

# 1st MSC Gazette

ONE TEAM, ONE MISSION

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# ARMY RESERVE-PR

## Present at UPORFA Congress in Perú



*Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve-PR Commanding General (second from the left) participated in the 20th Congress of the Pan American Association of Reserve Officers of the Armed Forces, Oct. 16-20, at Lima, Perú, along with Armed Forces officers from Chile, Colombia, Argentina, Canada, Perú and the United States. (U.S. Army photo/Released)*

LIMA, PERU- Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, Commanding General of the 1st Mission Support Command, and senior federal Army officer in the Caribbean, participated in the 20th Congress of the Pan American Association of Reserve Officers of the Armed Forces, 16-20 Oct., at Lima, Peru, along with Armed Forces officers from Chile, Colombia, Argentina, Canada, Peru and the United States.

During the presentation, Shultz described the role the Army Reserve played during the emergency created by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, in 2017, in Puerto Rico, by providing logistical, engi-

neering, medical and communications support.

“The U.S. Army Reserve in Puerto Rico mobilized approximately 2,000 thousands Soldiers as part of the Defense Support to Civil Authorities, providing critical capabilities already prepositioned in the region, without the need to wait for

assistance to arrive from the Continental United States,” said Shultz, shortly after presenting a video montage that showcased the different missions accomplished in the island.

After describing in detail the different aspects of the assistance that the Soldiers assigned to the largest

*“It is very interesting to see U.S. Army Soldiers who can speak Spanish and English in a professional way”*

*1st Lt. Omar Rivero, Peruvian Army*

# ARMY RESERVE-PR

## *Present at UPORFA Congress in Perú*

federal U.S. Army Command in the Caribbean provided, Shultz explained how her command accomplished the different missions in a very complex environment.

“The 1st Mission Support Command was able to accomplish all these missions, working as part of the Joint Force Land Component Command led by Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, while also supporting the needs of the nation in different countries around the globe, and in the middle of a heavy local political environment that required a clear and transparent public communication strategy,” added Shultz.

For Brig. Gen. Moises Chavez, Commander of the Replacement and Mobilization Command of the Peruvian Army, the information shared by Shultz was invaluable. “This brief is of much importance to us and for all the countries in the

hemisphere, because we exchanged experiences of how our units can assist the local population during local disasters, especially in Perú, where last year we had flooding that affected many people in our country,” said Chavez.

Other officers from the participating countries had a favorable perception of Shultz’ presentation.

“It was very interesting to see how the U.S. Army Reserve in Puerto Rico was able to help in a local disaster,” said Lt. Omar Rivero, a Peruvian Army Reserve Officer.

“The exchange of these experiences is very good for Perú, as we learn all the different things that we could also do, if needed,” added Rivero.

Capt. Ignacio Ortega, from the Chilean Marines, was surprised to see how the Army Reserve helped Puerto Rico, in

the same way his unit helped Chile in recent years.

“In 2010 Chile experienced an earthquake and a tsunami that devastated to our country. Shultz’ presentation was very familiar to me, especially the part of how we can use our military capabilities to help the civilian population in times of extreme need,” said Ortega.

“In Chile, we had the same experiences the Soldiers from Puerto Rico had. Without a doubt, in the same way that happened in the island, the people of Chile saw the Army as a helping hand that made the difference,” added Ortega.

During the Congress, each country presented the capabilities of their Reserve components and the members asked questions to better understand the reality of the armed forces in the other nations in the hemisphere. However, for many participants the real benefit of the Congress was the professional relationships developed during the encounter.

“It is very interesting to see U.S. Army Soldiers who can speak Spanish and English in a professional way, which allows them to better connect with their Latin-American counterparts. We are very grateful for their presence in our country. We welcome them here with open arms,” said Rivero.

The Pan American Association of Reserve Officers of the Armed Forces is a professional organization that promotes Reserve forces within democratic institutions in the Americas.

The 21st Congress is scheduled to take place at Colombia in 2019.



*During the 20th Congress of the Pan American Association of Reserve Officers of the Armed Forces, Oct. 16-20, in Lima, Perú the Peruvian Army conducted a demonstration of their Special Forces capabilities. (U.S. Army photo Released)*

# NEW TECHNOLOGIES PROVIDE UNIMAGINABLE TRAINING



ABOVE: With an investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars, the Train the Trainer course allows the Soldiers to operate the RT240 Rough Terrain Container Handler (RTCH), All Terrain Lifter Army System Rough Terrain Forklift (ATLAS) in a controlled environment, where every imaginable scenario can be implemented without risk of injury or damage (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hargett/released)

By: Sgt. Stephanie Hargett

Fort Buchanan, PR- U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from the 1st Mission Support Command conducted a Train the Trainer course on Oct. 16-18, 2018 at the installation's training facility.

With an investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars, the Train the Trainer course allows the Soldiers to operate the RT240 Rough Terrain Container Handler (RTCH), All Terrain Lifter Army System Rough Terrain Forklift (ATLAS) in a controlled environment, where every scenario imaginable can be implemented without risk of injury or damage.

Unlike the actual vehicles, there is no required maintenance that could possibly deadline the vehicle preventing Soldiers from conducting training.

“Honestly these ones [RTCH/ATLAS] they’re excellent. Equipment needs monthly, yearly, annual service, so sometimes we go to the unit and equipment is in maintenance so we don’t have nothing to do with hands on training,” said Staff Sgt. Moises Colon, of the 346th Transportation Battalion- U.S. Army Reserve Puerto Rico, in Ceiba, PR. “At least, if we have that situation we will now have the simulators.”

With the simulator, the Soldiers are able to maneuver through multiple

training areas such as sand, grass, mud, and asphalt terrains. There are even pier areas with floating causeway, warehouse and pallet/container yard staging area, truck loading/unloading, open terrain hills and trees, ammunition dump area, and aerial port of debarkation.

In addition to the terrain, the weather elements are controllable as well, such as; rain, hail, snow, sandstorms, and wind storms to name a few.

In the U.S. Army, readiness is a key factor in our success.

“I believe the readiness, talking about hands on training of the Soldiers will really improve. My personal opinion I

# NEW TECHNOLOGIES PROVIDE UNIMAGINABLE TRAINING

have driven both of them, it's almost the same as driving the real machine. It is good for the readiness, and the hands on training, of the Soldiers will be a plus," said Colon. "It's almost the same. Last time I jumped in and used one of these models was back in 2012. The training person told us they are available 24/7. That's a good because it doesn't need to be during battle assemblies, it can be during week days. That's one of the benefits with this training that has a direct impact in the readiness of the unit."

Along with readiness there is also proficiency.

"With this type of Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), the most valuable thing is being proficient with the machine," said Colon. "Hopefully with

these simulators we will have that." Other positive aspects of using the simulator is that their implementation save time and money.

"We have several cranes in Ceiba, so we're talking about 300 Soldiers waiting for two machines. If they are working, that way we can make coordination between the units during a battle assembly so they can have training time with the machines," said Colón.

"Easier for us, we have to drive to Ceiba, and get the equipment, before we get here, and do a lot of planning. With these simulators the process is simplified," said Sgt. Lelin Padilla, of the 268th Inland Cargo Transfer Company- U.S. Army Reserve Puerto Rico, out of Fort Buchanan, PR.

The simulators not only benefit the Soldiers trained to use them, but Soldiers in other MOS' as well.

"We can cross train these Soldiers that are not MOS qualified as Cargo Specialists. We actually bring them in here and have some hands on training with the simulator prior to give them a road test or some hands on training in preparation for the real machine to eventually get them licensed. That can be done, that's another benefit we have with these kind of simulators," said Colón.

By having these simulators available in Fort Buchanan, the largest federal U.S. Army command in the Caribbean, sustains and develops the readiness and lethality of the Soldiers.



ABOVE: Army Reserve-PR Soldiers operate the RT240 Rough Terrain Container Handler (RTCH), All Terrain Lifter Army System Rough Terrain Forklift (ATLAS) in a controlled environment, saving time and money, while practicing critical skills, Oct. 16-18, 2018. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hargett/released)

# Aponte is the new Army Reserve-PR Command Executive Officer

FORT BUCHANAN, PR - The United States Army Reserve Command announced, Nov. 13 that Julio Aponte has been selected as the new Command Executive Officer at the 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, with headquarters at Fort Buchanan.

The Command Executive Officer position is the senior federal civilian employee in the U.S. Army in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

“It is an honor for me to get this position and be able to serve better our civilian employees, Soldiers and family members. This command is very important for me. My heart is here, and I want to leave behind a positive legacy for the future generations,” said Aponte, shortly after being sworn in by Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, senior federal Army officer in the Caribbean.

Aponte has a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and a Master degree in Human Resources Administration from the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico. He also has a law degree from the same university, and was accepted by the Puerto Rico Supreme Court in 2007 to practice law in the U.S. territory.

Before his selection as the Command Executive Officer, Aponte was the 1st Mission Support Command’s Comptroller.

The Command Executive Officer provides advice to the Commanding General about matters related to the civilian workforce, as well as equipment and training matters.



*Julio Aponte swears in as the new U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Command Executive Officer, Nov. 13, in a ceremony led by Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Commanding General. (U.S. Army photo by Spec. Juan Jose Robles Diaz/released)*

“It is important for the Command Executive Officer to have firsthand knowledge of the great sacrifices that our civilian employees, Soldiers and family members go through. It is important to have empathy,” said Aponte, who has 31 years of combined experience in the Army Reserve as an enlisted Soldier and officer, both in the Troop Program Unit and the Active Guard Reserve programs.

According to Shultz, the Command Executive Officer selection process was meticulous and transparent.

“We had 89 individuals applying for this vacancy, from across the United States and Puerto Rico. We conducted the selection following a clear process of interviews and validations of references,” said Shultz.

“In addition, the selection board included personnel from the 1st Mission Support Command combined with personnel from other commands across the United States, to keep the sense of neutrality and impartiality,” added Shultz.

Due to the part time nature of the Army Reserve, it heavily relies in the service of its civilian workforce to coordinate operations, while providing continuity.

The Army Reserve in Puerto Rico has approximately 200 federal civilian positions, with a payroll impact of approximately 21 million into the local economy.

# ARMY RESERVE-PUERTO RICO CIVILIAN RECOGNIZED FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

FORT BUCHANAN, PR- Allan Echevarria, a Budget Analyst with the 1st Mission Support Command, U.S Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, was recognized for his 40 years of service in the United States government, during a civilian awards ceremony conducted at the Reserve installation's community club, Dec 20.

"Receiving this recognition today is something incredible for me," said Echevarria, shortly after the ceremony.

Echevarria, started his U.S. Government service when he joined the U.S. Army in 1976.

"After basic training and Advanced Individual training, I served in Germany, as a Finance Specialist," said the resident of Manati, a city in the north shore of the island.

Echevarria also served in the Federal Highway Administration.

"In 1994 I started serving in the Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, when the command was the 65th Regional Readiness Command. Later, I also served with Army South and came back to the Army Reserve under the 1st Mission Support Command," added Echevarria.

His professional journey as a federal employee allows him to have great perspective when describing the role of the Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Soldiers.

"Our Soldiers are ready to accomplish their mission, because they have great leadership that provide the necessary emphasis to be successful," said Echevarria proudly.

During the ceremony, 14 other civilian Army Reserve-Puerto Rico professionals received awards, as part of the total Army Awards Program, in recognition for their dedication to the mission of the largest federal U.S. Army command in the Caribbean.

The goal of the Total Army Awards Program is to foster mission accomplishment by recognizing excellence of both military and civilian members of the force and motivating them to high levels of performance and service.

The Army Reserve-Puerto Rico has approximately 200 civilian employees, who perform critical tasks that enable Soldiers to perform their mission in support of the needs of the Nation.

"Receiving this recognition today is something incredible for me,"

Allan Echevarria



Allan Echevarria, a Budget Analyst with the 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, (center), was recognized for his 40 years of service in the U.S. Government, during a civilian awards ceremony conducted at the Reserve Installation's community club, Dec. 20. Col William Griffin, 1st MSC Chief of Staff (left) and Julio Aponte, 1st MSC Command Executive Officer (right) presented the award. (U.S. Army photo/released)

# THE CARIBBEAN GEOGRAPHICAL COMMAND IS A REALITY

FORT BUCHANAN, PR- Soldiers of all U.S. Army Reserve units in Puerto Rico participated of a Transformation ceremony, Dec 9, at Fort Buchanan, in what represents the beginning of the newly formed Army Reserve Caribbean Geographical Command.

“Up to this point, all Reserve Soldiers in Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico have honorably served the needs of the Nation, wearing different patches or insignias in our uniform sleeves,” said Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, Commanding General of the 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico.

Even when the 1st Mission Support Command is the largest federal U.S. Army command in the region, there were several units that reported directly to their functional headquarters in the Continental United States.

Now all units will wear the Garita patch, the same emblem that the glorious 65th Infantry Regiment used during the Korean War.

“There is no doubt that the respective functional commands that had the command and control of the



Soldiers from the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion stand in formation during the Transformation Ceremony conducted at Fort Buchanan, Dec. 9, in what represents the beginning of the newly formed Army Reserve Caribbean Command. (U.S. Army photo/Released)

five units that we are gaining today, have done a superb job in maintaining their readiness and accomplishing every mission. I am looking forward to keep our close ties with those organizations. I know that working together, we will excel in every mission,” added Shultz.

The senior federal Army officer in the region, went on to describe how all Army units in the island worked together in the aftermath of hurricanes Irma and Maria.

“We all worked together during the emergency created by the storms in 2017, and you all performed superbly. Now under the Garita patch, we all together as one Army Reserve family, as one team, will remain vigilant and ready to continuously perform our mission around the world,” added Shultz.

The Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico in Congress, Jennifer Gonzalez, was also present in this historic ceremony.



# CARIBBEAN GEOGRAPHICAL COMMAND

“Having all Reserve units under one command is a good thing that benefits everyone,” said Gonzalez shortly after the event, while highlighting the economic impact to the island.

According to recent estimates, the Army Reserve invests approximately 285 million dollars in Puerto Rico a year.

Meanwhile, to the newly assigned units’ leadership, the transformation represents more opportunities.

“This ceremony represents that we are one team. We can now focus our efforts to train units in this region for mobilization around the globe and for validation purposes,” said Lt. Col. Walter J. Watts, Commander of the 2nd Battalion, 348th Regiment of Training Support.

“We are very proud of being part of the 1st Mission Support Command, as one geographical command, and we are looking forward to good things to come,” added Watts.

“This change will also provide our Soldiers more opportunities to attend schools, get professional development and to overall get better,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Jose A. Martinez, Command Sgt. Maj. of the 2nd Battalion, 348th Regiment.

The transformation prompted the need to create a third provisional brigade element under the 1st Mission Support Command, to provide command and control to the 1st Battalion, 333rd Regiment, Multifunctional Training Battalion, the 2nd Battalion, 348 Regiment, 1st Battalion, 389th Regiment, the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion and the 49th Multifunctional Medical Battalion.

The Army Reserve in Puerto Rico has thousands of citizen Soldiers with highly technical, specialized and professional skills in logistics, transportation, training, engineering, information technology, communication networking, law enforcement, training and civil affairs, among others.



Lt. Col. Carlos F. Mendez, Battalion Commander of the 1st 389th Regiment (Drill Sergeants), places the Garita patch to one of his Soldiers, during the Transformation Ceremony, Dec. 9 at Fort Buchanan, PR. (U.S. Army photo/released)

# U.S. ARMY RESERVE-PR PROVES TO BE KEY TO ARMY'S OVERALL READINESS



**FORT BUCHANAN, PR-** Nineteen Soldiers graduated from the Mortuary Affairs Specialist course (92M), Nov. 17, from the 1st Battalion, 333rd Regiment, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Schoolhouse, in what represents the first class graduated under the Caribbean Geographical command concept.

Since this is one of the only two U.S. Army Reserve schools that offer the Mortuary Affairs course, and the only school that provides a hands on practice at the Puerto Rico Forensic Sciences Bureau,

the trainers received students from Alaska, New York, Texas, California, Indiana and Puerto Rico, both from the Army Reserve and the National Guard components.

Sgt. Megan Mason, from the Headquarters and headquarters company, 113th Brigade Support Battalion, Indiana National Guard, received the Distinguished Honor graduate award. Sgt. Erving Camacho, from the 311th Quartermaster Company, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico and Spec. Justin Brewer from the 387th Quartermaster Company in Costa Mesa, Califor-

nia, received the Honor graduate award.

The graduation of this 29 days long course, serves as clear indicator of how, as an Army Reserve installation, Fort Buchanan, home of the largest federal Army command in the Caribbean, is increasingly becoming a readiness platform, having a positive impact in the Army's overall readiness, across the different components.

# U.S. Army Reserve-PR Ambassadors Swearing-in Ceremony

PUERTO NUEVO, PR- Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey, Chief of the Army Reserve and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, officiated the swearing-in ceremony of the two U.S. Army Reserve Ambassadors for Puerto Rico, retired Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernandez and retired Command Sgt. Maj. René Berlinger, Dec. 7, at the Puerto Nuevo Reserve Center.

**“The Army Reserve Ambassadors program is very important to maintain a healthy connection with the community. As members of a community based organization, our Army Reserve Soldiers need that local support,”** said Luckey minutes before the ceremony.

The ceremony marked the first time a retired enlisted member is inducted as an Army Reserve Ambassador in the largest federal U.S. Army Reserve command in the Caribbean.

**“I am very proud for this opportunity and being the first retired enlisted Soldier to be an Ambassador in Puerto Rico,”** said Berlinger, who is a former Command Sergeant Major of the 166th Regional Support Group, a brigade element of the 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico.



*Above, Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey, Chief of the Army Reserve and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Reserve Command (right), officiates the swearing-in ceremony of the two U.S. Army Reserve Ambassadors for Puerto Rico, retired Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernandez (center) and retired Command Sergeant Major René Berlinger (left), Dec. 7. (U.S. Army photo/Released)*

**“I am eager to do my very best to help the Army Reserve in Puerto Rico, now without wearing the uniform. We can help the command by integrating different sectors of the local community,”** added Berlinger.

For Fernandez, who is a former 1st Mission Support Command, Commanding General, becoming an Army Reserve Ambassador represents a great opportunity.

**“Being an Ambassador represents a new opportunity to continue serving and helping the Army Reserve command in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands,”** said Fernandez.

**Both Fernandez and Berlinger have started developing comprehensive plans to better connect with the people around the island.**

**“As an Ambassador, we will serve as liaisons with local governments, the private sector and the community, to disseminate the purpose and mission of the Army Reserve,”** added Fernandez.

Established in 1998, the Army Reserve Ambassadors program provides the advantage of strategic timing, long-term relationships, and continued dialogue with persons of influence to achieve the desired outcomes the Army Reserve needs to stay relevant in today’s challenging operating environment.

# Sustaining dental readiness top priority in the Caribbean



*A Logistics Health Incorporated dentist (left), conducts a dental examination to a Soldier from the 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, during a dental rodeo conducted at Fort Buchanan, Dec. 17-20. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Carlos Rodriguez/Released)*

**FORT BUCHANAN, PR –** Approximately 200 Soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve- P.R. participated in a dental readiness event, known as dental rodeo, conducted at building 315 of this Army Reserve installation, Dec. 17-20, as part of the proactive efforts to sustain the personal readiness of the troops assigned to the largest federal U.S. Army command in the Caribbean.

**The purpose of the dental rodeo is to supply examination and treatment to Soldiers who do not have access to dental care in the island,”** said Lt. Col. Eric B. Jackson, 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC) Staff nurse.

According to Jackson, as a result of the hurricanes, the island lost over 800 dentists, making it difficult, if not impossible, for Soldiers across

**the island to maintain their dental readiness.**

“We did not have the need to conduct a dental treatment event like this one in Puerto Rico since 2006,” added Jackson.

After extensive coordination and planning from the 1st MSC Surgeon’s Office, six dental providers from Logistics Health

# Sustaining dental readiness top priority in the Caribbean

Incorporated, a contracted company, traveled to Puerto Rico to examine and treat each and every one of the participating Soldiers, doing everything from fillings to root canals.

“This event is huge and very important to us, because our Soldiers must be able to deploy just as quickly as their active component counterparts,” said Sgt. 1st Class José Ramos, 1st MSC Surgeon’s Office noncommissioned officer.

Soldiers participating in the event also appreciated the opportunity to keep track of their dental health, as a way to fulfill their mission, despite the lack of dentists in the local economy.

“This is a great event, because it helps me to be green on my dental readiness, and comply with the Army standards to be deployable” said Sgt. Alexander Iturralde, from the 271st Human Resources Company.

As a direct result of the dental rodeo, the 166th Regional Support Brigade, a brigade element unit under the 1st MSC, increased their dental readiness in 5 percent. The overall 1st MSC dental readiness is over 90 percent and continues improving.

It is important to note, that with almost 5,000 troops, the 1st MSC is the largest Army Reserve Mission Support Command in the world. However, it is also the only one that does not have readily available a Military Treatment Facility with comprehensive dental services, which makes the Soldiers solely rely on the scarce availability of civilian providers.

“We are in a unique situation. For example, the 9th MSC, our sister unit in Hawaii, has a big Army Hospital available to them with dental services. That is something that we do not have in Puerto Rico. That is why we will continue conducting and perfecting these dental rodeos, to ensure the readiness of our Soldiers,” added Jackson.

The mission of the 1st MSC, which recently was designated as the Army Reserve Caribbean Geographic Command, is to ensure the overall readiness of its troops to successfully deploy in support of contingency and Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) operations.

As a matter of fact, during the emergency created by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017 in Puerto Rico, approximately 2,000 1st MSC Soldiers mobilized in place to assist the community, as part of DSCA operations.

Since September 2001, a hundred percent of the Army Reserve units in Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands have deployed around the world, in support of the needs of the Nation.



# 166th RSG HQs deploys

FORT BUCHANAN, PR- Approximately 50 Soldiers from the 166th Regional Support Group (RSG), U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, departed from the Luis Muñoz Marin International Airport, Jan 1, with Afghanistan as final destination.

For Staff Sgt. Angel Bernard, a Military Police, native of Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico, this mobilization represents another opportunity to continue growing professionally.

“I love what I do. Ever since I was a kid, I always wanted to be a Soldier. I love serving my country,” said Bernard, who has been mobilized two times before. One time to Afghanistan and one time to Cuba.

Bernard was accompanied by his parents, wife, and kids.

“I am at ease. We are a very strong family and we support him always,” said Marielys Lopez, Bernard’s wife.

“I am very proud of him. It is not easy, but it is possible,” added Lopez.

It is important to note that this mobilization established a new precedent in terms of how the units from Caribbean Geographical Command train, as they con-

ducted most of the training without having to travel outside the island.

“This is a big achievement because this is the first brigade size element to deploy from Home Station with all their mobilization training complete, which significantly minimizes the amount of days spent at the mobilization platform in the Continental United States,” said Maj. Kyle Ferrarini, 166th RSG Operations Officer.

This mission is very important for the largest federal U.S. Army command in the Caribbean because the Soldiers will be in charge of the logistical support at the most important NATO bases in Afghanistan.

“We will be running the base operations in support of the NATO Resolute Support mission,” added Ferrarini.

Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, the Army Reserve Geographical Command Commanding General, talked with the Soldiers at the airport, shortly before boarding the plane.

“By deploying today, you clearly showcase the high level of readiness of our command and the fact that we are ready to deploy anytime, anywhere,” added Shultz.



Staff Sgt. Angel Bernard, a Military Police, native of Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico, kisses his daughter Adrianny Bernard (7), accompanied by his wife Marielys Lopez (right), his dad Angel Luis Bernard (left), his mother Zoraida Bernard (center) and his son Angel Adrian (6) (U.S. Army photo by SGT Carlos Rodriguez/released)



*Soldiers from the 166th Regional Support Group, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, unload their duffel bags at the Luis Muñoz Marín Airport, Jan. 1, getting ready to depart to a CONUS Mobilization Station, as part of their mobilization to Afghanistan (U.S. Army photo by SGT Carlos Rodriguez/released)*

The 166th RSG is the second brigade size element to deploy from Puerto Rico in the last ten months. Earlier, the 210th RSG was also activated to man and manage the largest U.S. Army mobilization platform in the United States, at Fort Bliss Texas.

There are approximately 500 Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Soldiers deployed around the world, in countries such as Cuba, Poland, Honduras, Guatemala, Afghanistan, and Texas. Since 2001, the Army Reserve in Puerto Rico has deployed a hundred percent of its units, in support of the needs of the Nation.



*Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, senior federal Army officer in the Caribbean, talks with Soldiers of the 166th Regional Support Group, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, as they get ready to board a plane enroute to a CONUS Mobilization Station, Jan 1. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Carlos Rodriguez/released)*

U.S. ARMY RESERVE



PUERTO RICO

# Safe by choice, not by chance



## **Include Safety in your AT Plans!**

Failing to plan for annual training with enough time to cover all the requirements and identify potential hazards could overwhelm personnel. For technical support reporting an accident or a hazardous situation contact the 1st MSC Safety office at (787) 707-4182 or (939) 227-6763.