



THE PRESIDIO ECHO

U.S. ARMY GARRISON PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY

The Retired Service Member Newsletter

JUNE 2024



Garrison Commander
COL Samuel W. Kline
Command Sergeant Major
CSM Adam P. Bossart
Deputy to the Garrison Commander
Stephen P. Bickel
Director Human Resources
Esther M. Almas (*)
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Enrique Aguirre Ulloa
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Inside this Issue:

Garrison Commander Invite Letter	2
Ms. Lynn Peterson HQDA Retirement Services	3
Mr. Jack Murphy Monterey County Military and Veterans Affairs	4
2023 Retiree Appreciation Day Album	5-10
Join the Retiree Council	11
General Stilwell Community Center	12-13
Presidio/Ord History	14-17
Helpful Information. Retirement Services Office	18-19

(*): Acting

★ U.S. ARMY

2024

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY



Northern California and Nevada's area Military Retirees, their Family members, and Survivors, please join us!

Date: Saturday, 13 July 2024

Time: 08:00 am - 1:30 pm

Location: General Stilwell Community Center

4260 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955

Please come out, interact with fellow Retirees, and learn about current issues that affect you and receive valuable information during your visit.

Veteran Service Organizations - Department of the Army Retirement Services Office -The Exchange- FMWR- ASAP-Survivor Outreach Services - TRICARE - Veterans Administration - Military and Veterans Affairs Office County of Monterey - Army Emergency Relief.

Please RSVP NLT: 30 June 2024. To RSVP and for more information: Contact our Retirement Services Office, at DSN☎: 768-4986, COMM☎: 831-242-4986 or email: rigoberto.r.flores.civ@army.mil

We Listen.... We Care!

GARRISON COMMANDER INVITE LETTER



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY GARRISON, PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY
1759 LEWIS ROAD, SUITE 210
MONTEREY CA 93944-3223

June 2, 2024

Dear Retirees, Survivors, and Families,

On behalf of the United States Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey community, thank you for your service to our country. I invite you to attend our 2024 Retiree Appreciation Day scheduled for Saturday July 13, 2024, at the General Stilwell Community Center (GSCC), 4260 Gigling Road Seaside, CA 93955, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

This annual event helps retired military members and their families stay up to date on changes in their entitlements and benefits. It is also an opportunity to foster goodwill between our retired and active duty communities. You will have the opportunity to meet with fellow military retired men and women, the new generation of service members, and Garrison leaders.

Registration begins in the GSCC lobby at 8 a.m. Speakers will begin at 9 a.m. Representatives from a variety of community agencies and organizations such as the Presidio of Monterey Law Center, TRICARE, AAFES, Army Emergency Relief, Defense Commissary Agency, and the Department of Veterans Affairs will be on site to share information. The Presidio of Monterey Health Clinic will also offer wellness checks on site.

We will have several guest speakers, among them the Army's Retirement Services Officer and representatives of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

It will be an honor and pleasure to have you attend this year's Retiree Appreciation Day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. W. Kline", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

SAMUEL W. KLINE
COL, SF
Commanding

CUI

2024 Retiree Appreciation Day - Guest Speaker



Lynn M. Peterson
Program Manager, Army Retirement Services
Soldier for Life Office
Directorate of Military Personnel Management
Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1
300 Army Pentagon
Washington DC 20310-0300



Lynn Peterson is a native of Westfield, Massachusetts. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Endicott College in Beverly Massachusetts, earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Ms. Peterson enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) in March of 1988. She later transferred to the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) in 1990. She served as an enlisted Soldier through the rank of Sergeant First Class and was then appointed as a warrant officer.

As an enlisted Soldier, Ms. Peterson served in the USAR in the 987th AG Company; and in the MAARNG in the 126th Signal Battalion; Recruiting and Retention Command; the Joint Forces Headquarters with assignments in the Officer Branch, Personnel Services Branch, Standard Installation and Division Personnel Reporting System (SIDPERS) Branch, and the Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) Management Branch; and National Guard Bureau (NGB) in the Recruiting and Retention Division. She also served in the MAARNG Ceremonial Unit, Mounted Platoon. Her assignments as a warrant officer included Line of Duty/Medical Action Team, Chief of the Evaluations Section, and Chief of Retirement Services in the Army Personnel Division at NGB.

Ms. Peterson was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (4th award), Army Commendation Medal (3rd award), Army Achievement Medal (4th award), Army Good Conduct Medal (5th award), Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Silver Hourglass, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (3rd award), Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (with Numeral "3"), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal (with Bronze Service Star), Army Staff Identification Badge, and the Army Superior Unit Award (2nd award).

Ms. Peterson retired from the AGR program as a Chief Warrant Officer Three in 2015. She was subsequently selected to serve in her current position as the Headquarters, Department of the Army Retirement Services Office (RSO) Program Manager. As the Army RSO Program Manager and Policy Proponent, she is responsible for RSO Policy guidance and is the proponent for AR 600-8-7, the Retirement Services Program regulation. She is the associate editor of Army Echoes and the Army Echoes blog. She also manages the HQDA Retirement Services Officer Certification Course, among many other duties.

Ms. Peterson has a 23-year-old daughter who graduated this year from Emory University in Atlanta. Her hobbies include cooking, baking, traveling, and volunteering.

2024 Retiree Appreciation Day - Guest Speaker



JACK MURPHY
Management Analyst
Monterey County Military and Veterans
Affairs Office

Mr. Jack Murphy is the senior Management Analyst and an accredited Veterans Service Representative with the Monterey County Military and Veterans Affairs Office. Prior to joining the County in November 2020, Mr. Murphy served as the Deputy Executive Director of the Veterans Transition Center (VTC), a non-profit that provides housing and services for homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families.

Dedicated to helping the Veteran and military community, Mr. Murphy volunteers as both Program Coordinator and a Peer Mentor for the Monterey County Veterans Treatment Court, a collaborative court program that provides justice-involved Veterans and active-duty servicemembers with community-based rehabilitation and support. Mr. Murphy also serves on the Board of Directors of Dentistry4Vets, a local non-profit providing low-cost dental care for Veterans in need.

Mr. Murphy served in the US Army for 21-years, retiring in May 2016 as a Lieutenant Colonel. A veteran of multiple combat deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, his leadership and staff assignments included service in the 10th Mountain Division, 82nd Airborne Division, and 101st Airborne Division.

Mr. Murphy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Rhode Island, and a Master of Arts degree from the Naval War College.

2023 Retiree Appreciation Day Album



2023 Retiree Appreciation Day



Mr. Mark Overberg, Director, Army Retirement Services, briefed Retirees and Surviving Spouses on the latest retirees’ demographics and legislative updates affecting the retired service member community.



2023 Retiree Appreciation Day



Left to right: COL Kline, garrison commander, Mr. James Bogan, Presidio / Ord Retiree Council President, the youngest Service Member in attendance, and CSM Traylor, garrison CSM cut the ceremonial Retiree Appreciation Day cake.

*Looking forward to see you at this year's
Retiree Appreciation Day!*

2023 Retiree Appreciation Day



Service members volunteered to operate the grill at the 2023 Retiree Appreciation Day to offer Retirees, Survivors, and their Family members refreshments.

The annual Retiree Appreciation Day is an opportunity for the active duty generation to meet and interact with Retired service members.



2023 Retiree Appreciation Day



Front: Mr. Jack Murphy, Monterey County Military and Veterans Affairs Office, was one of our guests speakers. Mr. Murphy conveyed valuable and current benefits and services information to Retirees and survivors.

AskDFAS

⇒ **Do you have questions about your Retired/Annuitant Pay?
Try AskDFAS!**

<https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/custMain.action?mid=12>

2023 Retiree Appreciation Day



Active Duty Service members assisted Retirees at the RAD sign in table.

Looking forward to see you at this year's Retiree Appreciation Day!

Presidio Ord Retiree Council



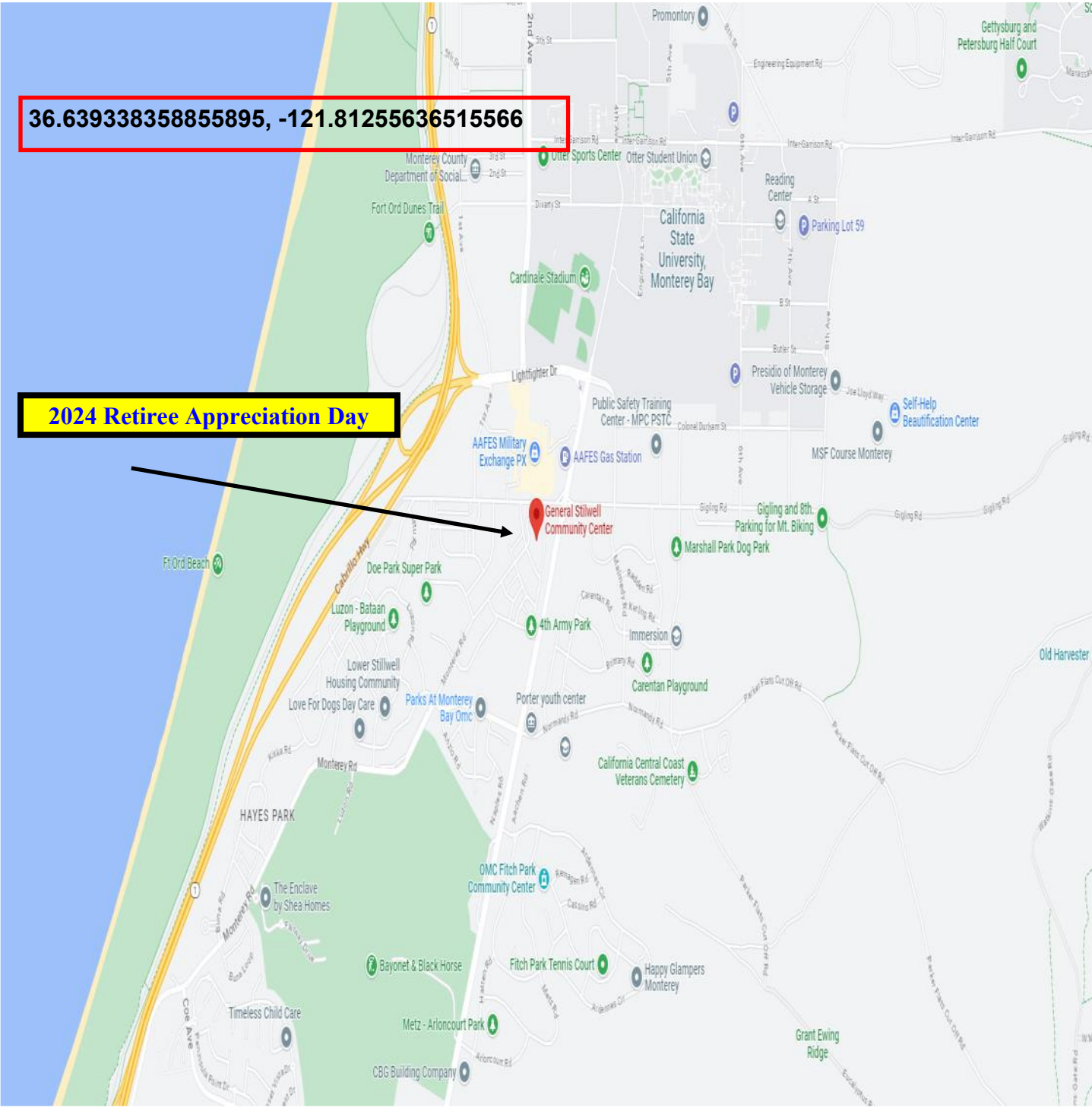
Join the Presidio Ord Retiree Council!

The Council meets the first Thursday of every month at the General Stilwell Community Center,
01:00 p.m.

General Stilwell Community Center

36.639338358855895, -121.81255636515566

2024 Retiree Appreciation Day



Looking forward to see you at this year's Retiree Appreciation Day!

General Stilwell Community Center



The General Stilwell Community Center will be a fitting venue for this year's Retiree Appreciation Day. The center is located at 4260 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955, nearby the Ord Commissary.



Joseph Warren "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell. The future commander of the 7th Division who would begin the construction of Fort Ord in 1940, was born in 19 March 1883 in Palaika, Florida. In 1904, he graduated from the United States Military Academy where he had distinguished himself as a linguist and an athlete. Serving as the IV Corps Intelligence Officer during World War I, he helped plan the St. Mihiel offensive. During the 1920s, and 1930s, he went to China, first as a language student and later as military attaché. In 1940, he envisioned and initiated the Fort Ord Soldiers Club, later renamed Stilwell Hall, on the bluffs overlooking Monterey Bay. Stilwell became commander of III Corps at the Presidio of Monterey in 1941.

History Notes

FORT ORD'S SALTWATER COWBOYS

By Cameron Binkley - Command Historian, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, June 6, 2024.

Long before D-Day, the “Saltwater Cowboys” of the Army’s 18th Amphibious Armored Group were training hard to prepare soldiers at Fort Ord for seaborne operations during World War II. Montereyans became accustomed to seeing battalions of amphibious tanks and tractors maneuvering offshore along fronts 1,500 meters wide stacked in multiple assault waves.

Technically known as the Landing Vehicle, Tracked, the LVT was developed by inventor Donald Roebling in 1935 for swamp use. That gave rise to a nickname—the Alligator, the first of many names the vehicle would collect. Trials of Roebling’s armored military troop transports, as well as fire support versions, began on the Central Coast in 1942. The Army eventually deployed 23 LVT battalions; the Marines 11 more.

Realism was a hallmark of Fort Ord’s amphibious training program. It had to be. When operated at sea, the vehicles could easily sink, enemy fire not required. The fact that these vehicles swamped, flipped or sank in routine training concentrated the attention of trainees, some of whom called the vehicle a “wet coffin.” Others likened the experience to a rodeo from which came the enduring name of Water Bronco. Soldiers also gave their assigned Broncos personal names — such as Shark or Great Mogul.

Colorfully nicknamed himself, the Group’s founding commander, Col. William “Terry Bull” Triplet, worked out early tactical doctrine adopted by the wider force. The 18th lacked a naval landing ship from which to deploy, so LTVs practiced forming up at sea before launching mock beach assaults.

As the Broncos came closer to shore, effects crews on the beach ignited TNT charges to represent naval gunfire, phosphorus grenades obscured landings, wire and tank obstacles impeded movement and occasionally a previously wrecked Bronco would be towed in with an assault wave and remotely set ablaze to simulate an enemy’s direct hit.

With such training, injuries were frequent. In early exercise renditions, shockwaves from explosives detonated at Fort Ord also smashed windows in not-so-distant Monterey while smoke could jam up roadways. Civilian damage claims and complaints tempered Triplet’s training scenarios, but the course remained as challenging as any in the Army.

Men trained in the 18th saw amphibious action across the Pacific Theater. The Broncos they rode participated in nearly every major campaign of WWII from Guadalcanal to Normandy and beyond.

The finest compliment to the training of the 18th was perhaps paid by Army Chief of Staff, Gen. George C. Marshall. With no fanfare, he visited Fort Ord in early May of 1944. He came to talk to the men of the 18th and to observe them storming the beaches of Monterey. One imagines it soothed his worries ahead of the impending D-Day landings in France.

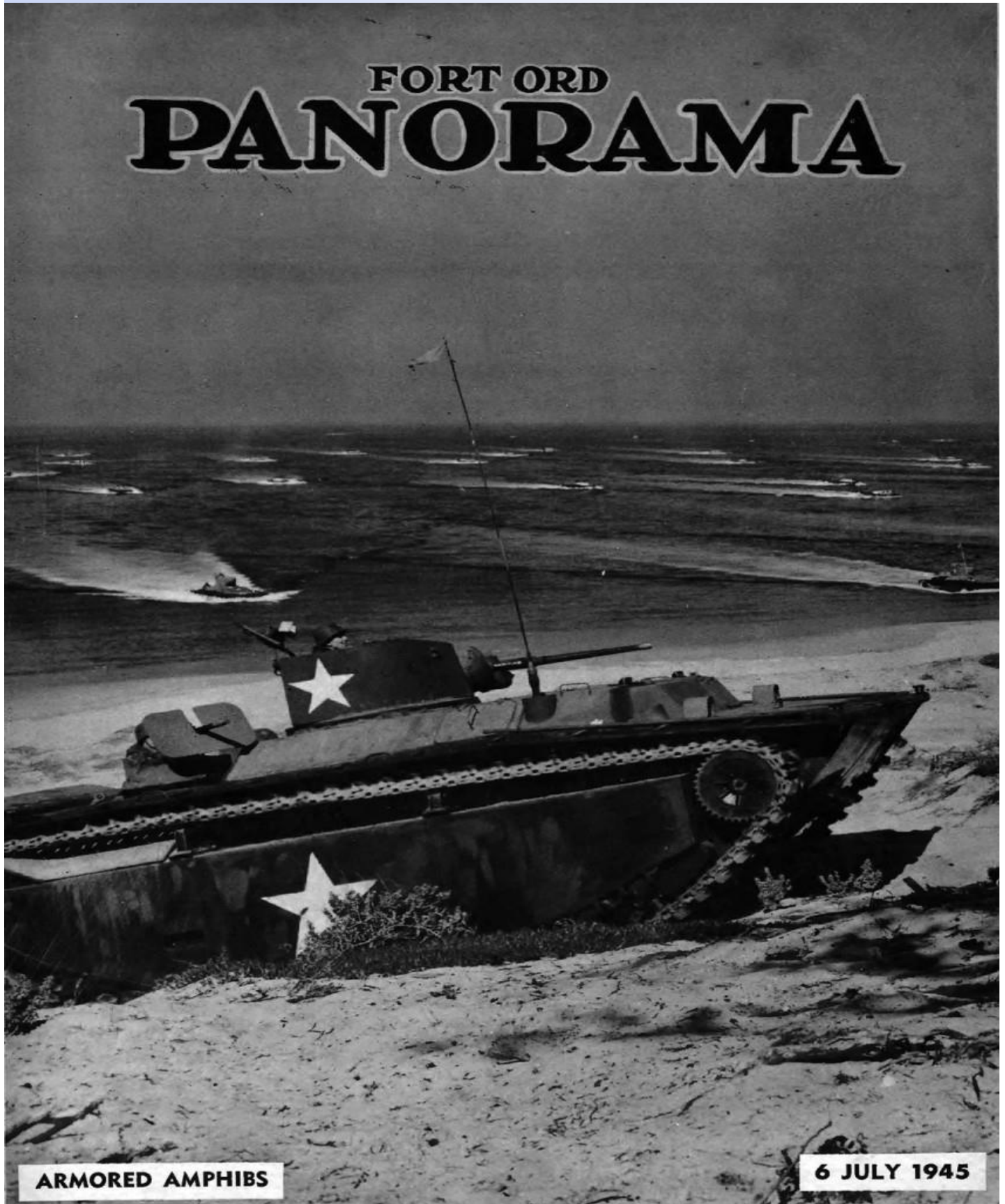
History Notes



From Mr. Binkley's article, above: A Water Bronco or amphibious tank comes ashore at Fort Ord. Opposite: Cover of the Fort Ord Panorama, 6 July 1945, featuring an "Armored Amphib" or LVT training assault off the coast of Monterey

History Notes

FORT ORD PANORAMA



ARMORED AMPHIBS

6 JULY 1945

History Notes



Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall at Monterey Bay to observe amphibious training exercises of the 18th Armored Group, May 1944.

From the article by Cameron Binkley - Command Historian, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, June 6, 2024 ,

CASUALTY NOTIFICATION & ASSISTANCE

How to report the death of a Retired Soldier

Contact the Department of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Division anytime by calling (800) 626-3317 or contact your local Casualty Assistance Center, who will report the death to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to stop retired pay and initiate the survivor benefits process. When reporting the death, please provide as much of the information below as you have:

- Full name • Disability Rating
- Social security number and/or service number • Circumstances surrounding the death
- Date and place of birth • Next of Kin (NOK) information
- Retired rank • Copy of the death certificate
- Retirement date • Copy of the Statement of Service (DD Form 214)

USAG Presidio of Monterey Casualty Operations

831-242-4986

Did you know that a Casualty Assistance Officer can assist your next of kin when you die?

By **Mark E. Overberg**, *Director, Army Retirement Services*

Army regulations state that Casualty Assistance Centers (CACs) “will provide assistance to the next of kin of a Retired Soldier who dies. When contacted concerning a deceased Retired Soldier, the CAC will communicate with the next of kin to determine the extent of assistance needed. When Families of deceased Retired Soldiers request assistance, CACs will assign a Casualty Assistance Officer.”

To find the closest CAC, visit <https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Casualty%20Assistance%20Centers%20Locator>.

Join the Presidio Ord Retiree Council!

The Council meets the first Thursday of every month at the General Stilwell Community Center, 01:00 p.m.

Contact DFAS

DFAS-CLEVELAND MAILING ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The DFAS-Cleveland centralized mail-handling operation addresses and telephone numbers are as follows:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retirement Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

Telephone: 1-800-321-1080
Telephone: 317-212-0550
Retiree Pay Fax: 1-800-469-6559

Telephone: 1-800-321-1080
Telephone: 317-212-0550
Annuitant Pay Fax: 1-800-982-8459

Helpful References

2024 US Army Retired Soldier Handbook:

https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/static/Post/Retired_Soldier_Handbook.pdf

Retired Soldier Casualty Assistance Checklist:

https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/static/Post/Retired_Soldier_Casualty_Assistance_Checklist.pdf

Army Echoes - The official Newsletter for Retired Soldiers, Surviving Spouses & Families:

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/army-echoes>

Survivor Outreach Services

<https://dcsg9.army.mil/safr/sos/sos.html>

USAG Presidio of Monterey Retirement Services Officer

Mr. Rigoberto R. Flores

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412 Rifle Range Road
Taylor Hall
Building 616, Room 130

Monday-Friday 0800-1600 hrs.
Tel: 831-242-4986