



# PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY BRIEF



December 2020

Marine Corps birthday celebrations

---

Fire prevention is a team effort

---

Native legacy at the Presidio

---



Commander

Command Sgt. Major

Deputy Commander

Col. Varman Chhoeung

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert N. Londers

Phil Sanders

Chief, Public Affairs

Deputy Chief, Public Affairs

Command Information Manager

Social Media & Webmaster

James Laughlin

Joseph Kumzak

Marcus Fichtl

Zack Frank

Contributors

Cameron Binkley

Tammy Cario

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](mailto:presidiopao@gmail.com)

[home.army.mil/monterey](http://home.army.mil/monterey)

# In this edition

Wienermobile visits the Presidio	3
Native legacy at the Presidio of Monterey	5
Tax planning opportunities	6
Fire prevention is a team effort	7
BOSS in COVID	9
DLIFLC’s first all virtual class graduates	11
Happy Thanksgiving!	12
COVID-19 Info	14
Marine Corps birthday celebrations	15
From the Historian	18
Remembering the Memorialized: Corpuz	19
News Briefs	20
Next month’s preview	24

On the cover: A Marine rushes the enemy during a training exercise on the Presidio of Monterey, Nov. 12.

Photo by Marcus Fichtl

# Wienermobile visits the Presidio

Joseph Kumzak  
Presidio of Monterey

The Oscar Mayer Wienermobile visited the Ord Military Community on Friday to give military families the opportunity to see it up close and tour the inside.

“I think its pretty funny, but it’s also making me very hungry for hot dogs,” said Isabella Bishop.

Isabella’s mom, Kimberly Bishop, brought her three kids to see the Wienermobile because she saw it in Houston when she was a child. “I thought they would enjoy seeing it,” she said.

Angela Morrow, Parks at Monterey Bay marketing director, said she hopes the Wienermobile will bring military families together and give them some joy and happiness.

“When you see the Wienermobile in person, it puts a big smile on your face,” she said.

PoM PD officers Scott Huntley and Mike Mancini stopped by to relish the opportunity to see the mobile frankfurter and say hi to community members. “I think it’s pretty cool to see it up close, and hope more people will come out and see it in person,” Huntley said.

Mike Mancini shows off his new Oscar Meyer weiner swag in front of the Wienermobile.



Photo by Joseph Kumzak



# NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

## Native legacy at the Presidio of Monterey

Zack Frank  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — The U.S. Army has called Monterey Bay home for nearly 170 years. Prior to the arrival of our military, and California achieving statehood in 1850, several nations including Spain, Mexico, and Argentina visited or laid claim to Monterey Bay.

Spanish explorers and soldiers played a major role in shaping early Monterey. In 1542, Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo became the first European to sail into the bay. In 1602, Sebastián Vizcaíno was the first to set foot on land and named the area ‘Monte Rey’. Famously in 1770, Franciscan priest Junípero Serra arrived and established Mission San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo, better known as Carmel Mission. While these events are usually what get highlighted as people reflect on the history of the region, Monterey Bay has a human history dating back thousands of years.

The ancestors of the modern Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation witnessed each of these arrivals and felt their direct impact.

Over their history, the native peoples of the Monterey Bay region have had several labels applied to them. European settlers, state offices, and various agencies of the U.S. government have referred to their people as the ‘Monterey Band of Monterey County’ and ‘San Carlos Indians, living near the old San Carlos Mission at Monterey’.

“We’ve been here forever, and [we are] still being ignored forever. There’s still not an acknowledgment of our people by the government.” said Louise Miranda Ramirez, the chair of the Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation.

The first time the tribe could self-identify in government documents was in the 1928 California Indian Jurisdictional Act. For the purpose of the act,

tribal elders and their families referred to themselves as the “Mission San Carlos” or “Esselen.” By this time the tribe had spent generations cut off from their culture as the Spanish established missions and forced the tribes into them.

---

*“We’ve been here forever, and [we are] still being ignored forever. There’s still not an acknowledgment of our people by the government.”*

---

“In 1770, when Serra came into the area and started to build the missions and take our people in as prisoners . . . you became part of the church, and you could not leave.” said Ramirez.

The native villages which populated Monterey Bay were replaced by the development of the city of Monterey and the surrounding communities. Little remained of the native culture beside artifacts and burial sites.

Between 1851 and 1852 the U.S. Government negotiated treaties with tribes located in California with the intent of friendship and peace. The ‘Eighteen Unratified Treaties’, as they came to be called, were authorized by the Senate, but never ratified. These treaties paved the way for the federal recognition of many tribes in the state. However, coastal tribes were excluded because government agents spoke mainly to tribes living in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and San Joaquin Valley.

Ramirez said this makes her members feel like the government is saying, “You guys didn’t sign the treaty. You didn’t exist.”

These wounds run deep in the native community. Even as she was growing up in the 1950’s, Ramirez was told by her grandfather to say she was of Mexican descent to avoid further persecution. As she grew older, Ramirez sought information about her ancestors and their history.

“I remember in the sixties, I wrote to the [Bureau of Indian Affairs] in Sacramento, and they sent us a letter saying this is who you are. This is your native percentage, blood quantum, but there’s no tribe for you.” said Ramirez. “You’re ‘Mission Indian’ from Carmel, and that was about it.”

One of the few positive aspects of having ancestors brought up in the Spanish mission system was that the priests kept detailed records. In their historic papers were the native names, families, villages, and relative ages of every native person they brought in.

“Thank goodness it was written because we can still read it. We can still follow it. Now we can change.” said Ramirez.

With these limited documents, the Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation is focused on reconstructing their tribal history, reestablishing their place in the story of Monterey Bay and fighting to be federally recognized. The tribe’s direct ancestors served as linguistic consultants to the Smithsonian Museum’s Bureau of American Ethnology during the 1930’s, and today tribal members are learning once again to speak their native language. They are also working to preserve their native culture by once again performing ceremonies that were outlawed for generations. Their artifacts and burial sites dot the

**See Legacy on Pg. 6**



# Legacy CONT

Monterey peninsula, and many recent achievements come from making sure their ancestors are properly honored.

The modern Presidio of Monterey lies atop the collected history of Monterey Bay. Foreign ships landed along the Lower Presidio and constructed their first forts at the bottom of the hill. The Buffalo Soldiers later maintained horse stables on the same ground. The Presidio of Monterey Museum now stands on this site. But before all of that, the first people to occupy the Monterey Bay called the land at the Presidio of Monterey their home. Many of their remains are still located below our feet.

In 2019, burial artifacts and the remains of 17 ancestors of the Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation were interred in the Presidio of Monterey cemetery. The tribe held a ceremony and laid their forebears to rest where they lived and died before their remains were disturbed. A further commitment was made that any additional remains separated from their original burial ground will have the opportunity to be interred in the cemetery as well.

“When additional ancestors are disturbed, we will re-bury there again.” said Ramirez.

The Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation, like most tribes, counts many veterans among their 600 current members, and the generations that came before them. During National Native American Heritage Month, we honor the storied legacy of American Indians and Alaska Natives in our nation. Their cherished legacy, rich cultures, and heroic history of military service inspire us all. This month, as we recommit to supporting Native American tribes and people, we resolve to work side-by-side with their leaders to secure stronger, safer communities and preserve their sacred heritage for future generations.

## End of Year Tax Planning Opportunities for 2020

Significant changes in the tax code for 2020 due to COVID economic stimulus legislation (CARES Act) presents planning opportunities for the end of the year. Several of these opportunities can be especially helpful for military families and military retirees.

Charitable Donations. Charitable donations are normally deductible only if itemizing deductions. With higher standard deductions only around 10% of taxpayers are able to deduct charitable donations. However, the CARES Act allows \$300 of charitable donation for taxpayers who take the standard deduction. Every year in the tax center we see both the generosity of Service Members, and their disappointment in not being able to deduct their charitable contributions. This year every military taxpayer will receive a \$300 benefit from their charitable donations.

Required Minimum Distributions. Retired Service Members with retirement investment accounts such as IRAs, 401Ks or TSP are required to take required minimum distributions after age 70 so the IRS finally gets the taxes owed on these tax deferred accounts. The CARES Act grants a one year waiver for required minimum distributions, granting retirees flexibility and additional tax deferral benefits.

Additionally, several tax benefits that impact military taxpayers have become more generous in 2020.

Retirement Savings Credit. Many military members are happy to find that their contributions to Thrift Savings Plan give them not only valuable tax deferral, but also a credit against their taxes. The Retirement Savings Credit, sometimes called Savers Credit, reduces the tax you owe. The credit is only allowed for those making retirement contributions who have an adjusted gross income (AGI) of less than \$65,000 for married filing jointly, or \$32,500 for single taxpayers. Because BAH and BAS are not included in adjusted gross income many military members qualify for this credit. The AGI limits have been raised for 2020, helping more military members qualify for the credit.

Standard Deduction. Earlier this article discussed the standard deduction’s impact on charitable donations. The standard deduction was raised for each category of taxpayer.

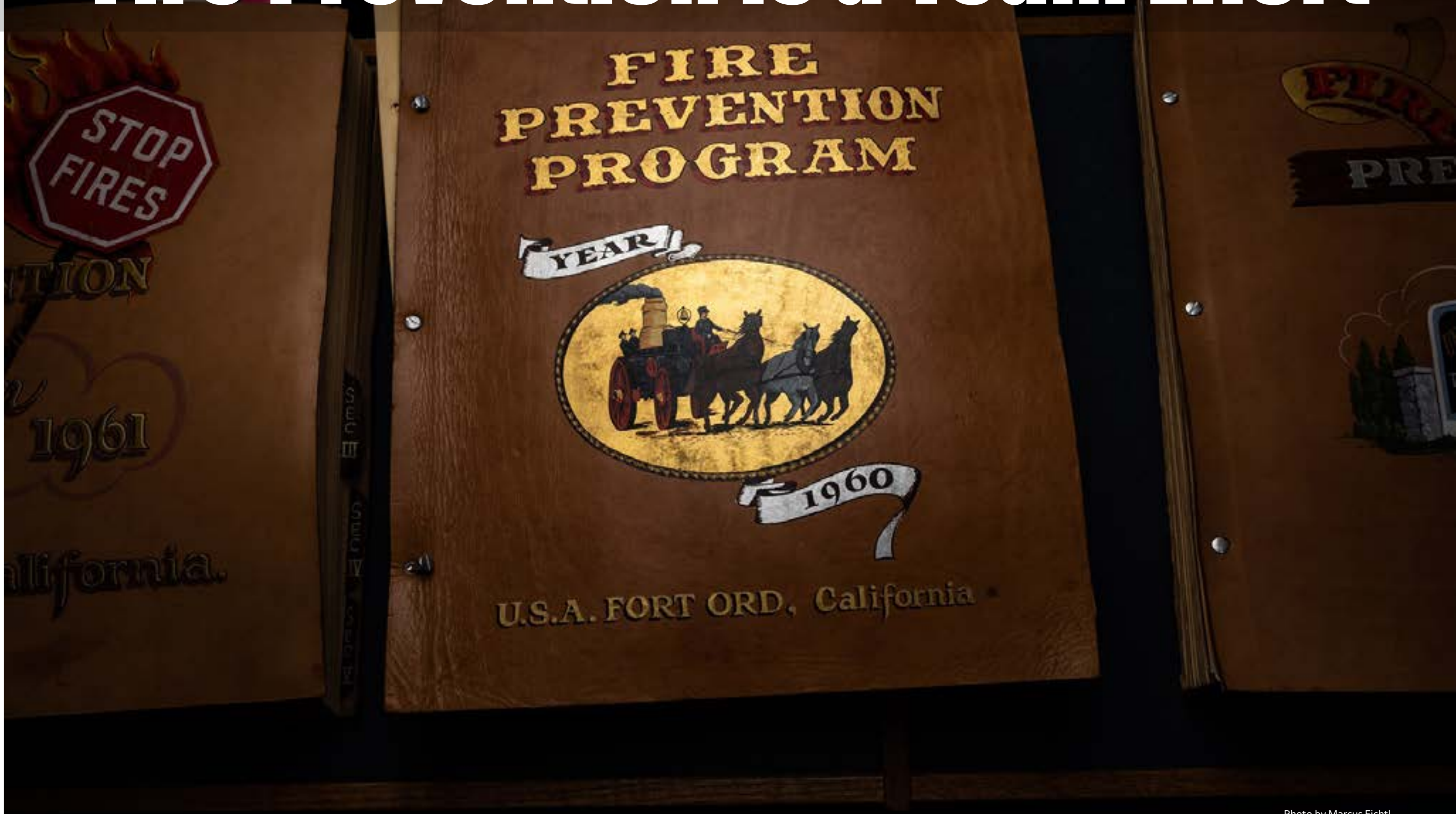
Married filing jointly: \$24,800 — up \$400 from 2019  
Married filing separately: \$12,400 — up \$200  
Head of household: \$18,650 — up \$300  
Single: \$12,400 — up \$200

TSP Contributions Limits. TSP contribution limits have been raised \$500 to \$19,500 for those 49 and under. With catch up contributions, military members 50 and over can contribute up to \$26,000 in their TSP. Unfortunately, IRA contributions were not raised in 2020 and remain \$6000, making TSP even more attractive for military members compared to IRAs.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The most valuable and popular tax credit among military taxpayers is also a bit more generous this year. Both the income limits and maximum credit for all categories of taxpayer have been raised about \$300.

The Presidio of Monterey legal assistance program will again provide tax preparation services to active military members in the rank of E6 and below with simple returns. We look forward to helping you this tax filing season.

# Fire Prevention is a Team Effort





# Fire Prevention is a Team Effort

Zack Frank  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — During the first week of November the Presidio of Monterey observed ‘Fire Prevention Week’ by teaching civilians and service members across the Presidio and Ord Military Community ways to protect their families and homes from accidental blazes.

Fire Prevention Chief Cory J. Prough, whose crew is conducting the training, said, “This year’s theme is ‘Kitchen Fire Safety’ and we have a second theme this year. In light of the wildfires that were going on in Monterey County we’re doing ‘Wildfire Evacuation Planning’.”

Monterey County has recently been home to three large wildfires. Presidio of Monterey firefighters aided local and state efforts to extinguish these fires, but some area homes were lost to the flames.

Prough said his crew has been speaking to people about, “Making sure folks have their go-bags ready, two ways out of the community, and lines of communication with their friends and loved ones in case they’re displaced.”

In addition to being educated about evacuation plans, community members took part in interactive training focused on kitchen fires. A digital fire extinguisher allowed people of all ages to simulate putting out a fire on an LED screen.

“Normally that prop is in our fire prevention trailer but we have a mobile unit this year due to the pandemic and we’re just cleaning it off in-between users and teaching people how to use the fire extinguisher in the event they’ve got to use it,” said Prough. Many fires result from unattended cooking, and with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays



The Fire Prevention crew at Presidio of Monterey demonstrate how to use a fire extinguisher during Fire Prevention Week 2020.

coming up it’s important to keep a watchful eye on your oven, grill, or other heating elements. It is also recommended that homes have fire extinguishers, baking soda, and potholders nearby to put out small fires before they can spread.

In a typical Fire Prevention Week, the crew holds events throughout Monterey Bay, drawing in large crowds. This year those large community events were scaled down or transitioned online due to COVID-19. Four fire safety virtual trainings have taken place so far with over 200 participants, with more virtual training sessions on the schedule.

Presidio of Monterey Fire Prevention Inspector Wilfredo Sepulveda, who conducts the virtual

training, said, “Everyone likes the fact that they’re able to participate, even from the comfort of their homes because of COVID-19.”

The training covers Army policy on building safety including candles, seasonal lighting displays, extension cords, daisy chains of surge protectors, and other potentially dangerous items and behaviors.

“Any opportunity we have to touch one person is a potential for a fire not to happen,” said Prough. “Check your fire extinguishers and make sure they’re still in the green. If you’re ever in doubt with those you want to take them in and get them replaced . . . It’s the best insurance you can have for your home.”





# BOSS in COVID

Marcus Fichtl  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY – When the Presidio of Monterey shuttered earlier this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, life on the post changed. The Defense Language Institute went to online learning, civilian employees began teleworking from their homes, and the padlocks were put on the heart of single service entertainment -- the Hobson Center.

But as the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines adapted to the new normal, so did the Better Opportunity for Single Service Members program. Lead by its civilian liaison, Hugo Tena, and military volunteers from all the services, BOSS put together a patchwork of programs to support the now-isolated population on the Presidio. Van runs were organized to get much needed groceries from the commissary at the Ord Military Community, and soon every weekend was filled with socially-distanced cook-outs, parfait giveaways and pancake breakfasts. Toward the end of the summer the BOSS program had reopened the bar outdoors and even created safe, socially distanced karaoke booths.

---

*“I love volunteering, and I love being able to help make events like the Halloween party possible for my brothers and sisters in uniform.”*

---



Service members line up for parfaits and coffee during a BOSS COVID-19 event this summer.

Tena said he was especially proud of the commissary shuttle run service they enacted at the outbreak of the pandemic.

“We were able to help the students get the groceries they needed – safely,” Tena said.

COVID mitigation efforts and the hard work of the BOSS program even brought back the biggest event of the year the BOSS Halloween Party, where the service members donned costumes and masks and unwound from the frenzied lifestyle at the Defense Language Institute. What Tena called the “famous costume contest” saw Teletubbies, multiple Guy Fieris, anime characters and man in a banana suit compete for best dressed (A service member dressed as an over-the-top American patriot won the contest).

Lance Cpl. Tia Daniels, a BOSS representative from the Marine Corps Detachment on the Presidio – who dressed up as a demon she named “Ms. Mayhem,” said the the Halloween event was “amazing.”

“I love the music. I love the costume contest,” she said. “Everything has been regulated and we haven’t had any problems with people here.”

Daniels said that she’s proud of the difference she and the other volunteers have made the past few months ensuring their fellow comrades in arms don’t go stir-crazy during the pandemic.

“I love volunteering, and I love being able to help make events like the Halloween party possible for my brothers and sisters in uniform, she said. “It fills the heart with joy.”

# DLIFLC’s first all-virtual class graduates

Tammy Cario  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. -- Things haven’t turned out exactly as Marine Lance Cpl. Marissa Dow planned since she walked into the recruiter’s office a few years ago.

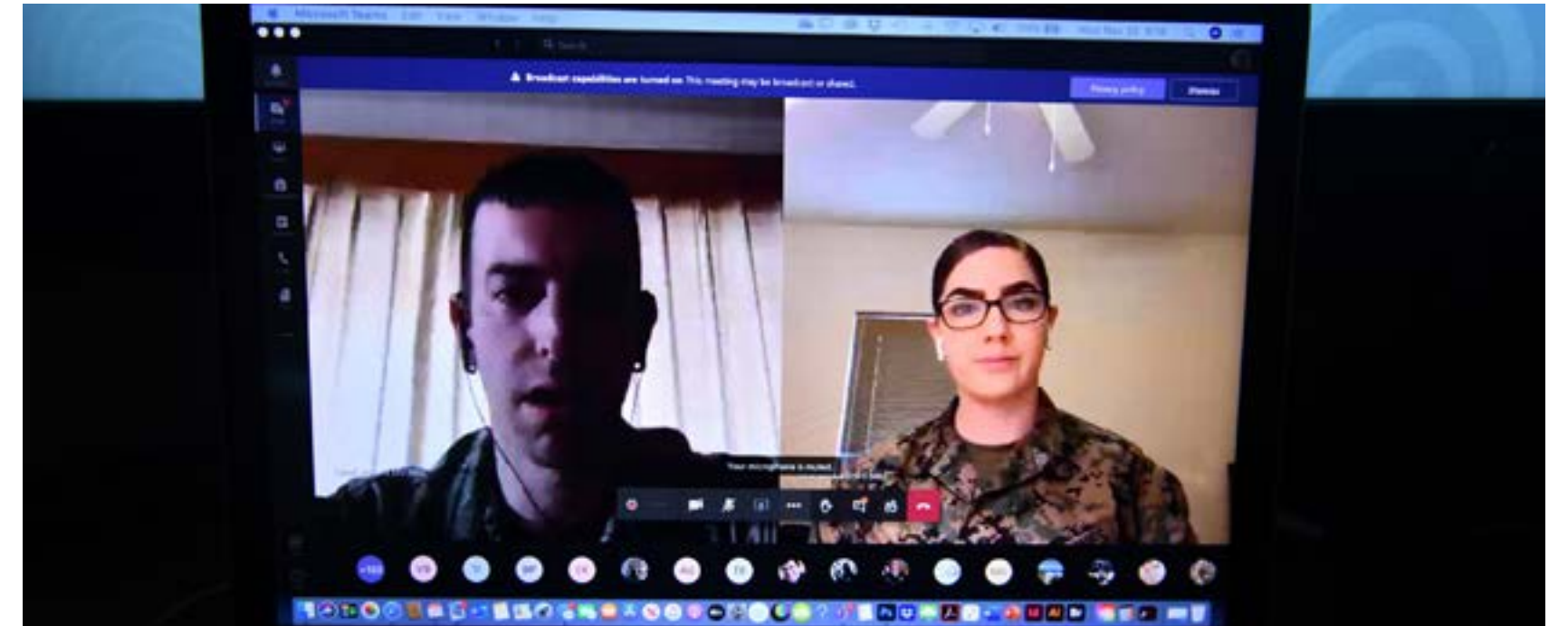
“The recruiter sold me on the values of the Marine Corps and then he asked me what I wanted to do. I wanted to do medical.” When she discovered that the Marine Corps doesn’t have medical, she decided it didn’t matter – the Corps was what she wanted. A few months after graduating high school, Dow was in basic training when she learned she was headed to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center to become a linguist.

“I said, ‘Uh, I don’t know about this,’” she said with a laugh.

Nearly three months of tutoring prior to starting class gave Dow and a fellow Marine classmate a boost, she felt. And then March 12, 2020, the first day they were to begin Indonesian class, the consequences of a worldwide pandemic hit – classes at DLIFLC went entirely virtual.

“We were hoping that we would meet the students face-to-face before we had to go online 100%,” said lead Indonesian instructor Fransiska Oktoprimasakti. But with a completely new and deadly virus threatening, the decision was made. To Oktoprimasakti, that turned out to be a good thing for her class because they didn’t have expectations or preconceived notions.

“They were told, ‘Okay, you’re not going to see your teacher so you have to study really hard because you have to be independent, you have to be an autonomous learner,’” said Oktoprimasakti, who believes this is what helped them to try harder and study more.



Defense Language Institute students graduate via zoom meeting.

There were challenges and good things, just like every class, she said. The weekly online tests, for instance, were difficult at first. The system that they were asked to use was buggy in the beginning. It would lose answers or stop working altogether right in the middle of the test. “It was quite a nightmare.”

One of the great advantages, she said, were the students themselves.

“We’re so lucky to get self-motivated, very diligent, smart people in this class,” said Oktoprimasakti about her class, where two of the students were on their second language at DLIFLC. One of those students was a seasoned Navy officer and class leader who helped the other students optimize their studying, Oktoprimasakti added.

Dow said, “We still found ways to make jokes, have fun so it wasn’t just sitting, staring at a computer. I think that the teachers did an amazing job of adapting.”

With eight teachers of varying ages on the team, it was at times a challenge for them, said Dow. “They

always worked really hard to give us everything we needed so we could still do well in class.”

Another advantage to virtual classes is that it opens up hours when the instructors are available. Before teleworking, teachers were reluctant to drive to the Institute so early in the morning to offer tutoring before class, Oktoprimasakti explained. Now, working from home without the commute, teachers are much more willing to meet with the students for zero hour in the morning or 8th hour in the afternoon after class.

All of their hard work paid off. On November 25, all eight students graduated as the first class at DLIFLC to do their entire language training virtually, all meeting or exceeding DLIFLC standards.

During the graduation, Dow, who received a score of 2+/3/2, said, “I’d like to leave you all with the words of President Joko Widodo. ‘Ready, not ready, you must be ready.’ We don’t know what will happen after we graduate, but in my opinion, everyone in this class is ready to overcome whatever the future holds.”



# Happy Thanksgiving!

Joseph Kumzak  
Presidio of Monterey

The garrison command team, Col. Varman Chhoeung and CSM Robert Londers, along with senior leaders at the Presidio of Monterey and Defense Language Institute, served thanksgiving meals to service members, families and faculty at the Chay Dining Facility today.

"I think it's important to give back to the service members and show our support for them. Thanksgiving can be trying times for a lot of families this year, but there is still a lot we have to be thankful for," Chhoeung said. "Me personally, I am thankful for my family and I'm also thankful for the PoM team. We have a great team here, and our job is to support service members and their mission as they learn languages."

Londers agreed, "I think it's important to establish a sense of family and sense of duty, and to show that we care and are invested in our service members and families stationed here."

Service members said it made Thanksgiving extra special to have senior leaders serve their meals.

"I felt honored that they took the time out of their day to serve us. It makes us feel like we are one big family. Even though there's different services on this base, we're all in one fight together," said Seaman Apprentice Joice Davis, a Mandarin Chinese student with the Information Warfare Training Command.

For many new service members, this was their first Thanksgiving meal in a military dining facility.

Seaman Apprentice Madison Kauffman, a Korean language student with the Information

Warfare Training Command said she enjoyed her Thanksgiving meal very much.

"It's actually really good, and they have a large variety for people who may have allergies," Kauffman said.

Pete Ornelas, assistant DFAC manager, said he enjoys seeing service member reactions when they see the senior leaders serving.

"There's the garrison commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Donehue ... I think that sends a very powerful-positive message to the service members, and it's win-win for everybody."

Ornelas added "I hope we make it special for our service members today and hope they enjoy this wonderful meal our staff put together. They deserve it – they are dedicating and investing a good part of their life to protect our wonderful country."

Photos by Joseph Kumzak



DLI Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Donehue gives a thumbs up during Thanksgiving service.



A service member grabs a Gatorade during Thanksgiving service.



A family walks out with a stack of Thanksgiving dinners.



**Opens January 25, 2021**

## Appointment Checklist

-Photo ID for taxpayer and Social Security Cards for yourself and dependents

-Income Records (E.g., Forms W2 and 1099)

-Expenses (E.g., Form 1098, Contributions to Retirement Accounts, Charitable Deductions, Mortgage and/or Student Loan Interest, Property Taxes, Child or Dependent Care)

-Affordable Care Act Documents (1095)

-Power of Attorney if signing for spouse

-Refund Direct Deposit Information (RTN and ACCT Number)

-Last Year's Tax Return

**FREE TAX  
PREPARATION**

**FEDERAL AND  
STATE RETURNS**

**IRS TRAINED AND  
CERTIFIED**

**E6 AND BELOW  
ACTIVE DUTY  
AND THEIR  
DEPENDENTS \***

**\*EXCLUDING THOSE WITH:  
RENTAL PROPERTY  
CAPITAL GAINS  
BUSINESS INCOME**

## **DLIFLC TAX CENTER**

BLDG 358  
Follow Signs to the Legal  
Assistance Office

Parking on Buffalo Soldier  
Trail

Appointments: 831-242-7365

0830-1600  
M-Fri





# Marine Corps birthday celebrations



# Marine Corps birthday celebrations

Marcus Fichtl  
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – There was no dance floor, there were no dates, and none of the Marines dressed in their famous dress blues. But the Marines at the Presidio of Monterey still celebrated their 245 birthday this November.

“Each year since Nov. 10, 1775, Marines have gathered to honor the brave men and women of the Marine Corps who have answered the calling to become a Marine,” the Marine Corps Detachment’s Commander Lt. Col. Timothy Mayer said during prepared remarks at Price Fitness Center Field, Nov. 12. “Each November we renew our commitment to our brothers and sisters in arms. We honor the sacrifices of the fallen, and we celebrate their victories.”

With a famed history of fighting battles from the frozen fields of Korea, the streets of Fallujah, Iraq, and everywhere in-between, Mayer commented on the “clime and place” the Marines were fighting in today. It’s a battle against a deadly virus that’s affecting the way the detachment develops its combat linguists. It was why they were standing in “cammies” on a turf field instead of in dress blues on a ballroom floor.

“Let’s be honest. This year has been tough,” Mayer said. “Our freedom of movement has been restricted. Our ability to gather has been challenged. And the environment and face-to-face methodology used to teach languages the past 80 years has significantly changed.”

See Birthday on Pg. 17



Marine Corps Detachment Commander Lt. Col. Timothy Mayer prepares to cut the Marine Corps birthday cake.



Lt. Col. Robert Boddeker tastes the first piece of the Marine Corps birthday cake.



Marines listen to Marine Corps birthday speeches.



## Birthday CONT

“It has been tough. But you have proven to be tougher,” he added.

That toughness Mayer said was due to motivation, pride and discipline he saw in his Marines every day – including during the Marine Corps birthday celebration. As the day was not all ceremony, the Marines would have to earn their cake with a best squad competition.

The competition, based on the Marine Corps’ Battle Skills Test – a standardized program to reinforce the skills necessary to fulfill the ethos of “Every Marine a Rifleman” – split the junior Marines into a dozen squads, each led by a Lance Corporal. The Marines then moved in squads up and down the hilly Presidio reacting to contact and completing tasks at various waypoints, like radio communications, first aid, room clearing, and detainee operations.

“It all focused on teamwork,” said Lance Cpl. Aubrie Harmin, a Korean language student at the Defense Language Institute. She held the Hard Hammer – a sledge hammer painted in Marine Corps scarlet and

gold that represented the birthday competition’s best squad.

Harmin said it was their commitment and trust in each other that earned them their top spot.

“We won because we worked together really well as a team, and we have a lot of trust in our squad leader,” she said.

*“Today you celebrate the birth of our Corps – soon you will be the Marines who take us into the next fight.”*

She added that the fighting spirit for every Marine to be the best on the battlefield translates to how they approach learning languages in the classroom.

“The teachers expect the Marines to be the best in the class,” Harmin said. “You feel this pressure but I think it’s a healthy pressure. It keeps people grinding,

on their toes, and makes sure that they come out a better person in the end.”

Harmin, who is celebrating her second Marine birthday, found today’s “field ball” fitting.

“It’s not quite as fancy and we won’t get quite as rowdy,” she said. “I think today shows that the Marine Corps will always find a way to overcome.”

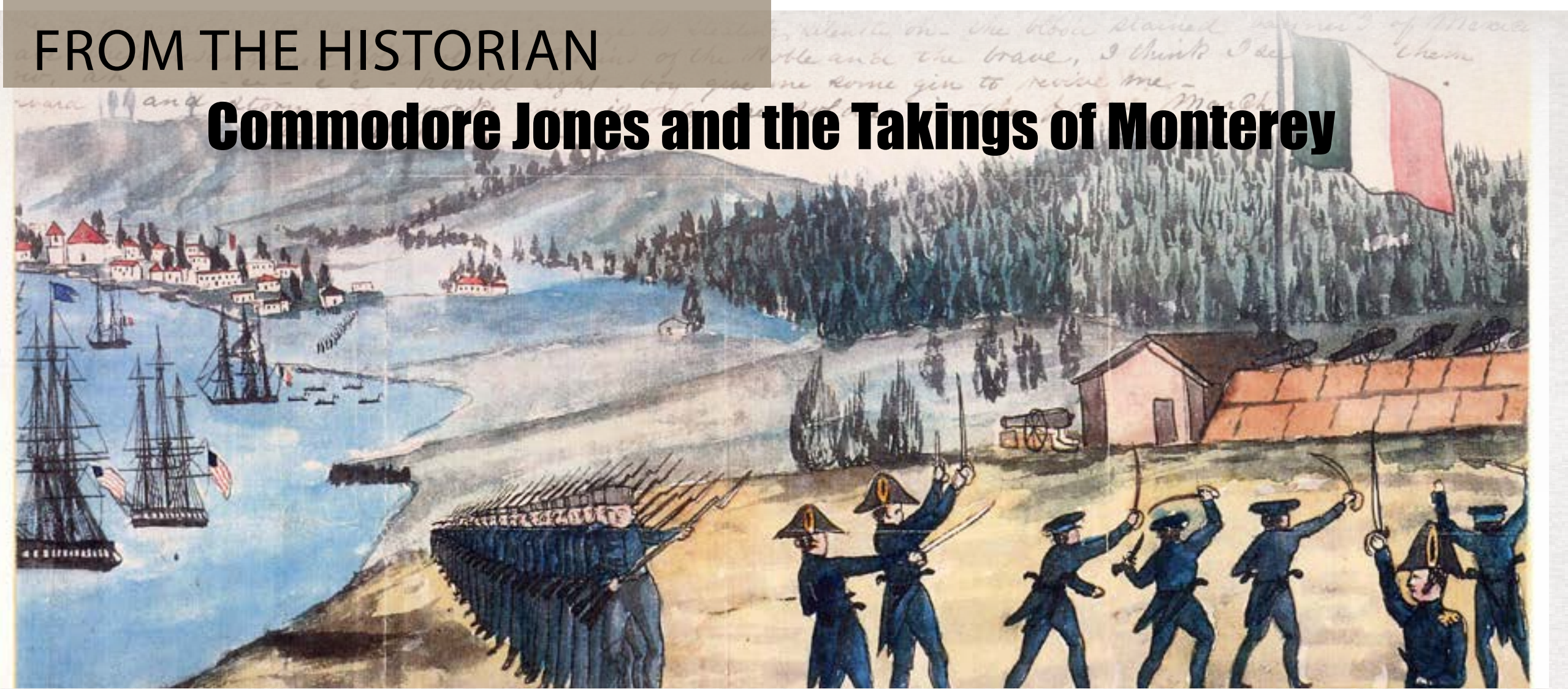
Field or ballroom, the cake – it sill arrived – in style as it always does, and escorted by the oldest and youngest Marine in attendance. Their 81-year age gap itself represented a third of the 245 year Marine Corps history. As the cake made its way to the end of a tunnel of sword-wielding non-commissioned officers – the 99-year-old Lt. Col. Robert Boddeker took a bite, and quickly declared the cake fit for the Marine Corps.

While COVID has changed the life of every person, Marines included, Mayer told every Marine, like Harmin and her squad, that remembering the past will ensure the Corp’s future success.

“Today you celebrate the birth of our Corps – soon you will be the Marines who take us into the next fight,” Mayer said.







Watercolor depicting the capture of Monterey on October 20, 1842 by Navy Gunner William H. Meyers of the USS Cyane. A humorist, Meyers overemphasizes. Image courtesy of The Bancroft Library.

**Cameron Binkley**  
Command Historian

Since the Spanish arrived in 1770, Monterey has been invaded three times. The Battle of Monterey fought in 1818 between Argentine pirates and Spanish defenders came first. That affair ended with the violent attackers looting and burning the town and quickly fleeing.

The Americans were next. They occupied the town during the Mexican-American War and remained until the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo permanently ceded California to the United States. During that invasion, Californios calmly offered no resistance for they had already practiced this epic event. Moreover, living in a chaotic period of corrupt and

incompetent rule, many were likely encouraged to see an American flag fly above the small pueblo once again.

Yes—again. The US invasion of 1846 was preceded by an earlier US invasion conducted under Cmdr. Thomas ap Catesby Jones. Commanding the Pacific Squadron from a station in Peru, Jones had secret orders to seize and hold the ports of California if a US-Mexico war broke out. Unfortunately, in the age of sail, accurate and timely news was hard to come by.

Jones encountered British naval officers who believed America and Mexico at war. Deeming this reliable intelligence, he immediately set sail for Monterey with five warships. Arriving on October 20, 1842, Jones quickly sent his Marines and

Sailors ashore and demanded the town's surrender. Mexican soldiers rushed to man the old Spanish redoubt above the bay, part of the modern Presidio of Monterey. However, faced with overwhelming odds, the garrison commander wisely ordered their withdrawal.

In occupying the fort, American sailors were unsettled to find cannons "loaded with copper grapeshot and escopette balls, all primed, and the linstocks lighted and at hand, burning within a few inches." A terrible disaster had barely been averted. Why? After consulting Americans living in the town – who had more recent news – the luckless Jones belatedly realized that Mexico and America were not at war after all. He had made a colossal blunder by invading a friendly power!

# Remembering the Memorialized: Corpuz

## Memorialization #9

**CPL Bernard P. Corpuz**  
**1977-2006**

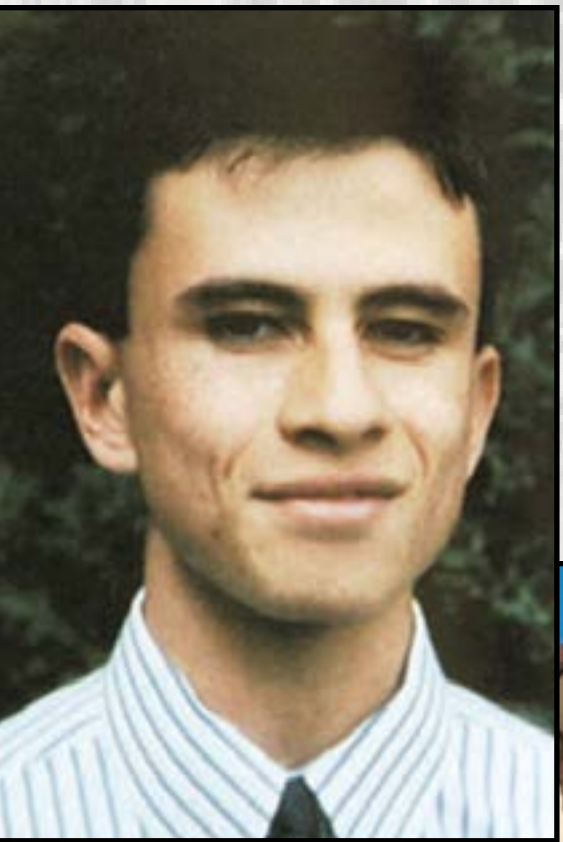
Corpuz graduated from Palma High School in Salinas in 1995 and joined the Army in 2004. He was a DLIFLC graduate of the Basic French Course.

Upon mobilization in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, he served as an interrogator for the 232nd Military Intelligence Company at Bagram Airfield and at the field detention site in Ghazni. He was killed in Afghanistan when his convoy came under small arms fire and an improvised explosive device detonated during the exchange.

On September 11, 2006 Corpuz was memorialized at the Presidio of Monterey with the dedication of Building 607, Corpuz Hall.

To learn more about the men and women memorialized at the Presidio of Monterey, Defense Language Institute and former Fort Ord visit the memorialization page on our website:

<https://home.army.mil/monterey/index.php/about/memorialization>





# News Briefs: Army

## Temporary promotions for NCOs slated to begin next year



WASHINGTON — The Army plans to adjust how it promotes its noncommissioned officers that could impact Soldiers who are serving in combat, starting a family, or attending the non-resident Sergeants Major Course, said the Army’s top enlisted Soldier.

Starting Jan. 1, NCOs unable to complete the required professional military education, or PME, courses may qualify to be temporarily promoted from sergeant through sergeant major, said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston during a media briefing Monday.

The temporary promotions aim to help an array of Soldiers who are either deployed, are pregnant or during postpartum, or attending the non-resident Sergeants Major Course, Grinston said.

Click the tank to read more:

## Army corps hopes to drive innovation with its version of ‘Shark Tank’



FORT BRAGG, N.C. — A panel comprised of military leaders and civilians is scheduled to place Soldiers in the hot seat as they evaluate their original ideas during a new competition later this month.

The XVIII Airborne Corps developed the competition, called the “Dragon’s Lair,” to encourage creative thinking across its ranks that may benefit units in the corps. Ideas presented to the five panelists could then help drive innovation throughout the Army, said the corps’ public affairs officer, Col. Joe Buccino.

Dragon’s Lair simulates the format of the TV show “Shark Tank.” But instead of business moguls looking to invest in the concepts of entrepreneurs, Army leaders will select ideas from Soldiers.

Click the tank to read more:

## On display: Soldier forever enshrined at National Army Museum



FORT BELVOIR, Va. — Lt. Col. Ashley Hartwell let out a joyous gasp as she marveled at a unique display in the National Museum of the United States Army for the first time.

A bright smile beamed across her face as she turned to share her excitement with her husband, Maj. Kristopher Hartwell, and daughter, Grace.

A life-sized model in Hartwell’s visage, dressed in an Army combat uniform, stood tall in front of the family.

Symbolic of a female military police officer on high alert in Iraq, Hartwell’s display conveys a feeling of tension as she grasps onto her M-249 light machine gun in a low-ready position.

Click the tank to read more:

# News Briefs Air Force

## JB San Antonio-Lackland constructs new training complex



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — The Air Force Civil Engineer Center, or AFCEC, is leading a massive \$700 million, multi-year construction project to modernize the Air Force for new basic military training recruits.

Construction of the Basic Military Training West Campus at Joint Base San-Antonio-Lackland, Texas, is a multifaceted effort designed to replace decentralized, aged housing and training infrastructure with modern living and educational facilities. The project will improve the Air Force’s necessary capacity to conduct training missions more efficiently at JB San Antonio-Lackland, the basic training location for enlisted recruits.

Click the jet to read more:

## Department of the Air Force selects six candidate locations for US Space Command



WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The Department of the Air Force, on behalf of the Office of Secretary of Defense, has selected six candidate locations for the U.S. Space Command Headquarters.

The six locations include Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, Offutt AFB, Nebraska, Patrick AFB, Florida, Peterson AFB, Colorado, Port San Antonio, Texas, and Redstone Army Airfield, Alabama.

Self-nominated communities from across 24 states were evaluated as potential locations for hosting the headquarters.

Click the jet to read more:

## AF Services Center debuts Air Force Gaming



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas (AFNS) — Air Force Gaming made its official debut Nov. 11 under the Air Force Services Center with a new intramural e-sports program.

Teams at eight Air Force Global Strike Command bases are competing in a pilot program to crown the gaming champions of the command.

AFGSC Airmen and Space Professionals also from the command, will participate in the program with teams formed to compete with each base hosting playoffs and base championships before the final major command championship. The pilot program is running through mid-December. AFSVC plans to expand the Air Force Gaming League to all Air and Space Force installations in January.

Click the jet to read more:



# News Briefs: Navy

## Researchers Use Flying Lab to Study Effects of Wildfire Smoke on Naval Operations



WASHINGTON — As the recent Monterey county wildfires burned more than 150,000 acres, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) researchers took to the local skies in a specially-equipped DeHavilland Twin Otter UV-18A aircraft, basically a flying laboratory full of scientific instruments, to research the effects that smoke has on the atmosphere to help better understand how smoke can affect optical and infrared sensor performance, and to test how well Navy aerosol models do in predicting smoke conditions.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March, NPS’ aerial researchers from the Department of Meteorology’s Center for Interdisciplinary Remotely Piloted Aircraft Studies (CIRPAS) and Airborne Research Facility had not flown a research mission.

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

## The Navy’s New Fitness Test Is Here: What You Need to Know



WASHINGTON — The Navy will hold a single, six-month physical fitness assessment cycle during calendar year 2021, allowing the service to resume fitness testing while limiting Sailor exposure to COVID-19.

The cycle was announced in NAVADMIN 304/20, released Nov. 18. The message also detailed rollout plans for the forearm plank, which will replace the curl-up, and the 2000-meter row as a new optional cardio event.

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

## Home Gun Safety: An All Hands Evolution



WASHINGTON — Guns are powerful tools in the right hands. They give many a sense of security to own them. However, too often, they can be a deadly accident waiting to happen.

Many Sailors handle guns daily, often in the conduct of their jobs or duties. Strict rules put in place by the Navy for the handling, loading and discharge of firearms should not only be followed on duty, but anytime a firearm is in your hands.

Observing the same strict Navy gun handling rules the Navy teaches for your personal firearms is a good place to start, because it only takes a small lapse in safety for an accident with life-threatening consequences to happen.

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

# News Briefs: Marines

## UNCASE THE COLORS: 1ST NETWORK BATTALION IS BORN



CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Traditionally, military services hold ceremonies for units being activated, deactivated or changing commanders. The continuation of these ceremonies are passed on to future generations of service members to honor those who served the unit.

“The uncasing of the colors is unique, it establishes that first operational unit,” said Lt. Col. Juliet Calvin, the battalion commander for 1st Network Battalion, Marine Corps Cyberspace Operations Group. “An operational unit that in the Marine Corps upholds the time-honored traditions. When we got the activation in June, during the pandemic, we decided to wait until we could hold a formation and properly uncase the colors.”

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

## US MARINE SAVES OKINAWA RESIDENT FROM DROWNING



OKINAWA, Japan — Okinawa is well known for its beautiful beaches. The last thing anyone wants to visualize while admiring the ocean’s natural wonders is being caught in overwhelming currents.

Staff Sgt. Billy C. Dixon, a recovery crew leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, was enjoying his time in Mermaid’s Grotto, a popular diving location, on October 4, when he noticed a woman frantically signaling him for help. The woman herself was not in danger, but her friend, Ms. Miyagi, a member of the local Okinawa community, was losing a battle with a rip current. disappearing from the surface.

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

## RED POPPIES COMMEMORATE THE BLOODY GREAT WAR



BARSTOW, Calif. — The iconic red poppies are back and being offered as a symbol of remembrance and commemoration of World War I, and all fallen military service members.

A century ago, “the war to end all wars” raged throughout Europe. It was a war that racked up nearly 38 million casualties, including upwards of 8.5 million deaths. From 1914 to 1918, World War I took a greater human toll than any previous conflict. The Great War, as it was then known, also ravaged the landscape of Western Europe, where most of the fiercest fighting took place.

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



# INBRIEF

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

## TREE LIGHTING AT THE PRESIDIO

**Wreaths Across Presidio**



**Year in Photos**



**Meet the new family life  
Chaplain**

