PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY

May 2020

Marine family joins COVID-19 fight by making masks for service members

Air Force movie drive-in

Presidio "purple's up" with car parade

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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.

USAG Presidio of Monterey

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Cover: A child puts on an American flag bandana as a face mask during the Month of the Military Child car parade. Photo by: Marcus Fichtl



The 'purple up' car parade

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Presidio of Monterey 'purples up' with car parade

Marcus Fichtl Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — The Presidio of Monterey and the local military community's mayoral program celebrated the Month of the Military Child with a car parade last month.

More than a dozen cars were decked out with decorations and purple streamers, the official color of the month. Slogans of "Be a hero! Stay inside!" were painted on the cars, thanking the military families for their sacrifice during the COVID-19 outbreak, while the Presidio's fire and police departments escorted the celebratory convoy.

Michele Freiberg, the mayoral program's secretary, said she organized the parade as a safe and healthy event to not only celebrate military children but to thank the military community for doing the right thing by sheltering in place.

A military child herself, Freiberg understood why it was so important to make this parade happen, even if it meant long days and some extra elbow grease.

"These kids growing up in this lifestyle do not choose it," she said. "They have to make new friends every time they move. They have to say goodbye a lot – including to their parents who may get deployed."

The route zig-zagged through the Ord Military Community and the Presidio and brought out hundreds of onlookers who safely watched the parade from their homes.

Megan Anderson, a military spouse, and her twoyear-old son watched the parade near their house in Hayes Park.

"It was nice to do something that got us out of the house," Anderson said. "Asher was excited to see the police cars and fire truck."

A new military family, Anderson said she has quickly come to realize why it's so important to celebrate



The car parade drives by a resident's home at Hayes Park last month.

military kids, especially now with her Army husband away the past few weeks undertaking military training in Texas.

"Asher's definitely been in a different world with his father away and the current lock-down, but he's been so tough and so strong that he helps me stay resilient."

Sgt. 1st Class Corey Wynne, who caught the parade with his wife and kids at Marshall Park said it was a nice break from the new normal.

"It's always nice to see a parade like this after we've been stuck inside for over thirty days now," he said Events like this give us a sense of normalcy we haven't had in quite some time."

Freiberg believes the parade was a success.

"I think the parade was a big morale booster for our residents," she said. "We've been in our houses for a long time.

Marine family joins COVID-19 fight by making masks for service members across the globe

hotos by Joseph Kumza

COVID-19 masks

Joseph Kumzak Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — On April 5, the Department of Defense issued an order for all service members, civilians, and contractors to wear face coverings on military installations when they're unable to comply with the six-foot social distancing guidance. They can wear cloth masks, neck gaiters and balaclavas, but are not permitted to wear N95s or surgical masks reserved for health professionals.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic triggered a worldwide mask shortage that has made it difficult for DoD personnel to find face coverings to comply with the guidance.

That's where Amber Gallagher and her Marine husband Capt. Patrick Gallagher, an IT management major at the Naval Postgraduate School, leaped into mask-making action. They converted their garage into a sewing area where they make an average of 50-60 masks daily.

The couple has made over 1000 masks that they donated to people here in the Monterey area, and mailed to friends and service members across the U.S. and overseas -- all at their expense.

"Yesterday we mailed 15 packages of masks to friends and service members in Wisconsin, Georgia, Louisiana, Hawaii, Okinawa and Bahrain," Amber said. "If a unit in Okinawa asks for 50 plain-black masks, I'm going to make them 50 plain-black masks."

She added "there's an oncology clinic here that needs masks, so I am going to make them 25 masks. Whoever it is! If you have to go to work or you just want to feel safe at Target, I want to make you a mask."

Amber was laid off from her job as the administrative director at the Carmel Youth Center shortly after the shelter-in-place went into effect. With extra time on



Amber Gallagher shows a mask she made with the Globe and Anchor logo that she will donate to a Marine.

her hands, she decided to do something positive to help people.

"I would love for more people to have cloth masks and not utilize N95s and surgical masks because those could be going to healthcare workers on the front lines fighting this [pandemic]," she said. "I want more people to buy into the mask mentality ... making it part of our daily life."

Both Amber and Patrick agree that people are more likely to wear masks that are enjoyable to wear – rather than just plain-white masks.

"It makes it more fun to wear a mask if it feels cool ... we're going to have to get used to it, so why not have fun with it," she said.

Amber started making masks from materials she had left over from her sewing business while stationed overseas. Once word spread about her masks, service members started donating uniforms, so she could make military compliant masks as well.

"CSM Londers and Col. Ford donated their old uniforms ... and as long as we keep getting donations of uniforms, we can keep making military masks," she said.

Story continued next page

Masks Cont.

As requests piled up, Amber's husband Patrick, who has never sewn, decided to help. The sewing expert put her Marine through a quick sewing boot camp. Despite his heavy class load, he makes time every day to make masks for his fellow service members.

"The big thing for me is Marines and Soldiers deserve to have something reasonably professional to wear," said Patrick. "We shouldn't have our people going to work with a t-shirt around their face."

The couple turned the project into a family activity by enlisting the help of their two daughters Emeline, 7 and Jovi, 5. "Their main job is to do inside-outs. They also help trim things. They unpack shoe laces and they also help clean-up every day," Amber said.

She added "last night we turned it into a family dance party. We put on one of our favorite albums and just hung out and made masks."

"Instead of sitting around watching the news, we're doing something positive for people," said Patrick. "It's a nice distraction from all that's going on."

The couple said they have received a lot of support from neighbors and other members of the community through donations and people who volunteer to help



Amber Gallagher and daughter Emeline, 7 show a Star Wars mask they made that was donated to a DoD civilian employee.



Marine Capt. Patrick Gallagher sewing a mask in his garage that will be donated to a service member.

them. Their friend Kristi Lyons donated a second sewing machine, so they can both sew at the same time to increase production.

"My neighbor Liz has never sewn before, but she spends a couple hours every night ironing straps, so I can put them into masks," said Amber.

The Gallaghers' plan to continue making masks through the duration of this pandemic. They are happy to receive donations of old military uniforms, elastic and material that will enable them to continue providing free masks to people who need them.

Military leaders who received masks for their troops have expressed gratitude and praised the couple for their service.

"What a great military family. They are the epitome of selfless service," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Londers, Presidio of Monterey Command Sergeant Major. "They are looking out for their community and military ... so we as service members can do our job of protecting the nation."

To donate uniforms and materials to the Gallaghers, send email to: amberdeegallagher@mac.com

At the drive-in



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At the Presidio's drive-in

Marcus Fichtl Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — As COVID-19 changes the way people live and socialize, Airmen at the Presidio of Monterey have found a unique way to bring some normalcy back to their lives — the old-school drive-in theater.

"The idea for the drive-in is to help get people together socially without endangering each other," said Airman Isaac Finehout who is the White Ropes program representative. "Even though we are separated by cars we're still socially gathered here together."

Finehout and Airmen Brianna St. Hilaire, both from the 517th Training Group, run the show like a welloiled machine. They lead a team of ten Airmen who set up the movie projector and sound system, while also directing the cars into the Aiso parking lot, making sure each of the thirty vehicles has an unobstructed view of the movie.

"It's really well put together," observed Marine Pfc. Eleanora Becherine as she settled in to watch the movie, fully stocked with pizza, snacks and heavy a blanket. She said these movies were the highlight of her week in the new normal COVID-19 has brought to the Presidio and rest of the world.

"This gives us something to look forward to every Friday," she said. "I hardly ever leave my room now, and getting a chance to reconnect socially after being isolated in the barracks is awesome."

But while the production runs with military-like efficiency every Friday night, St. Hilaire said it was only possible with a lot of hard work behind the scenes.



A pair of service members enjoy a movie from the safety of their own car.

"It's overwhelming when it comes to the planning part, trying to make sure everything goes smooth," she said. That includes everything from procuring the equipment, organizing the volunteers and getting the command approval to run the movies.

"How cool would it be having a permanent drive-in movie theater on base?"

Finehout added that the 517th Training Group's White Ropes, the Chaplain office's program to help foster mental and spiritual wellbeing among the troops, has stepped in to alleviate some of those problems.

"We help with the work orders, equipment and volunteers to help get the show going," he said.

Story continued next page



A ground level view of the set-up used to play the movie. Tonight's movie was Disney's Ice Age.

The Donehue family all dressed and ready to watch the night's drive-in movie.

Drive-in Cont.

Bennett Donehue, one of the younger attendees, said it was great to see a movie outside his home.

"You get to see all these people here watching a movie instead of just with your family on the TV," the 8-year-old said.

St. Hilaire said the Presidio's new movie theater has become a bright spot in the shared new normal COVID-19 has presented to the language students at the Defense Language Institute.

"It makes me feel present," she said. "It helps give a sense of purpose."

She and Finehout hope to continue the drive-in movie theater through the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.

"How cool would it be having a permanent drive-in movie theater on base?" she asked.



A wide view of the Presidio's drive-in movie lot next to the Aiso library.

The Presidio memorialization project

Aiso and Rasmussen Building Dedication 27 October 1988

Memorialization brings our fallen to the forefront

Zack Frank Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — Have you ever noticed the names featured prominently on buildings throughout the Presidio of Monterey or Ord Military Community and wondered who they were named for?

The U.S. Army's method of paying tribute to an individual by naming buildings in their honor is called 'memorialization'. Those who have been memorialized generally fall into two categories - those who gave their life in service to the nation, or those who passed on after retiring from their profoundly impactful military career.

"They were steadfast in their commitment to their country and served willingly, effectively and loyally. Finally, they gave all that one has to give—their lives," said Col. Thomas G. Foster, III, former DLI Commandant on May 9, 1980.

The command has dedicated over thirty buildings to these individuals. Records from these memorializations are kept in files at the DLI Office of History. Each corresponding file contains photography and paperwork that detail the individual's service, images and brochures from their dedication ceremonies and an array of historic documents.

In correspondence contained within these files, Brig. Gen. John Weckerling and Col. Kai Rasmussen, two men who helped form what we now call the Defense Language Institute, reflected on the achievements of George Nakamura, Frank Hachiya and Yukitaka Mizutari, three WWII linguists who died during the Pacific campaign and were posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

Paraphrasing Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Weckerling wrote, "Without the Japanese-American language



The General Stiwell Community Center, a memorialized building at Ord Military Community.

specialists, victory in the southwest Pacific would have been immensely more difficult to achieve."

In 1980, Nakamura, Hachiya and Mizutari each had a schoolhouse at DLI dedicated in their honor. Years later, Weckerling and Rasmussen were also memorialized with buildings on the Presidio of Monterey.

Some buildings are memorialized for veterans who perished in major events such as Staff Sgt. Kenneth R. Hobson during the 1998 embassy bombing in Nairobi, Kenya or Pfc. Charles H. Barker at the Battle of Pork Chop Hill. Others died in more intimate tragedies that touched the local community directly like Pfc. Robert E. Lewis who drowned in Carmel during an attempt to rescue a swimmer in distress, or Sgt. 1st Class Alfred H. Combs Jr. who grew up in Seaside but died in Vietnam in 1965.

Story continued next page

Memorial Cont.

During a memorialization on June 1, 1972 for Gunnery Sgt. George Percy Kendall, a DLI graduate who died in Vietnam, former DLI Commandant Col. Kibbey M Horne said, "It is appropriate that our buildings be named for our distinguished graduates who died while serving our country valiantly."

Those who have been memorialized range in service from the cavalry days to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. By honoring these inspiring veterans with buildings and accompanying plaques highlighting their service, their legacies become a permanent feature of the Presidio and inspire future generations.

Through the Presidio of Monterey's social media and monthly publication the 'InBrief' their stories are being shared alongside historic papers and photos. The archived materials featured in this series include period newspaper articles, personal correspondence between Gold Star families and former U.S. Presidents and images of family members visiting the buildings dedicated to their loved ones.

To learn more about the men and women who have been memorialized at the Presidio of Monterey and Ord Military Community follow our Facebook feed or visit the memorialization page on our website: https://home.army.mil/monterey/index.php/ about/memorialization



The Kent Navy Memorial plaque unveiling during a memorializtion in her honor on the Presidio of Monterey.

May 9, 1980

Yukitaka Terry Mizutari



Honolulu, Hawaii on May 3, 1920, the fifth program and the insurance that was made child of Yasuyukiand Sueme Mizutari. His life proved to be short, as on June 23, 1944, he was killed in action while defending his country.

GLOBE

Growing up during the depression, he vercame the many hardships that were faced by all and led a happy and active childhood. Terry found time for many activities such as a harmonica band, joining a dance club and learning the martial art of kendo. His talent also shone in art as he loved to sketch the young face of Shirley Temple.

After working his way through business college, he was drafted into the Army in 1941. He spent time at Camp Paukukalo in Hawaii and Camp McCoy before joining the Military Intelligence Section and going to Camp. Savage, Minn-

Terry was a very conscientious son, sending home most of his pay to help support his

Yukitaka "Terry" Mizutari was born in family. He also took part in the Army bond available to him. This thoughtfulness helped sustain his mother until her death in 1975.

Page 3

Terry demonstrated his wit and character many times in his letters home. Frequently reporting the war around him in a joking manner, but also showing his displeasure for the destruction and the waste of war.

Mizutari died while placing himself in danger to defend the men serving under him from a Japanese attack. Due to his courage and unselfish actions no other member of his section was injured. Mizutari received the Silver Star for his act of bravery.

Terry Mizutari was a Nisei who fought, while his father was interned in a Relocation Center, against the country of his ancestors for the freedom of his country, America.

As one of Mizutari's fellow soldiers said, "That guy had guts-guts that no one could

George Ichiro Nakamura

George Nakamura was a Japanese-Am-erican (Nisei) who fought and died in World War II, for the country he loved, his country, America.

As a young man growing up in Santa Cruz, Calif., George showed no signs of becoming a hero. He was a typical boy committing his share of pranks and mishaps. But he was also a very dedicated and hard working child. He had high hopes for his future and earned the love and respect of friends and family.

In 1942, George and his family were interned in the Tule Lake Relocation Camp in California. Against the wishes of his father, but with his mothers support, he volunteered for the military intelligence school

While receiving intelligence training at Camp Savage, Minn., would frequently write home about the situation of other Nisei. He was greatly upset over the reluctance of his fellow Nisei to join the service and fight for their country, instead of being angry over their plight at the time.

In 1944, George was sent to New Guinea as an interpreter and translator. Though many miles away from home, he was still able to keep in contact with his family and friends through letters.

Nakamura was transferred in 1945 to the Philippines, where he was shocked by the destruction and waste of war as he visited Manila. He was also amused at the way some Filipinos could not understand why a apanese would be fighting for the United States. They couldn't understand that he had been born in America and had been educated and indoctrinated with American ideals.

On June 29, 1945, while positioning himself within 25 yards of the enemy and trying to talk them into surrendering Nakamura was killed. George Nakamura was awarded the Silver Star for his actions, demonstrating the

courage and loyalty exemplary of the highest traditions of the U.S. Armed Forces. Nakamura was proud of his Japanese and American heritage and gave his life defending

the country he loved, America.



George Nakamura, Frank Hachiya and Yukitaka Mizutari, three WWII linguists who died during the Pacific campaign and were posthumously awarded the Silver Star. The men had three neighboring buildings memorialized in tribute to them.

A newspaper honoring

Frank Tadakazu Hachiya

Frank Hachiya has been described as very tall and athletic. He was a quiet, mildmannered person and was well known for his modesty. Although he was in the highest level class for his proficiency in the Japanese language while attending the Military Intelligence Service Language School,he was often heard saving that he was not as good at translating the language as he would like to be.

Hachiya was born on May 13, 1920 in Hood River, Ore. There, he attended school and developed a deep friendship with one of his neighbors, Mrs. Martha Ferguson McKoewn Dana, who later taught him during his college years. Frank was a political science major Mrs. Dana was so impressed with the ideals and beliefs of Frank Hachiya that she kept a file on his letters, written papers and school essays. During his funeral services held in Hood River three years after his death, Mrs. Dana described Hachiya's life and love of America.

Hachiya believed that the democratic way of life was worth fighting and dying for. In a letter to a friend he wrote, "May God speed you in

your mission of restoring the democratic way of life to down trodden people, and to achieve and cherish everlasting peace for ourselves and for other nations.

Hachiya made a difficult decision when he enlisted in the Army Jan. 7, 1942 as his mother and brother were living in Japan when the war beoke out.

He served with the 7th and 32nd Infantry Divisions. He was scheduled to go on R & R back to Hawaii at the time of his death, but refused to go, electing to stay with his unit until the Leyte battle was over. He died on Jan. 3, 1945 as a result of wounds received in battle.

His body was sent to Hawaii where funeral services were held, and it was not until three years later that Hachiya was finally placed to rest in his hometown of Hood River. Anti-Japanese sentiment was so strong that Frank's father was reluctant to have his body buried in Hood River. However, three years later, due to the efforts of a fellow serviceman. Monroe Sweetland, Frank's body was returned and placed to rest among the other fallen soldiers of Hood River.

Frank Hachiya

FROM THE HISTORIAN The Anti-Tank Troops of Fort Ord



Soldiers of the 17th Infantry Regiment practice firing their 37mm M3 Anti-Tank Gun at Fort Ord circa 1941.

Cameron Binkley Command Historian

As the U.S. Army watched Nazi Germany overrun European forces using massive armored formations at the onset of World War II, it tried to develop effective counter tactics.

At major installations like Fort Ord, soldiers trained to fight using towed light cannons that sported long gun tubes at a ratio of caliber to length sufficient to produce armor penetrating velocities. Formed into "tank destroyer" battalions, Army doctrine placed these units behind forward forces, which rarely happened in the field. To block a successful armor thrust, anti-tank crews practiced rushing toward the enemy to fight ambush-style by hiding and retreating as needed.

Hopes were high enough for such tactics that in 1942 the Army created an independent anti-tank branch called the Tank Destroyer Corps, which also included better armored self-propelled guns. However, the branch only existed until late 1945.

Why? For one, during the Battle of the Bulge, antitank tactics failed. As German armor advanced, many anti-tank units abandoned their towed guns to flee advancing infantry or after getting stuck. The self-propelled guns did better but in practice were used like tanks. Post war Army doctrine adopted a new tactic – the best anti-tank weapon was the tank itself.



Soldiers of the 17th Infantry Regiment at Fort Ord pose with their 37mm M3 Anti-Tank Gun, circa 1941. Newly constructed Fort Ord barracks appear in the background.

Remembering the Memorialized: Belas

Memorialization #3

BELAS HALL

SGT Lee A. Belas, 1968-1991

SGT Belas was a graduate of the DLIFLC Russian basic course in 1989. He was also fluent in French. and had studied German, Flemish and Latin. After graduating DLI he was given training in Arabic prior to being deployed to the Persian Gulf. He was killed in action 27 February 1991 during Desert Storm when his helicopter was shot down by Iraqi ground fire.

Included in these images and documents is personal correspondence between Lee's mother Carol Belas and former President George H. W. Bush, including an invitation to attend the memorial service here at the Presidio of Monterey in 1996. Unfortunately, President Bush was unable to attend but he did pay his respects in writing, which you can now read.

Learn more about our Memorialized on our wesbite: https://home.army.mil/monterey/index.php/about/ memorialization





volumental peri, nec. represent, i would like to take this opportunity to join in saluting Los for taking up the terch of freedom and answering his country's call to duty.

The members of the United States Armed Forces are heroes in the tracst sense of the word, and their courage and sacrifices reflect the great spirit of which General MacArthur spoke at West Point: that of duty, honor, and country.

Sergeant Lee Arthur Belas rightly takes his place at history's table of glory, for he gave his life to defend the cause of liberty. We Bushos salute him and always will remember him in our prayers

r hearts. An excerpt from correspondence between former

regards to you and all your family,

Sincerely,

U.S. President George H. W. Bush and SGT Belas's

mother Carol Belas, dated February 2, 1996.

News Briefs: Army

Army to consider electric vehicles, alternative fuel options



WASHINGTON — Commercial-led advancements in electric vehicle technology have pushed the Army Futures and Concepts Center to take a hard look at the capability and find ways to integrate it throughout the Army's wheeled-vehicle fleet, the program's director said.

employment of electric vehicles is currently in the works, said Lt. Gen. Eric Wesley, the FCC director, during a press briefing Tuesday. The head of Army Futures Command, Gen. John Murray, will be among the first to review the proposal, which is slated for internal release this summer, Wesley added.

Private and public consumer interest in electric vehicles has seen a substantial increase over the past 10 years, officials said.

Click the tank to read more:

Basic training resumes after pause, nearly 1,000 recruits ship this week



WASHINGTON —The Army has resumed shipping recruits to basic combat training following a twoweek pause to enact necessary COVID-19 mitigation efforts. More than 950 future Soldiers will begin pouring into initial training centers this week.

"We're not changing, we're adjusting, and continually A draft white-paper proposal focusing on the adapting in the environment no matter where we are, because we need to train, fight, and win," said Gen. Paul Funk, the commanding general of Army's Training and Doctrine Command.

> As hundreds of new recruits begin pouring into training bases around the force, health and safety measures are in place, officials said. BCT and One-Station Unit Training are implementing socialdistancing practices and plan to train at reduced capacity.

Army finalizing plan to resume collective training



WASHINGTON — The Army aims to soon resume collective training and hold a ceremony for graduating West Point cadets, after the recent success of measures safeguarding new recruits at training centers.

In a Pentagon briefing Thursday, Army Secretary Ryan D. McCarthy said a proposed risk mitigation framework that outlines a safe return to exercises is being finalized, with the help of the defense secretary and other services.

"As we balance global operations and combating COVID-19 on the homefront, the Army continues to need a manned, ready force," he said.

Click the tank to read more:

Click the tank to read more:

News Briefs Air Force

Air Force sports recruiting online gaming Airmen for EVO 2020



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — The Air Force is recruiting Airmen – active duty and Reserve (on orders) – now through May 17 for the 2020 Air Force Esports team for the 2020 Evolution Championship Series, in Las Vegas, July 21 – Aug. 2.

EVO 2020 is an annual fighting game tournament. This year's championship games include: Street Fighter V: Champion Edition, Tekken 7, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Dragonball FighterZ and Soulcalibur VI.

Selected Airmen will attend a virtual trial and selection camp May 26–June 5, and a training camp July 20–29.

SecAF, CMSAF visit AETC to see adjusted training operations in response to COVID-19



ARLINGTON, Va. — While performing the duties of Under Secretary of the Air Force Shon Manasco, along with Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, observed the ongoing, critical operations at multiple training locations here and at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, April 22.

The visits allowed senior leaders the opportunity to see first-hand how Air Education and Training Command has adjusted operations to mitigate and minimize COVID-19 impacts to the basic, technical and flying training pipelines, all of which have been deemed mission essential.

"We simply can't accomplish our mission without the dedicated training and medical experts across the AETC enterprise," Manasco said.

Hurricane Hunters fly first mission of 2020 Atlantic season



KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — Although hurricane season doesn't officially start until June 1, the Air Force Reserve Command's Hurricane Hunters departed on their first storm tasking of the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season to investigate an area for possible development into a tropical depression or storm near the Bahamas.

The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, the only Department of Defense organization that flies weather reconnaissance, is expected to fly into Invest 90L throughout the weekend to provide weather data by satellite communication to the National Hurricane Center in Miami to improve their computer models that forecast movement and intensity, said Lt. Col. Anthony Wilmot, 53rd WRS director of operations.

Click the jet to read more:

Click the jet to read more:

Click the jet to read more:

News Briefs: Navy

Navy Reserve Extends Drill Postponement Until May 31



NORFOLK, Va. — On April 16, Commander, Navy ReserveForce(CNRF) issuedALNAVRESFOR011/20, which announces several new policies for Navy Reserve Sailors, consolidates temporary COVID-19 guidance for ease of reference, and postpones all drill weekends until the end of May.

"We are extending our current drill weekendpostponement until May 31 in order to protect our force and provide predictability for our Sailors," said Rear Adm. John Schommer, deputy commander, Navy Reserve Force. "Reservists should continue to use the liberal telework policy we implemented last month to complete their Inactive Duty Training (IDT) requirements in order to ensure a 'good year' and maintain mission readiness."

USNS Comfort Departs NYC Prepared for Future Tasking; Military Relief Efforts Continue



NEW YORK — The hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) departed New York City today, April 30, after supporting the Department of Defense's COVID-19 response efforts to New York and New Jersey residents during the coronavirus outbreak.

USNS Comfort has been at Pier 90 in New York City for a month, providing relief to a healthcare system stressed by the surge of COVID-19 patients. Even as USNS Comfort departs NYC, the ship and its embarked medical task force remain prepared for future tasking. The Navy, along with other U.S. Northern Command-dedicated forces, remains engaged throughout the nation in support of the broader COVID-19 response.

Naval Special Warfare Center Resumes Portions of Paused SEAL and SWCC Training



CORONADO, Calif. — Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Center resumed two paused phases of its SEAL and Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewman (SWCC) selection-and-assessment training, May 4.

NSW Center, which oversees the initial and advanced training of the Sailors who make up the Navy's SEAL and Special Boat teams, paused instruction of three of its 12 cohorts, March 16. The final paused phase is scheduled to restart May 11.

"We took a conservative approach to properly assess our student population and establish protocols in order to minimize risk to them during training," said Capt. Bart Randall, commodore, NSW Center, adding the decision to restart training is based on mitigation efforts put in place that follow CDC recommendations and DOD medical professional guidance.

Click the ship to read more:

Click the ship to read more:

Click the ship to read more:

News Briefs: Marines

MARINE CORPS SOLICITING PROPOSALS FOR NEW HEARING ENHANCEMENT DEVICE



QUANTICO, Va. — The Marine Corps is asking for industry's help in providing enhanced hearing protection to Marines.

On April 22, Marine Corps Systems Command released a Request for Proposals for a suite of hearing enhancement devices that interoperate with the Enhanced Combat Helmet and Marine Corps tactical radios. The technology will increase Marines' situational awareness in a variety of training and combat environments.

"The program manager for Infantry Combat EquipmentintendstopurchaseHearingEnhancement Devices for every infantry and infantry-like Marine," said Lt. Col. Bryan Leahy, MCSC's Individual Armor team lead.

3RD MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP OFFLOADS LIFESAVING FIELD HOSPITAL IN GUAM



NAVAL BASE GUAM — Approximately 120 Marines and Sailors assigned to 3rd Transportation Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group offloaded and staged an Expeditionary Medical Facility 150, in support of Commander, Task Force 75, from the vehicle cargo ship USNS Dahl onto Naval Base Guam from April 11-17, 2020.

Less than 72 hours after receiving the request for support, the Marines and Sailors with 3rd TSB deployed from Okinawa, Japan to execute the Maritime Prepositioning Force offload in Guam.

POPULAR TRAINING PROGRAM INCREASES MARINE SURVIVABILITY



MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — Since 2008, deploying Marines have participated in a training course preparing them to survive emergency, underwater egress situations.

The Underwater Egress Trainer program teaches Marines and other authorized personnel to egress from sinking or submerged platforms. Marines learn to employ life-support equipment—such as Supplemental Emergency Breathing Devices and Life Preserver Units—to increase survival rates.

Marine Corps Systems Command's Program Manager for Training Systems oversees the program.

Click the EGA to read more:

Click the EGA to read more:

Click the EGA to read more:



Asian-Pacific Islander Month

Memorial Day

COVID-19 Workouts





