

El Morro

Vol. 2 Special Edition

Sentinel of the Caribbean

July 2017



Fort Buchanan - New Leadership

Story on page 4





May 31, 2017 marked a milestone in the history of the United States Army Garrison Fort Buchanan and my military career.

As I received the garrison colors that charged me with the responsibility as the new garrison commander, I realized how proud and humble I am to be part of the lineage of distinguished commanders who served this installation since Brigadier General James Anderson Buchanan became the first commander of the Porto Rico Regiment.

First and foremost, I thank God for the blessing of bringing me and my family to Puerto Rico. I am delighted to tell you that Mary Beth and I already feel like we are home. We want to sincerely thank the entire community who made our transition easy. Your support and hospitality have been tremendous since we arrived. We are looking forward to getting to know you and be part of the “We Are Fort Buchanan” family.

In the short time we’ve been here, it’s evident that Fort Buchanan is a team effort between the local community, the interagency partners and this post. As I looked around during the Change of Command Ceremony I was

gratefully surprised to see the diversity of community members in the audience – IMCOM-Readiness leaders sharing with leaders from the Reserve and Puerto Rico National Guard; fellow commanders from sister services; government officials; community organizations such as business, veterans and retirees; our partners from the federal agencies in Puerto Rico, tenants, staff and members of the garrison’s workforce.

When I think of Fort Buchanan, I think of the word “service”. That is, a culture of service to this community. It will be my priority, the command priority, to work hand-in-hand with the garrison workforce to provide better services for our internal and external customers. This will be accomplished in an environment where our workforce, our garrison professionals, feel valued, have a sense of belonging and loyalty to the organization; and a sense of ownership and pride as individuals. This will translate into a positive attitude with those we serve- our Service Members and their Families - treating them with dignity and respect.

In the near future we will be updating policies, streamlining inefficient processes, clarifying priorities, determining where to focus available resources while having programs meeting the needs of our customers, first and foremost – our Service Members, Families, Civilians and Retirees.

We will keep transparency in

communication, provide fair and appropriate recognition and a comprehensive training program to our workforce; thus, empowering our employees to make a difference in the lives of those we support. Bottom-line, if employees have engaged caring leaders, feel valued and respected for the work they do, are properly trained, and live the Army values, they will in turn pass forward this positive attitude to their customers and co-workers.

I am amazed by the hard work of the many military and civilians within this installation who, united in strength, give their best every day to face the many challenges ahead of us, such as: budget constraints, manpower reductions and providing the support needed to enable readiness for our globally-responsive Army.

Following IMCOM Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Kenneth R. Dahl’s guidance on Service Culture Initiative we will be able to meet the challenges of our current operational environment while simultaneously creating “readiness” for Commanders. We will continue to build upon this culture of service and expand upon the relationships made and goals set. This will be the foundation that will keep Fort Buchanan relevant, ready and going strong.

That’s why we proudly say: “We are Fort Buchanan”.

Thank you.
Gracias.



Army Stand-to: Independence Day

Excerpts from the Office of the Chief
Legislative Liaison July 3, 2017

Independence Day celebrates the birth of the nation and honors the Army’s commitment to defend our nation since 1775.

Also referred to as the Fourth of July, it is observed annually to honor when Congress declared independence in 1776. The Continental Army and the militia in the service of Congress became known collectively as the Army of the United States, instead of the Army of the United Colonies. This year marks the 242nd anniversary of America’s independence.

It was considered essential that the American Revolutionary Soldiers hear the Declaration of Independence document read, but the reading required sufficient copies be produced and distributed to the headquarters of the various Continental Army commands. Even with dispatch riders and fast-sailing ships, the nation and its armed forces had to wait to celebrate until Continental regiments in the faraway south could actually hear the momentous words. It wasn’t until after the War of 1812 that observing Independence Day became

commonplace.

Many military installations hold public events in honor of Independence Day, which may include a concert, gun salute and fireworks display. In 2017, roughly 183,600 Soldiers celebrate Independence Day by supporting combatant commanders in 140 different countries.

The Fourth of July is an occasion to celebrate and commemorate the freedom, history and legacy of the United States of America. It is an opportunity to reflect and thank our Soldiers, Civilians and their Families for their service, bravery, and patriotism.



From the Garrison Command Sergeant Major

Garrison Commander
Col. Guy D. Bass

Garrison Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana

Deputy Garrison Commander
Lt. Col. Patrick J. Dillon

Deputy to the Garrison Commander
William S. Leyh

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During the Change of Responsibility I said from the heart how humbled and truly honored I was to be selected as the new Garrison Command Sergeant Major for Fort Buchanan. I reiterate my words when I said that I come to you as your servant leader to what I consider to be an impressive and important readiness installation in the Caribbean.

I first heard of Fort Buchanan when I was a child. I would listen to the stories my uncle told me. When he went to the Korean War and how he in-processed and deployed here, from Fort Buchanan. Never in my wildest dreams would I ever imagine that one day I would be part of this installation as its Command Sergeant Major.

As Fort Buchanan' Senior NCO, it is my responsibility to lead our Soldiers and support our community with competence and commitment, fulfilling two basic responsibilities – to accomplish the mission and to look for the welfare of our Soldiers. In order to accomplish these goals I will use as my guide the Warrior-Leader's unique leadership focus which is - to lead by example.

As a servant leader, I will help the team and the organization concentrate its efforts on what is essential providing leadership and mentorship to the Non-commissioned Officers and junior enlisted Soldiers; I will provide purpose, a sense of direction, motivation, and above all; I will show care and compassion for the people – our Soldiers and their Family members, the civilian workforce, the Veterans and the Fort Buchanan community.

To be part of this incredible professionalism and teamwork I've seeing since I arrived at the garrison and the service you provide to the nation, it is my commitment as your servant leader to look forward to sustain this synergy. That means to be always sharp and ready, like the sword that represents the Noncommissioned Officers Corps, "the backbone of the Army".



Soldiers of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), Presidential Salute Battery, provides support during the playing of the 1812 Overture in Washington D.C., June 4, 2017. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. George Huley)

USAG Fort Buchanan conducts Change of Command ceremony

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

The United States Army Garrison Fort Buchanan conducted the Change of Command ceremony May 31, 2017 in which the mantle of leadership passed from Colonel Michael T. Harvey to Colonel Guy D. Bass. The ceremony, hosted by Brenda Lee McCullough, Director IMCOM (Installation Management Command) - Readiness, held at the recently inaugurated Soldier's Plaza was attended by government officials, representatives from the Federal agencies in Puerto Rico, veteran and community organizations, as well as garrison tenants and members of Fort Buchanan's military and civilian community.

McCullough highlighted Col. Harvey's accomplishments during



McCullough, Director, IMCOM - Readiness, commended Col. Michael T. Harvey on his achievements during the past two years as Fort Buchanan garrison commander and welcomed incoming commander Col. Guy D. Bass.

his two years of command that were marked by transformation, innovation and challenges due to military and civilian draw downs and fiscal constraints. He led and managed all challenges through collaboration, strategic planning and partnerships that included the 81st Regional Support Command, numerous tenant units, the civilian workforce, local community leaders and some of our other partners such as FBI, DHS and others.

Besides all the infrastructure projects, Col. Harvey was especially proud of the outreach and community engagement initiatives such as



Brenda Lee McCullough, Director, IMCOM - Readiness, passes the USAG Fort Buchanan colors to Col. Guy D. Bass, charging him with the responsibility as the new garrison commander during the Change of Command Ceremony held on May 31, 2017 at the Soldier's Plaza.

“Operation Feliz Navidad,” supporting the American Cancer Society and the WARTAC initiative in conjunction with Veterans Benefits Administration.

McCullough, bid farewell to Col. Harvey and welcomed Col. Guy D. Bass and his wife Mary Beth Scott to the IMCOM family. She accentuated Col. Bass' merits of being “a proven leader, ideally suited to lead the Fort Buchanan team and supporting the priorities and requirements set by the Senior Commander and the IMCOM priority set by Lt. Gen. Dahl.”

McCullough added “I am fully confident that you [Col. Bass] will lead this garrison with the same



Mary Beth Scott, Col. Guy D. Bass' spouse, receives from Grissel Rosa, Public Affairs Officer, a bouquet of yellow roses as a symbol of the beginning as the new first lady of the installation and to welcome her on behalf of the Soldiers, Civilians and Family members of Fort Buchanan, during the Change of Command Ceremony.

professionalism, pride and expertise you have demonstrated throughout your career and you will continue the work started by Col. Harvey implementing your own vision for Fort Buchanan and in conjunction with the Senior Commander, Major General Arlan M. DeBlicek.”

Col. Harvey expressed his sincere appreciation for the support received from staff and partners, as he and his wife Laurie prepared to depart the



Col. Guy D. Bass, assumed command of the US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan effective May 31, 2017 during the Garrison Change of Command Ceremony.

command and Puerto Rico. “It’s a sad and glorious day. There is a lot I’m going to miss and is those partnerships and friendships,” he said. “Thank you for the privilege of serving with you for the last 22 months,” concluded Harvey.

Col. Bass reaffirmed the support to Garrison's readiness mission, commitment to community outreach and engagement under his leadership. He also expressed how honored he and his wife, Mary Beth, are to join the Fort Buchanan team. “We are both looking forward to getting to know this great community and being part of it. In the short time we’ve been here, it’s evident that Fort Buchanan is a team effort between the local community, the interagency partners and this post,” said Bass.

USAG Fort Buchanan conducts Change of Responsibility ceremony

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

The United States Army Garrison Fort Buchanan conducted the Change of Responsibility Ceremony June 6, 2017 in which the responsibilities of the Garrison Senior Noncommissioned Officer passed from Command Sgt. Maj. Luis A. Rosario Vélez to Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana. The ceremony, hosted by Colonel Guy D. Bass, garrison commander, conducted in front of the garrison headquarters building was attended members of Fort Buchanan's military and civilian community.



USAG Fort Buchanan Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass passes the sword to Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana symbolically charging him with the responsibility for the garrison as its new Command Sergeant Major during the ceremony.

During the ceremony Col. Bass first and foremost thanked the members of the Puerto Rico State Guard Band for supporting the event in a minute's notice and the members of the Color Guard. He also recognized the role of the Noncommissioned Officers Corps as the "backbone of the Army." He added, "NCOs like these two stellar NCOs", referring to Command Sgt. Maj. Rosario and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana "are responsible for making the United States Army the most lethal fighting force in history."

Bass highlighted Command Sgt. Maj. Rosario's contributions over the past three years in which "he has served Fort Buchanan well and faithfully. Instead of listing his accomplishments,



Incoming USAG Fort Buchanan Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana addresses the audience during the Change of Responsibility Ceremony held on 6 June 2017. "As your servant leader I look forward to sustaining the synergy you have here for those who serve, has served or one day may serve," said Quintana.

we can look around post, or talk to other Soldiers and civilians about his reputation. We thank you for your service and wish you and your family God speed in your next adventure," said Col. Bass.

Rosario exhorted all to keep the mission going and continue providing services to our military, their families



IMCOM-Readiness Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Roy Rocco welcomes Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana to the IMCOM family as the new Garrison Command Sergeant Major during the reception held at the headquarters lobby. Carlos Guzmán from DPW observes.

and the civilian workforce.

Col. Bass welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana indicating that he places special trust and confidence in his patriotism, dedication, integrity and leadership abilities as the new Command Sergeant Major for the installation.

Photos by José López, VI Specialist

Outgoing USAG Fort Buchanan Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Luis A. Rosario Vélez bids farewell to all stating "It was an honor to serve with you."



Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana stated that he was "truly and honored" to be Fort Buchanan's Command Sergeant Major and "as your servant leader for such an impressive and important readiness installation such as this one in the Caribbean."

"I first heard of Fort Buchanan when I was a child, listening to the war stories my uncle told me. When we went to the Korean War how he in-processed from here. Never in my wildest dreams would I ever think that one day I would be part of this installation. To be part of this incredible professionalism and teamwork I see you have here and to be a part of the service to this nation and to the people of the Fort Buchanan community, as your servant leader I look forward to sustaining the synergy you have here for those who serve, have served or one day may serve. We are Fort Buchanan!" concluded Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana.



Rosa Rodríguez from the garrison's Resource Management Office shared impressions with CSM Quintana at the receiving line during the reception held at the headquarters lobby following the Change of Responsibility Ceremony on 6 June 2017.

Garrison Org Day games, camaraderie and fun

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

The first day of Borinquen Week started with games, camaraderie and fun at the annual USAG Fort Buchanan Organizational Day held June 12, 2017, at the Cabaña Picnic Area here.

This is the second year the week long events are conducted in commemoration of the U.S. Army's birthday.

The competitions began after welcome remarks from the Garrison Commander Colonel Guy D. Bass before a mixed crowd of garrison staff, Soldiers, and members of all the sister services.

The sports competitions included



Lt. Col. Patrick Dillon goes all out to make the volley during an intense volleyball game between Fort Buchanan garrison staff and Soldiers.

Members of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard partake of a game of box hockey.



Garrison staff enjoy singing karaoke after a long day of strenuous and friendly competition.

volleyball; dominoes; box-hockey; whiffle ball; Sumo wrestling; karaoke; giant Twister; basketball, and a dunking booth, where Col. Bass, William S. Leyh, deputy to the garrison commander and other installation directors and staff volunteered to be dunked in the cold pool of water.

The day's events culminated in a cake cutting ceremony in honor of Father's Day and the awarding of the coveted Garrison Cup for best in competition.

The winner of the Garrison Cup was Fort Buchanan's garrison's staff and Soldiers.

Rosa Rodriguez, Supervisory Budget Officer Resource Management Office enjoys a game of dominoes with fellow garrison staff.



Camaraderie between garrison and tenant organizations was a highlight during the day's events.

Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana, Dan Carter, acting DFMWR director hold the Garrison cup as Col. Bass declared the garrison the winner.



U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Stephen L. Baker flies in the air as he Sumo wrestles with Robert A. Fernandez DFMWR staff member.



DPW staff members enjoy the camaraderie before partaking in the various sporting events of the garrison organizational day.



Garrison command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana, deeply intent, tries his hand at whiffle ball.

Garrison commander, Col. Guy D. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana cut the cake in commemoration of Father's Day.



William Latimer, general attorney at the Installation Legal Office on post tosses the ball for a direct hit as Col. Bass looks on, before falling in the pool of water.

Col. Bass, garrison commander and his wife, Mary Beth Scott get ready to rumble in a friendly wrestling match inside a bounce house.



Vietnam Veteran's Welcome home and street re-naming ceremonies

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

The United States Army Garrison Fort Buchanan conducted the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony on 13 June 2017. The event, part of the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War, also included the re-naming of Sallyport Street as Borinqueneer Way in honor of the 65th Infantry Regiment. Both events were held at the recently inaugurated Soldier's Plaza. Among the distinguished guests were Puerto Rico Senator José Luis Dalmau Santiago, President of the Veterans Affairs Commission and Luis Soto, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army and Jorge Pedroza, Vietnam Veterans of America Puerto Rico state council president.

During the event Luis M. Díaz Vélez



Jorge Pedroza, Vietnam Veterans of America Puerto Rico state council president addressed the audience.

and Wilfredo Montes, representing the Vietnam Veterans conducted the presentation of the Prisoners of War flag to pay tribute to those were held prisoners of war, listed as missing and unaccounted for and those who never returned home.



(L to R) James E. Manker, Jr, acting principal deputy under secretary for benefits, DAV; P.R. Senator, Hon. José Luis Dalmau, Col. Bass, Maj. May Beth Scott, garrison commander's wife and Luis Soto, civilian aide to the secretary of the Army, pay their respects during the national anthems.



Vietnam Veterans posed for a group photo after the events held in their honor during the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony held at the Soldier's Plaza June 13, 2017.

“Almost one million Americans served during Vietnam War from 1955 to 1975, some in country, some in theater, some stationed throughout the world. Many came back with health issues, emotional scars, but all served the nation with patriotism,” indicated Col. Guy D. Bass, Fort Buchanan garrison commander and host for the event. He also introduced the guest speaker for the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony,

USAG Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander, Col. Bass presents a Vietnam Veteran with the commemorative pin and certificate during the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony.



James E. Manker, Jr., acting principal deputy under secretary for Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs.

“The Vietnam War Commemoration is one long overdue opportunity to us to honor our Vietnam veterans, who were not treated right when they returned home,” said Manker.

Manker highlighted the participation of Puerto Ricans in the Vietnam War. “We owe a great debt of gratitude to our Puerto Rican veterans for their contribution during the Vietnam War. An estimated 48,000 Puerto Ricans served during Vietnam,” stated.

Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj.

Quintana, Manker and a representative from the Veterans Benefits Administration, on behalf of a grateful nation presented the Vietnam Veterans and the families of those who lost loved ones during the Vietnam War with the commemorative pin and certificate to publicly thank them for their service, valor, and sacrifice.

Fort Buchanan continued making history as Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana unveiled the sign that symbolically renamed Sallyport Road as Borinqueneer Way as the garrison's commitment to provide lasting honor to our service members.

The re-naming of Sallyport Road honors the most decorated unit in the history of the United States Army – the 65th Infantry Regiment, the “Borinqueneers” who trained and deployed to fight in World War I, World War and the most remembered, the Korean War from Fort Buchanan.



Garrison Command Sgt. Maj., Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana (L) and the Garrison Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass, unveil the sign that officially designates Sallyport Street as Borinqueneer Way in honor of the members of the illustrious 65th Infantry Regiment.

Current and Future Retiree Appreciation Day/Claims and Benefits Clinic

Story and photo by **Rosie Irizarry**
Public Affairs Specialist

The Current and Future Retiree Appreciation Day, and Veterans Benefits Administration's Claims and Benefits Clinic, was held June 16, 2017 at the Fort Buchanan Community Club and Conference Center as part of the Borinquen Week events.

Veterans and their family members showed at the event as early as 6:30 a.m. while the Department of Veterans Benefits Affairs staff began immediately to attend them although the event did not formally begin till 8:00 a.m.

There were information booths from veterans and military retiree organizations, providing materials and assistance.

"Mi casa es su casa, Fort Buchanan," said Col. Guy D. Bass, Fort Buchanan garrison commander as he welcomed and opened the event.

"Retiree Appreciation Day is dedicated to the brave warriors who proudly served in our armed forces. Sometime ago men and women like you took the oath of allegiance and entered into the armed

forces to serve our country, to defend its constitution and preserve our democratic way of life," said Col. Bass.

He also thanked the family members who sacrificed so much and supported their service members throughout their military careers.

civilian aide to the secretary of the Army Emeritus; James Manker, Jr., acting principal deputy undersecretary for benefits; Abner Concepción, assistant director of Veterans Affairs, PR Regional Office; representative from the director National Cemetery; Agustín Montañez



"Mi casa es su casa, Fort Buchanan," said Col. Bass, garrison commander as he welcomed attendees to the Current and Future Retiree Appreciation Day.

Col. Bass presented the "highly distinguished" panel members; Willie C. Williams, program manager, Army Reserve Deers/Rapids and retirement services; Lt. Col. Eliasib Lozano, commander of Fort Buchanan's Rodriguez Army Health Clinic; Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Fernando Fernández, Co-chairman of the Retiree Soldier Council, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Felix A. Santoni,

Allman, Esq., PR Veterans Advocate, and Axel R. Román, chief partner and community relations, VA Caribbean Healthcare Systems.

Rafael Contreras, Fort Buchanan transition services specialist Soldier for Life, served as master of ceremony. Miguel Aponte, Fort Buchanan retirement services officer coordinated the questions and answers part of the program.

RAHC hosts a Health Fair

Story and photos by **Rosie Irizarry**
Public Affairs Specialist

As part of the Borinquen Week events, Fort Buchanan's Rodriguez Army Health Clinic held a Health and Wellness Fair June 15, 2017 at the Exchange main lobby and Commissary mall areas.

The RAHC provided courtesy medical exams with qualified personnel, and informational booths providing Tricare information; blood pressure checks; dental Cat IV screening; Zika awareness; glucose/sugar screening; eye exams; HIV exams; pharmacy benefits; veterinary services; Real

Warrior Campaign information; nutrition and healthy eating orientation and all at no cost to the participants.



Carlos Ilarraza, health benefits advisor and Mildred Morales, Managed Care Chief, both with the RAHC provide information to a exchange customer.

As visitors to the Exchange and the Commissary arrived they were greeted by the many partners who were providing some of the courtesy medical exams, as in the case of Walgreens who were doing free blood pressure checks.



Crowds of people gathered information at the booths the RAHC set up during the Health and Wellness Fair in the Exchange main Lobby and commissary mall areas.



(R to L) Carlos M. Montañez, Fort Buchanan Army Substance Abuse Program Coordinator and Army Sgt. 1st Class Vanessa Colón, PRNG Human Resources Sgt. distributed educational materials and answered questions from the community.



Army Sgt. 1st Class Blanco receives dental information provided during the health fair from one of the many providers.

Photos by Rosie Irizarry, PA Specialist

Fort Buchanan celebrates the Army's 242nd Birthday

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

USAG Fort Buchanan celebrated the 242nd Army Birthday June 17, 2017, in an ambiance filled with camaraderie with garrison military and civilian personnel, federal partners and local community.

During the event conducted at Fort Buchanan's Community Club



The formal receiving line for the 242nd Army birthday celebration held at Fort Buchanan on June 17, 2017 (L to R) Maj. Gen. Arlan M. DeBlieck, commanding general 81st RSG; Col. Guy D. Bass, Fort Buchanan garrison commander; Mary Beth Scott, first lady of the installation; Command Sgt. Maj. Levi G. Maynard, command sergeant major, 81st RSC; and Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana, garrison command sergeant major.

and Conference Center, guests were greeted by Fort Buchanan's leadership – Major General Arlan M. DeBlieck, Commanding General, 81st Regional Support Command and Fort Buchanan



During the 242nd Army birthday celebration here Karen M. Cedillos sings the Puerto Rico and U.S. national anthems, while Héctor E. Rosado, accompanies her on the piano, both are members of the directorate of family, morale, welfare and recreation.

Senior Mission Commander who was also the guest speaker for the event; Col. Guy D. Bass, garrison commander; Colonel Guy D. Bass, garrison commander; Mary Beth Scott, first lady of the installation; Command Sgt. Maj. Levi G. Maynard,



The Fort Buchanan 242nd Army birthday celebration began with the host, the garrison command and guest speaker, Maj. Gen. DeBlieck receiving all the guests.

command sergeant major, 81st RSC; and Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana, garrison command sergeant major. Partners from federal agencies as well as garrison directors and tenants participated in one of the Army's best traditions.

"The Army turned 242 years this year, and that, in and of itself, is cause for celebration," said Maj. Gen. DeBlieck.

He illustrated the critical role played by the US Army throughout its 242



In an ambiance filled with camaraderie federal partners, local community, garrison military and civilian personnel, as seen here, members of the garrison directorate of public works and their family, celebrate together the Army's 242nd birthday day at Fort Buchanan.

years of history – maintaining and defending our homeland and leading the way as the United States continues to become "an even more perfect union, adopting and embracing equal opportunity for all across all military occupational specialties including combat roles."

DeBlieck also emphasized the relevance of Puerto Rican Soldiers in the US Army, who have participated in every conflict in which the United

States has been involved since World War I. "Since 1899, Puerto Rico has supplied some of the toughest, bravest Soldiers the United States has had the privilege to call her own."

"Our Army has answered the call to duty for 242 years. I ask you to join me in celebrating this milestone and take time to reflect on what the Army means, said DeBlieck.

"I fully expect the Army –



(L to R) Col. Bass; Maj. Gen. DeBlieck; Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Santoni, the oldest Soldier; Command Sgt. Maj. Maynard; Pfc. Jonathan Rivera Colon, the youngest Soldier and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana cut the ceremonial cake in true time honored Army tradition.

America's Army, your Army – will be there to defend freedom wherever and whenever called and I am confident the men and women of Puerto Rico will continue to play a vital role with your continued professionalism, dedication, service and support," he concluded.



A sharp and well rehearsed joint color guard provided protocol for the evening's formal events (L to R) Color Guard NCOIC, Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Edwin Ruiz; Navy YN1 A-Shae Bowman; Army Sgt. Marcos Rodriguez; Command Sgt. Maj. Maynard; PR Army Nat. Guard Isaac Negrón; Maj. Gen. DeBlieck; Army Reserve Sgt. Christine Pelletier; US Marine Corp. Sgt. Dillion Bahr; Navy HM2 Aeisha Jones; Col. Bass; Air Force 1st Sgt. Galindez Oquendo; Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana; Coast Guard BM2 Sean Henry; Army Reserve Sgt. Dannie Pizarro and Army Reserve Sgt. Andrea Taboas.

Upcoming events

August September

Antiterrorism Awareness Month

Fort Buchanan Antiterrorism Symposium
August 24, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Sgt. Ramos Hall
1st MSC Headquarters Building 354

Women's Equality Day
August 26

DDESS
New School Year
August 28, school grades
August 29, first day of kindergarten

Labor Day
September 04

National Suicide Prevention Month

Patriot Day
September 11

POW/MIA Recognition Day
September 15

National Hispanic Heritage Month
September 15 to October 15

Gold Star Mother's Day
September 24

The community is invited to participate in these events as we partner together to provide opportunities, expand relationships, and show our appreciation to all who served and support the United States Armed Forces.

United States Army Garrison Fort Buchanan
Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security
Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico

Antiterrorism Symposium

Recognize and Report Suspicious Activity
IWATCH Program

Homegrown Violent Extremist as Evolving Threat

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)
Potential uses as a Threat



See Something, Say Something

AUGUST 24, 2017

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Ramos Hall, 1st Mission Support Command HQ
Building #354

ramon.d.figueroa.civ@mail.mil
787-707-3393

If you see something, say something. Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or if on post, dial 787-707-3337.



Fort Buchanan Safety Officer Completes Command and General Staff Course

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Alfredo Nogueras, USAG Fort Buchanan's Safety Officer took a risk that has paid off, as he attended the prestigious and highly selective Command and General Staff Officer Course (CGSOC) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

A total of 1,179 students from all services and international military partner countries participated in this 44-week course which is offered once a year. Army-wide, 124 civilian applicants competed for a slot for the 2016-2017 school year. Only Nogueras and 3 other Army civilians made the cut. It was the first time that Army civilians were accepted at the course.

The selection process was competitive. Each candidate's application had to be locally approved by their parent organization, endorsed by the first General Officer or Senior Executive Service (SES) within the



Alfredo Nogueras, safety officer with USAG Fort Buchanan

employee's chain of command, and forwarded to their respective Major Command for vetting and boarding.

"My motivation for applying for the CGSOC originated from acknowledging the Army's need for agile, adaptive, and innovative professionals in times of scarce resources and uncertainty, while recognizing the need to improve my skills in certain areas," said Nogueras.

"The CGSOC offered the opportunity to challenge my intellectual skills, enhance critical and creative thinking

skills, expand my awareness in Army doctrine, and most importantly, polish my leadership skills to be able to lead at any position, at any level. Today I can tell you that I have not being disappointed," stated Nogueras.

The Command and General Staff Officer Course is designed to prepare leaders to meet the challenges of today's operational environment. Understanding the difficulties of performing with reduced budgets, reduced force structures, and the threats emanating from state and non-state actors, the Army recognizes the need to develop leaders that are capable to perform in environments of uncertainty and chaos.

"Whether it is performing the duties of a safety officer or acting in another leadership capacity, I feel confident of my abilities to visualize, direct, and lead teams to accomplish the Army's mission, wherever they need me," concluded Nogueras.

FB garrison commander and command sergeant major welcome visitors

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

For the second time since assuming command of the U. S. Army Garrison Fort Buchanan, Colonel Guy D. Bass and Garrison Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana greeted service members, civilian staff and visitors to the installation during the morning hours

of June 21, 2017.

This action offers the Fort Buchanan community the opportunity to meet Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana. The drivers were pleasantly surprised as shown by their smiling faces and eager salutations to both Bass and Quintana.



Fort Buchanan Police Department partners with Navy to provide protection

Story and photo by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

During June many visitors, service members and civilians at Fort Buchanan were surprised to see Navy Master of Arms accompanying the garrison Directorate of Emergency Services Police.

“The Naval Operation Support Center Puerto Rico (NOSC) Commander, Chris D. McCarley reached out to us, because he had several Master of Arms (MAs), that needed to conduct their annual training. MA’s are what is known in the Army as Military Police (MPs),” said Tomás Acosta, Fort Buchanan supervisory police officer.

“This was a win-win situation USAG Fort Buchanan benefited as we had more armed personnel for two weeks and the NOSC benefited by receiving training under real (life) circumstance’s,” said Acosta.



(L to R) MA2 Raúl Martínez, in charge of this AT; MA2 Carlos Saavedra Rivera; MA2 Xiomara Rivera; MA3 Rosa Díaz; MA2 Vicky Díaz, who participated in the qualification but not in the patrolling and MA2 Pedro Rosario Arocho partnered with Fort Buchanan’s police to provide support and security.

“People stop us and ask because they see a Navy police officer with an Army police officer and are very happy with the change,” said MA2 Pedro Rosario Arocho, assistant leader Petty Officer.

“The Navy MAs have brought their experience and knowledge to our police team as well,” said Fort Buchanan Army Police Officer Manuel A. Atilas.

“Feedback and partnership. The feedback from both, civilian police and from the MA’s is one of the accomplishments. The MA’s blended

with the civilian police very well,” said Acosta summing up the experience as an overall success.

DES Police Officer Manuel A. Atilas and Navy MA2 Pedro Rosario Arocho patrol the Fort Buchanan Exchange, a partnership that provides protection and crime prevention.



USAG Fort Buchanan's 3rd WARTAC graduation

Story and photo by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

On 15 June 2017, the United States Army Garrison Fort Buchanan, in partnership with the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), conducted its third Warrior Training Advancement Course (WARTAC) graduation ceremony in under a year. During the event held at the Naval Operations Support Center (NOSC), 20 students were certified as Veteran Service Representatives.

James E. Manker, Jr., Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs congratulated the students on their accomplishment, thanked their families for their sacrifices in support of our Service Members and notified the graduates of their follow-on assignments during the commencement. Graduates will be reporting to work at one of the following regional offices; St.



WARTAC Class 17-06, the third class to graduate at Fort Buchanan, proudly posing with Col Bass and Manker, Jr. as they achieved the goal of completing the program that will provide them the opportunity to enter the Veterans Benefits Administration and the federal government.

Petersburg FL, Nashville TN, Houston TX, Waco TX, and Boston MA.

During his remarks, Colonel Guy D. Bass, Fort Buchanan garrison commander, highlighted that “There is no more noble work than to serve a Veteran, and no better person to understand their needs than a Veteran.”

Shamilca Aponte Navarro who presented remarks on behalf of the WARTAC students. “Looking back on the journey that we all embarked with hesitant cautious steps, we can see how far we’ve progressed and how our hard work is paying off,” said Aponte Navarro. “Our military careers have taught us how to be strong and resilient,” added, “so WARTAC graduates, remember to hold on to your values, your work ethic, and your dedication to the Veterans of our great nation, but most importantly, remember to stay true to yourselves!”

The following are the proud graduates of this third iteration of WARTAC, a life changing program and great career opportunity. They are: Gamalier Acevedo, Shamilca Aponte Navarro, Eric Beauchamp, David R. Child, Maria E. Daniels, Pedro Domínguez, Héctor González Torres, Stephen Christopher Leyh, Elvis Martínez, David Molina Reyes, Geoffrey Pilier González, Rayza Ramos Betancourt, Francisco Rodríguez Nieves, José Rodríguez, Denismar Román Ramos, Runika Ruiz Ramos, Héctor L. Santiago, Anna Y. Soto, Edgardo Torres and Erasmo Vázquez Alvarado.

Brazilian Landing Ship Commander visits with Garrison Commander



Photo and caption by Grissel Rosa, Public Affairs Officer

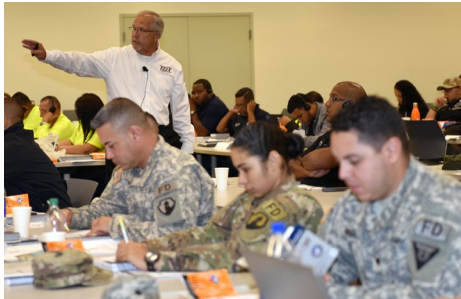
Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander, Colonel Guy D. Bass, welcomes Rear Admiral José Roberto Bueno, Jr. and members of his crew from the Brazilian Landing Ship Tank “Garcia D’avila” during their visit to Puerto Rico on June 28, 2017 at General James A. Buchanan Conference Room.

FBFD partners with local and federal agencies for HAZMAT training

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

From June 20 - 23, 2017 Fort Buchanan's Fire Department with the assistance of Texas A & M Engineering (TEEX) conducted a training in partnership with 16 organizations; military, local and federal agencies, on emergency response to hazardous materials (HazMat) incidents at the Puerto Rico Army National Guard Readiness Center, at Fort Buchanan.

"This course encompassed an all-hazards approach to HazMat incidents, including acts of terrorism where Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) materials may have been used. It provided 65 participants the knowledge



Dan M. Rand, TEEX training specialist provided classroom training to 65 trainees from many military, local and federal agencies on HazMat Incidents.

to recognize the hazardous material, protect themselves, notify others, and secure the scene," said Fire Captain Héctor Rivera, training supervisor for the Fort Buchanan fire department.

Cpt. Rivera initiated and coordinated this ground-breaking partnership based on a real need for emergency response entities on the island to be able to respond to these types of incidents.

"The following agencies took part in this initiative:

- ▶ Puerto Rico Fire Department
- ▶ Bacardi Factory Fire Rescue
- ▶ Cataño Municipal Police
- ▶ Puerto Rico Police Department Fire Rescue
- ▶ Puerto Rico Police Department Office of Emergency Management
- ▶ Puerto Rico Police Department SWAT team
- ▶ Army Reserve Fire Fighters from 266th Det., 1st Mission Support Command
- ▶ Puerto Rico Army National Guard

Fire Department 215th Det.

- ▶ Puerto Rico Air State Guard
- ▶ Bayamón Office of Emergency Management
- ▶ Carolina Office of Emergency Management
- ▶ Guaynabo Office of Emergency Management
- ▶ Caribe Medical Ambulance



Fire Cpt. Héctor Rivera provides training information during the hands-on practice part of the HazMat course.

- ▶ Emergency Response Inc.
- ▶ AEROSTAR Fire Department, Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport
- ▶ San Juan Fire Rescue" said Cpt. Rivera.

"Our contribution not only targeted to provide our neighbors with such a demanding course but to be able to provide it free of cost is an invaluable asset. By assisting Texas A&M with some of the logistics we have been able to save them approximately \$50k in



TEEX trainers walk-thru the donning of the personal protective equipment (PPE) part of the course.

equipment shipping, classroom, etc.," said Rivera.

"Having had previous experience with the language barrier, this course included translator services for the benefit of those needing the service," he added.

Translation services both to and from English and Spanish, were provided by Lighthouse Translations at no cost.

"This course has a value of \$1,500

per person, and was fully funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant via TEEX, making it free of charge for all of the participants included in this course," indicated Cpt. Rivera.

"There has been an exceptional response, the participants are appreciative of the training and have a high level of interest, I believe because of the people present and their culture," said Dan M. Rand, training specialist with TEEX and one of five trainers present.

On the final day of the training an intense timed testing was carried out, the 65 participants had 10-minutes



Soldiers from the 266th FD Det., 1st MSC assist each other in the donning of the PPE, ensuring that it and the self-contained breathing apparatus is installed properly and within the 10-minute time limit for completion.

to don properly Personal Protective Equipment and the self contained breathing apparatus. They had 5-minutes to complete to complete a "decon" a decontamination of an individual.

"Most do the decon in less than 3-minutes," said Rand.

"The course provided knowledge on: prevention and deterrence; identification of hazardous material, use and familiarity with the Emergency Response Guide (ERG); chemical agents; biological agents; radiological materials and nuclear weapons; explosive devices; assessing WMD hazards; predicting likely behavior of WMD incidents; identifying defensive strategies; operate and communicate in a unified command structure; determine detection equipment, and personal protective equipment," said Rivera.

"In addition we received outstanding assistance in the facility; the classrooms, kitchen and sanitary services from the PRNG Readiness Center; Army Maj. Juan L. Aquino," said a grateful Rivera.



The Fort Buchanan Fire Department, Fire Chief wants you to know...

General Grilling Tips

Grilling is one of the favorite outdoor activities for those of us who enjoy a grilled steak, a slab of ribs or just having a good time with family and friends. To keep you and your loved ones safe while grilling, NFPA recommends the following general guidelines:

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Check the major connection points between the gas (propane) tank hose and the regulator and cylinder, and where the hose connects to the burners. Tighten if loose.
- Check the gas (propane) tank hose for the potential (gas) leaks.

There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.

If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.

Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.

There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.

When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.



The Fort Buchanan Police Department

By Jorge Quiñones
Police Chief

Plain view items and walking back to your car

If you are reading these articles on personal safety and taking them to heart, then you are making life difficult for a thief. This third article of a series on personal safety has to do with valuables left inside your car while parked and the vulnerable time when you walk back and get inside your car.

Too often valuables, such as, laptops, money, purses, and cell phones, etc., are left in plain view inside cars. It is an invitation for someone to break into your car and take them away. The thief will simply break a window with a hard object, stick his hand inside your car, and run away with several of your valued items. Can you imagine yourself without your cell phone, it would be like the end of the world!

However, there is a simple fix to this problem. Don't leave your valuables in plain view, that's it! Take them with you or put them inside the trunk of your car, either way your valuables are not in plain view. Remember that a thief is a very busy and scared person. He or she has many more cars to break into and they are afraid of getting caught. Therefore, the thief needs to spend as little time as possible in one robbery, if you make it hard, he or she will move onto a softer target.

Another way to possibly become a crime statistic is when you return to your car. At times we park during the day to come back at night. Perhaps you parked your car at a location in the parking lot that has very poor or no lighting.

Now what? Well, there are several things you can do to minimize becoming a crime victim. First, park underneath or in the proximity of a lamppost so that it is lit at night. Second, call the security guard on duty to give you a ride or escort you to your car. Third, if there is no light from a lamppost and there are no security guards, start walking to your car and every 10th step or so look back, look to your left and to your right. You must appear strong and confident, bad guys don't want to be seen or recognized for obvious reasons.

Before getting to the door of your car, you should have your keys out and ready to open the door lock (unless you have a modern car with a keyless entry system). Once inside your car immediately engage the locks, turn on the engine and start rolling. Remember, the longer you remain idle, the more chances of being a crime victim. Some people get inside their cars and without locking the doors start looking for something; they get comfortable, adjusted; look at themselves in the mirror; they do everything but securing the doors. Not good!

Make it difficult for the thief. Don't be the next crime victim!

Legal Corner

Knowing the differences between civilian (PR) and military notarizations prevents unnecessary complications.

Let's start with the Puerto Rico notarizations. Only attorneys that are certified as notary publics may notarize in PR. Every non-deed notarization (such as affidavits, sworn statements, and notarized applications) is consecutively numbered. Deeds (known as "escrituras" in Spanish) are mandated under PR law, among others, whenever the rights over real property are affected, for wills, and for powers of attorneys. A PR Notary-Public never surrenders the original deed, which must remain part of his/her annual books of deeds for the rest of his/her life and even thereafter, given the fact that when a notary passes away, his/her books of deeds are seized and stored away by the governmental Notarial Archivist for his/her region. Every civilian notarial act requires government fees of some sort, starting with a \$5 stamp for each affidavit or notarization.

Military notarizations work differently. They are, first of all, always free of charge. Their authority springs out of 10 U.S. Code, Sections 1044a-d. They may be carried out anywhere in the world by an authorized official, to wit: judge advocates, civilian attorneys, legal NCOS and civilian paralegals. But not everybody is eligible for these services. In general, only members of the armed forces (to include reserve and retired) and their dependents are entitled. Notarized military documents are exempt from any requirement of form, substance, formality, or recording required under any state law. The original of the notarized document will always be provided to the client and neither the military notary nor the legal office will keep a copy. This particularity may at times become critical. For example, if your civilian will is lost or destroyed, you can easily obtain another copy from either the notary or the archivist. Should your military will be lost or destroyed however, the testator will have no recourse except that of, should he/she remain alive and competent, have a new one made.

With regards to powers of attorney, which are the legal instruments most often prepared at the Installation Legal Office (ILO), Section 1044b specifically provides that a military power of attorney is exempt from any requirement of form, substance, formality, or recording otherwise required under the laws of a State; and shall be given the same legal effect as a power of attorney prepared and executed in accordance with the laws of the State concerned. So, if the power of attorney's content is legally sufficient for its intended purpose, it cannot be turned down because it was not prepared in accordance with Puerto Rico law.

Please do not hesitate to contact the ILO at (787) 707-5138 or at Building 390 should you have any questions or concerns regarding this or any other legal matter. Thank you for your service.

Lt. Col. Daniel C. Estaville
Staff Judge Advocate



Chaplain's Corner

Earn it!

In May we celebrated one of the most important holidays in our nation - Memorial Day, a day to honor those who faithfully served our nation. This national observance originally called Decoration Day, based on the tradition of decorating graves with flowers, wreaths and flags, remains at Arlington National Cemetery, where our Commander in Chief presents a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Our US Army Chaplain Corp. has three core competencies that guide all we do. They are: nurture the living, care for the wounded and honor the fallen.

Several times throughout my career I have been part of a funeral detail for a fallen Soldier. It has always been my utmost privilege to render such an honor. However, I realize that many times society and even service members forget our fallen. Maybe we don't have the time to put a flower or a flag on a tomb; but, is this the only way we can honor our fallen heroes? I believe this holiday call us to do more than that. We need to honor their great sacrifices by telling their stories and be grateful for the freedom we enjoy.

One of my favorite movies is "Saving Private Ryan". It begins in Normandy, at the American Cemetery and Memorial where an elderly man walks among the rows of gravestones accompanied by his wife, his daughter, his son-in-law, and three teenage granddaughters. He searches the crosses and stops at one, where he falls to his knees, crying. His family that walks behind him try to comfort him. It is the tombstone of Captain John Miller who took his men behind enemy lines to find Private James Ryan, whose three brothers were killed in combat. I am sure most of us have seen this movie. All of Captain Miller's men died in the search. Even Miller dies on the last scene. Ryan tells him that the planes are P-51 Mustangs, "tank busters." Miller calls them "Angels on our shoulders." He beckons Ryan closer and with his dying breath, tells him "Earn this. Earn it." Suddenly the movie goes back to the scene at the cemetery where an old Ryan is standing at Captain Miller's grave. He tells Miller that he hopes he has lived up to his wish and been worthy of all that Miller and his men did for him.

He asks his wife if he's led a good life and if he's a good man?

Today I echo these words: "Earn this, earn it." I ask, are we living a life up to the expectations of all the men and women who sacrificed their lives so we can live in freedom?

Let us reflect on the true meaning of the celebration of Memorial Day and honor our fallen comrades by living worthy of their sacrifices.

Living a life that proves we "Earn it!"

PRO DEO ET PATRIA
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

CH (Maj.) Wanda I. Acevedo
Garrison Command Chaplain



Fort Buchanan inaugurates Soldiers Plaza during Memorial Day Ceremony

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

The United States Army Garrison Fort Buchanan conducted the first ceremony, at the new Soldiers Plaza, honoring our fallen heroes, veterans, and the families left behind by those that made the ultimate sacrifice May 25, 2017. The Memorial Day Commemoration ceremony included the dedication of a refurbished World War II era Air-Raid Siren found on the installation, the renaming of the roadways adjacent to the plaza – Howard Road to “Memorial Drive” and Chrisman Road to “Patriot Boulevard”.

The events culminated with the laying of wreaths at the Army monument by one of our Survivor Outreach Services families.



Col. Harvey, garrison commander, and Javier Morales, veteran of the 65th Infantry Regiment prepare to lay a wreath honoring the fallen.

The events, hosted by USAG Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander, Colonel Michael T. Harvey, started with the inauguration of Fort Buchanan’ Soldiers Plaza, located at the intersection of Memorial Drive with Patriot Boulevard. The new site was described as a place of reverence, honor and remembrance to pay tribute to our Service Members.

The inauguration of Soldiers Plaza was followed by the unveiling of the World War II era air-raid siren. The artifact was used to warn the population of approaching danger. The dedication plaque reads: “FEDELCODE Air-Raid Siren – This air-raid siren was installed on Fort Buchanan in the early 1940’s to warn the installation and island of enemy aircraft during World War II and throughout the Cold War era. The



Photo by Justin Gehrke, NEC

The WW II era air-raid siren was found in a heavily wooded area on the installation by Justin Gehrke, cybersecurity division chief, Network Enterprise Center.

air-raid siren was found in a heavily wooded area on the installation by Justin Gehrke, a Network Enterprise Center teammate. The air-raid siren was difficult to remove and required major repairs when moved from a hilltop by our dedicated Directorate of Public Works team members. United States Army Garrison, Fort Buchanan thanks the entire team at Fort Buchanan and confers special recognition to Mr. Billy Summers for his dedication, enthusiasm, and caring support in refurbishing the air-raid siren providing future generations an opportunity to learn about historic civil defense equipment. Dedicated on 25 May 2017.”



Jesús Galvez, chief of operations and maintenance with the installation directorate of Public Works, unveils the plaque at the base of the World War II era air-raid siren during the Memorial Day Commemoration.

Col. Harvey unveiled the street signs that renamed the roadways adjacent to Soldiers Plaza. The two streets, Memorial Drive and Patriot Boulevard converge symbolically at Soldiers Plaza as a way to memorialize those who taught us that the essence of patriotism relies in our willingness to sacrifice for our country and fight for our freedom.

The Memorial Day Commemoration, as in the first Memorial Day in 1860, paid tribute to the brave men

and women who took the Oath of Allegiance as members of the United States of America’s Armed Forces and died honoring their word, commitment and loyalty. Col. Harvey requested those present to reflect on the meaning of Memorial Day “It isn’t just another holiday. It isn’t just about backyard barbecues, the latest sale at the mall or



Col. Harvey and members of the Congressional Gold Medal awarded 65th Infantry Regiment take a picture with the new Patriot Blvd. road sign.

the unofficial start of summer. It has far deeper meaning.”

He underlined the significance of the sacrifices, the resilience and everlasting gratefulness to the military families, especially the Gold Star Family members in the audience for their continued service to their communities. Pablo A. Marrero, Jr. and his wife Ketty G. Marrero represented the families of those service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of freedom and our democratic way of life during the Wreath Laying Ceremony.

The Soldiers Plaza inauguration as well as the Memorial Day commemoration were enthusiastically received by the attendees. The site was immediately embraced as a special “place of honor” and distinctive location on the installation; while the ceremony attests to our promise to remember the fallen, to stand in solidarity with their loved ones and to remember their sacrifice for our nation’s freedom.

Garrison holds 2nd Quarter Team Meeting

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

USAG Fort Buchanan held its 2nd Quarter Team Meeting, formerly called "Town Hall" May 19, 2017 at the installation's Community Club and Conference Center.

Lt. Col. Daniel C. Estaville, installation Staff Judge Advocate provided a briefing on DOD and Army Transgender Service Policy. Javier V. González, security specialist with

the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security provided security awareness preparedness briefing to garrison staff.

Col. Michael T. Harvey, garrison commander presented awards and honors for time in service as well as for outstanding support.

During his last address as Garrison Commander, Col. Harvey provided a summary of the many accomplishments by the garrison, tenant organizations and partners during his tenure here.

Javier V. González, security specialist with DPTMS provided security awareness preparedness briefing to garrison staff.



Col. Harvey addresses garrison staff and tenants during this, his last Team Meeting as Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander.



Lt. Col. Estaville, the installation SJA, provided a mandatory briefing on DOD and Army Transgender Service Policy

Ricardo Santiago, DES received a certificate in recognition for 20-years of service in the U.S. Government from Col. Harvey.



Keith Grezlik, DPW received from Col. Harvey a certificate in recognition for 5-years of service in the U.S. Government.



Juan R. Sanfeliz, DFMWR received a certificate in recognition for 25-years of service in the U.S. Government from Col. Harvey.

José R. Vázquez, DHR received from Col. Harvey a certificate in recognition for 30-years of service in the U.S. Government.



Milton Burgos-Díaz, DES Police Officer received from Col. Harvey a certificate in recognition for 10-years of service in the U.S. Government.



Félix Cruz López, DPW and Luis A. Cruz, DHR each received certificates in recognition for 35-years of service in the U.S. Government from Col. Harvey.



Luis A. Cruz, LRC received from Col. Harvey a certificate in recognition for 35-years of service in the U.S. Government.



Melba A. Irizarry, DHR and Fabiana E. Nevado, CPAC received from Col. Harvey certificates in recognition for 15-years of service in the U.S. Government.

Angie Ramírez, CFC coordinator presented the Silver category award for PR and the USVI, 2016 Combined Federal Campaign.



Staff Sgt. Arndrell V. Waters, Jr. was presented an award by Col. Harvey in recognition for the work he did with the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Program on post.



José López, DPTMS received a coin for excellence from Col. Harvey.



Col. Harvey and Staff Sgt. Waters presented Estrella Casanova, DFMWR with an award for support to the Fort Buchanan BOSS program.



Twenty-nine, 2016 Combined Federal Campaign Super-Givers were awarded a certificate in appreciation of their generosity, commitment and outstanding contribution to the campaign.

Angie López, DPW director received on behalf of Yvette Robles, DPW a symbolic cash award for outstanding service.



Fort Buchanan renames streets for U.S. Army Reserve's 109th birthday

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

On April 21, 2017 USAG Fort Buchanan made history during the commemoration of the 109th United States Army Reserve Birthday. The day marked the dedication of the Bowling Center deck after the Minutemen. The area will be known as “Minutemen Terrace”. The celebration continued



Neysa Maldonado, DFMWR received a symbolic on-the-spot award for \$500 from Col. Michael T. Harvey, garrison commander, for her rendering of the Minuteman mural during the inauguration of the facility.

in front of the garrison headquarters building where Crane Loop Street was named Double Eagle Avenue. Participants moved to the headquarters building of the 1st Mission Support Command where Wilson Road was named Citizen-Soldier Way. The events of the day concluded with a tour of the installation and a lunch held at the Community Club and Conference Center with the participation of the Resident Commissioner for Puerto Rico, Honorable Jenniffer González.

The Minutemen Terrace located behind the Bowling Center depicts the figure of a Minuteman painted by Neysa Maldonado, Marketing Division, Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Maldonado received a symbolic on-the-spot award for \$500 from garrison commander, Col. Michael T. Harvey during the inauguration of the facility. The terrace has an excellent view of the softball field and a fresh atmosphere surrounded by bamboo trees.

Col. Harvey provided a brief history of the Minutemen. They were



The hand painted mural of the minuteman symbol for the U.S. Army Reserve's adorns the wall of the newly inaugurated Minuteman Terrace at the post Bowling Center.

civilian colonists who independently organized to form well-prepared militia companies self-trained in weaponry, tactics, and military strategies from the American colonial partisan militia during the American Revolutionary War. They were also known for being ready at “a minute’s notice”, hence the name.



Brig. Gen. Alberto C. Rosende, commanding general, 1st Mission Support Command, and Col. Michael T. Harvey, garrison commander escorted the Hon. Jenniffer González, resident commissioner for Puerto Rico to Plaza Primeros, at the 1st MSC facility.

The military history of the Minutemen and the Army Reserve have remarkable similarities since both combined the efforts of being ready and resilient to be able to perform at their best when duty called; having the ability to face challenges, adapt to change, and be ready to face any mission. The U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers, just like the Minutemen during the American

Revolution, are an essential part of the Army's operational force to accomplish its missions and mobilize rapidly when required, in “a minute’s notice”.

The celebration of the 109th birthday of the U.S. Army Reserve continued in front of the garrison headquarters building where Crane Loop Street was named Double Eagle Avenue. Thus reaffirming the proud military history of the Reserve component in Puerto Rico and their service to our nation. The Double Eagle represents the Army Reserve motto, “Twice the Citizen”, and their mission.

Col. Harvey, emphasized a quote from Stephen Ambrose, American historian who summarized the meaning of being a citizen soldier when he said:



Col. Harvey explaining the symbolism behind the new name, unveils the new street sign, Double Eagle Ave. replacing what was formerly known as Crane Loop.

“At the core, the American citizen soldiers knew the difference between right and wrong, and they didn’t want to live in a world in which wrong prevailed. So they fought, and won, and we all of us, living and yet to be born, must be forever profoundly grateful.”

In commemoration of the 109th Army Reserve Birthday Fort Buchanan garrison commander, Harvey, named



Hon. González greets Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Félix A. Santoni, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Emeritus.

FB renames streets (cont. from page 18)

Wilson Road as Citizen Soldier Way, reaffirming the proud military history of the Reserve component in Puerto Rico and the unwavering support to our country as a Soldier and a Citizen.

Col. Harvey explained, that the Double Eagle you see in the patch of Reserve Soldiers' uniform represents the Army Reserve motto, "Twice the Citizen", and their mission. "If you look further, you'll see that the eagle faces in both directions, denoting



Hon. González and Maj. Ramón Parés-Alvarez, 1st MSC command historian exchanged tokens of appreciation with each other as a sign of friendship and to commemorate her visit to Fort Buchanan.

vigilance and a wide-ranging scope of ability and expertise. The red, white and blue are the colors of our flag, and the gold stands for excellence," said.

He quoted General George S. Patton, who said: "The Soldier is the Army. No army is better than its soldiers. The Soldier is also a citizen. In fact, the highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one's country."

The dedication of Wilson Road to Citizen Soldier Way recognizes the Army Reserve in Puerto Rico, the 1st Mission Support Command, whose units support the Army forces within the area of operations that encompasses Central, South America and the Caribbean in shaping security environments, reassuring partnerships with Latin America and deterring aggression from U.S. enemies.

As the two main roads - Double Eagle Avenue and the Citizen Soldier Way - converge, so does the history of the U.S. Army Reserve and the U.S.



Hon. González thanked Col. Harvey for the invitation and opportunity to partake in this historic event.

Army Garrison Fort Buchanan, noted Col. Harvey.

The events commemorating the 109th Army Reserve Birthday concluded with a tour of the installation hosted by Col. Harvey and a luncheon held at the Community Club and Conference Center attended by garrison directors and staff, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Félix A. Santoni, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Emeritus; Luis A. Soto, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army; Brigadier General Alberto C.



Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Victor Pérez; Hon. Horacio Cabrera, Puerto Rico Reserve Ambassador; Luis A. Soto, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army; Brig. Gen. Alberto C. Rosende, commanding general, 1st MSC; Col. Michael T. Harvey, Fort Buchanan garrison commander; Hon. Jennifer González, resident commissioner for Puerto Rico, and Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Félix A. Santoni, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Emeritus pose behind the unveiled new street signs dedicated to our Army.

Rosende, Commanding General, 1st Mission Support Command; Hon. Jennifer González, Puerto Rico's Resident Commissioner and members



Commemorating the U.S. Army Reserve's 109th birthday the traditional cake cutting ceremony was held.

of her staff.

It was a day filled with camaraderie among all participants in celebration of the 109th Army Reserve Birthday. The events also provided the opportunity to show visitors the partnerships among Fort Buchanan garrison and the 1st Mission Support Command as well as provided the opportunity to discuss with the Resident Commissioner the installation plans to improve its facilities.



The Hon. Resident Commissioner addressed the Soldiers and attendees sharing her hopes for the installation.



The Hon. González greets Luis A. Soto, the CASA, as she walked the entire span of Plaza Primeros greeting all the Soldiers and civilians present.



Col. Harvey provided details of the soon to be inaugurated Soldiers Plaza during the tour of the installation given to González.



(R) Anibal Negrón, environmental chief with the department of public works presents the details about Cemex lake and its particularities to González.

Boy Scout Troop 572 partner's with Fort Buchanan

Story and photo by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

Boy Scout Troop 572 from Carolina conducted their first camping at Fort Buchanan May 19-21, 2017. During their visit, the troop comprised of 35 Scouts executed various activities geared towards Scout's advancement badges such as: water survival and first aid, hiking, fire prevention, drug awareness and flag protocol.

Evaristo Rivera, lifeguard at the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) Water Spout instructed the troop on water survival and rescue using the water park facilities, where they also received training on extracting a body from the water and how to execute CPR.

Officers Edgardo Morales, Angel M. Corchado and Angel Rivera from the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) – Police Department briefed the Boy Scouts from Colegio Bautista de Carolina on law enforcement, traffic safety and drug prevention and awareness, respectively.

Fire Chief Luis Raúl Roig-Casillas



Boy Scout Troop 572 proudly stand in formation displaying the troop flag as well as the troop's patrols names and symbols. Accompanying them are (L) Police Officer Angel Rivera, K9 handler and Edo, and (R) Police Officer Edgardo Morales.

from the DES-Fire Department coordinated a demonstration on fire prevention and fire rescue. Troop members had the opportunity to train at the Fire Department trailer with “real life scenarios” of fires at home, specifically, in the kitchen and bedroom and the proper use of a fire extinguishers.

Daniel Orlando Rendón, Scoutmaster of BSA Troop 572 has 35 years of service with the Boy Scouts of America, from Scout all the way to Eagle Scout. “Scouting is a movement that promotes leadership and trust in decision making,” said. The experience

has helped him professionally as well as military.

José Benítez, Patrol Leader, concurs with his Scoutmaster and added that “this movement creates good men, men with values. This is the school of life.”

His brother Luis Benítez, who is also a Patrol Leader, explained that he was waiting for this camping opportunity at Fort Buchanan to receive information provided by the various resources at the military installation.

“Falcón de Sierra” Patrol Leader Edgard Aguilar Scouting “creates a brotherhood for life.”

FB Fire Department award ceremony for going above the call of duty

Caption by Captain Héctor Rivera
Fire Captain & Training



The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Buchanan and the installation's Fire Department rendered special recognition to the men and women of the department for outstanding job performance and civic duty May 5, 2017 at the installation fire station. These honors included performance achieved while on or off-duty; performances in line; and/or officer positions, achievements while serving on committees or acting independently, exceptional competence as a firefighter or instructor, and extracurricular volunteer activities. Six members were recognized for these outstanding achievements, selfless demonstrations and dedication from within our ranks, they are (second from left) Lydia Rivera, fire fighter and inspector; Phillip Orlinki, captain and lead firefighter and José R. Castro, lead fire inspector, all received the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service. (Third from far right) David DeJesús, assistant fire chief, received the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service; Héctor Rivera, captain and training officer, and Winfrid Meléndez, fire fighter, both received the DA Commander's Award for Civilian Service. Job well done to all!

Photo by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist

Former Garrison Command Sergeant Major retires

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Before fellow Soldiers, garrison staff, family and friends former Garrison Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Luis A. Rosario Vélez retired in a ceremony held June 9, 2017 at Sgt. Miguel Ramos Hall located at 1st Mission Support Command (MSC) headquarters in Fort Buchanan.

In an emotional ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Rosario was honored after having served for 29-years with a solemn traditional Flag-Folding Ceremony presented by Soldiers with the 1st MSC Funeral and Ceremony Color Guard. The ceremony symbolizes gratitude and honor to those that have served the United States with

Former Garrison Command Sergeant Major Luis A. Rosario Vélez addresses attendees of his retirement ceremony June 9, 2017 at Sgt. Ramos Hall 1st MSC headquarters facility.



pride. Master of ceremony, retired Command Sgt. Maj. José Vázquez and member of the garrison Directorate of Human Resources on post, provided the symbolism of each flag fold during the flag-folding ceremony.

“Command Sgt. Maj. Rosario, thank you for this opportunity, being able to preside over a retirement ceremony is a huge honor. It’s one that doesn’t come often and especially for a Command Sgt. Maj.,” said Lt. Col. Patrick Dillon, deputy garrison commander.

The folded flag was then presented to Rosario and his wife, Janitza as the master of ceremony recited the poem, Old Glory.

Lt. Col. Dillon, on behalf of the garrison command presented Rosario with the prestigious Legion of Merit,

the Certificate of Retirement and to his wife, Janitza Negrón, the Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation for her support during his years of service.

“‘Buenos dias familia,’ yes, if you are here sharing this special moment with me, you are family,” said Rosario.

Command Sgt. Maj. Rosario and his wife, Janitza Negrón gently hold the folded U.S. flag during the solemn reciting of the poem, Old Glory by Vazquez, master of ceremony.



“Out of all the speeches I have written this is one I was never ready for. These past few weeks have been full of mixed emotions,” said in an emotive speech Command Sgt. Maj. Rosario who thanked his family, especially his wife and kids for their continuous support throughout his career.

“Today, although I would like to finish my career with a period, I will rather finish it with a semicolon,” said Rosario. “My action, my journey and my service will continue in a different capacity.”



Lt. Col. Patrick Dillon, deputy garrison commander presented the recognitions and awards on behalf of the Fort Buchanan Garrison Command.

FB bids farewell to Fire Chief and Police Operations Chief

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Buchanan’s fire fighters, garrison staff from the Department of Emergency Services (DES) and other directorates, Soldiers from the 1st Mission Support Command’s 266th Fire Company, friends, and family bid farewell to Fire Chief Joseph R. “Joe” Baker and Brian Toyloy, Police Operations Chief April 24, 2017 at Fort Buchanan’s fire station.

Chief Baker and Chief Toyloy received recognitions for their honorable service to Fort Buchanan’s DES and the community.

Each thanked their families and co-workers for the support received during their time on post.



FB fire fighters presented departing Chief Baker with a plaque they made from decommissioned fire equipment in the form of the Puerto Rico flag.

Most notably Baker received from the fire fighters a plaque made in the form the Puerto Rico flag from pieces of old fire hoses and equipment.

Toyloy received a plaque in the form of the island of Puerto Rico which he will take with him to his new position

in Detroit, Michigan as Deputy Police Chief with the Department of Veterans Affairs there. Toyloy was accompanied by his wife Nicole and his two daughters Payton and Nyah.



(L to R) DES Director Arturo Calzadilla, Brian Toyloy, departing Police Operations Chief and Police Chief Jorge Quiñones display the plaque presented to Toyloy in appreciation for his unconditional support provided during his assignment here.

2nd 'Strike Sexual Assault' bowling tournament

Story and photo by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

This is the second year the Puerto Rico National Guard leads a campaign to create awareness on Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) with a bowling tournament held at Fort Buchanan's Bowling Center on April 27, 2017.

The program's mission is "to reduce with an aim toward eliminating sexual offenses within the Army through cultural change, prevention, intervention, investigation, accountability, advocacy/response, assessment, and training to sustain the All-Volunteer Force."

As stated by Brigadier General José Juan Reyes, Assistant Adjutant General for the Puerto Rico National Guard (PRNG), "the activity provides the opportunity to have a good time with various representatives of the armed forces as we share the awareness message with their members and Puerto Rico. PRNG annually conducts various activities to educate and create



Puerto Rico National Guard representatives (L) and USAG Fort Buchanan members (R) pose for a group picture showing the collaboration between both Army components in support of the SHARP Program.

awareness on SHARP. For example, we recently conducted a walk through Old San Juan in which we distributed educational materials," he added.

Sgt. 1st Class Vanessa Colón, Sexual Assault Coordinator for the PRNG Joint Headquarters and organizer of this annual event, highlighted the objectives of the program. They are: "Convey the message that sexual assault can be prevented. Treat victims

with sensitivity. Create a supportive environment. Alleviate the fear of reprisal. Delay actions of collateral misconduct."

Among participants in the event were the Puerto Rico Police Department, la Coordinadora de Paz para la Mujer (Coordinator for Peace for Women), Puerto Rico Air National Guard, U.S. Navy Reserve, 2nd-348th and MEPS.

FB honors garrison volunteers

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Army Community Services recognized all garrison volunteers April 26, 2017 at a colorful and fun-filled event at the Fort Buchanan Community Club and Conference Center.

This year's Army Volunteer Corps (AVC) theme was "Army Volunteers: Service for Life" recognizing Army volunteers throughout the world.

In a festive spirit volunteers dressed in clothing from different countries and cultures, and were greeted by ACS staff who provided goodies and hats from different cultures.

The masters of ceremony were the Garrison Command Sergeant Major Luis A. Rosario Vélez and Arlene Romero, ACS relocation manager.



(L) A Batucada, a drum group, "Vejigante" and Puerto Rican dancers on stilts delighted the volunteers with music and dance.

Together they called forward the organizations represented and the volunteers to be recognized with plaques and trophies.

"Through volunteerism, AVC develops and enhances volunteers' career mobility, establishes partnerships with off-post organizations and promotes a lifelong commitment to service," taken from U.S. Army

Installation Management Command, Volunteer Appreciation Week Stand-to.

The highlight of the event was a surprise for the volunteers of a Batucada, a drum group; the typical "Cabezudos", "Vejigantes" and Puerto Rican dancers on stilts.



Fort Buchanan's DFMWR Army Community Services staff pose for a group photo.

FB Earth Day ‘Acknowledge the Past, Engage the Present, Chart the Future’

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

The Fort Buchanan 10th Anniversary Army Earth Day Expo was held at the installation Community Club and Conference Center April 28, 2017.

An estimated over 600 visitors, with great participation from the Antilles Consolidated Schools visited the expo to participate of the exhibits and free information provided.

Amongst the exhibitors were 14 federal agencies and branches, and 16 state agencies. Also private businesses collaborated for the success of the event.

“Ten of the many presentations on display were directly oriented towards Fort Buchanan’s sustainability efforts to enhance our environment,” said Aníbal Negrón, Fort Buchanan Environmental Division Chief, DPW and coordinator of this event.

William S. Leyh, Deputy to the Garrison Commander, welcomed all participants, guests and speakers on behalf of the command and also addressed how sustainability supports



The Community Club was filled to capacity with Army Earth Day participants. the mission.

“Army Earth Day supports the Army’s mission by preserving the natural environment on Army installations and contributes to the well-being of its communities.” Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Energy and Environment) Stand-to.

The program included briefings and presentations on subjects such as “Environmental and Energy Program



William S. Leyh, D2GC welcomed and addressed participants, and speakers to the 10th Army Earth Day Expo at Fort Buchanan.

10 year accomplishment over-view” by Aníbal Negrón, FB DPW; “A Culture of Sustainability” by Heather Brown, USAR Installation Management Directorate; “Fort Buchanan Energy Program Update” by Dmitrii Cordero, Contractor, DPW; “Green Procurement Awareness” by Patricia Rippey, USAPHC; “Climate Change (Science or Politics)” by Richard Levin, P.G., Aerostar SES LLC; “A Fashion Show—Recycling Materials” by Fort Buchanan Antilles High School students; “Biotechnology” by AHS science students, and “Boa constrictor, an invasive snake in Puerto Rico” by Maraliz Vega, UPR Mayaguez, among others.



José A. Quiñones, PR Department of Agriculture Natural Resources section, displays for visiting children one of the many variety of snakes found in Puerto Rico.

Armed Forces Day run

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Buchanan held its traditional run in commemoration of Armed Forces Day May 19, 2017.

The run lead by Garrison Commander Col. Michael T. Harvey and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj., Command Sgt. Maj. Luis A. Rosario Vélez, were accompanied by incoming Garrison Command Sgt. Maj., Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana.

Participating in the run were, 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve in P.R.; the P.R. Army National Guard, U.S. Marine Corp Reserve; U.S. Navy -Naval Operations

Support Center P.R., Military Entrance Processing Station - P.R., members of the Out of the Box Warriors from the Fort Buchanan Fitness Center, garrison civilians and representatives of tenant organizations.

The first AFD was conducted on May 20, 1950 after Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days, on August 31, 1949.



Photo by Grissel Rosa, Public Affairs Officer

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY USA!

