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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 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.*

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**On the cover:** Army Reserve Soldiers from Camp Parks' 75th Pacific Training Division fire cannons on Presidio's historic Soldier Field as part of our 50-gun Salute to the Nation in honor of 241 years of American Independence, June 30. Photo by Steven L. Shepard, Presidio of Monterey PAO





# A Bronze Star

*Photos by Jim Laughlin, Presidio of Monterey PAO.*

Christmas 1944 was no holiday for Pfc. George Carlson of the 395th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. He was part of the Allied counteroffensive against a surprise attack by Nazi Germany across France and Belgium, more commonly known as the Battle of the Bulge. LEFT: Now 94, Carlson, of Pleasanton, California, received the Bronze Star for his actions in December 1944 from the Presidio of Monterey's Col. Glen Fallo on June 22. BOTTOM LEFT: Presidio of Monterey Command Sgt. Maj. Roberto Marshall and his wife Karina present a CSM coin to Carlson. BELOW: Carlson is congratulated by Spc. Hanah Eastwood, Co. A, 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, after the ceremony.





# TRADOC leader briefs, celebrates with 229th

Presidio of Monterey PAO staff report

The Army's newest units will rely on Soldiers from the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion. That was some of the news Command Sgt. Maj. David Davenport brought to the Presidio of Monterey and the 229th from Training and Doctrine Command headquarters June 16-17. Security Force Assistance Brigades are the newest component of the Army future. An SFAB will deploy with security forces, enabling the units to engage in a meaningful and productive manner with the host nation military.

The Multi-Domain Battle concept of the US military addresses the increasing complexity of the battlefield as it can encompass all or some of these domains – land, maritime, air, space, and cyber.

"The Army 'owns' the land component ... where people live. So anytime our Soldiers are interacting with people in a region they need to have an awareness of people, their culture and language," the TRADOC CSM said. "We realize that language and culture is important, to have an awareness so our Soldiers can go out and do their mission. SFAB is made so that we have the expertise residing within that formation so that we can send it out and do things."

The 229th MI Battalion's NCOs joined Davenport for a professional development forum at the Presidio's Weckerling Center June 16.

The new NCO Professional Development System, he said, will help the Army achieve its NCO 2020 Strategy, which requires that all leaders develop the current and next generation of NCOs.

"Our NCOs gained a great deal of knowledge from his insight on topics such as NCOPDs, centralized and semi-centralized promotion, new 1059s, and Army Instructor Badges promotion," said 229th Command Sgt. Maj. Matt Ruan. "CSM Davenport also recognized select Soldiers with CSM coins for their excellent performance."

"It is truly inspiring for our formation when a senior leader like CSM Davenport takes his time out of his busy schedule to recognize the hard and exceptional work of our Soldiers." Davenport, who considers himself a "tech guy," knows that it is only through technology that education and training can be brought to every

Soldier in the Army, calling it "thinking outside the box."

"I really believe in the power of distance learning, especially when you talk about today's Soldiers who can learn from other techniques other than sitting in a classroom," he said. "When you think about how large our Army is, this is a great way of leveraging these tools to distribute education."

As the Army progresses operationally and technologically to 2025-2050, amidst the enormous change that path will take, Davenport

*Continued on next page*



Command Sgt. Maj. David Davenport (right), U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, speaks with Pvt. Isaac Elkins, Co. D, 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, at Soldier Field June 16 during the Commander's Cup flag football games. Photo by Patrick Bray, DLIFLC PAO



# 400K+ customers deliver through ICE

*Presidio of Monterey PAO staff report*

Whether you've been helped or hurt by a garrison employee or staff section, put it on ICE.

The Interactive Customer Evaluation system (<https://ice.disa.mil/>) is a web-based tool that allows users to recognize great service, point out a concern, or make a recommendation about service or organizations.

Every Presidio of Monterey garrison ICE comment crosses the desk of commander Col. Lawrence Brown says Amber Hill, ICE manager here, and the installation has an 86 percent approval rating for 2017.

"The main topics for ICE here are gate access about hours and accessibility, the dining facilities, medical care and housing," she said. "Eighty seven percent of comments are addressed within three business days."

Used across the Department of Defense, Installation Management Command customers make up over 55 percent of the entire mission.

"It puts a burden on our service provider managers, but it's well worth the effort because of the information it provides us as decision makers," said Lt. Gen. Kenneth Dahl, IMCOM commanding general. "As our resources are stretched thin by budget and manpower constraints, it's important we focus our energies on providing the best possible customer service."

IMCOM responded to over 409,000 customer comments in ICE in the last year. Over 362,000 of those customers responded that they were satisfied with their product or service, which is a 93 percent overall customer satisfaction rate. Of

those that had a complaint and provided contact information, IMCOM responded to 81 percent in three days or less.

Customer comments are a critical component in helping the command prioritize and refocus installation services and support to meet changing requirements.

"We want to hear it, good or bad," said Russell Matthias, ICE Program Administrator for IMCOM. "It's the only way we get better at what we do. And if the customer provides contact information, we can respond directly to them with an answer, to either make it right, or even have a discussion about ways to improve."

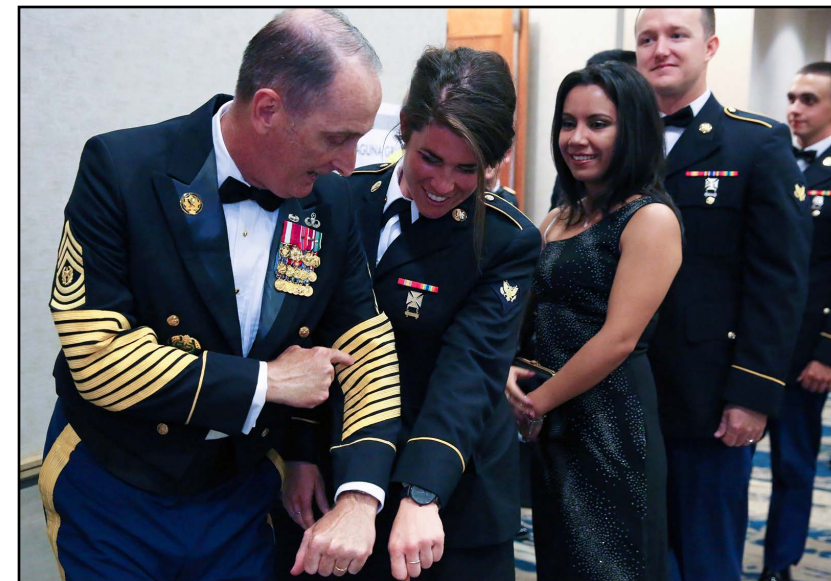
Though it's not required, he highly encourages customers provide their contact information when submitting a comment card through ICE, so program managers can provide immediate feedback.

The majority of ICE customers leave anonymous comments which is helpful, but frustrating, to the service or program managers at the installation level.

## **TRADOC cont.**

believes, these conditions remain the same: "People are going to live on land, they're going to have their language, and they're going to have their culture."

Davenport attended the Presidio's Resiliency Day June 16, watching intra-service flag football games at Soldier Field followed by a parachute demonstration jump by the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Black Daggers.



*Command Sgt. Maj. David Davenport (left), U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, discusses Army Regulation 670-1 with Spc. Joanie Northam, Co. C, 229th MI Bn, in the receiving line at the 2017 Army Birthday Ball, June 17. Photo by Sgt. AC Rainey, 229th MI Bn*



*Command Sgt. Maj. David Davenport presents a coin to Staff Sgt. Emily DeRossi during the DLIFLC Resiliency Day at Soldier Field, June 16. Photo by Steven L. Shepard, Presidio of Monterey PAO*

He was the guest speaker at the Army Birthday Ball, hosted by the 229th, the next day.

"He delivered an inspirational message on our Army's past, present, and future, which I thought instilled pride and commitment in our Soldiers at the ball," Ruan said.



# Sports, surfing see BOSS volunteers spring into service

By Brian Lepley, Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs



BOSS members Spc. Daniella Robichaud (center) and Pfc. Chloe Wawerek (right) await the next Operation Surf veterans they can assist onto shore April 1. Submitted photo



**S**ANTA CRUZ, California – The surf was not fooling around at Capitola Beach April 1. The sunny day did little to warm the 57-degree ocean waves that crashed after six to seven foot swells.

Operation Surf was not deterred.

Twenty combat-wounded veterans were in the middle of five days of learning to surf in the rough Pacific waters, an event hosted by the non-profit organization Amazing Surf Adventures.

“We have 250 community volunteers out here helping put this thing on,” said Steve Kurtagh, Operation Surf’s volunteer coordinator.

Three of those volunteers were 229th Military Intelligence Battalion Soldiers, spending one of their weekend days toting surf boards and helping the veterans onto boards and in to shore.

“At first the instructors were ambivalent about letting the participants go out but most every participant ended up going out and catching waves,” Kurtagh said. “It was truly amazing and showed the bravery and tenacious nature of these men and women.”

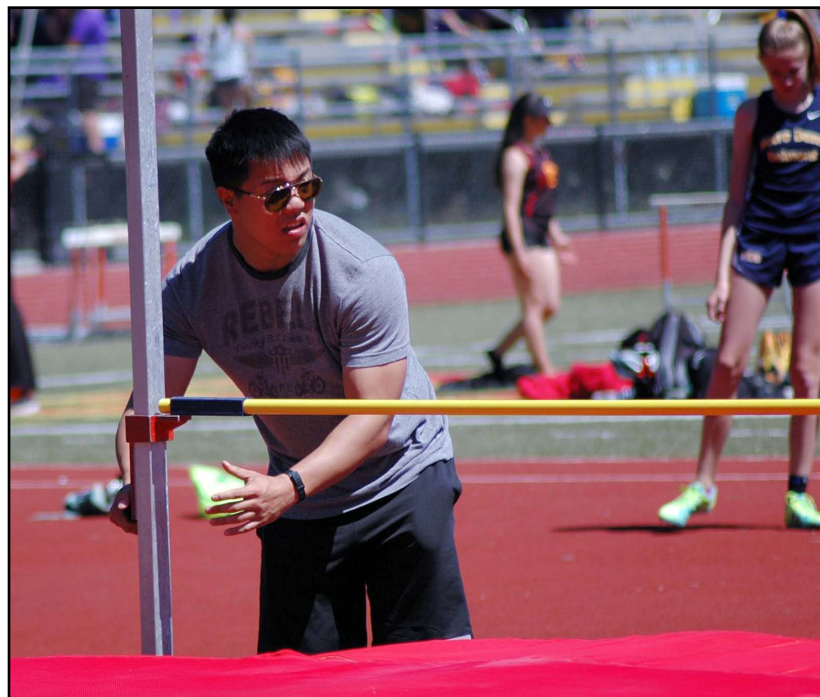
Pfc. Chloe Wawerek described her admiration of the men and women more than twice her age attacking the conditions.

“It was a great opportunity to interact with veterans that have experienced trauma that I hope I don’t experience, but that I might,” she said. “It was an opportunity to help them and learn from them.”

“They showed great power, strength and determination in doing a dangerous sport. That was encouraging and motivating.”

Wawerek recently vacated the position of vice president of Better Opportunities for Single

*Continued on next page*



TOP LEFT: Airman 1st Class Zon Wang, 314th Training Squadron, places the high jump bar back into position at the Pacific Grove High School April 29 track meet while volunteering through Presidio’s BOSS program. TOP RIGHT: BOSS volunteer Pvt. 1st Class Zach Chapman sets markers during the PGHS track meet, April 29. BELOW: BOSS volunteer Seaman Milan Barry (center), Information Warfare Training Command-Monterey, holds participant ribbons and awaits finishers of the kid’s portion of the Fiesta Fun Run in San Juan Bautista on May 6. All photos by Brian Lepley, Presidio of Monterey PAO





Servicemembers in preparation for graduation.

“I haven’t seen as many organizations, units here that volunteer as much as BOSS members. It’s outstanding, the time and effort they put in,” she said. “Many of them have over 100 hours and it’s not just about the hours, it’s about the experience and

opportunity, dealing with different kinds of people.”

Pfc. Gabriel Read and Spc. Daniella Robichaud of the 229th joined Wawerek that Saturday. A month later, Robichaud found herself supporting another chilly athletic event volunteer opportunity, the Fiesta Fun Run in San Juan Bautista May 6. Joining her were Seamen



*BOSS member Pfc. Chloe Wawerek (left) receives a coin in honor of her volunteer efforts from Presidio of Monterey Command Sgt. Maj. Roberto Marshall at Resiliency Day June 16. Photo by Brian Lepley, Presidio of Monterey PAO*

Mia Tamez, Milan Barry and Hannah Morris of the Information Warfare Training Command-Monterey.

“I like to get volunteer hours to get my mind off school,” Morris said. “It’s a good way to get to know the local communities around here.”

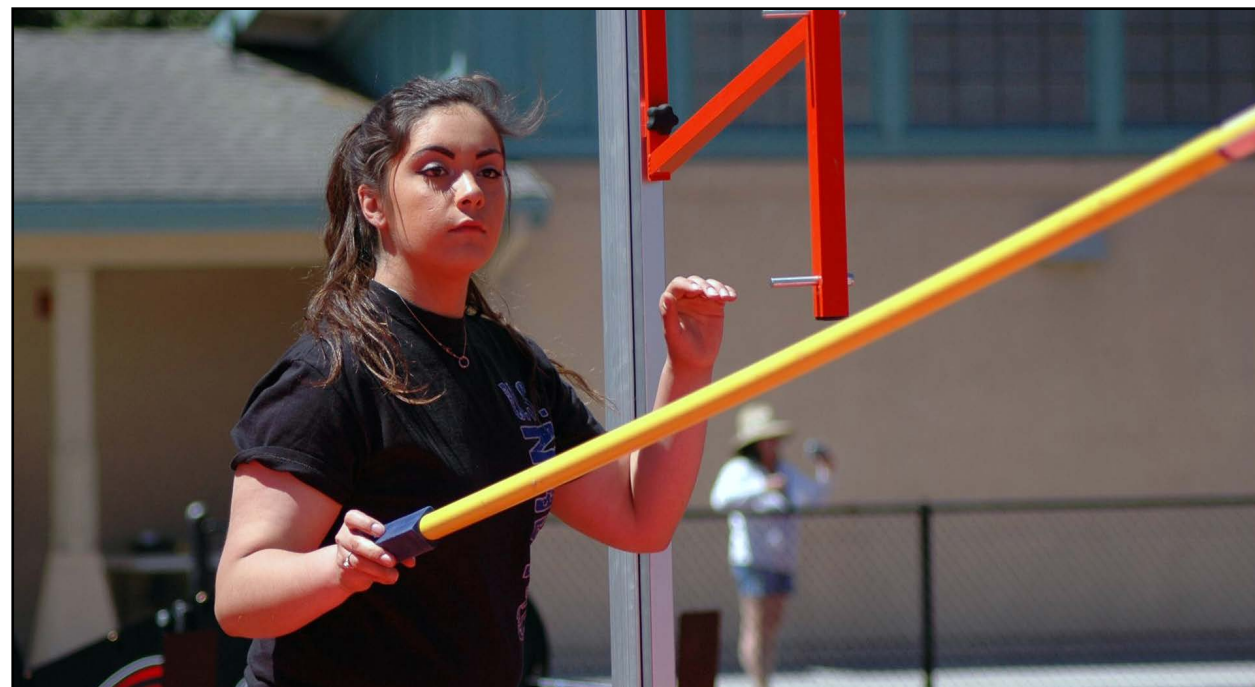
Tamez was with a BOSS group that volunteered to help at a Pacific Grove High School track meet April 29. While she and Spc. Matt Thornton worked the pole vault, Army Pfc. Zach Chapman measured shot put distances and the high jump bar was replaced by Airman 1st Class Zon Wang, 314th Training Squadron.

The Monterey Bay area’s great outdoors aren’t the only opportunities for service members to give back

to the community. The Presidio’s annual Retiree Appreciation Day uses dozens of military students to run the day-long event at the Stilwell Conference Center at Ord Military Community.

One of those students was Airman 1st Class Deanna Dawson of the 311th Training Squadron.

“I’m very happy I came. I love talking to veterans and it’s interesting to learn about their life. I hope to have the same kind of experiences. I want to put my life into the Air Force and be able to influence younger airmen,” she said. “When your brain is stuck in school, which you live day to day, doing something like this is perspective and doing something that matters.”



*BOSS volunteer Seaman Mia Tamez, Information Warfare Training Command-Monterey, places the pole vault bar back into position at the Pacific Grove High School track meet April 29. Photo by Brian Lepley, Presidio of Monterey PAO*



# Keeping the faith

## Army of volunteers supports OMC Chapel

Story and Photos by Brian Lepley, Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs

The golden rule rules at Ord Military Community Chapel.

It is plentiful with motivated volunteers that do unto a diverse congregation as anyone would want done unto them, according to Chaplain (Maj.) Rodney Gilliam.

“Our tremendous volunteers, Catholic and Protestant, work hand in hand to make our events successful,” he said. “Each one of them has a story. Each one of them has a reason that they serve.”

“They are a source of inspiration and motivation for me. I enjoy serving alongside each of them.”

From high-profile public events like “Light The Night” in October and the Easter Sunrise Service celebrated on the beachfront of Monterey Bay, to the numerous study groups, music performances, ushers and Sunday School, the chapel’s more than two dozen volunteers are their own community.

Chuck Eskridge II followed his father, retired 1st Sgt. Charles Eskridge, into chapel volunteer service. The elder Eskridge was the Protestant Men of the Chapel president until his

death in 2012.

“When I volunteer, I don’t think about it. I just do it, because I like helping people,” Eskridge said. “Treat people the way you want to be treated, with respect. I am a Christian and the point is to help the needy.”

While his father served in the Army from 1953 to 1983 and retired at Fort Ord, that is the extent of the younger Eskridge’s military connection. Gilliam marvels at the civilians who have attended the OMC Chapel for decades since the home of the 7th Infantry Division closed in 1994.

“It is really a phenomenon that I can’t totally put my finger on. Those who have absolutely no ties to the military are heavily involved in the life of the chapel,” he said. “Unique to this military chapel is that it is on an open, non-gated area where civilians, if they choose, can freely worship with us.”



Ord Military Community Chapel volunteers Cheryl Hardy (left) and Angela Gilliam, wife of Chaplain (Maj.) Rodney Gilliam, handle cotton candy duties at the Light The Night event in October 2016.

They come from the communities of Seaside, Marina, and California State University Monterey Bay, which was founded on the main Fort Ord garrison area in 1994.

Some volunteers, like Eskridge, had an Army connection that has been gone for years.

“For many of them, their military family member has been deceased, in some cases for decades. Yet the family member continues to come because this is their chapel,” Gilliam said. “I suppose it is where a lot of their memories were growing up and

this is like home to them.”

One of those volunteers is Joy Junsay, whose health problems the last two years included a stroke and breast cancer.

“She truly lives up to her name, Joy,” said Gilliam, who believes her faith and volunteering provide Junsay strength.

As the former recorder for the Seaside City Council, Junsay’s record keeping of chapel events is of great value.

*Continued on next page*





Etna Monsalves passes out goodie bags at the Ord Military Community Chapel's Light The Night event in October 2016. A Catholic volunteer at the chapel, Monsalves has no other connection to the Army.



The Bible Journaling Program, led by Angeline Peterman (green flannel shirt), meets Tuesday morning at the chapel during the school year. Presidio of Monterey PAO photo by Brian Lepley

"Because of her record keeping and organizational skills, we are able to take the lessons learned of successful events in years past and build on it when we do new ones," Gilliam said.

Despite serious health challenges, the retired widow of a Fort Ord NCO shows enthusiasm for chapel volunteer work that hasn't dimmed.

"Through all of this she has never uttered one single word of complaint," Gilliam said. "She only continues to love and serve people, literally, in whatever physical way she can."

A component of any worship service is music, an area Cheryl Hardy excels at as a volunteer. She

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Joy Junsay serves children at the Ord Military Community Chapel's Light The Night event in October 2016. The widow of an Army NCO, she has volunteered at the chapel for decades.



## ***Faith cont.***

runs the sound system for Protestant services and plays the drums, as well as volunteering at events. Brenda Thomas sings during the offertory at Protestant services. Neither woman has any military connection to Fort Ord.

On the Catholic side, the chaplain reports, there are many more volunteers without an Army tie, like Etna Monsalves.

“She is a vital member, especially with programs involving children,” Gilliam said. “For “Light the Night” she and her volunteers put together 600 goodie bags for the children to use.”

Walter Washington has been a Catholic volunteer for 25 years. Gilliam also cited Sonia Lin, who’s been with the Catholic congregation only a year, but has distinguished herself in volunteer service.

Another new volunteer, Angeline Peterman, created the Bible Journaling Program on Tuesday mornings.

“We paint, letter and color our way through scripture and look for more women who are looking for a creative way to worship,” she said.

While her husband is a student at the Naval Postgraduate School, Peterman also volunteers with the housing mayor’s program.

“We military wives move around a lot and the chapel was so helpful to me here, very supportive to this ministry, and I just wanted to help out,” she said. “I felt this was a good location to reach other military wives.”

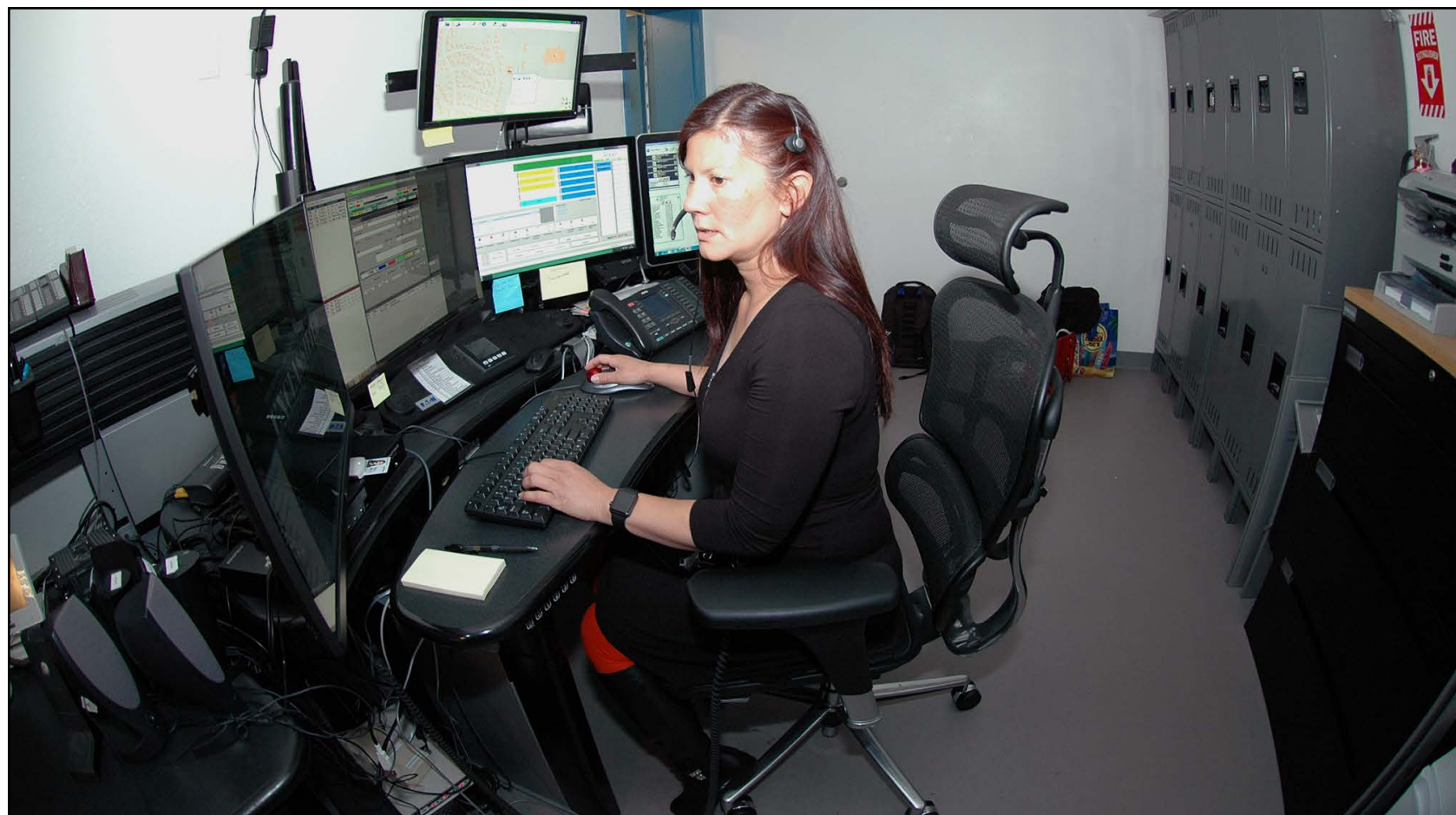
Old, new; civilian, military; men, women; Catholic, Protestant – the OMC Chapel’s diverse volunteers continue to provide spiritual service where all are welcome.

(Additional reporting provided by Angel Mendoza and Shaleena Thomasson.)

# **“911, what is your emergency?”**

## **PoM Dispatch directs police, fire throughout 3 Army housing areas**

*Story and Photos by  
Brian Lepley, Presidio of  
Monterey Public Affairs*



*Melodie Sumner has been on the Presidio of Monterey Emergency Services dispatch desk since 2012.*

**T**he neighbor hears screams, heavy footsteps; items being thrown.

On the receiving end of the 911 call, Presidio of Monterey Emergency Services dispatcher Melodie Sumner sends an officer to the Ord Military Community housing unit.

“When officers arrived, they found the resident

was having a hard time controlling her dog, not a domestic violence situation,” Sumner says.

Presidio police and fire departments serve the residents of PoM housing units spread across Monterey and Seaside. Those residents’

*Continued on next page*



## 911 cont.

connection to first responders is through the dispatchers working in building 4468.

“We’ve got a unique 911 and dispatch system here, handling both police and fire, military and civilian populations, and I’ve always been impressed by how professionally

our operators handle the distinct challenges they face daily,” said Shawn Marshall, PoM director of emergency services. “There’s a diverse population living in our housing area and they’re as safe as any in Monterey County thanks to all of our personnel’s efforts.”

Dispatch is a nerve center, coordinating police, fire and security

guards across the Presidio, Ord Military Community and La Mesa. As a Friday in late May turns from 10:59 to 11 p.m. in the cramped dispatch room, the system starts humming. The calls are traffic stops from PoM police. Sumner and Merry Bell provide information about the vehicle, the driver, and the car’s owner (not always the same person) from law enforcement databases.

“I enjoy working in emergency services and I think I work well in a high stress environment,” Sumner said. “There’s a sense of satisfaction when I am able to assist a person in need, knowing that the team I work with resolved the current emergency.”

Spending her weekdays studying at Monterey Peninsula College to be a nurse permits Sumner to work the night shift. After starting as a medical dispatcher for Monterey in 2007 she’s been with PoM DES since 2012.

“We have seven dispatchers for our fire and police. We’d like to have more but it’s a hiring problem,” said Police Capt. Joseph Daniels. “There is one dispatcher on duty at all times. For peak hours, we have two.”

La Mesa and OMC housing areas are open communities, presenting unique challenges to emergency services and dispatch.

Of the 2,130 housing units there, more than 1,400 have military families. The rest have non-military affiliated civilians, civilian employees of PoM and California State University-Monterey Bay students.

It may be startling for service members and their families to see college students living next door in Army housing, Sumner said, “But



Presidio of Monterey patrolman Brian Sebastian speaks to dispatch about a motor vehicle at the Weckerling Center.

*Continued on next page*



they do have a right to be there.”

Another unique aspect of OMC housing the dispatch deals with is the wildlife.

“The public tends to forget we have built our community in a rural area,” Bell said. “Don’t be surprised when you open your back door to find a raccoon eating the pet food you left out.”

Dispatch understands when residents mistake animal sounds for a potential break-in but reports of wildlife sightings will not cause the police or fire to roll.

“If you see a wild animal and it’s not attacking anything, there is nothing PoM PD can do about it,” Sumner said. “If you see an injured wild animal, and it is mobile, SPCA wildlife section will not respond. They do not chase wild animals.”

The main police phone number (831 242-7851) should be used for routine matters, like illegally parked cars or concerns about suspicious people, Bell says. Use 911 for emergencies only and callers should expect dispatchers to ask many questions.

“Cell phone 911 calls do not provide your exact location. We cannot send you help if you do not know where you are,” Sumner said. “Be prepared to give your name, a phone number if your call is dropped, explain why

you are calling, what the emergency is, and descriptions of persons or vehicles related.”

Use of -7851 keeps PoM 911 clear, an important distinction since police and fire here share the dispatchers and there is a personnel shortage.

“We get frivolous calls on 911, calls that aren’t emergencies, and we’d like that to be used only for emergencies,” said Bell, citing the wildlife calls and even parents calling 911 about misbehaving children.

“Calls come in about unruly teenagers, who have gotten to an age where parents say they can’t control them anymore and they’re at their wit’s end,” she said. “You understand the frustration but there’s not much we can do as police. If a crime hasn’t been committed, what can be done?”

Cell phone 911 calls from housing areas can land at different call centers, depending on the caller’s location on the former Fort Ord.

“Calls may initially go to California Highway Patrol or Monterey County communications,” Bell said. “Remember, this is different from any other military installation you have lived on. OMC is open to the public.”

The proximity of Seaside and Marina to OMC can involve jurisdiction issues. PoM police and fire have

productive relationships with those municipalities, according to Marshall. Additional challenges face PoM Dispatch in communicating, deciding on, and requesting first responders from all these agencies.

Sumner and Bell are PoM’s most experienced dispatchers, a job, they both agree, that is not suited for long term work. While they enjoy being part of public safety, a dispatcher can deal with humanity at its worst. The toll is hard.

Bell has dealt with earthquakes and an officer being shot in her previous work with the state of California. “You can’t let the job get to you. If you do, you don’t last very long,” she said. “You can’t really turn off your feelings, you have to deal with them. You have to learn to let it go when you go home.

“There are people who can handle it for several years, and then your body just tells you ‘you can’t do it anymore.’”

Sumner’s exit strategy is her nursing degree. Before her decade in dispatch, she was a paramedic.

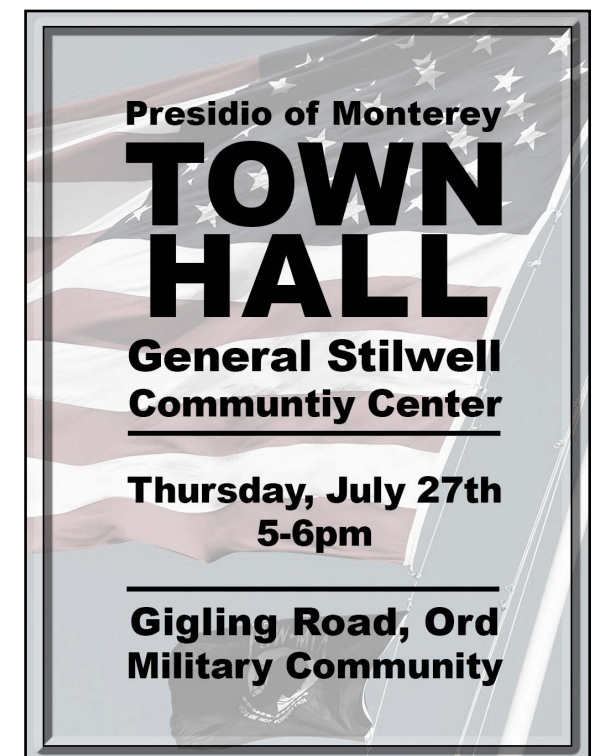
“A paramedic saved my life when I was four years old. I knew from that moment on that I wanted to be a paramedic when I grew up,” she said. “I am excited about my future as a registered nurse, taking care of patients, like the paramedic who

saved my life and made me feel safe.”

A public safety career resembles the military ethos: selfless service to others, mission first, handling high levels of stress. For Bell, it’s meant decades at the dispatch computer screens on the headset. For Sumner, it’s an evolution from EMT to paramedic to dispatcher to RN.

Shepherding Presidio of Monterey firemen, police and security guards through their shifts is what these ladies do, day, night, weekends and holidays. It’s a unique, specialized skill with one goal always.

“You have to realize that a good day is when nobody dies and everyone gets to go home,” Bell said. “That’s a good day.”

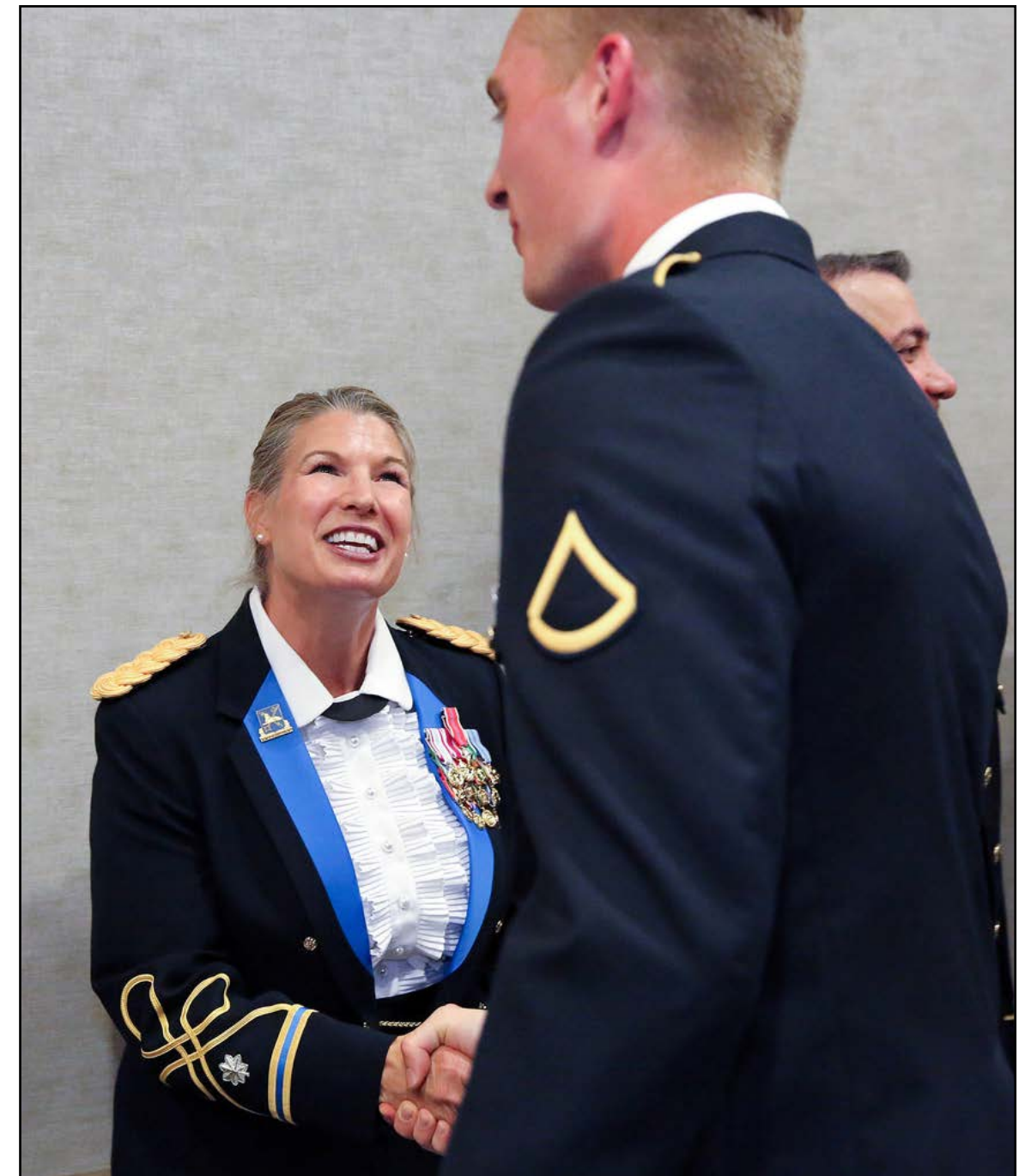






# Happy Birthday to Army!

TOP LEFT: Belas Hall dining facility prepared a customized cake on June 14 in honor of the Army's 242nd birthday. The Army was founded on June 14, 1775. Photo by Steven L. Shepard, Presidio of Monterey PAO. BOTTOM LEFT: The ceremonial cutting of the cake is performed at Monterey Army Birthday Ball held at the Embassy Suites in Seaside June 17. Photo by Sgt. AC Rainey, 229th MI Bn. BELOW: Lt. Col. Toni Sabo, 229th Military Intelligence Battalion commander, greets guests crossing the official party receiving line at the Army Ball, June 17. Photo by Sgt. AC Rainey, 229th MI Bn.







# Sharpened iron earns 229th's best platoon sgt title

*Story by Brian Lepley, Presidio of Monterey PAO*

There were few secrets among the three men vying to be the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion's best platoon sergeant.

Through days of PT, road marches, land navigation, uniform inspections, rifle marksmanship with weapons that've seen more time in an arms room than at the range, writing essays after grueling training tasks, and finally facing a board of

sergeants major, the three doggedly persevered.

Staff Sgts. Ryan Moorcroft and Brian Ivery with Sgt. 1st Class Rodriguez Jean-Phillippe were in it together, as when the three began platoon sergeant school together at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, in September 2015.

But in June 2017, Ivery stood taller than his battle buddies, placing first and earning a trip to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, Sept. 3, to compete for the Training and Doctrine Command's platoon sergeant of the year.

"I very much welcome the next level, to represent Defense Language Institute. I would love to win," Ivery said. "My success there will be changing minds about military intelligence."

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PREVIOUS PAGE: Staff Sgt. Bryan Ivery (Company B) is the 229th MI Bn Platoon Sergeant of the Year. TOP: Sgt. 1st Class Rodriguez Jean-Phillippe engages targets at the Fort Hunter Liggett range May 30 during the Platoon Sergeant of the Year competition. BOTTOM: Staff Sgt. Ryan Moorcroft is on the last 100 meters of the five kilometer run during the Platoon Sergeant of the Year competition's physical fitness assessment May 31. At right is 229th MI Bn Command Sgt. Maj. Matt Ruan keeping pace.

All photos by Amber Whittington, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center PAO

## ***Iron cont.***

Master Sgt. Clint Rowe was battalion S-3 NCOIC and designed the competition to TRADOC specs.

“What set Staff Sgt. Ivery apart was his ability to calm himself down when we really started to stress the candidates, to try to force them into mistakes,” he said. “You could tell he rehearsed being put under the gun and practiced his responses. It really allowed him to not get flustered and react accordingly.”

Right after the 229th platoon sergeant competition, Rowe became Company B first sergeant and Ivery's first-line supervisor.

“When I took over at Bravo Company it was eye opening to see firsthand just how little our Soldiers right out of basic training know,” Rowe said. “Staff Sgt. Ivery gets Soldiers right out of basic and brings them up to the level DLI and the Army needs them to be in order to succeed. His dedication and grit are paramount.”

Ivery can come off as human Red Bull. That focus and intensity will be necessary at Fort Leonard Wood in a contest not against his teammates,

*Continued on next page*



but NCOs that have run the same gauntlet he conquered.

“I truly love competition, regardless of what level it is, and I’m a true believer in iron sharpens iron, so I have no other option to be the best at my duties,” he said. “Motivation is definitely a driving factor in my day-to-day activities. I try to stay motivated no matter what is going on.”



FAR LEFT: Unidentified Soldier takes aim while in the prone position at the Fort Hunter Liggett range May 30 during the 229th MI Bn Platoon Sergeant of the Year competition. ABOVE: Candidates warm up for the physical fitness assessment the morning of May 31 at the Monterey Bay Coastal Trail. From left are Sgt. 1st Class Rodriguez Jean-Phillippe and Staff Sgts. LEFT: Ryan Moorcroft and Bryan Ivery. Staff Sgt. Bryan Ivery leads the way during the six-mile ruck march through the Fort Ord National Monument June 1 in the Platoon Sergeant of the Year competition. Directly behind him is Staff Sgt. Ryan Moorcroft; at right is Capt. Christopher Hawkins, Co. B commander, with his guidon.

All photos by Amber Whittington, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center PAO





*Spc. Lillian Lewis endeavors towards her next land navigation point during the patrol lanes portion of the 2017 Installation Management Command Best Warrior Competition here June 12.*

# IMCOM's top NCO, Soldier move on to next challenge

*Story and photos by Tim Hipps, IMCOM Public Affairs*

SAN ANTONIO, Texas -- They came from across an ocean and from America's heartland, two Soldiers with a dream facing down the stifling south Texas conditions.

Staff Sgt. Brendan Hagens and Spc. Lillian Lewis were the last two standing in the middle of June, earning, respectively, the Installation Management Command's 2017 NCO and Soldier of the Year.

Later this month they get to do it all over again.

During the four-day competition at Camp Bullis here, Soldiers from IMCOM and Army North competed in physical fitness tests, written exams, urban warfare simulations, warrior tasks and battle drills, including a 12-mile ruck march, which began at 3:35 a.m.

It's the second straight IMCOM NCO title for Hagens, who's assigned to U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, Germany. Lewis hails from Fort Riley, Kansas.

After a week spent in the woods, which included tent living and no showers for three days, Hagens and Lewis sharpened their Soldier skills and boosted self-confidence – a learning process that makes them and the Army winners in the long run.

*Continued on next page*



## IMCOM cont.

“I’m trying to be the best person possible – for the Army’s sake and for my sake,” Lewis said. “Going forward, it helps me not only to learn more about the Army, since I’ve only been in for two years, but it also

helps me learn more about myself and what I can put myself through.”

Hagens brought a game plan to his second consecutive IMCOM competition. Knowing the hectic pace of events, he did his best to conserve energy when possible and get adequate rest.

“I think that’s the key for me in these events,” he said. “I’m not a fast sprinter and I’m not amazing at anything, but I’m consistent at everything.”

They now advance to compete July 31 through August 5 against Soldiers from host Army North, Army South,

Army Central and Central Command – again at Camp Bullis –after which the top two finishers at Camp Bullis proceed to the Army Best Warrior Competition in Virginia in early October to determine the U.S. Army’s Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year.



*Staff Sgt. Brendan Hagens administers first aid to a “fallen comrade” during the patrol lanes segment of the 2017 Installation Management Command Best Warrior Competition here June 12.*



# AF flag football flies high



The 517th Training Group captured the Commanders Cup on the Presidio of Monterey's Resiliency Day June 16, winning flag football games over the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion and the Information Warfare Training Command-Monterey. LEFT: Presenting the team trophy are Command Sgt. Maj. David Davenport (left), U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Commandant, Col. Phillip Deppert. BELOW: Rob McGuire of the 517th takes to the air for a spectacular reception during Air Force's first round matchup against Army at the Resiliency Day flag football tournament on Soldier Field, June 16. McGuire made three interceptions and three touchdowns over two games.



Photos by Steven L. Shepard, Presidio of Monterey PAO





# Giddyup to Salinas with PoM EFMP

Story and photos by Brian Lepley,  
Presidio of Monterey PAO

SALINAS, California – “I’m riding a horse!”

The excitement was all over Adam Jackson’s face. Rachel Jacobs of Hope, Horses & Kids led the chestnut around the corral with the delighted son of Staff Sgt. Keshandra Lott of the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion in the saddle.

The Presidio of Monterey Exceptional Family Member program made its annual visit to the riding school June 3 with four military families of nine children learning about, leading, and riding two horses under the guidance of Jacobs and Lori Tuttle.

The EFMP program supports military families with special needs children. Each month, it visits an area attraction designed to educate and boost confidence of the kids. A support group also meets monthly.

Air Force Capt. Ivan Jorge brought his twin daughters and son to Hope, Horses & Kids and was glad he did.

“The ladies hosting the event were very positive and made this experience fun and memorable for our children,” he said. “The

ladies treated the kids with respect, encouraged them, and gave them responsibilities they knew the children could handle.”

The associate dean of the European and Latin American School, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Jorge recommends the riding school to anyone who desires a unique learning experience for their children.

“The positive atmosphere on Saturday gave the girls a self-esteem boost. All they could talk about afterwards was how great it felt to interact with the horses and having that responsibility to care for them,” he said. “Allowing them to lead, brush, and ride the horses gave the girls a lot of self-confidence.”

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LEFT: At Hope, Horses & Kids, Rachel Jacobs leads Alex Streetzel on a corral ride with his father, Army Maj. Cris Streetzel close by. The Presidio of Monterey EFMP Program visited the riding stable June 3. ABOVE: Lori Tuttle of HH&K shows Christian Jorge how to lead a horse at the riding stable June 3. Air Force Capt. Ivan Jorge’s family was one of four from the POM EFMP Program on the visit.



## EFMP cont.

In July, EFMP families will visit Vision Quest Ranch in Salinas and in August, the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

“We are here to help families,” said Richard Alan, PoM EFMP’s manager. “EFMP is here to help accommodate families in proper housing according to their needs. If a family member has a physical disability, we accommodate housing towards their needs. If a family member has a mental disability, then we work to accommodate that too with various programs like Hope Horses and Kids.”

The EFMP is located in the Stilwell Community Center at Ord Military Community. For more information call (831) 242-7660.

(Additional reporting done by Angel Mendoza, Presidio of Monterey PAO)



TOP RIGHT: Adam Jackson's face says it all regarding his horse ride at Hope, Horses & Kids. He and his mother Army Staff Sgt. Keshandra Lott were part of the Presidio of Monterey EFMP Program's visit to the riding stable June 3. BOTTOM: Four military families with nine children learn from Lori Tuttle (center) about horses at Hope, Horses & Kids June 3 when the Presidio of Monterey EFMP Program visited the riding stable.







**MARINA, California** -- World War II veteran, 92-year-old Sam Ginsburg of Carmel, reacts after being presented a personalized vintage Army helmet by Presidio of Monterey Command Sgt. Maj. Roberto Marshall at the Veterans Transition Center of Monterey County, May 26. The presentation to Ginsburg was part of the VTC of Monterey's open house highlighting their newly refurbished Martinez Hall building on the former Fort Ord. The mission of the VTC is to provide transitioning services, including housing and case management, to homeless Veterans and their families. Photo by Steven L. Shepard, Presidio of Monterey PAO

## Iraqi finds success, citizenship with 82nd Airborne Division

*Story and photo Sgt. Anthony Hewitt, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division PAO*

FORT BRAGG, North Carolina — Army paratrooper. Ranger. Combat engineer. University of Baghdad graduate. Son of an Iraqi Army Reserve officer.

Of all of Sgt. Ali Alsaedy's identities, he can also count American citizen.

"I was in my second year of college when everything happened — the troops arrived," he said of Baghdad, 2003. "It was a year later when it seemed things began to settle down. We all were trying to educate ourselves on the matter, because we believed — and still do — that the U.S. forces and allies were there to transform the country and help.

"We felt there was not going to be any more tyranny system or sects of families taking over the country, doing whatever they felt they wanted. We believed in the change and welcomed it."

After graduating college, Alsaedy found a contractor job installing network technology, then as a translator for U.S. forces in 2005.

"Insurgency propaganda said the Americans were in Iraq to destroy everything, but they were not," he said. "They were building. They built infrastructure for the population and barracks for the Iraqi army. They supplied resources increasing our livelihood, creating jobs for husbands and fathers."

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At the end of 2007, President Bush allowed vetted contractors who had worked for the U.S. government for at least five years to be granted special U.S. immigrant visas for them and their families. At the end of 2009, Alsaeedy said, things started to change as U.S. troops began to withdraw.

“The protection was decreasing and so was the structure,” he said. “I knew if I stayed, my family and I were going to die soon.”

In 2010, Alsaeedy met his five-year requirement to qualify for the special visa for him and his family to move to the United States.

He enlisted in August 2013 as a combat engineer and was afforded the opportunity to attend airborne school at Fort Benning, Georgia, upon graduation.

“I found out that I was going to be assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division,” he said. “I knew it was an honor and a prestigious unit. I remember seeing the ‘Double-A’ patch in Iraq. And to realize that I am now one of those paratroopers along with my family -- I was beyond excited and humbled.”



# Lost Boy finds love, career, USAF service in USA

*By Master Sgt. Catharine Schmidt, New York Air National Guard PAO*

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, New York — Thirty years ago and 6,000 miles from here, 7-year-old Francis Andrew was one of 20,000 Sudanese violently separated from their families during a civil war in the North African nation that spanned 22 years.

These “Lost Boys,” as refugee workers called them, traveled by foot from Sudan to Ethiopia and then to Kenya in search of safety. In 2001, Andrew made it to the United States and safety.

It’s been a busy 16 years. Andrew earned a college degree, is married with an 11-year old son, works for a company that operates supermarket chains, and is an airman first class with the 109th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard.

“There are only a few places in the world that can give you opportunities to thrive, and I am lucky to be in this country,” Andrew said. “I see that as an opportunity to give back.”

He took his first step on U.S. soil only a few weeks after 9/11. He and his fellow refugees had to process the terrorist attacks and Andrew said many of the boys were scared, wondering why they could not escape war.

As one of the older refugees, Andrew comforted them, telling them to stay strong. The group was grounded in the Netherlands for a couple weeks before finally making it to the United States, he said.



Settling in Ohio, he found work, earned a GED, and began a relationship with Lekeya, a local college student. A year later the now-married couple moved to her upstate New York hometown. Andrew went to Hudson Valley Community College, earning an associate’s degree.

“I worked hard, had a family and bought a house,” he said. “Things I never thought I would have. When I was in the refugee camp, we just lived day by day. If you made it through a day, you hoped for tomorrow and then to make it out tomorrow.”

Because of all the opportunities Andrew had once arriving to the United States, he said he wanted

*Continued on next page*



to do something to give back to the country that had done so much for him. He made the decision to join the military.

“I want to be able to sit down with my son and my grandkids and tell them stories of what I achieved and what I did to get there,” Andrew said. “I don’t like taking things for granted — I try working hard for the things I get.”

He left for basic training in March 2016, and while there and then at technical school, took on a mentorship role for the younger airmen he encountered. He saw that the Air Force core values were values he held in his heart even before joining, so joining was a good fit.

## From Va Tech sorority president to devil dog LT

*Presidio of Monterey PAO staff report*

BLACKSBURG, Virginia — It’s tough to imagine a less likely candidate for a US Marine Corps second lieutenant commission than a sophomore college student on her way to becoming sorority president.

So, omigod, meet Elaine Lewis.

The 2017 Virginia Tech grad, Gamma Phi Beta Sorority president, and the university’s recreational sports facilities supervisor swore her oath and pinned on her gold bars May 13.

“I think the idea was always slightly in my head with being part of a Marine family,” Lewis said. “In the fourth grade I dressed up as a Marine for career day. I was always inspired and moved by the Marine Corps.”

In her freshman year of college, Lewis attended a Marine Corps Birthday Ball with her father, USMC Lt. Col. Martin Lewis.

“I remember turning to my dad and saying ‘I think this is what I want to do; drop out of school and enlist,’” she said. “Both my dad and a retired female officer at our table told me, ‘No, you’re going to take your time; you’re going to get your degree. And if you still want to be a Marine after you graduate, you can go the officer route. You can commission.’”

At the beginning of her sophomore year, Lewis still felt called.

Her father told her to make sure it was what she wanted to do, and he would help her if she asked, but otherwise he let her make all her own decisions.

“I didn’t expect him to be so cavalier about it, but he supported me through the whole thing,” Lewis said. “I hit a couple bumps in the road with medical disqualifications, and he helped me stay calm and stay focused on becoming an officer and not giving up that path.”

When she walked into the recruiting office she was about to meet the person who could help her reach her goals. Capt. David Grant, the officer in charge of Marine Corps Officer Selection Team in Roanoke, Virginia, saw her potential and helped her get her journey started.

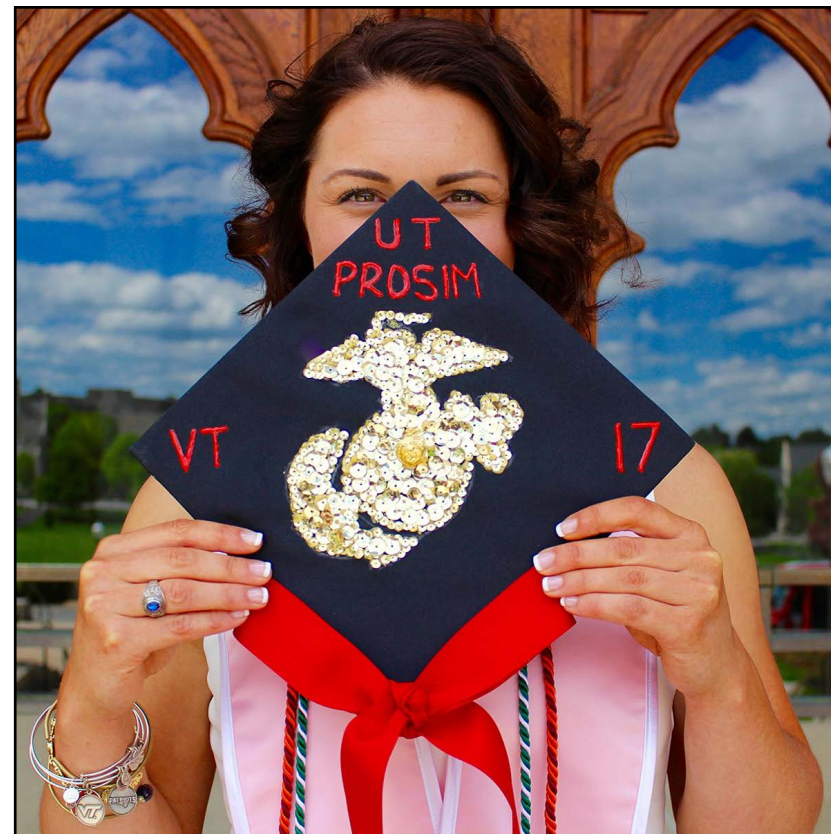
“Elaine is a natural leader. She’s a true leader,” he said. “She’s one of the ones I can really rely on and can go to if I need something done.”

Lewis began her leadership journey as the president of Gamma Phi Beta.

“To be president of 200-plus women — if I can do that, I can honestly do anything in the Marine Corps,” Lewis said. “Dealing with so many girls who want everything and realizing you can’t always give them what they want and that your decisions affect more than just you, it was definitely good training for quick decision making in the Marine Corps.”

Even with all the physical preparation she did prior to OCS, the first day of training was a complete culture shock. She said she had not realized the mental and emotional challenge the training would demand. Regardless of the initial struggle to adapt to the rigorous schedule, Lewis knew it was all worth it.

“I just saw that the Marine Corps takes so much pride in itself and in the fact that you as a Marine are part of that brotherhood and that elite group of people,” Lewis said. “I knew that the pride of becoming a Marine was going to be worth it.”







*PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, California – Parachutists from the official U.S. Army Special Operations Command Parachute Demonstration Team, the Black Daggers, drop in towards Presidio's Soldier Field as part of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's Resiliency Day event on June 16. Photo by Steven L. Shepard, Presidio of Monterey PAO*

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