

IN PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY BRIEF



April - June edition (click headlines):



[USAG Presidio of Monterey welcomes Kline as new garrison commander](#)

Col. Varman Chhoeung relinquished command of the Presidio of Monterey garrison to Col. Sam Kline during a change of command ceremony at Soldier Field on June 14. Kline said he is honored to take the helm as garrison commander. "To the men, women and community of the PoM enterprise, I promise this: I will give you my all and I look forward to building on your team's success," Kline said. "Team Kline thanks you for your warm welcome into the PoM family." Kline is a native of Philadelphia and has served in the Army since he received his commission in 1997.



[California's Army Filipino Regiments played important role in WWII, beyond](#)

In April 1942, the Army activated the 1st Filipino Infantry Battalion at Camp San Luis Obispo, about 150 miles south of the Presidio of Monterey. Filipino soldiers who had escaped the fall of the Philippines reported to the unit as did Filipino Americans who had volunteered after enlisting. The Army saw symbolic value in having combat units of specific nationalities, especially after the nation's humiliating defeats. Joining the 1st Filipino Infantry proved popular. On July 13, 1942, the Army elevated the battalion to regiment status during a ceremony at the California Rodeo Grounds in Salinas.



[Presidio's Strong Beginnings graduation displays kindergarten readiness](#)

Wearing blue graduation caps and gowns, 27 children from the Strong Beginnings PreK program at the Presidio of Monterey received their diplomas during a graduation ceremony at the installation's Child Development Center on June 3. Not only did the graduates demonstrate their readiness for kindergarten with a song and dance that showcased their mastery of the alphabet, they also recited the Pledge of Allegiance flawlessly and displayed exemplary behavior throughout the ceremony.



[Presidio of Monterey Dental Clinic receives ASHMS Safety Star](#)

The Presidio of Monterey Dental Clinic officially became an Army Safety and Health Management System Star Strong facility during a ceremony at the clinic June 14. Dr. (Maj.) Michael Kroll, officer in charge of the clinic, said the clinic's new Safety Star banner shows that the clinic has passed a rigorous inspection process and it is one of the safest dental clinics in the Army. "It's not only the best care, but it's the safest care in the Army," he said. Kroll said staff members spent more than a year compiling information and developing standard operating procedures for the award.



[New Parent Support Group provides information, social opportunity](#)

New and expectant parents looking for information, social contacts and encouragement can find all three at the Presidio of Monterey's New Parent Support Group. Zoe Merritts, group facilitator and head of the installation's New Parent Support Program, said she provides information about a topic each week and participants also have a chance to participate in an open dialogue about any child-related topic with herself and other parents. "It's a really good way for [parents] to talk to each other, have some communication and network with each other," Merritts said.



[Presidio holds Memorial Day Ceremony](#)

DLIFLC held a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Presidio of Monterey in person for the first time in two years, with all four branches of the military and the Coast Guard present on Soldier Field May 26. "For many of us, today is a particularly haunting day that carries with it a particular grief. Memorial Day is the day we set aside to remember our fallen, to reflect upon their loss," said Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Commandant Col. James Kievit. "This is a day to recommit ourselves to the joint truths that make us who we are as a combined military fighting force."



[Archaeological dig at Presidio of Monterey solves mystery](#)

A team of archaeologists has solved the mystery of what lies under a layer of abalone shells on a proposed construction site at the Presidio of Monterey. Laura Prishmont-Quimby, the archaeologist and cultural resource manager for U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, said that when storm water exposed the shells a few months ago, she knew right away that archaeologists would have to investigate. Abalone are large sea snails, and since humans eat them, discoveries of their shells means humans put them there. The question was who.



[Presidio, Camp Roberts fire departments hold prescribed burn](#)

The Presidio of Monterey and Camp Roberts fire departments successfully teamed up with other agencies to hold the first in a series of multi-agency prescribed burns at Camp Roberts, Calif., May 4. The team burned a 77-acre area on the installation to reduce the risk of wildfires, improve the area's ecology and enhance safety, said Fire Prevention Chief Cory Prough of the PoM Fire Department. Camp Roberts is about 100 miles south of the Presidio in San Miguel and part of it falls under the command of U.S. Army Garrison PoM.



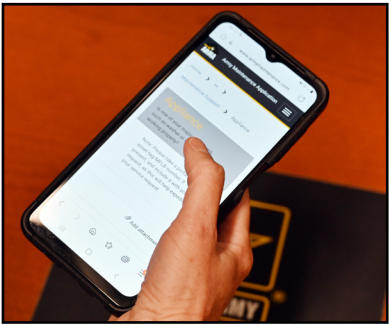
DLIFLC Language Day 2022 a success

After a two year-hiatus the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center held Language Day, a traditional celebration of language and culture for students from the Institute and young high school foreign language students from around northern California. "I am extremely proud to renew a beloved celebration that goes back 70 years," said DLIFLC Commandant, Col. James Kievit. "This tradition started back in 1952 when DLI's forerunner, called the Army Language School, decided to initiate the Army Language School Festival." About 2,500 visitors attended the event.



Presidio of Monterey provides help for PCSing personnel

Peak permanent change of station season has begun, and Presidio of Monterey school liaison and housing officials are ready to help incoming personnel make a successful transition to the Monterey area. A carefully planned PCS not only improves quality of life by cutting down on stress, but contributes to increased readiness. The first decision many families want to make before choosing a home is the school their children will attend. Elaine Vrolyks, PoM school liaison officer, provides all schooling information for the Monterey Peninsula, including public, private, charter and home-school options.



Presidio of Monterey kicks off use of Army maintenance site

As of May 2, members of the U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey community are able to report maintenance requests online through the Army Maintenance Activity, or ArMA, website. Once community members register for an account, they can submit service requests through a computer or smartphone 24 hours a day, seven days a week, said Michael Benson, business manager for the Directorate of Public Works, U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey. This development impacts individuals living in the barracks on the Presidio and employees who work on PoM and Ord Military Community.



Presidio of Monterey Touch-A-Truck event honors military children

The Presidio of Monterey's Touch-A-Truck event in honor of the Month of the Military Child featured a variety of trucks and other vehicles for children to see, touch and explore. PoM Child and Youth Services organized the event, which took place April 23 at the General Stilwell Community Center at Ord Military Community. Each April, members of the military community and beyond celebrate the Month of the Military Child to recognize the resiliency, selflessness and sacrifice of military children as they serve our country as part of a military family. Families with young children thronged the event.



229th MI Bn. builds esprit de corps with second annual Griffin Games

The 229th Military Intelligence Battalion's second annual Griffin Games served as a friendly competition that built esprit de corps, resiliency and readiness among Soldiers. "This event is for all of you," said Command Sgt. Maj. Lourdes Barragan, the battalion's senior enlisted advisor, to the approximately 1,500 Soldiers on the Presidio of Monterey's Price Fitness Center field at the kickoff April 22. "Thank you for all that you do every single day to be successful, not only within your school-houses, but also for our Army," Barragan told the Soldiers.



Employment Readiness Program offers classes, one-on-one assistance

The Presidio of Monterey Employment Readiness Program can not only help job seekers prepare for interviews, but can also assist with job searches, resumes, job skills training, education and volunteer opportunities. Katilynn Snow, employment readiness manager, said she offers classes on interviewing and resume building each month, and is happy to meet with people one-on-one on all subjects. All members of the local military community are welcome to the program's services, including veterans, and the program can prove particularly helpful for military spouses trying to establish careers.



Army civilian fitness program thriving at Presidio of Monterey

The Army's Civilian Fitness and Health Promotion Program is going strong at the Presidio of Monterey. The program started in 2021 and aims to improve employee well-being and productivity by allowing full-time civilians to take up to three hours of administrative leave a week to work out. The program is flexible with workout times and exercise types, and many say that has been the key to their success with the program. Charles Lyons, a service specialist at Army Community Service, said he started in November 2021, and the program's flexibility allows him to work exercise into his schedule.



Military Language Instructors receive badges, awards

"You are an incredibly important part of the [foreign language] learning process, alongside your civilian colleagues," said DLIFLC Commandant Col. James Kievit, who presided over the awards ceremony. Military Language Instructors, or MLIs, are vital cogs in the wheel that produce military cryptologic linguists for all four branches of the military and the Coast Guard. Having graduated from the Institute themselves, MLIs are instrumental in mentoring new cryptolinguists and helping them overcome language learning hurdles as well as teach them how to be good service members.



DLIFLC awards first BA degrees

For the first time in the history of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, two graduates were awarded baccalaureate degrees in foreign language during a graduation ceremony held on Soldier Field on Thursday, April 7. Tech. Sgt. Joshua Miller, stationed at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska received the first bachelor's degree in foreign language with a concentration in Russian, while Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) 3rd Class Ruben J. Rivera, stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, received the first bachelor's in foreign language with a concentration in Chinese-Mandarin.

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