

1st Mission Support Command - U.S. Army Reserve Puerto Rico



1st MSC Gazette

ONE TEAM, ONE MISSION

Vol. No. 8 Issue 2

Fall 2018

Saves a life in a plane

8 49th MMB Soldier applies his skills
to save a civilian

What's inside

12 AER helps in the Caribbean

Also a special article about the command's retirement event

2 Soldiers for Life begin a new phase



*1st MSC Gazette**One Team
One Mission*Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz
CommanderCSM Orlando Santiago
Command Sgt. Maj.Col. Manuel Ocasio
Deputy CommanderLTC Carlos M. Cuebas
Public Affairs OfficerSgt. Stephanie Hargett
Public Affairs NCOIC

The 1st MSC Gazette is an authorized publication printed IAW AR-360-1 in the interest of Soldiers, civilians and Families of the 1st MSC.

Opinions expressed are those of the individuals and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. government, Department of the Army or its agencies.

All photos are property of the U.S. Army, unless otherwise credited.

1st MSC Gazette is published by the 1st MSC Headquarters located at 353 Citizen-Soldier Way, Fort Buchanan, PR 00934-4608

E-mail submissions to the 1st MSC public affairs officer at Carlos.m.cuebas.mil@mail.mil

1st MSC Phone Numbers

Commander -787-707-4928
Deputy Commander
787-707-4944
Safety Specialist
787-707-4182
Personnel 787-707-4164
Plans 787-707-4171
Public Affairs 787-707-4988



SOLDIERS FOR LIFE

BEGIN A NEW PHASE



Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve-PR Commanding General (left), presents an official Certificate of Retirement to Col. Rafael Medina Vazquez, in recognition for his 31 years of service, during the Command's retirement ceremony, Sept 15, 2018 at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hargett/Released)

FORT BUCHANAN, PR-Fifteen Soldiers from the 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve Puerto Rico, culminated their military career after decades of honorable service to the Nation, in a solemn ceremony at the installation's community club, Sept 15.

"I would do it again. Serving in the Army Reserve for 31 years helped me in all aspects of my life. Everything I have accomplished, in and out of uniform, is due to my service to the Nation," said Col. Rafael Medina Vázquez, who

was accompanied by his wife Zulma Montero.

"For the family he is a hero. The satisfaction is huge because, even though we have gone through huge sacrifices, today we finally see the results," said Montero.

For 1st Sergeant Eduardo Alvelo Nieves and his wife Diana Meléndez, the retirement process has been a positive one.

"Today, I feel the satisfaction of having accomplished the mission. Thanks to the U.S. Army Reserve I have accomplished in life things way above the

expectations I had when I joined the service 33 years ago," said Alvelo, while explaining he has been able to obtain a graduate degree in Criminal Justice, thanks to his service in uniform.

"Today I feel the satisfaction of having accomplished the mission,"

1st Sgt Eduardo Alvelo

SOLDIERS FOR LIFE

BEGIN A NEW PHASE

“Today my husband fulfills one of his dreams, and I am extremely proud of him. It has not been easy, but it is certainly worth the sacrifice,” said a teary-eyed Meléndez.

Another Army Reserve Soldier who retired after 32 years of service was Maj. Ramón Parés Alvarez, from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, and who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

“I have a lot of conflicting feelings today. It has been a great career. The Army Reserve is my family, but it is time to take a knee and spend more time with my wife and my children,” said Parés.

Ana López, Parés’ wife, also reflected about the conclusion of his military career.

“I would do it again,”
Col. Rafael Medina Vázquez

“There have been tough moments, but at the end, the sacrifices bring great rewards,” stated López.

Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Rodriguez was full of optimism during the ceremony.

“This is not the end. This is just a

new beginning. I am a Soldier for life,” said Rodriguez, who retires after 25 years of service.

Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, senior federal Army officer in the Caribbean, presided over the event.

“It has been a long road, but you made it. Thanks to you, today our command is the premier geographic command in the Army Reserve, providing a ready, lethal and tactically proficient force for the United States Army Reserve in the Caribbean. You are part of this success, and with your service, you have established a solid base for the future of this great command,” said Shultz.

During the ceremony, Shultz presented official certificates of retirement, certificates of appreciation and a folded U.S. Flag to the retirees. Shultz also presented official certificates of appreciation to the spouses.

The retirement ceremony is part of the command’s efforts to invest in its human capital to build a resilience force, while recognizing the sacrifices of past generations of Soldiers and families. Members of the Army Reserve who accumulate 20 or more years of qualifying service are eligible for reserve retirement when they reach age 60.



Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Commanding General (left) presents an official Certificate of Retirement to Diana Meléndez (center) in recognition for her support to her husband 1st Sgt Eduardo Alvelo Nieves’ 33 years of military career, during the command’s retirement ceremony, Sept. 15, at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hargett/Released)

ARMY RESERVE-PR TROOPS TO POLAND

CAROLINA, PR- Approximately fifty Soldiers from the 266th Ordnance Company, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico traveled to a mobilization station in the State of Texas, Aug. 5, as part of a mobilization to Poland.

The mobilization of these U.S. troops from Puerto Rico is part of a comprehensive effort to improve interoperability, strengthen relationships and trust among allied armies, contribute to regional stability, and demonstrate U.S. commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Col. William Griffin, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Chief of Staff, addressed the troops at the airport, shortly before their departure.

“Your participation in this mission clearly showcases the strategic importance of our command, while supporting the needs of the Nation, anywhere, any time,” said Griffin.

Since 2001, the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, the largest federal U.S. Army command in the Caribbean, has deployed a hundred percent of its formations to several countries around the world.

Currently, the command has Soldiers deployed to Cuba, Latin America and the Middle East.



Above, Col. William Griffin, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Chief of Staff, addresses the Soldiers from the 266th Ordnance Company, Aug. 5, at the Luis Muñoz Marín Airport, shortly before boarding the plane that would take them to a mobilization station in the Continental States. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hargett/released)



Above, Soldiers of the 266th Ordnance Company, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico unload their baggage at the Luis Muñoz Marín Airport, Aug. 5, as part of their mobilization to Poland. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hargett/released)

SIGNAL SOLDIERS FROM PR EXCEL AT ANNUAL TRAINING



Above, Soldiers of the 35th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico configure a communications shelter during their Annual Training Exercise at Fort McCoy, WI, Aug 24. (U.S. Army photo by 35th ESB UPAR/released)

FORT MCCOY, WI- Approximately 250 Soldiers from the 35th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, the only federal Army Signal Command in the Caribbean, conducted their annual training during the month of Aug. 2018, in support to the Army Reserve Combat Support Training Exercise.

The unit's mission is to support a robust multi-layered tactical communications network comprised of fiber optics, high capacity line of site, satellite transmission and switching systems.

"In my 21 years of service, I can honestly say that this is the smoothest training exercise I have ever participated of. It is really smooth," said Lt. Col. Richard Tuggle, commander

of the 35th Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

According to Tuggle, the Soldiers are not only performing their mission superbly, but are also sustaining their readiness.

"We have a double mission here. Our troops are engineering, installing and operating voice and data services, but also they have time, to prepare their records for their next promotion boards and to work in their physical fitness," added Tuggle.

Meanwhile, the Battalion Command Sgt. Maj., Command Sergeant Major Rafael Saldaña, expressed his confidence in the ability of his Soldiers to accomplish any mission.

"Our Soldiers do not have any real challenges here," said Saldaña.

He also stated that the exercise is having a clear positive impact in the unit.

"We are not only accomplishing the communications mission, we are also creating a good environment for the troops. We onto something very good here," said Saldaña.

According to Tuggle, one of the main reasons the Soldiers are doing so well during this annual training is because they had a real life validation of their newly received equipment, in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria last year.

The troops assigned to the 35th Expeditionary Signal Battalion played a critical role during the hurricane emergency by successfully conducting Defense Support to Civil Authorities operations, and establishing communication nodes around the island.

"Just before the hurricane, the unit got new equipment. The emergency allowed our Soldiers to practice their proficiency skills, while serving the local community in Puerto Rico," added Tuggle.

The performance of these Soldiers while engineering complex communication networks in austere environments, clearly showcases the level of professionalism and technological proficiency of the members assigned to the Army Reserve in Puerto Rico.

Army Reserve Soldiers from Puerto Rico deploy to Afghanistan



Soldiers from the 273rd Transportation Company, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, listen to Col. Gilberto Soto, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, who spoke with them about the relevance of their mission, Sept. 10 at the Luis Muñoz Marín Airport. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hargett/Released)

FORT BUCHANAN, PR- Approximately twenty Soldiers from the 273rd Transportation Company, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, departed from the Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport, Sept. 10, enroute to the Middle East.

Once at the Theater of Operations, the Soldiers will be managing and tracking all the transit of equipment and passengers in the area, a critical element for mission success of the U.S. in the region.

“We will go first to a mobilization station in the Continental United States and then we will travel to Afghanistan, where our troops will be in charge of the transportation that goes in and out of the country,” said Capt. Angel D. Camacho, a native of San Juan.

According to Camacho, the Soldiers have taken the required measures to establish a family emergency plan, in case an atmospheric phenomenon affects the island during their absence.

“We have full confidence in our leaders, and we know our families will be good,” said Camacho, minutes before boarding the plane.

Col. Gilberto Soto, Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, was at the airport and talked with the Soldiers as they were getting ready to depart.

“This mobilization represents the high level of readiness of the troops assigned to the Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, and how our command directly supports the needs of the Nation across the globe,” said Soto.

Soldiers will be managing and tracking all the transit of equipment and passengers in the area

ARMY RESERVE-PUERTO RICO SOLDIERS SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE

Rio Grande, PR- Approximately 32 members of the newly created U.S. Army Reserve -PR Search and Rescue Team conducted an exercise at a local training facility, Sept. 22-23, with the intent of developing and sustaining critical skills on structural collapse techniques, such as lifting and moving, breaking and breaching and shoring.

"The Soldiers were highly motivated and ready to learn," said 1st Lt. Jose Tristani, Officer in Charge of the Search and Rescue Team, which was originally trained at the Florida State Fire College, in February 2018.

According to Tristani, the Soldiers were able to learn new techniques on how to save lives.

"We were exposed to different ways to cut cement to reach victims easier. Every emergency is different, so we need to learn different ways to face the situations," said Tristani, a native of Juana Diaz, with eleven years of service in the U.S. Army.

The officer also celebrated the fact that the training was conducted with zero accidents.

"In the 6 months that the team has been established, we have conducted two training events. We have had zero accidents in each one of them," said Tristani, who also stated the team will be conducting hands on training every three months.

Spec. Naisvette Andujar is one of the seven female Soldiers that compose the first federal U.S. Army Search and Rescue team in the Caribbean.

"I feel safer now after the training, because I learned different ways to do a very difficult job," added Andujar.

The establishment of the Search and Rescue Team is one of the immediate measures the largest federal U.S. Army command in the Caribbean has taken, as a result of the lessons learned during the emergency created by hurricane Maria.

As widely reported, shortly after hurricane Maria, the communication with the continental United States was extremely affected for a significant amount of time.

"It is very important to train on these search and rescue skills. In Puerto Rico we have a tropical weather, which is bound to have hurricanes, mud slides or heavy rains. Search and rescue is a critical capability in this weather," said Andujar, a Jayuya resident, who is also attending college for a degree in General Sciences.

The Army Reserve-PR Search and Rescue team is comprised of different military occupational specialties, such as

engineers, transporters, water purification specialists, fire fighters, and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialties, among others.

The next search and rescue training is scheduled for the month of November, in preparation for the team's validation in December 2018, by Army North Search and Rescue personnel.

During the emergency response to the recent hurricane, the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico mobilized approximately 2,000 Soldiers in a very short time, to assist the local government with resources, skills and equipment, without having to wait for personnel to arrive from the mainland.

With approximately 5,000 Soldiers, the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico has units in all four corners of the island to include Aguadilla, Mayaguez, Yauco, Ponce, Juana Diaz, Ceiba, Salinas, Puerto Nuevo, Islas Virgenes and its headquarters at Fort Buchanan.



Soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Search and Rescue team practice the technique of lifting and moving during a exercise they conducted at a local training facility, Sept 22-23 (U.S. Army photo/Released)

Army Reserve Soldier Saves a life in a plane

By Capt. Valerie Hollenback
106th Public Affairs Detachment

LA PAZ, El Salvador -- Spec. Carlos Muñoz Alonso, a healthcare specialist in the 407th Medical Company, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, is credited with saving a life while supporting the Beyond the Horizon mission, long before he even arrived in El Salvador.

En route to Beyond the Horizon on a Florida-bound airline flight, Muñoz's military experience and medical training was called upon to save a passenger's life.

About an hour and fifteen minutes into his flight to Miami, he heard a lady scream for help five rows in front of him.

Without hesitation, Munoz got up out of his seat to investigate what was going on. A nearby woman was crying and exclaimed her mother was unresponsive.

Munoz, a certified emergency medical technician, quickly assessed the woman's elderly mother and found her not breathing and with no pulse.

A flight attendant quickly



Spec. Carlos Muñoz Alonso, a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico used his skills as a U.S. Army Reserve certified Healthcare Specialist to save the life of a passenger in a flight from San Juan to Miami, May 12, 2018. (U.S. Army photo/Released)

located three doctors on board the flight.

Muñoz positioned the woman to give the doctors ample room to work.

A female doctor confirmed Muñoz's initial findings and instructed him to begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The two took turns giving the patient CPR. After the fifth

set of compressions, an automatic external defibrillator became available and the pads were applied. The machine did not advise for a shock to be administered so Munoz continued to give the patient CPR. Shortly thereafter, the woman began to breathe.

Muñoz said the woman tightly grabbed his hands after resuming to breathe. He said he felt relieved and scared at the same time.

Army Reserve Soldier Saves a life in a plane

While the doctor conferred with the patient's daughter, Muñoz continued to comfort the resuscitated woman as she became alert.

The pilot then decided to make an emergency landing in the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean.

As a consequence, Muñoz missed his connecting flight to El Salvador and had to spend the night in Miami, but he was fine with the delay.

Muñoz got up out of his seat to investigate what was going on.

"When I heard the lady yelling for help, it was my duty to help her. I was trained to respond and I will do it again and again if I have to," Muñoz said. "It's a great feeling to help someone while on my way to provide help to the people of El Salvador."

Sgt. Manuel Manzano of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard's 190th Forward Support Company witnessed Munoz' quick actions.

Manzano said Munoz performed most of the resuscitation and even administered the AED.

"He was quick to respond," Manzano said. "He was an angel in the sky for the lady. He brought her back to life."

Muñoz is one of nearly 1,800 U.S. military personnel that participated in Beyond the Horizon 2018.

BTH 2018 is a government of El Salvador and U.S. Southern Command joint humanitarian exercise that provides a variety of medical and dental services in addition to preventative healthcare. During BTH, the two partner nations also plan to construct four schools and one medical clinic.



Above, Spec. Carlos Muñoz Alonso, obtains a blood sample from a patient, during one of his recent missions to Latin America. According to Muñoz, his military training allowed him to react immediately with a sense of urgency, while maintaining control of the situation, during a recent emergency in a flight. (U.S. Army photo/released)

U.S. ARMY RESERVE DISTRIBUTES MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN REENLISTMENT BONUSES



FORT BUCHANAN, PR- Approximately eighty Soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, the largest federal U.S. Army command in the Caribbean, renewed their oath of enlistment in a mass reenlistment ceremony at the command's headquarters, Sept. 9.

During the ceremony, which was presided over by Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, Commanding General of the 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, each Soldier received an average reenlistment bonus of \$20,000. Some Soldiers also received an average Student Loan Repayment bonus of

\$10,000, for an approximately \$1.6 million.

Since Oct 1, 2018, the Army Reserve has distributed to Soldiers in Puerto Rico over \$5.1 million in bonuses, as part of the Army Reserve Career Division efforts to retain talent in the command's ranks.

U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Soldiers reconized as Angels of Maria

SAN JUAN, P.R. - Dr. Antonia Novello, the 14th U.S. Surgeon, recognized Soldiers from the 49th Multifunctional Medical Battalion (MMB), U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, during a ceremony conducted at the Hilton Hotel, Aug. 8, for their mission in support of local communities, during the emergency created by hurricane Maria.

"I wanted to do this event to recognize all of you who did an outstanding job in Utuado serving the people in need in our community," said Novello, who named the event "Angeles de Maria", or in English, Maria's Angels, in clear reference to the hurricane that affected Puerto Rico last year.

Sgt. Nilmary Colón, a Combat Medic Specialist from Corozal, was among the Soldiers receiving the recognition.

"I was not expecting this recognition. I just completed my mission as a Soldier,"

*Sgt. Nilmary Colón
Combat Medic Specialist*



Above, Lt. Col. R.C. Chao, Commander of the 49th Multifunctional Medical Battalion (left) receives a plaque from Dr. Antonia Novello, the 14th U.S. Surgeon (right), in a ceremony celebrated in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Aug. 8. (U.S. Army photo/Released)

"I was not expecting this recognition. I just completed my mission as a Soldier. This is truly a recognition to the great work done by all members of our unit, during a very difficult time for the island" said Colón.

Soldiers of the 49th MMB installed and operated a field clinic at the Mameyes neighborhood in Utuado, one of the most remote areas of the Caribbean island, between November and December of 2017.

"This type of mission is why I joined the Army Reserve," added Colón, who has a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry.

The Army Reserve clinic offered primary care to thousands of citizens, free of charge. Thanks to the mission accomplished by the Army Reserve Soldiers, a private organization was able to document the need of medical services in the area, and established a clinic to continue serving the community.

Army Emergency Relief Extends its Helping Hand to the Caribbean



Retired Lt. Gen. Raymond V. Mason, Army Emergency Relief Director, speaks to Soldiers assigned to the Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, the largest federal U.S. Army Command in the Caribbean, as part of the AER efforts to improve the support it provides to Soldiers in the island. (U.S. Army photo by Stephanie Hargett/Released)

FORT BUCHANAN, PR- Personnel from the Army Emergency Relief (AER) program in Washington, D.C. traveled to Puerto Rico, Aug 28, to have direct contact with the Soldiers assigned to Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, the largest federal U.S. Army command in the Caribbean.

Retired Lt. Gen. Raymond V. Mason, AER Director, led the team, along with retired Command Sgt. Maj. William Hagzan, Assistant

AER Director.

“We are here to talk about what went well, in terms of recovery and support during Hurricane Maria, and to learn what we can do to improve the support that AER provides to the great Army team here in Puerto Rico,” said Mason in one of the several encounters the AER team had with local Soldiers.

According to Mason, the AER dis-

tributed approximately \$4 million in assistance in the form of grants to Soldiers in the island, during the emergency created by hurricane Maria last year.

The program, which was incorporated in 1942 with the purpose of collecting and holding funds to relieve distress of members of the Army and their dependents, provides assistance to active duty Soldiers, reserve troops on active duty status for more than 30 days, retired

Army Emergency Relief Extends its Helping Hand to the Caribbean

personnel and their families, surviving spouses, and orphans.

"We waived the active duty requirement last year in Puerto Rico, to assist our Soldiers during the hurricane emergency," added Mason, while describing how the organization will do whatever it can to assist Soldiers, based on a valid need.

Staff Sgt. Gustavo Padilla, a Mortuary Affairs Soldier assigned to the 311th Quartermaster Company, was one of the service members that received assistance from the AER program.

"I that moment of crisis, in the middle of the emergency of hurricane Maria, the AER program provided me the assistance that allowed me to buy fuel for generators and replace some damaged furniture and appliances in my house, which was impacted by the winds. It was a great blessing," said Padilla.

Sgt. Elamar Quiñones, a Personnel Administration Specialist assigned to the 271st Human Resources Company, also was among the beneficiaries of the program.

"I was mobilized during the emergency. However, my military pay was delayed. That is when

I went to AER and requested their assistance. I received a zero interest loan that allowed me to pay my basic expenses, until my regular military pay kicked off," said Quiñones.

"I think the program works very well. However, I think more Soldiers must know about it," added Quiñones.

For Spec. Jose Ramos, a Personnel Administration Specialist from the 271st Human Resources Company, the help was good, but the process to receive it was not clear.

"I think the program works very well. However, I think more Soldiers should know about it"

*Sgt. Elamar Quiñones
Personnel Administration
Specialist*

"Even though the assistance I received was extremely helpful, the way to obtain it was unclear and difficult, due to the lack of information about the process. We need more information, but other than that, it is a great program," added

Ramos.

That is precisely one of the reasons why the AER leadership traveled to the island.

"We want to get our message out to those Soldiers, who don't even realize they are eligible for assistance, such as the large retired community that lives in the island," said Haggan.

In addition to grants and zero interest loans, the AER program also offers educational assistance to military families.

"Last year we distributed approximately \$45 thousand in undergraduate educational scholarships in Puerto Rico. These scholarships are not based on grade point average or Scholastic Aptitude Test scores. This is solely based on economic need," added Mason.

Even though the AER program has an office located at building number 225, in Fort Buchanan, PR, it serves all Soldiers around the island.

Soldiers, retirees and family members who are interested in knowing more about the AER, can contact Edwidge Pedre, Army Emergency Relief Officer at 787-707-3310.

Family Readiness in the making

San Juan, PR- Approximately 100 family members and Soldiers of the 273rd Transportation Detachment and the 266th Ordnance Company, 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, participated in a Yellow Ribbon event, July 28-30, 2018 in Condado, Puerto Rico, as part of the command's effort to sustain family readiness, in preparation for upcoming mobilizations.

Sgt. Jose Juan Colón, a Transportation Management Coordinator from the 273rd Transportation Detachment, was one of the participants.

"This is the first time that we as a family participate in a Yellow Ribbon event. It is a very organized event that is giving my family great information," said Colón, who was accompanied by his 4 months pregnant wife Melody Rivera and her parents, Lily Rivera and José Rivera.

"It is great that the Army Reserve is giving us this opportunity of being part of the mobilization process. It is somehow difficult, because we are expecting a baby, but with the information and resources we are receiving, we are able to be at ease," said Melody Rivera.

For José Rivera, the Yellow Ribbon allows them to get closer

as a family.

"What I love about the Yellow Ribbon is that it helps us to work as one team, in support of the Soldier," said the Soldier's father in law.

Private 1st Class Enrique Rosado and his family also participated in the event.

"I am excited as the mobilization date gets closer. One of the reasons I joined the Army Reserve was to have new experiences," said Rosado, who is an Ammunition Specialist in the 266th Ordnance Company.

"I am extremely grateful because, as a family member one has many questions about the mobilization process. Being part of the Yellow Ribbon provides us a better understanding of what Soldiers go through," said a proud Jessica Montero, the Soldier's mother.

"I want to continue learning and I am looking forward to serve as a volunteer in the family programs," added Montero.

During the Yellow Ribbon event, members of the command's staff and other organizations briefed the Soldiers and families about how to keep the communication while deployed, details about education and



Approximately 100 family members and Soldiers of the 273rd Transportation Detachment and the 266th Ordnance Company, 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, participated in a Yellow Ribbon event, July 28-30, 2018, in Condado, Puerto Rico, as part of the command's effort to sustain family readiness. (U.S. Army photo/released)



From left to right, Sgt. José Juan Colón, his wife Melody Rivera, his Mother-in-Law Lily Rivera and his Father-in-Law Jose Rivera, participate of the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Yellow Ribbon event, 28-30 July, 2018 in San Juan Puerto Rico. Standing up is Agustin Montañez, Puerto Rico's Veterans Advocate. (U.S. Army photo/released)

healthcare benefits, among other presentations.

Both units are currently mobilized, as part the continuous support to the needs of the nation, provided by the Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, as the largest federal U.S. Army command in the Caribbean region.

Yellow Ribbon events are held when Soldiers are mobilizing, allowing the families to prepare for the time they will be separated and to provide many resources to help with before, during, and after the mission.

For more information on the program, go to www.yellowribbon.mil, or to register for an event, go to www.yellowribbonevents.org.



Jessica Montero, (left) Wilfredo Rosado, (middle) mother and father of Private 1st Class Enrique Rosado (right) pay attention to one of the presentations during the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Yellow Ribbon event, 28-30 July 2018 at San Juan, Puerto Rico. (U.S. Army photo/released)



FAJARDO, PR- Soldiers and family members from the 346th Transportation Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, the largest federal U.S. Army transportation unit in the Caribbean, with base in Ceiba, Puerto Rico, celebrated the unit's first organizational day, Sept. 9, at the Fajardo Sport Complex.

The participants were engaged in various activities such as 25 meters tire flip, tug a war and Humvee push.

The ultimate goal of the 346th Organizational Day was to promote and maintain the mental and physical well-being of all Soldiers and families, while fostering community pride, Soldier morale, and Family wellness and promoting unit esprit de corps. (U.S. Army photos by 346th TC UPAR)

