

IN BRIEF

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY



April 2020

Army still 'open for business' as it adjusts to coronavirus

Gold Star Families to gain improved access to Army bases

Ord Commissary staff adjust to meet community needs during COVID-19 pandemic

Meet Presidio's new housing boss



Commander Col. Greg Ford
Command Sgt. Major Command Sgt. Maj. Robert N. Londers
Deputy Commander Phil Sanders

Chief, Public Affairs James Laughlin
Deputy Chief, Public Affairs Joseph Kumzak
Command Information Manager Marcus Fichtl
Social Media & Webmaster Zack Frank

Contributors Cameron Binkley
Sean Kimmons

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.

USAG Presidio of Monterey

Public Affairs Office

1759 Lewis Rd.

Monterey, CA 93944

Phone: (831) 242-5555

Email: presidiopao@gmail.com

home.army.mil/monterey

In this edition

Inside cover: How to make your own mask	3
Army still 'open for business' as it adjusts to coronavirus	4
Ord Commissary staff adjust to meet community needs	6
229th Soldiers prepare for ACFT	9
Gold Star Families to gain improved access to Army bases	12
Meet the new housing boss	13
From the Historian: Eighth Street Chapel	14
Remembering the Memorialized: Baker	15
News Briefs	16
Next month's preview	20

Cover: An Ord Military Community Commissary worker stocks bread early in the morning 6 April prior to the commissary opening to customers. Photo by: Joseph Kumzak



Army still 'open for business' as it adjusts to coronavirus

Sean Kimmons
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Army senior leaders held a virtual town hall Tuesday, asserting that the service remains open for business as it continues to mitigate effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"These are truly extraordinary times that we live in," said Army Secretary Ryan D. McCarthy. "And it takes measures and great people to get through that."

Protective equipment

While encouraging Soldiers to maintain social distancing and keep their hands clean, McCarthy said new safety gear is on its way to help protect them and their families.

In a week or so, several million masks are expected to be distributed across the force. Until then, leaders say Soldiers can use their neck gaiter, a scarf or a neutral-colored cloth to cover their face if they need to be within six feet of another person.

"This is all about protecting the force, so we can protect the nation," said Gen. James C. McConville, the Army's chief of staff, adding that uniforms should not be used as masks since they are chemically treated.

He also credited the innovation of the 1st Special Forces Group for creating their own surgical masks and delivering hundreds of them to the Madigan Army Medical Center at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

The Army's testing capability is also being ramped up with new machines coming on board in the next few weeks. The delay was partly due to the federal government prioritizing machines to the hardest-hit areas in the country, McCarthy said.

"We'll have this at all of our installations in a very robust capacity across the force," he said.



A new recruit gets his temperature taken at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, April 7, 2020.

The U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command at Fort Detrick, Maryland, has also been working nonstop on its antivirals and vaccination efforts with national laboratories and private industry.

There are now five different tracts with 24 different candidates for potential vaccines. The Army's vaccine candidate, McCarthy said, is moving into primate testing this summer.

This is the most "collaborative event in vaccination research, maybe in the history of mankind," he said. "And they're moving at a quick pace."

New recruits

Even with recruiter offices closed, the Army continues to be in "very good shape" with enlisting future Soldiers, the secretary said.

The U.S. Army Recruiting Command has already found success in reaching potential recruits through the virtual space, which may alter the way it recruits in the future.

Story continued next page

'Open' Cont.

"It may change the business model over time of how we recruit people," McCarthy said. "Less of the brick and mortar, more of the virtual and then ultimately when they go to sign a contract they meet face-to-face [with a recruiter]."

Out of every crisis, McConville said, there is always an opportunity to learn different ways to accomplish a mission.

"We're going to learn from that, and we're going to grow," the general said.

On Monday, the Army began to halt recruit movement to basic training for at least two weeks.

The brief pause, McConville said, will allow the Army to boost its testing capability at initial-entry training sites. Once new recruits show up, they will be segregated and screened for the virus. After being cleared, they will be placed in a "protective bubble" so they can complete training with others who have been cleared.

"By doing this, we think we're going to be able to take care of all these young men and women who are coming into the military," the general said.

Those facing a delay to be shipped to basic training may also be eligible for up to \$6,000 in incentive pay, depending on the length of the delay, Army leaders said.

"Just remember, the Army is still open," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston. "We're still doing active recruiting. So if there's anybody out there who is ready to join the Army, we're still open for business.

"We're just finding new and creative ways to do our virtual recruiting."

Staying ready

With permanent change-of-station moves on hold until May 11, the Army has now allowed Soldiers on

orders to extend up to a year at their current duty station.

Some Soldiers may still be eligible to move if they have already shipped their household goods and vehicles, and could even receive allowances to cover their accommodations if ordered to stay isolated after completing a move.

Those interested in staying at their current location can submit a Department of the Army Form 4187 through their chain of command.

"We definitely want to stabilize our Soldiers," Grinston said.

Further travel restrictions have also left some Soldiers in training exercises and combat operations in a holding pattern.

Current plans are to get units back from training exercises as soon as they end or if conditions improve for them to return sooner. Once back, they will need to go through the proper screening and two-week quarantine period.

As for those in combat, some Soldiers may be required to stay longer than their original deployments as the nation fights the virus at home.

"They are doing incredibly important work," McConville said. "They are really making a difference. And as soon as their mission is complete, we will get them back."

Even with social distancing and gyms closed, McConville said Soldiers can still exercise on their own to prepare for the Army Combat Fitness Test.

"People still have the opportunity to work out and we want their focus to be working on those events that are associated with the [ACFT]," he said. "Because that's the test that actually gets you ready for combat."

While the ACFT is still set to become the official test of record on Oct. 1, senior leaders said they'll reassess that timeline if certain conditions cannot be met —



Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville, center left, listens to a briefing on laboratory equipment for COVID-19 testing at Madigan Army Medical Center at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., April 1, 2020.

such as all units having the proper equipment and enough time to prepare their Soldiers.

"When those conditions are set, we'll make that decision," McConville said.

As the Army shifts its mission to help combat the virus, Grinston asked Soldiers to also adapt during the crisis and perhaps use this time to find new goals and reconnect with family.

"Life kind of just threw us a curveball," he said. "That's just the way life is. It's not always the fastball right down the middle.

"We've got the greatest Army in the world, and we're going to have to adjust."



Ord Commissary staff adjust to meet community needs during COVID-19 pandemic

Photos by Joseph Kumzak

Ord Commissary

Joseph Kumzak
Presidio of Monterey

SEASIDE, Calif. — While many of us in the Monterey Bay area endure the shelter-in-place from the safety and comfort of our homes -- the professionals who work at the Ord Military Community Commissary report for duty daily to keep essential food and supplies stocked for service members, families, retirees and disabled veterans.

Alex King, Ord Military Community Commissary director, said it was hectic at the beginning of the pandemic, but they are now maintaining positive stock levels of essential items such as produce, water, meat, eggs, milk and bread.

“We may not always have toilet paper or hand sanitizer in stock, but the necessities and things you need to survive are still here,” said King. “Meat will be fully stocked most every time you come in.”

He added “toilet paper is hit-or-miss, but I think that will slowly get better over time as manufacturers meet demand.”

Alexandria Kaiser, computer-assisted ordering technician, said “we do the best we can, but we really can’t control what we get in our store right now. It’s just a matter of as soon as we get it in -- then we get it on the floor as fast as possible.”

The commissary receives shipments every day except Sundays. But the demand for many items in stores has exceeded supply, which means distributors are unable to completely fill orders.

“What we are ordering and what we are receiving are two separate things,” said King. “The global demand for certain items is higher than it’s ever been.”

Commissaries in the western and pacific regions order from the same distributor, which means the OMC commissary shares available quantities with stores on larger installations.



Shoppers browse the Ord Commissary while following new hygienic guidelines.

King said “The distributors are doing an amazing job. They are working extremely hard to make it fair and balanced, so everybody gets a little bit and all military communities are taken care of.”

This pandemic has significantly increased the workload for commissary employees. Despite the extra work and fear of being exposed to coronavirus, they are staying positive by supporting each other and keeping their focus on the customers.

“We just take it a day at a time and do whatever we can for our patrons,” said Kaiser. “We know that we’re helping service members who are on the front lines all across the world, so it makes us proud to support them.”

Col. Greg Ford, Presidio of Monterey commander, said the commissary professionals have responded extremely well to constantly changing guidance as the Department of Defense battles the spread of this pandemic.

“The DECA professionals here have been amazing and have responded to the needs of our community absolutely flawlessly,” said Ford. “I have to applaud all of them for that. They are taking care of families and truly doing the nation’s work right now.”

Story continued next page

Commissary Cont.

“My employees are awesome — everybody has stepped up big time. Despite all the stuff you see on the news, they are still giving 110 percent,” said King. “They are all very positive and want to do what they can to support the military community. I couldn’t ask for a better team.”

Commissary customers also expressed appreciation for the workers who come to work every day to keep the doors open and shelves stocked. A retired Army officer who asked to remain anonymous said “they are the heroes of the hour.”

“I really appreciate them being willing to come out and expose themselves daily. They’re here every day -- being vigilant for our safety, and I am truly grateful,” said commissary patron Korinne Norlund.

The commissary staff implemented new cleaning procedures in accordance with CDC and DoD guidelines to ensure a clean and safe environment for patrons and workers.

- All carts are cleaned and sanitized after each use.
- Check stands are wiped down between customers.
- Display case door handles are regularly wiped down throughout the day.
- There is a hand washing station at the store entrance.

Norlund said she is avoiding other grocery stores as much as possible. “I feel safer shopping here than at a big store that has more patrons.”

King encourages authorized patrons to shop at the commissary to take advantage of the low pricing and clean environment. “It’s like a private-exclusive club for military folks, and we pride ourselves on that.”

He added “we are proud of what we do, and we will be here working hard until it’s over to support our community.”



Ord Commissary is packed with produce.



Garrison Commander Col. Greg Ford disinfects a pair of riding carts before customers use them at the Ord Military Community Commissary.

229th Soldiers prepare for ACFT



Photos by Marcus Fichtl

229th Soldiers prepare for ACFT

Marcus Fichtl
Presidio of Monterey

Editor's note: This story takes place before the COVID-19 outbreak.

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — When the calendar rolls over to Oct. 1 this year and the new Army Combat Fitness Test becomes the service's new physical standard, the Soldiers of the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion at the Presidio of Monterey will be ready.

For the past six months, 229th drill sergeants and cadre have been administering mock ACFTs for initial entry Soldiers and careerists alike. The battalion has been conducting special clinics biweekly to help Soldiers train on some of the tougher elements of the test, and a special ACFT training team even came out from Fort Jackson to teach how to properly administer the test.

"We're training to create tactical athletes," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Burroughs, drill sergeant with Company F, 229th MI Bn., who has now run five ACFTs.

The test is comprised of six events that simulate tactical movements: the 3-repetition maximum deadlift, the standing power throw, the hand release push-up, the sprint-drag-carry, the leg tuck and the 2-mile run. The only hold-over from the Army Physical Fitness Test which the ACFT replaces is the 2-mile run.

"Two weaknesses we are focusing in on are the leg tuck and the standing power throw," said Burroughs. "To help our Soldiers, we've worked on posterior and shoulder work for the leg tucks and coordination for standing power throw."

More than six months out from the first official test,



Two soldiers perform leg tucks, one of the two areas of weakness 229th has identified among its troops..

he said this new enhanced physical training has led to a more than 90 percent pass rate for the new ACFT. Burroughs added he hopes the Army revisits the leg tuck, an exercise he says unfairly hurts a portion of his troops who are otherwise in peak physical condition.

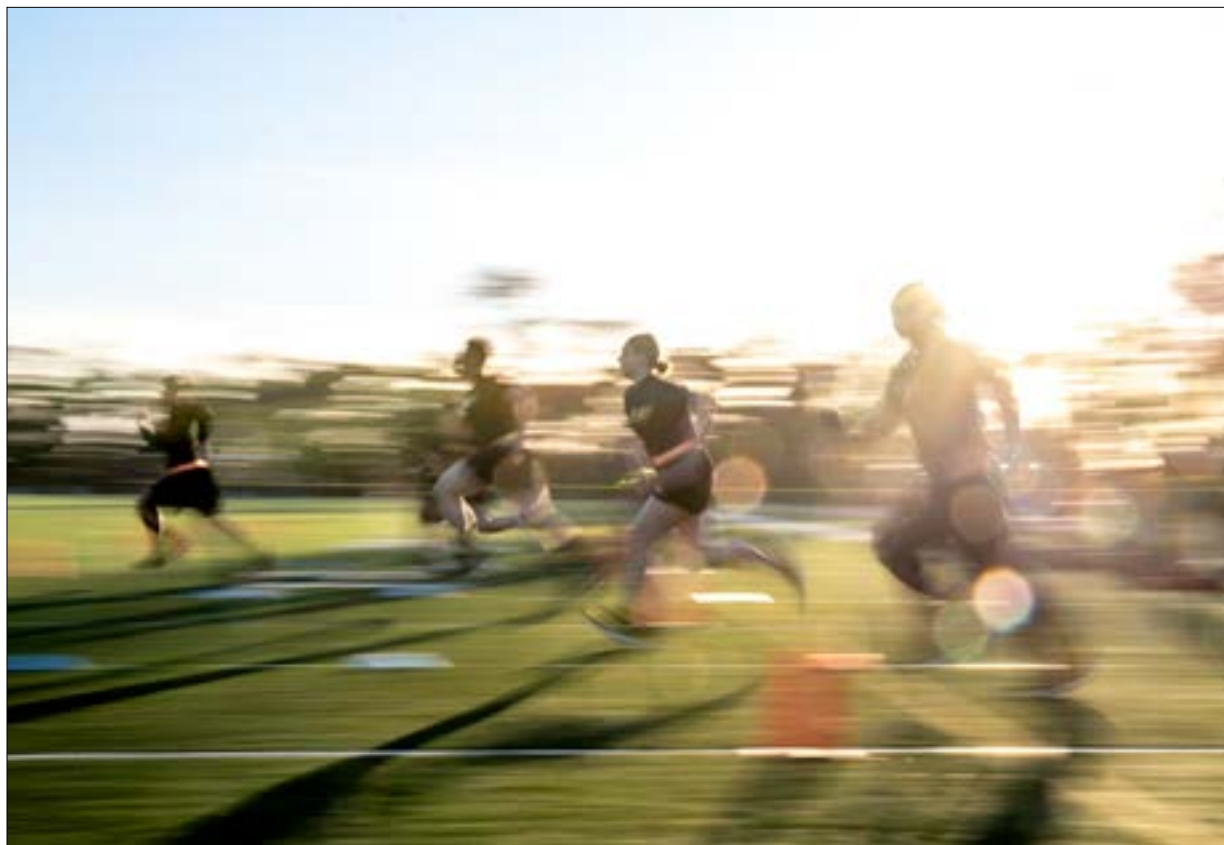
Pvt. Carrick Hays, Co. F, 229th MI BN, described the test as 'easier to pass but harder to master', which he said encourages him to excel at each test rather than just eking out the bare minimum.

"In the old test I just focused on making it through the test, but with the ACFT I'm always trying to

exceed my last test scores," said the 19-year-old from Billings, Mt.

Burroughs added that a big part of the mock ACFT is teaching his graders how to administer the test. That means everything from mobilizing the small army of helpers needed to shift deadlift weights and mark ball tosses to ensuring that the test is completed in the Army standard time of 90 minutes.

Story continued next page



Soldiers race each other during the sprint-drag-carry. The event simulates tactical movements every Soldier needs to master.



A Soldier knocks out reps during the hand release push-up event. A kettle bell he will use later during the sprint-drag-carry sits in the foreground.

ACFT Cont.

The biggest change, he said, is that interactions between grader and tester have been reduced to just a couple of words. “There are only two commands in the new ACFT: ‘get set’ and ‘go,’” he said. “Everything else the Soldiers and graders have to know.”

One final change Burroughs said he liked about the new test was its spirit of camaraderie. Unlike the prior APFT that discouraged interaction between test takers, the ACFT encourages competition and cheering.

“This test builds more esprit de corps. It builds a more competitive attitude... your line will be cheering you on during that final lap of the sprint-drag-carry when your legs feel like jelly,” he said.



Soldiers perform hand release push-ups as graders count reps. Considered harder than a standard push-up, the hand release push up is one of five new events in the ACFT.

Gold Star Families to gain improved access to Army bases

Zack Frank
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — To fulfill the Army's commitment to Gold Star family members, a new Installation Access Card has been introduced to provide unescorted on-base access to eligible surviving family members whose loved ones gave their lives in defense of the Nation.

Nate Pleasentbey, Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator, says the new card was created, "To outreach and embrace our survivors, to make them always aware that the ultimate sacrifice of their loved one is never forgotten."

The new card recognizes concerns from Survivor Family Members who were experiencing difficulty gaining access to Army installations. Gold Star families will now have an easier time taking part in Memorial Day and Veterans Day celebrations, or making visits to honor their loved ones for their birthdays or other personal moments.

"9/11 closed my ability to come on post, I felt completely powerless," said Gwyn De Amaral, a fifth generation resident of Monterey County with a deep family connection to the Presidio of Monterey.

De Amaral's great-grandfather was an Army cavalryman who is buried at the post cemetery. His father, who was killed in the Vietnam War in 1965, is also memorialized on post with a Moorish-influenced fountain and garden located next to building 621.

"The survivor access badge has dramatically changed my experience of entering the Presidio. The connection that I once had and lost, is now fully intact and restored," said De Amaral. "I belong to a greater community . . . the message 'You Are Not Forgotten' lives through the Gold Star."

Until recently, a Survivor Access Badge was the official identification used by Gold Star families to



Gold Star family members place roses at the base of a wreath during the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument dedication ceremony at Guice Veterans Memorial Park in Biloxi, Miss., Nov. 23, 2019.

gain access to any Army installation. The badge is a laminated paper ID which was difficult to produce and could only be created at select installations. While the new access card is not yet available at the Presidio of Monterey, the installation is among the next to receive the card making machine.

"The Army values people, especially our Gold Star spouses and family members," said Lt. Gen. Douglas Gabram, commanding general, U.S. Army Installation Management Command. "This change allows them to more easily receive the benefits and services

to which they are entitled, and helps them stay connected to the Army."

This update to access cards was implemented to comply with requirements of the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. The Gold Star Installation Access Card began as an Army initiative but the Department of Defense intends to mandate the access card as an accepted form of ID throughout all branches of service. The new cards will have a renewal period of every three years.

Meet the Presidio's new housing boss: Oscar Ordonez

Recently Oscar Ordonez, the Presidio of Monterey's new chief of housing sat down with the public affairs office. An Army veteran of ten years, he once lived in the Fort Ord housing as a Soldier.

What's your origin story?

Ordonez: After leaving Germany in 1989, Fort Ord was the closest I could get to my home in the Central Valley. I then spent about three and a half years with the 7th Infantry in Fort Ord and then another three at DLI. I kind of just stuck around. This is home.

When did you join the Garrison team?

O: In 2002, I joined as a Department of the Army Guard. Then I moved to police officer and police sergeant. In 2006, I raised my hand and took the job to manage the barracks/unaccompanied housing program. In 2009 we stood up the housing services office.

What was it like?

O: Back then we were just basic admin people under RCI. It wasn't until 2009 that the Army converted us into housing specialists. I've been in this building now for 15 years – three separate offices, well four now as the chief.

You've seen Army housing from the beginning what do you want it to become?

O: The point we want to get to as a team is where families can find a home, move in, maybe have a work order here or there, and never know who a guy like me is.



How are you planning to get to that point?

O: We're working on communication. We feel people will take bad news better if we tell them far enough ahead of time so they can plan ahead. We're working to bring more employees in on the partner side to pick up the slack with home inspections.

What have you accomplished so far as chief?

O: We started a monthly meeting of my QA managers and the Parks' turn team (people who get the houses ready). We meet at a house and go over things that may become systemic issues. So far it's working out well, it's ensuring the government employees know who the private employees are so we can better communicate the role we play for service members.

Where do you see yourselves six months to a year from now?

O: Ultimately, I'd like to see my guys trained in mold certification. I would also like to have an engineer to review mediation plans, blueprints and renovations

so the garrison has the expertise to analyze plans rather than shooting from the hip. We want the experts to verify everything that goes on in the housing community.

What are some initiatives you have in the works?

O: We just began demo of 170 homes built in the late 50s, to replace them with 150 junior enlisted homes. We currently have 50 plus junior enlisted on the waitlist. This will go a long way to get them an Army home. The goal is to house a junior enlisted family the moment they walk through this door.

What makes Army housing great?

O: If you live in an apartment complex in town and have a problem with your landlord, who do you complain to? Whereas, everyone here who has a question or an issue that's gone unanswered knows there's an office at 4250 Gen. Jim Moore Blvd. and a whole chain of command willing to answer questions and look into issues for residents.

The Chaplains Corps and Eighth Street Chapel



Soldiers of the 17th Infantry Regiment at the activation ceremony of the Eighth Street Chapel, Fort Ord, 1941. Newly constructed Fort Ord barracks appear in the background.

Cameron Binkley
Command Historian

Since antiquity, clergy have marched with armies. Chaplains, as they are known today, have long supported the spiritual needs of soldiers, set an exemplar of behavior, and inspired hope for the blessings of victory.

George Washington sought for two years to obtain a chaplain for his colonial regiment on the Virginia frontier. Rebuffed, he felt it a dishonor. It was likely one of his earliest grievances with the British Crown. Historians believe that Washington's later pertinacity as commander of the Continental Army was sustained in part due to the presence of scores of ministers within the ranks. From then until now, ordained ministers of multiple faiths have served

as commissioned officers in the Chaplain Corps of the U.S. Army, their work supported by enlisted assistants.

In 1940, the United States began preparing for World War II. The chaplaincy expanded as a peacetime draft brought thousands, then millions into military service. To house a rapidly growing Army, the Quartermaster General and the Army Corps of Engineers standardized plans to construct simple wooden structures wherever they were needed. These "temporary" buildings were fashioned in an assembly-line style using prefabricated materials. At posts across America, including Fort Ord shown here, mobilization buildings sprouted like seeds after a warm rain.

The military chapel was a key structure of the "T" series. Planners created a familiar look expressed

through a pitched roof and steeple design with white-washed drop-down siding that covered a long open bay with pews. Eight chapels were built at Fort Ord and another at the Presidio of Monterey, which is still in service as a house of worship. The Eighth Street Chapel was assigned to the 17th Infantry Regiment and was the first Fort Ord chapel to open in the fall of 1941.

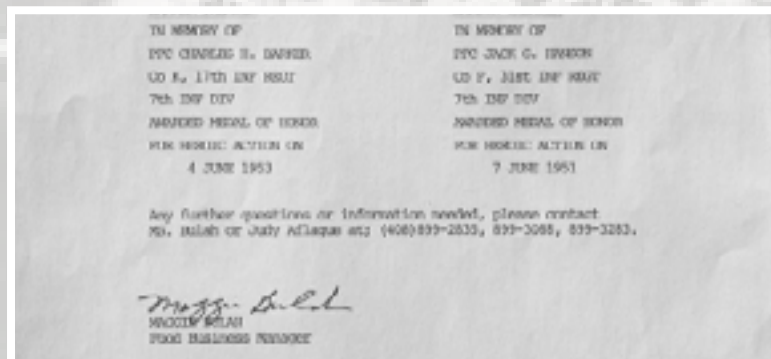
After the closure of Fort Ord in 1994, the functional design of the Army's chapels easily supported new civilian uses. Examples include the community hall at East Garrison, the First Street Chapel at California State University Monterey Bay, and yes - the Eighth Street Chapel (located near the MG William H. Gourley VA-DoD Outpatient Clinic), which the City of Marina is planning to refurbish.

Remembering the Memorialized: Barker



Charles H. Barker (1935-1953) of Pickens County, SC was a soldier during the Korean War. He was killed in the battle of Pork Chop Hill in 1953 while serving with 7th Infantry Division in Korea. During a retreat, he provided covering fire for his fellow soldiers until he ran out of ammunition. He was last seen engaging Chinese soldiers in hand-to-hand combat. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

Learn more about our memorialized by visiting:
<https://home.army.mil/monterey/index.php/about/memorialization>



News Briefs: **Army**

Army's top chaplain: more social distancing, less disconnection



WASHINGTON — While officials have relied on “social distancing” to curb the spread of COVID-19, the Army’s top chaplain says the term doesn’t mean stopping all contact with friends and family.

Social distancing, a term used by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, aims to head off the COVID-19 pandemic by advising people to stay at least six feet apart with no large gatherings and as many staying home as possible to slow the spread of the airborne virus.

Maj. Gen. Thomas L. Solhjem, the Army’s 25th chief of chaplains, is concerned some details of the phrase may get lost in the fog. If taken the wrong way, the term could negatively impact a Soldier’s mental health, he said, especially for those who live and work alone.

[Click the tank to read more:](#)

National Guard COVID-19 response grows to 20,000 troops



WASHINGTON — Nearly 20,000 National Guardsmen are now supporting COVID-19 response efforts across the country with thousands of more opportunities for them to help expected in the coming weeks, the National Guard Bureau chief said.

As of Friday, 11 states, two territories and the District of Columbia have been approved to use federal funds for state missions after Congress passed a \$2.2 trillion emergency relief package to partly fund Title 32 missions.

Another 29 requests are currently moving through the approval process, bureau officials said in a news release.

[Click the tank to read more:](#)

New incentive pay encourages Soldiers to serve in Alaska



WASHINGTON — Soldiers being stationed in Alaska can now receive up to \$4,000 to help offset the initial cost of items needed to live in the “Last Frontier” state.

The one-time, lump-sum payments -- called Remote and Austere Conditions Assignment Incentive Pay, or RAC-AIP -- will be given to incoming Soldiers and those who arrived in Alaska after Dec. 1. The payment amount depends on the duty station and if the Soldier has dependents.

Single Soldiers heading to Forts Wainwright and Greely will receive a \$2,000 payment, while those with dependents will get \$4,000. For those heading to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, the payments will be \$1,000 and \$2,000, respectively.

[Click the tank to read more:](#)

News Briefs **Air Force**

Goldfein says Air Force remains fully capable despite operational adjustments



ARLINGTON, Va. —Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein said April 1 that the Air Force is constantly assessing and adjusting practices to protect Airmen and families from the coronavirus pandemic while also ensuring that all operations continue worldwide.

“We’re not doing business as usual. We are doing business as required,” Goldfein said during an hour-long virtual appearance with Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies.

At the same time, Goldfein acknowledged that the pandemic is “having an impact on readiness” but that adjustments at all levels have compensated for the unexpected demands needed to keep personnel safe from a virus for which there is no vaccine or immunity.

[Click the jet to read more:](#)

Space Force identifies USAF missions for transfer to newest service



ARLINGTON, Va. — In a significant step that enhances the U.S. Space Force’s capabilities and development, the Department of the Air Force has identified 23 U.S. Air Force organizations whose space-related missions will soon transfer to the Space Force.

Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett, in conjunction with Chief of Space Operations Gen. John “Jay” Raymond and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David Goldfein, directed the transfer which entails shifting space missions from Air Force organizations into the newest military branch.

Currently, Space Force is comprised primarily of units which previously fell under the former Air Force Space Command prior to the service’s establishment on Dec. 20, 2019.

[Click the jet to read more:](#)

Jolly Green II taken to extremes



EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — An HH-60W Jolly Green II, the Air Force’s new combat search and rescue helicopter, completed a month-long trial of extremes inside the McKinley Climatic Lab April 2.

The Sikorsky test aircraft endured real temperatures ranging from 120 degrees to minus 60 degrees Fahrenheit as well as 45 mph winds coupled with heavy rainfall. All of those scenarios were created within the lab’s 55,000-square-foot test chamber.

The goal of these punishing tests was to prove the new aircraft’s sustainability in any operational environment.

[Click the jet to read more:](#)

News Briefs: Navy

Attack Submarine USS Delaware Joins Fleet



WASHINGTON — The Navy commissioned USS Delaware (SSN 791), the 18th Virginia-class attack submarine, April 4.

Although the traditional public commissioning ceremony was canceled for public health safety and due to restrictions on large public gatherings, the Navy commissioned USS Delaware administratively and transitioned the ship to normal operations. Meanwhile, the Navy is looking at a future opportunity to commemorate the special event with the ship's sponsor, crew and commissioning committee.

[Click the ship to read more:](#)

Comfort Treats First Patients in New York



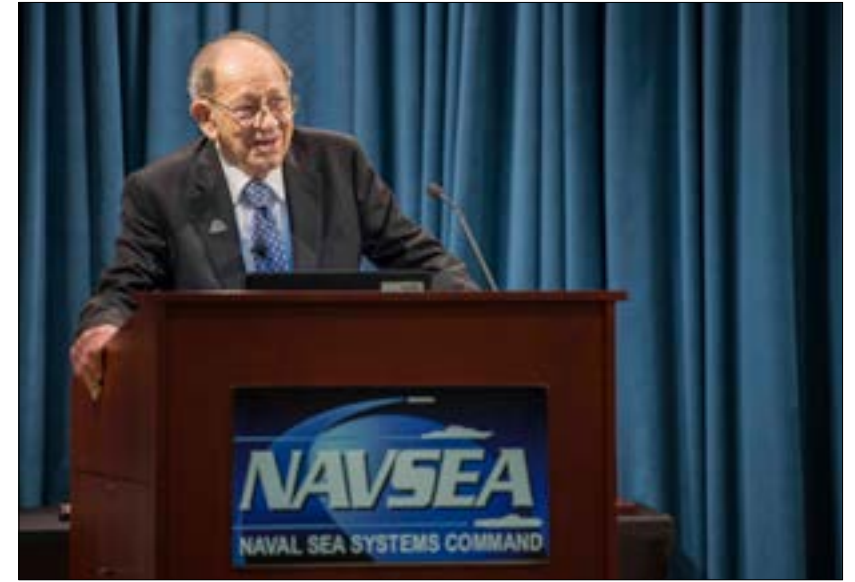
NEW YORK — The hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) treated its first patients Apr. 1 in support of the nation's COVID-19 response efforts.

Local health officials, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), have established patient transfer protocols, with careful consideration to the safety and security of patients and medical care providers aboard USNS Comfort. Both civilian physicians and USNS Comfort physicians continue to work directly in concert, to provide and carry out patient care plans.

"I'm immensely proud of our Sailors, Marines, civilian mariners and medical staff for safely, efficiently and effectively getting Comfort to New York ahead of schedule when our fellow Americans need us most," said Capt. Joseph O'Brien.

[Click the ship to read more:](#)

NAVSEA Bids Farewell to Longest-Serving Civil Servant in DoD



WASHINGTON — Sarkis Tatigian, who began his Navy career at the age of 19 during the Second World War, passed away earlier this week, leaving behind a nearly 78-year legacy of service to the Department of Defense.

At the time of his death, Tatigian, the longest serving civil servant in the history of the DoD, was serving as Naval Sea Systems Command's (NAVSEA) Small Business Advocate.

"Mr. Tatigian truly lived a life dedicated to advocacy and the service of others," said NAVSEA Executive Director, James Smerchansky. "His decades of work oversaw the expansion of the small business industrial base and more than \$100 billion in contracts awarded to diverse, small businesses."

[Click the ship to read more:](#)

News Briefs: **Marines**

CORPS FIELDS NEXT-GENERATION BODY ARMOR TO MARINES



QUANTICO, Va. — The Marine Corps has begun fielding a next-generation protective vest that provides improved fit, form and function for Marines.

The Plate Carrier Generation III is a lightweight plate carrying system that guards against bullets and fragmentation when coupled with protective plates.

“This system protects Marines on the battlefield,” said Lt. Col. Andrew Konicki, the Program Manager for Infantry Combat Equipment at Marine Corps Systems Command. “The PC Gen. III is important because it is nearly 25-percent lighter than the legacy technology.”

[Click the EGA to read more:](#)

DEFINING WORTH THROUGH MUSIC AND THE MARINE CORPS



SAN DIEGO — The musicians of the Marine Corps demonstrate the core values of honor, courage and commitment through the balance of musical excellence and upholding the elite stature Marines are known for. U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Kelsey Worth, a musician with Marine Band San Diego, has proven herself an integral piece to the Marine Corps’ total force by exemplifying these values through her dedication as a saxophonist and as a Marine.

At a young age, Worth followed in the steps of her family and their passion for playing musical instruments. She began playing the saxophone at 11 years old and never turned back.

“My parents were musicians and my older siblings also played instruments,” Worth said. “It just came naturally for me to play music too.”

[Click the EGA to read more:](#)

A MARINE’S BEST FRIEND



PHILIPPINE SEA — In 1918, the Marine Corps earned one of its many well-known nicknames at the battle of Belleau Wood. After a ferocious offensive, the Marines forced the Germans into a retreat. Marine Corps legend has it that in the wake of their withdrawal, one German soldier left a journal in which he described the Marines as “Teufelhunden”, meaning “devil dogs”.

While Marines continue to fight with the courage and ferocity that earned them this nickname, one group of Marines rises above the rest in truly living up to this moniker. These are the Marine Corps’ military working dogs.

[Click the EGA to read more:](#)

INBRIEF

Don't miss the next issue...

AT THE DRIVE IN

Sexual Assault Awareness Month



Historic documents found at Chapel



Presidio celebrates Earth Day

