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Monterey Military News

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April 5, 2013

News Notes

New three-way stop

Effective April 5, the intersection at Private Bolio and Lawton Roads (near the post office) will become a three-way stop. New stop signs will be present on Lawton Road at this intersection. This change is necessary to reduce vehicular congestion and increase pedestrian safety.

Parking lot closure

The parking lots near the Presidio's post office and Tin Barn will be closed for construction April 5 through July 1. All personnel residing off post are encouraged to utilize MST buses. Bus passes will be issued immediately upon signing up for the free program. Registration takes about five minutes. Free bus program registration is conducted in room 119, building 614, or call Shawn Marshall at 831-242-7590.

MIIS-DLI info session

Monterey Institute of International Studies is hosting an information session for military members and veterans 4-6 p.m. April 9 at 414 Alvarado Street in Monterey (My Attic). The event will be especially of interest to students currently attending the Defense Language Institute who are looking to continue their education after leaving DLI. It will include information on the graduate degree program from the financial aid director, the MIIS veteran's coordinator and veterans currently studying at MIIS. Active-duty military, veterans, family members are welcome to attend. For more information, call 831-647-3503.

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Photo by Steven L. Shepard

Big Sur Mud Run

Runners take showers after the Big Sur Mud Run on the former Fort Ord March 23. The showers were provided by the Presidio of Monterey Fire Department. See article on page 4. For more photos, visit <http://tiny.cc/pomflickr>.

America pays tribute to spouses, family members of fallen military

By **Luke Elliott**
Installation Management Command

America will pay respect April 5 to the spouses and families of fallen members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

A resolution to designate Gold Star Wives Day was approved March 20 by the U.S. Senate in recognition of the sacrifices made by these spouses and family members.

The Senate resolution states the military service members and veterans "bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States and ... the

sacrifices of the families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States should never be forgotten."

Gold Star Wives Day was first celebrated Dec. 18, 2010, through a Senate resolution with support from the Gold Star Wives of America Inc., a nonprofit organization of about 10,000 members that provides services and support to the spouses of fallen service members.

"Remembrance days like Gold Star Wives Day specifically honor the sacrifices of some of the individuals a Fallen Soldier has left behind," said Donna

Engeman, Survivor Outreach Services Program Manager, U.S. Army Installation Management Command. "The sacrifices of a Gold Star wife reach beyond losing the person she considers a life partner — it is a loss of goals and expectations, it impacts her identity within the Army culture and completely changes the path of her future.

"The importance of Gold Star Wives Day is that it brings acknowledgement to and honors the many sacrifices of these incredibly courageous and resilient

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Month of the Military Child

Learning to save is key to financial responsibility

By Claudette Roulo
American Forces Press Service

April is both the Month of the Military Child and Financial Literacy Month, so it's a good time to shine a spotlight on teaching children financial responsibility, said Barbara Thompson, the Pentagon's director of the office of family policy/children and youth in a joint interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

"These are life skills that you don't want to learn when you're in trouble as an adult," Thompson said. "We think financial readiness is one of those life skills that, the sooner you start, the more prepared you are as you enter adulthood."

Children as young as 3 years old can start learning about the value of money, the importance of saving for something special and how to differentiate between wants and needs, she said.

"When you start to get those perceptions at an early age, it's easier as they grow up to make those decisions, to make wise financial decisions," Thompson added.

She said statistics on retirement preparation are startling, noting, "People have not been saving at all."

According to the results of a 2012 survey by the Consumer Federation of America, just 49 percent of working Americans have sufficient retirement savings to provide for a "desirable standard of living." Just over a third of low- and moderate-income households had savings or money market accounts.

"Right now, it's a tough time," Thompson said. "We're facing some



U.S. Army photo by C. Todd Lopez

Month of the Military Child is a good time for parents to shine a spotlight on teaching children financial responsibility.

financial uncertainty, and so it's hard to save. But you have to start small and make it a regular habit."

Some child development centers, youth programs and schools are using activities to teach children about financial readiness, she said.

"For example, in our dramatic play areas in our child development centers, sometimes they set up a grocery store, and children learn about money and that you have to have money to buy products," Thompson said. "What's important is that they start to see that money just doesn't shoot out of the ATM machine, that you have to earn it, put it in the bank and then use it to pay for what you think is of value."

Thompson said learning to save is the foundation of financial responsibility.

"You save for a rainy day. You have an emergency fund [and] you save for something that you want. You don't go into great debt just because you want

it right now; you start to save for it, and you do your research before you buy something. I think those are really important concepts," she said.

"We want to make sure that [children] have good skills for their futures," Thompson said, "whether it is recognizing their sacrifice or providing them the tools to be strong adults."

Thompson said a variety of resources are available for educators, parents and children to learn about financial responsibility. Resources include:

- Military OneSource, which offers free face-to-face or telephonic financial counseling, savings and investment information and educational resources for young people;
- Personal financial managers at installation family centers are financial counselors who can help families develop their budgets and set their financial goals (at the Presidio of Monterey, call 831-242-5501);
- SaveandInvest.org can help adults learn financial management skills that they can teach to their children;
- Jump\$art provides good resources for educators and bankers;
- Financial institutions that operate on military installations are required to offer financial management resources;
- Money as You Grow provides information for children ages 3 and up to help them make smart financial decisions; and
- Military Youth on the Move includes financial tools for younger children, tweens and teens.

NEWS NOTES

Continued from page 1

EFMP support group

Army Community Service will host an Exceptional Family Member Program support group 6-8 p.m. the second Thursday of each month usually at the General Stilwell Community Center, Ord Military Community. The next meeting is April 11. Free child care is available with coordination in advance; refreshments are provided; registration is required. Military and civilian families are welcome. Contact Linda Moseley, EFMP manager, for more information, 831-242-7960.

Write a winning resume

Army Community Service is sponsoring Writing a Winning Resume at the General Stilwell Community Center Gold Room on Ord Military Community 9 a.m.-noon April 18. Career coach Mary Jean Vincent will help you create a resume that is a compelling marketing tool; write powerful statements that highlight your unique contributions; and identify action words that sell. To reserve a seat for this class, call 831-242-7660.

Fort Ord Retiree Council

The next Fort Ord Military Retiree Council meets at General Stilwell Community Center on Ord Military Community 1-2 p.m. May 2. The council meets the first Thursday of each month, except December and June. All military retirees are invited to the Retiree Council meetings. For more information, call 831-242-5232.

Do you have news to share?

Post your organization's news on the Presidio of Monterey's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/USAGPresidio.



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Put down the phone: No excuse for distracted driving

By National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

With ever increasing demands on personal and professional time in today's busy society, learning to juggle multiple tasks at once is something we all face daily. As a result, a new traffic safety epidemic has emerged on America's roadways that demands immediate attention: distracted driving.

In 2010, 3,092 people were killed in crashes involving a distracted driver. One of the most alarming and widespread forms of distracted driving is cell-phone use. According to a Carnegie Mellon study, driving while using a cell phone reduces the amount of brain activity associated with driving by 37 percent. And a report from the National Safety Council found that more than one out of every four traffic accidents is caused by people talking on cell phones or sending text messages.

"Distracted driving is an epidemic on America's roadways, and we're doing our part to help put an end to it," said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood. "Texting and cell-phone use while driving is extremely dangerous, and we know simply getting drivers to



turn their phones off when they get behind the wheel will make our roads significantly safer."

Text messaging is of heightened concern because it combines three types of distraction — visual, manual and cognitive. In other words, texting involves taking your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel, and your mind off the task of driving.

To tackle this ever-increasing problem, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is focusing on ways to change the behavior of drivers through legislation, enforcement, public awareness and education — the same tactics that have curbed drinking and driving and increased seat-belt use.

"Decades of experience with drunk driving and getting people to buckle up has taught us it takes

a consistent combination of public education, effective enforcement, a committed judiciary, and the collective efforts of local, state and national advocates to put a dent in the problem," said LaHood.

NHTSA's message is simple — "One Text or Call Could Wreck it All." With supporters ranging from President Barack Obama to Oprah and legislation being passed across the nation to discourage distracted driving, NHTSA officials hope drivers get the message loud and clear.

The next time you are pressed for time, and it seems like multitasking in the car is the best decision, remember those 3,092 lives that were taken because someone decided they could do two things at once.

A text or call is not worth your life, or anyone else's.

POM police ticketing distracted drivers

By Presidio of Monterey Police Department

As part of April's Distracted Driving Awareness Month campaign, Presidio of Monterey Police Department, along with most other law enforcement agencies in California, will be actively ticketing drivers texting or operating handheld cell phones.

Drivers who break the law and place themselves and others in danger will be cited with no warnings.

There is no question that distracted driving happens locally.

On March 25, the Presidio experienced an injury-causing traffic collision on Mason Road adjacent to the cemetery. This rear-end collision was caused by a

distracted driver who was texting while driving.

Distracted driving is a serious traffic safety issue that puts everyone on the road at risk.

In recent years, hundreds have been killed and thousands seriously injured in California as a result of collisions that involved at least one driver who was driving while distracted. Furthermore, did you know it is against the law? Yep, it's against California law and POM policy.

For more on the law and policy check out and <http://tiny.cc/6y7yuw> and <http://tiny.cc/d07yuw>.

Remember to put away your phone and any other distracting items when driving. The life you protect may be your own.



SecDef Hagel announces fewer furlough days for civilians

By Nick Simeone
American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department has revised from 22 to 14 the number of days hundreds of thousands of civilian employees could be furloughed this year because of the budget sequester, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced March 28.

In addition, a senior Defense Department official speaking on background told reporters the start of the furloughs will be delayed until mid-to-late June, after more than 700,000 department employees receive furlough notices now set to go out in early May. Furloughs would happen over seven two-week pay periods until the end of September, when the current fiscal year ends, the senior official said, with employees likely to be told not to come to work for two days during each of those pay

periods.

Department officials say they are still working to determine which employees might be exempted.

Hagel characterized the reduced furloughs as well as a revised estimate of sequestration's impact on the defense budget as good news. The changes follow Congressional approval of a defense appropriations bill that prevented an additional six billion dollars in cuts, ordered under sequestration, from taking effect.

"It reduces a shortfall at least in the operations budget," the secretary told reporters at a Pentagon news conference. "We came out better than we went in under the sequester, where it looks like our number is \$41 billion [in cuts] now versus the \$46 billion."

But despite a Congressional reprieve, Hagel said the Pentagon is still going to be short at least \$22 billion for operations and maintenance, "and that means we are going to have to prioritize and make some cuts and do what we've got to do," including making sharp reductions in base operating support and training for nondeployed units.

More critical in the long run, he said, is how budget cuts will affect readiness and the department's overall mission. Because of that concern, he said he has directed Deputy Defense Secretary Ash Carter and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to conduct an intensive department-wide review of U.S. strategic interests including how to protect the nation with fewer resources. "How do we prioritize the threats and then the capabilities required to deal with threats?" he said. "There will be some significant

changes, there's no way around it."

Dempsey said the department has already exhausted 80 percent of its operating funds halfway through the fiscal year and characterized the current budget situation as "not the deepest, but the steepest decline in our budget ever," and warned it will affect military readiness into the future.

"We will have to trade at some level and to some degree our future readiness for current operations," the chairman said. He called on elected leaders to give the Pentagon the budget flexibility it needs to carry out institutional reforms.

"We can't afford excess equipment," Dempsey said. "We can't afford excess facilities. We have to reform how we buy weapons and services. We have to reduce redundancy. And we've got to change, at some level, our compensation structure."

“I made all my generals out of mud” ~ Napoleon Bonaparte

BIG SUR MUD RUN 2013

Photos and story by Steven L. Shepard



(Above) Runners navigate a five-foot wall as part of the race's five-mile obstacle course that stretched across the former Fort Ord. (Below left) Teams from the Military, Public Safety and High School divisions dash cross the starting line. (Below right) Military volunteers lead participants in a series of pre-race warm up exercises.





More than 3,000 people gathered together on the Monterey Peninsula March 23 to give credence to the adage that you are never too old to play in the mud. The sold-out eighth presentation of the Big Sur Mud Run was held with 2,000 individual runners and 240 teams participating, many dressed in colorful costumes.

The popular local event covers approximately five miles on land once belonging to the now closed Fort Ord, with the race beginning and ending near the Freeman Stadium on the California State University Monterey Bay campus. The course included hills, obstacles, exercise stations, five-foot walls and four mud pits.

William Killian of Prunedale placed first in the Individual Military Division with a time of 36:54 and the “Lagoon Platoon” recorded the fastest time for the Military Team Division.


“This was a great chance to come out and work as a team with my fellow Marines,” said Pfc. Chloe Porter, who participated as a member of the team called The Mauve Avengers. “This race isn’t just a normal run. With the mud pits and stuff it has more challenges. It’s a lot of fun.”

In addition to the service members competing in the run, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center had 127 volunteers at the event including “drill sergeants” strategically placed at mud pits to lead exercises and provide motivation.

Proceeds from the annual Mud Run benefit youth and athletic programs of the Presidio’s Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Directorate, the Athletic Department of CSUMB, and the Big Sur International Marathon’s youth fitness program, JUST RUN.

PHOTOS: (Clockwise from top left) A Carmel Middle School student from the overall first-place team “Mud Squirts” races through the mud. A volunteer “drill sergeant” provides motivation as runners exit the final mud pit. Post-race showers were provided by the Presidio of Monterey Fire Department. A masked racer crosses the finish line. Participants gather at the festival area after the race.






Celebrating Military Children


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TRIBUTE *Continued from page 1*

women,” she added.

The Department of Defense presents one of two lapel pins to Gold Star Family members. The pins are worn by the survivors to recognize their sacrifices and as a way for others to pay tribute to them.

The first pin is the Gold Star Lapel Pin, which was established by Congress in 1947 and is presented spouses and family

members of service members killed in combat.

The second pin is the Next of Kin Lapel Pin, which is presented to immediate family members of service members who die while serving outside of combat operations. This pin features a gold star on a gold background.



U.S. Army photo

An act of Congress established the gold star lapel pin (left) for issue to immediate family members of service members killed in combat. The next-of-kin pin (right) signifies a service-related death or suicide during active duty other than combat.

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Photo by Steven L. Shepard

Women's History Month observed

Karen Wisdom from California State University - Monterey Bay speaks to staff and faculty during the Women's History Month observance at the Tin Barn March 28. Wisdom, from CSUMB's School of Information Technology and Communication Design, spoke on this year's topic "Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics."



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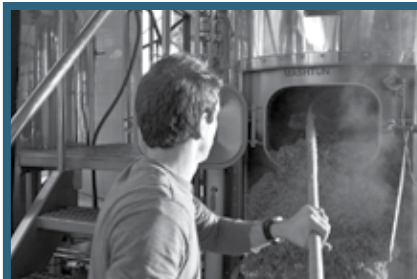


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