June 2020

Memorial Day observance in the time of COVID-19

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Service members finding new ways to stay fit during COVID-19 pandemic

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY

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Historical documents found at old Post Chapel

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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 volunteer at the Presidio of Monterey places American Flags next to headstones at the post cemetery during a Memorial Day observance. Photo by: Zack Frank

"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent."

~ General of the Army, Douglas MacArthur

# Service members finding new ways to stay fit during pandemic

Photos by Joseph Kumzak

# **Physical Fitness**

Joseph Kumzak Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – With fitness centers closed and unit PT on hold, service members at the Presidio of Monterey are overcoming the challenges of limited exercise equipment and absence of structured physical training.

Physical fitness is a fundamental component of military life. It's not only required for service members to stay fit, but can mean the difference between life and death.

Therefore, many service members go beyond their basic PT requirements in pursuit of fitness excellence. The military has programs such as the World Class Athlete Program and Armed Forces Sports for service members to compete against the best athletes in the military.

Regardless of whether service members are training for competition, or exercising to meet basic PT requirements, the COVID-19 pandemic created challenges that have forced them out of their training comfort zones and into new exercise regimens to maintain their fitness.

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Donehue, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center command sergeant major, said now is a perfect opportunity for service members to challenge their discipline and resilience to stay in shape without the structure they are used to.

"You don't always have a gym to go to when you're deployed," Donehue said. "The more innovative you can be now will prepare you when you're in a more spartan environment."

Airman 1st Class Garrett Wagner, a Defense Language Institute student studying Spanish with the 311th Training Squadron, said he prefers strength training over running and calisthenics, but has had to change his training mentality.



Two Air Force students with the 314th training squadron practice mixed-martial arts striking in a field at the Presidio of Monterey.

"At the beginning it was upsetting when the gym closed, but we're looking at this as an opportunity to learn more and get more creative to improve on things we may not enjoy," Wagner said. "We have different people with different fitness backgrounds, so we are able to put together a variety of challenging workouts."

Exercise is often an individual activity, but some DLI students are teaming up to help each other and maintain their motivation.

During college, Airman 1st Class Angela Miller, a Chinese language student with the 314th Training Squadron, worked as a personal trainer. Since the pandemic started, she has used her experience to

create personalized exercise programs for fellow DLI students.

"A lot of people don't know what to do when the gym is closed," she said. "I am being more creative with my own workouts and in turn putting together fun programs for other people too."

Miller added "I'm a runner by nature and love the gym too. But honestly, COVID has allowed me to get back to my roots and do more of the workouts I used

Story continued next page

# **Fitness Cont.**

to do. It's been a lot of fun for me to try to come up with new things."

DLI drill sergeants have taken it a step further by offering online PT sessions, so students can comply with social distancing guidance by doing PT in their rooms.

"I am proud of our drill sergeants for being creative and instructing PT sessions over Microsoft Teams," said Donehue. "They are making extra effort to keep our service members trained and ready."

Seaman Martel Carruthers, a Chinese language student with the Information Warfare Training Command, will be shipping off to the U.S. Naval Academy in July. He said that before the pandemic he mostly did strength training to gain weight with the goal of playing football with the Midshipmen.

"They closed the gyms, so I'm out here doing track workouts now," he said. "Additionally, I do 500 pushups every day and a lot more pull-ups. I also changed my diet to keto because I don't want to sit in my room all day snacking on junk food."

Carruthers added he is using his down time to maintain his PT standards. "I don't want to walk into my next PRT and not be able to do 50 push-ups. I'm



Airman 1st Class Angela Miller, a Chinese language student with the 314th Training Squadron, exercising with fitness bands at Price field.



Three service members warming up for a track and field workout at Price field.

keeping up on my push-ups and sit-ups as much as possible."

Spanish language student Pvt. Jayson Pinnock, 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, said service members are trying to find every reason to get out coming together more to help each other regardless of their rooms.

"I see sports bringing people together, track and field for us, and soccer for others. I saw people out here playing ultimate Frisbee the other day," he said. "I think it's going to be good for us going forward

because when we're off quarantine more people will come out and enjoy time with each other."

Wagner said he has noticed an increase in camaraderie between service members. "People are of their branches or ranks. We are all going to be better and more resilient when this is over."

The Department of Defense is committed to the health, safety and well-being of our service members, and remains trained and ready to accomplish any mission.

## **Environmental team keeps Presidio pristine**

Marcus Fichtl Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — One of the U.S. Army's gems, the Presidio of Monterey is situated along some of the most picturesque coastline America has to offer, and ensuring that things stay that way is the Presidio's environmental team.

Composed of water, energy and cultural specialists, this team from the Directorate of Public Works has helped protect endangered plants, decreased water and energy usage, and even partnered with the City of Monterey to develop an interactive nature hike through lower Presidio that tells the post's natural and anthropological history. In simpler terms, the team makes sure that the many military missions from language training at the Defense Language Institute and satellite communications can be accomplished across the Presidio and its satellite installations.

"Our main goal is to ensure the installation is in compliance with all environmental regulations," said Erika Marx, who manages water for the Presidio's 2.28 million square feet of land.

Statistics provided by Marx show the Presidio goes well beyond the bare minimum. From 2009 to 2015, the Presidio decreased energy usage per square foot by 37 percent, saving the Presidio and U.S. taxpayers more than \$2.5 million. Water usage also dropped in 2015 by 9.2 million gallons or 15 percent - accomplishments that have earned multiple Department of the Army and Department of Energy level awards.

While many of the energy and water saving measures have stemmed from basic retrofits of buildings that date as far back as the 1910s, Marx said a lot of the savings have come from innovative thinking by her team and the foresight to use new technologies such as energy efficient kitchen appliances at the dining facilities and solar panels.



A photo illustration of the pristine Monterey Peninsula area, including the Presidio of Monterey.

One project Marx is leading is the development of ensuring that all regulations are followed and they bioswales, a sort of vegetated channel that siphons off storm water runoff and reintegrates the water back into the ground. And with the Presidio's water normally discharging into Monterey harbor it's a win-win for the ecosystems of both the post and harbor.

"Monterey harbor is an impaired water body, that means it's contaminated," said Marx. "We want to make sure we don't contribute any more to its contamination."

While the COVID-19 outbreak may have cancelled celebratory events at the Presidio for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, Marx said their environmental mission hasn't stopped. They're still

remain focused on new energy and water projects to bring the Presidio's efficiency even higher.

Marx said that while her team will do its part in compliance and innovation, simple things like putting cigarette butts in the right receptacle and picking up litter are everyone's job.

She added being good stewards of the environment has one incredible bonus - you get to enjoy it.

"Try to get outdoors and see what a beautiful place we live in. Interact with the local community and see what you can do to improve your environment," she said. "Think — how can I make a difference?"

# Finding history

### Historic documents found at chapel

Marcus Fichtl Presidio of Monterey

SEASIDE, Calif. – When an army building like Fort Ord's main chapel is decommissioned or repurposed, there's a chance its history may be lost to the sands of time. But thanks to a quick-thinking sergeant and the Defense Language Institute's command history office, hundreds of precious documents and photographs were saved.

"The genesis of this whole project was the closing of the main chapel on former Fort Ord," said Cameron Binkley, DLI's command historian.

In May of 2019, Fort Ord's main chapel closed after 61 years of continuous service to the military and veterans on the Monterey Peninsula. It was one of eight chapels constructed on the former Fort Ord that stretch back to its halcyon days as a training base for GIs being sent to fight in World War II.

Initially, Binkley went to the chapel to investigate its ornate cut-glass windows to see if any could be repurposed across the installation or community. One particular piece memorializing former Fort Ord commander, Maj. Gen. Carl F. Fritzsche stood out to the team. Fritzsche, who helped lead the donation drive for the cut-glass windows, died along with five members of his staff in a plane crash in 1960 near San Jose.

Sgt. 1st Class Darrell Cortez, then the chaplain's office chief religious NCO, gave the tour pointing out troves of important historic documents and artifacts.

"Once we get to the point of cleaning the chapel out we're finding stuff everywhere," said Cortez. "We had all this history just tucked in nooks and crannies."

After a day of cleaning out the chapel for documents, Binkley asked Cortez that if he find anything else of



Photos and documents found at the old post chapel.

value to let him know. Then just a few weeks later Cortez picked up the phone to give Binkley the good news.

Cortez had found a boxes of documents labeled "historical documents," and "archives" inside a cabinet in the audio-visual office.

"When I saw this, I knew he was going to love this," he said. "It was a gold mine."

"When I saw this, I knew he was going to love this. It was a gold mine."

Story continued next page

# Chapel Cont.

Along with documents and scrapbooks, Cortez had found dozens of pristine photographs of ceremonies, chaplains giving field services and general life over the last 60 years. Binkley called two particular photos "priceless." One captures the commissioning of the Eighth Street Chapel in 1940. The other photo is thought to be one of the last of Gen. Fritzsche alive. He's seen in the background of a ceremony thanking the enlisted wives' association for their donation to help buy the chapel's cut-glass windows.

"It's nice having an official records transfer program. Other times it's a treasure hunt," laughed Binkley.

He said the documents will now be processed and stored at the archives in the converted Chamberlain Library where they will join 3000 linear feet of historical documents. He hopes they'll soon be able to upload many of the documents to their central database so historians and interested parties alike can view them.

He referred to this excursion as part of his office's charge in preserving history for the U.S. military in Central California.

"Concentrating the history that's relevant to those who want it near at hand and ready to use, is the purpose of the [history] office," said Binkley. "If you didn't have us and you had any historical questions, you wouldn't even have anyone to ask."

Cortez, who recently retired in April after 20 years of service to the Army and chaplain corps said he was honored to share the end of his military story with the end of the chapel's.

"To close down a storied chapel full of history as my last act as a Soldier is a fitting and a surreal way to end a career," he said.



The Eighth Street Chapel seen during its commissioning ceremony in 1940.



Cut-glass windows decorate the interior of the old main post chapel.

# Memorial Day in the time of COVID-19

# Memorial Day observance in the time of COVID-19

Zack Frank Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – Presented with the challenge of observing Memorial Day during the COVID-19 pandemic, Presidio of Monterey staff and volunteers rose to the occasion by refocusing traditional events for online audiences and personal reflection.

Instead of an in-person ceremony, PoM and Defense Language Institute leadership broadcast a virtual event from the PoM cemetery via social media. Each of the limited, on-site participants wore masks and maintained social distancing while delivering their remarks.

DLI Commandant, COL Gary Hausman shared their intent, saying, "Instead of parades or large memorial events we can remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in a more private way."

Following the ceremony, a small group of volunteers adorned each of the nearly 400 graves with American flags.

"I believe the small and somber ceremony conducted by DLI, and our small group that placed the flags on the gravestones ... will honor those that have given the ultimate sacrifice while ensuring continuity of operations of those left to stand the watch," said Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Londers.

The PoM cemetery in its current location dates back to 1904 when Pvt. George S. Johnson, a Buffalo Soldier, became the first person interred. Since that initial burial, the small cemetery has reached full capacity as the final resting place for generations of veterans and their families. Each headstone tells the story of a service member laying down their life in service to the nation.

"My best friend, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Mogensen was killed in action on 29 May 2004 in Kandahar,



The Presidio of Monterey post cemetery with headstones adorned with American Flags during Memorial Day weekend.

Afghanistan," said Londers. "His daughter was just a few months old and never knew her father, who was a great man. I wear his name and information on a black bracelet that I wear every day. It reminds me of why I chose this profession and why I continue to serve this great nation."

In addition to the Presidio cemetery site, since 2007 the command has also been responsible for the Benicia Army Cemetery, a sub-installation north of San Francisco. The Benicia Historical Society usually coordinates a large Memorial Day observance

attended by hundreds of people including veterans, scout troops and local politicians.

Laura Prishmont-Quimby, Presidio's cultural resources program manager, took charge of this year's effort by planting all 206 flags with her 14 year old son, saying it was a "once in a lifetime chance for he and I."

Story continued next page

# Memorial Cont.

While large-scale events did not take place, loved ones were able to visit the graves of their family members. Among the visitors was Gwyn De Amaral, a Gold Star family member whose relatives have called the Presidio home for generations. His great grandparents and great aunt are buried in the PoM cemetery, and his father has an additional memorial dedicated in his honor. During Memorial Day weekend, De Amaral, a civilian, was the first recipient of the new Installation Access Card which provides unescorted on-base access to eligible surviving family members whose loved ones gave their lives in defense of the nation.

"To have access to come home to the base and see where my father was a part of," said De Amaral, "It's an honor and real privilege."

Reflecting on the importance of celebrating the memories of our fallen heroes, Hausman said, "Memorial Day is a day of national awareness and solemn reverence -- a day for us to honor the military men and women who gave their lives in defense of our nation, our freedoms, and liberties."



American flags placed next to headstones at the Benicia Army Cemetery during a Memorial Day observance.



Volunteers at the Presidio of Monterey placed American flags next to headstones at the post cemetery during a Memorial Day observance.



The headstone of Pvt. George S. Johnson, a Buffalo Soldier and first person interred at the Presidio of Monterey post cemetery.

# **FROM THE HISTORIAN** The 53rd Infantry at the Wharf in Monterey

Reflective of rapid growth and a lagging supply chain, these men wear a mix of "Dough Boy" helmets, campaign hats, and garrison caps. Photo courtesy of Steve Levinson.

#### Cameron Binkley Command Historian

Mobilization for World War II brought change nationwide. Congress authorized a peace time draft in 1940 and the Army began rapid expansion.

In Monterey that summer, the War Department activated both Fort Ord and the 7th Infantry Division. From the get-go, Army officials sought to maximize the training opportunities afforded by Fort Ord's seaside location. Tactics and equipment eventually developed or tested on the beaches, rivers and inland areas of Monterey County would see results during WWII in both the Pacific and European theaters.

The Army could only train, of course, with the equipment it had. What that meant in March 1941 is shown here by men of the 7th Division's 53rd Infantry Regiment as they work to master the art of ship-to-shore landings. Soldiers first practiced climbing rope ladders on a "ground wharf" at Fort Ord before testing out their skills on a real dock or vessel.

Long known to sailors and Marines, these methods were eclipsed during the war by the arrival of amphibious tractors and armored landing craft.



Troops of the 53rd Infantry practice "a quick and quiet wharf invasion" in Monterey.

# Remembering the Memorialized: Bomar



#### **Memorialization #4**

#### CPO Frank W. Bomar 1940-1970

Frank Willis Bomar enlisted in the Navy in 1959. He graduated from the DLIWC Vietnamese course in 1967. While serving as a Navy SEAL in Vietnam he was killed by small arms fire. Throughout his service he was awarded a Navy Commendation Medal, the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts.

Learn more about our Memorialized on our wesbite: <u>https://home.army.mil/monterey/index.php/about/</u> <u>memorialization</u> DILIWIC Command Information Bulletin

OMAR HALL DEDICATED

In a special dedication ceremony hold August 8, Building 622 (Headquarters and Beadquarters Company), at DLINC officially became Bomar Hall.

The building is one of many permanent buildings at DLEWC scheduled to receive a name.

Col. John F. Book, commandant, said at the dedication, "Chief Engineeran Frank W. Bonar served with great distinction in Vietnam, being swarded the Brenze Star Medal in 1967, the Silver Star in 1968, the Navy Commendation Medal in 1969, and a second Bronze Star Medal in 1969."

Attending the ceremony were Mrs. Frank Bomar, the widow of Chief Engineman Bomar; their daughter, Noneen; parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Bomar; and brother, Patrick Bomar. Chief Engineman Bomar's widow unveiled the



ar s which bears her hushand's name. Also present were sen from the Naval Post-Graduate School who had served with Chief Engineman Bomar during his Navy carear, as well as representatives from the Army, Air Force and Marines assigned to DLTWC.

Chief Engineman Bomar was hilled Dec. 20, 1970 as a result of hostile sction while serving in the Republic of Vietnam. All the former DLINC student's awards were based upon acts or duty performed under extremely hazardous conditions.

The chief was born Feb. 18, 1940 in Washington, D.G. He enlisted in the Navy on Oct. 5, 1959. In addition to his other evends, Chief Enginemam Bomar received two Purple Hearts (one posthumously) and the Vistnamece Gallantry Cross with BrOaze Star. He greduated from the Vistnamese language course here in 1967.

INSIDE:

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Softball Finals.....



CPO Bomar in blue, towering over actor and US Naval Reserve Cmdr. Glenn Ford in green.



INBRIEF

AT THE CEREPORT

... Hrs. Frank W. Bomar and her daughter.

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# **News Briefs: Army**

# Women integrating into Army's final infantry, armor units

WASHINGTON — The Army will integrate female infantry and armor Soldiers into its final nine brigade combat teams this year as it modifies a requirement to have at least two female leaders in each company with junior enlisted women.

"We've had women in the infantry and armor occupations now for three years," said Maj. Melissa Comiskey, chief of command policy, Army G-1. Integrating women into combat units has "changed the culture," she added. "It's not as different as it was three years ago when the Army first implemented the integration plan."

#### SMA expects ACFT to continue as planned in COVID-19 environment



WASHINGTON — Despite some delays in fielding necessary equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Army's top enlisted leader believes the service will still successfully implement its new Army Combat Fitness Test.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston said Thursday he remains optimistic that most units will have the necessary equipment for the test by June, despite the impact of the virus.

Grinston said he has spoken to representatives at U.S. Army Materiel Command and the fielding process remains on schedule.

#### New emergency leave available to Army civilians affected by COVID-19



WASHINGTON — Army employees affected by the coronavirus pandemic will have the option of taking up to two weeks of emergency paid sick leave in addition to other paid leave entitlements.

The Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act, part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, allows civilians across the Defense Department to take the emergency leave from April 1 through Dec. 31, provided that they meet certain conditions. The new emergency sick leave will be separate from the normal sick leave civilians accrue and can be taken without using accrued sick leave.

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## **News Briefs Air Force**

# Final changes to Air Force song announced

# Air Force delays mandatoryFitness to the second second

#### Fitness testing suspended until Oct. 1



ARLINGTON, Va. — All stanzas of the Air Force song have been updated to better capture and represent the valor and heritage of the 73-year-old service while also recognizing the diversity and contributions of today's Total Force regardless of gender.

The announcement by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein, completes a two-step process in which male-only references were revised to capture the distinguished service, the high standards, and central role that women play in every facet of the modern United States Air Force.

The first step focused on changing the song's third verse, which also serves as the official song of the United States Air Force Academy.



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas —In an effort to reduce unnecessary stress on Airmen and Space professionals during COVID-19 restrictions, several uniform changes scheduled to become mandatory for the Operational Camouflage Pattern and Two-Piece Flight Duty Uniform (2PFDU) on June 1, have been delayed to Sept. 1.

The changes for each uniform are detailed in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, "Dress and Appearance of Air Force Personnel." Mandatory wear of the Operational Camouflage Pattern Uniform remains April 2021.



ARLINGTON, Va. — In an effort to reduce exposure to Airmen and to continue to slow the spread of COVID-19, Air Force officials announced May 22 all official fitness testing is suspended until Oct. 1.

The change, which is an update from the original June 1 resume date, is effective immediately.

Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services, said in a signed memo, "Airmen remain our top priority, and we will ensure their health and safety as we maintain our force readiness posture."

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# **News Briefs: Navy**

#### USS Portland Conducts Laser Weapon System Demonstrator Test

#### USS Theodore Roosevelt Returns to Sea

#### Navy Clarifies Advancement Eligibility Due to Coronavirus Postponements



PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — Amphibious transport dock ship USS Portland (LPD 27) successfully disabled an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) with a Solid State Laser - Technology Maturation Laser Weapon System Demonstrator (LWSD) MK 2 MOD 0 on May 16.

LWSD is a high-energy laser weapon system demonstrator developed by the Office of Naval Research and installed on Portland for an at-sea demonstration. LWSD's operational employment on a Pacific Fleet ship is the first system-level implementation of a high-energy class solid-state laser. The laser system was developed by Northrup Grumman, with full System and Ship Integration and Testing led by NSWC Dahlgren and Port Hueneme.



PHILIPPINE SEA — USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) is underway for the first time since arriving in Guam March 27.

The ship left Naval Base Guam and entered the Philippine Sea May 21 to conduct carrier qualification flights for the embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 11.

"It feels great to be back at sea," said Rear Adm. Stu Baker, commander, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 9. "Getting Theodore Roosevelt and Carrier Air Wing 11 one step closer to returning to their mission in the Indo-Pacific is a great achievement for the crew."



WASHINGTON — The Navy issued clarifying guidance for enlisted advancement eligibility due to the postponement of the Spring Navy-wide advancement exam, enlisted promotion selection boards, and suspension of the Cycle 1, 2020 physical fitness assessment (PFA) as a result of ongoing efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

NAVADMIN 145/20, released May 19, provides clarifying guidance to enlisted advancement eligibility issues arising from the suspended spring PFA. The announcement is also intended to head off any potential concerns with Sailors approaching highyear tenure gates, once the postponed advancement exam and selection board cycles resume.

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## **News Briefs: Marines**

#### Annual DoD Warrior Games canceled amid COVID concerns

# F-35 arrive at MCAS Miramar

# Secretary Braithwaite swears in as SECNAV



SAN ANTONIO — As the U.S. continues to navigate the challenges posed by the COVID-19 global pandemic, the U.S. Marine Corps and City of San Antonio leadership remain committed to the safety and health of our service members and local communities.

As the lead planners for the 2020 Warrior Games, the Marine Corps announced the decision to cancel the Games, citing the paramount concerns for the health and well- being of the 300 U.S. military active-duty and veteran athletes, international military teams, and residents within the greater San Antonio area.

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. — Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 welcomed its most recent delivery of the F-35C Lightning II at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar May 18, 2020.

Earlier this year, the VMFA-314 Black Knights made history when they became the first F-35C squadron in the Marine Corps.

"We are extremely excited to be receiving our seventh aircraft today," said Lt. Col. Cedar Hinton, commanding officer of VMFA-314. "Each of these amazing machines represents a significant leap in capability for our squadron and brings us one step closer to becoming fully combat capable."



WASHINGTON — The Honorable Kenneth J. Braithwaite swore into the Department of the Navy as the 77th Secretary of the Navy at the Pentagon May 29.

At the ceremony, officiated by Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper, Braithwaite was joined by his family, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

"I am privileged to stand with the greatest Navy and Marine Corps the world has ever known in service to the people of America. Full steam ahead," said Braithwaite.

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#### **LGBT Pride Month**



#### **BOSS builds moral during COVID-19**

#### **Chapel holds in person services**

