

# INBRIEF

## PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY



### November/December edition (click headlines):



#### [229th MI Bn. 'Warrior Nerds' compete for guidon streamer, stay sharp](#)

Soldiers assigned to the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion enthusiastically focused on readiness during the battalion's First Quarter Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills Competition here Dec. 4. In teams of six divided by company, 36 Soldiers made their way through stations that tested their abilities to react to contact, react to indirect fire, provide tactical medical care and call in a 9-line medical evacuation. The final station included a written test. Most of the battalion's Soldiers are students at the DLIFLC, and quarterly tactical training helps keep them sharp as Soldiers.



#### [Like a family: PoM BOSS hosts Thanksgiving dinner](#)

The Presidio of Monterey Better Opportunities for Single Service members program hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for 445 service members at the Staff Sgt. Kenneth R. Hobson Recreation Center here Nov. 25.

"It's a great opportunity to have a Thanksgiving dinner so they can still feel like they're with some family—the military," said Marine Corps Pfc. Thomas Mash, BOSS secretary. Most of the service members at PoM are students at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, and Mash said the event was important for morale.



#### [Entry-level to director: PoM child care directors detail career paths](#)

The directors of the Presidio of Monterey's two child care facilities are prime examples of the career mobility available in the Army Child and Youth Services child care profession. Traci Gibson, director of the Monterey Road Child Development Center, and Dorrie Coman, director of the Porter Youth Center, both started as entry-level Child and Youth Program Assistants and worked their way up to facility director positions. As PoM seeks to hire more child care providers, it is important applicants know there are opportunities available for those looking to move up in a long-term career.



## **PoM calls for Family Child Care candidates**

U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey officials hope to rebuild the installation's Family Child Care program after issues related to COVID-19 caused all the program's homes to close.

LaToya Maben, outreach director and Family Child Care director for Child and Youth Services, USAG PoM, said the FCC program allows child care providers to operate independently owned businesses from their homes, and it is a great way for military spouses to have a business that moves with them.



## **Linguists assist in life-changing mission for Operation Allies Welcome**

Staff and faculty at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center at PoM received the call in late August—the Air Force and the Army were looking for volunteer Pashto and Dari linguists to help with Operation Allies Refuge, subsequently renamed Operation Allies Welcome. This was the federal government's effort to support vulnerable Afghan refugees and assist in their resettlement, and DLIFLC responded with help. "I was excited for the opportunity," said Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Keeth, chief military language instructor for the Persian Farsi schoolhouse, who volunteered to assist.



## **PoM BOSS serves community at Veterans Day parade**

The 25 members of the Presidio of Monterey Better Opportunities for Single Service members who spent their Veterans Day volunteering at the 11th Annual Veterans Day Parade in Salinas could have done just about anything with their day off. Instead of relaxing, however, they considered it a day of service. "We are honoring those who served us, the people who came before and shaped the military as it is today," said Navy Seaman Joel Anderson, president of the PoM BOSS program. "They're the ones who served for us, so it's our turn to serve for them."



## **CalMed Physical Therapy Clinic increases floor space, capabilities**

The California Medical Detachment Physical Therapy Clinic celebrated a 329% increase in floor space during a ribbon cutting ceremony at their new facility here Nov. 9. "It's just a much larger space that allows us to cater to more patients at one time and really increase tenfold what we do for [the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center and Naval Postgraduate School]," said Lt. Col. Kenneth Reed, CalMed commander. Reed and several members of the clinic's staff cut the ribbon together, and in his remarks, Reed said the team is committed to ensuring readiness.



## **PoM housing proactively prevents off-post housing scams**

The Presidio of Monterey Housing Office proactively helps military personnel recognize and avoid the millions of fake off-post rental listings on websites worldwide. Not only do housing officials warn incoming and outgoing personnel about the listings, they regularly update a searchable Department of Defense webpage that includes inspected properties, and make in-person visits to help ensure listings on other sites are legitimate. The office's approach is in keeping with a U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division, or CID, warnings on the subject.





## **Calling for the caring: PoM hiring child care providers**

The U.S. Army Garrison PoM is hiring child care providers and encourages those who enjoy working with children to apply. The job pays between \$16.50 and \$23.95 an hour, provides paid training, and nearly assures future employment at Army installations throughout the world. It also presents an opportunity to positively impact the lives of children and support the military community. Elaine Vrolyks, USAG PoM school liaison officer and acting CYS chief, said the job is open to members of the public, and the Army encourages all applicants, but it can be a particularly rewarding job for military spouses.



## **PoM Museum reopens after 595-day closure**

After a 595-day closure due to Covid, the PoM Museum reopened on weekends starting Oct. 30. Located in the Lower Presidio Historic Park, the museum is adjacent to the PoM military installation, but since it is off post, visitors do not need military identification to visit. The City of Monterey runs the museum, an illustration of the close relationship between the city and PoM. Jordan Leininger, artifacts specialist with the city, said the free museum shows visitors the military history of Monterey from the indigenous peoples of the area to the modern-day PoM and DLIFLC.



## **PoM briefing makes PCS moves easier, safer**

For Charles Lyons, the “Help Me Plan a Smooth PCS Move” briefing he and other U.S. Army Garrison PoM officials deliver twice a month to service members is not just helpful—it’s critical. “Resiliency, resiliency, resiliency. That’s the most important thing,” said Lyons, a service specialist with the PoM ACS. “Knowing this information improves their quality of life. It cuts down on a lot of the stress.” Less stress means increased readiness, and the mandatory, 75-minute briefing includes tips and personalized moving checklists through the DoD’s Military OneSource “Plan My Move” webpage.



## **Class shows PoM service members how to ‘Pick a Partner’**

The “Pick a Partner” class at the Presidio of Monterey aims to provide active-duty service members with the skills they need for happy, successful relationships. “We’re learning to marry the head and the heart together as we look toward building a long-term relationship with someone,” said Jillian Santillanez, class instructor and victim advocate for the PoM ACS Family Advocacy Program. Most recently, Santillanez taught the class in two 90-minute sessions Oct. 12 and 19 at the Weckerling Center at PoM. Santillanez started offering the class earlier this year.



## **Gold Star Family visits Presidio memorial site on 56-year anniversary**

Oct. 4 marked 56 years since U.S. Army Maj. Charles F. De Amaral Jr. was killed in action during the Vietnam War while flying a reconnaissance mission over enemy territory. For Gold Star Widow, Mrs. Frank De Amaral Jr., it has been 55 years since she visited the Patio Ibero-Americano, a fountain on the Presidio. Maj. De Amaral, Jr., a native of Carmel, California, served as an Army helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War. Following his death on Oct. 4, 1965, the Patio Ibero-Americano Memorial Fountain was established in 1966 on PoM.



## [Presidio of Monterey playgroup builds community for children, parents](#)

All it took was a pair of rocking horses for Rosie Hardin, 2, to make a friend during the weekly playgroup at Army Community Service here Sept. 28. When Rosie started playing with one of the horses, Harlee, 3, soon joined her on the other one, and the two of them began galloping across the floor in a close race. Rosie's mother, Lyndsey Hardin, said her daughter's enthusiasm for making friends during the playgroup is one of several reasons why she brings her. "She loves it," Hardin said. "We come here, and she makes friends. She's learned so much since we've come here."

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