

# IN BRIEF

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY

November 2019



PoM Fire Department Open House

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Sailors Build Homes for Vets

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Air Force Turns 72

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Honor our Fallen



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The PoM InBrief is a command-authorized publication for the Monterey military community — published monthly by the Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs office.

We publish information of interest to members of our community — including all service members, military families, civilian personnel, & veterans who access services at our installation.

Story ideas and submissions of original material are always welcome.

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On the cover: Presidio of Monterey firefighter Jermaine E. McClain teaches a child how to operate a fire hose during the PoM Fire Department open house Nov. 2 . PHOTO by Joseph Kumzak.



HONORING

*Our Veterans*

WWII Veteran and Salinas resident, Ray Morasca



# Presidio BOSS named Army best

Marcus Fichtl  
Presidio of Monterey

The Army recognized the Presidio of Monterey's Better Opportunity for Single Service members program as best in class for the second year running at the 30th annual BOSS conference in Indianapolis.

The program represented itself in July with a custom-designed clock. The hours of the clock were written in languages taught at the Defense Language Institute, while emblems from all five branches adorned the clock to represent the services residing at the Presidio.

Hugo Tena, civilian BOSS advisor, said what separated them from the pack in Indianapolis was an emphasis on life skills. He added that the Presidio BOSS program organized events from cooking classes to swim lessons, and almost everything in-between.

"When do you have time to learn a life skill on top of learning a language?" Tena asked, referring to the rigorous training most BOSS members receive at DLI. "We're able to get these programs to them for free."

Born in 1989, the Army established BOSS to give the single Soldier a voice. Today there are 74 programs across the Army, each emphasizing BOSS's three pillars: quality of life, community service, recreation and leisure. Tena said the Presidio program is one of eight to shed the word Soldier in BOSS for service member, and with a Marine as its president and an Airman as its vice president, it's pretty easy to see why.

"We incorporate every service into one, and we're open to everyone," said Airman 1st Class Nicholas Ward, Presidio BOSS vice president.

Lance Cpl. Anthony Varga, BOSS president, added



*Hugo Tena, Presidio of Monterey's civilian Better Opportunities for Single Service Members adviser, and then-BOSS president, Airman 1st Class Mark Schropp, pose with an award naming them the top BOSS of 2019 at Indianapolis this summer.*

that the desires and needs of the never-ending stream of troops attending DLI keeps the program relevant.

"What's really special about our program; because we have a continuous flow of new ideas and new talent, the program stays fresh," Varga said.

That means a full docket of activities from video game tournaments and dodgeball tournaments to volunteer opportunities and social gatherings.

The program even incorporates service members with talents, like former professional dancers who

teach contemporary dance classes through BOSS.

"We tried to do as much as possible to get out of [our rooms] because this can be a stressful environment," said Ward.

The council said the award is nice but they aren't resting on their laurels. With a massive masquerade ball in the works for Halloween and a Thanksgiving event for those not able to go home for the holiday, Ward and Varga plan to stay busy.

Tena simply called that dedication — "Passion."



# Presidio observes Red Ribbon Week

Valencia Barnes

Presidio Prevention Coordinator

The Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) observed Red Ribbon Week with activities aimed at preventing drug abuse at Presidio of Monterey, Oct 23-31. The event kicked off with Red Ribbon Game Day at the Porter Youth Center, Oct. 23.

Game day featured activities that emphasized the negative effects of drugs and the importance of a healthy lifestyle. There were activities for elementary and middle school children. Other events during the week were: Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Oct. 26 at the Ord Military Community commissary; Plant the Promise, Oct. 30 at Porter Youth Center; and an ASAP information table at the Post Exchange on Oct. 31.

Red Ribbon week is celebrated every October and pays tribute to former Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent Enrique Camarena who was killed in 1985 while exposing a drug trafficking ring. Shortly after his death people in his home town organized "Camarena Clubs" where school age kids and members of the community wore red ribbons to honor Camarena's sacrifice. In 1988 the local event was formalized into a national observance.

Red Ribbon Week is a time when schools and communities demonstrate their commitment to a healthy and drug free lifestyle. Red Ribbon Week is celebrated in many ways including poetry, picture and video contests, proclamation signings, information booths, health fairs, and the wearing

of the red ribbon. Guest speakers from the law enforcement community also visit local schools teaching kids how to say no to drugs. 30 years after its inception, Red Ribbon Week continues to be a widely celebrated campaign. It remains an honorable way to acknowledge the sacrifice of Special Agent Camarena and all others who have sacrificed to keep the community safe from drugs.

The Army Substance Abuse Program is the source of education, information and training on most legal



## Red Ribbon Week

### Drug-Free America

and illegal substances. If you have any questions please contact the Prevention Coordinator, Ms. Valencia Barnes at 242-6805.



Children display their red ribbon swag at the Porter Youth Center, Oct. 23.



Children learn how to maintain a drug free lifestyle at the Porter Youth Center, Oct. 23.



# Day at the races

Marcus Fichtl  
Presidio of Monterey



Photos by Marcus Fichtl





Bystanders find a place to rest under the "corkscrew" sign at WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca, Sept. 22.

MONTEREY, Calif. – IndyCar returned to historic WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca after a 15-year hiatus, Sept. 22.

The Firestone Grand Prix of Monterey, known for the "corkscrew," a high-speed blind-turn with a five-story drop, saw drivers complete 90 laps at speeds averaging 106 mph around the 2.2 mile, 11-turn road circuit.

Originally training grounds for the former Fort Ord Army post, the Army leased what would become Laguna Seca to the county of Monterey for \$3,000 in August 1957 after a deadly crash at the local Pebble Beach Road Race the previous year looked to end racing on the Monterey Peninsula. The course was quickly constructed in 60 days at the cost of \$1.5 million and held its inaugural race on Nov. 9 of that year.

The military heritage of the race was still visible Sunday not just by the old Fort Ord signs dotting the route to the track, but by the hundreds of veterans and active duty service members who volunteered at the race providing everything from meals to shuttle service. The Navy's Information Warfare Training Center's color guard made its seventh



Drivers race down the infamous "corkscrew" at WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca, Sept. 22

appearance of the year at the track, representing the Presidio of Monterey and the Defense Language Institute.

"It's a pretty great experience being here; there's lots of people watching you," said Seaman Sam Mobius an Arabic student at the Defense Language Institute and member of the Navy color guard. "People may not remember our

faces, but they'll remember that the color guard and the Navy was there."

California native Colton Herta won the race while an eighth place finish secured Josef Newgarden his second IndyCar championship in three years.



An IndyCar shoots down a straight at WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca, Sept. 22.



Members of the Navy color guard greet racing legend Mario Andretti at WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca, Sept. 22.



# Air Force turns 72

Zack Frank  
Presidio of Monterey



Photos by Zack Frank





Arnold Holmes, a retired Master Sergeant born in 1939 and 17-year-old Airmen Zaccheus McFarland take part in a cake-cutting ceremony featuring oldest and youngest airmen present at the annual Air Force Ball at Naval Support Activity Monterey's Herrmann Hall, Sept. 20.

MONTEREY, Calif. — Airmen celebrated the 72nd birthday of the United States Air Force with the ever-traditional ball at Naval Support Activity Monterey's Herrmann Hall, Sept. 20.

The event, hosted by the 517th Training Group based at nearby Presidio of Monterey, was a night of reflection on the legacy of the Air Force and its potential roles moving forward.

Guest Speaker Chief Master Sgt. Roger Towberman, senior enlisted adviser at Air Force Space Command, spoke about his early days as a Defense Language Institute student and the mission of the Air Force.

Towberman, who made the journey from Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado, said when the Air Corps

left the Army in 1947, they wanted the word airman to become synonymous with "great technician."

"We left the United States Army primarily because on the enlisted side of the house, we needed technicians to maintain, launch and operate aircraft," he said. "If we were infantrymen first, we didn't feel we could have that quality of technicians that we needed."

Following the theme of past and future, a cake-cutting ceremony featured the traditional pairing of the oldest and youngest airmen present at the ball. Arnold Holmes, a retired Master Sergeant born in 1939, represented the force's legacy, while 17-year-old Airmen Zaccheus McFarland represented a new generation of service members.



The Airmen of the 517th Training Group celebrated the 72nd birthday of the United States Air Force with a ball at Naval Support Activity Monterey's Herrmann Hall, Sept. 20.



The Air Force color guard displayed the colors as a choir sang the national anthem at Naval Support Activity Monterey's Herrmann Hall, Sept. 20.

"Since I got here everybody has asked me how old I am," said Peck, a Korean student at DLI, who was born in Nov. 2001. "I'm probably one of the first Airmen in the US military born after 9/11."

"It made me feel young again!" Holmes said of cutting the cake with the Airman 63 years his junior.

Established Sept. 18, 1947, the Air Force is the youngest of the military services. Yet, it is the only branch of the military that can boast a birthday celebration featuring a room of veterans and active duty service members who collectively witnessed its entire history. With the presence of a member of U.S. Space Command and a room full of young airmen like Peck, it provides a glimpse of the future of the Air Force.



# Sailors build homes for vets

Zack Frank  
Presidio of Monterey



Photos by Zack Frank





SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — The sounds of hammers, shovels and saws cut through a calm Saturday morning in Santa Cruz, as 15 service members from the Defense Language Institute and Presidio of Monterey partnered with Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay, Sept. 14 to build a home for a veteran.

A global nonprofit organization, Habitat for Humanity constructs affordable housing across the U.S. and in approximately 70 countries. The Presidio troops led by Seaman Elizabeth Carpenter assisted the Monterey Bay affiliate, which operates in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties.

Carpenter, an Arabic language student at DLI, owned a painting service prior to joining the Navy, and continues to use her skills as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. Knowing her fellow service members share her desire to serve, she managed to recruit many other students to volunteer for the organization.

“The military members are definitely really different to be around, and really positive to feed off of,” the Grand Rapids native said.

The students drove nails, measured boards, transported gravel and shoveled dirt. Carpenter said Habitat for Humanity provides opportunities for volunteers to contribute and allows them to try different aspects of construction – and with no experience necessary.

“The organization is very ‘come as you are, do what you can,’” Carpenter said.

Mike McIlwain, the Project Manager for Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay was delighted with the

service members’ teamwork, noting their persistence and work ethic.

“These guys all work really hard... This is the second time they’ve been here in four months and I hope they keep it up,” he said.

The first time Carpenter volunteered with the organization, she and a friend used their personal vehicles to transport 10 volunteers from the Navy’s Information Warfare Training Command to the construction site, but as more people heard about the opportunity, the second outing would need outside help.

Carpenter contacted the chaplain’s office to request support for this humanitarian effort. Maj. Everett Zachary, Family Life Chaplain for the Presidio of Monterey pledged his support, not only organizing transportation, but arranging for lunches and beverages for the students.

On why people keep volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, McIlwain said, “It’s tangible. It’s easy to see the work that you’ve done.”

The sailors look forward to future volunteer opportunities with Habitat for Humanity to continue serving the local community.

Future residents of Habitat for Humanity housing, like the veteran family who will live in this house, are chosen for the program according to their need, their ability to repay a zero-interest mortgage, and their willingness to work in partnership with Habitat. Each homeowner contributes 500 hours towards the construction of Habitat homes.



*Seaman Elizabeth Carpenter, an Arabic language student at the Defense Language Institute, transports gravel while volunteering with Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay, Sept. 14.*



*Sailors with the Navy’s Information Warfare Training Command volunteer with Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay, Sept. 14 to build a home for a veteran.*



# Presidio singers have 'Mad Talent'

Marcus Fichtl  
Presidio of Monterey

Photos by Marcus Fichtl



PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — An Army specialist sang her way to first place and a \$250 check in front of a packed Hobson Center during the annual Presidio has Mad Talent singing competition, Sept. 20.

Spc. Blanche Green, 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, won the competition, Spc. Albert Lee from the same battalion, placed second, and Airman Jeremiah Smith, 517th Training Group placed third. The Air Force won the \$250 spirit award for out-cheering the other three branches.

The competition was divided into two parts. Competitors sang Disney songs for the first part, and sang songs of their choosing for the second part of the competition. Four judges scored the competitors, which accounted for half their scores -- while more than 200 audience members cast ballots for the other half of their scores.

Green opened her night with Disney's "Almost There" from the "Princess and the Frog" and closed the night with a rendition of the Leonard Cohen classic "Hallelujah."

The Tagalog language student from the Defense Language Institute said she chose her Disney song because the movie's main character, Tiana, resonated with her.

"Tiana's really hard working," Green said. "That's me being at DLI, working hard for what I want, and that's to graduate."

She said she chose the crowd-pleasing "Hallelujah," because it's a "very familiar, safe song," and demonstrated by the standing ovation she received — one she can sing very well.

Music, she said, is the centerpiece of her spirituality. Not a classically trained singer, the 29-year-old from Tacoma, Washington, said she sings for her church.

"[Singing] helps me with my faith — that's how I worship," she said.

Green said the "love" from her supporting friends and listening to her fellow singers made the night an



*Spc. Blanche Green sings during the Presidio has Mad Talent competition at the Presidio of Monterey, Sept. 20.*

"amazing" experience.

"It's exciting to compete in a way that's not just military," she said. "It's good for all of the ranks to get together and sing."



*Pfc. BJazmyn Smith sings and plays guitar during the Presidio has Mad Talent competition at the Presidio of Monterey, Sept. 20.*



# 'Honor our Fallen'

Marcus Fichtl  
Presidio of Monterey



Photos by Marcus Fichtl





*Soldiers run during the Honor our Fallen run in Marina, Oct 19.*

MARINA, Calif. – More than 600 service members and civilians gathered in front of the Maj. Gen. William H. Gourley VA-DOD clinic in Marina and took part in the 7th Annual Honor Our Fallen 5K and 10K Run, Oct. 19.

*"I don't want their sacrifices to be in vain."*

The run, which honors all troops who lost their life in service to the nation began with opening speeches from Congressman Jimmy Panetta and Kevin Graves, a gold star father whose son Joseph died in Iraq in 2006. After a missing-man formation flyover, runners kicked off the race passing cheering veterans from a local motorcycle club and the Monterey High School band who supplied live music. A massive U.S. flag, hoisted by a Presidio of Monterey fire truck hung above the participants.

The runners then crossed a bridge lined with images of the fallen over historic U.S. Highway 1 into the Fort Ord Dunes State Park. There they followed the boot-steps of the Soldiers

who once trained at the former Army post.

Two companies of the 229th Military ran in formation, providing a military-themed soundtrack to other runners as they sang cadences – Army songs designed to motivate and keep the formation in step.

1st Sgt. Mathew Wilkerson, senior enlisted leader Company A, said today's run was "special."

"We're showing our support to our brothers and sisters in arms," he said.

Wilkerson said he hoped Saturday's run gave his Soldiers a sense what military service means.



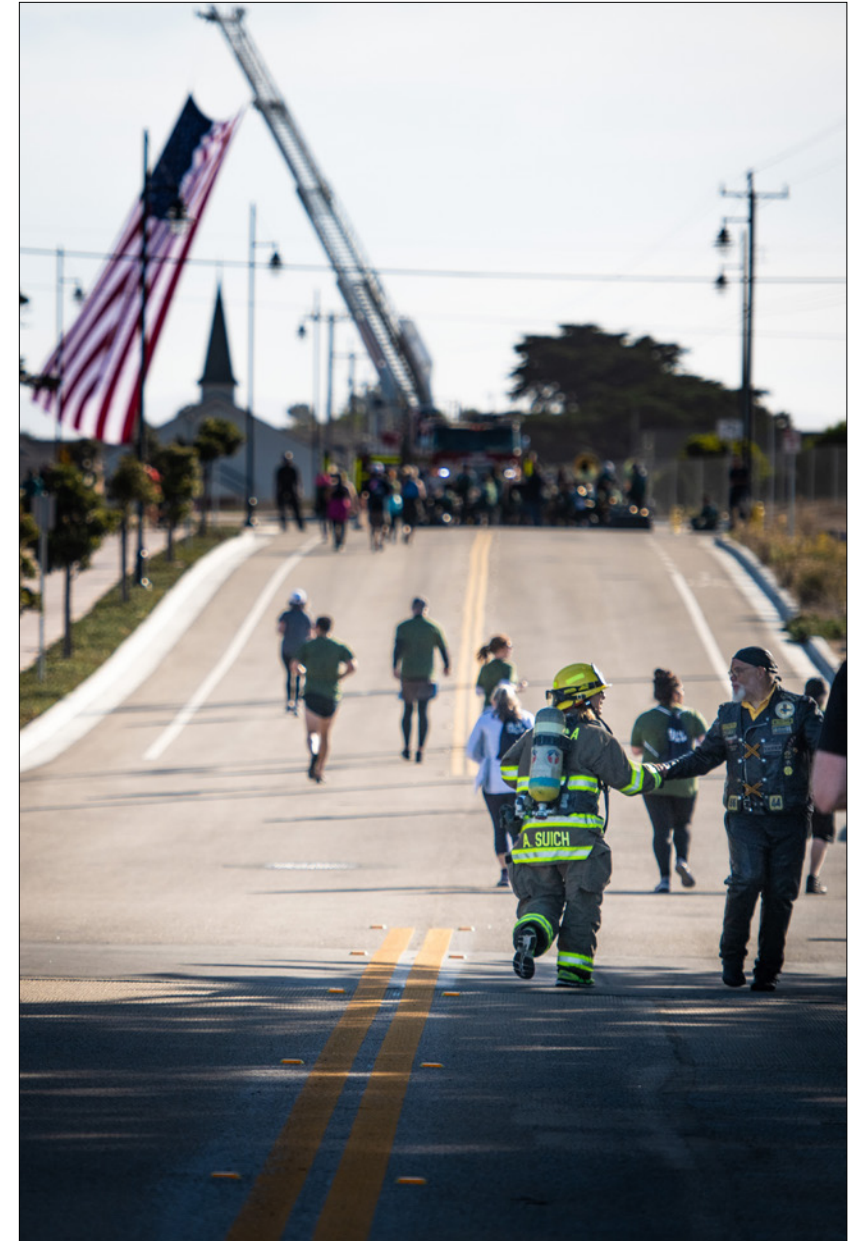
*A runner passes the sign for a fallen Soldier during the Honor our Fallen run in Marina, Oct 19.*

The Better Opportunities for Single Service Members also represented the Presidio during the run, with troops from all branches wearing unifying BOSS t-shirts.

Lance Cpl. Kamari Walker, an Arabic student at the Defense Language Institute called running with his 30 fellow BOSS members, "motivating."

"Every time I felt like giving up, I saw my fellow service member and kept running," the 19-year-old from Miami said. "And I was happy to see other people feel the same way."

He added that honoring those who came before him was a major part of why he joined the Marines.



*A firefighter shakes hands with a veteran at the end of the Honor our Fallen run in Marina, Oct 19.*

"My whole entire reason for joining the service is to commemorate them," he said. "I don't want their sacrifices to be in vain."

As of November, 7,027 military and department of defense civilian personnel have given their lives in ongoing contingency operations across the globe since the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.



# PoM Fire Department open house

Photos by  
Joseph Kumzak



Photos by Marcus Fichtl



*Public education programs are the first step to saving lives and empowering our community.*





# FROM THE HISTORIAN

## Camp John P. Pryor and the Great War

By Cameron Binkley, Command Historian

The 2d Machine Gun Battalion was moving west of the Meuse River in the Argonne Forest in early October 1918 when it engaged heavy enemy resistance near the small French village of Exermont. The 2d was a specialized element of the 1st Infantry Division sent to Europe with the American Expeditionary Force. In April 1917, the United States had declared war on Germany to defend its allies and to prevent U-boat attacks at sea.

Capt. John P. Pryor, from Pacific Grove, California, commanded “D” Company and was leading his men toward German lines when heavy fire around Hill 240 halted his unit. Pryor was suffering from “unremitting service wounds and gassing,” but refused medical aid. Instead, one reporter wrote, he continued “inspiring his men through his conspicuous bravery and indomitable will until he collapsed upon the field of battle.”

Pryor died en route to an Army field hospital just three weeks shy of the Nov. 11 armistice ending World War I – a date now celebrated by Americans as Veterans Day. For his heroism during the last major allied offensive of the First World War, Pryor posthumously received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army’s second highest medal for valor.

To remember Pryor, the U.S. Army named Camp John P. Pryor in his honor. During the 1920s, Camp Pryor operated at the Hotel Del Monte, now home to the Naval Post Graduate School. In 1932, the camp moved to the upper Presidio of Monterey and continued operating there until the program ended in 1940. These camps were part of the now forgotten Citizens’ Military Training Corps (CMTC), a summertime program that authorized young men to obtain basic military training without a further military service obligation. CMTC training helped prepare the small interwar Army for mobilization and operated at about 50 Army posts nationally. A few of the thousands of young men who trained at Camp Pryor are shown here.



*Capt. John P. Pryor, Commanding Co. D. 2d Machine Gun Battalion, 1st Division, A.E.F. Photo courtesy of Jill Russell.*



*CMTC summer trainees at Camp John P. Pryor with the M1917 Browning water-cooled machine used by Pryor’s own men during WWI.*



# News Briefs: **Army**

## People are centerpiece of the Army, not 'interchangeable parts,' says CSA

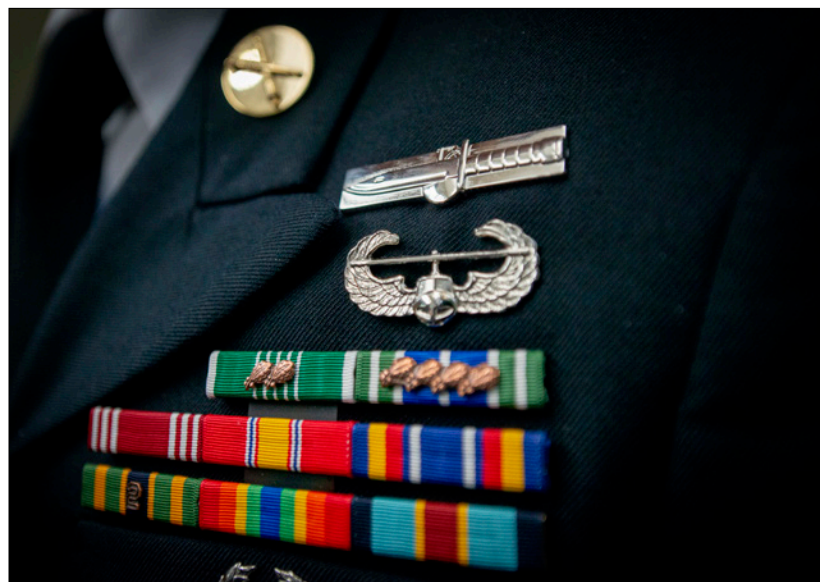


WASHINGTON — The Army plans to test a new approach to talent management this fiscal year on how to select battalion commanders before possibly extending it to other ranks, said the Army's top officer.

"To ensure we recruit and retain the right people for the Army, we are implementing a 21st century talent management system," said Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James C. McConville during his first address in the role at the Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition Tuesday.

Read more: [www.army.mil/article/228546](http://www.army.mil/article/228546)

## First Soldiers awarded Expert Soldier Badge



WASHINGTON — Eleven top-performing Soldiers from around the Army came together Tuesday to receive the Army's first-ever Expert Soldier Badges.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville made the presentation during the Eisenhower Luncheon at the Association of the U.S. Army's Annual Meeting and Exposition.

"I'm really proud of what these Soldiers have accomplished," Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston said. "At the time, the [ESB] was a new challenge not only for them but for the Army. These 11 individuals can now proudly wear a badge that firmly recognizes them as experts in their profession, something all Soldiers should strive to be."

Read more: [www.army.mil/article/228470](http://www.army.mil/article/228470)

## Army developing ways to improve household goods process



WASHINGTON — The Army is making improvements to the household goods, or HHG, process to help alleviate some of the stress attributed to a permanent change of station move.

One initiative being considered is getting Soldiers their orders 120 days before their PCS date, said Maj. Gen. Michel M. Russell, G-4 assistant deputy chief of staff.

"What that would do is allow [Soldiers and Families] to better mediate their timelines versus getting orders late and then having to work through issues with a truncated schedule," he said Tuesday during the Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition.

Read more: [www.army.mil/article/228673](http://www.army.mil/article/228673)



## **Air Force announces NCO Career Status Program for Airmen with 12 years of service**



WASHINGTON — The Air Force announced Oct. 30 it will implement the new Noncommissioned Officer Career Status Program for active duty Airmen, which will affect reenlistment contracts executed on or after Nov. 18.

The change will eliminate the need for Airmen who have 12 or more years of service to continue to reenlist by aligning their separation dates with their high year of tenure dates.

“Career Airmen are consummate professionals who have demonstrated their commitment to service,” said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. “They play a crucial role in developing the next generation of Airmen. With this adjustment, we’re providing them the associated flexibility to make individualized career decisions.”

**Read more:** [www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2003354](http://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2003354)

## **Air Force releases criteria for new Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal**



WASHINGTON — Air Force officials announced nomination criteria for the new Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal following the official establishment of the decoration May 22.

The new medal, established by then-Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, is part of a continuing effort to recognize U.S. Air Force military members in a non-deployed status who directly participated in a Department of Defense combat operation from a remote location.

“Our remote operations community makes vital contributions to our national security and the security of our allies,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein.

**Read more:** [www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2000789](http://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2000789)

## **Senate confirms Barrett to be Air Force secretary**



WASHINGTON — The Senate overwhelmingly confirmed Barbara Barrett to be the 25th Secretary of the Air Force, Oct. 16, clearing the way for the experienced pilot and former ambassador to lead the service as it faces new threats globally and in space.

The 85 to 7 vote makes Barrett the third consecutive woman confirmed to lead the Air Force and its 685,000 total force Airmen. Barrett replaces Heather Wilson who resigned in May. Undersecretary Matthew Donovan served as acting secretary in the interim.

“I can think of no position that offers more excitement, challenge and meaning than the secretary of the Air Force,” Barrett said, after the vote.

**Read more:** [www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1990512](http://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1990512)



# News Briefs: Navy

## USS John S. McCain's Return to Warfighting Readiness



YOKOSUKA, Japan — The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS John S. McCain (DDG 56) completed her necessary repairs and is underway to conduct comprehensive at sea testing.

During the at-sea testing, the ship and her crew will perform a series of demonstrations to evaluate that the ship's onboard systems meet or exceed Navy performance specifications. Among the systems that will be tested are navigation, damage control, mechanical and electrical systems, combat systems, communications, and propulsion application.

Read more: [www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=111285](http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=111285)

## CNO Birthday Message to the Fleet



WASHINGTON — 244 years ago the Navy began its watch to protect freedom of the seas with honor, courage, and commitment.

As we celebrate across the fleet, we renew our commitment to be ready; remember those who forged our legacy; and honor our families and loved ones who stand beside us.

With 290 ships, about 30 percent of which are underway today, your Navy is America's away team.

From the Atlantic to the Arabian Gulf, and from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific, there are no shortage of headlines about our presence around the world. We enable prosperity - at home and abroad - by ensuring peace, stability, and security around the globe.

Read more: [www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=111161](http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=111161)

## San Francisco Fleet Week Kicks off with Ship Arrivals, Remarks



SAN FRANCISCO — The 39th annual San Francisco Fleet Week kicked off Oct. 6 as ships arrived bringing U.S. Navy, Marines, and Coastguardsmen together with the city to celebrate the military sea services. This year was one of the largest San Francisco Fleet Weeks with eight ships and more than 2,300 Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsman participating.

"I would like to thank the San Francisco Fleet Week Association for putting together, what I think to be an amazing week to celebrate Fleet Week right here in San Francisco," said San Francisco Mayor London Breed at the opening press conference.

Read more: [www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=111121](http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=111121)



# News Briefs: **Marines**

## Pendleton Marine's quick thinking saves three in SoCal car crash



CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — U.S. Marines are known for their fast thinking and courage in a time of need. Marines are taught from day one the core values of honor, courage and commitment. U.S. Marine Cpl. Alexandra Nowak, an administrative specialist with Alpha Company, Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Installations West, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, exemplified unwavering courage when she saved the lives of three people Sept. 20.

Nowak was driving to pick up her 2-year old daughter and mother at the airport on Interstate Highway 15 in Escondido, California, when she witnessed a multi-car collision resulting in a sports utility vehicle rolling onto its side.

Read more: <https://www.marines.mil/News/News-Display/Article/2009835>

## Next-generation bomb suit lightens load for Marines



MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — Explosive Ordnance Disposal Marines will soon receive a lighter and more capable bomb suit for protection against various threats.

Fielding in 2020, the EOD Advanced Bomb Suit incorporates several 21st century, next-generation technological advancements intended to help EOD Marines withstand arduous conditions on the battlefield.

The system protects against severe injuries caused by blast overpressure, shrapnel, heat and impacts. The suit also comprises an elaborate integrated ventilation system to reduce heat stress and improve breathing.

Read more: [www.marines.mil/News/News-Display/Article/1996792](http://www.marines.mil/News/News-Display/Article/1996792)

## The 49th Annual Naha Great Tug-of-War Festival



NAHA, Japan — Members of the local and U.S. communities celebrated the 49th annual Naha Great Tug-of-War Festival from Oct. 12 to 14, 2019 at Naha, Okinawa, Japan.

The three-day festival is held on the second weekend in October every year. The largest event features a tug-of-war which uses a 200-meter-long rope made of rice straw and weighs 43 tons, a Guinness World Record.

“I have heard about this event ever since I arrived on island, so I had been looking forward to it,” said U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jordan Gorham, a data systems administrator with 7th Communications Battalion and a native of Virginia Beach, VA. “It was really cool to experience such a rich tradition our host nation puts on for the entire island to come enjoy.”

Read more: [www.marines.mil/News/News-Display/Article/1988659](http://www.marines.mil/News/News-Display/Article/1988659)



# INBRIEF

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

**THE YEAR IN PHOTOS EDITION**

