



# U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hunter Liggett & Parks Reserve Forces Training Area

June 19, 2020



**Highlights for FHL:** Employee-Soldier Award and Recognition Ceremony; Environmental Awareness Week commemoration; added “Prescribed Burn” to the Behind the Scenes video series; 15th MEU trained at Schoonover; Military Spouse Appreciation event; unveiling a new commander’s challenge coin.

**Highlights for PRFTA:** PRFTA Commander Lt. Col. Jennifer Nolan passed the installation colors to incoming Commander Lt. Col. Serena D. Johnson in a Change of Command Ceremony, June 19. A new walkway from housing to the main PRFTA Access Control Point (ACP) making it safer and faster for community to go in/off post.

FHL and Parks Reserve Forces Training Area provides base operations support enabling total force readiness while providing for the well-being and security of Soldiers, Family members and Civilians on post. It is the seventh largest Army installation and the largest Army Reserve installation in the country. Along with this bi-weekly storyboard, FHL & CPRFTA produces a variety of command information products which are available on the Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System (DVIDS). Produced by the FHL Public Affairs Office, Bldg 238 California Ave, Fort Hunter Liggett CA 93928. For additional info, click on icons on right.



**dvids**



# INFRASTRUCTURE

## PRFTA Walkway



Parks Reserve Forces Training Area recently opened a new walkway from housing to the main PRFTA Access Control Point (ACP). The new cement and ADA compliant walkway provides PRFTA residents a more direct route from the ACP at Camp Parks Blvd. to the PRFTA Village housing area. The project began construction in late February and when fully completed will also include lighting and signage at the ACP for pedestrian crossing, and decreases the walk from the ACP by 15 minutes. (Photo by Jim O'Donnell, PRFTA PAO)





# ARMY BIRTHDAY

## I Served Because



## U.S. ARMY 245TH BIRTHDAY

JUNE 14, 1775

I served because...



**Art Watson**  
Chief, Training Division  
Directorate of Plans, Training,  
Mobilization and Security

I was drafted in 1969 at age 18. Because I was already a journeyman plumber I was assigned to an engineer unit as a 51K plumber. I got out in 1973 then came back in as an infantryman. I retired in 1993.



**Art Watson**  
51K Plumber  
613rd Engineer Battalion  
Fort Ord, California

To commemorate the Army's 245th birthday several Army veterans at Fort Hunter Liggett gave an insight into why they served. Their mini-stories appeared on the installation Facebook page during the week of June 14th.



# GARRISON READINESS

## PRFTA Change of Command



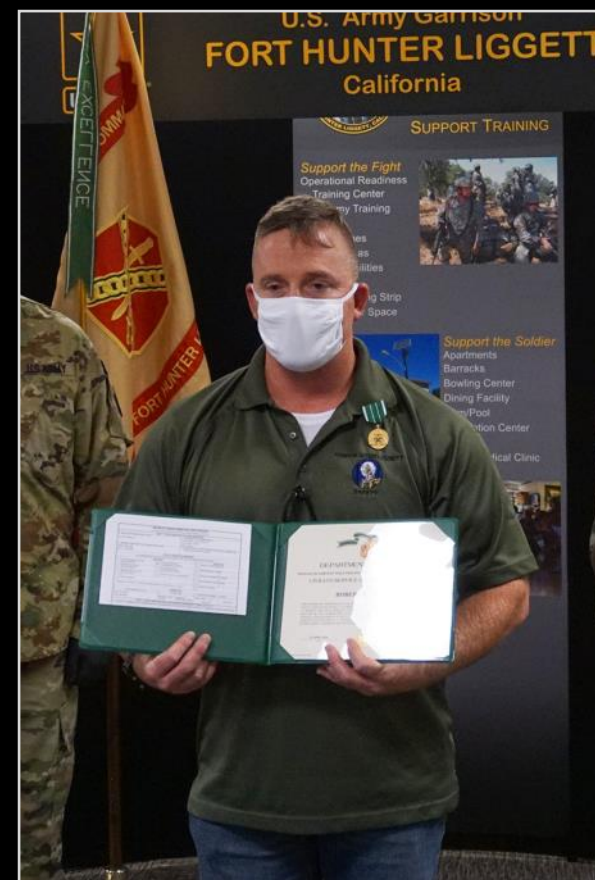
Parks Reserve Forces Training Area held a Change of Command ceremony June 19, 2020. Col. Charles Bell, Fort Hunter Liggett Garrison Commander, was the reviewing official. Maj. Gen. Alberto Rosende, Senior Commander, was a special guest. The senior leaders recognized the long list of achievements of outgoing commander Lt. Col. Jennifer Nolan accomplished during her two-year command. One of her many accomplishment was the first PRFTA intergovernmental agreement with the City of Dublin. She faced numerous challenges such as numerous power outages and a housing crisis, and handled them with grace and effectiveness. The incoming commander, Lt. Col. Serena D. Johnson, assumed the command and looks forward to meeting the garrison community. (Photos by Amy Phillips, FHL Public Affairs)





# GARRISON READINESS

## Employee-Soldier Awards/Recognitions



An Employee-Soldier Recognition/Awards Ceremony was held June 11, 2020, and broadcast via Facebook Live. Kelly Atwell, Safety Officer (right) received the Civilian Service Commendation Medal. HHC Commander Maj. Michael Dyrdaahl, glanced by Command Sgt. Major Mark Fluckiger and Garrison Commander Col. Charles Bell, was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. The Army Commendation Medal was also awarded to HHC 1st Sgt. Aaron Halter and Range Operations SFC Rimoni Ianu. Civilian Service Certificates of Achievement were presented to Ralph Blatz, Joel Pean, and Joe Ping. Commander's Coins were presented to Security Guards Victor Bontoyan, James Bushey, Cody Coulter, Bryan Dani, Bruce Peters, and Shane Weible, and to Police Officers Barry Krehnbrink, Danny Martinez, John Stuart, and Yeng Vang. Other employees were recognized but were unable to attend the event. (Photos by Bryan Lee, FMWR)



# GARRISON READINESS

## Angelia Pinto Receives Awards



Former (and soon-to-be-returning) Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Angelia Pinto, received four awards at the conclusion of her detail assignment as Mayor of FOB Camp Marmal, Afghanistan. She was awarded Commander Commendation Medal, NATO Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, and the award for Civilian Commendation of Wartime Service. (Courtesy photo)





# GARRISON READINESS

## Farewell Dinner for FHL Leaders



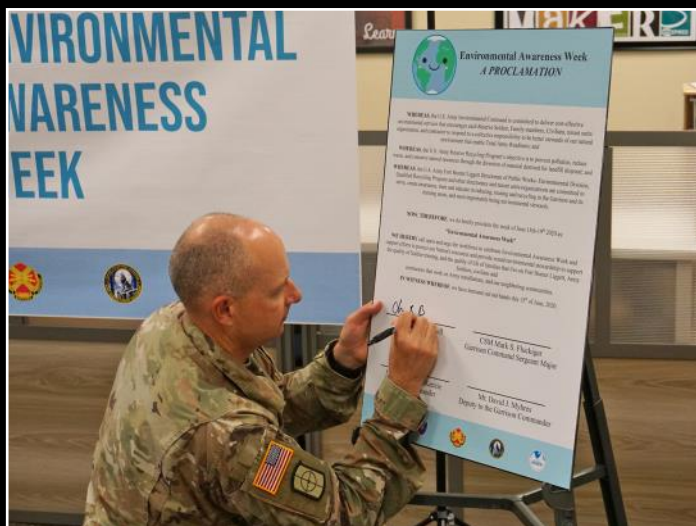
Fort Hunter Liggett held a farewell dinner for Deputy to the Garrison Commander Dave Myhres, Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Jason McKenzie, HHC Commander Maj. Michael Dyrdahl, and HHC 1st Sgt. Aaron Halter, June 20, 2020, at the historic Hacienda. Garrison Commander Col. Charles Bell and members of the workforce lauded the garrison leaders for the achievements and service to the garrison and the community. McKenzie and Dyrdahl both received prestigious regimental awards for excellence in their field. Other awards and parting gifts were also presented, and Myhres received a special roasting. (Photos by Amy Phillips, FHL Public Affairs)





# GARRISON READINESS

## Environmental Awareness Week



Fort Hunter Liggett celebrates Environmental Awareness Week, June 15-19. Environmental stewardship is part of the garrison mission. Taking care of natural resources supports military training and the quality of life for residents, workforce and visitors. During this week, the Garrison Commander signed a proclamation showing his commitment, and informational pamphlets were distributed to the community. Some topics covered include storm drain stewardship, pollution prevention and how the garrison takes care of endangered and threatened species that are found on post. (Photos by Amy Phillips and Bryan Lee)





# SUPPORT TO TRAINING

## Prescribed burns keep training on task



FORT HUNTER LIGGETT  
CALIFORNIA



Behind the Scenes  
with  
FHL FIRE DEPARTMENT

FHL has conducted a series of prescribed burns in the last few weeks, and Moira Trevisan, Special Projects Officer, went with them one day to learn why they are necessary. The result is a video where Assistant Fire Chief Mike Hewston describes some of the reasons controlled burns are necessary. By reducing a buildup of vegetation fuel, these burns help keep a wildfire from going out-of-control, and also reduce the likelihood of hot ammunition during training starting a fire that would set back training hours or days. (Photo from [video by Moira Trevisan](#))





# SOLDIER READINESS

## 91st Training Division Promotions



The 91st Training Division held a promotion ceremony in front of the 91st TD headquarters June 5 for two Soldiers, whose families were on hand to celebrate the occasion. Sgt. 1st Class Bernabe Rivera, G3 Operations NCOIC, was promoted to Master Sergeant. Staff Sgt. Joey Winscher, HHC Supply Sergeant, was promoted to Sgt. 1st Class. Capt. Gallagher did the honors, and Master Sgt. Collins Nelson read the orders. (Photos by Cindy McIntyre, Public Affairs)





# SUPPORT TO TRAINING

## 15th MEU conducts refueling exercise



(Left) Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jevon Thomas, left, and Lance Cpl. Jonathon Stevens, both low altitude air defense gunners with 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, provide security against unmanned aircraft with a Modi II Electronic Counter Measure system at a forward staging base during Realistic Urban Training, at Fort Hunter Liggett, June 08, 2020. Marine Sgt. James Nye, (right) a radio operator with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, sets up an omni-electric 254 field expedient antenna at a forward staging base at night. This exercise enhances the integration and collective capability of the MEU's command, air, ground and logistics elements while conducting a series of challenging and realistic training events such as raids and tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel missions at two San Luis Obispo County installations. It also included refueling of rotary winged aircraft at Schoonover Army Airfield. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Britany Rowlett)





# SUPPORT TO TRAINING

## Testing for Depleted Uranium



Dr. Tara Schoenwetter of Leidos conducts quarterly testing of soil and water to record levels of depleted uranium (DU) at Fort Hunter Liggett June 13, 2020. While it is not known for sure, weapons using DU may have been used on FHL between 1961 and 1971. That's when the Davy Crocket Weapon System was tested at various installations. The Army and the Army Corps of Engineers are trying to determine where these radioactive rounds were used, and to monitor the environment effects it may pose, if present. Schoenwetter takes soil and water samples at FHL to determine if any ammunition from these nuclear-capable recoilless weapons exists on the installation. According to Health Physicist Dr. Bob Cherry with IMCOM, natural uranium can be found throughout the country, has the same toxic properties as DU and has a greater specific radioactivity than DU. (Photos by Kelly Atwell, Safety Officer)





# FAMILY PROGRAMS

## FHL Youth of the Year in state competition



Naleah Daniels, 2020 Youth of the Year for Fort Hunter Liggett, is competing against other California youths for the prestigious honor of being selected as 2020 California Military Youth of the Year. She will prepare and deliver a short speech to the panel as well as answer interview questions. She is the first youth from FHL to compete for this coveted title. If selected, she will compete with other states for the 2020 BGCA Military Youth of the Year. The winner of the national competition receives a college grant and has the opportunity to meet the U.S. President. She is the daughter of Merilee Daniels, CYS Coordinator, and Alton Daniels, IT Specialist for the NEC. (Courtesy photos)





# FAMILY PROGRAMS

## Military Spouse Appreciation Day



This year, the Military Spouse Appreciation event was not hosted during May due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was hosted with proper precautions and following social distancing guidelines on June 12 to say thank you to those who stand behind those who serve. Col. Bell, USAG Fort Hunter Liggett Garrison Commander, shared some encouraging words with participants and was followed by Command Sgt. Major Mark Fluckiger. The event, held at the historic Hacienda, had the participation of 17 Military spouses. Music, hors d'oeuvres and chances for the spouses to win prizes made it a festive event even with the wearing of masks and fewer chances for personal interaction. (Photos by Bryan Lee, FMWR)





# FAMILY PROGRAMS

## FHL High School Graduates



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many graduates were not able to be formally recognized for their achievements in their schools. To support the USAG Fort Hunter Liggett youth, Family and MWR hosted a Community Graduation on June 16, 2020. Graduates from the community received a certificate of achievement for graduating 12th grade or a certificate of achievement of promotion for finishing 5th or 8th grade. The event included an invocation from Chaplain (Maj.) Cesar Rodriguez as well as words of encouragement from USAG Fort Hunter Liggett's Commander, Col. Charles Bell. Every youth received a special gift, and the Historic Hacienda kitchen provided participants with a delicious lunch. (Photos by Bryan Lee, FMWR)





# EMPLOYEE PROGRAMS

## Guess Who?



USAG Fort Hunter Liggett/Parks Reserve Forces Training Area workforce is staying ready and resilient, and preventing the spread of COVID-19. Can you guess who these employees are? This is an on-going project so please send the Public Affairs Office your funny photos with face covering. Answers for June 5 storyboards (L-R) Cindy McIntyre (FHL), Lt. Col. Salazar (FHL) and Charquilla McGaffeny (PRFTA). (Courtesy photos)





# SOLDIER-EMPLOYEE PROGRAMS

## New Commander's Coin



Fort Hunter Liggett's new challenge coin was designed by 16-year-old Emily Beckner, daughter of former SATCOM Soldier Sgt. Stacey Beckner. Emily also won a Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation art contest in 2018. Garrison Command Sgt. Major Mark Fluckiger asked her to collaborate with him to create a new coin design for the Incoming Commander. (Photo of coin by Amy Phillips, FHL Public Affairs; other courtesy photo)





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Asian and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month



One of the observances in May was Asian and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month. Several residents of Parks Reserve Forces Training Area participated in creating a video to talk about their cultures. Check out the video on the PRFTA MWR Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PRFTAMWR>.





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

## Helping the Mission Dig Roses



Garrison Soldiers from the Fort Hunter Liggett and the 25L pop-up course pitched in to help the Mission San Antonio de Padua move several dozen large, heavy pots of rose bushes that were dug up prior to renovating the Mission courtyard. Garrison Command Sgt. Major Mark Fluckiger organized the volunteers, who included BOSS president Staff Sgt. Julius Williams, Sgt. 1st Class Rimoni Ianu of Range Ops, and Sgt. 1st Class David Capelli of the TASS schoolhouse (left.) Fluckiger said of the Soldiers in the 25L course (right), "We would not have completed the task without their help." The rose bushes, which have been at the mission for decades, will be replanted when the new landscaping is complete. (Courtesy photos)