

The
POM
**I
n
b
r
i
e
f**



311th MTL Aiming High



Commander Col. Lawrence Brown
 Command Sgt. Major Command Sgt. Maj. Roberto Marshall
 Deputy Commander Hugh Hardin

Public Affairs Officer James Laughlin
 Deputy Public Affairs Officer Brian Lepley
 Photographer & Webmaster Steven L. Shepard
 Public Affairs Specialist Alvin Macks
 Public Affairs Assistant Angel Mendoza

Contributors Patrick Bray, *DLIFLC Public Affairs*
 Amber Whittington, *DLIFLC Public Affairs*

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 all 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 - articles, photos and calendar items should be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to the intended month of publication.

USAG PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY
 Public Affairs Office
 1759 Lewis Rd.
 Monterey, CA 93944
www.monterey.army.mil
 Phone: (831) 242-5555
 Email: usarmy.pom.usag.mbx.pao@mail.mil

In this edition:

Warrior ladies who lunch	3
Tech upgrades earns firefighter a PoM First	5
From Ramstein with Russian–DLI MTT travels	7
Navy teen tops among PoM Youth	8
Boxing champ channels ring history into leadership	9
TAPping out \$900M in savings	11
PoM transition site helps Soldiers, USAF	11
Army end strength rising 28K	12
“Blackhawk Down” memory for chaplain: unity, teamwork	12
How about some Pi?	13
229th MI supports Carmel High’s Career Day	15
WCAP paralympic swimmer humbled by Hall induction	16
Employees now eligible for SHARP resources, services	17
Airmen meet, eat, battle at 311th’s Dining-In	18
New congressman meets Monterey military at POM	20
President, FAOs briefed on Israel on same day	22
R U paying a10shun? Distracted driving kills	23

On the cover: Tech Sgt. Eric Heath (center) engages in warfare at complete odds with Air Force doctrine (using water, on the ground, man to man) during the 311th Training Squadron’s Combat Dining-In March 11 at the Hilltop Track. See page 18 for the story. Presidio of Monterey PAO photo by Brian Lepley.

Warrior ladies who lunch



MARINA, California – SPC. Erika Grosskopf, left, tells her military story at the American Legion Post 694's Women Veterans, Widows and Widower's luncheon Feb. 18. At right is U.S. Navy CT12 Kirra Williams, Information Warfare Training Command Monterey.

Legion hosts generations of past, present female veterans

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BRIAN LEPLEY,
PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY PAO

MARINA, California – An American Legion luncheon honoring women who wore the uniform years ago was celebrated by women still in uniform.

From a private to lieutenant colonel, 17 women service members from the Presidio of Monterey told their military story to the attendees of the American Legion Post 694's event recognizing women veteran, widow and widower members on Feb. 18.

"The message I wanted to share is that today's women warriors are a diverse and powerful group," said Lt. Col. Toni Sabo, commander of 229th Military Intelligence Battalion at the Presidio. "So instead of standing alone, I brought a talented group of women who I am proud to call my sisters-in-arms. Today's military women are serving at an exciting time when opportunities to achieve success in every aspect of military service exist."

Rain and wind storms for the two days prior left the Marina Post without power. Members used a generator to cook and serve the meal in a building without lights or heat.

"We were delighted to have so many active duty military women attend and it was wonderful to see so many branches



MARINA, California – Opening the American Legion Post 694's Women Veterans, Widows and Widower's luncheon are Susan Baker (left), luncheon organizer, and Lt. Col. Toni Sabo, commander of the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, Feb. 18 at the Post.

of the armed services represented," said Sue Baker, organizer of the luncheon. "Since our post is in Marina, we are somewhat isolated, so this was also a great opportunity for our members to interact with active duty military in a casual setting."

The setting may have been casual but it was an emotional experience for Capt. Katherine Yeager, Associate Dean of the Middle East School I at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center.

"What I didn't anticipate was the emotion of the event, meeting many ladies that

Continued on next page

MARINA, California – Pvt. Korryn Miller (left) of the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment, Presidio of Monterey, speaks to Cheryl Panek, a Navy veteran, at the American Legion Post 694's Women Veterans, Widows and Widower's luncheon Feb. 18.



Legion

served, or were spouses of those that did," she said. "The passion behind their service to our country still lingered well after they, or their spouses, have retired. We got to tell our stories, but hear theirs as well. And they had such amazing stories to tell!"

Yeager attended because she believes it's important to encourage the Presidio's service members to integrate into the Monterey Bay area communities.

"The military compose a large part of the local community and any way that we as service members can contribute, volunteer, or share our stories, is positive," she said. "Educating those around us, and those around us educating our service members develops a tight-knit community."

For Pfc. Jillian Fiorentino, a Persian Farsi student from Company D, 229th MI Bn., attending the luncheon was a break from school and duty.

"I just wanted to meet these women and show them that we are serving, honoring them, and thanking them for what they have done for us," she said. "When I was told this was for women veterans and widows of veterans, I was instantly interested in going to honor these women. I joined in order to honor veterans and fight for my country, so this event was right up my alley."

Fiorentino enjoyed the gratitude the legion members showed the service members.

"It is stressful at DLI and it is a nice reminder for us that people are supporting us," she said. "It is important for us, as service members, to feel appreciated and remember why we serve."



MARINA, California – Air Force Capt. Katherine Yeager (center), 517th Training Squadron, tells her military story at the American Legion Post 694's Women Veterans, Widows and Widower's luncheon Feb. 18. She is flanked by 2nd Lt. Lisette Noisette (left), Company F, 229th MI Bn., and U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Quinci Martin, U.S. Marine Corps Detachment, Presidio of Monterey.

Tech upgrades earn firefighter a PoM first

BY BRIAN LEPLEY, PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY PAO

From lifeguard to car stereo manager to Presidio of Monterey Employee of the Month it's been a journey for Brad Hess.

The PoM firefighter is the initial award winner for January, a recognition program started by Col. Lawrence Brown, commander of the Presidio.

"His initiative and work ethic have made the fire department a safer place to work," said Tom Joyce, PoM fire chief. "His efforts have improved safety for firefighters and reduced response time for us to arrive at the scene of emergencies."

A firefighter since September 2014, Hess was nominated for his efforts to update technology on the fire engines. Solar panels now keep the batteries charged full time, LED highlights provide improved visibility, and window tinting cuts glare.

"Because I am a car guy I know about new technologies and bring that knowledge here," Hess said. "I love that this department lets you do that. There's a lot of departments in cities where you can't. We're really lucky here."

The car guy was manager of car stereo installation at the Best Buy in Marina when the PoM fire truck was brought in to install satellite radio in 2008. After the job, Hess



Brad Hess, Presidio of Monterey firefighter and January Employee of the Month, alongside the LED high beam lamps he installed on Engine 6131.

was invited to tour the fire station.

"I did that and I was hooked. They get to drive cool vehicles. They get to fight fires, everybody admires them," he said. "I loved doing car audio but it wasn't a career, it's a job. I was looking to make a career change."

In May 2009 Hess completed an Emergency Medical Technician course and graduated from Monterey Peninsula College's Firefighter Academy in 2010.

He ran into a hiring wall for PoM Fire. Applying as a U.S. citizen without any

Continued on next page



Demonstration of the illumination difference of the engine's standard headlights (above) compared to the extra light provided by the after-market LED bar (below).

Submitted photos



Tech

hiring preferences, openings would be filled by current Department of Defense firefighters or new hires would have military experience.

"In 2012 the guys here said, 'Why don't you join the Reserves? You'll get to go to the DoD Fire Academy.' So I joined the Air Force Reserve and was honor graduate at the academy."

After another failed application based on a false interpretation of his military service, Hess was hired at the Presidio department more than three years ago.

"He routinely provides outstanding emergency care while treating patients with compassion and kindness," Joyce said. "He's been observed holding the hand of a patient, showing compassion while consoling their family members. He is a true leader, mentor and coach for his fellow firefighters on every emergency."



Over 100 Employers

Thursday May 17
9am-Noon

General Stilwell Community Center
4260 Gigling Rd. Seaside

From Ramstein with Russian – DLI MTT travels

STORY AND PHOTO BY LT. COL. JEFFERSON WOLFE,
7TH MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND PAO

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – Russian language fundamentals were absorbed by seven comrades from the 7th Mission Support Command, an Army Reserve unit here.

The Defense Language Institute Mobile Training Team from Ramstein Air Force Base brought instructor Irina Mikhailova to do a week-long foundation class for the Soldiers from the 361st Civil Affairs Brigade in Kaiserslautern and the 457th Civil Affairs Battalion in Grafenwoehr.

The goal of the March 14-17 class was for students to get comfortable reading words in Russian, which is rated as one of the more difficult languages for English speakers to learn, Mikhailova said.

DLI ranks Russian as a Class III language. The hardest languages are Class IV.

Students learned to read the characters in the Russian language, which consists of 33 letters from the Cyrillic script.

At the end of the week, the students should know the Russian alphabet, some basic greetings, politeness phrases, words for family and food as well as some military phrases, Mikhailova said.

There will be a final practical exercise as well, she said.

"We'll be going to a Russian café, and they



KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – Sgt. Maj. Bobby White (left) and Sgt. Randall Green, 361st Civil Affairs Brigade, learn the Russian language with Defense Language Institute instructor Irina Mikhailova (right) March 15 on Daenner Kaserne here.

will interview the owners," she added.

Remembering the different letters has been a challenge because some of the letters look the same as in English but represent different sounds in Russian, said Sgt. Justine Westbrook, 361st CA Bde.

"The English N sounds like H in Russian," she said.

The day before the class started, Westbrook returned from a personal trip to Hungary.

"It was difficult, because I wanted to reply in Hungarian," she said.

Sgt. Maj. Bobby White also speaks Italian, learned from living in Italy for 16 years.

"Russian is harder to learn than Italian," he said.

He did have some experience with Russian before the class, however, as he worked with colleagues at United States European Command who spoke it.

Staff Sgt. Jared McCauley also speaks German and French.

"Every language is hard to learn," he said. A student has to put in time and effort to learn any language, he added.

The class is a pilot program to build proficiency by holding one day of language training every month, White said.



Sarah Mobley (center) is named Youth of the Year for the Presidio of Monterey by Dorrie Coman (right), director of Porter Youth Center. Runner up Alonis Ingram (left) and Mobley received money for further education and Mobley moves on to the California Military Youth of the Year competition in April.



The panel of judges for Youth of the Year for the Presidio of Monterey are thanked by Bob Emanuel (left), PoM director for Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Services. From right are Presidio Fire Department Battalion Chief Ramon Rivera, Lt. Col. Toni Sabo, commander of the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, and Sgt. Joey Quilenderino, PoM Police Department.

Navy teen tops among PoM Youth

STORY, PHOTOS BY BRIAN LEPLEY, PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY PAO

Just as bridesmaids become brides, Sarah Mobley became 2017 Military Youth of the Year for the Presidio of Monterey after being runner-up in 2015 and 2016.

Mobley and runner-up Alonis Ingram are both seniors at Seaside High School and members of Porter Youth Center at Ord Military Community, the sponsor of Youth of the Year for PoM.

"I entered this contest originally in my freshman year as a really good opportunity and to see what I could do," Mobley said. "Now I want to take my ideas and knowledge and further them."

She will further them April 25-27 at the California Military Youth of the Year competition also hosted by Porter Youth Center. That winner will compete in the national contest.

"Sarah is a very self-motivated leader," said Dorrie Coman, director at Porter. "Her natural ability to lead and enthusiasm to be involved is what I believe influenced her to continue to participate in the Youth of the Year program."

First place came with \$2,500 toward

post-high school education for Mobley while Ingram collected \$1,000. Their fathers are assigned to the Naval Postgraduate School.

The teens faced three judges who reviewed their applications, interviewed them, then listened as Mobley and Ingram addressed an audience of Porter Youth Center teenagers. The panel was Lt. Col. Toni Sabo, commander of the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion; Presidio Fire Department Battalion Chief Ramon Rivera, and Sgt. Joey Quilenderino, PoM Police Department.

"Both young women interviewed very well and both clearly demonstrated passion for their platforms. It came down to Sarah's charismatic delivery and talent at connecting with others," Sabo said. "When she took the stage to give her speech, without notes, she confidently delivered her message in a personal way, speaking directly to the audience of her peers."

The stage gets bigger for Mobley in April with the California contest but she'll rely on years of experience in competing among peers.

Coman has faith in Mobley, saying, "Her strengths at the next level will be her confidence and ability to act under pressure."

Boxing champ channels ring history into leadership

STAFF SGT. ALEXIS RAMOS,
ARMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTER,
FORT MEADE, MARYLAND

The sport of boxing has a rich tradition in my family. My father used to box, my uncles and cousins were pugilists, even my grandma laced up the gloves to practice the sport.

My dad, Rafael Ramos, is in three different Halls of Fame for his role as a professional boxing referee. He never wanted me to box, and because of that reason, I did not start training until I was 16, which is considered a late age to start the discipline when compared to elite boxers.

One of my father's friends started teaching me near the end of my junior year of high school. I did my best to impersonate a sponge when I first received my boxing tutelage. I soaked up all of my coach's advice. I practiced every day with conviction. I methodically trained on my footwork stepping forward and stepping backward way before I even started working on any punches.

I then worked on perfecting my jab before moving to combinations. It wasn't long before I started fantasizing about lifting the championship belt and hearing the ring announcer say, "...and the NEW featherweight champion of



Staff Sgt. Alexis Ramos (right) wins the 2009 U.S. Armed Forces Boxing Championships featherweight gold medal.

Submitted photo

the world, Alexis...Rafael...Ramos." I could hear the crowd chant my nickname, "Ramito, Ramito, Ramito" in my head.

While I did garner a few accolades in the sport of amateur boxing, I never reached the level I wished to attain. Several years have passed since my last match, and my dream of being a world renowned boxing title holder did not pan out the way I had hoped.

Now many of you reading this may be wondering why is he even mentioning this story? If he didn't reach the success he wanted to reach then surely he must view his life as a failure. However, this is more about the journey and my

pursuit to become the best version of myself.

Bruce Lee said "A goal is not always meant to be reached, it often serves simply as something to aim at." What I take away from the legend's quote is that it's not always about reaching your goal, but also about the process we all undergo while trying to achieve those goals. I didn't have to raise the World Boxing Council belt to realize something that was already inside of me. My effort, my sweat, my determination, and desire to be a champion developed me into the person I am today.

It was the hard work and dedication that gave me the heart of a

champion.

"Champions aren't made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them—a desire, a dream, a vision," Muhammad Ali said. Champions are people who are committed to a cause. They embrace the grind. They value the team around them. They adapt to any situation. They overcome adversity and show personal courage. They persevere. Their will to succeed is what drives them past each and every failure.

When looking at the traits of a champion, it is not hard to see the many similarities to the attributes and characteristics of a military leader.

A military leader prepares for the journey ahead. A military leader inspires and motivates others to achieve more than they know they are capable of doing. They continuously do self-assessments and adjust as necessary.

In my opinion, the words "leaders and champions" seem to be synonymous with one another in my life. For those reasons, I listed some values and beliefs that I feel have helped me train our great Public Affairs NCOs in my current position as an Advanced Leader Course small group leader at the Cyber Center of Excellence NCO Academy Detachment. I am hopeful that these principles can help you

Continued on next page

Boxing

be a better military leader by remembering the acronym "CHAMPION."

C. Care for your Soldiers/Subordinates

Get to know your subordinates' likes and dislikes. Know what they want to do in life and within the organization. Try to match their desires with the needs of the organization whenever possible. Show empathy. Counsel, mentor, and guide them. All of these things lay the groundwork for building trust, and the foundation for a successful team.

"Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."—Colin Powell

H. Have respect for others

"Treat others as you would like to be treated," otherwise known as "The Golden Rule." It is one of the first lessons we learn as kids, but far too often it seems leaders leave this childhood experience behind as they continue to rise through the ranks of an organization. Respect is about valuing the opinions of others. I believe it is essential for effective communication and building/sustaining relationships.

"I was raised to treat the janitor with the same respect as the CEO." - Unknown

A. Always be a team player

Being a good teammate is not about continuously dropping what you're doing to help, but being there when you are needed. A team player communicates well with others, they collaborate to accomplish tasks, and sometimes they compromise to achieve the greater good for the organization. Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM).

"I can do things you cannot; you can do

things I cannot; Together we can do great things."—Mother Teresa

M. Make it happen

It is an attitude that no matter what situation is in front of you, you can still accomplish the mission/goal. There are times when a decision needs to be made, and you don't have the luxury to brainstorm. In these instances, a leader has to trust their instinct and take action. There are other times when opportunity is not there and you have to find a way to make it available (taking initiative).

"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen."—Michael Jordan

P. Prepare your Soldiers (subordinates) and yourself

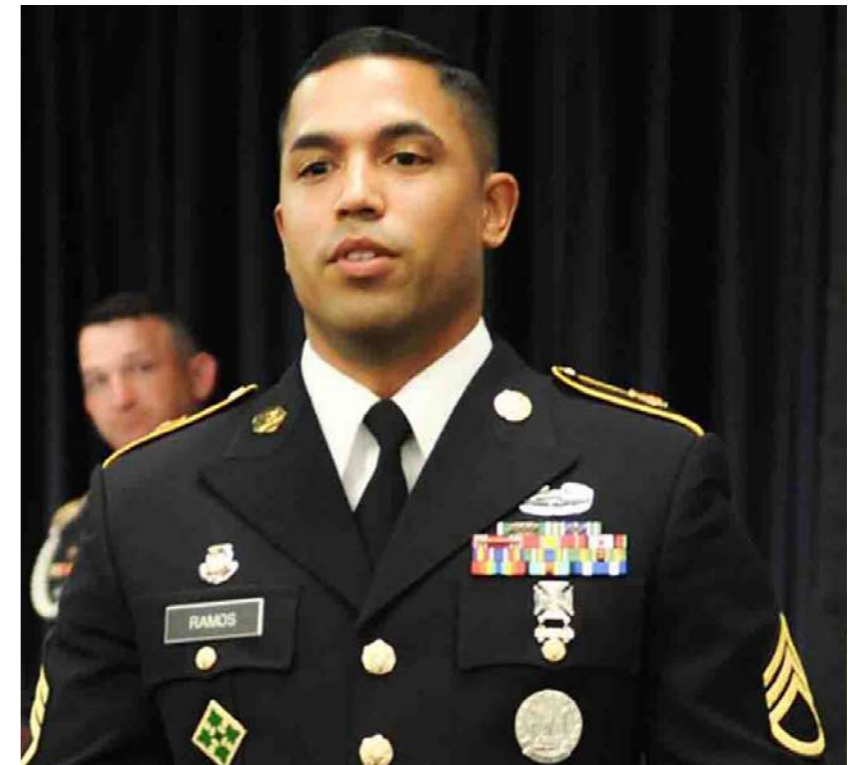
Plan for the unknown. Confidence comes from preparing beforehand and knowing that you are ready and able to take on any challenge that lays ahead. Whether it's through wargaming, professional development, self-development, team training, or trying to find opportunities for your subordinates to receive the education they need, preparation is key to success.

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail!"—Benjamin Franklin

I. Inspire others

Lead by example and be positive. Trust that your subordinates can get the job done. Try not to micromanage. Listen to their needs. Whenever possible, praise in public and correct in private. Challenge them to take on new tasks or pursue goals. When they have doubts, tell them they can do it and that you believe in them.

"Men often become what they believe themselves to be. If I believe I cannot do something, it makes me incapable of doing it. But when I believe I can, then I acquire the ability to do it even if I didn't have it in the beginning"—Mahatma Gandhi



Staff Sgt. Ramos

O. Overcome adversity and adapt

There will be plenty of times when the original plans fail, and you still have to find a way to accomplish the task at hand. That's life. Having the ability to overcome adversity and adapt comes from the preparation done beforehand and relying on previous experiences to overcome new circumstances.

"It is not the strongest species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change."—Charles Darwin

N. Never settle for mediocrity

I have always believed that if you strive for just meeting the standard, then you are setting yourself up for the possibility of failing. If you continuously aim above the norm, then there is no doubt that you will at least meet the minimum requirements to accomplish any task.

"We aim above the mark to hit the mark."—Ralph Waldo Emerson

TAPping out \$900M in savings

IMCOM transition program gets vets ready for jobs market

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY PAO STAFF
REPORT

Unemployment compensation for soldiers leaving the Army dropped to the lowest amount recorded in 13 years during fiscal year 2016.

The Army ended the year at \$172.8 million, according to the Department of Labor. Army expenditures peaked in 2011 at \$515 million. Unemployment paid out to ex-soldiers hasn't been below \$200 million since 2003.

In the last four years the Army has saved over \$900 million in cost avoidance for unemployment compensation expenditures through programs like the Installation Management Command's Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program. It prepares Soldiers for civilian-sector employment and an IMCOM senior leader credits SLF-TAP for saving the Army more than \$900 million since 2013.

"The significant reduction in the Army's bill for unemployment compensation, along with the reduction in the national veteran unemployment rate, can be attributed to the

diligence of the team of teams at IMCOM's SFL-TAP centers who are selfless, passionate and dedicated to this important mission," said IMCOM Command Sgt. Major Melissa Judkins.

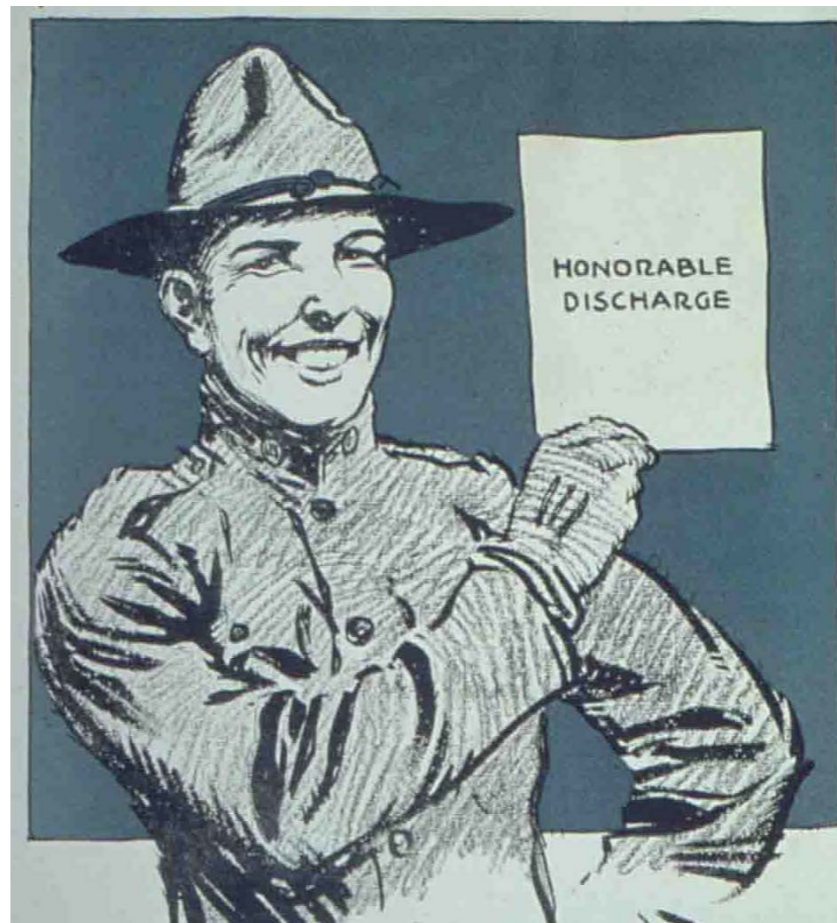
In 2016 alone, over 117,000 Soldiers successfully transitioned into the civilian community using SFL-TAP services.

IMCOM provides resources, guidance and support to 73 SFL-TAP centers world-wide. The command markets the program to Soldiers, provides direct funding and manpower, develops standardized training and monitors the execution of the program.

Although experience shows veterans generally enjoy a favorable employment rate in the nation's job market, many veterans initially find it difficult to compete successfully in the civilian labor

market. SFL-TAP Centers help Soldiers alleviate many employment-related difficulties and prepare them for success.

"We are excited to see that more Army veterans are finding careers after they transition off of active-duty service, and fewer are having to file for unemployment compensation," said Walter Herd, Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky.



PoM transition site helps Soldiers, USAF

Presidio of Monterey PAO staff report

More than 160 separating Soldiers and Airmen have transitioned through the Soldier for Life – Transition Assistance Program at the Presidio of Monterey since its opening last May.

"We offer dedicated one-on-one counseling that can really help and shape members of the team to find future opportunities after they take off the uniform," said Ted Lee, SFL-TAP manager here. "We teach service members to identify their current skills and translate their experiences into new career opportunities."

Air Force personnel are welcome here, Lee says, since there's no close USAF base. Naval and Marine personnel at PoM get their transition assistance at the Naval Postgraduate School. Family members and civilian employees are also welcome to use the program.

SFL-TAP is in Building 620, Taylor Hall, and can be reached at 242-5232.

Army end strength rising 28K to 1M+

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY PAO staff report

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Army increases by 28,000 soldiers by Sept. 30, 2017, a troop increase directed by the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

"The Army is hiring. The added end strength will allow the Army to increase manning in its tactical units, enhancing overall readiness," said Maj. Gen. Jason T. Evans, Director, Military Personnel Management. "The increased manning also provides additional promotion opportunities and retention incentives for our existing Soldiers and more opportunities for those who are fit, resilient and possess character who want to join the Army."

Across the force, the active component end-strength authorization increased by 16,000 to 476,000; the Army National Guard increased by 8,000 to 343,000, and the Army Reserve increased by

4,000 to 199,000. The total Army will number 1,018,000 Soldiers.

A variety of personnel management tools will meet the troop strength requirement, including enlisted accessions, recruitment, training, and retention along with officer accessions and retention.

The FY17 active duty enlisted accessions mission jumps 6,000 to 68,500. Additionally, the Army will increase the enlisted retention mission to 17,500, an increase of 9,000.

With respect to officers, the Army will create additional accession and retention opportunities to increase officer strength by 1,000. And the Army will continue to leverage internal controls to increase retention of quality officers.

The increased manning of the Army will enable it to better meet the challenges of an ever-uncertain security environment, Evans said.

"Blackhawk Down" memory for chaplain: unity, teamwork

BY TIM HIPPS, INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – Twenty four years ago a 24-year-old Ranger squad leader understood a hard lesson alongside approximately 100 other Rangers and Special Operations warriors: learn from your mistakes.

Jeff Struecker was among that group on Oct. 3, 1993, dropped by helicopter into the heart of the market area in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Task Force Ranger's mission: apprehend two top lieutenants of a Somali warlord and return to base. It was supposed to take about an hour. Instead, they encountered a long night of fighting against thousands of heavily armed Somalis.

"So now you throw all of these folks together and put them in the heart of bad-guy territory and send them over there to do this almost impossible mission, and what we learned is we didn't know how to work together," said the now-retired chaplain (major). "I'll just be frank, it was flat-out dysfunctional for



Chaplain (retired Maj.) Jeff Struecker.

the first few weeks that we were over there.

"We all learned a hard, painful lesson in Somalia because for the first time ever we were thrust into combat on the same target at the same time. For the first four to six weeks in Somalia, this was painful for everybody."

Struecker was the guest speaker for a quarterly prayer luncheon at Installation Management Command headquarters March 15.

The 1993 mission was immortalized in the book and movie "Blackhawk Down." It forced a change in how SF and Rangers were trained and

Continued on next page



How about some Pi?

The 314th Training Squadron used Pi Day (March 14) to fundraise for the unit booster fund and conduct competitive physical training. At left, Airman 1st Class Nicoli Wynne (left) and Airman Andrew Collier smack Staff Sgt. Aaron Wendel with one of three pies the NCO received. A group of Airmen spent \$341 to accomplish the deed, revealing the deep love the students apparently feel for the Military Training Leader, who came in for the event while on leave. Squadron commander Lt. Col. Christopher Walker was "pied" for \$200 and \$71 earned the winning Airmen the chance to plaster Staff Sgt. JT Peacock.

Presidio of Monterey PAO photo by Brian Lepley. See more on next page.

Blackhawk

integrated, carrying on the military tradition of lessons learned or, there are no bad mistakes when one learns from them.

In April 2000, Struecker joined the Chaplain Corps and served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He said those experiences were "light years different" from his earlier deployments to

Operation Desert Storm, Operation Just Cause, and that October night in Mogadishu.

During a deployment to Iraq, "some bad guys were using a hospital as a staging base and killing coalition forces," Struecker said.

"We decided we've got to go roll up this five-story hospital in Iraq," he explained. "And in order to pull this one off,

Rangers are going to take one floor, other Special Operations forces are going to take the next floor, different Special Operations forces are going to take the next floor, and we will just keep leapfrogging until we've rolled up the entire hospital and neutralized all the bad guys inside that building.

"I said (at the time) to most of the new folks in Special Operations, 'Never

in a million years would this have been possible if it wasn't for the dysfunction of Mogadishu, Somalia, in 1993. If it wasn't for the painful process that we went through about figuring out how to be unified.'"

His final military assignment was as a chaplain with the Regimental Special Troops Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment.



TOP LEFT – The Chinese Language Flight of the 314th Training Squadron celebrates its win for pushups enroute to winning Pi Day competition.

BOTTOM LEFT – Demonstrating Pi Day's relay run route are, from left, 314th Commander Lt. Col. Christopher Walker, Director of Operations Maj. Michael Markley, and Chief Master Sgt. Dae Kwon, the ops superintendent.

ABOVE–The Korean Flight knocks out the situps.

Presidio of Monterey PAO photos by Brian Lepley

229th MI Bn supports Carmel High's Career Day

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BRIAN LEPLEY,
PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY PAO

CARMEL, California – When Presidio of Monterey Soldiers visit this wealthy hamlet just south of the installation, it's for the magnificent ocean views, the unique dining experiences, charming retail shops and art galleries that attract hundreds of thousands of tourists a year.

With an average household income over \$82,000 and median home value in excess of \$1 million, Carmel wouldn't seem a fertile ground for Army recruiting.

The school's Career Day was March 3 and two Soldiers from the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion were invited to talk about their Army careers to more than 40 students from all grades.

"We had the privilege of speaking to a number of young adults who are at very pivotal mo-

ments in their lives about careers in the military," said 1st Lt. Alexander Kim, Company F executive officer. "The important fact that we wanted to convey was whatever career field they wanted to pursue, the military is able to assist them to get there through financial support or leadership opportunities."

He and Staff Sgt. Brooke Picone of the battalion S3 staff spoke to three class periods that morning. They were joined by recruiters from the Air Force and Marine Corps.

Army recruiter Staff Sgt. Emmanuel Olascoaga has enlisted a Carmel High senior each of the last two years and reports that the school is open to recruiters being there.

Picone thought the teenagers were receptive, engaged and interested in the presentations by all the service members.



CARMEL, California – First Lt. Alexander Kim, Company F, 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, speaks to Carmel High School students about his Army service during the school's Career Day March 3.

"I think we did a good job of representing the diversity within our ranks that makes us a fluid and dynamic fighting force," she said. "I was pleased with the diversity of the panel itself. All the services were represented and we all had numerous and varied perspectives to offer."

As Olascoaga's work shows, even young people from affluent communities see the advantages of putting on the uniform.

"It was an eye-opening experience for me to see students wanting to serve their country at their age, with no family backgrounds in the military," Kim said.



CARMEL, California – Staff Sgt. Brooke Picone, 229th MI Bn, speaks to Carmel High School students during the school's March 3 Career Day.

WCAP paralympic swimmer humbled by Hall induction

STORY AND PHOTO BY TIM HIPPS, INSTALLATION
MANAGEMENT COMMAND PAO

WASHINGTON DC -- A combat medic who rose from her death bed to become one of the Army World Class Athlete Program's most decorated Soldiers gained her latest honor on International Women's Day: induction into the U.S. Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame.

Paralympic swimmer Sgt. Elizabeth Marks was one of seven Soldier Olympians and Paralympians among the 2017 Hall of Fame inductees at the Rayburn House Office Building here March 8.

Her qualifications include gold and bronze medals at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, four golds at the 2016 Invictus Games in Orlando, and the Pat Tillman Award for Service at the 2016 ESPYs.

"In the face of life-changing injuries, they have been tested and challenged, but they have not been defeated," retired Lt. Col. Jenelle Roberts said before naming the Soldier athletes. "They exemplify the triumphs of the human spirit. While their journeys and struggles may differ, they all have the same fundamental core of strength, resilience and perseverance, which made them successful Soldiers and world-class



WASHINGTON DC – From left, Paralympic triathlete and retired Col. Patricia Collins, Paralympic cyclist Shawn Cheshire, and Paralympic swimmer Sgt. Elizabeth Marks are inducted into the U.S. Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame at the Rayburn House Office Building on March 8.

champions."

Cyclists Shawn Cheshire, Shawn Morelli and Jennifer Schuble, sitting volleyball player Kari Miller, and para-triathletes Melissa Stockwell and retired Col. Patricia Collins joined the combat medic for the United States Army World Class Athlete Program in the class of 2017.

Marks underwent surgery for bilateral hip injuries sustained in 2010 while serving as a combat medic in Iraq, which led to rehabilitation in the swimming

pool at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Her resilient determination to return "fit for duty" resulted in a Paralympic swimming career that led to world-record times and gold-medal success.

Along the way, however, Marks nearly died in London in 2014 after contracting an upper respiratory infection while traveling to the inaugural Invictus Games. The infection led to a medically-induced coma that lasted nearly a month. The

Prescott Valley, Arizona, native recovered to not only win four gold medals at the 2016 Invictus Games but set a Paralympic world record in the women's SB7 100-meter breaststroke.

In spite of her many successes, the 26-year-old Marks said she never imagined that she "would find myself in a room with such accomplished women."

"It's very humbling, and it's a lot to digest," she said. "I'm sure I'll wake up in the morning and feel just as awed and inspired as I did this evening."

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Pritchett, First Vice President of the U.S. Army Women's Foundation, raved about Marks' performance earlier in the day on the "Army Experiences of Extraordinary Women" panel discussion at the U.S. Capitol.

Marks said she was humbled by the praise.

"She has been an incredible sergeant major that paved the way for a lot of women," Marks said. "For her to even know my name is an honor."

Congresswoman Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, a major in the Army National Guard who serves on the House Armed Services

Continued on next page

Employees now eligible for SHARP resources, services

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY PAO STAFF REPORT

The Army began a one-year pilot expanding reporting options and Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) services to civilian employees who are victims of non-intimate partner sexual assault.

During the pilot period, employees have two reporting options:

Restricted reporting, allows an individual to disclose a sexual assault and obtain advocacy services without initiating an investigation.

Unrestricted reporting, results in notification to the supervisor or chain of

command and the appropriate law enforcement agency. These sexual harassment complaints will continue to be processed through Equal Employment Opportunity.

Either reporting option means employees receive services from SHARP professionals such as a sexual assault response coordinator, a victim advocate, or a victim representative. Referral services for medical and legal care are also available, authorized by law or policy.

Employees may also have access to off-post resources such as additional advocacy services, appropriate medical resources and counseling available in the local community. Civilian employees are not eligible for expedited transfer, a request

to move to a new unit or installation.

The SHARP program has developed a civilian line of effort to focus on policy; created a line of marketing materials designed to appeal to this critical component of the Army team; and is enhancing training curriculum to be more inclusive of employees.

As part of the pilot, the Army will be required to provide to the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office a report on the number of restricted and unrestricted reports by location, the rate of conversion from restricted to unrestricted, staffing adjustments, increased workload, additional costs, and customer satisfaction.

By providing the same reporting options as service members and the ability to receive SHARP services within established limitations, the Army is ensuring parity for vital members of the team.

WCAP

Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee, welcomed the recipients to Washington and offered advice to the military women assembled for the ceremony.

"It's so great to be able to be here to join all of you sisters and brothers in arms, especially on this day -- International Women's Day," she said. "What better way to recognize International Women's Day

than by celebrating so many great women who have and continue to exemplify leadership, courage and service to the core of their very being.

"Don't discount what you bring to the table and how much appreciation there is for your service and for your leadership, both in the uniform and at whatever point you lay down that uniform."

Marks is grateful to be considered a panel-

ist, much less a Hall of Fame inductee.

"I sat on a panel with extremely impressive women that held a lot of rank from a lot of years of service," she said. "I hope that I can continue that legacy and that I bring them the respect that they deserve. I am in awe that they thought me worthy of this, and I will cherish it.

"It will be a memory and something that I look back on that inspires me."

Airmen meet, eat, battle at 311th's Dining-In

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BRIAN LEPLEY,
PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY PAO

Warrior Week for the 311th Training Squadron's 400-plus language-student Airmen ended with an event they found fun, traditional, and wholly unfamiliar: the combat dining-in.

A ceremonial feast honoring military victory and unit achievement, the dining-in appears to date to the Roman legions and was established in the United States by Gen. George Washington's Continental Army.

Leadership in the 311th consulted staff and Airmen for the parameters of the event staged at Hilltop Track on March 11 (naturally), as the U.S. Air Force dining-in has evolved in the last 14 years of combat operations.

"This was taken from the ideas of the airmen and the staff, the events they wanted to see in the construct of the combat dining in," said Lt. Col. James McCullough, commander of the Screaming Eagles. "Because we are so academically focused, we try to remind ourselves that we are really here to be military service members that will

Continued on next page



Airmen from the 311th Training Squadron storm the 311th Headquarters staff who protect their flag behind barricades at the Hilltop Track March 11 during the unit's combat dining-in.

Dining-In

support combat operations.”

A veteran of a few combat dining-ins while deployed, Maj. Andrew DuBois said the 311th did its best to prepare trainees for what they’ll face at their first duty station.

“These airmen haven’t gotten to that point yet and it’s challenging,” said the squadron’s director of operations. “Trying to explain combat dining in; ‘why are we having a big water fight,’ but once you start linking the POW table, the procedures, regulations, the policies, and the camaraderie ... no matter what you do in the Air Force, the work will come and go, but you’ll remember the people. The first thing you’ll think about is who was to your

left and who was to your right.”

Through their years of service, officers like DuBois and McCullough experience and appreciate the combat dining-in for its ability to bring an atmosphere of camaraderie, fellowship, and social rapport among Airmen.

That esprit de corps was impressed upon Airman 1st Class Cera Wollgast.

“It was very cool being out here, to do this with our supervisors, our entire chain of command, not holding back ... it was awesome,” she said. “Coming out here to do all these super fun activities with our entire flight, it was very interesting to see how everyone reacts differently, the little huddles, the different structures.”



ABOVE – The 311th Training Squadron’s Staff Sgt. Sherri Brown takes part in the grogstacle course at the unit’s combat dining-in at the Hilltop Track March 11.

LEFT – Lt. Col. James McCullough, commander of the 311th Training Squadron, fills in his Airmen on the rules of engagement for the unit’s combat dining-in at the Hilltop Track March 11.

New congressman meets Monterey military at POM

BY BRIAN LEPLEY, PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY PAO, AND PATRICK BRAY, DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER PAO

Team Monterey and the Monterey Model met its new mentor Feb. 22 at the Presidio of Monterey.

Jimmy Panetta, U.S. representative for California's 20th Congressional District, visited the installation for briefings from the Garrison Command, the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey Services Agency (PMSA) on the Monterey Model, and senior leaders of military, Department of Defense, and federal organizations located in the district known as Team Monterey.

The newly-elected congressman also visited a Persian-Farsi classroom and had lunch at Belas Dining Facility with

students from all four service components.

"I was honored and humbled to visit with the students personally and hear and see these young kids who are anywhere from 19 to their early 20s – how much they appreciated being able to learn the language and have the teachers and the facilities to do so," said Panetta.

As a staff judge advocate in the Navy Reserve, he deployed to Afghanistan in 2007. Panetta grew up in his district, graduating from Carmel High School, and remembers when his father, former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, and his brothers would eat sandwiches while gazing over the Monterey Bay from the Presidio of Monterey on a Sunday afternoon.

"Being here today, in my

Continued on next page

ABOVE RIGHT – Congressman Jimmy Panetta (left) and Col. Lawrence Brown, Presidio of Monterey commander, discuss issues facing the garrison here at a Feb. 22 briefing.

Steven L. Shepard, Presidio of Monterey PAO

RIGHT – Congressman Jimmy Panetta visits a Persian-Farsi class here at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Feb. 22.

Patrick Bray, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center PAO



Congressman

official capacity, which is my first visit as a congress member, you realize how important (the Presidio) is to our country and to our national security," said Panetta.

Development of the Monterey Model was codified last October with a five-year intergovernmental service agreement signed by the Army and the cities of Monterey and Seaside. Panetta learned how the municipalities provide facility and infrastructure operations and maintenance to the Presidio of Monterey and Ord Military Community at significant cost savings.

"What's good about these guys is they're a municipal agency contributing directly to the defense of our nation," said Col. Lawrence Brown, Presidio of Monterey commander. "They have a vested interest in supporting the military which is in the middle of their community.

"We're looking at every opportunity to save taxpayers money because we know that goes to support the guys downrange. I think all the city employees understand that fact. They live it every day."

When asked by Panetta how the arrangement benefits Monterey, city manager Mike McCarthy mentioned the work experience the staff gains, demonstrating support and solidarity with the Presidio, and economies of scale that save labor and parts costs. The congressman also learned of similar arrangements starting all over the U.S.

"We invite people out here all the time to share our story," McCarthy said. "We really are a model for other defense agencies and



Airman 1st Class Alexis Fernandez, 314th Training Squadron (left) meets Congressman Jimmy Panetta here at Belas Hall Dining Facility during Feb. 22.

Steven L. Shepard, Presidio of Monterey PAO

defense communities in the nation."

When Panetta asked about the Army's savings, PoM deputy garrison commander Hugh Hardin replied, "We think it's about \$200,000 to a quarter million dollars a year on contracting overhead costs."

"Good, outstanding; is there any expansion, is there a next step here?" Panetta asked

"We would love NPS to be part of this partnership. They have some good reasons for being the way they are but we're hopeful what we're doing sets an example that they can follow. We have relationships, we continue to talk," replied McCarthy.

"We've got to show them our success and let them judge," Brown said.

"Congressman Panetta received a command brief about the entire enterprise, student body, faculty size...types of languages we teach, etc.," said DLIFLC Commandant Col. Phil Deppert. "I am confident that he has a full understanding of what we do and what we are for."

Later in the day, Panetta met with the region's senior military leadership. This was the first time Panetta met with the group, known as Team Monterey, which was formally brought together in 2007 by his predecessor, Congressman Sam Farr.

"In preparation for Congressman Panetta's first official visit here, his staff asked if we could also reenergize and gather a group that has historically been known as Team Monterey," explained Deppert. "The purpose of the effort is to identify and leverage points of organizational interdependence, cooperation, resource sharing, saving time and taxpayer money," he said.

Meetings have been sporadic in the last few years. Panetta would like to see them scheduled at a regular interval and hosted by each of the military entities in the district. He also asked that a Team Monterey charter be created.

"It [Team Monterey] comes down to showing the ability to work together, to rely upon one another," said Panetta, explaining that his hope is to grow Team Monterey to encompass the inclusion of other educational institutions and organizations in the area.

"The more of us there are together, the stronger we're going to be," he said.

President, FAOs briefed on Israel on same day

STORY AND PHOTO BY PATRICK BRAY, DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER PAO

It may not be love between the United States and Israel, but it is a long, complicated, mutually supportive relationship.

The day after Valentine's Day, Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu met with President Donald Trump in Washington D.C. and Dr. Guy Ziv, of the American University School of International Service in Washington, D.C., spoke to Foreign Area Officers in language training at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center.

"U.S. support of Israel is one of the few bipartisan issues in Washington today and the reason is that the two nations are democratic and share common values such as self-determination, social justice, pluralism and multiculturalism," said Ziv.

But the U.S. and Israel also have shared interests. Israel is considered a very dependable ally, he explained, from the Cold War to fighting radical regimes of today and in the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons, especially in Iran

As the only democracy in the Middle East, Israel receives an annual aid package from the U.S., receiving about \$38 billion in 2016. In return, the U.S. receives Israeli technology, which is considered well advanced in areas such as airport security and cyber security, along with intelligence sharing from the Mossad, the national intelligence agency of Israel. Intelligence sharing is considered one of the most

valuable elements of the U.S.-Israeli relationship.

Ziv cited Maj. Gen. George Keegan, the assistant chief of staff for intelligence, U.S. Air Force, in the 1970s who said,



Dr. Guy Ziv, American University School of International Service associate professor, speaks to a Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center class of Foreign Area Officers.

"The ability of the U.S. Air Force in particular, and the Army in general, to defend whatever position it has in NATO owes more to the Israeli intelligence input than it does to any other single source of intelligence, be it satellite reconnaissance, be it technology intercept, or what have you."

Between 1974 and 1990, Israel provided the U.S. with \$50-80 billion in intelligence, research and development savings, and Soviet weapons systems captured and transferred to the U.S.

The biggest issue facing Israel today just may be the two state solution, said Ziv. A critical element of that is the two states will have to live side by side in peace. Israel and the U.S. both worry that Palestine could become a haven for jihadists.

"Whether Trump will pursue the two state solution is critical," said Ziv. "The one state solution is not a solution. Different groups are incapable of living together."

Ziv compares the pro-settlement lobby in Israel to the NRA in the U.S., meaning that both lobbies have no real opposition. Palestinians are wary of new settlements. According to some Zionist Jews, all of Israel belongs to them as a Jewish homeland, but Zionism comes in different forms. Some pragmatic settlers would simply like to be compensated for leaving.

As for the Iran Deal, Netanyahu lobbied against it, but there has been no indication by the Trump administration of reneging on the deal, according to Ziv. As for now, we can only wait and see.

R U paying a10shun? Distracted driving kills

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY PAO STAFF REPORT

Think distracted driving and one immediately thinks texting.

That's a reason ... along with phone calls, eating, preparing food, petting your dog, shaving, applying makeup, changing clothes, brushing your teeth, studying a GPS map

There are many reasons drivers put themselves in danger through distraction. According to the New York State Police, any time a driver takes their eyes off the road or hands off the wheel, there's an increased opportunity for a crash.

"There's three types of distracted driving," said Bernie Kennett of NYSP. "Visual, when someone takes their eyes off the road; manual, when someone takes their hands off the wheel; and cognitive, when someone takes their mind off the road."

Distracted driving crashes in 2014 killed 3,179 people and injured more than 430,000.

Steve Kurtiak of the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center says all drivers are susceptible to distracted driving.

"There can be many distractions while driving a vehicle if you allow them to distract you," he said. "Distractions may include navigation aids, entertainment programs (Bluetooth-type electronic devices) lighted roadside advertising and even passengers."

Kennett recalls a particular accident where distracted driving was a contributing factor in a pedestrian death.

"A driver hit a pedestrian that had already been hit by another car," he said. "The victim



was laying in the roadway and bystanders were trying to flag down the oncoming driver. The driver was eating cereal, on her way to work and didn't see the people trying to get her attention. She ended up driving over the pedestrian, who was already in critical condition. The victim succumbed to wounds inflicted by the driver who was eating cereal."

Drivers are prohibited from texting and driving on all U.S. Army installations.

"Army Regulation 385-10, chapter 11-4e comprehensively covers the use of handheld devices while driving on installations," Kurtiak said. "While there are exceptions for emergency responders, everyone else is required to use hands-free devices."

Kennett says the NYSP does a lot of distracted driving educational outreach; however, offices have an uphill battle with enforcement of distracted driving because it's so commonplace.

"Even hands-free devices have their pitfalls as drivers' attention isn't 100 percent on the road," he said. "I truly think that other than calling 911, there's probably no one out there that you need to talk to while driving. Something to think about is, 'Do I really need to talk to this person or text them while I'm driving?'."

"The only possible way to eliminate texting and driving is to make the devices inoperable when people are behind the wheel of a car," Kennett added.