

El Morro

Vol. 3 Winter Edition

Sentinel of the Caribbean

Oct-Nov-Dec 2018



“It takes every single one of us to make it happen and as I look through this audience there almost isn’t one of us that wasn’t involved in this. Thank you General (Maj. Gen. Jones) for being here. Thank you for your continued investment in Fort Buchanan and thank you for the teamwork we will show in the future,” said Lt. Col. Patrick J. Dillon, Deputy Garrison Commander.

Fort Buchanan inaugurates its Lake

Story on page 3





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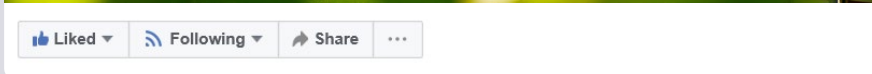
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EL MORRO is published quarterly by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Garrison.

All editorial content of EL MORRO is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the U.S. Army Garrison, Public Affairs Office. For guidance on how to submit items for publication, e-mail the garrison Public Affairs Office.

The PAO reserves the right to edit all submissions and to determine the suitability for inclusion in EL MORRO.

Every effort will be made to publish submissions in a timely manner. However, time, layout, style and editorial considerations, as well as determinations for publication, are established by the Garrison Commander or the Public Affairs Officer.



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Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/US-Army-Garrison-Fort-Buchanan-142863785819203/>

Upcoming events

December January February

National Disability National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
December 7

USAG Holiday Parade
December 7

USAG Holiday Celebration
December 8

Human Rights Day
December 10

Christmas Day
December 25

New Year's Day
January 1

3 Kings Day
January 6

Newcomers' Orientation
January 17, 8:30 a.m. - 12 Noon

For new service members, civilian employees and their families.
Community Club & Conference Center

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 21

African American/ Black History Month

Installation Legal Office - Tax Center Opens
February 1

Soldier For Life - Transition Program Workshop
February 4 - 16
Building 511

Presidents' Day
February 18

Day of Illustrious Puerto Ricans
February 19

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 serve and support the United States Armed Forces.

Fort Buchanan inaugurates its Lake

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Buchanan inaugurated the recently (see page 19) acquired lake located inside the installation with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held December 3, 2018.

Approximately 100 persons, including the commanding generals of the US Army Reserve and Puerto Rico National Guard; Commander of the Rodríguez Army Health Clinic; the Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army, both present and Emeritus; representatives of the municipalities of Guaynabo and Bayamón; representatives of the US Marine Corps and Navy Reserves; garrison staff and directors were in attendance. After welcoming all the distinguished visitors, Lt. Col. Dillon spoke to all the developments and construction projects that are taking place in Fort Buchanan, “It takes every single one of us to make it happen and as I look through this audience there almost isn’t one of us that wasn’t involved in this. Thank you General (Maj. Gen. Kenneth D. Jones, 81st Readiness Division commanding general) for being here. Thank you for your continued investment in Fort Buchanan and thank you for the teamwork we will show in the future,” said Dillon.

“Every time this Fort has asked for funds they assured me where they’re going to use them, how they’re going to use them, and where the funds are, and I want to thank you because I feel this is a real partnership not just with my office but with all federal organizations that are involved with this Fort,” said Hon. González. “I want to finish today with another plea of support,” said Gonzalez, “My office is part of your office, count me as part of this team.” she concluded.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony the Hon. González, Maj. Gen. Jones and other distinguished visitors took a windshield tour of the installation, including the old and new Child Development Center still under



(L to R) Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana; Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. Patrick J. Dillon; PR Resident Commissioner, Hon. Jenniffer González; 81st Readiness Division Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Kenneth D. Jones and garrison Director of Public Works, Maria (Angie) López cut the ribbon that inaugurates Fort Buchanan’s Lake.



VIP guests received a tour and information on the construction of the new Child Development Center project.

construction, passing through housing, and the sites for the new Apparatus Building, new Access Control Point project, Army Reserve centers, the Rodríguez Army Health Clinic, and the Golf Course. The windshield tour ended at Fort Buchanan’s Community Club with a luncheon where they were joined by the Mayor of Guaynabo, the Hon. Angel Pérez Otero.

Hon. González ended her visit by joining Fort Buchanan’s Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and getting her validated membership card.



Deputy to the Garrison Commander, William S. Leyh, briefs PR Resident Commissioner on the new Super Clinic.



Hon. Jenniffer González addressed the audience comprise of military leaders, as well as representatives from the municipalities of Bayamón and Guaynabo; garrison directors and tenants.



Maj. Gen. Jones, garrison leaders and tenant units, ISSP Team members, the Mayor of Guaynabo and a representative from Bayamón participated in a working lunch that exemplified the importance of strategic partnerships.

Fort Buchanan kicks off the holidays with “Operation Christmas” Parade

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

The holiday season officially started at Fort Buchanan with its traditional Holiday Parade held December 7, 2018.

The theme for this year’s parade was “Operation Christmas.” Over 20 garrison directorates, tenant units and organizations participated with creative and colorful floats.

“What I liked the best was the participation of services like the Puerto Rico National Guard, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, AAFES, Commissary, Department of Defense Schools, JROTC, Rodriguez Army Health Clinic and more. It was an awesome parade!” said Garrison Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass.

Among the innovative floats was the command group’s Chinook helicopter bursting with gifts; the Logistics Readiness Center’s M1 Abrams tank fitted with all the gear; Fort Buchanan’s Public Works’ also had a helicopter with real helicopter sound effects and side guns.

The Navy paraded aircraft carrier No. 77, fitted with helicopter and airplane. The carrier’s number 77 is in honor of recently deceased US President, from the actual USS George H. W. Bush CVN-77, explained Navy Lt. Cdr. Jeremy L. Britt.

The Three Kings walked along the route before Santa and Mrs. Claus who were on top of a military emergency services vehicle. Children along the parade route were given candy and interacted with the parade marchers and their floats.



Garrison Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass and his spouse, Mary Beth Scott (center) pose with members of the garrison command group and staff in front of the command group float a Chinook helicopter named Rudolf, before beginning the parade.



Staff of the Rodríguez Army Health Clinic gathered by their entry into “Operation Christmas” parade, a “bedridden Santa.”



The Logistics Readiness Center pose in front of their entry to the parade, an M1 Abrams tank with Santa at the turret.



The Directorate of Public Works prepared a festive helicopter with a young gunner on point.



The 22nd Weapons of Mass Destruction CST of the P.R. National Guard had three vehicles and a giant dressed in chemical protective gear.



The Navy personnel pose behind aircraft carrier No. 77, their creative submission for the Christmas parade.



Well over 80 cadets sang cadences as they marched in representation of the Antilles High School JROTC.

Photos by Grissel Rosa, Public Affairs Officer and Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Buchanan's "Operation Christmas" Parade (cont.)



Members of the Directorate of Human Resources pose in front of their Mass Mailing Float.



Garrison Command staff all dressed up in colorful Christmas theme outfits pose with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.



Resource Management staff wrapped up as "pasteles", gifts and snowman pose with Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana (L) and Col. Bass (center).



Traffic Accident Investigator/Supervisor Capt. Alfredo Aponte maintained a safe flow of traffic during the parade.



Marines from the US Marine Corps Det. 1, LS Co. CLR-45 at Fort Buchanan handed out candy to the children along the parade route.



Army Air Force Exchange Services paraded with carts full of presents and toys from the Exchange.



Fort Buchanan's Commissary paraded and handed out lots of candy to the children watching the parade with their parents.



All the Logistics Readiness Center personnel paraded with Soldiers, Coast Guardsmen and their families.



The appearance of Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus marked the end of "Operation Christmas" parade.



Christine Davis, director of Mission & Installation Contracting Command handed out candy to everyone.



Children and adults happily received sweet treats from Donna A. Brown, director of the Network Enterprise Center on post.



Children from DFMWR's Child Youth Center marched alongside their float, the USS Puerto Rico.



Milda Román, Christian E. Lopez Rivera and Augusto Román from DFMWR's Auto Craft Shop created bicycles for the parade.



The Installation Legal Office and Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security joined forces participating with this military Santa's sleigh.



The Three Kings pose with children with Mr. and Mrs. Santa look on from atop military firefighter equipment.

Photos by Grissel Rosa, Public Affairs Officer and Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist

USAG Fort Buchanan celebrates its traditional “¡Parranda!”

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

With trombones, trumpet, congas (percussion), cowbells (“cencerros”), guitar, “palitos” (typically wooden sticks), “maracas”, “plenera” (a hand held type of drum) and an enthusiastic chorus made up of garrison staff and Reserve non-commissioned officers, Fort Buchanan’s garrison celebrated its traditional “parranda” December 14, 2018.

“Parrandas” is a Puerto Rican Christmas-time custom where families, neighbors and friends gather to take musical cheerfulness to other homes. It can be compared to caroling done during the same period in the states with the exception that the “parranderos” carrying instruments of all sorts are welcomed into every home with food and beverages.

The “parranda” with Garrison Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass, Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. Patrick J. Dillon and its over 30 members, brought musical holiday jubilation to the Rodríguez Army Health Clinic (RAHC), 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC) Army Reserve Headquarters, Puerto Rico National Guard (PRNG HQ) Headquarters and Fort Buchanan’s Army Air Force Exchange (AAFES).

At all the locations, Soldiers, civilians, Veterans and customers participated in the fun.

At the PRNG HQ with their Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Isabelo Rivera joining in the merriment, the garrison “parranda” merged with members of PRNG 248th Army Band to the delight of Soldiers and staff.

The “parranda” ended at the Exchange main lobby area where Veterans became part of the “parranda” singing and playing instruments.



Fort Buchanan’s traditional “parranda” with over 30 members brought music and joy to the RAHC, 1st MSC headquarters, PRNG headquarters and the Exchange main lobby.



Staff and patrons of the RAHC joined in the singing of “aguinaldos” during the “parranda.”



1st MSC staff with garrison musicians gathered in front of their “Garrita” in the atrium of their headquarters.



Garrison staff and PRNG Soldiers joined forces to bring to all, holiday cheer.



Gustavo Villaronga with DPW lead the chorus of garrison staff and PRNG Soldiers.



USAG Fort Buchanan 1st Quarter Town Hall Meeting

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

The US Army Garrison held its 1st Quarter Town Hall Meeting December 13, 2018 with the participation of over 400 garrison directors, staff and some tenant organization representatives.

Garrison Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass, and Garrison Command Sgt. Major Heriberto Quintana began the town hall by presenting time-in-service awards. To the surprise of awardees, Col. Bass initiated a new tradition where those with 15 or more years of service not only received their certificates and pins, but a 4" x 6" autographed photo of the commander in a unique pose.

After presenting awards, recognitions and trainings, Bass addressed some of the infrastructure projects in the works in the installation and some concerns the workforce has.

Some concerns addressed are the upcoming changes in Army installations and re-alignments and what that might mean economically to Fort Buchanan.

Col. Bass reassured the workforce that continuing to provide excellent customer service to our community and to continue to be aboveboard on our spending and requirements will assure our critical position in the Department of Defense and in the Army.



Garrison command, directors, workforce and tenant staff listen attentively as Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Spann, senior religious affairs non-commissioned officer talks about contributing to this years' Combined Federal campaign.



Leonel Albizu, with the Installation Legal Office received from Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana a certificate of recognition for fifteen years of service in the US Government.



Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana awarded certificates in recognition of twenty years of service in the US Government to Joe López-Rodríguez and María "Angie" López.

(L to R) Iván Morales and Carlos M. Petersen received from Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana award certificates for thirty years of service in the US Government.



(L to R) Angel L. Rivera-Valentín, Sol Enid Aponte Maisonet, Nancy Cortés, Fabiana E. Nevado, Ramón A. Rivera and Samuel A. McGuinness, from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center received from Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana Department of the Army Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service.



Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana awarded Fort Buchanan Firefighter, Jonathan Parker the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

USAG Fort Buchanan 1st Quarter Town Hall Meeting (cont.)

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist



FMWR's Youth Center, Acting Facility Director, Luis Maldonado presented a video about bullying, the second leading cause of suicide among teens, created and edited by Juleisi Berrios a student at the center.



Fort Buchanan Firefighter, Herbert Rosario received the Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service from Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana.



Newly appointed Fort Buchanan US Army Security Guards, Joshua Medina-Rivera and Ricardo Pérez attended their first Garrison Town Hall Meeting.



Col. Bass made his remarks and soothed the concerns of the workforce with regards to upcoming alignment changes at installations Army-wide based on the good practices of Fort Buchanan's staff to date.



Waleska Ayala a volunteer at the Installation Legal Office tax center for the past 6 years provided a briefing on the newest changes to tax laws for filing 2018 income tax forms.



Vivian Rodríguez representing the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), a voluntary, work-based program that offers short-term counseling, referrals, and follow-up services to federal employees, provided a training on the ups and downs for the holiday season.



This 1st Quarter Town Hall ended with holiday cheer with musical entertainment by a traditional "parranda" made up of garrison staff singing typical Puerto Rican Christmas songs.

Holiday Safety 101

Story by Beverly Joyner

633rd Air Base Wing Public Affairs, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia

When people are busy decorating, shopping, entertaining or traveling during the holiday season, the rush to complete their to-do lists could lead to a lack of emphasis on proper safety practices.

The following holiday safety tips can help all keep safe and secure during the season.

Decorations and gift wrap

Decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and should never be placed near heating vents or fireplaces.

Sharp or breakable glass ornaments can be a risk for children and must be kept out of their reach.

Before using electric lights check for frayed wires, broken or cracked sockets and excessive wear.

Do not dispose of gift wrapping paper in the fireplace since chemicals can build up and cause an explosion.

Decorative ribbon should be kept away from small children; any piece seven inches or longer could wrap around a child's neck and cause injuries.

Christmas tree safety

When selecting live Christmas trees the needles should be fresh, green and hard to pull off the branches.

Placing the tree near a heat source such as a fireplace or vent can cause it to dry out more quickly and pose a fire hazard.

Use a large, sturdy tree stand so children can't pull the tree down. Keep the stand filled with water at all times, and cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption.

Artificial Christmas trees should be labeled as fire resistant. If the tree is purchased with lights already attached, look for the Underwriters Laboratory label, which means that it has been tested for safety.

Never use lighted candles on or near trees; use indoor lights, not outdoor

lights, to decorate your tree. Do not use light strands on aluminum trees.

Do not overload electrical outlets or leave electric lights unattended. Use only lighting certified by the Underwriters Laboratory.

Toy shopping

To promote toy safety and smart purchasing practices during the holiday season, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, in conjunction with the

The Consumer Product Safety Commission, in conjunction with the Retail Industry Leaders Association, Safe Kids Worldwide and Toy Association, is promoting toy safety and smart shopping practices during the holiday season. The campaign, Know the ABCs of Toy Safety, is designed to help guide consumers and provide toy safety awareness during the holidays and all year long. Safe toy purchasing tips include choosing toys that match your child's interests and abilities as well as your family's play environment.

Retail Industry Leaders Association, Safe Kids Worldwide and Toy Association offers the following tips for shoppers.

Check the labels and follow age guidance and other safety information on toy packaging.

Avoid toys with small parts such as magnets, marbles and small balls.

Choose toys that match your child's interests and abilities as well as your family's play environment.

Purchase safety gear for scooters and other riding toys. Ensure that children's helmets are sized to fit and are worn properly at all times.

Know your seller and purchase toys only from retailers that you know and trust; research to find out which toys have been recalled.

Traveling during colder months

Before getting on the road for holiday road trips, prepare your vehicle for the season by getting a winter tune-up, adding antifreeze and switching to winter weight oil.

Check the National Weather Service forecast for travel advisories and be prepared to postpone your trip during inclement weather.

Keep your gas tank over half full and



Photo by Consumer Product Safety Commission

carry emergency supplies including a cell phone, food and water, flashlight, first-aid kit, blankets, a shovel, flares, sand and tire chains.

Let someone know your destination and when you are expected to arrive. Ask them to notify authorities if you are late.

Do not drive if you are tired or have been drinking.

If you are stranded on the road during a winter storm and the roadways are impassable, the safest choice is to stay in your vehicle.

While celebrating the holidays with family, be sure to use risk management planning to make sound decisions and help reduce safety-related hazards.

For more information about holiday safety, visit <https://www.cpsc.gov/>

Fort Buchanan's future with Integrated Strategic and Sustainability Planning

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

What is Integrated Strategic and Sustainability Planning (ISSP)?

ISSP is a long-term, holistic planning process that results in a strategic plan that supports current and future mission requirements worldwide while safeguarding human health, improving quality-of-life and enhancing the natural environment. "Integrated Strategic and Sustainability Planning will assist Fort Buchanan by defining its needs, missions, customers and requirements that will help sustain the installation for years to come," emphasized Fort Buchanan's Garrison Commander, Col. Guy D Bass.

What are the elements within ISSP?

ISSP incorporates elements of sustainability into the day to day mission and goals of the installation such as: energy and water security, solid waste management, community partnerships and health and wellness, among others.

How long does the strategic plan take to be completed?

Most installation strategic plans cover three to five years, but the ISSP covers 20 to 25 years. It is long range planning that helps to maintain the installation's relevance for a truly resilient military and civilian community.

According to Col. Bass, ISSP contributes to secure resources and



The stakeholders from Fort Buchanan, garrison directorates, tenant commands and workforce who participated in the workshop.

accessible assets that will translate into continued resilience for the only federal military installation in Puerto Rico. He added that the unique geographical location of the installation, being "an island within an island," impacts the garrison's existing mission readiness capabilities that require resources away from CONUS, thus affecting Fort Buchanan's response time to support potential customers.

What is Fort Buchanan doing?

Heather Brown, Army Reserve Strategic Readiness Team Lead, explained the importance of implementing ISSP at Fort Buchanan. "The Army Reserve Installation Management Directorate is pleased to

have Fort Buchanan serve as one of the pilot sites for Integrated Strategic and Sustainability Planning because we know that its commitment to excellence will only strengthen the program's benefits for the entire Command," said Brown.

May 1-2, 2018, Fort Buchanan's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office (PAIO) steered the Strategic Planning efforts with a workshop conducted at the installation's Community Club and Conference Center. Approximately 70 garrison, tenants and community members participated.

From May 9-11, HQDA Career Program 29 (CP29) Installation Management Office sponsored a



During the workshop on May 9, 2018 in Fort Buchanan's Community Club and Conference Center, the Garrison Commander, Col. Bass provided opening remarks.



(L to R) PAIO staff, Héctor Morán, plans specialist; Grace B. Richards, plans specialist and Awilda Morales, management and program analyst presented Dr. Mickey D. Mayland, from OBT a token of appreciation, on behalf of garrison command leadership.

Photos by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Buchanan's future with ISSP (cont.)

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

Strategic Planning and Analytical Thinking training. Dr. Mickey D. Mayland from the Office of Business Transformation, Army National Guard Bureau was the facilitator. The training provided an introduction to strategic planning principles and practices, analytical and creative thinking tools, and insightful approaches to Strategic Planning. During working sessions, stakeholders and Fort Buchanan garrison directorates, tenants and workforce representatives collaboratively developed draft missions, visions, Lines of Effort (LOE) or goals, and strategic objectives in support of the Army's number one priority: Readiness. The deliverables of this workshop set the foundation for the Army Reserve Installation Management Directorate (ARIMD) Pilot ISSP.

During the ISSP initial site visit, June 25-26, 2018, the process was briefed to the Command Group, directorates, support staff and tenant organizations.

During the presentation, the ISSP team emphasized how the process would enhance Fort Buchanan's Strategic Plan and support the garrison's mission now and into the future.

What is the next step?

During the ISSP Long-Term Priority Setting (LTP) session, October 16-18, 2018, senior leaders including Robert Maxwell, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Resource Management and Materiel for the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve, and Major General Scottie D. Carpenter, Deputy Commanding General of the Army Reserve, participated in the workshops. Stakeholders throughout Puerto Rico, local municipalities and federal agencies were also involved in the process.

The ISSP team met with garrison

representatives and workshop participants December 3-6, 2018, for an Objective Setting and Action Planning Session. The purpose for this meeting was 1) to review and incorporate Fort Buchanan IPLs; 2) develop Major Objectives and Sub-Objectives; 3) develop Action Plans; 4) establish time lines for the execution of the plan as well as performance measures to determine if goals were met. The plan will be implemented starting January

that works collectively with positive attitudes with a healthy resilient workforce that contributes to overall mission accomplishment. Finally, the establishment of enduring community/public/private partnerships built on a shared culture of price and trust that maximize resource use in support of mission readiness.

The success of this Integrated Strategic and Sustainability Plan lies in the leadership of the teams,



Photo by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist

The participants of the ISSP workshop reaffirmed their commitment in the Long Term Priority Setting Session held October 18, 2018.

2019.

There were four Long-Term Priorities (LTP) identified as part of the ISSP. First, the construction of a World-Class Training Complex that meets current and future military training requirements to achieve mission readiness. Second, the construction and maintenance of high-performance sustainable facilities to fulfill mission and readiness requirements with energy, water and fuel capacity to sustain continuous operations indefinitely. Based on the lessons learned after Hurricane Maria one of the major objectives is to have a fully implemented energy and water resiliency strategy that supports sustained operations for 60+ days. Third, for Fort Buchanan to become an organization of choice

the continuous organization and communication of the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office with the team members and the support provided by ARIMD.

The December meeting coincided with the visit to Fort Buchanan of Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner in Washington, Hon. Jenniffer González; the Commanding General of the 81st Readiness Division, Maj. Gen. Kenneth D. Jones; the Chief of the Federal Programs Division of the municipality of Bayamón and the Mayor of Guaynabo, Hon. Angel Pérez Otero, as well as garrison directors and stakeholders who conducted a working lunch to receive an information brief on the status of military construction projects at Fort Buchanan and their impact to the community.

IMCOM welcomes new Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Bradley A. Becker

Excerpts of story by Susan A. Merkner

U.S. Army Installation Management Command Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. Bradley A. Becker took command of United States Army Installation Management Command in ceremonies Sept. 5, 2018 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Becker was promoted to lieutenant general immediately before the ceremony by Gen. Mark A. Milley, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

Becker replaces Lt. Gen. Kenneth R. Dahl, who had served IMCOM since November 2015.

During Becker's promotion ceremony, Milley said the new IMCOM commander was talented and humble, a man who "is not afraid to speak truth to power. We want servant-leaders in our generals."

At the change of command ceremony, Milley praised IMCOM and its employees, thanking them for generating Army readiness by supporting Soldiers, their families and civilians. "Readiness is much more than manning, equipping and training. Soldiers can't focus exclusively on their combat mission if they think their family is in lousy housing, or has inadequate medical care, or unsafe schools for their children," he said.

Of the Army's 1.1 million Soldiers, 60 percent are married and most have at least two children, Milley said.

"Every base and installation is important, both in CONUS and overseas," Milley said. "Every single Soldier in the Army passes through IMCOM at some point, and IMCOM is responsible for the readiness of today's Army."

During his remarks at the ceremony, Dahl thanked the command's 50,000 employees for their role in providing continuity in the Army's 75 installations.

Despite budget cuts and doubling down on multiple jobs, IMCOM employees are dedicated professionals who keep the day-to-day operations going, providing facilities, utilities, security and recreational opportunities, he said.



Official U.S. Army Photo

Lt. Gen. Bradley A. Becker, IMCOM
Commanding General

Becker thanked family and friends for their support and said Dahl built a great team at IMCOM.

"IMCOM touches the lives of every Soldier, civilian and their family members in the Army," Becker said. "What you do every day is truly impressive. I appreciate all you do to keep the Army strong."

The change of command ceremony Sept. 5 included music by the First Armored Division Army Band, the national anthem sung by Sgt. First Class Charmakeitha M. Smith of IMCOM, and an invocation by IMCOM Command Chaplain Col. Yvonne Hudson.

IMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Melissa A. Judkins participated in the guidon exchange ceremony with the three generals. The traditional presentation of flowers was held to honor the outgoing and incoming commanding generals' wives, Lt. Col. (R) Celia FlorCruz and Sherri Becker, respectively.

Prior to taking command of IMCOM, Becker was chief, Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq, U.S. Central Command, Iraq.

He was commander of the Joint

Force Headquarters -- National Capital Region and the U.S. Army Military District of Washington. He previously served as the commanding general, U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He has had several joint assignments and has served in Iraq and Korea, as well as at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and Fort Lewis, Washington.

Becker's awards include the Distinguished Service Medal (second award), the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. He has earned the Combat Action Badge, Parachutist and Air Assault identification badges, and is Ranger qualified.

Becker was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the field artillery upon graduating from the University of California at Davis in 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. He also holds a master's degree in political science from Auburn University.

IMCOM became an independent command reporting directly to the Chief of Staff of the Army in the fall of 2015. Its geographic regions in the continental United States (CONUS) were reorganized into three directorates based on function -- Readiness, Sustainment and Training -- and co-located with their supported Army commands (Forces Command, Army Materiel Command, and Training and Doctrine Command, respectively). The U.S. Army Environmental Command is an IMCOM organization and was represented in the ceremony by its commander and command sergeant major. All IMCOM directorates were represented at the Sept. 5 ceremony by their directors and command sergeant majors.

US Marine Corps win the annual Fort Buchanan Turkey Bowl

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Under heavy rains, sudden bright sunny skies and in mud soaked grounds, the Marines won against the Army in the annual game of flag football during the installation's Turkey Bowl today, November 16, 2018 held at the football field of the Antilles High School (AHS).

The Army and Marines played a spirited game, always demonstrating sportsman-like behavior. The AHS Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) provided the color guard, formed a sabre arch for both teams to go under at the commencement of the game and requested the honor to serve both the Soldiers and the Marines a hot meal donated by the Gary Sinise Foundation –Serving Our Heroes. The meal was prepared by Fort Buchanan's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR).

Garrison Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass and Garrison Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana made welcome remarks and Col. Bass presented the two referees



After winning against the Army, US Marine Corps members of Detachment 1, Landing Support Company, CLR - 45 stationed at Fort Buchanan proudly pose with their well earned USAG Turkey Bowl Trophy.



Sgt. Major Quintana presented the new addition to the awards, the IMCOM Football to the Marine team captain. Quintana also presented the Most Valuable Players from each of the teams with a meal gift card. "This game demonstrates to everyone the unity in the Military services and the camaraderie that exists between us," said Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana.



from FMWR with Garrison Coins for their support and participation.

In attendance was Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, commanding general of the 1st Mission Support Command and other members of her staff, students from the AHS, Antilles Middle School, teachers, tenants, garrison staff and family members from both teams.

Col. Bass presented the winning trophy to the Marines and Command



The Color Guard from Antilles High School JROTC provided the official part of the Army vs. Marines game of flag football.

Chefs from FMWR prepared the food donated by the Gary Sinise Foundation – Serving Our Heroes program.



Col. Bass presented both referees with the Garrison Coin for their participation in the game.



Both teams, Garrison command Sgt. Maj. Quintana (center) and members of the JROTC pose before eating the food donated by the Gary Sinise Foundation – Serving Our Heroes program.

Chaplain's Corner

Thankful for what matters

Story by Chaplain (Cpt.) Christy Marshall
1st Bn., 46th Infantry Regt., Fort Benning

Sometime in mid-September, my husband sent me a picture from a store in town. Fall was still a week away from officially starting, and yet this particular store had already put out a Christmas section. An entire aisle was already present -- filled with decorations, wrapping paper, wreaths and much more. At that point, Halloween was more than a month away with Thanksgiving nowhere in sight! I will never understand why stores race to be the first one to put out their Christmas merchandise. After all, Christmas is to going to arrive on the same date as previous years, and the same majority of people are going to wait until the last minute to find gifts for their friends and families.

Something I do understand, however, is just how stressful the end of the year holiday season is for most families. There is the negotiating of when/where/how/to which side of family to travel. For some, there is the stress of spending important holidays separated from their deployed spouse. For others, there is the stress of grieving family members or friends who have passed and whose chair will be empty this holiday season. Lastly, there is the stress of dealing with all the busyness and from distractions that tend to ramp up toward Thanksgiving and not decrescendo until after New Year's Day.

Even so, I believe that the upcoming holidays are an opportunity and a gift. In his letter to the Philippians, the Apostle Paul reminded his readers to keep their focus on the important things in life:

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is



Fort Buchanan's Religious Support Office held a Christmas Concert for the installation's community at the post chapel December 13, 2018, with the Cupey First Baptist Church Choir, .

anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you." -- Philippians 4:8, New Revised Standard Version

In essence, Paul was calling on his audience to focus the good things in this world -- the relationships, blessings and actions worthy of receiving of our attention -- in contrast to placing all of our attention on aspects of life out of

our control or inconsequential in the long run.

As we enter the upcoming holiday season, I believe that it is beneficial to follow this bit of wisdom offered by Paul. May we keep our hearts and minds focused on our important relationships, the blessings we have in our lives, and our ability to be a blessing to another in need. Lastly, may the peace of the Almighty One be upon you and your Family in the days ahead.



The Cupey First Baptist Church Choir sang a melody of traditional American Christmas songs and Puerto Rican "aguinaldos" (typical Christmas carols) both in Spanish and English, to the enjoyment of Soldiers, staff and families.

Legal Corner

Sweeping changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice

Excerpts of story by Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

A host of changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice became effective Jan. 1, 2019 modernizing definitions for many offenses, adjusting maximum penalties, standardizing court-martial panels, creating new computer-crime laws and much more.

The changes strike a balance between protecting the rights of the accused and empowering commanders to effect good order and discipline, said Col. Sara Root, chief of the Army's Military Justice Legislation Training Team.

Root and three members of her team spent the last year traveling to 48 installations to train 6,000 legal personnel and law-enforcement agents about the changes which included everyone from judges to law clerks and privates to generals, she said, and even 600 from other military services.

Codifying Changes

Many of the changes came about after a review by the Military Justice Review Group, consisting of military and criminal justice experts whose report made recommendations to Congress.

Adultery Changed

One of the changes replaces the offense of adultery with "extra-marital sexual conduct." The new offense broadens the definition of sexual intercourse, which now includes same-sex affairs. The amendments also now provide legal separation as a defense.

Also in the past, prosecutors had to prove traditional intercourse to obtain a conviction for adultery, Root said. Now oral sex and other types of sexual intercourse are included.

Protecting Junior Soldiers

UCMJ Article 93a provides stiffer penalties for recruiters, drill sergeants and others in "positions of special trust" convicted of abusing their authority over recruits or trainees.

The maximum sentence was

increased. And it doesn't matter if the sex is consensual or not, Root said, it's still a crime.

Article 132 also protects victims and those reporting crimes from retaliation. An adverse personnel action -- such as a bad NCO Evaluation Report, if determined to be solely for reprisal --- can get the person in authority up to three years confinement without pay and a dishonorable discharge.

Computer Crimes

Article 123 provides stiff penalties for Soldiers who wrongfully access unauthorized information on government computers. Distributing classified information can earn a maximum sentence of 10 years confinement, but even wrongfully accessing it can get up to five years in jail. Unauthorized access of personally identifiable information, or PII, is also a crime. Intentionally damaging government computers or installing a virus can also bring five years in the clinker.

Cyberstalking is also now included as a stalking offense under Article 130 of the UCMJ.

Courts-Martial

A "bench trial" by a judge alone can now determine guilt or innocence for many offenses.

More than half of the cases in the Army actually are settled by plea agreements in lieu of a contested trial, Root said. Commanders have always had the authority to limit the max sentence with a plea agreement, but she said now they can agree to a minimum sentence as well. This might result in a range for the judge to sentence within, for example, no less than one year confinement, but no more than five years confinement.

If a case goes to a non-capital general court-martial, the panel has now been standardized to eight members.

Special courts-martial will now be set at four panel members.

Capital offenses such as murder

require a 12-member panel.

Expanded Authority

Congress expanded judges' authorities to issue investigative subpoenas earlier in the process, for example, to obtain a surveillance video from a store. One of the most significant changes is that now military judges can issue warrants and orders to service providers to obtain electronic communications such as email correspondence.

The changes also call for more robust Article 32 hearings to help the commander determine if an accused should go to trial, she said. In addition, both the accused and the victim now have the right to submit anything they deem relevant to the preliminary hearing officer within 24 hours after the hearing specifically for the court-martial convening authority to consider.

A number of other procedural changes are aimed at making the military justice system even more efficient, Root said.

More Changes

For instance, the definition of burglary has changed to include breaking and entering any building or structure of another, anytime, with the intent to commit any offense under the UCMJ. In the past, burglary was limited to breaking and entering the dwelling house of another in the nighttime.

The penalty for wearing unauthorized medals of valor has increased from 6 months to a max of one-year confinement along with forfeiture of pay and a bad-conduct discharge. This includes wearing an unauthorized Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Purple Heart or valor device. The maximum penalty for wearing any other unauthorized medal is still only six months.

For the full article access: <https://www.army.mil/article/215594?g> or contact Fort Buchanan's Installation Legal Office at (787) 707-5155.

New Year, New Parent: Bring Out the Best in Your Parenting

Story by Dr. Mieke Vanderborgh
USAG Italy Family Advocacy Program

With the New Year comes that itch to become a new and improved you. Some make resolutions to exercise more, spend less money, be more organized, or procrastinate less. But how many of you have considered the new year as an opportunity to take stock of where you are as a parent and decide to make sure you're on track to raising the most wonderful little human beings you possibly can?

As parents we're all doing the best we can, but with our hectic lives it can be easy to lose our way sometimes. The good news is that there are a few things you can do right now to improve your parenting, and they're way easier than taking off those extra 10 pounds of pregnancy -- or sympathy -- weight that are still stubbornly lingering about.

All you need is love. And children need lots of it! Good parenting always starts with love -- in abundance. In times of happiness, anger, excitement, frustration, closeness, and sadness. In the face of accomplishments and mistakes, wins and losses, good times and bad, all children - big, medium, and small - need love.

Keep in mind that though younger children may drink it all up, as older children develop more and more of their unique personality, they may experience messages of caring differently. What can be a crystal clear declaration of your everlasting love for one child can be totally incomprehensible to another. If you don't know what speaks most clearly to your child, try them all and check in with them through discussion and/or observation, to see what has the biggest impact for them.

Remind your children how much you love them:

- Write little notes to them to hide in their lunch box or bag to find later.
- Make them their favorite meal.
- Give them more hugs, pats on the back, shoulder squeezes, or whatever physical contact feels natural, loving,

and respectful.

- Read a book together, even if they've known how to read on their own for years.

- Give them a little gift. It doesn't have to cost money, but it should definitely be thoughtful and come from the heart. A simple idea could be a letter you write highlighting all the reasons why you're proud of them.

- Finally, you can never overuse those three little magic words. Make sure you tell them you love them at least once every day.

Busy days, endless chores, long work hours -- and that's just you. Add in school and activities for the children, and you wonder how you have time fit it all in. With all the rush, it's easy to get distracted. But don't let spending quality time with your children fall by the wayside. With the New Year, take a good look at your schedule and make sure you're finding the space to spend high quality time together as a family.

Busy families will appreciate that it's the quality, not necessarily the quantity, that counts. Quality means tuning in to your children and giving them your full attention to meet them at their level. Even just 15 minutes a day of undistracted time that you dedicate entirely to your children can make a big difference. Here are some other tips:

- Find out what they love doing -- whether it's playing with Legos, listening to music, or roller skating - and do it with them. Let them take the lead and teach you what they know.

- On the flip side, look for something new to do with them that can expand their horizons and expose them to new ideas or experiences. Take a day trip, watch a documentary, try a new restaurant, or play a new sport.

- Cook together. Plan the meals, go shopping, and enjoy your hard work together. Or, if that's too much, make sure to at least eat as many family meals together as possible. Start with three per week, and add more as you can.



Photo by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs specialist

Do the best you can to be a good parent. The holidays are a perfect time to make resolutions for the New Year. USAG Fort Buchanan Family Advocacy programs can help.

- Create screen free zones in the house and/or times of day when everyone -- you too parents! -- puts their screens away and concentrates on each other.

- Yes, you've seen this one before, but it truly is golden: read together!

Give yourself a break. Parenting is tough -- really tough. It's draining, frustrating, and often completely thankless. Plus, we're parents, not super heroes. So give yourself a break when things don't go exactly as you'd like them to. The New Year is a great time to give yourself some credit for the good job you're already doing. Most parents' goal in parenting is to raise self-sufficient, happy, well-adjusted people. If your overall message, more often than not, is one of love, mixed together with reasonable and firm boundaries and expectations, you're doing a great job towards reaching that goal!

Some things to remember:

- No one is perfect, especially parents.

- Forgive yourself for the mistakes you make.

- When you do make mistakes, turn them into teachable moments by owning up to your mistake and talking to your children about what you learned from it. This experience is actually much more valuable for your children than being perfect all the time!

- Do something to reward yourself for the fine job you're doing!

In 2019, and beyond, be the best parent you can be! Want more tips? Contact the USAG Family Advocacy Program at ACS by calling (787) 707-3709 / On-Call 24/7: (787) 221-7982.

Hiring Our Heroes - A true success story!

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

A Hiring Our Heroes – Military Job Fair, was held at Fort Buchanan’s Community Club and Conference Center, November 14, 2018.

Hiring Our Heroes is a US Chamber of Commerce foundation, this event was held in collaboration with the US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan (USAG), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA).

Of the approximate 600 who attended this free hiring fair, 500 were Veterans, transitioning service members, PR National Guard, Reserve members and military spouses.

There were approximately 39 employers present. San Juan VA Human Resources personnel received over 250 inquiries for employment and collected 135 resumes. Of the 135 resumes, 135 interviews were conducted for immediate hiring into positions within the National Call Center (87) and the Veterans Service Center’s Public Contact Team (48).



Bernard Johnson (SES), executive director of Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands Department of Veterans Affairs (center) and Col. Bass (R) took time out to speak to Veterans, retirees and service members as they waited in line.

There was even participation of a widow of an Army Soldier killer in action while deployed to Iraq, she is also the sister of a CH-31 Veteran. The Gold Star spouse came prepared and applied for employment at the VA Call Center.

Attendees received orientation, filled out applications, established network connections for career advancement



Approximately 600 persons attended the hiring fair held at Fort Buchanan’s Community Club and Conference Center.

and some walked away with high prospects of employment by December 2018.

Col. Guy D. Bass, Fort Buchanan garrison commander; Wendy Torres, acting executive director, Office of Transition and Economic Development VA and Diana Sambolín, executive secretary PVA Puerto Rico addressed

Col. Bass spoke to the commitment of the agencies present to assist our military and their families.



the participants.

Also present supporting service members in this endeavor, were Bernard Johnson SES, executive director, PR and USVI VA Regional Office and Abner Concepción, assistant director VA Regional Office.

“If you look around you will see the commitment of a multitude of agencies and companies that joined us in this



Customs and Border Patrol assisted applicants in submitting their applications at their informational table.

remarkable initiative that not only promotes community outreach but also fosters effective partnerships with the community,” said Col. Bass.

“Helping our military families become an integral part of our communities is the smart thing to do. But moreover, showing our gratitude for their faithful service to our country is the right thing to do,” concluded Bass.

(Photo right) Wendy Torres presented Col. Bass with a letter of appreciation from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Benefits



Dept. VA, Hon. Margarita Devlin to the garrison, for the Veteran’s Round Table and Veterans Appreciation Day/ Benefits Claims Clinic held November 8, 2018 at Fort Buchanan.



Staff from Fort Buchanan’s Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Ramón Rivera (center) and Fire Department Chief Fire Inspector, José R. Castro (R) provide information for job applicants.

Fort Buchanan's Veterans Appreciation Day and PR Economic Roundtable

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

The US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan, in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs Puerto Rico, hosted the annual Veterans Appreciation Day/Benefit and Claims Clinic at the Community Club and Conference Center, November 8, 2018.

More than 600 Veterans, Service Members and their Families received information on benefits they are entitled to as well as on-the-spot feedback regarding the current status of their claims and appeals.

Over \$250,000 were awarded in compensations. For example, two veterans were awarded \$100,000 and \$80,000, respectively, in compensations they were entitled to but never claimed.

Simultaneously, over 50 leaders of the Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans Health Administration, National Cemetery Administration, along with federal agencies such as the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Labor, Department of Education, Department of Agriculture, Small Business Administration (SBA) and Housing and Urban Development; local government officials, other private and non-profit organizations, VSOs and community leaders participated in the Puerto Rico Economic Development Roundtable held at Fort Buchanan's Garrison Headquarters.

The group discussed initiatives to create more economic opportunities for Veterans and military members, issues concerning the National Guard and Reserve population, Active Duty Service Members and their Families. Collaboration areas included: housing, educational and career development, financial literacy, estate planning and health and well-being.

Among the participants were, Hon. Jenniffer González – Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner in Washington; Hon. Luis C. Fernández Trinchet, Esq. – Secretary, Puerto Rico Department



Photo by VA Caribbean Healthcare System

Leaders who participated in the PR Economic Development Roundtable discussed initiatives to create more economic opportunities for Veterans and military members in Puerto Rico, issues concerning the National Guard and Reserve population, Active Duty Service Members and their Families.

of Housing; Hon. Manuel A. Laboy Rivera – Secretary, Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development and Commerce; Hon. Carlos Saavedra Gutiérrez – Secretary, Puerto Rico Department of Labor; Margarita Devlin – Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs; Wendy Torres – Acting Executive Director, Office of Transition and Economic Development and USAG Fort Buchanan Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass.



Photo by VA Caribbean Healthcare System

Military and civilian community leaders representing various local and federal agencies participated in the first Puerto Rico Economic Development Roundtable held at the garrison's headquarters building.



Photo by José L. López, VI, DPTMS

Veterans received updated information on compensation benefits, appeals and pension status during Fort Buchanan's Annual Veterans Appreciation Day/Benefit and Claims Clinic at the installation's Community Club and Conference Center.



Photo by José L. López, VI, DPTMS

Over 600 Veterans throughout Puerto Rico participated in Fort Buchanan's Annual Veterans Appreciation Day/Benefit and Claims Clinic at the garrison's Community Club and Conference Center.

Historical milestone - Fort Buchanan has a lake

Story and photo by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Buchanan has a lake within its boundaries. This lush 10.5 acre body of water, runs from Patriot Way to the beginning of the Antilles Middle School.

Except, that for almost 80 years, until November 2, 2018, the lake, although on Fort Buchanan's grounds, did not belong to the installation. It belonged to Cemex, a private corporation.

The lake after being sold in 1938 to the United States Puerto Rico Reconstruction Authority ("PRA"), was originally used as a quarry. After the quarry flooded in the 1960s it was never used for that purpose again.

The \$100K investment by the US Army Reserve makes certain the availability of this strategic asset, ensuring the installation's future water



(L to R) Dennis D. Martínez-Colón, Timothy McQuillen, Bertha a. Miller, Joseph Frattallone and Lt. Col. Joseph D. Copeland, Fort Buchanan Staff Judge Advocate pose in front of Fort Buchanan's newly acquired lake.

sustainability and water security.

With this body of water, in the case of any natural water disaster or incident outside the gates, Fort Buchanan will be self-contained and self-sufficient.

It offers training opportunities for water purification units and passive recreation for our community as allowed by the Garrison Commander.

The lake is home to a variety of fish, turtles and waterfowl.

Fort Buchanan's Installation Legal Office's Attorney Advisor, Joseph Frattallone has been working closely for the past two years with Christine Osgood, realty specialist with the US Army Reserve Command to bring the lake under the ownership of the US Federal Government.

Bertha A. Miller, realty specialist with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Jacksonville District, Timothy H. McQuillen, realty officer USACE also Jacksonville represented the US Government in the transaction and Dennis D. Martínez-Colón was the local notary who closed the deed through which the lake parcel was purchased. The lake will benefit the entire Fort Buchanan community for decades to come.

Garrison volunteers beautify the installation

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

On October 26, 2018, Fort Buchanan Garrison Soldiers and staff, including Col. Guy D. Bass, garrison commander; Lt. Col. Patrick J. Dillon, deputy to the commander and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana picked up brooms, paint brushes, rollers, bags and proceeded to give a much needed face lift to curbs and handicap access ramps.

Water and yellow reflective safety vests were handed out while Fort Buchanan Traffic Police provided cones for safety.

Approximately 20 Soldiers, volunteers and garrison staff from the command group, Installation Legal Office, Resource Management, Equal Employment Opportunity Office, Directorate of Public Works, Human Resources Directorate, Public Affairs Office, Internal Review

Office, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security received a safety briefing from the installation's Safety and Occupational Health Manager, Joel J. Baylor before heading out to beautify the base (Photo below).



The work began at Spc. Frances Vega Gate and ended at Chardón Plaza at the PXtra. As Veterans, service members, and members of the installation's community came into the installation they happily expressed surprise at seeing Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana painting at Spc. Vega Gate, commenting that it showed leadership by example.



US Army Garrison 1st Costume / Halloween theme fun run/walk

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

On the morning of October 31, 2018, before sunrise, Soldiers, civilians and tenants, some wearing full costumes, some just wearing masks, ran or walked in the Installations 1st Costume / Halloween Theme Fun Run/Walk.

At the end of the fun run/walk, the best costume was awarded an Army Air Force Exchange Gift Card as well as the coveted Garrison Coin.

Halloween costumes added a unique twist to regular run/walks. Soldiers from the US Army Garrison Installation Legal Office (ILO) and



The participants of the 1st Costume / Halloween theme fun run/walk pose for a group shot.



Garrison command Sgt. Maj. Quintana high fives' the youngest runner, 5th grader, Amanda Pagan Lambert.

Religious Services Office; 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC) and 268th Transportation Company (TC); civilians from Army Air Force Exchange (AAFES) Fort Buchanan and a young representative of the Antilles Elementary School (AES) ran and walked the 1.5 mile and 1 mile courses, respectively.

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana wore a full referee costume, whistle and all; 1st MSC G3 Sgt. Maj. Julio César Linares ran in a ghoulish mask; Sgt. Nancy Román with the 268th TC ran as “Daddy’s Little Girl”; Sgt. 1st Class Raúl Rivera wore a scary death mask and robe also with the 268th TC; Sgt. Cornelia S. Johnson, ILO, went as Mr. Wilson from the TV

sitcom “Home Improvement”, and wearing Kitty-cat ears was Christine Delgado, AAFES Human Resources manager accompanied by Stephanie Wilson, AAFES general manager.

The youngest participant was 5th grader, Amanda Pagán Lambert accompanied by her mom Maj. Roxana Pagán Lambert a member of the 1st



MSC. “Where we used to live in North Carolina whenever there was a little run for the Army my mom would let me come.”

“I may be small but I am Army Strong!” said Amanda.

The themed run/walk was fun for all the participants This Costume / Halloween Theme Fun Run/Walk marks the beginning of a new garrison tradition.

The winner for the best costume went to Sgt. Nancy Román for her “Daddy’s Little Girl” costume, she received from Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana the garrison coin and an AAFES Gift Card.



Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana awarded Sgt. Nancy Román best costume, giving her the Garrison Coin and an AFFES Gift Card.

Red-Ribbon Week “Life is your Journey, Travel Drug Free”

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

October 23-30, 2018 the US Army Garrison held several events in support of National Red Ribbon Week by providing substance abuse education and prevention. This years theme is “Life is your Journey, Travel Drug Free.”

The Red Ribbon Campaign is the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the Nation and each year the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) promotes activities to support efforts to keep service members and their families drug-free.

October 24 and 27, 2018, Fort Buchanan’s ASAP assisted DEA in carrying out National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, provides a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the public about the

potential for abuse of medications.

That same day ASAP held a Substance Abuse Prevention Orientation for adolescents at the installation’s Teen Center. Carlos Montañez, garrison ASAP coordinator provided students with goggles that distorted their vision replicating the ingestion of high quantities of alcohol, they had to try to play games like Jenga and simulate riding a one-wheeled bicycle. The



DEA Agent Francisco Pérez provided valuable instruction to Antilles High School Students on the negative and potentially disastrous effects of drugs.

students had fun while experiencing the effects of alcohol on their reflexes.

At the music room in the Teen Center, DEA Agent Francisco Pérez assisted by PR Police Department Task Force Officer Rafael Oxios presented a video and discussion on substance abuse to Antilles High School students.

The events culminated October 30, 2018, with Montañez distributing educational and awareness material at the installation’s Fitness center.



Carlos Montañez, ASAP coordinator showed these teenagers how alcohol affects the reflexes even with a simple game of Jenga.

Garrison Command exercises with “Golden Age Program”

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Fitness is for all ages, it’s about “Total well being”. That’s the message the exercise group “Golden Age” at Fort Buchanan’s Fitness Center want to communicate. This group of 25 to 30 golden age members have been exercising together for over 15 years, but today, October 16, 2018 they were joined by Garrison Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana.

Don’t be fooled by their age, ask Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana, the group gave them a surprisingly hefty workout.

Led by an enthusiastic, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) Fitness Center Facility Manager, Maria T. Nuñez, they mixed routines and equipment and Nuñez kept the group moving to upbeat



Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana (red shirt) and Col. Bass (black Army shirt) were given quite a workout with the members of the ‘Golden Age Program’

sounds of music while motivating them on the entire time.

Jorge L. Díaz, a retired Army veteran, has been with the group about 20 years and has survived cancer and Agent Orange acquired during Vietnam says above all, it is all about “salud”... good health.



Awesome support to Cancer Awareness Month - \$19,000 donation!

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

Fort Buchanan Firefighters (FBFD) from the Directorate of Emergency Services and Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) employees joined forces in support of Cancer Awareness Month with activities held October 5, 2018 at the Exchange main lobby.

The firefighters distributed information to raise awareness about the disease. Simultaneously, garrison volunteers sold t-shirts to raise funds for the American Cancer Society, Puerto Rico Chapter. According to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Deborah Rivera, from the Installation Legal Office, who has spear headed this initiative since 2014 “all the proceeds stay in Puerto Rico. In four years, Fort Buchanan has raised over \$20,000 to support the local community in their fight against



Fort Buchanan Firefighters and AAFES staff pose for a group shot during the joint Cancer Awareness event.

cancer.”

AAFES personnel promoted their headquarters kick-off campaign in a very unique way with a photo booth and cupcakes for all the customers, said Marisol Rivera, AAFES services business manager.

The closing of the Cancer Awareness Month Campaign was held, October 28, 2018, at Paseo Tablado in Guaynabo.

During the event, USAG Fort Buchanan represented by Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto



(L to R) Nashaly, Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana, Millie Sánchez and María Martínez presented \$19,000 in donations to ACS, PR.

Quintana; Carmen M. (Millie) Sánchez, Command Group administrator; Maria Martínez, management analyst from the Resource Management Office and Chief Rivera, presented a symbolic check for \$19,000 to the American Cancer Society, P.R. Chapter to support the local community in the fight against this disease. Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana highlighted that “Fort Buchanan community is proud to contribute to this event in support of cancer awareness.”

New Army training comes to Fort Buchanan

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

From October 16-18, 2018 in joint collaboration between US Army Reserve, 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC) and Fort Buchanan’s Training Support Center (TSC), a Train-the-Trainer course on how to operate the All Terrain Lifter Army System Rough Terrain Forklift (ATLAS) and RT240 Rough Terrain Container Handler (RTCH) simulators was conducted in one of the Garrison’s Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS), TSC.

This is the first time Fort Buchanan has the capability to conduct ATLAS and RTCH realistic training in a controlled environment. The training benefits are many; a safe, real learning environment; immediate application of classroom knowledge, faster acquisition of skills, reduced equipment



The actual RTCH requires wide maneuverable space in order to lift containers, using the simulator eliminates these constraints.

maintenance costs, avoids equipment downtime and repair costs caused by accidents, and still further these simulators, although at an investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars, can be used 24/7 and mitigates the constraints by not having the RTCH at Fort Buchanan due to its weight and required maneuverable space .

Several Soldiers from three 1st MSC units, received the Train-the-Trainer training from ATLAS and RTCH trainers at the Instructor Station under the watchful eyes of the TSC staff.



Soldiers from the 266th Ordnance Co., 346th Transportation Co. Bn. and 393rd CSSB received training at the Instructor Station by a ATLAS and RTCH instructor.



Photo by Alex Lozano, Public Affairs Intern

Sgt. Pérez-Vázquez operates the simulator in simulated sandy-desert terrain as other trainers observe his actions at the Instructor Station behind him.

Fire Prevention Week “Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere”

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

October 7 – 13, 2018 was Fire Prevention Week (FPW) and the installation’s Fire Department (FBFD) began with Fort Buchanan’s Garrison Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass signing the proclamation for week long fire prevention events. Fort Buchanan Fire Chief Luis R. Roig, firefighters, Sparky, and Garrison Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana were present for the signing ceremony as Col. Bass reaffirmed his commitment to ensure the safety and fire prevention education of the Fort Buchanan community. Col. Bass, in his signed proclamation, “...urge all community members - residents and visitors - to participate in the public safety activities and efforts of the Fort Buchanan Fire and Emergency Services.”

The theme for this year’s FPW campaign was “LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere.”

The FBFD had an informational booth with fire prevention materials for all ages at the Exchange main lobby area during the week.

October 9, 2018 they visited the Antilles Middle School where all students were gathered at the cafeteria and shown a video on fire behavior and good fire safety practices. Sparky was among the special guests and students had the chance to take pictures with him.

That same day, FB firefighters also went to garrison headquarters where Sparky met with everyone and distributed fire prevention materials.



Photo by David DeJesús, Assistant Fire Chief
Students and teachers from Fort Buchanan’s Antilles Middle School pose with Sparky during Fire Prevention Week.

For additional information and materials go to: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Campaigns/Fire-Prevention-Week/About>. Check out Sparky’s own web site! Go to Sparky the Fire Dog at <http://www.sparky.org/> for lots of fire safety fun.

(L to R) Chief Fire Inspector, José R. Castro, Firefighter Herbert Rosario and Fire Inspector, Lydia Rivera prepare the hand-outs for the fire safety and prevention presentation to the students from Ramey Unit School in Aguadilla.



Courtesy photo



Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana and Col. Bass with Fort Buchanan firefighters and Sparky looking on, signed the Fire Prevention Week Proclamation.

Photo by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist



Photo by Lydia Rivera, Fire Inspector

Chief Fire Inspector Castro, addressed the students from Ramey Unit School explaining the importance of fire safety and their roles in prevention, before showing them several fire prevention videos and presenting Sparky the Fire Dog.

In the next quarterly issue...

U.S. Army Garrison hosts its traditional New Year's Reception...

Military, civic and community partners come together furthering established and developing new relationships, and incentives.



TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Start Strong • Serve Strong • Anticipate Strong • Remain Strong

Soldier For Life - Transition Workshop...

Transitioning service members prepare for civilian life.

Garrison hosts Army Reserve Unit Ministry Team Training...

1st Mission Support Command Unit Ministry Teams receive training at post chapel with a visit from USAR Deputy Chief of Chaplains.

African American/Black History Month...

The theme for 2019, as provided by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, is "Black Migrations." It emphasizes the movement of people of African descent.

Excerpt from DEOMI News Release, Dec. 20, 2018

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AND

DRUGGED

DRIVING

MONTH

MONTH