

# IN PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY BRIEF



## January - March edition (click headlines):



### [PoM service members pay tribute to bus driver with name tapes](#)

Nearly 200 service members at the Presidio of Monterey have paid tribute to an installation bus driver by giving him a name tape to display inside his bus. Retired Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Robert “Gunny” Enriquez started “Gunny’s Wall of Fame” with only three name tapes three months ago, and it has grown exponentially since then. Most of Enriquez’s passengers are students from all branches of the military attending the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center. “It really shows how much we mean to him,” said Airman 1st Class Sebastian Peralta, who contributed a name tape.



### [Monterey Herald: Clint Eastwood’s memories of being lifeguard at Fort Ord pool](#)

The abandoned, graffiti-covered swimming pool on the former Army base contains a history that many have forgotten. But not for one local who was a swim instructor and lifeguard at that pool – Clint Eastwood. When the famous actor-director-producer read a story in the Monterey Herald about the pool in November 2021, it brought back a flood of memories for him from his days in the military. He recently visited the Fort Ord pool and shared his experiences of being a lifeguard and swim instructor there.



### [From the Historian: Choirs of the early language schools](#)

During World War II, the Military Intelligence Service Language School, the predecessor of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center at the Presidio of Monterey, established a choir that allowed members to learn and sing traditional Japanese folk music. The MISLS choir facilitated learning in the target language, gave insights into the culture of the language being taught, and had recreational aspects. Members practiced during their off time and on weekends, often performing in the historic chapel of Fort Snelling, Minnesota, where the school was then based.



### **PoM Airman receives medal for saving civilian's life**

Airman 1st Class Tanner Cope was awarded a Joint Service Achievement Medal Feb. 4 during a ceremony held at Hilltop Track on the Presidio of Monterey. Cope received the medal in recognition for having saved the life of a civilian by performing the Heimlich maneuver. On Nov. 17, 2021, Cope, a student at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, was out to lunch in a downtown restaurant when a man stood up from his table and began yelling for help while his friend, Belinda Deranieri, was bent over, coughing and gasping for air.



### **Presidio of Monterey 'Special Response Team' targets housing safety**

When maintenance issues in homes at the Presidio of Monterey involve life, health and safety, the installation has a team of experts who respond with the health of residents in mind. The Special Response Team includes one administrative assistant and four technicians with special certifications in subjects such as mold remediation, lead and asbestos. Together they use their advanced training to evaluate potentially hazardous repair jobs and improve safety for on-post housing residents. The Parks at Monterey Bay started the SRT about three years ago to improve the level of expertise at life, health and safety.



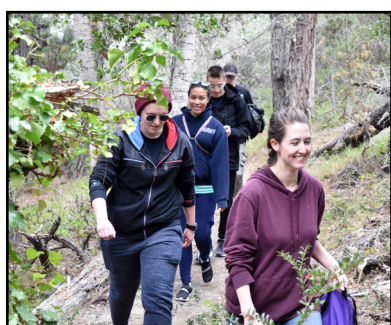
### **Presidio of Monterey 'Baby Boot Camp' prepares expectant parents**

Babies do not come with instruction manuals, but the new "Baby Boot Camp" class at the Presidio of Monterey comes close—and allows for questions. The first in a series of classes kicked off March 9 at PoM Army Community Service at Ord Military Community. The classes provide expectant parents with a wide range of information that will help them bring a newborn home with confidence and ultimately improve the quality of life and well-being of the whole family. The classes will take place every second Wednesday and Thursday of each month through August, and begin at 5 p.m.



### **Monterey service members earn German military proficiency badge**

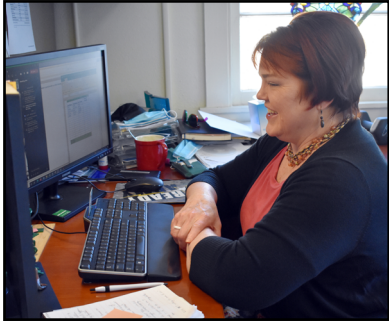
Thanks to members of the German Armed Forces studying in Monterey, 182 members of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy have received the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency. "We wanted to make sure that we had something that would bring everybody together," said Air Force Master Sgt. Shaun Henderson, assigned to the 314th Training Squadron at the Presidio of Monterey and an organizer of the testing. "The four services worked together to make this happen, including the German cadre."



### **PoM hike brings community together for 'fitness, fun, friendship and food'**

The Hot Chocolate Hike at the Presidio of Monterey on Feb. 26 highlighted how the installation's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation supports the well-being of the community. "It's all about fitness, fun, friendship and food," said Nicole Dansby, hike organizer and manager of the directorate's Price Fitness Center. "We're getting our families and our service members out there. They're going to go on a nice 2.1-mile hike, come back and enjoy some nice hot chocolate and s'mores and just relax."





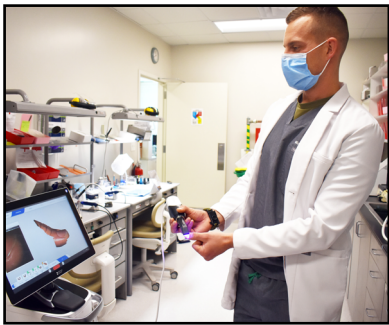
### **Presidio of Monterey Workforce Development a resource for career guidance**

As the chief of Workforce Development for USAG PoM, Stephanie Schafer continuously asks herself how she can help employees feel more invested, happy and engaged in their jobs. “Engaged employees are not only motivated by money,” Schafer said. “Do I have job satisfaction? Am I given opportunities to do something that’s interesting and meaningful? Do I feel appreciated? Do I feel happy and safe here? All of those things are factors in employee engagement and retention.” While Schafer reaches out to the workforce, and she encourages employees to reach out to her as well.



### **PoM gray-water system to save more than 2,000 gallons of water a day**

U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey will save more than 2,000 gallons of potable water every day—more than 730,000 gallons a year—with a gray-water system that began operating in a Marine Corps barracks March 9. Pyeatt Barracks, in Building 827, houses about 740 Marines. The system harvests water from showers and sinks, filters it and then uses it again in toilets, said Rich Thorne, energy manager, Directorate of Public Works, U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey. The system demonstrates the Army’s commitment to the environment and preserving resources.



### **Presidio of Monterey Dental Clinic leads the way in digital dentistry**

Home to the Army’s subject matter expert on digital dentistry, the PoM Dental Clinic is using technology to take care of people, improve readiness and modernize the Army. Dr. (Maj.) Michael Kroll, officer in charge of the PoM Dental Clinic, not only advises the chief of the U.S. Army Dental Corps on ways the Army should incorporate digital dentistry, but has incorporated the technology at the clinic to the fullest extent possible. In doing so, the clinic has become a leader in digital dentistry. “To my knowledge, we’re probably the only clinic in the Army dental care system that is fully digital,” Kroll said.



### **PoM Fire Department trains to save lives during vehicle extrications**

Firefighters with the Presidio of Monterey Fire Department practiced for worst-case scenarios as they participated in hands-on vehicle extrication training at California State University, Monterey Bay, Feb. 9. Using donated junked vehicles, firefighters used the “Jaws of Life” and other equipment to cut apart vehicles alongside other local agencies from within Monterey County. The training helped firefighters master skills that will improve their ability save lives in emergencies. It also demonstrated how PoM firefighters and other emergency personnel work alongside their counterparts.



### **PoM Retired Soldiers Council reaches out to retiree community**

Military retirees in the Monterey area have a standing invitation to lunch with the Presidio of Monterey Retired Soldiers Council. Col. Varman Chhoeung, commander of USAG PoM, and Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Traylor, USAG PoM senior enlisted advisor, met with council members at the Chay Dining Facility Feb. 3 in the first of a series of planned lunches on and off post. The idea is to provide more outreach and services to retirees in the Monterey area and improve their well-being, Chhoeung said. The informal lunch provided retirees the opportunity to socialize and get to know one another.





## **Presidio of Monterey gym doubles functional fitness area**

The Price Fitness Center has more than doubled the size of the gym's functional fitness area, and Soldiers aren't the only ones taking advantage of it. PoM is an Army installation, but service members from all branches of the military attend the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center and share the same gym on post. With the increase in space and equipment, service members from all branches are discovering the benefits of functional fitness and increasing their overall readiness. "It's very popular," said Nicole Dansby, fitness center manager.



## **On guard: Security officers first line of defense at Presidio of Monterey**

Whether it's midnight with hardly a soul in sight, or 7:30 a.m. with hundreds arriving for work, Presidio of Monterey security officers must always stay sharp and alert. "You need to stay on your guard at all times," said Department of the Army Security Officer Troy Shaver, a veteran of the Air Force security police and a member of the PoM guard force for 16 months. "You just never know. You never know what car is going to pop up on you." At least one gate is always open at PoM, and the security officers are the critical first line of defense for the thousands of military personnel who live and work at PoM.



## **Army housing: Presidio of Monterey housing chief brings Soldier's perspective**

Oscar Ordonez brings a unique perspective to his career in housing at U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey—he used to live in the installation's housing as a young enlisted Soldier. "It helps me understand the mindset of military families," said Ordonez, who now heads the garrison housing division after 16 years working in housing. "PCSing is tough. I did it a few times myself, so I understand the challenges. I understand that not knowing where you're going to live is frustrating. So my goal is to always make that process as transparent as possible."



## **USAG Presidio of Monterey welcomes new senior enlisted leader**

The Presidio of Monterey welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph W. Traylor as the garrison's new senior enlisted advisor during an assumption of responsibility ceremony at the Weckerling Center, Jan. 4. He replaces Command Sgt. Maj. Robert N. Londers, who retired in December 2021 after more than 25 years of service. "I am deeply honored and humbled to have been selected as the next garrison command sergeant major," said Traylor. "I know it's always a privilege to be selected, so I am very grateful that the Army gave me this opportunity."



## **Presidio of Monterey observes Wreaths Across America Day**

On Wreaths Across America Day, Dec. 18, 2021, about 30 people gathered at the Presidio of Monterey Cemetery to remember fallen U.S. veterans, honor those who serve and teach children the value of freedom. After a ceremony, volunteers fanned out throughout the cemetery and laid wreaths on all the cemetery's 393 graves, saying the names on the headstones as they laid the wreaths. Nathaniel Pleasantbey, event organizer and PoM Survivor Outreach Services manager, said similar events took place at more than 2,700 other locations throughout the United States and overseas.



## **Presidio of Monterey ACS, BOSS team up against holiday stress**

By design, the holiday stress briefing for service members at the Hobson Recreation Center Dec. 11, 2021, was low-key. “We are keeping it simple,” said Jillian Santillanez, victim advocate for the Family Advocacy Program at PoM Army Community Service. “We don’t want this to be difficult. We want this to be easy for them and fun.” About 50 service members attended the briefing, which included a table full of treats and tips from Santillanez on how to reduce holiday stress. Santillanez organized the event in conjunction with Better Opportunities for Single Service Members.

### **Keep up with USAG PoM by visiting:**



PoM website at <https://home.army.mil/monterey/index.php>

News articles at <https://www.army.mil/presidio>



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