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

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ARMY COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE

"A SUCCESS STORY"



1st Submission 2nd Submission 3rd Submission 4th Submission 5th Submission 6th Submission



2007
HONORABLE MENTION



2008
3RD PLACE SILVER



2009
1ST PLACE BRONZE



2010
2ND PLACE HONORABLE MENTION



2011
2ND PLACE BRONZE



2012
TOP 2 AWAITING FINAL RESULTS

By Col. Ricardo A. Falcón, PRNG-J5

The Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) is a “Total Army” program, which focuses on improving the environment, services, and facilities to better the working and living conditions of the Soldiers seeking to renew pride, and develop a sense of accomplishment in every member of the Army community. ACOE is based on the principle that Communities best support people, by combining excellent services and facilities to achieve a quality environment. After all, Soldiers are entitled to the same quality of life as the society they are pledged to defend.

The participation of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard in the ACOE program can be traced back to fiscal year (FY) 2007 when Col. Josefina Cruz, who was at the time the J5/Strategic Planning Officer, embarked on a quest for performance and excellence, while fully assisted by no other than Col. Efraín Soto, the current Commander of the 201st REGT-RTI (MF), in Fort Allen. Their combined efforts resulted in PRARNG’s first participation in the annual ACOE Down-Select process. In FY-2008, Lt. Col. Gary Robinson also joined the J5 Shop.

During FYs 2009-2013, TAG-PR – Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Vicéns elevated ACOE to one of his top priorities. Actually, in the last two years, ACOE has significantly blossomed, grown, and matured. In just six iterations, our organization has evolved to such a level of effectiveness and accuracy that, in the last Down-Select (July 2012) process, PRARNG was ranked within the “Top Four,” out of 28 participant states/territories. Later-on, a Judging Board (Nov. 12) rated Puerto Rico at the “**Top Two**”. A solid contender to achieve the ACOE “Overall Winner”! We are just a step away.

This distinction could not have been possible without the dedication of this year’s ACOE Champions and Writing Team who definitely pushed the final written product to a higher level of perfection. Under the direction of Col. Ricardo A. Falcón, the current PRNG-J5, and his ACOE leading team: Lt. Col. Ileana Ramírez, Capt. Rolando Rodríguez, 1st Lt. José A. Martínez, Master Sgt. Juan Soto, Master Sgt. Rafael Pagán, and Sgt. Francisco G. Hernández... these last couple of years took the ACOE program to a new height; one never before experienced... **Hooah!**



RELAY FOR LIFE... PRNG Leads the Walk for Hope

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Luis E. Orengo, PRNG, 113th MPAD

Scores of Citizen-Soldiers and their families took time-off from their busy schedules to participate in the “Relay for Life” event at San Juan Central Park, June 9-10. The Puerto Rico National Guard worked hand in hand with public and private enterprises to raise awareness in the fight against cancer. More than 1,200 people participated in this year’s event.

“Relay for Life” is an event conducted by the American Cancer Association which celebrates the life of survivors in the struggle against cancer while remembering the lost loved ones. The activity also helps raise funds to support the research for a cure to the disease. The Puerto Rico National Guard took the lead again in this year’s activity.

The president for “Relay for Life” this year was the Adjutant General of Puerto Rico, Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Vicéns.

“I’m grateful to everyone for being here today like a big family,” said Vicéns. “This event brings the opportunity to raise awareness while contributing in the fight against cancer. No family is exempt from this disease.”

The PRNG is a proud sponsor of this and other events that enhance the quality of life in the communities of Puerto Rico.





All Puerto Rico National Guard Major Commands participated of this event sponsored by the American Cancer Association. The Puerto Rico National Guard took the lead again in this activity with Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Vicéns, the Adjutant General of Puerto Rico, acting as president for this year's "Relay for Life" event. The PRNG banner reads: "PRNG Patriots - Celebrating Life."



More than 400 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen participated in the "Relay for Life" event at San Juan Central Park. This is an event conducted by the American Cancer Association which celebrates the life of the survivors in the struggle against cancer while remembering the loved ones lost. "This event brings the opportunity to raise awareness while contributing in the fight against cancer. No family is exempt from this disease," said the Adjutant General of Puerto Rico, Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Vicéns.

MIGHTY GIANT'S

By Tech. Sgt. Marizol Ruiz, 156AW, Public Affairs Manager/Broadcast Journalist



156th Airlift Wing crew readied itself to deliver a C-130E aircraft to its final resting place in the “Airplane Bone Yard”, at Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 28.

During the Vietnam War this work horse was known as a “Capsule Bird,” it was modified to act as an Airborne Battlefield Command and Control Center (ABCCC).

This aircraft, built in 1962 and with over 37,500 flying hours recorded, is now retired after 50 years of faithful service to the nation. As part of the transporting procedures, it will carry all of its records, dating back to day one, when it took to the skies on its first mission.

“If it has that many hours, it means it is a good aircraft,” said Senior Master Sgt. Raymond González Otero, Engine Manager, 156th Maintenance and Operations Flight. “Today is the day we lose the aircraft, and the jacket files which contain the history of the aircraft since it was built. The records are current and when we lose the aircraft, it will be out of our computer system and physically off the base forever,” he added.

“It has been through all the wars since Vietnam, to include humanitarian missions. It is the highest operating aircraft on this base. Even though it has over 37,000 flight hours in comparison to other 130E models, it is the oldest in flight time; that is why it is being retired,” said Gonzalez.

Ever since the Puerto Rico Air National Guard received this aircraft more than a decade ago, it has had an impeccable flying record. Maintaining and keeping it airborne has been done through the professionalism and dedication of the maintenance crews that serve at Muñoz Air National Guard Base.

Col. Rafael Carrero, 156th Airlift Wing commander, is the last pilot to fly this aircraft from Puerto Rico.

“I will deliver this beautiful aircraft to the Bone Yard, to its final resting place,” said Carrero. “The 156th Airlift Wing had this plane for more than 10 years, it’s been in action in Afghanistan, Africa, Europe, and also in South America. It has participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, to include, Operation Joint Endeavor in Germany. Being the last pilot to fly this aircraft is a very humbling experience for me,” he added.

“Delivering this aircraft closes a door, but I see it as another door opening, because the Air Force will provide us with a new aircraft and a new mission. This will make us more relevant, and by doing so, we can continue to do what we do best, which is to answer the call, by providing global airlift and accomplishing tasked missions, but most of all, protecting our nation.”

On the last leg of the Journey to the Bone Yard the wing crew met up with two of its original load masters who served during the Vietnam War in the 1960s.



FINAL JOURNEY



On Guard, On or Off duty

Composite Risk Management

By Sgt. Robert Owens, 113th MPAD, PRARNG



Puerto Rico Army and Air National Guard Commanders and Safety Non-Commissioned Officers assembled April 10 in Ponce, Puerto Rico for the three-day 2012 Joint Command Safety Training Workshop to refresh their safety knowledge base.

Why is safety such an integral part of the Soldiers or Airman's existence? According to the United States Army Combat Readiness Safety Center, it's a simple idea based on the military's Composite Risk Management System "Take 5" initiative. "Take 5" -- that's five minutes, five seconds or more or fewer as necessary -- to think situations through to make the right safety decisions.

The intent is to provide Soldiers, Airmen, DOD Civilians, commanders, and managers with the contacts, training, tools, and guidance to effectively integrate CRM into missions, jobs, and off-duty activity. CRM is the military's primary decision-making process to identify hazards, reduce risk, and prevent both accidental and tactical loss.

The Puerto Rico National Guard emphasizes safety during all aspects of its service members' day to day activities, whether at home or on duty. "Trained and ready" is a well-recognized military goal and slogan. This statement recognizes that effective mission accomplishment depends on developing and maintaining the right skills and knowledge.

Army Lt. Col. Ángel Santiago, PRNG Safety and Occupational Health Manager and organizer of the 2012 Joint Command Safety Training Workshop, said he was impressed with the efficient coordination of his staff, identifying them as 'my tribe.' "In terms of my objectives, the workshop was very successful and extraordinarily important, especially as we near this year's annual training. Our commanders and subor-

dinate leaders leave here with effective ways to assess and prevent injury to those under their command," said Santiago.



Commanders and safety officers from all PRNG components actively participated during the 2012 Joint Command Safety Training Workshop held in Ponce, Puerto Rico April 10-12. US Army photo by Sgt. Robert Owens, 113th MPAD, PRARNG.



156th AW Command Chief Master Sergeant Victor Skerrett, PR Air National Guard Safety & Occupational Health Manager, instructs fellow Airmen in leadership positions on the latest lessons learned in aviation safety at the Air Force breakout session during the April 2012 PRNG Joint Command Safety Training Workshop in Ponce, PR. US Army photo by Sgt. Robert Owens, 113th MPAD, PRARNG.



PRNG Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Vicéns, along with Lt. Col. Ángel Santiago present Chief Warrant Officer retired, Mario Jiménez, an award for excellence in ground and aviation safety during the 2012 Joint Command Safety Training Workshop. Jiménez was the PRNG Safety & Occupational Health Manager for 21 years from 1971-1992. US Army photo by Sgt. Robert Owens, PRNG-113th MPAD.

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Pediátrico Universitario GNPR visita Hospital



Historia y fotos: Sgto. de Estado Waldemar Rivera, GNPR, Oficina de Asuntos Públicos.

Una comitiva representando la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico visitó las facilidades del Hospital Pediátrico Universitario en Río Piedras para llevar un poco de alegría y algunos regalos a un grupo de niños que reciben tratamiento en este hospital.

La visita se realizó como parte del compromiso humanitario que tiene la GNPR para con el pueblo de Puerto Rico y para fomentar los lazos de cooperación entre la GNPR y la Sociedad Americana del Cáncer. Todo esto para el beneficio de los pequeños pacientes de cáncer que allí se encuentran.

El grupo fué recibido en el hospital por la Sra. Bárbara Ríos, Directora Ejecutiva del Hogar Niños Que Quieren Sonreír de la Sociedad Americana del Cáncer, por el personal médico del Hospital Pediátrico y de la SAC.

“No es la primera vez que visitamos este hospital y cada vez que vengo me conmueve en gran manera ver a estos angelitos padeciendo de esta enfermedad”, dijo el Especialista César Posada, de la Oficina del Ayudante General de Puerto Rico. “Me conmueve mucho el ver la dedicación de los padres y veo en ellos el sufrimiento que viven y también la esperanza de que sus hijos se puedan recuperar.

Ver estos niños siempre me llena de sentimiento y le doy mil gracias a Dios porque mis hijos están sanos y libres de esta enfermedad. Yo apoyo este programa y pueden contar con mi ayuda siempre”.

Se visitaron un total de 15 niños y jóvenes pacientes de cáncer que pernoctan en el hospital junto a uno de sus padres que les acompaña las 24 horas del día. Se les entregaron regalos y se conversó con los padres sobre la condición de los niños. También se contó con

la presencia del Capellán (Mayor) Hector Rivera quien se unió con cada uno de los padres para hacer una oración por la recuperación de los niños.



La Sra. Chloris Vicéns posa junto a la bebé Zulmarie Santiago, paciente del Hospital Pediátrico, durante una visita a esta institución de parte de representantes de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico con el propósito de fortalecer los lazos de cooperación con éste hospital. Zulmarie recibe los cuidados personales de su mamá quien está con ella las 24 horas del día.



La Sra. Bárbara Ríos (izq.), Directora Ejecutiva del Hogar Niños Que Quieren Sonreír de la Sociedad Americana Contra el Cáncer posa junto a la Payasita Corazoncito Feliz y la Sra. Chloris Vicéns durante una visita al Hospital Pediátrico de Río Piedras de parte de representantes de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico con el propósito de fortalecer los lazos de cooperación con éste hospital.



Parte del personal la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico que visitó el Hospital Pediátrico de Río Piedras con el propósito de fortalecer los lazos de cooperación con éste hospital como parte de su misión humanitaria. Al centro se encuentra Emmanuel Torres “El gordito” quien acompañado de su madre recibe tratamiento en éste hospital ya desde temprana edad.

onCOLOGÍA PediáTRica



El Especialista César Posada posa junto a “el gran” Alex Burgos, paciente del Hospital Pediátrico, durante una visita a esta institución de parte de representantes de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico.



El Capellán de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico, el Mayor Héctor Rivera, conversa con un paciente del Hospital Pediátrico, durante una visita a esta institución de parte de representantes de la GNPRI.

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 quimioterapia y otros tratamientos relacionados con esta enfermedad. En este hogar se provee alojamiento al niño junto a uno de sus padres quien se encarga de proveerle al paciente los cuidados y el cariño tan necesarios para la recuperación.

NUEVA UNIDAD DE RESPUESTA RAPIDA A EMERGENCIAS (CERF-P)

Por Sgto. de 1ra Clase Luis E. Orengo Román, PRNG, PAO

Una nueva unidad de respuesta a emergencias (CERF-P por sus siglas en inglés) condujo su adiestramiento y validación en el Campamento Santiago de Salinas durante el 2012.

Luego de los ataques de septiembre 11, se analizó la necesidad de un equipo de respuesta rápida con capacidad de descontaminación en masa y destrezas en búsqueda y rescate urbano. Es así que surge el concepto de CERF-P.

“La Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico recibe la notificación para la creación de esta nueva unidad en agosto del 2010”, dijo el Tnte. Cnel. Alberto Irizarry, Comandante del 1er Batallón del Regimiento 65 de Infantería y de la unidad de respuesta CERF-P. “Desde ese momento un grupo selecto de hombres y mujeres miembros de este batallón y del Ala de Transporte Aéreo 156 de la Guardia Nacional Aérea han trabajado duro para cumplir con todos los requerimientos de adiestramiento individual y colectivo que requiere esta unidad”.

Este equipo es una fuerza de tarea conjunta y de respuesta rápida el cual apoyará la labor de las agencias de emergencias estatal y federal durante incidentes que envuelvan el uso de material químico, biológico, radiológico, nuclear o explosivos de alto poder, al igual que durante situaciones de desastres naturales.

Durante su adiestramiento en el Campamento Santiago la unidad efectuó misiones de descontaminación en masa de personal y pacientes, operaciones de búsqueda y rescate de heridos y en la remoción de fatalidades. Mientras en otra área se adiestraba en proveer servicios médicos primarios de emergencia, coordinación de evacuación de personal y coordinación de transporte médico. Todo esto utilizando trajes aislantes y respiradores similares a los que utilizarían en condiciones reales.

“Este grupo, compuesto por 200 Ciudadanos-Soldados y Aviadores, está adiestrando para responder, funcionar y mantener efectivamente 72 horas de operaciones continuas en condiciones de emergencia a nivel local, regional o nacional,” indicó el Sargento Mayor José Padilla, Oficial de Información Pública del equipo CERF-P. “Esta unidad funciona con fondos federales, pero está bajo control del estado para proveer el apoyo a las agencias de emergencia en cualquier escenario que se requiera.”

En adición al equipo militar básico de esta unidad, el CERF-P utiliza equipo comercial especializado que cumple con los estándares del Instituto Nacional para la Seguridad y Salud Ocupacional y de la Administración de Seguridad Ocupacional.

Los Equipos CERF-P están distribuidos a través de las diez regiones de la Agencia Para el Manejo de Emergencias Federal (FEMA) y se ubican en 17 estados incluyendo Puerto Rico.



“Víctimas” deambulan por las ruinas causadas por un evento catastrófico durante la evaluación del Equipo de Respuesta de Emergencias (CERF-P) de la GNPR en el Campamento Santiago de Salinas. El CERF-P, compuesto por 200 Ciudadanos-Soldados y Aviadores, está adiestrando para responder, funcionar y mantener efectivamente 72 horas de operaciones continuas en condiciones de emergencia a nivel local, regional o nacional. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Waldemar Rivera, GNPR, PAO)



Miembros del Equipo de Respuesta de Emergencias, CERF-P de la GNPR, imparten instrucciones a las "víctimas" de un evento catastrófico durante la evaluación de equipo en el Campamento Santiago de Salinas. Este equipo es una fuerza de tarea conjunta y de respuesta rápida el cual apoyará la labor de las agencias de emergencias estatal y federal durante incidentes que envuelvan el uso de material químico, biológico, radiológico, nuclear o explosivos de alto poder, al igual que durante situaciones de desastres naturales. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Waldemar Rivera, GNPR, PAO)



Miembros del Equipo de Búsqueda y Extracción del CERF-P rescatan a una "víctima" a través de un túnel de escombros de más de 50 pies de largo hasta llevarlo a un sitio seguro durante el ejercicio de *Vigilant Guard* llevado a cabo en Salem, Oregon. (Foto por el Sgto. Ángel Martínez, GNPR, 113th MPAD)



Miembros del Equipo de Respuesta de Emergencias, CERF-P de la GNPR, llegan al área afectada por un evento catastrófico durante el adiestramiento y validación de la unidad en el Campamento Santiago de Salinas. Durante su adiestramiento en el Campamento Santiago la unidad efectuó misiones de descontaminación en masa de personal y pacientes, operaciones de búsqueda y rescate de heridos y en la remoción de fatalidades. Mientras en otra área se adiestraba en proveer servicios médicos primarios de emergencia, coordinación de evacuación de personal y coordinación de transporte médico. Todo esto utilizando trajes aislantes y respiradores similares a los que utilizarían en condiciones reales. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Waldemar Rivera, GNPR, PAO)



El equipo de respuesta a emergencias Químicas, Biológicas, Radiológicas y Nucleares de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico estuvo en un entrenamiento de respuestas a emergencias en Salem, Oregon bajo el nombre de *Vigilant Guard*, en donde perfeccionaron sus destrezas en respuesta manejo de emergencias. Este grupo se compone de Soldados y Aviadores de diferentes unidades de la GNPR siendo la mayoría parte del 1er Batallón del 65vo Regimiento de Infantería y el Ala de Transporte del 156. (Foto por el Sgto. Ángel Martínez, GNPR, 113th MPAD)

“When we talk about training to standard we definitely have to mention the Warriors of the

192nd BSB”

Manuscript and photos by Capt. Janeberly A. Díaz, PRNG-192nd Battalion S-1

For the first time since 2002, the Puerto Rico National Guard 192nd Brigade Support Battalion deployed as a whole element to conduct their Annual Training 2012 in Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center, Iowa.

As logisticians, this training was vital to maintain their skills and practice their military occupational specialties. The 192nd was trained as a battalion for realistic missions and synchronized as an organization.

“Team 192, you are witness of an unprecedented event, each and every warrior here today is re-writing history in the 92nd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade,” said Lt. Col. Israel Romero, 192nd Support Battalion commander, on his initial briefing to the troops upon arrival to CDJMTC.

As soon as they were “boots on the ground”, preparation began to make this event memorable and leave a positive footprint in the mainland. The units combined their training in order to support logistics operations during a real-life mission with real needs and demands.

The Headquarters Company performed an extensive Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) training which placed them as a staff on a real war scenario where they had to make real life decisions based on their skills and available assets. It took countless hours in the battalion tactical operations center gathering information, analyzing the mission and producing the best course of action to achieve the requirements within the operation order provided by the staff of Camp Dodge.

“This is the first time that the 192nd BSB staff worked an exercise like this,” said Romero while receiving the mission analysis briefing by his staff. “This training is paramount to our officers and senior NCOs since the BSB is second in command to the 92nd MEB for a

real life mission in combat.”

After two arduous weeks the staff was satisfied with the results and received meritorious comments from the trainers who emphasized that they were among the top five performers since these events started taking place ten years ago.

The Headquarters Company also performed full-time dining facility operations giving their cooks the training they deserve and demonstrating their capabilities in the culinary field.

The 69 warriors from the distribution company demonstrated their logistics expertise while performing various skills and MOS. The lessons they received while on training helped them refine their knowledge and procedures as a company.

The fuel handlers were trained on new equipment to be fielded in the PRNG during the upcoming year. They were also certified as hazardous material transporters, an important and valuable skill needed for their mission. Not letting their guard down, these warriors also participated in realistic convoy training with the transportation platoon.

Convoy training has evolved based upon the lessons learned from the field and combat operations.

“I have never been a part of a realistic training like this one, these tactical convoy operations have prepared me for deployment, I am looking forward to do more training like this,” said Pfc. Carlos A. Rivera, 192nd Distribution Company.

The water purification section also showed their skills while on annual training. They traveled to Des Moines River and installed their water purification equipment while refreshing their expertise. They purified hundreds of gallons of water and bottled most of

it to be consumed by the battalion. The bottles were labeled with their unique distinctive label that has the unit name, crest and the map of the island of Puerto Rico.

To make a difference, the distribution company performed a Drill and Ceremony competition among themselves to enhance their sharpness and command skills. They also had a “Team Distro” custom physical training shirt they used to exercise and do the “Insanity” workout at the gym.

Sgt. José Arroyo, from the 192nd Distribution Company became the NCO of the Year by winning the competition.



WELCOME HOME

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Joseph Rivera Rebolledo, PRNG, PAO

Citizen-Soldiers of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard 1473rd Quartermaster Support Company received a warm welcome home on Oct. 6 at Muñiz Air National Guard Base, Carolina, Puerto Rico, after a year-long deployment in Afghanistan.

The staff of the PRNG, along with PR Secretary of State, Hon. Kenneth McClintock and family members, received the Soldiers.

Upon arrival, a huge display of Puerto Rican flags could be seen. Puerto Rican Soldiers have been historically known for traveling with their Puerto Rican flag wherever they are deployed to. Puerto Rican Soldiers have served in all wars the United States has been involved in since 1917.



OME 1473RD



DECEMBER 2012 - 17

ChalleNGe Graduates 211 former Drop-Outs

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

The Puerto Rico National Guard and the PR Youth ChalleNGe Academy awarded High School diplomas to 211 cadets at a ceremony held at the Dolores "Toyita" Martinez Coliseum in Juana Diaz before a large group of relatives and friends who packed the facilities to celebrate the event.

"Your perseverance has given you the chance to face the future with a solid educational foundation and infallible tools against adversity," said Puerto Rico's First Lady, Lucé Vela. "Education is the key to opening the doors to your dreams and is the best investment of time and effort that can be made."



Distinguished guests at the graduation of the Youth ChalleNGe Academy class 12-02, carried out at the Dolores "Toyita" Martinez Coliseum in Juana Diaz, September 14. From left to right: the Director of the PRNG Joint Staff, Brig. Gen. Víctor S. Pérez, the Director of the PR Youth ChalleNGe Academy, Mrs. Matilde Almodovar, the mayor of Juana Diaz, Ramón A. Hernández Torres, the First Lady of Puerto Rico, Lucé Vela and the PRNG Assistant Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Rafael O'Ferrall. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph A. Rivera Rebolledo, PRNG-PAO)

Among the graduates, 17 won top honors and 17 received honors. Five cadets were recognized for their leadership while another five were recipients of the President's Challenge Award for their performance in the area of physical fitness.

"These young people are the best example of when there is desire, wonderful things will be accom-

plished," said the PRNG Director of the Joint Staff, Brig. Gen. Victor S. Perez. "These young people are the example of a better future for our country."

The ChalleNGe PR program aims to redefine the life experiences of high school dropouts through a system that integrates educational excellence and military discipline. The program lasts 22 weeks and has been the means by which 3,335 teenagers have managed to rebuild their lives and restore values and goals for themselves for the past 17 years.

"While you build your future, try to keep in mind the universal values that helped you get here today: reliability, respect, responsibility, justice, goodness and civility," said Vela. "If you allow these values to guide all your decisions, you will always be right."

"We've given you tools and discipline. Many of you have had some experiences in which, at times, you have had to overcome fear." "All these experiences will help you to move forward in life," said Perez. "Education does not stop with a diploma; education is a continuous process that never ends."



Part of the 211 cadets of the Youth ChalleNGe Academy class 12-02 during the graduation events carried out at the Dolores "Toyita" Martinez Coliseum in Juana Diaz, September 14. This class participated in activities of social and civic action while they conducted their academic studies for 22 weeks. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph A. Rivera Rebolledo, PRNG-PAO)

“The National Guard and ChalleNGe are witnesses of education in action,” said Perez. “We have seen that when you join experiences, values and discipline it creates a full individual, with a desire for progress and without fear of the challenges of life.”

The intensive teaching system forces students to learn how to manage the time they have available for studying and maintaining their physical condition.

“The knowledge and skills they have acquired will always accompany them,” said Vela. “The better prepared you are, the better you will be able to serve your community and contribute to the construction of the future Puerto Rico we all want.”

After graduation, each cadet will be part of a one-year monitoring and follow-up process during which their mentors and family will be facilitators in the process of continuing forward in life for the sake of their families, their communities and the country.



Entry of the Honor Guard composed of cadets of the PR Youth ChalleNGe Academy, during the ChalleNGe class 12-02 graduation at the Dolores "Toyita" Martinez Coliseum in Juana Díaz, September 14. This class, consisting of 211 cadets, completed the requirements for this course attaining their High School diploma. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph A. Rivera Rebolledo, PRNG-PAO)



Time of celebration and joy at the conclusion of the graduation activities of the Youth ChalleNGe Academy class 12-02, carried out at the Dolores "Toyita" Martinez Coliseum in Juana Díaz, Sept.14. About 3,335 high school drop-outs have obtained their High School diploma through the program since 1995. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph A. Rivera Rebolledo, PRNG-PAO)



MENSAJE DEL AYUDANTE GENERAL



Saludos a todos:

Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Vicéns

Hace cuatro años nos dimos a la tarea de llevar nuestra Guardia Nacional hacia un desarrollo sin precedente en su historia. El proceso de reorganización y reestructuración de la institución, causado principalmente por las experiencias aprendidas en la Guerra Global Contra el Terrorismo, y la nueva visión de reserva operacional nos llevó al punto de tener que reenfocar y reevaluar las prioridades estratégicas y de adiestramiento de la organización.

Muchas unidades de gran tradición e historia fueron desactivadas, pero otras llegaron y llenaron ese vacío de forma tal que nos han convertido en una institución más flexible de cara a los nuevos retos federales y estatales de este nuevo siglo.

Durante los pasados cuatro años fuimos testigos del incremento y reducción en las movilizaciones federales de nuestra organización alrededor del mundo.

Irak, Afganistán, Kuwait, Península del Sinaí, Arabia Saudí, Mali, Qatar, Dubái, Kosovo, El Cuerno de África, Guantánamo-Cuba y Honduras, entre muchos otros, serán nombres que vivirán para siempre en el pensamiento colectivo y en la historia de nuestra institución.

Hemos respondido al llamado federal movilizando sobre 17,000 Ciudadanos-Soldados y Aviadores alrededor del mundo desde el 2001. Aún quedan poco más de 350 de ellos lejos de nuestra

tierra.

Participamos en innumerables movilizaciones estatales siempre con el compromiso de brindarle al pueblo seguridad y el apoyo necesario a las agencias que velan por el bien de nuestro país.

Atendimos las emergencias en la isla tales como el suplido de agua en Naranjito y Corozal, en la isla municipio de Culebra y tuvimos a cargo las operaciones de comando y control en la extinción del fuego en la Caribbean Petroleum Company (CAPECO) que amenazó la salud y las vidas de más de 100,000 conciudadanos.

Estuvimos presentes en las emergencias causadas por las tormentas tropicales que amenazaron al país y con las lluvias que llegaron a causar estragos en varios municipios de la misma forma en la que ayudamos a Haití en su momento más crítico luego del terremoto del 2010.

Apoyamos la labor del Departamento de Policía de Puerto Rico con la movilización de más de 1,100 Ciudadanos-Soldados y Aviadores que respondieron al llamado durante la Operación Seguridad Compartida, y que según las estadísticas del mismo departamento fue exitosa.

Laboramos desinteresadamente en el mantenimiento y reparación de escuelas del sistema educativo público en vías al





Foto courtesy of 156th Fire Emergencies Services Flight

AIR NATIONAL GUARD CELEBRATES Fire Prevention Week

By Tech. Sgt. Marizol Ruiz, PRANG-PAO

During National Fire Prevention Week, firefighters from the Fire Emergency Services Flight, 156th Civil Engineering Squadron, Muniz Air National Guard Base, conducted an out-reach fire safety briefing to children from Yarah Christian Academy in Toa Alta on Oct 20.

As a tradition, every October the Puerto Rico Air National Guard firefighters get involved in bringing awareness to the schools in the local community; they teach young children simple techniques in fire prevention and evacuation.

This year's theme for Fire Prevention Week was: "Have two ways out".

"On this visit we provided the children with fire safety tips, conducted a fire exit drill, and as part of this year's theme, we taught them how to prepare a plan of escape; a plan where they can identify two ways of getting out during a fire emergency," said Master Sgt. David De Jesús, Fire Chief for the Fire Emergencies Services Flight.

Fire Prevention week was established to remember

the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 fire that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres.

Statistics show that children under five years of age are at the greatest risk from home fire death and injury; their death rate is one and a half times the national average for all children ages 14 and under.

The main mission of the firefighters during the briefing was to create a realistic environment, where the children get involved, and actually play-out the role of being in a fire with a firefighter.

State firefighter, Maribel Rosado, civilian air rescue technician, interacted with the children. She dressed up in her gear to expose the children to see the equipment a fireman wears.

“We want to expose the children to see a real live firefighter with the suit, the tank and the mask on. That way in a real emergency they will not be afraid of being rescued. Having all that gear on can have an impact on a child at that tender age,” said Rosado. “We also showed the children how to memorize the num-

bers 9-1-1 and encouraged them to dial those digits on a phone in case of a fire.”

The 50 children, ranging from pre-kindergarten to 3rd grade, played and talked to “Sparky” the fire dog.

As part of the custom, and a treat for the children, Senior Airman Adiele Aponte, military firefighter for the Fire Emergency Services Flight, dressed up as Sparky the fire dog. Sparky, a mascot and a national image for the National Fire Protection Association, played and interacted with the children toward the end of the activity. Sparky gave out gifts and also briefed the kids on safety tips.

In 1896, The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) was established to lessen the misfortune of fire by making and promoting standards to reduce the risk of fire.

The Puerto Rico Air National Guard firefighters implement those standards, and continue to give back to the community by getting involved, and encourage young children to be aware; to know when to identify the dangers of a fire, and to have some kind of escape plan, just in case it happens to them.

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La Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico comenzó la construcción de nuevas facilidades en el Fuerte Buchanan en Guaynabo. De izquierda a derecha: El Secretario de Estado de PR, Honorable Kenneth McClintock, el Comisionado Residente, Honorable Pedro Pierluisi, el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns y la Comandante del Fuerte Buchanan, Cnel. Caryn Heard, palean la 'tierra' como momento simbólico e histórico del evento. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Joseph Rivera Rebolledo, GNPR-PAO)

COMIENZA CONSTRUCCIÓN EN FUERTE BUCHANAN

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

Con la tradicional ceremonia de la primera piedra la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico comenzó la construcción de nuevas facilidades en el Fuerte Buchanan en Guaynabo.

Esta obra, parte del plan de mejoramiento de infraestructura de la GNPR, estará compuesta por cinco edificios principales en un área de 155,000 pies cuadrados a un costo de sobre \$40.5 millones. Esta construcción, albergará ocho unidades de la GNPR con un total aproximado de 1,100 Ciudadanos-Soldados.

La construcción cumplirá con todos los requerimientos ambientales en vías a lograr el reconocimiento “Plata” basado en las especificaciones de Liderazgo en Diseño Energético y de Medioambiente (LEED, por sus siglas en inglés) del Concilio de Edificios Verdes de Estados Unidos.

“Por más de 90 años hemos cumplido nuestras respon-

sabilidades hacia la Nación y hacia el pueblo desde instalaciones localizadas en las comunidades a través de la isla”, dijo el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns. “Hemos sido testigos de la transformación de nuestra sociedad y de nuestra Guardia. En esta era de tecnología y progreso es necesario evolucionar para mantener nuestra presencia relevante en nuestra sociedad”.

Las nuevas facilidades contarán con áreas administrativas, salones de clase, áreas de acondicionamiento físico, áreas de adiestramiento y de mantenimiento así como áreas suplementarias. Esta obra proveerá un ambiente óptimo que cumplirá con los requerimientos de adiestramiento, reclutamiento y retención de la Guardia Nacional.

“Estamos celebrando este momento en el entendimiento de que estas nuevas y modernas facilidades inspirarán a nuestros Ciudadanos-Soldados y sus familias

a alcanzar logros aún mayores”, dijo Vicéns. “Esta construcción, y aquellas que le sigan, le asegurará a todos que no importa la situación, los cambios y los retos que se presenten, nuestra institución estará firme. Permaneceremos comprometidos, leales y listos a servir con la dedicación que ha hecho de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico la institución de mayor confianza y respeto en nuestra isla”.



"Nuestra Guardia Nacional ha 'caminado la milla extra' desde septiembre 11, 2001", dijo el Comisionado Residente de Puerto Rico, honorable Pedro Pierluisi durante la histórica ceremonia de primera piedra e inicio de construcción de las nuevas facilidades de la GNPR en el Fuerte Buchanan de Guaynabo. "Sobre 16,000 Ciudadanos-Soldados y Aviadores han sido movilizados y cada uno de ellos es un héroe en mi libro". Esta obra, parte del plan de mejoramiento de infraestructura de la GNPR, estará compuesta por cinco edificios principales en un área de 155,000 pies cuadrados a un costo de sobre \$40.5 millones. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Joseph Rivera Rebolledo, GNPR-PAO)



"Estamos celebrando este momento en el entendimiento de que estas nuevas y modernas facilidades inspirarán a nuestros Ciudadanos-Soldados y sus familias a alcanzar logros aún mayores", dijo el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns (izquierda) durante la histórica ceremonia de primera piedra e inicio de construcción de las nuevas facilidades de la GNPR en el Fuerte Buchanan de Guaynabo. Esta construcción, albergará ocho unidades de la GNPR con un total aproximado de 1,100 Ciudadanos-Soldados. Esta es la primera construcción de facilidades de la GNPR en los últimos 20 años. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Joseph Rivera Rebolledo, GNPR-PAO)



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NOT A “MAN’S ONLY” JOB ANYMORE



Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Waldemar Rivera, PRNG-PAO

It's not a secret that women are playing a very significant role in stepping up to take jobs that were traditionally reserved for men only.

Gender is no longer a decisive factor when it comes to choose the right person to do the job. Instead, education, leadership, knowledge, fitness, and drive, among others, are now some of the factors to take in consideration.

Women have proven to be as effective as men are in many echelons since they started to replace men in their own turf during World War II.

Meet Sgt. Damaris Serrano from the 770th Transportation Company, Salinas. She is a mechanic (91B20) who works at the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES) as Team 2 Leader and leads a team of 14 mechanics which includes two other females.

“Since I was a little girl I always said I was going to become a Soldier,” said Serrano. “My uncle used to be in the military and his uniform attracted me so much that I just wanted to be just like him.

Also I would always watch my dad fix cars, and because I was always next to him while he was working, I would be the one handing the tools and got used to getting my hands greased-up. I knew then I wanted to become a “Grease Monkey.”

One day after college I passed by a recruiting office and decided that was the chance to join the Puerto Rico National Guard. I joined first and then told my mother about it, it was one of the happiest days of my life. It's been almost 20 years since that day.

What convinced me to join as a mechanic was a National Guard publication where you could see who now is Master Sgt. Janette Maldonado, Surface Main-



Sgt. Damaris Serrano from the Puerto Rico National Guard 770th Transportation Company, Salinas. She is a mechanic (91B20) who works at the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES) as Team 2 Leader and leads a team of 14 mechanics which includes two other females.

tenance Mechanic Supervisor, sitting on a Loader Scoop. I read she was the first permanent female mechanic in the PRNG. I thought: ‘wow, a female mechanic?’ To me it was something big because it was odd at that time to see a female working in an all male environment. After seeing that picture I decided I was going to be just like her, and even today I still let her know she was my inspiration.

I have another inspiration that makes me proud to be a female: I'm a single parent. I have a wonderful 15-year-old daughter, Ashley, who looks up to me and fills my life with joy.

I have her unconditional love and support on what I do, as well as full support and understanding from my family. Ashley brags with her friends about my job position and what I do in the military. It makes me feel great to see her excited when she talks about me



Aerial view of the Puerto Rico National Guard Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES) at Camp Santiago Joint Maneuver Training Site in Salinas

and about what I do. She plans to also join the military and go to college in the future and that makes me feel even more proud.

My regular day starts with a morning safety briefing with the 'do's and don'ts' followed by the actual tasking from the supervisor. Then the team leaders take over and assign individual tasks to the mechanics and then supply them with the parts and paperwork they need to keep them busy all day. If they need my assistance or some guidance they'll always find me close-by because that's what I'm here for.

We still need more females in this field. Female mechanics have to give more than 100% because that's

what male mechanics are expecting from us.

I have succeeded from being a floor mechanic to become a Team Leader and from there my next goal is to be in a supervisory position.

Being a female in a male dominated field is a real challenge and makes me feel proud of myself. I do encourage any female who wants to join the maintenance field to go ahead and be part of the elite few because the National Guard has really changed my life and has given me a great career experience.

If I was given a second chance to be reborn and restart my career I wouldn't change a thing."



Sgt. Damaris Serrano from the Puerto Rico National Guard 770th Transportation Company, Salinas, points out on the proper way to secure a wire harness in one of the vehicles being repaired with floor mechanics from her team. She works at the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES) as Team 2 Leader and leads a team of 14 mechanics which includes two other females.



HEADLINERS



The Adjutant General of Puerto Rico, Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Vicéns, converses with a group of officers candidates from the Puerto Rico National Guard OCS Class # 49 during a visit to Fort McClellan, Alabama. The candidates were at phase three of their Officer Candidate School course. (Photo by Cpt. Rolando Medina, PRNG-TAGO-AO)



Citizen-Soldiers of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard 215th Fire Fighting Team conduct their Annual Training at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. Soldiers are training and honing their fire fighting skills in different scenarios that range from removing casualties from a burning building, to putting out fires of stoves and vehicles. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Rivera Rebolledo, PRNG-PAO)



Un grupo de Ciudadanos-Soldados de la Compañía 755 de Policías Militares de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico fué movilizado hacia Guantánamo, Cuba. El grupo posa antes de salir en su vuelo el pasado 26 de abril. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Rivera Rebolledo, PRNG-PAO)



During the most recent National Guard Association Conference at the Reno Sparks Convention Center in Reno, Nevada, 2nd Lt. José R. Ocasio, from the Puerto Rico National Guard (left) was recognized as the Junior Minuteman for being the most recently commissioned Lieutenant at the conference. Retired Brig. Gen. Jim Abraham of Ohio (right), a D-Day Veteran, was recognized as the Senior Minuteman of the conference. (Photo by Cpt. Rolando Medina, PRNG-TAGO-AO)



Miembros de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico participaron en el Lincoln National Guard Marathon 2012 que se llevó a cabo en mayo en el Lincoln Track Club en Nebraska para la selección de los 40 integrantes del equipo de corredores del All Guard Team. Fueron éstos (de izq.): el Especialista Wilfredo Turell dela Co. A del 1-65th Bn. de Inf., la Sgto. de 1ra Clase Irma Pérez del 191 del Grupo de Apoyo Regional y el Mayor Víctor Cuevas del Comando de Médicos. Turell logró cualificar para el equipo y ya ha logrado el 1er lugar en su categoría en los dos eventos que ha participado como parte del All Guard Team. (Foto provista)



More than 200 members of the Puerto Rico National Guard, along with the Adjutant General of Puerto Rico, Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Vicéns, participated in the second annual PRNG Suicide Prevention Walk on Sept. 21. The Citizen-Soldiers walked from the PRNG Headquarters to the Old San Juan area and back to the HQ's in solidarity with the Army's Suicide Prevention Program. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Rivera Rebolledo, PRNG-PAO)



Jóvenes estudiantes del Departamento de Educación observan uno de los robots de la Unidad 1600 de Desactivación y Disposición de Explosivos y Municiones de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico durante una exhibición en el Parque Central de San Juan como parte del comienzo del Mes de la Educación Especial en Puerto Rico el noviembre pasado. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Waldemar Rivera, GNPR, PAO)



Parte del grupo de más de 50 voluntarios que ayudaron a adornar el Árbol de Nuestros Soldados Héroes que se erigió en el Salón Juan Ponce de León en Fortaleza. Les acompaña el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Waldemar Rivera, GNPR-PAO)



Sgt. 1st. Class Julio Morales, of the Puerto Rico National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, receives his annual flu shot from PRNG MEDCOM personnel, September 27. More than 200 service members attended the stand-down and received their flu shot during this event. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Rivera Rebolledo, PRNG-PAO)



Soldiers of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard 892nd Multi Role Bridge Company, load a vehicle onto the Improved Ribbon Bridge as they train and familiarize with the IRB at the Cerrillos Lake, Ponce, Puerto Rico. The PRNG is currently working on the fielding of the IRBs in order to improve their capabilities and be able to provide services to local communities in a timely fashion in the event of a natural disaster in which the only mode of transporting equipment would be over water. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Rivera Rebolledo, PRNG-PAO)



Se gradúan 11 nuevos oficiales de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico de la Clase # 49 de OCS en el Centro de Bellas Artes Ada Mage Zayas en Juana Díaz el 7 de septiembre. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Joseph Rivera Rebolledo, GNPR-PAO)



Comando Estatal de Puerto Rico

AT 2012

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

El Comando Estatal de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico llevó a cabo su Campamento de Entrenamiento Anual 2012 en las facilidades del Campamento Santiago en Salinas el pasado agosto.

Más de mil Ciudadanos-Soldados participaron en diversos adiestramientos de capacitación necesarios y mandatorios en su desarrollo, crecimiento y capacitación para cumplir con su misión principal de apoyar a la GNPR.

El Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns se dirigió al grupo de líderes del Comando Estatal ofreciendo una charla en la cuál se enfatizaba, entre otros temas, los valores y compromisos de nuestros Soldados para con la nación.

El Comandante de las tropas el Gral. de Brigada Héctor Sorrentini, se dirigió a sus Soldados expresando una vez más su orgullo de dirigir tan prestigioso grupo de hombres y mujeres voluntarios con un propósito en común: servir a Puerto Rico.

“Guardia Estatal de Puerto Rico Segundo a Ninguno”





DECEMBER 2012 - 31

PRNG SUPPORTS 'FUERZAS COMANDO'

By Spc. Wilma Orozco Fanfán, PRNG-113th MPAD

Citizen-Soldiers of the Puerto Rico National Guard participated in support of "Fuerzas Comando 2012" at Fort Tolemaida and the city of Bogotá, Colombia on June 6-14.

The PRNG, known for its bilingual capabilities, has collaborated previously with US Southern Command in the organization and support for the "Fuerzas Comando" event.

A total of 21 countries from North, South and Central America participated in this ninth-edition event with Canada as a special guest this year.

This event, which for its level of competitiveness and purpose is considered a military anti-terrorism olympiad, has taken place annually since 2004 and is organized by Special Operations Command South. This edition was organized in conjunction with the General Command of the Military Forces of Colombia.



Snipers from the Dominican Republic special operations forces team take aim at their targets during the stress test, June 11, 2012, at the Colombian National Training Center at Fort Tolemaida. Fuerzas Comando, established in 2004, is a U.S. Southern Command-sponsored special forces skills competition and senior leader seminar which is conducted annually. (Photo by 1st Lt. Allison Givens, 107th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

"The event required great planning and preparation. Everyone who was involved in the organization of the event, throughout all levels, performed efficiently,"

said Col. Alex de Jesús Velásquez Rojas, of the Colombian Marine Corps in charge of the Distinguished Visitors Program in the city of Bogotá. "A positive attitude, full support and camaraderie was perceived at all times."

The event is not only about a competition between elite military forces, it is also about sharing seminars and forums for the discussion of issues and strategies related to counter the terrorism and organized crime that affects the region.

Leading the mission of the Distinguished Visitors Program in Bogotá for the PRNG was Maj. Paul Dahlen, Commander of the 113th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, whose focus and leadership, along with his counterparts of Southern Command, were key in the organization and success of the mission.

The mission of the PRNG Citizen-Soldiers was to support the events at Fort Tolemaida during the competition and at the meetings for the Distinguished Visitor Program that took place in Bogotá.

At Fort Tolemaida, Citizen-Soldiers of the PRNG, had the opportunity to support and apply their knowledge and logistic skills for the success of the event.

Meanwhile, during the forum for the Distinguished Visitor Program in Bogotá, Citizen-Soldiers handled all logistics related to the program including transportation, lodging, menu design, banquet organization and coordination of the seminars.

The PRNG team worked hand-in-hand with the Southern Command team and the Colombian Military Forces team to bring the mission to success.

"I want to highlight the hard work of the men and women of both our countries who participated in the

012



organization and success of this event,” said Col. Velásquez.

The first place of “Fuerzas Comando 2012” went for the home team with a winning total of 3,075 points to its favor. Ecuador and Uruguay took second and third place respectively.



Special operations forces from Uruguay climb their way up the cargo net, June 10, 2012, during the obstacle course portion of Fuerzas Comando 2012. This event is aimed at enhancing training and strengthening regional and multinational cooperation, mutual trust, readiness and interoperability of special operations forces in the region. Special Operations Command South serves as the U.S. execution agent for the exercise. (Photo by Sgt. Karen Kozub, 107th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



A special operations forces sniper team from Colombia sprints to the finish line at the stress test portion of Fuerzas Comando 2012 at the Colombian National Training Center in Fort Tolima, June 12, 2012. Fuerzas Comando, established in 2004, is a U.S. Southern Command-sponsored special forces skills competition and senior leader seminar which is conducted annually. Special Operations Command South serves as the U.S. execution agent for the exercise. (Photo by Sgt. Christopher Vann, 107th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Members of the Special Operations Forces from the United States participate in the physical training portion of Fuerzas Comando 2012 at the Colombian National Training Center in Tolima, June 6, 2012. Fuerzas Comando, established in 2004, is a U.S. Southern Command-sponsored special forces skills competition and senior leader seminar which is conducted annually. This event is aimed at enhancing training and strengthening regional and multinational cooperation, mutual trust, readiness and interoperability of special operations forces in the region. Special Operations Command South serves as the U.S. execution agent for the exercise. (Photo by Sgt. Christopher Vann, 107th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Jóvenes de AIJ se Gradúan en Programa CREANDO de la GNPR

Por Sgto. de 1ra Clase Luis E. Orengo, GNPR, PAO
Foto: Especialista Wilma Orozco Fanfán, GNPR, 113th MPAD

La Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico y su Programa CREANDO (Camino al Reto del Éxito A través de Nuevas y Diferentes Oportunidades) otorgó a 24 jóvenes clientes de la Administración de Instituciones Juveniles sus diplomas de Escuela Superior en una ceremonia celebrada en el Centro de Bellas Artes “Alejandro ‘Junior’ Cruz Ortiz” en Guaynabo, PR, ante un nutrido grupo de familiares y amigos que abarrotaron las facilidades para festejar el evento.

Entre los graduandos, dos obtuvieron alto honor y siete obtuvieron honores. Dos cadetes han sido reconocidos por superación, uno por liderazgo, uno por acondicionamiento físico mientras que uno fue seleccionado cadete destacado.

“Cada uno de estos jóvenes son el ejemplo de que cuando se quiere, se puede,” dijo el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns. “Cuando muy pocos creían en este tipo de programa y en estos jóvenes nos dimos a la tarea de ayudarlos a levantarse, educarse y desarrollar las destrezas necesarias para continuar adelante en la vida y aportar positivamente a nuestro país. Estos 24 jóvenes que se gradúan hoy son el ejemplo del despertar hacia un mejor futuro para Puerto Rico”.

El programa CREANDO busca ayudar a redefinir las experiencias de vida de los jóvenes clientes de la AIJ a través de un sistema que integra educación de excelencia y disciplina militar. El programa tiene una duración de 22 semanas y utiliza las mismas guías, criterios y experiencias del programa ChalleNGe.

“La Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico junto a la Administración de Instituciones Juveniles, les hemos dado a estos jóvenes unas herramientas de vida y disciplina. Estoy seguro que todas estas experiencias les van a ayudar a seguir hacia adelante en la transformación social tanto de ustedes como de nuestro país”, dijo Vicéns. “El reto ahora es de ustedes. Ahora les toca encaminarse y lograr sus metas, sus objetivos en la vida. Entiendan que la educación no termina con un diploma, la educación es, y será, un proceso continuo que nunca debe terminar”.

Los jóvenes completaron los grados 10 al 12 de Escuela Superior durante las 22 semanas que duró el programa.

“La Guardia Nacional y la AIJ somos testigos de la educación en acción”, dijo Vicéns. “No porque se logre un grado o un diploma, sino porque hemos comprobado que cuando se unen las experiencias, valores y disciplina se crea un individuo completo, deseoso de superarse y sin temor a los retos ni a las dificultades de la vida”.

“Juntamente con el Departamento de Corrección y Rehabilitación y la Administración de Instituciones Juveniles continuaremos ofreciendo a esta juventud la oportunidad de obtener experiencias que fomenten los valores positivos y constructivos que hay en ellos y que a su vez le rindan beneficio a sus familias y al país”, recalcó Vicéns.



INAUGURATES NEW FLIGHT SIMULATOR CENTER

By Staff Sgt. Waldemar Rivera, PRNG-PAO

Starbase Puerto Rico has inaugurated a new and improved Flight Simulator Center at its facilities at the Muñiz Air National Guard Base in Carolina, Puerto Rico.

The new and modern facilities will better serve hundreds of young students that participate in the Starbase Program each year with a bigger simulator room with more capacity and able to accommodate a full classroom of students.

“Since the beginning, Starbase has been ahead in technology, but with time it was necessary to catch-up with the new systems and improve the computer lab room from a 15-seat capacity and double it to 30,” said Idabels Rivera Aguirre, director of Starbase in Puerto Rico.

This change allows us to bring the required full four hours of technology with ease and makes better use of available structural space. Starbase stays up-to-date with facilities aimed to spark the curiosity of those who participate in it and offer the most advanced in technology,” said Rivera.

Together with the Flight Simulator program, an exclusive engineering three-dimensional computer program was installed and a learning program called “EZ Instruction” that allows the participants to develop their creativity in engineering in an easier way. A three-dimensional printer was also added to create the final product of the design as the last phase of the new curriculum.

“The evolution process of Satarbase Puerto Rico has not ended with this upgrade,” continued Rivera. “We will continue to be in the vanguard, as always, to be able to offer an excellent service to the youth of Puerto Rico and help them to better their skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.



The Director of STARBASE Puerto Rico, Idabels Rivera Aguirre, joined by the Adjutant General of Puerto Rico, Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Vicéns, cut the inaugural ribbon during the inauguration of the new and improved STARBASE Flight Simulator Center at the Muñiz Air National Guard Base in Carolina, Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rico STARBASE Program has served more than 20,000 youth from the Public Education Department since 1995. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Waldemar Rivera)

We will keep motivating the students in these technological fields giving them better options for careers thus trying to avoid school desertion. We consider that Starbase is an excellent platform for the stars of tomorrow.”

Starbase Puerto Rico has served more than 20,000 students from the public education system since 1995.



The Adjutant General of Puerto Rico, Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Vicéns, addresses the students participating in the STARBASE Program during the inauguration of the new and improved STARBASE Flight Simulator Center at the Muñiz Air National Guard Base in Carolina, Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rico STARBASE Program has served more than 20,000 youth from the Public Education Department since 1995. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Waldemar Rivera)

Patronos Experimentan lo que es ser un Ciudadano-Soldado

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

Más de 93 patronos de diversas agencias privadas y gubernamentales, la gran mayoría sin experiencia militar previa, se dieron cita en el Centro de Maniobras Conjuntas de Campamento Santiago como parte del evento “Visita Patronal 2012” (*Boss lift 2012* por su título en inglés).

Visita Patronal es una iniciativa del Programa de Apoyo Patronal para la Guardia Nacional y la Reserva el cual es una agencia del Departamento de la Defensa cuya misión es la de mantener las buenas relaciones entre patronos, empleados y las fuerzas de Reserva.

“Los patronos son parte indispensable de la Guardia Nacional”, indicó el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns. “Esta actividad busca como meta el que cada uno de ellos viva parte de las experiencias de sus empleados cuando éstos están en adiestramiento militar y que esto a su vez genere entendimiento y apoyo de parte de cada uno de ellos”.

“Visita Patronal 2012” busca crear conciencia en los patronos de la diversidad de actividades de adiestramiento que ejecutan los Ciudadanos-Soldados durante su fin de semana de adiestramiento en la Guardia Nacional. También la cantidad de experiencias que estos adquieren y que pueden ser de beneficio para sus empresas así como el trabajo realizado por ellos durante sus movilizaciones.

El evento comenzó con un vuelo en avión militar C-130 de la Guardia Nacional Aérea de Puerto Rico desde la Base de Apoyo de Aviación de la Guardia Nacional en el Aeropuerto Rivas Dominicci de Isla Grande hasta el Aeropuerto Mercedita en Ponce desde donde fueron transportados hacia el Campamento Santiago en Salinas. Una vez allí fueron recibidos por el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns y miembros de su estado mayor conjunto.

Entre las varias actividades en que participaron los patronos se encuentran: una demostración de equipos de ingeniería, purificación de agua y comunicación



Parte del grupo de patronos desalojan un helicóptero UH-60 Blackhawk como parte del evento “Visita Patronal 2012” (*Boss lift 2012* por su título en inglés). Visita Patronal es una iniciativa del Programa de Apoyo Patronal para la Guardia Nacional y la Reserva el cual es una agencia del Departamento de la Defensa cuya misión es la de mantener las relaciones entre patronos, empleados y las fuerzas de Reserva. Mas de 93 patronos atendieron el evento. (Foto por Sgto. de Estado Joseph Rivera Rebolledo, GNPR-113th MPAD)

táctica, un vuelo de orientación en helicóptero UH-60 Blackhawk así como un almuerzo de raciones militares (*Meals Ready to Eat*) y una demostración de movimiento y reacciones tácticas.

Desde el 2001 la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico ha movilizado a mas de 17,000 Ciudadanos-Soldados alrededor del mundo, demostrando que no es solo una fuerza de guerreros de fin de semana.

“La Guardia Nacional, así como la Reserva del Ejército, depende en gran medida del apoyo de los patronos de la misma manera en que dependemos del apoyo de las familias de nuestros ciudadanos-soldados”, dijo Vicéns. “Sin este apoyo nuestro trabajo sería mucho más difícil”.

Con un total estimado de sobre 600,000 movilizados desde el 2001 se estima que más de la mitad de las fuerzas militares envueltas en el conflicto en Oriente Medio son miembros de la Guardia Nacional y de la Reserva.

Visita Patronal es mucho más que una oportunidad para los civiles de conocer de las Fuerzas Armadas, es un recordatorio para cada uno de ellos de qué es lo que hace su empleado cuando se ausenta de su trabajo.

GNPR PREPARA REGALOS NAVIDEÑOS

Para Ciudadanos-Soldados movilizados

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



Miembros de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico, familiares del Grupo de Apoyo y Voluntarios de la Cruz Roja, se dieron cita en las Facilidades de Aviación de la GNPR para preparar los ya tradicionales paquetes navideños que cada año se envían a los Ciudadanos-Soldados movilizados en diversas partes del mundo.

“Con estos paquetes haremos llegar la alegría y el calor navideño a los Ciudadanos-Soldados que estarán lejos de sus hogares durante la época navideña”, expresó el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de División Antonio J. Vicéns. “Este año tenemos cerca de 400 Ciudadanos-Soldados y Aviadores cumpliendo misiones en Afganistán, Kosovo, Omán, Dubai, Honduras y Guantánamo, Cuba”.

Mas de 17,000 Ciudadanos-Soldados miembros de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico han sido movilizados alrededor del mundo desde septiembre del 2001.



El Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, el General de División Antonio J. Vicéns, conversa con uno de los voluntarios que ayuda a empacar los cerca de 400 paquetes con productos, postales de Navidad y regalos que han de ser enviados a nuestros Ciudadanos-Soldados movilizados en diferentes partes del mundo para las fiestas de Navidad. Ya es tradición de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico el envío de presentes a nuestros Ciudadanos-Soldados movilizados quienes esperan con júbilo la llegada de estos paquetes. (Foto por Sgto. Ángel Martínez, GNPR-113th MPAD)



Miembros de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico ayudan a empacar los cerca de 400 paquetes con productos, postales de Navidad y regalos que han de ser enviados a nuestros Ciudadanos-Soldados movilizados en diferentes partes del mundo para las fiestas de Navidad. Mas de 17,000 Ciudadanos-Soldados Puertorriqueños han sido movilizados desde septiembre del 2001. (Foto por Sgto. Ángel Martínez, GNPR-113th MPAD)



Voluntarios de la Cruz Roja Americana ayudan a empacar los cerca de 400 paquetes con productos, postales de Navidad y regalos que han de ser enviados a nuestros Ciudadanos-Soldados movilizados en diferentes partes del mundo para las fiestas de Navidad. (Foto por Sgto. Ángel Martínez, GNPR-113th MPAD)

CAMBIO DE MANDO EN LA AÉREA

Por Tnte. Cnel. Ricardo Castrodad, GNPR-PAO



Fotos por Wilma Orozco Fanfán, GNPR, 113th MPAD

La Guardia Nacional Aérea de Puerto Rico recibió a su nuevo comandante en una ceremonia de cambio de mando llevada a cabo en el hangar principal de sus facilidades en la Base Aérea Muñiz en Carolina.

El Coronel Wayne Zimmet, Comandante entrante de la Guardia Nacional Aérea de Puerto Rico, natural de Ohio, asumió el mando de mas de mil hombres y mujeres aviadores asignados a las tres unidades operacionales que componen la institución; el Ala de Transporte Aéreo 156 en Carolina, donde operan seis aviones de transporte C-130 Hércules, el Escuadrón de Control Aéreo 141 en Aguadilla y el Escuadrón de Mantenimiento y Apoyo 140 en Punta Salinas.

“Hoy reconocemos al Coronel Wayne Zimmet, quién asume el liderato de la Guardia Nacional Aérea de Puerto Rico y está comprometido en convertir nuestra Guardia Nacional en la Organización Premier para las Américas”, dijo el General de División Antonio J. Vicéns, Ayudante General de Puerto Rico. “De igual manera agradecemos el servicio y la labor encomiable del General de Brigada José M. Portela, un buen amigo, líder maravilloso y oficial de primera, que se retira luego de 43 años de servicio ejemplar a nuestra nación, donde los últimos siete fueron al servicio de nuestra institución.”

de Puerto Rico, Zimmet se desempeñó como Director de Operaciones de la institución. Zimmet es un piloto con más de 3,500 horas de vuelo en diversos aviones de la Fuerza Aérea de los Estados Unidos, entre ellos el C-130E Hércules, el F-16 Falcón y el F-4 *Phantom*.

“Estoy aquí para ustedes y seguiré luchando por ustedes y por la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico,” dijo Zimmet al dirigirse a los hombres y mujeres de la Guardia Nacional Aérea. “Llevo 19 años formando parte de esta organización y muchos me preguntan: ¿porqué



Antes de asumir el mando de la Guardia Nacional Aérea

viajo 1,500 millas todos los meses para cumplir mi responsabilidad militar? La contestación es sencilla, lo hago debido a ustedes. Puerto Rico está en mi sangre y a todos ustedes los llevo en mi corazón”

Zimmet, enfatizó que los miembros de la Guardia Nacional Aérea de Puerto Rico deben sentirse orgullosos y no olvidar que son guerreros veteranos de excelencia probados en misiones realizadas en Iraq, Afganistán, África y Centro y Sur América entre otros.

La ceremonia, presidida por General de División, Antonio J. Vicéns, Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, se llevó a cabo en presencia de los hombres y mujeres de la Guardia Nacional Aérea de Puerto Rico, familiares e invitados.

La Guardia Nacional Aérea de Puerto Rico es el componente militar aéreo de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico.





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