

IN PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY BRIEF



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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.

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Photo and story by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey

'Party in the Park'

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – More than 400 members of the Presidio of Monterey and Naval Postgraduate School communities gathered for a “Party in the Park” July 9 that included a petting zoo, games, food, live music and more.

“It’s a Friday afternoon, it’s beautiful and we all need the sunshine,” said Erica Meyers, community recreation director for NPS Morale, Welfare and Recreation and an organizer of the event. Many community members have received the Covid-19 vaccination, and the event gave people an opportunity to socialize and have fun in an outside environment. In this regard, it was another step forward in the return to normalcy for PoM.

The party took place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at La Mesa Village, a housing area in Monterey that the Parks at Monterey Bay, a private company, runs for the military. As the party took place outside, the California Medical Detachment held a Covid-19 vaccination clinic in the housing area’s community center.

Lt. Col. Kenneth Reed, commander of CalMed, said the unit holds a vaccination event once a week, and organizers

thought the party would be a good opportunity to find people who wanted to receive the vaccine.

“This is our primary enrollment population for the clinic, and we want to make sure that we offer the vaccine to the beneficiaries,” Reed said. “Also, I wanted to set the [information] booth up so that if anybody had questions about enrollment, or if we had new arrivals who needed to be switched in Tricare, we could give them the information.”

In all, the unit vaccinated 38 people during the event, said Maj. Hanu Ravindranath, chief of ancillary services, CalMed.

In addition to the CalMed information booth, participants could also visit booths staffed with personnel from Navy Fleet and Family Services, the Parks at Monterey Bay, NPS MWR and other organizations.

Ashlee Crook, a La Mesa resident, brought her children, who range in age from 14 months to 12 years, and they particularly enjoyed the prize wheel, petting zoo and cookie decorating.

“I’ve got four kids, and any time they hold these kinds of events, we love to participate and get the camaraderie of the neighborhood and meet other fellow military families or retirees and just enjoy ourselves,” Crook said.

Her son, Campbell Crook, 7, said his mother homeschools him during the summer, and he did his work as quickly as possible that day so he could come to the event.

“It’s fun for kids because there’s candy and prizes,” said Campbell, holding up a bag full of goodies and showing off the sunglasses he had won.

Meyers was glad to see so many people come out and enjoy the party. “It’s a healthy environment for the community to get out,” she said. “I think kids need to be able to get out; families need to get out. It gives parents a break to let their kids decorate cookies and have five minutes just to sit back and watch.”

Jalyssa Gossen holds Levi, 1, as he spins a Parks at Monterey Bay prize wheel during the “Party in the Park” at La Mesa Village, Monterey, Calif., July 9, 2021.



**51 years of
federal service**



DGC Sanders retires

Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — Fire departments only open their home and kitchen to non-firefighters on rare occasions. For the PoM Fire Department, hosting Deputy Garrison Commander Phil Sanders' retirement BBQ at the Ord Military Community Fire Station in celebration of 51 years of federal service was an honor.

Col. Varman Chhoeung, garrison commander, Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Londers, garrison command sergeant major, and a host of other garrison officials attended the BBQ luncheon on June 30 to wish Sanders well. Retired from the Coast Guard, Sanders has worked at the garrison since 2004 and as DGC since 2019, totaling 51 years of service to the federal government.

Chhoeung thanked Sanders for his dedicated service to the U.S. Army and for setting the highest example of selfless service for all members of the PoM garrison team to follow.

"Phil has always been about team and giving to the organization, putting others before himself, and that is exactly what he has done," Chhoeung said. "Fifty-plus years of service is pretty incredible. We really appreciate what you've done for the nation, for the PoM team, and the best of luck in retirement."

In addition to lifetime membership to the Presidio, Sanders was presented a custom-painted fireman's helmet, an honor typically reserved strictly for firefighters. The gift was presented by PoM Fire Chief Tom Joyce and Assistant Fire Chief Cory Prough.

Following the gift presentation, Sanders thanked the firefighters for the gift and for their selfless service.

"You all go out in the middle of the night and you go off and fight fires in the wildlands, standing in danger to protect us. It's kind of what the Coast Guard is about too – fighting fire on water. So firefighting is



PoM Fire hosted DGC Sanders and a host of other USAG officials at the BBQ luncheon on June 30 to wish Sanders well.

Photos by Noah Rappahahn

in my blood," Sanders said. "It has been incredible watching you do the things that you do and it's just been an honor to serve on the team."

Sanders signed off with one final message encouraging the USAG PoM leaders to continue to uphold the highest standard of selfless and honorable service to the Army and to the nation.

"Like the colonel said, we are all about service. The Army is about service. IMCOM is about service. All of you here are about service. We take care of our people. Please, as you go forward, continue the traditions as you've all done. Take care of yourselves and take care of your teams. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with all of you."



Sanders is presented a custom-painted fireman's helmet by PoM Fire Chief, Tom Joyce and Assistant Fire Chief Cory Prough.

Welcome DGC

Steve Bickel

Stephen P. Bickel assumed his current duties as Deputy to the Garrison Commander on June 14. His previous assignment was as Deputy to the Garrison Commander of United States Army Garrison Fort A.P. Hill, VA.

Bickel is a career member of the Army Civilian Corps. Since becoming an Army civilian, he has served in a variety of staff positions in Headquarters, Department of the Army and the U.S. Army Installation Management Command. His prior positions include acting chief of current operations, installation planning specialist, program manager, and strategic planner.

“I am humbled by the opportunity to join the Presidio of Monterey team. I look forward to serving beside you as we navigate some unprecedented times in our Nation, our Army, and our communities,” said Bickel. “Thanks for all you do to serve the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Civilians and the Families of the Presidio.”

His awards include the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal (2021), Superior Civilian Service Award (2017), Commander’s Award for Civilian Service (2016) and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service (2012).

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., Bickel graduated with Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the Pennsylvania State University in 2000 and a Masters of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2018.



Courtesy photo

Quality assurance of household goods

Photos and story by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. — U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey officials have done well so far, but they are keeping a close eye on household goods shipments to minimize any delays due to private-sector moving company shortages during the military's peak moving season.

Col. Varman Chhoeung, commander of U.S. Army Garrison PoM, rode along July 16 with Glenn Beal, a quality assurance inspector with the PoM Transportation Office, to meet with service members as movers packed their goods.

"I just want to make sure that our families are getting good service with respect to their household goods and they have a smooth transition in and out of the Presidio of Monterey," Chhoeung said.

Chhoeung and Beal met with Air Force Lt. Col. Jen Whetstone, who is moving to Japan with her family, as movers packed her goods at her home in Pebble Beach.

Whetstone said, "I was a little concerned a couple of months ago when I started hearing about the problems [Department of Defense]-wide with working movers and the lack of moving companies available in the country, but the PoM Transportation Office has been very helpful and everything seems to be going fine."

Chhoeung said PoM is doing well compared to some other installations, but as the military's peak permanent-change-of-station season continues, he and other garrison officials will monitor the situation.

At an installation Community Update meeting July 19, Chhoeung and other garrison officials provided information about the subject, what they have done to mitigate problems, and how service members can help alleviate issues.

Brian Clark, director of the PoM Logistics Readiness Center, briefed the community on how to avoid delays with household goods shipments.



Col. Chhoeung, center, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, and Glenn Beal, a quality assurance inspector with the PoM Transportation Office, greet Air Force Lt. Col. Jen Whetstone, who is moving to Japan with her family, as movers pack up her household goods in Pebble Beach, Calif., July 16.

The summer is always peak PCS season with the military, and this year it is even busier because some service members delayed their moves due to Covid-19 last year, Clark said.

The local wait for an available moving company is about three or four weeks, Clark said, so it is important for service members to try to receive their orders as quickly as possible so they start the process of securing a moving company.

It is important for service members to know that the Army has released an order providing Soldiers with flexibility in terms of start dates at new units, Clark said.

"When you get your orders, you can actually move between 30 days before your report date to 20 days after," Clark said. "So that's a 50-day window that you have to kind of work on that transportation piece to try to find a moving company that's available."

It's important to note, however, that the Army's flexibility does not apply to personnel starting at schools such as the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center and the Naval Post Graduate School, Chhoeung said. Their report dates remain firm.

Also, Clark said he was not aware of other military services that had taken similar measures.

For those who cannot find a moving company that fits their requirements or are reporting to another military service that does not offer the flexibility of the Army, service members can appoint a releasing agent who acts on the service member's behalf in terms of household goods, Clark said.

"Essentially you would PCS, you would go to your next assignment, and that person would take care of the move for you at your place, whether that's a parent, a friend," Clark said.

Story continued next page



Col. Chhoeung speaks with Zane Whetstone, who is moving to Japan with his family, as movers pack up his household goods in Pebble Beach, Calif., July 16.

Quality (cont.)

“Whoever it is, you can assign them to do that for you, but you would only want to do that if you absolutely trust that person. They’re going to have access access to all your stuff.”

Another option is a personally procured move or a do-it-yourself move, Clark said.

“If a moving company was not available to move you, you’re going to be reimbursed whatever the actual cost of that move or whatever it takes for you to move yourself,” Clark said. “But you have to be careful with that, because if a moving company was available, you’re going to wind up getting paid whatever it costs the government to move you, which is likely less than what it cost you to move yourself.”

Ultimately, however, LRC officials are experts on PCS moves, and service members should contact them for advice on how to make the best decisions, Clark said. People can call the office at (831) 242-6803 or email usarmy.pom.106-sig-bde.list.pres-msgto@mail.mil.

Chhoeung said when it comes to inbound household goods, people at PoM are receiving them in about one to two weeks, which is a normal amount of time.

In terms of outbound household goods, Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Londers, the garrison’s command sergeant major who is soon retiring, was able to make an appointment the previous week for the middle of August, Chhoeung said.

Chhoeung said one way the installation has curbed delays getting service members into homes is by preleasing homes.

“It was a policy change, and the goal of preleasing was to allow people to have an address and move-in date before they left their last duty station,” Chhoeung said.

In general, military installations issue housing according to rank, with service members of similar rank living near one another, and Chhoeung said another action officials took was to adjust the housing rank bands to ensure they had the right number of houses for various ranks across the entire community.

In addition, Chhoeung asked the housing team to shoot for fewer than 10 days in temporary lodging for most people.

“For about 90 or 95 percent of our people, I think we’ve been able to do that,” Chhoeung said. “We moved a record number of people into our houses in June with 217 families moving in. We are near an all-time high in occupancy rate.”

The current occupancy rate is nearly 95%, Chhoeung said, and to put it in perspective, last year the rate was about 81%.

Installation officials and work crews have also decreased the number of days it takes to make a housing unit ready for occupancy, Chhoeung said.

“A year ago, we were taking about 61 days to turn a home,” Chhoeung said. “Right now we are down to 9.1 to 9.5 days to turn a home, depending on the day.”

Also, Chhoeung said it is important that service members know that no one can make them prelease a home or conduct a PPM or DITY move.

Oscar Ordonez, director of housing, said he encourages anyone who has a problem concerning housing to contact their community manager or call the housing office at (831) 242-7979.

“If you have a concern or you have an issue that’s not being answered, call us,” Ordonez said. “Someone will get you pointed in the right direction.”

Chhoeung said when it comes to housing issues, residents should submit a work order first, but if issues persist, they can contact housing or submit an Interactive Customer Evaluation form.

“We are always looking for ways to make things better for everybody in the community,” Chhoeung said.

PoM PD, security personnel sharpen vehicle search skills

Photo and story by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – At times, Presidio of Monterey law enforcement and security personnel who participated in vehicle interdiction training here July 12-14 couldn't help but smile.

The training focused on vehicle searches, and when participants found an item after scouring a vehicle for carefully hidden contraband, their faces lit up.

One of them was Officer Nery Cruz, a PoM security guard who did a deep dive under a steering wheel to uncover a plastic training gun. Not only will the training help him search vehicles more thoroughly and increase safety at PoM, but it also taught him how use the correct tools and not damage vehicles during searches, he said.

"I found some stuff where we would never, ever think that we would find stuff," Cruz said.



Lt. Jesus Sanchez, a Presidio of Monterey security guard, searches under a vehicle for hidden contraband during vehicle interdiction training at the Stilwell Community Center, Ord Military Community, July 13.



Photo by Joseph Kumzak

Officer Nery Cruz, a Presidio of Monterey security guard, smiles as he finds hidden contraband during vehicle interdiction training at the Stilwell Community Center, Ord Military Community, July 13.

Janice Quenga, PoM antiterrorism officer, said more than 30 law enforcement, security and antiterrorism personnel from PoM and other local agencies, including Fort Hunter Liggett, California State University, Monterey Bay and Naval Support Activity Monterey, participated in the training at the General Stilwell Center.

The training involved a combination of classroom and hands-on training, and on the second day the class split up into groups to search vehicles. Doors, trunks and hoods open, participants combed through the vehicles looking for simulated guns and drugs. Not content with the interior of the vehicles, they

also climbed underneath to see if they could find anything beneath the vehicles.

The training provided personnel with new tactics and techniques, Quenga said, and also helped them improve their skills at finding items such as drugs, guns and explosive devices.

Local municipal organizations participated as well, and Brian George, a K-9 handler from the Santa Cruz Police Department, brought along his K-9 Parker, a narcotics detection dog, so they could improve their search skills.

Story continued next page



Officer Michael Mancini, a police officer with the Presidio of Monterey Police Department, smiles as he finds hidden contraband during vehicle interdiction training at the Stilwell Community Center, Ord Military Community, July 13.

Search (cont.)

"I don't get a chance to search a variety of newer cars with experts at hiding stuff, so it just gave [Parker] some hard problems today," George said. "It went well. Four out of four."

Quenga said installation officials hold antiterrorism training annually in commemoration of National Antiterrorism Awareness Month, which is in August. Last year, however, it was not possible to hold training because of Covid-19.

The 4:20 Group, LLC, a company based in Elberfeld, Ind., taught the training through the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center based in Annville, Penn., said James Eagleson, chief operations officer for the company.

Since the NCTC receives money from Congress to provide counterdrug training throughout the country, the class comes at no cost to the students and they're able to take what they learn back to their agencies, Eagleson said.

"They get hands on training searching cars, trucks, SUVs," Eagleson said. "Today they were exposed to 150 different concealment methods—backs, floors, all kinds of different compartments, and they have to find all of them today. If they don't find all of them, we show them."

The training includes a variety of vehicles from different vehicle manufacturers so personnel can gain a sense of what is standard and what might indicate tampering, Eagleson said.

"These are brand new cars, 2021, so for the next 10 years of their careers, they're going to see these cars," Eagleson said. "Every year we bring brand new cars, and we show them what's factory, what's not, what's been added, what's been taken away."

The class spans vehicle searches all the way from before traffic stops to court, Eagleson said.

"It's not just show them one thing and then we leave," Eagleson said. "We want to be well-rounded, so when they leave here, they have a better understanding of what interdiction is, and our target is not just drugs. It's any type of contraband."



Parker, a K-9 narcotics detection dog with the Santa Cruz Police Department, practices searching vehicles during vehicle interdiction training at the Stilwell Community Center, Ord Military Community, July 13.

The blunt truth

Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs

Presidio of Monterey, Calif.—Marijuana is strictly prohibited on federal property and violators will be prosecuted. If you understand that fact and all of the accompanying considerations, then read no further. But if local ordinances, state laws and licensing regulations have raised some question in your mind then read on.

The 'legalization' of marijuana continues to be a hot topic here in California as in several other states across the country, raising questions as to the impact of ever-changing laws, regulations and licensing policies on a population of military, DoD civilians, family members, non-affiliated civilians and housing residents on a military installation.

Despite state and local legal exceptions, marijuana remains unlawful under federal statute, is considered contrary to 'good order and discipline' and is therefore NOT ALLOWED on federal property.

Any instances of possession, use, transport, sale or distribution by military or civilian personnel on the installation, in any form and for any purpose, will be met with swift and certain civil (administrative) and/or legal action. The penalty can range from a citation or bar from the installation to prosecution under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and incarceration.

"Service members who test positive for a controlled substance are not only subject to punitive action under the UCMJ, they may be lawfully ordered to forfeit all personally owned firearms and ammunition for up to one year under federal law," according to Capt. Ray Macias, Chief of Military Justice for the Presidio and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, Northern District of California.

"Service members who even own stock in companies that produce and sell marijuana may also jeopardize

their security clearance," Macias said, emphasizing the gravity of impact on military linguists.

While the prohibition and potential consequences may be clear for uniformed personnel, what is the Army's position with regard to family members, civilian staff or residents on the installation in a state where possession and use of marijuana has been legalized? In fact, many California residents have been prescribed marijuana to treat a host of ailments real and imagined.

"Marijuana remains a Schedule I controlled substance under federal law. Accordingly, possession of marijuana on federal property (with or without a prescription) by any individual is prohibited," said Macias. "Sanctions for civilians found to be in possession on the installation range from citation and

administrative actions to a bar from the installation-employment or residence notwithstanding."

Following the recommendations of the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board (AFDCB), the command has posted a number of local area 'head shops' dealing in illicit substances, to include marijuana, on the 'off limits establishments' listing, prohibiting military personnel from frequenting those businesses. A comprehensive list of current off-limits establishments can be found at <https://home.army.mil/monterey/index.php/about/off-limits>

Most importantly, remember that "ignorantia legis neminem excusat" (Latin for "ignorance of law excuses no one") or, in the words of Thomas Jefferson, "ignorance of the law is no excuse."



Engine 6112 returns to PoM

From left, Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Londers, Fire Chief Tom Joyce, Travis Johnston of DPW and Garrison Commander, Col. Chhoeung cut a ribbon officially opening the new fire station on the Presidio of Monterey,

Photos by Noah Rappahahn

PoM Fire moves into new home in Bldg. 220

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY – PoM Fire Engine 6112 officially moved into their new home in Bldg. 220 at the Presidio on July 1.

From 1956-2020, the City of Monterey Fire Department protected PoM service members and residents by standing ready and responding to emergencies on the Presidio. That responsibility now belongs to Engine 6112.

"Today is the end of an era and a new beginning as we renew our commitment to our community on the Presidio of Monterey. We will be forever indebted to the City of Monterey Fire Department for their selfless service and their never ending commitment in keeping our community safe since 1956." — PoM Fire Chief Tom Joyce

Engine 6112 has been on the Presidio since Aug. 1, 2020, temporarily residing in the Eisenhower house, while awaiting Bldg. 220's renovations. Having a fire station on the installation better protects service members and their families by reducing firefighter response time to emergencies.

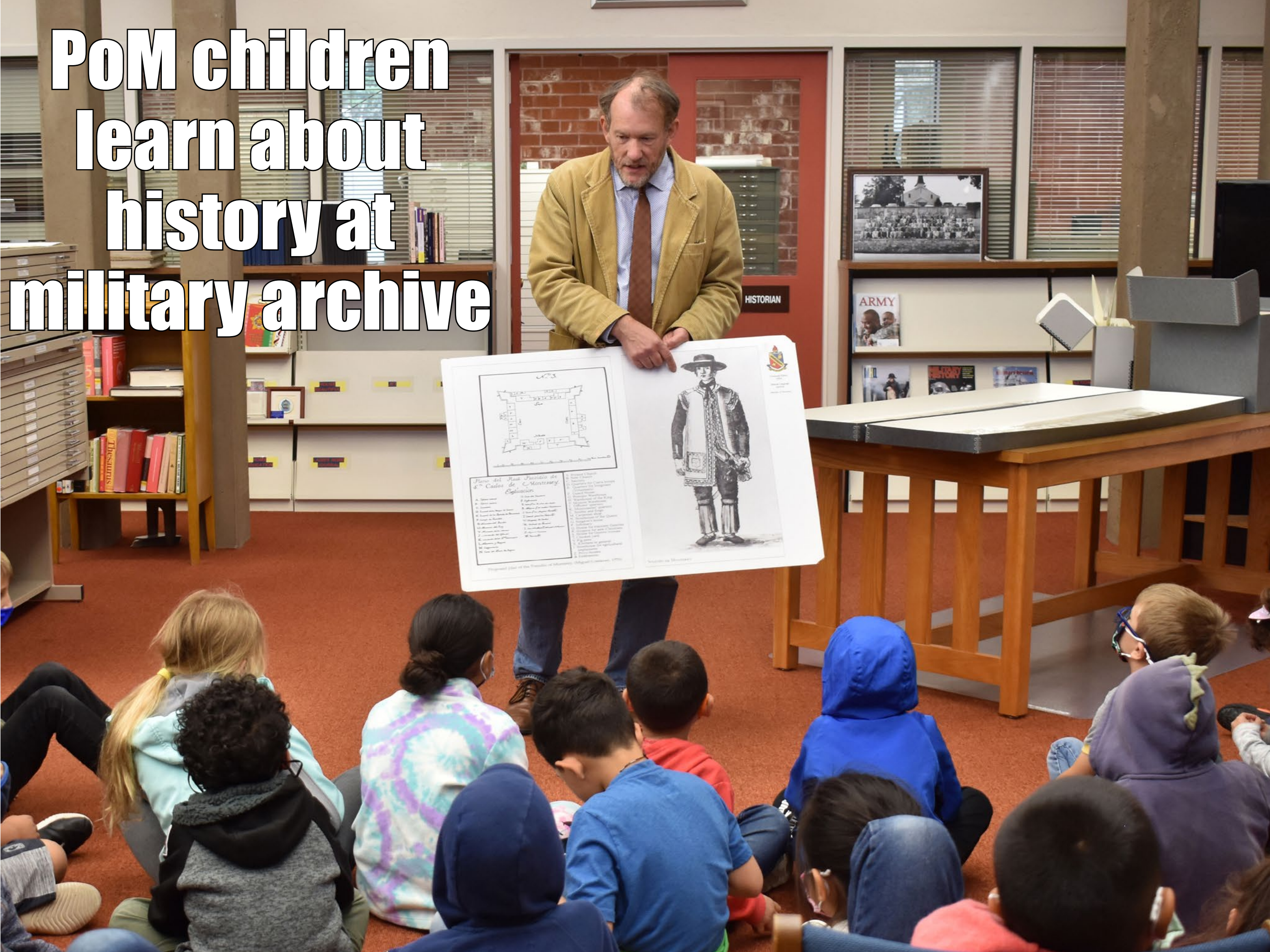


PoM Fire held a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of their new firehouse at Bldg. 220, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., July 1.



Col. Chhoeung speaks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Bldg. 220, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., July 1.

PoM children learn about history at military archive



Field trip

Story and photo by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – Children from the Porter Youth Center kept the questions rolling for Cameron Binkley, command historian for the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, as he spoke here July 15.

More than 30 children in grades first through third met Binkley at the Brig. Gen. Harry Dwight Chamberlin Library, and throughout his talk, they asked about local history, military history and artifacts such as a musket on the wall. Although the facility once served as the Fort Ord library, today it is a military history archive and visitors are not allowed to remove materials.

By the time Binkley let it slip that historians have a “notorious reputation” for being boring, one child begged to differ.

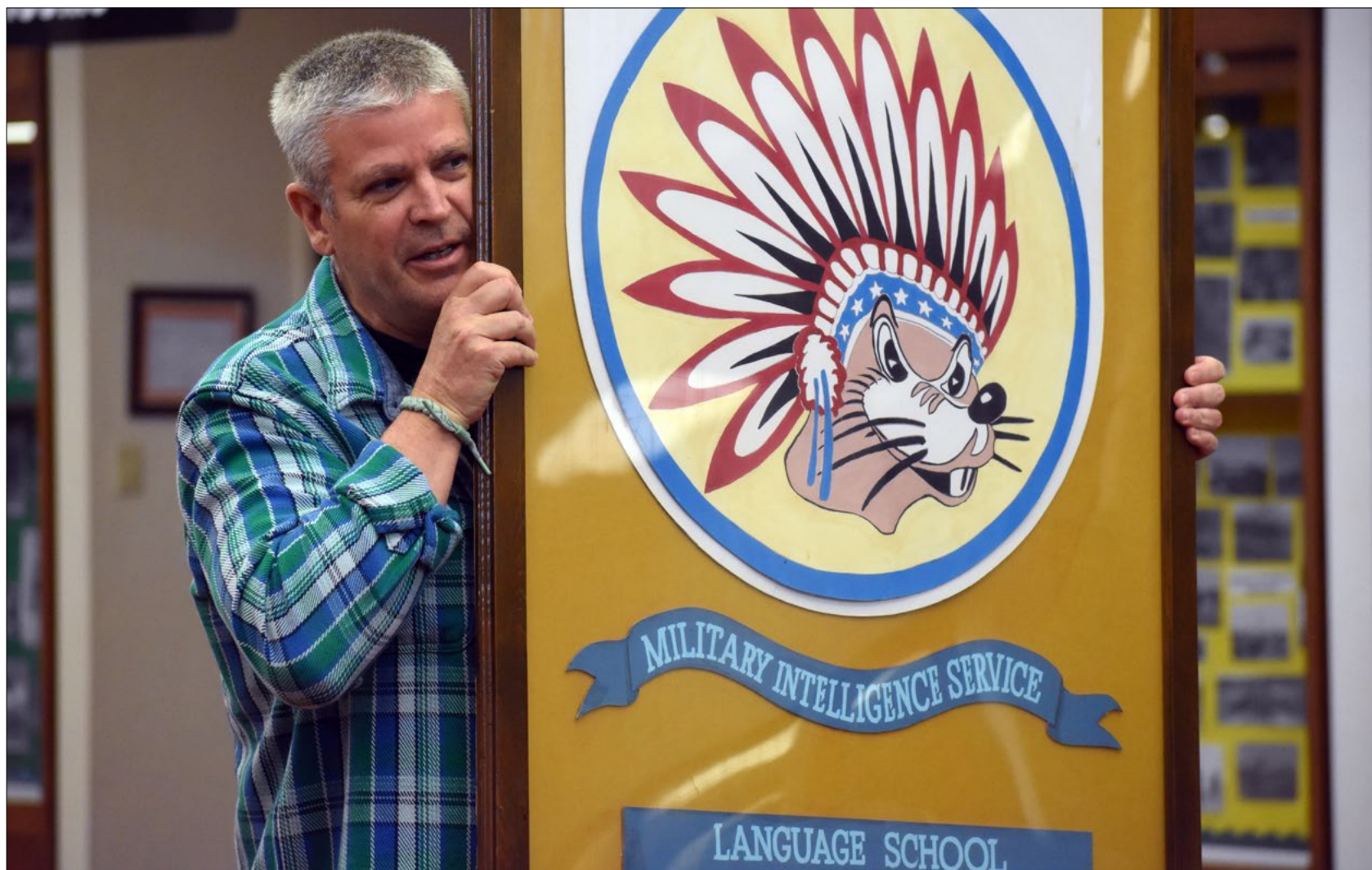
“History isn’t boring!” he called out.

The DLIFLC is the main tenant on the Presidio of Monterey, and its roots go back to 1946. Not only did Binkley speak about the history of the language school and the U.S. military in the area, he also included information about Native Americans, the Spanish colonization in 1770, and the Argentine pirates who attacked Monterey in 1818 and took it over. He spoke about the importance of history as well.

“How do you think historians study history?” Binkley asked the children.

“A time machine?” one child ventured.

“That’s actually right, in a sense,” Binkley said. “We don’t actually have a time machine here, not a real time machine, but we have a kind of virtual time machine, and you know how we go back in time? We use records.”



Joseph Ryan, deputy command historian, DLIFLC, shows children a picture of a former language school mascot during a visit from the Porter Youth Center to the Brig. Gen. Harry Dwight Chamberlin Library, Ord Military Community, Calif., July 15.

“What historians do is they read those records,” Binkley said. “They put information that they get from those records and they tell stories. They tell stories about the past. Because we don’t have a time machine, we use records and photographs.”

Binkley explained the difference between a library, such as the Chamberlin Library when Fort Ord was an active Army post, and an archive, its current role.

“The big difference for you all to remember is that you can’t take anything out of an archive,” Binkley said. “You can check out books from a library, but you have to come to the archive and you have to sit here, and you have to use the records that we have right here, and we’re going to watch you very carefully because we don’t want it to disappear.”



Cameron Binkley, command historian, DLIFLC, shows a historic audio record to children and staff from the Porter Youth Center at the Brig. Gen. Harry Dwight Chamberlin Library, Ord Military Community, Calif., July 15.

Field trip (cont.)

It is necessary to preserve records so historians will have access to them, Binkley said.

“If you’re not careful about saving records, you won’t have any,” Binkley said. “They’ll disappear. Everything disappears in time. Buildings disappear, forts like the Presidio of Monterey disappear, and so do records, and so that’s why we have an archive here.”

In addition, so the children could gain a sense of continuity from the past, Binkley displayed panoramic photos of Soldiers lined up in large formations. One was from 1912, and another from five years ago.

“What commanders in the Army like to do is they like to get everybody together,” Binkley told the children. “You guys have probably had a class photo. The Army likes to have class photos too, but the Army has lots of people, so they need to get out on a big piece of terrain and they take a photograph, and they’ve been doing that as long as there have been cameras.”

Binkley also showed the children a record player and played a record from 1955 that officials from



Cameron Binkley, command historian, DLIFLC, introduces the history of pirates in Monterey with a photo from the movie "Pirates of the Caribbean" while speaking to children from the Porter Youth Center at the Brig. Gen. Harry Dwight Chamberlin Library, Ord Military Community, Calif., July 15.

the language school had made. Binkley explained that teachers had a recording studio so they could make records and provide students with recordings of the languages they were studying. The recording he played included audio from a groundbreaking ceremony and the language school’s choir singing in Russian.

Meanwhile, Joseph Ryan, deputy command historian of the DLIFLC, showed children a picture of a language school mascot that Tech. Sgt. Chris Ishii, who had previously worked for The Walt Disney Company, created in 1943. People simply called the

mascot “The Gopher.”

The visit was one of three in June and July from the Porter Youth Center, which is in close walking distance to the archive.

Tiffany Riley, a child and youth program assistant with the center, accompanied the children on the July 15 visit and said she and the children enjoyed learning about the past and how time advances.

“There were a lot of things I didn’t know about Fort Ord,” Riley said. “I’ve been living here my whole life, but there are things I don’t know.”



A child from the Porter Youth Center raises his hand as Cameron Binkley, command historian, DLIFLC, speaks to children at the Brig. Gen. Harry Dwight Chamberlin Library, Ord Military Community, Calif., July 15.

229th MI Bn. holds Cadre Appreciation Day BBQ

Story and photo by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – Members of the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion brought out their grills, disc golf equipment and more for a Cadre Appreciation Day here July 1 that included family members.

“I just want to look you in the eye and thank you for all the work that you’ve done over the past year,” said Lt. Col. Matthew Upperman, commander of the 229th MI Bn., as he opened the event. “This has been a very trying year for everybody.”

The occasion drew about 100 Soldiers, spouses and children and was the first of its kind for cadre members since the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, said Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Reynolds, a drill sergeant and event organizer.

“This is just a way to recalibrate and let everybody come together and realize at some point, even as a cadre member, you have to take care of yourself,” Reynolds said. “You have to think about your own state of mind to get yourself recovered, and then go back to the battle, go back to the fight.”

A 20-foot-long table filled with food kept attendees from going hungry, and a sound system with speakers for music gave the event a relaxed atmosphere. The event included a hail and farewell, and when that wasn’t going on, people mostly sat at the nearly 40 tables and talked.

For Command Sgt. Maj. Lourdes Barragan, command sergeant major, 229th MI Bn., that was all part of the plan.

“This is just our opportunity to say thank you to you and kind of let your hair down a little bit and just meet each other and mingle with everybody,” Barragan told the crowd. She also encouraged everyone to meet new people.

Story continued next page



Sgt. 1st Class Solomon Chan, right, assigned to the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, serves up cheeseburgers during the battalion’s Cadre Appreciation Day at Presidio of Monterey, Calif., July 1. Chaplain (Capt.) Jordan Dersch stands left.



Lt. Col. Matthew Upperman, commander of the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, speaks during the battalion’s Cadre Appreciation Day at Presidio of Monterey, Calif., July 1.



Members of the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion play disc golf during the battalion’s Cadre Appreciation Day at Presidio of Monterey, Calif., July 1.

Cadre day (cont.)

“If you haven’t met the folks here, I challenge you to meet at least three people that you don’t know,” Barragan said. “Or if you just don’t recognize them outside of uniform, say, ‘Hey, this is me. Who are you? Nice to meet you.’”

The event took place the day before a four-day holiday weekend in honor of the Fourth of July, and Chaplain (Capt.) Jordan Dersch of the 229th MI Bn. spoke about the holiday’s significance.

“It’s just a great privilege and opportunity that we have to live in a land where we can pursue life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness every single day.” — Capt. Jordan Dersch

“We’re able to be here and not only to be an American, but to defend something that’s very good,” Dersch said.



First Lt. Saman Kiani, right, says farewell to Staff Sgt. Willie Wyche during the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion’s Cadre Appreciation Day at Presidio of Monterey, Calif., July 1.



Dylan Farnsworth and his son Nolan, 6, play corn hole during the battalion’s Cadre Appreciation Day at Presidio of Monterey, Calif., July 1.

Those who attended said they enjoyed the event.

Staff Sgt. Ivah Henry, a drill sergeant who has been with the battalion for nearly a year, said she liked the fact that organizers barbecued for everyone.

Members of the cadre work hard, and it was good to get a break from the office, Henry said.

Meanwhile, Sgt. 1st Class Solomon Chan, a platoon sergeant who has been with the battalion for six years, called the event “fantastic” and said events like this one help build resiliency within the battalion.

“It’s a great opportunity to get together and share some fellowship, share some good food and good fun and get to know each other,” Chan said.

Reynolds said the battalion’s Cadre Appreciation Day isn’t an annual event, but he would like to see it become one.

Cadre members give “almost all of themselves, all of the time,” and they need time to slow down and recover, Reynolds said.

“We’re Soldiers, but we’re also humans, so you do need time to recover,” Reynolds said. “You need time to take care of yourself in order to take care of your Soldiers.”

Vaccine strike team brings the shot to you

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY – The California Medical Detachment has been actively deploying a mobile Covid-19 vaccine strike team around the Presidio this summer. The strike team gives individual units the ability to schedule vaccine shots specifically for their personnel.

Maj. Hanu Ravindranath, chief of ancillary services, CalMed, said commanders or NCOICs can contact him to set up a strike team for a unit.

"Once the unit leadership knows where they want to host the vaccine strike team, they can just send me an email 72 hours in advance and our team will be there to recon," Ravindranath said. "Once we have approved the site, we will let the unit know the strike team event will take place."

It's important to know that the sooner people get the shots, the better in terms of immunity, Ravindranath said. CalMed personnel are happy to talk to people about the science behind the shots and answer any questions.

Help us #ReturnToNormal by choosing to get vaccinated.



Pfc. Jon Paul Deluca prepares a Covid-19 vaccine outside of Chay Dining Facility during a Covid-19 "strike team" event.



Pfc. Jon Paul Deluca administers a Covid-19 vaccine outside of Chay Dining Facility during a Covid-19 "strike team" event.

Photos by Noah Rappahahn



**Practice makes
perfect**

DFAC hosts active-shooter drill

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY – U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey held an active-shooter drill at the Chay Dining Facility on July 8—the first since the facility opened in October 2020.

The exercise required police, fire, rescue, Marine Corps and dining facility personnel to work together and test their skills, said Janice Quenga, PoM antiterrorism officer and exercise organizer. About 30 emergency personnel participated, as well as 20 DFAC staff members.

Personnel practiced their standard operating procedures, communication frequencies and radios to determine how they can work better together and keep the community safe during an active-shooter event, Quenga said.

"One of the big things I've been pushing across the entire community is conducting force protection exercises to make sure we are ready for our hardest threats." — Col. Chhoeung

Col. Varman Chhoeung, commander of USAG PoM, said at a community update July 19 that community members can expect to see more exercises around post.

Community members will see PoM police officers, security guards and other garrison staff members conducting exercises such as building evacuations, active-shooter drills and exercises at the gates, Chhoeung said.

"We're going to bring this all together with one big exercise next year," Chhoeung said. "It is to ensure we are prepared for anything that comes up in our community and how we keep it safe."



A role player participates in an active-shooter drill at the Chay Dining Facility, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., July 8.



Lt. Samantha Sanders, PoM Police Department, participates in an active-shooter drill at the Chay Dining Facility on July 8.

PoM issues first new, improved Survivor Access Badge

Photos and story by Winifred Brown
Presidio of Monterey

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. - For Gwyn De Amaral, a Gold Star survivor who lost his father, having a Survivor Access Badge that allows him to visit the Presidio of Monterey without an escort is important because it means the door is always open.

"It's allowing me to stay connected to a part of my past and to so much of what made me who I am," said De Amaral, who visits often to see the memorial dedicated to his father and the graves of his great grandparents. His father, Maj. Charles F. De Amaral Jr., was a helicopter pilot who died in Vietnam in 1965. His great grandfather, 2nd Lt. William A. Davenport, was a cavalryman who served at PoM.

De Amaral is the first PoM survivor to receive a new-and-improved survivor badge that is good for three years and looks more like a Common Access Card



Officer Monica Garcia Gonzalez, left, a security guard at Presidio of Monterey, hands Gwyn De Amaral, a Gold Star survivor, his new Survivor Access Badge at the Visitors Center, PoM, Calif., June 29.

than previous versions of the badge. Although this is De Amaral's third, the new badge he picked up June 29 will make life easier for him because he will not have to renew it as often. It also helps keep him connected.

"It's about access to the post and not having a barrier and instead feeling like you're a part of it still," De Amaral said. "You're not cut off from it. You have access; it's in your pocket, and all I have to do is show it."

Nathaniel Pleasantbey, Survivor Outreach Services coordinator for POM, met De Amaral at the POM Visitors Center when he picked up his new badge,

and said he encourages other Gold Star survivors to apply.

"They just flash their ID card, it gets scanned, and they're on their way," Pleasantbey said.

Gold Star survivors are the parents, spouses, children and siblings of fallen active-duty service members, and while some survivors, such as spouses and children, might already have a dependent identification card, others, such as parents, siblings and older children such as De Amaral, often do not, Pleasantbey said.

Story continued next page



From left, Nathaniel Pleasantbey, Survivor Outreach Services program coordinator, De Amaral, and Lt. Neel Chandra, pose for a photo after De Amaral received his badge at the Visitors Center, PoM, Calif., June 29.



Second Lt. William A. Davenport (standing left), Gwyn De Amaral's great grandfather and a member of the cavalry, gives a shave and a haircut to a comrade.

Survivor (cont.)

Those who already have identification that allows them access are not eligible for the survivor badges, Pleasantbey said.

Since survivors often need to visit installations to use Army Community Service and SOS programs and attend functions, for example, having an access badge makes sense, Pleasantbey said.

The Army originally started issuing access badges for survivors in 2013, but the badges have changed considerably in appearance since, and the previous badges were only good for one year.

To apply for a badge, survivors should contact Pleasantbey at nathaniel.e.pleasantbey.civ@mail.mil.

The process includes filling out an application and having a picture taken. Security officials review the backgrounds of all applicants.

It is also important to note that badge holders cannot access any other privileges, such as commissary, exchange or military space-available air travel, and they cannot sign others on post, Pleasantbey said.

The badges, however, are good at all other Army installations, as well as the Department of Defense sister services.

"It gets you on to the installation, presumably so you can come to military functions," Pleasantbey said. "If we have a Memorial Day function, Fourth of July function, something to honor the fallen, you can come on post to help celebrate ... or if you have a function where a particular hero is being celebrated."

The fact that PoM can issue the badges is significant because only active-duty Army installations can issue them. In California, that leaves only PoM and Fort Irwin, nearly 400 miles south of PoM.

PoM's SOS office covers the California counties of Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara. But if a survivor outside of that area needs an access badge, Pleasantbey can coordinate with National Guard SOS officials, for example, to help secure one.

De Amaral, who lives near PoM in the Carmel Highlands, said he is grateful for the new badge and Pleasantbey's help with access to the post.

Visiting the post has given him the opportunity to stay connected with a vital group of people who were a part of his loved ones' lives, De Amaral said.

"It can help you," De Amaral said of survivors maintaining access to military installations. "It's helped me through my grieving, even now in my life ... I think it's a really wonderful resource for people."



The De Amaral family attends the dedication of the fountain dedicated to Maj. Frank De Amaral, Jr., a helicopter pilot who died in Vietnam in 1965, at Presidio of Monterey, Calif. in 1966.

Courtesy photos

Hollywood and the Presidio



Courtesy photo

Caption: Photo courtesy of the Military History Institute. From left, B. Reaves "Breezy" Eason, director, Col. Troup Miller, commander of the 11th Cavalry Regiment, actor Ronald Reagan, and 1st Lt. Robert G. Fergusson meet at the Presidio of Monterey during the filming of "Sergeant Murphy" in 1937.

By Cameron Binkley

DLIFLC Command Historian

Pandemic lock downs or no, Americans have long turned to Hollywood to boost flagging morale. For just as long, the Army has lent support to filmmakers whose movies could bolster public appreciation of the Army and its mission.

Hollywood took an early interest in the Presidio of Monterey, which was nearby and picturesque. Units such as the Presidio's 11th Cavalry Regiment or 76th Field Artillery Regiment could also help directors capture romanticized or technically demanding scenes. For example, in 1923, Cecil B. Demille began filming his silent epic "The Ten

Commandants" on the sand dunes near Santa Barbara, Calif., a location he found similar to the Egyptian desert. For three weeks, the Presidio's 2nd Battalion, 76th FA Regt., deployed to assist. The mounted unit's expert equestrians needed no training to drive Demille's chariots in pursuit of Moses and the Israelites. All the charioteers seen in the film are Soldiers. The 76th FA Regt.'s horses were also useful being accustomed to pulling heavy equipment such as limbers and guns, by then rare work for civilian equines.

In 1937, Hollywood came to the Presidio to make a film about "Sergeant Murphy," a horse of the 11th Cav. Regt. for whom the eponymous movie was named. The costar was a young actor named Ronald Reagan! The Army assigned a young cavalry officer named Robert G. Fergusson to assist the director and his film crew. Reagan and Fergusson were about the same age and Reagan had a Reserve commission in the cavalry. The two men became lifelong friends. Later, while Reagan was governor of California, Maj. Gen. Fergusson commanded Fort Ord.

The Presidio's Fergusson Hall is named after Fergusson, who supported the educational technology needs of the Presidio as a sub installation of Fort Ord. Fergusson Hall also honors Fergusson's son, 1st Lt. Robert L. Fergusson, who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1967. The former officers' club at Fort Ord (today's Chartwell School) was once named after the younger Fergusson.

View the clip of Reagan in "Sergeant Murphy," at <https://www.tcm.com/video/99735/sergeant-murphy-original-trailer>

MONTEREY PENINSULA HERALD, MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA, MONDAY, JULY 26, 1937.

Filming Of Local Movie Scenes Ends

Warner Bros. Company Leaves Nearly \$25,000 With Local Merchants

Between \$20,000 and \$25,000 in hard cash was distributed among more than one hundred Monterey Peninsula business firms by Warner Brothers during filming of local scenes of their forthcoming production, "Sergeant Murphy," it was revealed today by G. S. Curtis, local contact man for the Hollywood film industry.

The company, which has been on location for the past 14 days, averaging about 70 from Hollywood and employing local "extras" numbering from eight to 35 and averaging about ten daily, left Saturday. All local shots were made at the Presidio, as the picture concerns an army horse.

WHAT THEY BOUGHT
Curtis said orders placed with local concerns ranged in amount from as little as 10 cents to as much as \$800. Two or three local trucks were in use daily; electricians, sign painters and other artisans, as well as common laborers, were employed, and requisitions were issued for a vast assortment of supplies, including such varied items as fish poles, pencils, animal feed, carrots and peaches, shirts, underwear, bed sheets, rope and string of various weights, nails, staves, lumber, about 90 box lunches a day, cigarettes, beverages, repairs and fuel for cars and trucks, services of doctors, both medical and veterinary, and many others.

ENJOYED STAY HERE
Splendid cooperation was received from Col. Troup Miller, Presidio commandant, and his garrison; from City Managers B. J. Pardee and Erwin Dames of Monterey and Pacific Grove, and

from the county supervisors, Curtis said.

"Sergeant Murphy" is the name of a horse raised from a colt by the leading man, who joins the army to be near his pet when his father sells the animal to the government—and from then on it's fast stepping to carry out a plot of the youth's to get his horse and himself out of the service together. There's a smashing climax, of course.

In one sequence the horse is supposed to stumble and fall upon a sharp pointed staff—and Curtis explained today how cleverly the mishap is faked, combining accelerated camera speed, make-up artistry and other motion picture devices. He gave his personal assurance, for the sake of the squeamish, that the horse neither fell upon the spear, nor suffered the slightest scratch in making the picture.

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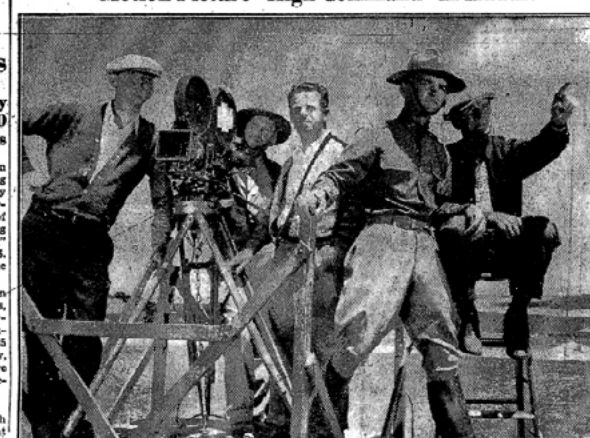
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Motion Picture "High Command" in Huddle



Behind the cameras filming sequences for "Sergeant Murphy" at the Presidio of Monterey are assembled various types of highly trained skill and intelligence. For instance, in this picture are, left to right: Charles Crane, cameraman; Ted D. McCord, chief cinematographer; Rex Storey, cameraman; Lieut. Robert Ferguson and Director B. Reaves "Breezy" Eason. Lieutenant Ferguson is aide to Capt. M. Stockton, technical adviser to the unit. Location work on the picture, a Warner Brothers production, was completed today.

F. G. BOYS INJURED
IN FALL FROM CYCLE

Two Pacific Grove boys, Lyle Simpson of 742 Eastley, and Wayne Johns of 622 15th, were slightly injured when they fell off a bicycle at Pine ave. and 13th at 9:30 p. m. last night.

They were given emergency treatment at the Bayview hospital and then returned to their homes.

from the county supervisors, Curtis said.

"Sergeant Murphy" is the name of a horse raised from a colt by the leading man, who joins the army to be near his pet when his father sells the animal to the government—and from then on it's fast stepping to carry out a plot of the youth's to get his horse and himself out of the service together. There's a smashing climax, of course.

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Shaw, 81 Today, Good As Ever

MALVERN, Eng., July 26 (AP)—George Bernard Shaw celebrated his 81st birthday today, his undimmed vitality giving the lie to his own hint of a year ago that it was about time he started his own obituary.

Shaw declined to discuss his health beyond a grudging concession that he is "all right . . . for my age."

Characteristically, the celebration did not mean that Shaw made any particular fuss over the passage of another year. But he did not need to. The organizers of the ninth annual Malvern Open air drama festival took care of that.

They opened their season on his birthday with one of his own plays, "The Millionaires," in his honor.

For some years it has been Shaw's custom to spend his birthday at the Malvern festival. One new play has come from the Shawian pen the past year—"How He Lied to Her Husband." Shaw appeared before a television instrument for the first time when the play was produced at Alexandria palace.

"I know you were delighted with my play," he said, "or you would not be looking at me now, for, unlike the people who go to the theatre, you could have switched off."

Army Orders

WASHINGTON, July 26 (AP).—Army orders today included: Richard T. Guthrie, F. A. Chiles, to Fort Leavenworth, Kas. Talley D. Joiner, Inf. Philippine Dept., to Spartanburg, S. C. COLONEL

Jarvis J. Hain, Lt., Fort Logan, Colo., to Charleston, S. C.

LIEUTENANT

Harry W. Halterman, INF., Fort William, Me., to Fort Leavenworth, Kas.

INJURIES FATAL

SAN FRANCISCO, July 26 (AP).—Funeral services were arranged today for William D'Elbert, 62, the Redwood Empire's commissioner general for the 1939 world's

Montague Gets Support From Wealthy Pals

SACRAMENTO, July 26 (UP).—Friends of John Montague, famed "miracle golfer," rallied to his support today.

A long list of persons famous on screen and business circles flooded Gov. Frank P. Merriam's office with telegrams in behalf of the strapping athlete who tomorrow is scheduled to appear before the governor to fight extradition to New York state on a robbery charge.

All expressed implicit confidence in Montague. The messages ranged from requests that the governor "do something in this boy's behalf" to outright assertions that extradition proceedings represented an attempt to make Montague a political football in the Essex county, N. Y., elections.

Montague, whose Bunyanish exploits on the golf links reputedly included the defeat of Bing Crosby with garden tools, charged the Essex county district attorney is using him in seeking reelection.

Haight Again To Seek State Post

OAKLAND, July 26 (AP).—Raymond L. Haight, Los Angeles lawyer, today was marked as the candidate of the Progressive party and the Commonwealth Federation in the 1938 governorship election.

The fusionists' executive committee, in a meeting here yesterday, selected Assemblyman Ellis Patterson, King City, as their candidate for lieutenant governor. Sheridan Downey, Sacramento lawyer, was selected as the committee's candidate to oppose United States Senator William Gibbs McAdoo (Dem.).

Haight is a former state corporation commissioner.

"Both major party machines have shown utter inability to cope with the changing situation," Haight told the committee yesterday.

He said Governor Merriam was "spending \$300,000,000 more than the Rolph regime," and added the "democratic leadership in the recent legislative session was an open dis-

Courtesy image

Remembering the Memorialized: Combs

Memorialization #10

Sfc. Alfred H. Combs 1931-1965

Sfc. Alfred H. Combs, 1931-1965, was from Seaside, CA and graduated from DLIWC Vietnamese course in 1964. He was killed in action by a ground explosion in Vietnam. He was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

On June 30, 1970 the Defense Language Institute West Coast officially named Company A barracks, building 627, "Combs Hall" to honor SFC Alfred H. Combs Jr. The plaque on the building was unveiled by Mrs. Joan Combs, widow of Sfc. Combs.

During the ceremony, Col. Kibbey M. Horne, Commandant of DLIWC stated "the Army is more than numbers, it is people. It is therefore appropriate that our buildings should be named for our distinguished graduates who died while serving our country valiantly."

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>



Courtesy photos

News Briefs: Navy

Surface Force commander discusses State of the Force



WASHINGTON - Vice Adm. Roy Kitchener, Commander, Naval Surface Forces, discussed the state of the surface force and his four priorities for the next year during a media roundtable at the Pentagon, July 22.

Moving forward, Kitchener's four goals are to improve readiness of surface force ships, continue improving professional development, ensure warfighting capability and lethality, and develop and maintain the toughness of surface warriors.

To address this readiness challenge, Kitchener said his goal is to make more ships ready for tasking by finishing maintenance availabilities on time and focusing on Sailor self-sufficiency to increase a ship's ability to finish planned and unplanned repairs.

[Click here to read more](#)

A Toast to Integrity: Ford celebrates 4th anniversary of commissioning



NORFOLK, Va. - On the fourth anniversary of her commissioning, USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) has passed the mid-point of her Full Ship Shock Trials (FSST) evolution—another significant milestone during a year of significant accomplishments on the road to operational employment.

Since former President Donald Trump formally commissioned the ship on July 22, 2017, Ford's crew has steadfastly worked toward harnessing the ship's significant technological advancements to solidify her place as a proven warfighting platform.

Ship's Force has increased proficiency in aircraft launch and recovery, improved performance in combat systems interoperability, and most recently—with the second explosive event of FSST on July 16.

[Click here to read more](#)

NPS launches Center on Combating Hybrid Threats to address hybrid warfare



MONTEREY, Calif. - On November 25, 2018, a Russian commercial cargo ship suddenly parked itself across the narrow Kerch Strait on the Crimea, blocking three Ukrainian Navy vessels sailing in international waters from reaching the port of Mariupol on the Sea of Azov.

When they tried to turn back, the ships were rammed and fired on by Russian military forces, then boarded and seized. The event sparked international outrage at the time, but the deed was done: through obfuscation and brute force, Russia had asserted de facto dominance over the strategic passage into the Black Sea and beyond.

The incident has since been seen as a textbook example of a new generation of hybrid warfare, blurring the lines between military and unconventional conflict.

[Click here to read more](#)

News Briefs: **Army**

Austin says Alaska is strategic hotspot for Indo-Pacific, Arctic operations



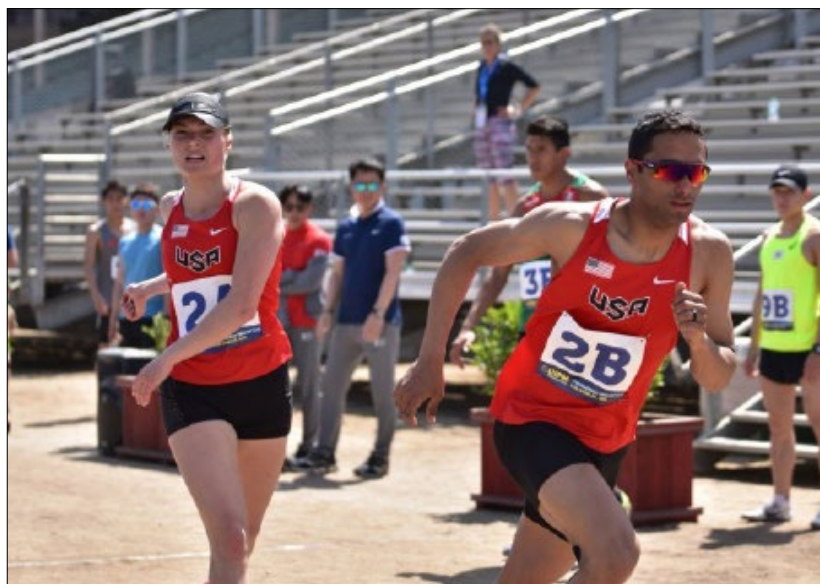
WASHINGTON — Alaska is a strategic hotspot for defending the United States, the Indo-Pacific region and the Arctic, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III said during a visit to Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, yesterday.

The secretary met with troops and leaders at Eielson and Fort Wainwright, Alaska. He spoke about his visit during a press conference in an Eielson hangar.

“We are an Indo-Pacific nation, and we are an Arctic nation,” the secretary said. “And here in Alaska, those two critical regions intersect. This is where we can project power into both regions and where we must be able to defend ourselves from threats coming from both places. It’s also where we can better posture ourselves and prepare for climate changes that will impact our future.”

[Click here to read more](#)

Soldier-Olympians share training experiences as Tokyo awaits



WASHINGTON — Sgt. Amro Elgeziry knows the rush that comes with competing at the Olympic Games. At 34, he will make his fourth Olympic appearance in the modern pentathlon after previously representing his native country Egypt three times.

But this time will be notably different. Competing for the first time as an American, Elgeziry hopes to become the first U.S. competitor in the sport to win Olympic gold in more than 100 years.

“This is a special Olympics for me, because I to get to represent the United States,” Elgeziry said during a live panel discussion Wednesday. “I have a big chip on my shoulder. I really want to represent Team USA and the U.S. Army well.”

[Click here to read more](#)

How COVID-19 fast-tracked innovation in the Military Health System



WASHINGTON — In early 2020, as the Sars-CoV-2 virus was just beginning to spread across the United States, the Defense Health Agency was already working to coordinate epidemiological data on the emerging threat.

By March of 2020, as the virus was reaching nearly every state in America, the Military Health System was using new, molecular-based COVID-19 tests that enabled sample analysis and delivered results in just four to six hours.

Since then, it’s been off to the races for the DHA and the MHS in general with regard to health care innovations in the face of the virus.

[Click here to read more](#)

News Briefs **Air Force**

Senate confirms Kendall to be Air Force Secretary



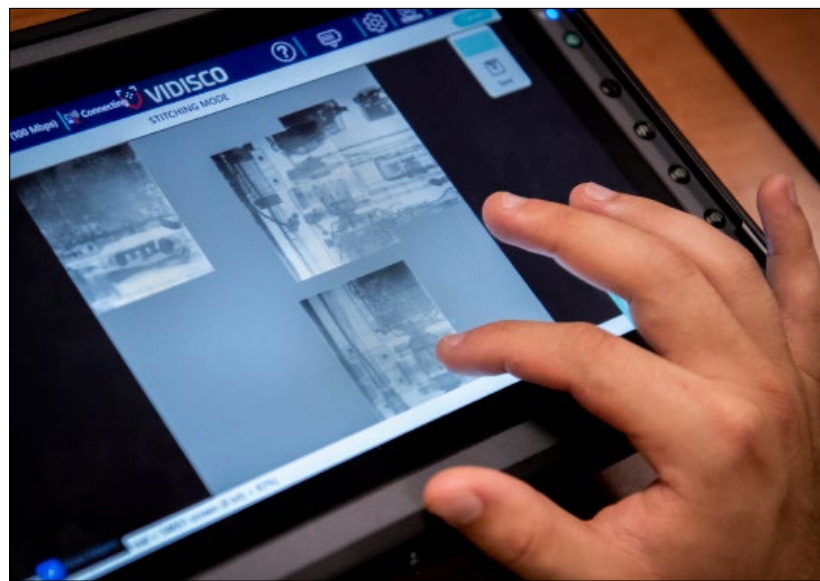
WASHINGTON — Frank Kendall won confirmation from the Senate July 26 to be the 26th Secretary of the Air Force, placing an official with decades-long service in defense issues in the top civilian job at a time when the department is navigating new global challenges and wide-reaching modernization efforts.

The vote reflected both Kendall's well-known record in previous active duty and policy jobs and his philosophy for leading the Department of the Air Force.

With his confirmation, Kendall will be able to more fully articulate his priorities and policy preferences for how best to position the Air and Space Forces to contend with China, Russia and other strategic competitors, as well as continue to modernize the force and adapt to budget pressures.

[Click here to read more](#)

EOD units test new imaging technology



EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Local explosive ordnance disposal units received and were trained on a new and upgraded portable imaging X-ray system at Eglin Air Force Base July 22.

The Vidisco Guardian 12 Digital Radiographic X-ray system enhances EOD's capabilities by making it easier to view the internal contents of suspicious, improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance.

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center recently delivered the first systems to Hill AFB, Utah and will distribute the remaining systems in conjunction with training events over the next five years. EOD flights from Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field and Tyndall AFB received the new systems and attended the training.

[Click here to read more](#)

Brown emphasizes imperative to modernize with allies in first Europe trip as CSAF



ARLINGTON, Va. — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown, Jr. visited with European counterparts in France and virtually at the annual Global Air Chiefs' Conference to emphasize the U.S. Air Force as a committed partner toward collective defense and to introduce allies to his strategic vision of Accelerate Change or Lose.

The multi-day trip began in France where he met with his French air and space force counterpart, Gen. Philippe Lavigne.

Brown took the opportunity to discuss the value of airpower not just for U.S. national security interests, but as a strategic and critical partner in the European theater.

[Click here to read more](#)

News Briefs: **Marines**

HMLA-169 goes the distance



OKINAWA, Japan — Marines with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 executed one of the longest maritime HMLA self-deployment flights in 1st Marine Aircraft Wing history during exercise Tiltrotor/Rotary Wing 2107.

TR/RW 2107 is a unilateral exercise at Misawa Air Base, Japan that demonstrates 1st MAW's capabilities to maintain combat-readiness in a maritime environment.

"The significance of self-deploying HMLA-169 over 1,200 miles demonstrates our ability to execute Distributed Maritime Operations under the Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations construct," said Lt. Col. Eric Fleming, Commanding Officer of HMLA-169.

[Click here to read more](#)

Understanding the embedded preventive behavioral health capability



CAMP PENDLETON, CA — The Marine Corps continually works to improve and address the complexities of behavioral health within its ranks as well as the resources available to Marines.

One such way is through the implementation of the Embedded Preventive Behavioral Health Capability or EPBHC.

EPBHC's serve as the subject matter expert to the commander on unit wide coordination for early prevention through feedback on behavioral health programs, integrating behavioral health system stakeholders; helping develop, implement and monitor policies, programs, and strategic communications; and identifying unit-wide behavioral health patterns.

[Click here to read more](#)

HIMARS: Making III MEF ready to fight now



OKINAWA, Japan — Throughout history, the Marine Corps has used the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System in order to gain an advantage against its adversaries. With the Commandant's Planning Guidance and Force Design, it is vital that III Marine Expeditionary Force utilize HIMARS to maintain force readiness throughout the Indo-Pacific and be ready to fight at a moment's notice.

In 1996, Lockheed Martin developed the first HIMARS. After years of testing and development, in 2005 the Marine Corps began integrating them into units for training exercises.

Two years later, in 2007, Fox Battery, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, became the first unit to use HIMARS in combat.

[Click here to read more](#)

INBRIEF

Don't miss the next issue...

CUB SCOUTS LEARN FIRE SAFETY FROM POM FIREFIGHTERS



August is antiterrorism awareness month



**New DPW greywater system to save POM
2,000 gallons per day**



229th to hold land nav training in Fort Ord

