



NEWS RELEASE

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Building 238, California Avenue - Fort Hunter Liggett, CA 93928-7000 -- www.liggett.army.mil

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For more information contact:

Helen Elrod
Director of Public Affairs
Office: (831) 386-2690
Email: helen.elrod@us.army.mil

Tree Lighting Ceremony Helps Spread Holiday Cheer

By Staff Sgt. James Blaine
Public Affairs Specialist
Fort Hunter Liggett

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. – Its Christmas time again and that means the annual lighting of the Christmas tree here. Kids and adults enjoyed a chilly hay ride before dusk and then sang Christmas carols; the children delivered with much exuberance in soprano voices, and the adults crooned in baritone.

Now it was time to light the 50 foot Monterey pine, strung with hundreds of lights by the folks at Operations and Maintenance. Post commander, Col. James M. Suriano asked for volunteers and practically every kid's hands went up, but to be fair the Colonel could only select a few, so he chose kids dressed like an elf, a fairy and in keeping with the FHL wildlife, a reindeer. They all gathered at the switch and counted down...three, two, one, and the lights were lit and the tree came to life.

Suddenly there was a siren heard in the distance and one could look down Infantry Road and see the flashing lights of a fire truck, and that could only mean one thing, the arrival of Old Saint Nick. Complete with duffle bag, Santa stepped out of the truck and into the running arms of the children. "HO! HO! HO!" could be heard as Santa shook the little hands and passed out gifts with a smile that beamed from the North Pole to the South.

He had to say so long as he boarded the fire truck and headed off to the Hacienda so kids could sit on his lap and he could ask what they wanted for Christmas, but only if they were nice not naughty. The Hacienda feast and the Christmas spirit awaited the throng of holiday goers, so until next year when the Monterey pine again comes to life, Merry Christmas to all and to all a goodnight.

Fort Hunter Liggett provides base operations support at four installations enabling world-class Combat Support and Combat Service Support training, while providing for the well-being and security of Soldiers, family members and civilians on post. Fort Hunter Liggett is the largest Army Reserve installation and the eighth largest in the Army. With more than 165,000 acres of unencroached mountains, valleys, rivers, plains and forests it provides ideal maneuver areas for today's training requirements. Please visit our website for information on our organization, visit www.liggett.army.mil.

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