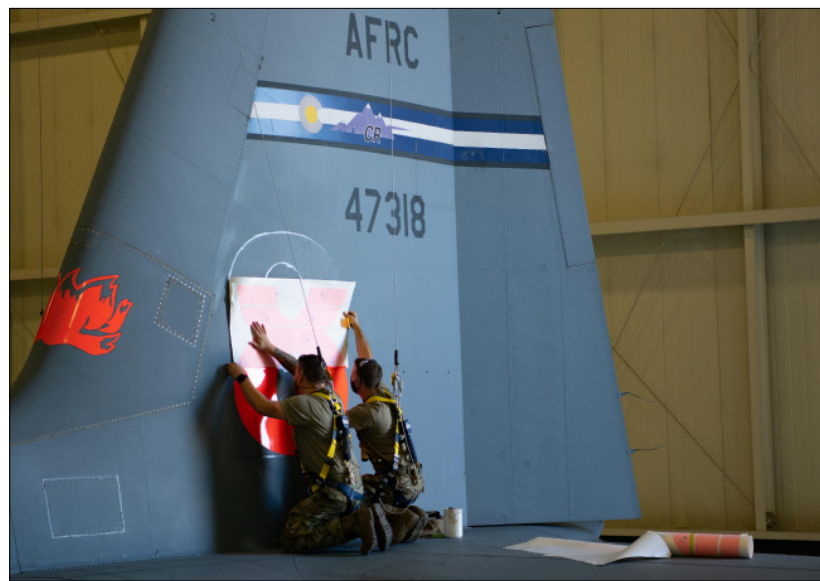


CERKLJE OB KRKI AIR BASE, Slovenia — U.S. Air Force and Slovenian armed forces leaders met to discuss bilateral operations and interoperability during a visit at Cerklje ob Krki Air Base, Slovenia, Sept. 9.

Gen. Jeff Harrigian, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa commander, and Brig. Gen. Jason E. Bailey, 31st Fighter Wing commander at Aviano Air Base, Italy, met with BG Roman Urbanč, deputy chief of the general staff of the Slovenian armed forces, and Slovenian armed forces Col. Janez Gaube, 15th Wing commander at Cerklje ob Krki AB. They discussed the importance of a strong U.S.-Slovenian partnership for Agile Combat Employment, an operating concept intended to ensure USAFE-AFAFRICA forces are prepared to respond to potential threats by enabling forces to quickly disperse and deliver airpower from remote or austere locations.

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## Reserve C-130 aerial firefighting teams fly during second busiest wildfire season



PETERSON SPACE FORCE BASE, Colo. — The 302nd Airlift Wing has three C-130 Hercules aircraft flying sorties out of McClellan Air Tanker Base this year in Sacramento County, California, performing an aerial firefighting mission unique within the Air Force Reserve.

Since first being activated July 20, the 302 AW has been working together with other military aircraft from Nevada Air National Guard's 152nd AW, Wyoming ANG's 153rd AW, and California ANG's 146th AW to drop millions of gallons of fire retardant in support of fire suppression efforts in California.

On Aug. 25, all eight C-130 aerial firefighting aircraft were activated for the first time since 2012. The aircraft are equipped with a U.S. Forest Service Modular Airborne Firefighting System unit loaded in the cargo bay.

[Click here to read more](#)

## Answering the call: Special tactics Airmen conclude Haiti earthquake relief efforts



HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — Special tactics Airmen assigned to the 24th Special Operations Wing concluded their response to augment humanitarian aid efforts in Haiti, Sept. 2, following a 7.2-magnitude earthquake that hit the country Aug. 14.

The special tactics Airmen were alerted on the morning of Aug. 16 that they would augment Joint Task Force-Haiti relief efforts. With the help of C-146A Wolfhound aircrews, assigned to the 492nd and 919th Special Operations Wings, the team touched down in Port Au Prince, Haiti, within 36 hours.

The special tactics team, consisting of five combat controllers and one pararescueman, were primarily responsible for surveying Jeremie and Les Cayes airfields for suitability of landing fixed-wing aircraft.

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# News Briefs: **Marines**

## Task Force Koa Moana completes rescue and fire support



AIRAI, PALAU — The Palau Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting Station, sometimes referred to as the ARFF for short, truck garage is currently the designated storage area for the COVID-19 medical supplies due to the size and security of the facility, but the lack of space makes it difficult for the ARFF team to do their job efficiently.

Engineers with Task Force Koa Moana extended an existing concrete pad with 20'x30 foot sectioned-off pads, which will serve as a staging area for containers donated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This will allow the ARFF to securely store all of their medical supplies and eliminate the need to use their garage as a warehouse.

Now complete, the challenging project will help the people of Palau for years to come.

[Click here to read more](#)

## Resilience and perseverance: Marine recounts returning to the Pentagon after 9/11



CAMP PENDLETON, CA — Resilience and perseverance — two similar words related to overcoming and continuing on in the face of adversity and hardship.

On Sept. 11, 2001, millions of Americans woke up to a new kind of adversity, a different kind of hardship, when terrorists hijacked planes and used them to attack the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Retired Marine Lt. Col. Darren Jump, then an active duty major stationed on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, was at home watching the attacks happen on his television like most of the rest of the world.

A few months after the attacks, Jump received orders from Camp Pendleton to the Pentagon, to work with Peter Murphy, the counsel for the commandant.

[Click here to read more](#)

## Marine Corps Base Hawaii welcomes monk seals



MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII — In June, the Hawaiian monk seal pup Lōli'i was transferred to Marine Corps Base Hawaii for protection from crowds on Waikiki beach. Although a baby seal may sound like a great tourist attraction, the conservation and protection of marine wildlife is important, and that includes minimizing the chances of young, curious monk seals becoming habituated to people. The natural wildlife and landscape is a precious resource to both MCBH and the people of Hawaii, and the installation takes seriously their stewardship role of protecting these resources.

“What happens after about six weeks of nursing is the mother seal abruptly leaves,” said Angela Amlin, a Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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