



PRESENTE

PUERTO RICO NATIONAL GUARD SUPPORTS PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Pages 6-7



A UNIQUE BILINGUAL MAGAZINE FOR A UNIQUE BILINGUAL FORCE

MENSAJE DEL AYUDANTE GENERAL



Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Vicéns

El año 2012 será uno de nuevos retos y logros que estoy seguro que quedarán plasmados en los anales históricos de nuestra institución.

El pasado año lo despedimos portando el título de la institución que mayor confianza y respeto inspira en el pueblo. Esto nos llena de orgullo y satisfacción, pues refleja que una vez más hemos librado todo obstáculo en el camino, superado los retos

y logrado el cumplimiento de la misión de forma tal que el pueblo sigue confiando en su Guardia Nacional y su capacidad de asistir al país y a la nación.

Para mantener este sitio de excelencia continuamos con el compromiso de trabajar con más ahínco y con renovados esfuerzos. Esta posición de confianza nos ha costado a todos mucho sacrificio.

Este compromiso nos ha de seguir guiando hacia el logro de la "Visión 2020" y nuestro deseo de ser y permanecer como la institución de mayor relevancia para las Américas. Es por esto que continuamos manteniendo y renovando el Programa de Compañeros de Estados (SPP) por el cual asistimos a nuestros hermanos de la República Dominicana y Honduras.

Los programas juveniles siguen siendo una de nuestras grandes prioridades. De esta manera aportamos al bienestar y futuro del país mientras ayudamos a asegurar un mejor porvenir para nuestra juventud.

El Comando Estatal continúa adiestrando junto al resto de la fuerza desarrollando sus destrezas de forma tal que podamos recibir un apoyo más efectivo e impactante para beneficio de nuestras comunidades.

La modernización de la Guardia Nacional sigue su marcha con la adquisición de nuevos equipos y sistemas. Esto, junto al mejor y más moderno adiestramiento a nuestros Ciudadanos-Soldados y Aviadores, hace de nuestra fuerza una flexible y profesional capaz de enfrentarse a los retos del siglo 21.

Como parte de esta modernización, pronto tendremos la ceremonia para colocar la primera piedra que inicia la construcción de las modernas facilidades de un Centro de Adiestramiento en el Fuerte Buchanan a un costo de más de \$55 millones.

Aunque aún siguen las movilizaciones de nuestros Ciudadanos-Soldados y Aviadores a nivel federal, el número de éstas ha ido declinando paulatinamente con la terminación de la misión de "Nuevo Amanecer" en Irak en diciembre pasado.

Nuestros Ciudadanos-Soldados y Aviadores movilizados han dejado en cada país en el que sirven una imagen de quienes somos, de nuestra cultura y de que somos una institución de grandes costumbres y tradiciones. Ellos han demostrado con su ejemplo, dedicación y sacrificio que el servir a la nación no es meramente un trabajo sino una vocación.

Estos héroes traen a casa grandes honores para sí y sus familias, para el nombre de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico y para orgullo de nuestro país y de la nación.

Con metas claras y definidas, junto al apoyo de todos ustedes, comenzamos un nuevo año el cual promete ser uno de grandes retos y grandes logros para nuestra institución. El orgullo que siente cada Ciudadano-Soldado y Aviador de pertenecer a nuestra organización es más que garantía de que cumpliremos a cabalidad con nuestra responsabilidad.

Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico...

¡SIEMPRE PRESENTE!



Siempre tendrán nuestro apoyo hasta que el último de nuestros Soldados y Aviadores regresen a casa...

"PRESENTE" is an unofficial bilingual publication of the Puerto Rico National Guard, authorized under AR 360-1, and prepared by the Public Affairs Office and 113th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. This magazine is published for all members of the National Guard, courtesy of the Puerto Rico National Guard Institutional Trust Fund (FIGNA). The viewpoints expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the Department of the Army or Air Force, the Puerto Rico National Guard or the Adjutant General of Puerto Rico.

Articles and photographs for publication in PRESENTE should be submitted to: Puerto Rico National Guard ATTN: Public Affairs Office (Maj. Dahlen), 100 Calle Gen Esteves, San Juan, P.R. 00901-2104. Phones: (787) 289-1400 X-1020, 1022, 1023 and 1024. Fax: (787) 289-1400 X-1021, e-mail: paul.dahlen@ng.army.mil.

Design and Artwork by: Staff Sgt. Waldemar Rivera, PRNG-PAO

PRESENTE MAGAZINE

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Director of Joint Staff

Brig. Gen. Víctor Pérez

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Picture of the day



Spc. Alexis J. Ocasio, of the Puerto Rico National Guard 130th Engineer Battalion, hugs his mother Norma Rodríguez, part of the 130th Family Support Group, upon arrival at Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico on Jan. 13. Ocasio returned home from Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and is one of more than 16,000 Citizen-Soldiers of the PRNG who have served in the Global War on Terrorism. A group of 89 members of the 130th were mobilized for this mission. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Rivera-Rebolledo, PRNG, 113th MPAD)

Table of Contents

page 04:	PRNG Fosters relationship with Central America partner
page 06:	President visits Puerto Rico
page 08:	Patience is a virtue
page 10:	225vo MP Regresa de Honduras
page 11:	Hogar niños que quieren sonreír
page 12:	PRNG 1-111 mobilized for missions in Iraq/Kuwait
page 14:	PRNG Language Center revives Spanish course
page 16:	Teamwork
page 17:	GNPR inaugura oficina de reclutamiento en Naranjito
page 18:	Future PRNG OCS Class 49
page 19:	Valor en Combate
page 20:	65th Infantry trains with the French in Africa
page 22:	Se gradúan 180 de Challenge
page 24:	GNPR recibe helicópteros de evacuación médica
page 25:	GNPR gradúa jóvenes del programa CREANDO
page 26:	927th CSSB plus 292nd CSSB WHAT A TEAM!
page 28:	Headliners
page 30:	Comando Estatal de Puerto Rico AT 2011
page 32:	In the fight downrange
page 33:	PRNG Supports Fuerzas Commando 2011
page 34:	PRNG Restores Río Nigua's watercourse
page 36:	Se gradúan 24 Curso Avanzado de Liderazgo para Oficiales
page 37:	Top Recruiter of the Year award
page 38:	Llegan los Reyes Magos de la GN
page 39:	PRNG with the latest in technology

SPP PROGRAM PRNG Fosters Relationship with Central American Partner

By Staff Sgt. Joseph Rivera Rebolledo, PRNG-PAO

The Puerto Rico National Guard welcomed a Honduran military delegation as part of the State Partnership Program with its Latin American neighbors.

The week-long visit provided the opportunity to exchange experiences, which strengthen the relationship between Honduras and the United States.

The areas covered during the visit included: educational training, humanitarian and peace-keeping operations and military public affairs.

The SPP was established in 1993 replacing a number of military assistance initiatives from the Department of Defense and the US State Department of countries allied with the United States.

According to Capt. Rolando Rodriguez, PRNG State Partnership Program Coordinator, the SPP is an effective program proving its utility by fulfilling different needs in Honduras and the Dominican Republic, which are the participating Latin American countries fostered by Puerto Rico.

The Honduran visitors had the opportunity to experience how the PRNG conducts training, manages mass communication programs and develops leadership through its military school system as they visited different training/work environments.

At the 201st Regimental Training Institute in Fort Allen, the Hondurans had the opportunity to visit the Non-Commissioned Officers Academy where they had

the chance to compare the training facilities and curriculum to their own, while exchanging information and ideas with the instructors. They also witnessed today's technology available to instructors and students alike.

“We came here with high expectations, and I feel confident these expectations were exceeded,” said Honduran army Col. Victoriano Salinas Olivas, NCO Academy Director, Honduran Army. “As director of the NCO Academy, I came here to see how the school works, how classes are instructed and I was very pleased with their presentation. The professionalism of the instructors and their behavior as NCOs is outstanding. These are

Honduran army Col. Victoriano Salinas Olivas, NCO Academy Director of the Honduran Army, egresses the HEAT simulator during his visit to Camp Santiago Joint Maneuver Training Center in Salinas, Puerto Rico. Col. Salinas is a member of the Honduran delegation that visited Puerto Rico as part of the State Partnership Program. During the visit, the Hondurans had the opportunity to visit Puerto Rico National Guard training facilities and exchange training information with its leaders. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Rivera-Rebolledo, PRNG-PAO)



good things I can bring back to my country.”

While there were good things to take home from Fort Allen, the training capabilities and equipment available at Camp Santiago Joint Maneuver Training Center increased the visitors’ interest during their tour.

The Hondurans had the opportunity to try the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT), a simulator of a Humvee in which Soldiers train in surviveability during vehicle roll-overs and safely egress in case of emergency.

“When the instructor asked who wanted to give it a try in the simulator I was the first one to hop in,” said Salinas. “I never had this opportunity in my 35 years in the institution, especially in a vehicle that is upside down, I have never had the experience of finding myself upside down in a vehicle. Feeling all the gravity in my head was amazing.”

According to Salinas, this experience has been so beneficial for the Honduran delegation to the point of extending an invitation to the PRNG. As a follow-up to this visit, members of the PRNG will visit Honduras to have the opportunity to experience and see how things are done there.



Honduran soldiers try the HEAT simulator during their visit to Camp Santiago Joint Maneuver Training Center in Salinas, Puerto Rico, as part of the State Partnership Program. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Rivera-Rebolledo, PRNG-PAO)

“The objectives of the SPP Program within Latin America have an emphasis in fighting drug trafficking while developing the capabilities of friendly countries in responding to natural disasters and humanitarian aid operations, while augmenting the amount of partners to participate in peacekeeping operations,” said Maj. Luciano Gonzalez, Army section chief, US Military Group in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. “It also includes the main goal of helping allied partners in the professionalization of their armed forces.”



Honduran public affairs soldiers observe a mosaic of Puerto Rico’s crest during a visit to the governor’s mansion in Old San Juan. The visit of the Honduran military was part of the State Partnership Program in which they had the opportunity to visit the Puerto Rico National Guard training facilities and exchange training information with its leaders. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Rivera-Rebolledo, PRNG-PAO)

PRESIDENT VISITS

By Sgt. 1st Class Luis E. Orengo, PRNG, PAO

The roaring sound of the big-blue bird stopped at the runway of Muñiz Air National Guard Base in Carolina, Puerto Rico at 11:35 a.m., June 14, 2011. It brings the President of the United States in a historic visit to the beautiful Caribbean island.

It has been 35 years since a U.S. President last visited Puerto Rico. Barack H. Obama became the sixth President to visit the island in its history. The late President Gerald Ford was the last to visit in 1976.

“It was an intense experience with all the planning and work to ensure the success of the presidential visit,” said Staff Sgt. Waldemar Rivera, from the 113th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. “It is the first time the Puerto Rico National Guard got so deeply involved in in such an event as a presidential visit.

As Air Force One landed in Muñiz Air National Guard Base, the 113th MPAD and the PRNG Public Affairs Office teams had the mission to escort and be the liaison for the local, national and international media. The PRNG had a myriad of assets ready to perform at a moment's notice.”

For several days prior to the President's visit the PRNG participated in the planning process to help develop the media management and security procedures.

The 113th MPAD and the PRNG Public Affairs Office worked hand-in-hand with White House staff personnel and U.S. Secret Service to facilitate local, national and international media coverage of the event.



Upon arrival, President Obama is greeted by government officials and escorted toward the hangar where the welcome ceremony would take place. Barack H. Obama became the sixth President to visit the island after the late President Gerald Ford back in 1976. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Luis E. Orengo, PRNG, PAO)

PUERTO RICO



Muñiz ANG Base security teams extended the security perimeter in and around the base while the 22nd Civil Support Team and PRNG Aviation assets were ready to support in case of any emergency. The 248th Army Band of the PRNG also played for the invited spectators.

President Obama was received by Puerto Rico Governor, Honorable Luis Fortuño, the San Juan and Carolina city mayors and the Adjutant General of Puerto Rico, Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Vicens. He then walked toward the main hangar where hundreds of National Guard members, families, veterans and personnel from diverse organizations gathered to witness this special moment.

During his speech, President Obama singled out Mr. Juan Castillo, veteran of the 2nd World War and Korea who was an eyewitness to the presidential visit.

“This man, who is almost 101 years old, is the example of the sacrifice and commitment of all Puerto Rican soldiers and veterans, and for that I express my gratitude and the na-

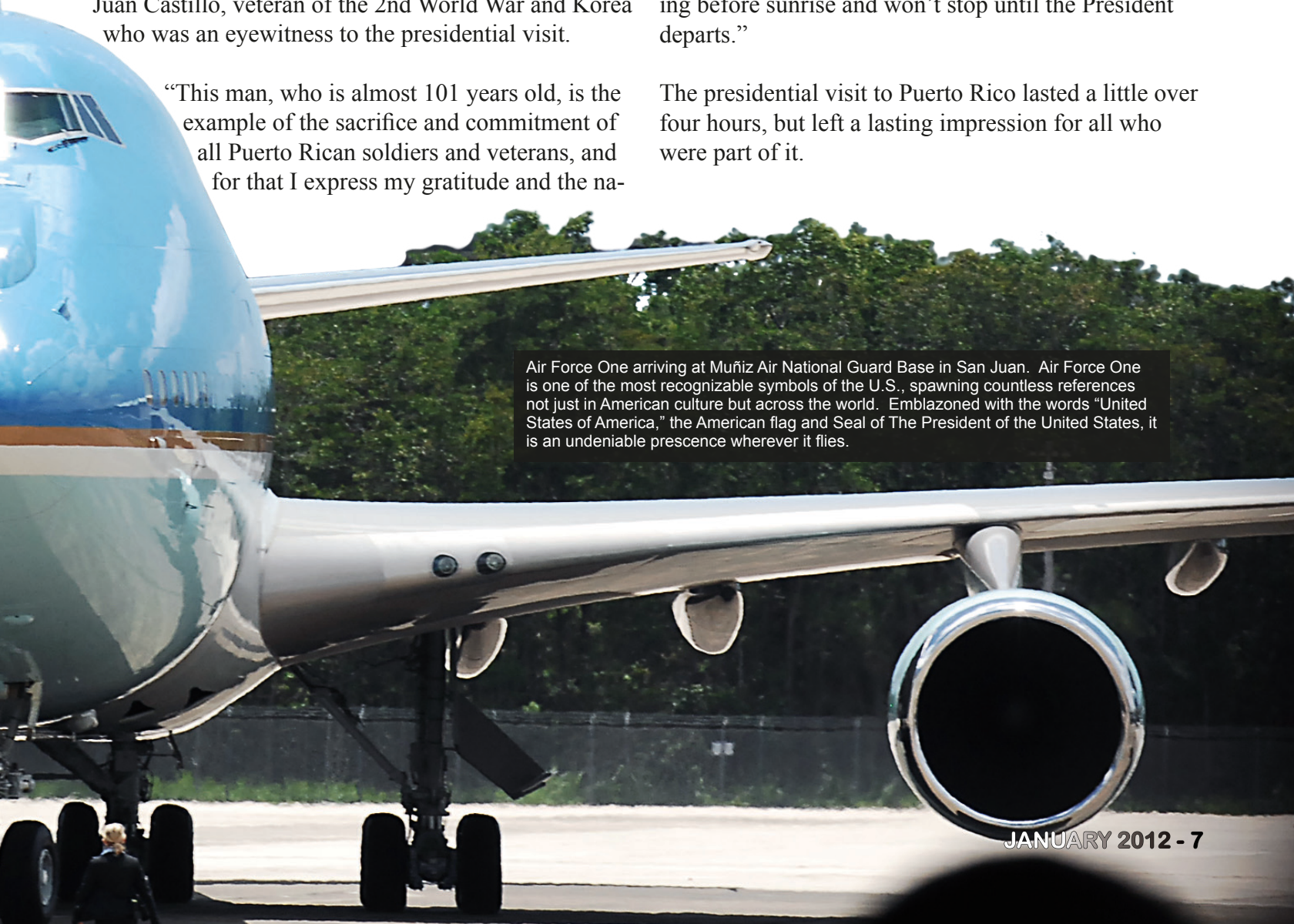
tion’s gratitude,” the President said. “Their willingness to serve, their willingness to sacrifice, is as American as apple pie.”

The president’s schedule included a visit to La Fortaleza, the oldest executive mansion in the Western Hemisphere, a tour of the Kennedy Suite, where President Kennedy stayed in 1961, and a concert performed by a youth orchestra.

“It’s been an honor to serve on this special occasion,” said Staff Sgt. Marizol Ruiz, 113th MPAD Operations Non-Commissioned Officer. “This is truly a significant event for all of us here. We started working before sunrise and won’t stop until the President departs.”

The presidential visit to Puerto Rico lasted a little over four hours, but left a lasting impression for all who were part of it.

Air Force One arriving at Muñiz Air National Guard Base in San Juan. Air Force One is one of the most recognizable symbols of the U.S., spawning countless references not just in American culture but across the world. Emblazoned with the words “United States of America,” the American flag and Seal of The President of the United States, it is an undeniable presence wherever it flies.



AT FORWARD OPERATING BASE DEH DADI II, Afghanistan Patience is a Virtue

Story by Capt. Kathryn Werback, PA Officer, 18th Engineer Brigade

July has been a preparation month for the 1014th Engineer Company (Sapper) of Puerto Rico. Their equipment continues to arrive and the delay is frustrating for the soldiers, but they have taken the opportunity to intensify their training.

Transferring paperwork, tracking shipments, and training matrixes are all closely monitored by the 1014th Eng. Company Tactical Operations Center.

“One of my jobs, here in the TOC, is to track every soldier’s qualifications and status,” explained Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Santiago of the 1014th Eng. Company, operations non-commissioned officer from Bayamon, Puerto Rico. “If the Soldier needs this kind of training or that, I’m the one that makes sure it happens.”

“We told the soldiers we need them to keep the motivation up and be, as Puerto Ricans; positive, hard working, and willing to celebrate.”

— 1st Lt. Luis Camacho, XO, 1014th SAPPER CO.

Given the opportunity to get more training for soldiers, Santiago jumps at the chance. Although they continue to wait for some equipment, they know that “all that stuff is coming, so we’re preparing ourselves.”

The 1014th has been busy sharpening their warrior skills in combat lifesaver techniques, weapon ranges, battle drills, mine resistant ambush protected vehicle driving, robotics, and demolition. Recently, 1st Platoon was out in the motor pool training on their casualty evacuation procedures.



1st Lt. Luis Camacho, Executive Officer (XO) of the 1014th oversees the training taken on by his troops while awaiting for the rest of the equipment to arrive at FOB Deh Dadi II, Afghanistan. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Glenn Sierra)

“We received a few vehicles yesterday, and we’re now waiting on the paperwork to sign for them,” said Staff Sgt. Angel Santiago with 1014th Eng. Company, maintenance section sergeant from Ciales, Puerto Rico. “Right now, I’m checking all the functions on this forward repair system to see if it’s operational. We’ll use this system to provide basic maintenance and repairs on our vehicles.”

As soldiers were rushing in and out of the TOC, checklists were confirmed, and instructions were issued. Sgt. 1st Class Santiago looked up from his computer and said, “We’re patient; but at the same time, we want in on this fight.”



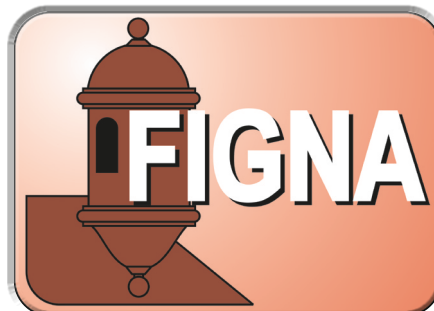
Spc. Jaime Vaquero of 1014th Engineer Company (Sapper), combat engineer from the Puerto Rico National Guard, acts as a litter patient while his buddies extract him from a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle during casualty evacuation training at Forward Operating Base Deh Dadi II, Afghanistan. In order to prevent real injuries, soldiers remove their body armor to practice their carrying techniques before their final practical exercise. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Glenn Sierra)

Article compiled from "TF Roughneck Review" publication issue #3 June 2011, FOB Deh Dadi 2, Afghanistan

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225^{VO} DE POLICIA MILITAR REGRESA DE MISION EN HONDURAS

Parte de la compañía 225 de Policía Militar de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico regresó en agosto de Honduras en donde estuvieron destacados en la Base Aérea Soto Cano.

El grupo de policías militares, compuesto por 49 Soldados entre los cuáles había cinco féminas, estuvo movilizado durante un año ejecutando tareas de seguridad en como parte de la Fuerza de Tarea Conjunta Bravo.

La Fuerza de Tarea Conjunta Bravo fué establecida en agosto del 1984 y es una de las tres fuerzas de tarea conjunta bajo las órdenes del Comando Sur de los EE.UU.

La misión primordial de la Fuerza de Tarea Conjunta Bravo es incentivar la unión y llevar a cabo ejercicios de inter-agencia en el Area de Operaciones Conjunta (JOA), para brindar seguridad y cooperación regional y apoyar el desarrollo democrático en la zona.





Por Sgto. 1ra Clase Luis E. Orengo, GNPR, PAO

La Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico y la *World Wrestling Entertainment* visitaron a los niños del hogar “Niños que Quieren Sonreír” ubicado en San-turce.

Eve Torres, Diva de la WWE expresó su deseo de llevar alegría a los niños pacientes de cáncer ya que su mamá es sobreviviente de esta enfermedad.

“Yo lucho para vivir, pero ustedes han luchado por vivir y eso los ha hecho fuertes”, dijo Torres.

“Esta visita tiene el propósito de llevar un momento de alegría a todos estos niños pacientes de cáncer”, dijo el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns.

La emoción y la algarabía de los niños presente eran evidentes mientras recibían autógrafos y se fotografiaban con Torres.

“La gran mayoría de estos niños son fanáticos de la lucha libre y era algo natural que nosotros, teniendo la oportunidad a través del Negociado de la Guardia Nacional, le brindáramos esta experiencia”, dijo Vicéns.

“Hoy ha sido el mejor día de mi vida”, dijo Anher Omar Hernández Navarro, uno de los niños asistente a la actividad. “Yo quiero ser soldado, porque son los héroes de verdad, aunque siempre quise ser parte de la WWE también”.

“Nuestro involucramiento con las actividades de la Sociedad Americana del Cáncer es parte de la labor comunitaria de nuestra institución y es a la vez una misión de amor”, terminó diciendo Vicéns.

El hogar “Niños que Quieren Sonreír” es una rama de la Sociedad Americana del Cáncer donde los niños pacientes de cáncer descansan y recuperan luego de recibir tratamiento de quimioterapia y otros tratamientos relacionados con esta enfermedad. En este hogar se provee alojamiento al niño junto a uno de sus padres.

Como parte del apoyo al Hogar, la GNPR auspicia el evento de Relevo por la Vida y tiene designado un equipo de trabajo para llevar alegría y compartir con los niños que allí pernoctan juntos a sus padres. También la GNPR está en proceso de reparar áreas de este Hogar para beneficio de los que disfrutan de las facilidades. --- Edwin Ramos Jourdan, Coordinador S.O.S.

A Company 1-111 Aviation MOBILIZED FOR MISSIONS IN IRAQ/KUWAIT

By Staff Sgt. Waldemar Rivera, PRNG, PAO

The 1st Battalion 111th Aviation, 101st Troop Command of the Puerto Rico National Guard was mobilized to provide transportation support in the last phase of the US troop withdrawal from Iraq after President Obama declared all combat troops would leave Iraq by the 31st of December, 2011.

Four UH-60 Blackhawks took off from the Army Aviation Support Facility in San Juan, on Aug. 28, heading northeast toward Killeen, Texas., on a flight that would take several fuel and rest stops before arriving at Fort Hood to meet with the rest of the crews and support personnel.

Upon arrival to Texas, the helicopters needed to be stripped, cleaned and reconditioned by the support crew there before departing for the mission. The clock was ticking and there was a lot of work to do before departure-day toward the Middle East.

“We are leaving by the end of October in three separate groups,” said Lt. Col. Pat Mignon, the mission commander. “We are gonna roll into Kuwait and from there we’ll go to Taji, Iraq for about a month where we will utilize aircraft already there to provide transportation support to the south. After the 31st of December there will be no more missions within Iraq.”

At Fort Hood, the troops would do some final training and refresher courses for a couple of months to fine-tune for the mission.

“This is the first time I get mobilized and it feels a little like home because I am with the whole crew and the guys I already know,” said Chief Warrant Officer Luis Ríos from A company 1-111th Avn. “I think I would be a little nervous if I was by myself with people I would have to get to know. I feel very confident with the outcome of the mission.”





Photos by Staff Sgt. Waldemar Rivera and Sgt. Angel D. Martínez, PRNG, 113th MPAD



PRNG Language Center REVIVES SPANISH COURSE



The Language Center has modern computerized classrooms with the latest in technology to make it easier for the students to reach their learning goals. The teachers and professors are trained and certified experts in the field with many years of experience in the military system. (Photo by PRNG-PAO)

By: Staff Sgt. Joseph Rivera Rebolledo, PRNG-PAO

The Puerto Rico National Guard's 201st Regimental Training Institute in Juana Diaz restored its Spanish Language Course at the Language Center in Fort Allen.

The course, which was discontinued for several years, is again being offered to all Soldiers and those service members who require Spanish language to effectively accomplish their mission.

According to 1st Lt. Cesar A. Irizarry, 3678th Forward Support Company and the Academy Project Officer, Special Forces Soldiers used to enroll in the Spanish Course at least once a year, but it was not until 2011 that the course was revived here and SF troops began to enroll again.

Recently, Soldiers from the 20th Special Forces Group attended the course and are programmed to attend all three phases, which are: basic, intermediate and advanced courses.

According to Irizarry, once all phases are complete, the Soldiers are scheduled to take the Defense Language Proficiency Test, which determines their listening and verbal proficiency levels in foreign languages. The test is also a tool for the schoolhouse to measure the effectiveness of the course and identify possible areas of improvement.

One of the attendees said that an advantage of tak-

ing the course in Puerto Rico is the availability of native Spanish speakers from the surrounding area.

As part of the training, Soldiers visit the Veterans Home in Juana Diaz on a daily basis once class is complete. There, they have the opportunity to speak with the residents for about two hours and practice what they have learned, which represents full immersion in the language.

“The expectations of the RTI are to keep bringing students from other states and territories to take the Spanish course,” said Irizarry. “What makes us special is that we are in Puerto Rico, where we speak Spanish and that’s what they look for, for that immersion in which they are always practicing and honing their Spanish.”

According to Maj. Haymet Llovet, Language Center commandant, she’s very pleased with the outcome after reviving a course that was dormant for 12 years.

“We are very proud of the opportunity to offer the course once again; a course which we are prepared for with Spanish teachers who are certified by the Department of

Education,” said Llovet.

“In order to expand and increase attendance of the Spanish Course, the PRNG presented a proposal to National Guards from other states, the State Partnership Program, and federal agencies such as the FBI, said Llovet.



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FROM THE COMMANDER OF THE 101st TROOP COMMAND

Teamwork

By Spc. Wanda I. Hernández Reyes, 113th MPAD

“**T**eamwork is the effort of two or more individuals working together for the benefit of the whole,” said Col. Gervasio Ortiz-López, 101st Troop Command Commander for the Puerto Rico National Guard. “This practice is widely used in the military yet it is also carried through to the civilian system.”

We live in a society where almost nothing is accomplished by one person alone, you need somebody to rely on when doing activities.

“During Basic Training, the first form of teamwork is learned when we are taught to have a ‘buddy’,” said Ortiz. “That battle buddy is there no matter what, in good or bad situations. This person needs to know everything about you and vice versa. In service, in the mission, or tasks being performed, you need to know each other, and cross-train with this person.”

Both can learn from one another, see other perspectives, watch out for each other and help on each other’s development.



Soldiers from 101st Troop Command use teamwork to carry heavy equipment like the Very Small Aperture Terminal system containers during Annual Training 2011. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Waldemar Rivera, 113th MPAD)



Col. Gervasio Ortiz, Commander of 101st Troop Command, encourages Soldiers to use teamwork on a day-to-day basis to carry out the mission in a more efficient way. (Photo by Spc. Wanda I. Hernández Reyes, 113th MPAD)

“If you try to do things alone you will realize how difficult it can be and how little is accomplished if alone,” said Ortiz. “As an institution, we don’t only have goals and objectives for each individual, but also for the entire institution. When we have a single individual trying to do a job, we would only have one person thinking about how to do the mission or a specific task, whereas in a team, everyone would have their input making the results faster and more efficient.”

“Whether it is done in a team of two, a squad, a platoon or a battalion, everything we do in the PRNG is done through teamwork,” said Ortiz. “When we do things together as a team it becomes a successful collective task.”

Teamwork is constantly instilled and implemented during troops’ training, cross-training and checking on lessons learned.

“Everyone has personal things to do or work on. However, the main idea is to do as much as possible as a team and unite the institution that way in order to have equal growth,” said Ortiz.

“Without the use of teamwork it is more difficult to accomplish a mission, a task or a job. Its effectiveness shows, no matter whether in the military or the civilian community.”



GNPR INAUGURA NUEVA OFICINA DE RECLUTAMIENTO EN NARANJITO

Por Sgto. de Estado Waldemar Rivera, GNPR, PAO

La Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico inauguró una nueva oficina de reclutamiento en el pueblo de Naranjito en medio de una ceremonia donde el Gobernador Luis Fortuño hizo el corte de cinta inaugural junto al honorable Orlando Ortiz, alcalde de éste pueblo.

“Estoy muy orgulloso de que se abra una oficina de reclutamiento de la Guardia Nacional en nuestro pueblo”, dijo Ortiz. Esto ayuda a que los residentes de Naranjito y áreas adyacentes pierdan la mentalidad de que todo se tiene que hacer en el área metropolitana y para que vean que nuestro pueblo también tiene la capacidad de dar los servicios aquí mismo”.

“El señor Gobernador, como comandante en jefe, nos dió el visto bueno para que esta oficina de reclutamiento fuese una realidad para los ciudadanos de Naranjito. Sin lugar a dudas que esta oficina nos ayudará a crear nuevos empleos y mejorar la situación económica de los Naranjiteños porque recuerden que el mejor *part-time* del mundo es la Guardia Nacional”, dijo Ortiz.

La nueva oficina de reclutamiento está ubicada en el Complejo de Oficinas Gubernamental José Archilla Cabrera en el centro del pueblo. Allí el Gobernador expresó su agradecimiento al compromiso que tiene la GN con todos los puertorriqueños.

“Para mí es un honor estar aquí con los compañeros de la Guardia Nacional y participar de esta ceremonia”, dijo Fortuño. “Como bien se ha dicho siempre: en el momento en que más se necesita la Guardia Nacional esta presente para ayudar. Y no solamente en Naranjito, sino en tantas ocasiones que ha estado presente cuando se le ha necesitado”.

“A esos Ciudadanos-Soldados que tienen su propia vida diaria hasta el momento en que son llamados a servir desprendidamente a su comunidad, a ustedes va nuestro respeto y agradecimiento y definitivamente hay que seguir abriendo este tipo de facilidades para que lleguen las oportunidades a todos los rincones de nuestra isla. Puerto Rico es mucho más que el área metropolitana y por eso es que estamos hoy aquí en Naranjito”, terminó diciendo Fortuño.



PRNG OCS CLASS #49



Future PRNG Officers of OCS Class #49, upon their completion of Phase 1 training in Fort McGrady, South Carolina. OCS Phase 1 taught them the basic leadership skills required for a Commissioned Officer and were faced with both physical and mental challenges. These challenges encouraged their will to succeed and developed and evaluated their determination and desire to excel. They will conduct their OCS Phase 2 training in Fort Allen, Juana Diaz from July 2011 - June 2012. OCS Phase 3 will begin in July 2012 in Fort McClellan, Alabama. These young officers in training are scheduled to commission as PRNG second lieutenants in August 2012. (Photo provided)

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CIUDADANOS-SOLDADOS RECONOCIDOS POR SU VALOR EN COMBATE



El Especialista Jean C. Santana, de la Compañía 1013 de Ingeniería, muestra su certificado como recipiente de la medalla Corazón Púrpura y exaltación al Salón de los Héroes de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico. A éste le acompaña su esposa e hija y es escoltado por el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns y el Director del Estado Mayor Conjunto, General de Brigada Víctor Pérez. Santana se convirtió en recipiente de la medalla Corazón Púrpura mientras estaba movilizado en Irak en 2011. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Waldemar Rivera, GNPR-PAO)

Por Sgto. de Estado Waldemar Rivera, GNPR-PAO

La Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico reconoció a un grupo de Ciudadanos-Soldados quienes recibieron condecoraciones durante las recientes movilizaciones como parte de la guerra contra el terrorismo. Estos fueron exaltados al Salón de los Héroes de La Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico en una ceremonia llevada a cabo en los Cuarteles Generales en San Juan.

Durante la ceremonia, la cual es la primera en su clase, un total de 24 Estrellas de Bronce, 12 medallas de Corazón Púrpura y 28 Medallas de Servicio en Combate de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico fueron reconocidas entre los condecorados presentes.

“Estos compañeros han demostrado su orgullo y puesto la bandera de Puerto Rico en alto”, dijo el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns. “Hemos visto compañeros que han vuelto con marcas que les han de durar para el resto de sus vidas

y reconocemos que ese sacrificio no es fácil. Así como hacemos ceremonias para recordar a aquellos que ya no están con nosotros, también tenemos que reconocer a los que se han podido levantar y seguir con la frente en alto echando hacia adelante.

Mis felicitaciones por ese compromiso que tienen, no solamente en las movilizaciones como las que tenemos todos los días, sino cuando la nación lo pide porque precisamente así es que todos disfrutamos de este legado del que tanto nos enorgullecemos que se logra sólo con mucho sacrificio: el legado de la libertad”, terminó diciendo Vicéns.

Hasta el momento se reconoce en la Sala de Héroes de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico a: un recipiente de la Medalla Estrella de Plata, 158 recipientes de Medalla Estrella de Bronce y 57 recipientes de la Medalla Corazón Púrpura.

65th Infantry

trains with the French in

AFRICA



Story by Sgt. 1st Class Luis Orengo, PRNG-PAO

Photos provided by Sgt. 1st Class Ruperto Ventura, PRNG-65th Infantry Battalion

The French Commando Identification Badge was awarded to 23 Citizen-Soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment, Puerto Rico National Guard, after a grueling 20-day combat course at the French Combat Training Center (CECAP) in Arta Beach, Djibouti. CECAP is run by soldiers of the French Foreign Legion and is part of the headquarters company of 13th Demi-Brigade of the Foreign Legion.

“We first took a physical test scored by the French that included a 5 Km run in the Army Combat Uniform with boots; 40 push-ups, 40 sit-ups, four pull-ups with a rucksack and the French weapon FAMAS, two rope climbs with rucksack and FAMAS and a 200-meter swim in ACU; and that was just to get into the training,” said Sgt. 1st Class Ruperto Ventura, 65th Inf. Reg. Mortar Platoon Sergeant.

The course includes: Water and Land Obstacle Course, Waterborne Operations, Urban Assault, Patrolling and other tasks done under the French Foreign Legion standard.

“The French Foreign Legion soldiers were impressed with the performance and professional attitude our Soldiers displayed during the course,” said Ventura. The Combat Training Center at Arta Beach, Djibouti, was established in 1978 as an amphibious warfare training center. In 1982 CECAP became a commando center and by 2003 CECAP had become a combat training facility.





SE GRADUAN 180 JOVENES ChalleNGe



Historia y fotos por Sgto. 1ra Clase Luis Orengo, PRARNG, PAO

El Coliseo Deportivo Dolores “Toyita” Martínez de Juana Díaz se vistió de gala para la graduación de 180 jóvenes del programa ChalleNGe Puerto Rico en ceremonia llevada a cabo el viernes 23 de septiembre.

Cientos de padres, familiares, amigos y miembros de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico se dieron cita en el lugar para celebrar el logro de esta clase.

“En ChalleNGe aprendieron a valorarse a ustedes mismos y a comprender que cada uno tiene el potencial de alcanzar cualquier meta propuesta. Aquí han adquirido destrezas y herramientas que les ayudarán en la conquista de nuevos horizontes, al crecimiento personal y a su desarrollo como futuros líderes de nuestro país”, dijo el

Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns.

El mensaje de la ocasión lo pronunció el Lcdo. Henry Newman, Secretario del Departamento de Recreación y Deportes.

“Nunca dejen que nadie les diga que no cuando busquen alcanzar sus metas en la vida”, dijo Newman, utilizando ejemplos de destacados atletas puertorriqueños. “Fíjense metas, valoren su futuro y sigan adelante en la vida”.

Entre los logros más significativos alcanzados por esta clase figura el que 13 cadetes se graduaron con Altos



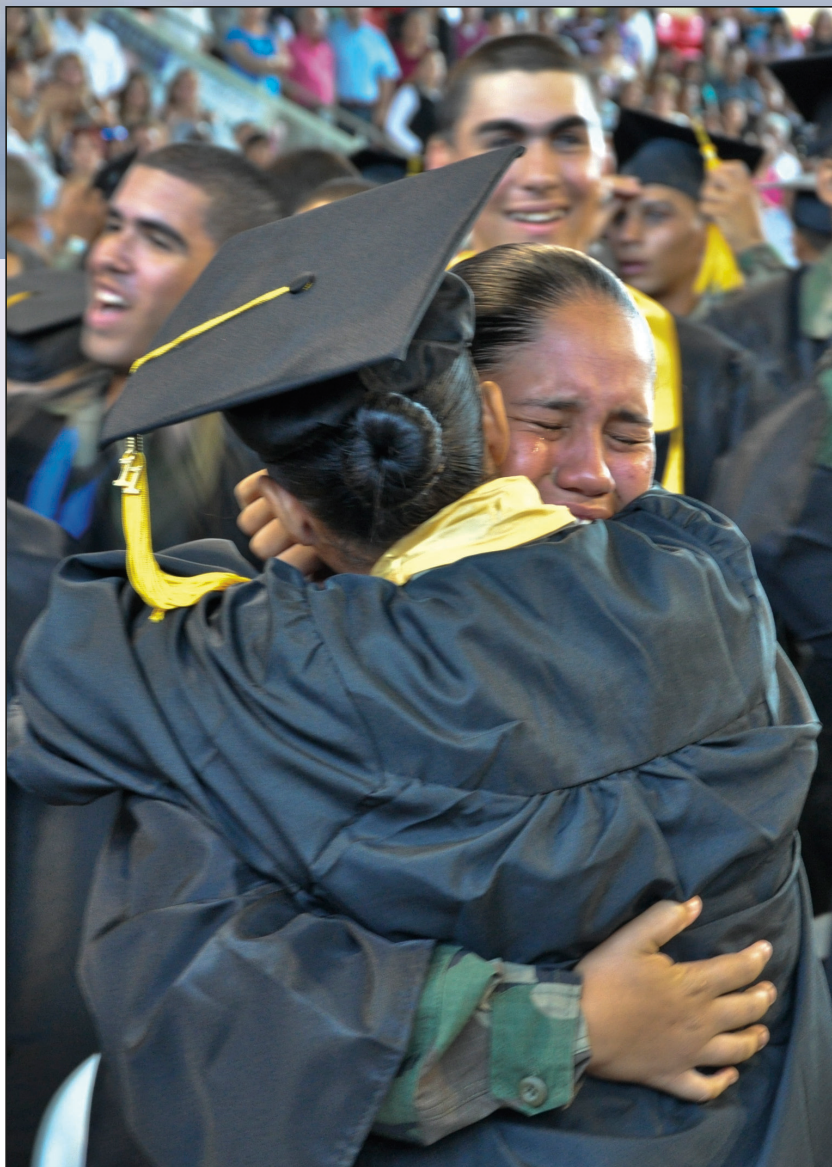
El Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns hace entrega del trofeo "General Víctor J. Torres" al cadete Osiris de la Cruz Salazar por excelencia académica y liderazgo. De la Cruz también fue reconocido con la Medalla Legislativa del mismo nombre presentada por la Comisión de Asuntos de la Juventud de la Cámara de Representantes de Puerto Rico y obtuvo un reconocimiento especial de parte del presidente de la República Dominicana a través de su consulado en Puerto Rico.

Honores y 15 con Honores. El 100 por ciento de la clase pidió admisión a instituciones de educación post-secundaria y 80 cadetes han sido certificados como Asistentes de Entrenadores Deportivos en ocho disciplinas por el Departamento de Recreación y Deportes, adquiriendo de esta forma una oportunidad de integrarse al mundo laboral sin olvidar su continuidad en los estudios post secundarios.

El cadete Osiris de la Cruz Salazar fue el joven más reconocido de la clase recibiendo el premio "General Víctor J. Torres" por excelencia académica y liderazgo así como la Medalla Legislativa del mismo nombre presentada por la Comisión de Asuntos de la Juventud de la Cámara de Representantes de Puerto Rico y un reconocimiento especial de parte del presidente de la República Dominicana a través de su consulado en la Isla.

"Crecí en un hogar donde la violencia era parte del diario vivir; eso junto a otros muchos problemas me hicieron dejar la escuela", dijo de la Cruz. "Encontré la oportunidad de terminar mis estudios a través de ChalleNGe, tomé la decisión y aquí estoy. No me arrepiento de haber venido aquí".

Desde su inicio en 1999 ChalleNGe PR ha impactado a más de 2,923 jóvenes desertores escolares con su innovador programa el cual los prepara para obtener el diploma de cuarto año a la vez que desarrolla las destrezas de liderazgo y disciplina motivándoles a desarrollar y alcanzar metas personales y profesionales.



Momento emotivo el cual marca el final de 22 semanas de adiestramiento intensivo cuando 180 jóvenes del programa ChalleNGe Puerto Rico reciben sus diplomas de cuarto año el cual le abre las puertas para un mayor desarrollo educativo.

"¡Ustedes han demostrado que son los líderes del mañana!", dijo Vicéns. "Solo les pido que recuerden lo que han aprendido aquí y que recuerden que el conocimiento da poder. Prosigan con su educación para asegurar de esta manera un mejor futuro para ustedes, sus familias, sus comunidades y Puerto Rico".



GNPR RECIBE HELICOPTEROS DE EVACUACION MEDICA

Historia y Fotos por Sgto. 1ra Clase Luis E. Orengo, GNPR-PAO

La Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico recibió dos nuevos helicópteros para evacuación médica UH-72 Lakota en sus facilidades de Apoyo de Aviación en el Aeropuerto Ribas Dominicci de Isla Grande. Los helicópteros volaron desde las facilidades de American Eurocopter en Columbus, Missisipi hasta San Juan, un viaje de 1600 millas. Este vuelo les permitió a los pilotos y la tripulación aumentar el conocimiento técnico en la aeronave.

“Estas dos unidades nos da una oportunidad única de poder integrar una unidad nueva a la estructura de la Guardia Nacional”, dijo el Cnel. Antonio González, Comandante de la Unidad de Apoyo Aéreo de la GNPR en Isla Grande.

“Ahora nos vamos a concentrar en adiestrar a los miembros de la tripulación en el concepto de evacuación y manejo de emergencias médicas para así cumplir con la misión establecida”.

La llegada de estas aeronaves no supone una competencia hacia la empresa privada en el campo de la evacuación médica de emergencia sino que complementará lo ya existente.

“De ninguna forma podemos competir ni vamos a competir con la empresa privada, ya que ellos tienen la prioridad en este renglón de acuerdo a las regulaciones militares”, indicó González. “Este equipo nos permite estar disponibles para aumentar la capacidad de acción del gobierno en cualquier caso de emergencia y apoyar según se estime necesario”.

Entre las especificaciones de los helicópteros se incluye



La GNPR recibió dos nuevos helicópteros de evacuación médica UH-72 Lakota como parte del equipo de apoyo a misiones estatales. Entre las especificaciones de los helicópteros se incluye un montacargas o línea de rescate con capacidad de levantamiento de 600 libras y espacio para dos camillas, un paramédico y la tripulación. Los UH-72 volaron 1,600 millas desde Columbus, Mississippi hasta San Juan.

un montacargas o línea de rescate con capacidad de levantamiento de 600 libras y espacio para dos camillas, un paramédico y la tripulación.

“Estas aeronaves vienen ya preparadas con todos los aditamentos externos e internos para hacer la misión”, dijo González. “Nosotros ahora nos estamos preparando para adiestrar los tripulantes de modo que las aeronaves puedan ser utilizadas en su máxima capacidad”.

Según González el costo de cada unidad esta cerca de los \$5 millones.

“Todos los estados de la nación están recibiendo esta misma capacidad de equipo para apoyar la misión de los gobiernos estatales”, dijo González. “Puerto Rico es el primer territorio en recibir este equipo”.

GNPR GRADUA JOVENES DEL PROGRAMA CREANDO

Por Sgto. 1ra Clase Luis E. Orengo, GNPR, PAO



El Teatro Tapia en el Viejo San Juan se vistió de gala para la graduación de 34 jóvenes del Programa CREANDO (Camino al Reto del Éxito, A través de Nuevas y Diferentes Oportunidades) de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico y el Departamento de Corrección y Rehabilitación. Cientos de familiares y amigos de los jóvenes se dieron cita para el tan esperado evento.

El programa “CREANDO” es una alianza entre la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico (GNPR) y el Departamento de Corrección y Rehabilitación (DCR) el cual facilita alternativas educativas y formativas a menores bajo la custodia de la Administración de Instituciones Juveniles (AIJ), de modo que puedan adquirir actitudes, conocimientos y herramientas para ser ciudadanos provechosos al país a la vez que adquieren su diploma de Escuela Superior.



El Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns hace entrega del diploma de cuarto año de Escuela Superior a uno de los 34 jóvenes graduados del programa CREANDO. En 22 semanas estos jóvenes adquieren destrezas académicas, disciplina y valores que les ayudarán a desenvolverse en la vida. Según el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns, “A través de la alianza con el Departamento de Corrección y Rehabilitación estos 34 jóvenes han tenido la oportunidad de obtener experiencias de vida que han fomentado los valores positivos y constructivos y que sabemos les rendirán beneficio a ellos, sus familias y al país”. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Waldemar Rivera, GNPR, PAO)

“El programa ‘CREANDO’ está dirigido a una población juvenil que no podía participar del programa tradicional de ChalleNGe”, indicó el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns. “A través de la alianza con el Departamento de Corrección y Rehabilitación estos 34 jóvenes han tenido la oportunidad de obtener experiencias de vida que han fomentado los valores positivos y constructivos y que sabemos les rendirán beneficio a ellos, sus familias y al país”.

Los jóvenes fueron recipientes de premios y honores al probar sus aptitudes en diversas áreas y sobre todo el diploma de cuarto año de Escuela Superior el cual les permitirá continuar estudios universitarios en las instituciones del país.

La plataforma académica y administrativa del Pro-

grama “CREANDO” está fundamentada en los procesos experimentados exitosamente durante los pasados 10 años por el Programa ChalleNGe de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico.

“El programa CREANDO demuestra el interés de nuestro gobierno y sus agencias en el desarrollo total de nuestra juventud. Junto a la Guardia Nacional buscamos proveer a estos jóvenes de herramientas reales que les ayuden a superarse en la vida y alcanzar sus metas por el bien del país”, indicó Vicéns. “Una vida que logramos influenciar positivamente se convierte en un ciudadano útil a nuestra sociedad. A través del programa CREANDO buscamos, no solo influenciar, sino dar las herramientas de vida necesarias para encaminar a cada uno de estos jóvenes en el sendero que brinde provecho no solo a ellos y sus familias, sino también a la comunidad, al país y la Nación”.

927th CSSB *plus* 292nd CSSB **WHAT A TEAM!**

Story and photos by Sgt. Michael Baltz, 107th MPAD

Every year, there is a two-week time period where Florida National Guard soldiers gather their military gear from all corners of their garage and pack it into a duffel bag – which always seems to be a little too small – so they can conduct their annual training.

Annual training for Florida Guardsmen is oftentimes conducted at or near their home station, but not this year for 927th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. The 927th flew out of Jacksonville, Fla., June 4, 2011, to partner with the Puerto Rico National Guard's 292nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion to conduct a practical and realistic annual training mission in Puerto Rico. The partnership is a first for the two National Guard units.

"The special thing about this mission is the growing bond between the Florida Guard and Puerto Rico Guard," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jaime Pérez, the 292nd CSSB's command sergeant major. "We are learning a lot of things from the Florida Guard. They are dedicated soldiers who are doing their job. Our people see that and that encourages them to do a better job."

The units combined in order to support transportation, water purification and maintenance units during a real-time mission with real needs and demands.

"The mission is to provide command and control for water purification and distribution to the local government for the Island of Culebra during tourist season so the water reserves don't drop to unacceptable levels while providing staff assistance in functional areas to the 292nd CSSB," said Maj. Sid Hill, the 927th executive officer. "This mission provides soldiers the opportunity to work in their assigned military occupation specialties with their peers from Puerto Rico."

In order to accomplish the mission, the many support-



(From right to left) Maj. Geri L. Swarts, Maj. Sidney Hill Jr, Pfc. Zaida Camacho, Col. Michael A. Calhoun, the 50th Area Support Group commander, and Lt. Col. Trey Chauncey, 927th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion commander drink desalinized water, June 8, which was certified as drinkable water by Camacho, the 714th Quartermaster preventative medicine specialist.

ing roles include: command and control, maintenance, transportation, personnel, supply, and food services. Everything is controlled and managed in four geographically dispersed operations centers.

"Our mission is to conduct split operations among four locations," said Capt. Juan Rodriguez, the 292nd operations officer.

The operations center is staffed by personnel from the 927th and 292nd and is responsible for providing command and control to maintenance, transportation and water purification units that are in support of this mission.

An element of the 927th, located on the Island of Culebra, is providing command and control for the 714th Quartermaster Unit, a water purification unit, during this real-time mission. The 714th produced water by taking salt water and turning it into potable water to distribute to the local population. The 714th surpassed their goal of 100,000 gallons of water to be desalinated and

distributed by more than 20 percent. The water purification unit reached approximately 125,000 gallons of water. The water has allowed the Island of Culebra to more than double their reserves for approximately 2,500 people who reside on the island.

“We exercised each staff function to the fullest extent during this annual training period,” said Lt. Col. Trey Chauncey, the 927th Battalion commander. “Through their collective planning efforts the unit surpassed established goals in all areas.”

Conducting an outside the continental United States deployment requires a certain degree of synchronized planning to ensure mission success that cannot be duplicated at home station.

“The fail safes that exist at home station are removed and the complexities associated with language barriers, movement control, geographic dispersion and cultural differences are all obstacles that must be considered when preparing for the mission,” explained Chauncey. “Where else would we be required to coordinate with a Landing Craft Detachment to move our soldiers and equipment?”

“Placing my soldiers in these circumstances allowed me to see the soldiers out of their comfort zones,” Chauncey continued. “And to my expectation, these soldiers were able to come together and successfully complete the water purification mission while simultaneously exercising command and control throughout the area of operation.”

The 927th soldiers, also known as the “Storm Chasers” for their past hurricane support, were able to provide guidance and support to their Puerto Rico National Guard counterparts, including training on specific military occupational skills.

“It was amazing to watch veteran soldiers teach younger soldiers, and the newer soldiers taking direction and stepping up to complete the mission when needed,” said Chauncey.

The 927th also exceeded goals in maintenance on Puerto Rico National Guard equipment by completing more than 100 man hours of work. The chemical, biological, radiation and nuclear non-commissioned officers conducted inspections on more than 150 protective masks. The food service soldiers assisted with providing more

than 3,000 meals during annual training. In addition to providing this support, the soldiers conducted cross-training with the Puerto Rico National Guard soldiers.

During this real-time mission, soldiers were able to see the direct results of their efforts.

“I changed the rear differential seal on a 900 series 5-Ton truck, and the next day I saw the vehicle being utilized in the field,” said Pvt. William Robert Glauner, from Ocala, Fla., a 927th wheeled vehicle mechanic. “Because this is a real-time mission, I can see how my work directly supports the overall mission and that is a great feeling.”

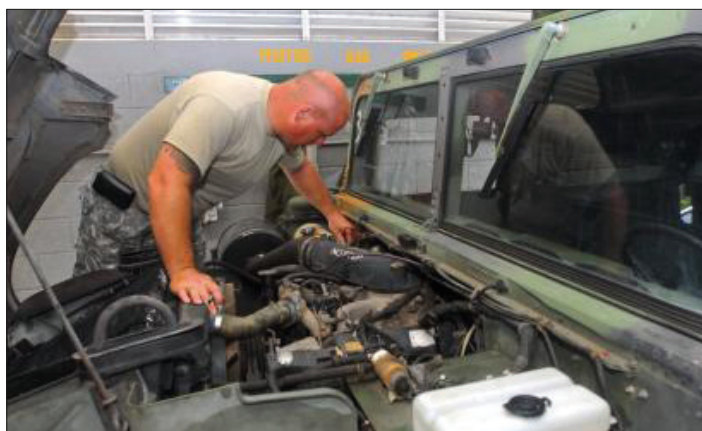
Although the 927th and 292nd are both combat sustainment support battalions, members on both sides strive to learn from each others’ differences.

“The two units are the same, but they’re not,” Rodriguez said. “We have been deployed different places and bring different experiences to the table.”

Master Sgt. Carl Livingston agrees.

“Missions like this help strengthen our soldiers culturally and professionally,” said Livingston. “It helps them see how others conduct missions and directs them to be more efficient.”

The relationship between the 927th CSSB and 292nd CSSB will continue to grow as the 292nd will conduct weapons qualification this summer at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center located near Starke, Fla.



Staff Sgt. Russell Harryman, from Jacksonville, Fla., conducts a technical inspection on a Humvee June 12. Harryman is a maintenance non-commissioned officer with the 927th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, which deployed for annual training to Puerto Rico as part of collaborative training with the Puerto Rico National Guard.

HEADLINERS



Lyndsay M. Román, hija del Sgto. 1ra Clase Rafael E. Román, ganó el primer lugar del concurso "Rising Star" auspiciado por *Morale Welfare and Recreation* en el *Community Club* del Fuerte Buchanan el 30 de septiembre. Lyndsay, quien cantó acompañada en el piano por su hermana menor Shaelyn L. Román, también recibió un premio de \$500 y una semana con todos los gastos pagos en un estudio de grabación en los EEUU. Lyndsay es parte del Grupo de Aprestamiento Familiar de la GNPR. (Foto por Sgto. 1ra Clase Rafael E. Román, GNPR)



La Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico junto a la Cruz Roja Americana llevaron a cabo una sangría en los Cuarteles Generales de la Guardia Nacional en San Juan donde participó el personal de apoyo permanente del complejo castrense. La sangre donada durante el evento pasó a ser parte de los centros de acopio de la Cruz Roja Americana Capítulo de Puerto Rico. (Foto por Sgto. 1ra Clase Luis E. Orengo, PRNG, PAO)



La Guardia Nacional celebró sus 375 años de fundación y para celebrar el evento se hizo el corte ceremonial del bizcocho conmemorativo en una ceremonia en llevada a cabo en los Cuarteles Generales en San Juan el 13 de diciembre. Como es costumbre, el corte del bizcocho lo hace el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns junto al Soldado mas lóngevo y al Soldado de menos tiempo en la GNPR de entre los presentes. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Waldemar Rivera, GNPR, PAO)



Passing the Torch - 2nd Lt. Edward Toro (center) was commissioned last June from ROTC and assigned to the C Co. 1st 296th Infantry Battalion in Cabo Rojo. He is flanked by his father Maj. Edwardo Toro (left) and his grandfather Raul Toro. Showing their military heritage they pose behind a plaque in honor of Emiliano Toro, great grandfather of Toro who was a member of the US Army during World War I. Toro is currently in his Infantry OBC at Fort Benning, Ga. (Photo provided by Maj. Edwardo Toro)

Soldiers from the PRNG 292nd CSSB and 162nd CSSB go through Water Survival Training at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Florida, as part of their annual training last August. The training was provided by the 20th Special Forces Group, Florida National Guard. (Photo provided by Master Sgt. Luis Velazquez)





Los jóvenes del Programa CREANDO estuvieron remozando la Escuela Superior Margarita Janer Palacios en Guaynabo como parte del programa "Mi Escuela en tus Manos" del Departamanto de Educación de Puerto Rico que tiene como fin el mejorar la calidad de las instalaciones escolares en Puerto Rico. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Waldemar Rivera, GNPR, PAO)



A member of the Puerto Rico National Guard Youth Challenge crosses the finish line during the first marathon dedicated to Brig. Gen. Víctor Torres at Barrio Pozuelo in Guayama last November. The marathon is sponsored by the Asociación de Retirados de la GNPR. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Rivera Rebolledo, 113th MPAD)



Ingenieros de la GNPR estuvieron haciendo trabajos de rehabilitación de carreteras y labores de remoción de tierra y escombros tras derrumbes en el pueblo de Cayey que fueron causados por el paso de la Tormenta Tropical Irene el pasado agosto. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Joseph Rivera Rebolledo, 113th MPAD)



During the 9-11 Memorial Service, Warriors Plaza was dedicated at Camp Santiago Joint Maneuver Training Center in Salinas. A marker was placed at the Joint Force Headquarters complex, "In recognition to our Warriors for their selfless service and devotion to duty... past, present and future." (Photo by Staff Sgt. Waldemar Rivera, PRNG, PAO)



La mesa del Directorado de Ingeniería gana el premio como la mesa mas originalmente adornada durante la actividad de almuerzo de empleados permanentes de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico celebrada el pasado noviembre en los cuarteles generales de la GNPR en San Juan. La ingeniosa decoración de la mesa se logró utilizando materiales reciclables y frases de concientización haciendo alusión al tema del reciclaje. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Waldemar Rivera, PRNG-PAO)



Master Sgt. Luis R. Cora, from the 125th MP Battalion, as he graduates from Columbia College with the highest honors as Summa Cum Laude. (Photo provided)



Comando Estatal de Puerto Rico AT 2011

Por Tnte. Cnel. Gelabel Monserrate PRSG-PAO, Fotos por PRSG-PAO

EL Comando Estatal de Puerto Rico llevó a cabo su entrenamiento anual 2011 en las facilidades del Campamento Santiago en Salinas el pasado agosto.

El comandante de las tropas, General de Brigada Héctor Sorrentini, dio la bienvenida a mas de mil Ciudadanos-Soldados quienes participaron en diversos adiestramientos de certificación y capacitación en destrezas militares.

Como parte del etrenamiento, el Grupo Aéreo realizó un simulacro de ataque de terrorismo aéreo donde se abarcó la logística y planificación de defensa antes, durante y después de un incidente como este.

La carrera del “Camínalo o Córrelo” fué un evento de confraternización organizado por el grupo de Ingeniería en el cual participaron corredores y caminantes de todos los rangos y donde se dieron cita todas las unidades del Comando Estatal. Este evento consistió en recorrer una distancia de dos millas, ya fuese caminando o corriendo, a su propio paso y sin restricciones de tiempo para llegar a la meta.

El Grupo Médico del Comando Estatal visitó La Casa del Veterano en el Municipio de Juana Díaz para ofrecer apoyo médico a la institución y asistir a los pacientes que allí se encuentran. El Grupo Médico compuesto por dos médicos, un psicólogo, dos enfermeros graduados y cinco técnicos realizaron exámenes preventivos a un sinnúmero de Veteranos.

Por otro lado, el equipo de tiro al blanco de la GNPR y el Comando Estatal participaron en el campeonato de tiro al blanco celebrado del 28 de julio al 7 de agosto en el Campamento Perry en Ohio. Esta competencia, clasificada como una de las más importantes de las fuerzas armadas, cuenta con la participación de más de

4,000 competidores y donde el Mayor Víctor Ramos, del Comando Estatal, ganó el “*President’s Hundred*” Tab al colocándose entre las primeras 100 posiciones.





Puerto Rico ANG Air Control Squadron **IN THE FIGHT DOWNRANGE**

From a tropical Caribbean island to an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia



Photo Provided

By Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot, 379 AEW, Public Affairs

The 141st Air Control Squadron, an Air National Guard unit out of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, was deployed to the 71st Expeditionary Air Control Squadron (EACS) on base.

“Our job is to look across the Arabian Gulf, making sure everyone is behaving,” said MSgt Edwin Echevarría, 141st Air Weapons Director and an Air Surveillance Technician. “We detect, track, and identify aircraft in the area. We make sure they follow the flight plan. It basically comes down to the defense of the Arabian Gulf.”

The mission of the 71st is split between looking over the Arabian Gulf and to keep watch of the battlespace for Operation Enduring Freedom.

“Both missions we carry out are on the same floor in the Battlespace Command and Control Center,” said Lt. Col. Roberto Mora, Commander of the 141st. The two missions have added difficulties, but nothing that the Puerto Rican unit could not overcome.

“The coordination between the Arabian Peninsula and Operation Enduring Freedom can be difficult at times,” said Sergeant Echevarría. “We have adapted well. Spin up training and a lot of experience from Iraq helped with the two operations. We work 12 hour shifts. We are on the scope for 3 hours, then off the scope for 3.”

Watching the radar scopes is only part of the 141st mission on the 71st, they also have to maintain the various equipment that keeps the mission on track.

“We do many things in the communications sector; the help desk, repair computers, tech-control, ground radio repairs, and the additional duties,” said MSgt Sally Ruiz, a 141st communications technician. “We ensure the communications. We maintain several circuits, both secure and non-secure.”

The 71st EACS is comprised of various units from around the globe.

“Deployed here is different from back home because we work in a coalition in this site,” said Sergeant Ruiz. “We also have the British, the Australians, and Active Duty Air Force personnel.”

A Guard unit is often made up of a people from multiple backgrounds. They often come from different military specialties, and most of them also hold full-time civilian jobs.

“The Guard brings a lot of multidimensional experience to the table. Guard members bring a wide range of skill set to the job,” said Lt. Col. Mora. “From a commander’s perspective, it is a good opportunity to increase the operational experience of the junior members.”

PRNG SUPPORTS 'FUERZAS COMANDO'

The Soldiers of the Puerto Rico National Guard bring bilingual and bicultural capabilities to the table in support of Fuerzas Comando 2011.

Story and photo by Sgt. Monique Tindal, 22nd MPAD

'Fuerzas Comando', established in 2004, is a U.S. Southern Command-sponsored special operations skills competition and senior-leader seminar which is conducted annually in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

From the coordination of lodging, transportation, dining facility details, fuel point operations, and assistance with the Tactical Operations Center, the Puerto Rico National Guard is performing a crucial role in support of the exercise.

The competition, hosted this year by El Salvador, includes eight-man teams from 19 nations competing in a series of tests and evaluations of their skills in special operations tactics, techniques and procedures used in counter-terrorist operations.

"This support exercise enhances the cooperation and security of partnership that we have throughout the Americas," said Col. William Griffin, the Officer in Charge of the Distinguished Visitor Program with the Puerto Rico National Guard Joint Force Headquarters.

Many Guardsmen believe that their support of this exercise will have profound effects long after its completion.

Spc. Eric Sierra, an Administration Specialist with the Puerto Rico National Guard's 191st Regional Support Group, said that he is very impressed by the teams and the people of El Salvador and feels that he is positively contributing to the overall effort.

For these Soldiers, this is not their first time working with Central and South American nations, where their bilingual skills make a singular difference in the operation.



Spc. Eric Sierra, a Puerto Rico National Guard Soldier, with 191st Regional Support Group, pumps fuel into a gas can for vehicles in support of the Fuerzas Comando 2011 competition June 13. Fuerzas Comando, established in 2004, is a U.S. Southern Command-sponsored special operations skills competition and senior leader seminar which is conducted annually in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

"We have more than 20 years of working and supporting Southern Command with traditional command activities like this one," said Griffin. "Being fully bilingual and bicultural makes it easy for us to integrate and give support."

Altogether, the Guardsmen provide crucial skills that help the competition be successful and less confusing.

"We all enjoy being here in support of this exercise and especially helping the teams communicate with each other," said Sierra.

The Fuerzas Comando exercise runs from June 15 to 23, when 2011's winner will be announced at the closing ceremony.



PRNG RESTORES RIO NIGUA'S COURSE

By Sgt. 1st Class Luis E. Orengo, PRNG, PAO

Engineer Companies 1010 and 1011 of the Puerto Rico National Guard worked together to restore the Rio Nigua waterflow in the town of Salinas. This endeavor restored the river's hydraulic capacity mitigating the danger of flooding in the surrounding communities.

"This project is part of the PRNG Innovative Readiness Training program in which our Citizen-Soldiers perform their annual training while helping the community," said the Adjutant General of Puerto Rico, Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Vicens. "This area has suffered from flood

problems for years, and this mission will bring great benefit to the Salinas community."

The community contacted the municipal government with its concern. Once the municipality met the requirements for the IRT program, the National Guard Bureau reviewed and approved it. From there it was time to start working.

The problem site was the bridge crossing on Road #1 in the town of Salinas. This overpass was a known choking point in the river's course and the main source of flooding.

"This area represents a serious problem to the neighboring community due to the river's strong flow and shallow depth," said Cadet Michael Delgado, Safety Officer 1010 Engineer Company. "This project was completed under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection





Photo by Staff Sgt. Waldemar Rivera, PRNG, PAO

Agency and State Natural Resources Department approval and supervision.”

All the removed dirt and sediment was used to rebuild the river’s bank to maintain the watercourse flow. All vegetation material was taken to municipal landfills.

“This project has s a very positive impact within the communities,” said Salinas Mayor, Honorable Carlos Rodriguez-Mateo. “We are grateful to the Puerto Rico National Guard for its commitment. They have demonstrated that, besides being great neighbors, they have a genuine concern for the communities’ welfare.”

According to Rodriguez-Mateo, in the last six years, the federal government has invested over \$39 million in compensation to the victims of floods in his municipality.

“There is a cost that cannot be calculated,” said Rodriguez-Mateo. “That is the peace of mind this project brings to the community. They do not have to worry about floods during the rain and hurricane season any more. This project also gives us the opportunity for economical development of this zone, and this will benefit all of us.”

Heavy equipment of the 130th Engineer Battalion removed vegetation as part of the project to restore the Rio Nigua waterway in the town of Salinas. This endeavor restored the river’s hydraulic capacity mitigating the danger of flooding in the neighboring communities. This project was part of the Puerto Rico National Guard Innovative Readiness Training program. According to Salinas Mayor, Honorable Carlos Rodriguez-Mateo, this project will bring peace of mind to the communities as they do not have to worry about floods during the rain and hurricane season any more.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Waldemar Rivera, PRNG, PAO



Photo by Staff Sgt. Marizol Ruiz, PRNG, PAO



Photo by Staff Sgt. Marizol Ruiz, PRNG, PAO



Curso Avanzado de Liderazgo para Oficiales

SE GRADUAN 24



Por Sgto. de Estado Waldemar Rivera, 113th MPAD

El Instituto Militar del Comando Estatal de Puerto Rico celebró la graduación de 24 de sus oficiales en el curso de Liderazgo Avanzado para Oficiales en las facilidades del edificio General de División Salvador M. Padilla en el Fuerte Allen en Juana Díaz.

La ceremonia de graduación le fue dedicada al Cnel. Juan Bigio Ramos, Comandante del Instituto Militar del Comando Estatal.

“Ustedes son la primera clase que se gradúa en este curso y eso me llena de gran orgullo”, dijo Bigio. “Siento un gran honor de que me hayan dedicado este evento. Ahora solo les pido que vayan a sus respectivas unidades, lleven consigo este conocimiento que han adquirido y lo pasen a sus subalternos para que de esta manera podamos seguir con la misión de servir

a Puerto Rico con orgullo, honor, honestidad y dedicación”.

El Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns, tomó parte en la ceremonia para dirigirse a los oficiales graduandos.

“Este curso que termina hoy responde a la necesidad de tener al Comando Estatal al mismo nivel de conocimiento y adiestramiento que el resto de la Guardia Nacional”, dijo Vicéns. “Recientemente hemos necesitado del apoyo del Comando Estatal más que nunca y por ésta razón tenemos la necesidad de que estén al mismo nivel de aprestamiento que el resto de la fuerza. Somos una sola Guardia Nacional y les puedo decir que vamos a seguir necesitando de su apoyo en el futuro como parte integral de ésta institución”.

RECRUITER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR THE PUERTO RICO AIR NATIONAL GUARD



From left: Master Sgt. Aramis A. Font, Recruiting & Retention NCO, Senior Airman Lemuel S. Soto, Recruiter, Master Sgt. Luis A. Hernández, Recruiting Office Supervisor, Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall, senior leader assigned to the Office of the Chief, National Guard Bureau, Tech. Sgt. Caroline Kubis, Recruiter, Senior Master Sgt. Hector D. Burgos, Recruiting and Retention Superintendent, Master Sgt. Joseph A. Méndez, Retention Office Manager.

The Top Recruiter Award of the Air National Guard was awarded to Master Sgt. Luis A. Hernández, currently the Recruiting Office Supervisor of the 156th Air Lift Wing, during the Air National Guard Recruiting and Retention Awards Banquet, held at The Rosen Hotel in Orlando, FL., March 29.

Hernández received the award for attaining the most critical skill ac-



cessions and an award for top non prior service accessions for the entire Air National Guard in fiscal year 2010. He surpassed the standards by reaching 125% and earned his third gold badge in the recruiting arena. Also, he was selected the "Top of the Top" recruiter of the Puerto Rico Air National Guard for achieving and surpassing recruiting goals and earning the Century Club Award (Silver Level), for attaining over 300 accessions.

EN BARRIO LAS LOMAS DE JUANA DIAZ LLEGAN LOS REYES MAGOS DE LA GN



Ciudadanos-Soldados de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico se vistieron de los Tres Reyes Magos y visitaron los sectores del Barrio Las Lomas de Juana Díaz en enero. Cientos de niños de este sector recibieron regalos de los Reyes Magos lo cuál fué una iniciativa conjunta de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico, La Directiva del Barrio Las Lomas de Juana Díaz y el Grupo de Acción Social de Puerto Rico. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Waldemar Rivera, GNPR, PAO)

Por Sgto. de Estado Waldemar Rivera, GNPR, PAO

Con dos días de adelanto y no en camello ni a caballo pero en un Humvee de la GNPR, llegaron desde el Fuerte Allen en Juana Díaz hasta la comunidad del barrio Las Lomas de ese mismo pueblo los Tres Reyes Magos a repartir regalos.

Desde temprano en la mañana la caravana de vehículos ya anunciaba con altoparlantes y música navideña su presencia en el sector indicándoles a los residentes que salieran a la acera con sus niños para ser allí recibidos por los Reyes Magos entregando sus regalos.

Al paso de la caravana que traía a los Reyes Magos montados en un vehículo militar los niños esperaban ya al frente de sus casas acompañados de sus padres y se notaba el asombro en las caras de más de uno.

“Los padres de los niños parecen estar disfrutando de la actividad mucho más que sus hijos”, dijo la Especialista Sandra Ortiz Contreras, del Instituto Regional de Entrenamiento del Fuerte Allen. “Se vé que lo están disfrutando”.

El evento fué una iniciativa conjunta de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico, La Directiva del Barrio Las Lomas de Juana Díaz y el Grupo de Acción Social de Puerto Rico.

Cientos de niños recibieron regalos de manos de los Reyes Magos de la GN quienes caminaron todas las calles de los tres sectores del barrio Las Lomas asistidos por miembros de la directiva del barrio.

Al final de la jornada se vió cumplido el cometido de la GNPR de impactar positivamente otra comunidad de Puerto Rico como se hace durante todo el año.

En cuanto a los Tres Reyes Magos de la GN, hay que ver a cual comunidad llena de caritas sonrientes les tocará visitar el próximo enero.



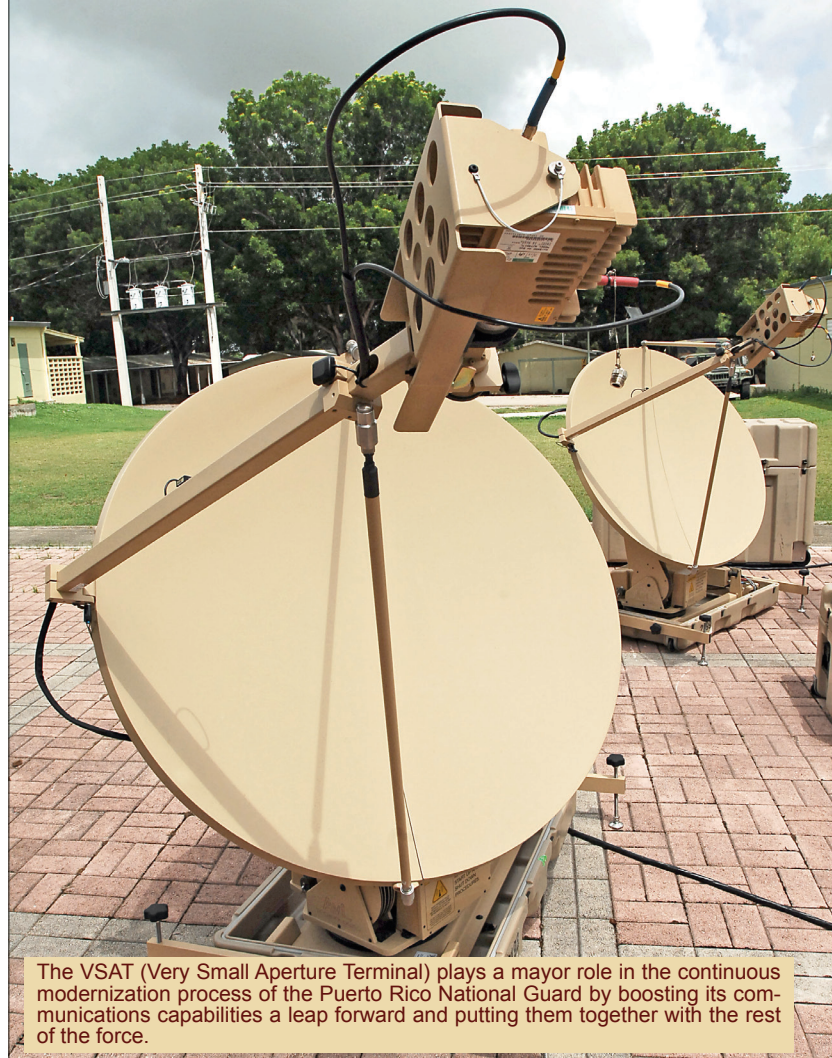
PRNG WITH THE LATEST IN TECHNOLOGY VSAT

VERY SMALL APERTURE TERMINAL

By Staff Sgt. Waldemar Rivera, PRNG, PAO

The Puerto Rico National Guard, striding to keep up with the latest in technology, is training its troops on the new Very Small Aperture Terminal communication system.

This communication system, according to Staff Sgt. Eduardo Araya from 544 MP Co. and VSAT instructor, uses satellites to provide data, voice and even video conference capabilities to units anywhere in the world.



The VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) plays a mayor role in the continuous modernization process of the Puerto Rico National Guard by boosting its communications capabilities a leap forward and putting them together with the rest of the force.

All it needs is a clear view toward the linking satellite and another VSAT terminal to communicate.

There are near 30 VSATs in the PRNG spread among different units. It is designed to be operated by the unit's logistics personnel, but anybody with the proper training can operate the system. The training is provided by the Sustainment Automation Support Management Office.

The system is composed of four boxes that are easy to load and transport to the field and can be assembled and operational in about 30 minutes. The VSAT is now part of the required equipment of some units and is a great asset during emergency or disaster situations as it is also being used by the Active Army and Reserve.

There are three VSAT units operating 24/7 in Puerto Rico: one at the Joint Force Headquarters Joint Operation Center in San Juan, a second one in Camp Santiago (CSJMTC) in Salinas and a third unit is installed at Roosevelt Roads in Ceiba.



Soldiers receive training on how to assemble, operate and troubleshoot the VSAT communications system at Camp Santiago (CSJMTC). The training goal is to have the system up and running in about half an hour, test it, shut it down, disassemble and pack-up, ready to be transported again in a realistic way. Only four people per system are needed to accomplish the task. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Waldemar Rivera, PRNG, PAO)



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