



# 1st MSC Gazette

ONE TEAM, ONE MISSION

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## Premier trainers

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*1st MSC Gazette**One Team  
One Mission*Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz  
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# IRT MISSION TREATS

## Over 9,000 patients in Puerto Rico



*Maj. Jesus Morales, a dentist, from the 49th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, conducts a dental examination on Ellinet Lopez Rivera, a local resident, during the Innovative Readiness Training mission at the Lares' sports complex, May 3. (U.S. Army photo/Released)*

**FORT BUCHANAN, PR- 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico Soldiers joined over 500 members of different Department of Defense (DoD) components, in a medical Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) mission, at Puerto Rico, April 25 to May 5.**

**IRT is a Department of Defense military training opportunity, exclusive to the United States and its territories, that delivers joint training opportunities to increase deployment readiness. Simultaneously, IRT provides key**

**services with lasting benefits for our American communities.**

**“With this type of mission, we all win. By having real hands-on experience, the readiness level of our force improves significantly,” said Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, 1st Mission**

**Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico Commanding General, during a press conference announcing the mission.**

**The Soldiers performed their mission in six IRT sites located at Ponce, Jayuya, Yauco, Lares, Maricao and Mayaguez.**

*“This is a very special moment for me, because thanks to you, I am receiving the eyeglasses that I needed,”*

*Celeste Rodriguez  
Jayuya Resident*



# IRT MISSION TREATS

*Over 9,000 patients in Puerto Rico*

“Sharing DoD and community resources creates cost efficiencies for both entities. Working together we achieve more,” added Shultz.

For many Soldiers, the IRT mission represented a unique opportunity.

“My experience here has been awesome, because I had the opportunity to help my hometown, something that not everyone can do,” said 2nd Lt. Emanuel Montañez, Army Reserve nurse, assigned to the 49th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, while performing duty in the Mayaguez IRT site.

Meanwhile, other Soldiers seized the mission as an opportunity to refine their skills.

“IRT not only allows us to train in our jobs, but also to cross train, learning other skills important details about other military services,” said Spc. Hernan Hernandez, an Army Reserve Combat Medic Specialist performing duty at the Jayuya’s IRT site.

Each IRT site offered dental, optometry and general medical services at no cost to the community.

“I think this is a great initiative, because there are many people who cannot afford to pay for medical services. I will be forever grateful,” said Elinet Lopez Rivera a patient from Lares, Puerto Rico.

In Puerto Rico, the IRT mission provided medical services to over 9,000 patients, delivered over 2,000 eyeglasses and completed over 10,000 medical procedures.

“This is a very special moment for me because thanks to you, I am receiving the eyeglasses that I needed,” said Celeste Rodriguez-Torres, from Jayuya.



*Spc. Hernandez Santos, from the 49th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, provides a new pair of glasses to Celeste Rodriguez, a patient at the Jayuya’s event center, as part of the Innovative Readiness Training, May 3. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Carlos D. Rodriguez, PAO NCO/ Released)*

# TAKING ACTION TO BUILD A CULTURE OF TRUST



ABOVE: In the continuation of the command's annual campaign to aggressively raise awareness about sexual violence and educate on how to prevent sexual incidents, Soldiers assigned to U.S. Army Reserve Caribbean Geographic Command participated in several initiatives during the month of April, publically reaffirming their commitment to eliminate sexual assault from society. (U.S. Army photo/released)

FORT BUCHANAN, PR- In the continuation of the command's annual campaign to aggressively raise awareness about sexual violence and educate on how to prevent sexual incidents, Soldiers assigned to U.S. Army Reserve Caribbean Geographic Command participated in several initiatives during the month of April, publically reaffirming their commitment to eliminate sexual assault from society.

"Sexual violence is a social problem that affects all members of society. This is a situation that is not exclusive of the Army and the Army Reserve. That is why we must do our part to prevent it," said Evelyn M. Franco, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Sexual Assault Response Coordinator.

The observance started when Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, Commanding General, officially designated April as the command's Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, by signing a proclamation, April 2.

With that in mind, during the month, several units conducted their organic classes across the command.

On April 24, many Soldiers and civilians participated of Denim Day, by wearing jeans.

The Denim Day observance began in Italy after a 1998 Supreme Court decision overturned a rape conviction. The justices argued that, because the woman was wearing tight jeans,

she must have assisted her attacker in removing them, thereby providing consent. The next day, women in the Italian Parliament protested by wearing jeans. The protests quickly spread, and in April 1999, a Los Angeles social service agency established the first U.S. Denim Day.

Another key event conducted in the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico was Ms. Jane Carson-Sandler's presentation on April 25.

Carson-Sandler shared her personal experience as a victim of sexual violence and explained how she was able to overcome that horrific experience.

"I turned my mess into a message, my pain into purpose, and my purpose into power," said Carson-Sandler du-



# TAKING ACTION TO BUILD CULTURE OF TRUST

ring her presentation, while encouraging troops and civilian personnel to face their own traumatic experiences in the same way.

Finally, Shultz, senior federal Army officer in the Caribbean, and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Breck, senior noncommissioned officer in the region, along with Army Reserve personnel, joined Brig. Gen. Jose Reyes, Puerto Rico National Guard Adjutant General, and other National Guard leaders, in a Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) walk, April 26, hosted by the Puerto Rico National Guard.

“We represent an Army of character and values, in a culture of trust. We move at the speed of trust. That is why,

if you see something wrong, I expect you to challenge it and say no, not on my Army. We are stronger together,” said Shultz.

“Sexual violence is a social problem that affects all members of society,”

Evelyn M. Franco

The U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico remains committed to an effective prevention program of sexual violence, not just on April, but all year around, as a way to sustain the readiness of its troops, in order to continue meeting the needs of the nation.



ABOVE: Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Breck, U.S. Army Reserve Caribbean Geographical Command, command team, joined Brig. Gen. Jose Reyes, the Puerto Rico National Guard Adjutant General and other National Guard leaders, in a Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) walk, April 26, hosted by the Puerto Rico National Guard. The purpose of the walk was to raise awareness against sexual harassment and assault, as part of the commemoration of April as the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month. (U.S. Army photo/released)

## Premier Army Reserve-PR trainers coached joint training in Aguadilla

Aguadilla, PR- Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 348th Regiment, U.S. Army Reserve- Puerto Rico, led by Sgt 1st Class Jason Herrman, served as Observers, Coaches and Trainers for the Headquarters Company 77th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve- Puerto Rico, during their most recent Field Training Exercise at the Borinquen Coast Guard Base.

Key focus areas during the training were Medical Evaluation (MEDEVAC) Operations with a U.S. Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin helicopter support.

In addition, the Soldiers observed, coached and trained a tactical movement lane to include the following tasks: Move as team, Noise discipline, Hand and arm signals, Select hasty fighting position, Camouflage self and Camouflage equipment.



*Key focus areas during the training were Medical Evacuation Operations with a U.S. Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin helicopter support. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Herrman/released)*



*Soldiers observed, coached and trained a tactical movement lane, to include tasks as Move as a team, Noise discipline, Hand and arms signals, and others. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Herrman/released)*

The performance of these premier trainers of the Caribbean Geographic Command, along with members of the U.S. Coast Guard, clearly showcases how the Army Reserve is poised, positioned and ready to defend freedom on every front.

The mission of the 2nd Battalion, 348th Regiment is to provide observers, coaches, trainers and pre-mobilization training to units, by providing mentorship and advice in preparation for operations and missions across the world.



## Army Reserve-Puerto Rico & PRNG, together supporting the nation

**FORT BLISS, TEXAS-** Soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico National Guard had the opportunity to recently work together again, at the Fort Bliss mobilization station, as the National Guard personnel arrived there, during their mobilization for upcoming missions.

Since last year, members of the 210th Regional Support Group, a brigade element of the U.S. Army Reserve Caribbean Geographic Command, had been in charge of the largest U.S. Army mobilization platform in the United States at Fort Bliss.

“Since day one, when we arrived to El Paso airport, members of the Army Reserve-Puerto Rico have been assisting us greatly in our mobilization process,” said Maj. Omar Gonzalez, Puerto Rico National Guard Mobilization Planner.

The Puerto Rico National Guard mobilized several units to include the 480 Military Police Company and the 1-65th Infantry Battalion, to the Southern Command area of responsibility.

“I felt at ease by knowing that our brothers and sisters from the Army Reserve-Puerto Rico were the ones in charge of the mobilization station. They have given us the necessary attention for the benefit of the units and the missions,” added Gonzalez.

The Soldiers of the 210th Regional Support Group were in charge of providing the logistical support to all units mobilizing at Fort Bliss.

“Working together we have been able to streamline the mobilization process, ensuring they get whatever they need in order to accomplish their mission,” said Col. Javier Rivera, Commander of the 210th Regional Support Group.

The last time both Army teams worked together was during the emergency created by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

“It is a great honor to work again with the Soldiers from the Puerto Rico National Guard. We did it very well during the emergency created by Hurricane Maria in the island, and we are doing it again now, as part of the Total Force, one Army team,” added Rivera.

The chemistry between the members of the teams has been evident, which facilitated many aspects of the training.

“We conform a great team. As a U.S. Soldier from Puerto Rico, I feel very proud when I see how well we work together,” said Master Sgt. Amneris Ortega, Puerto Rico National Guard Mobilization Non-commissioned Officer.

While the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico is the largest federal U.S. Army command in the Caribbean, the Puerto Rico National Guard has a dual mission, responding directly to the State government, but also mobilizing in support of the needs of the nation when needed.



Soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico National Guard had the opportunity to recently work together again, at the Fort Bliss mobilization station, as the National Guard personnel arrived there, during their mobilization for upcoming missions.(U.S. Army photo/released)

# CARIBBEAN GEOGRAPHIC COMMAND HAS A NEW CSM

FORT BUCHANAN, Puerto Rico-Command Sgt. Maj. Orlando Santiago relinquished responsibility as command sergeant major of the 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve- Puerto Rico, the largest federal Army command in the Caribbean, to Command Sgt. Maj. Robert B. Breck in a ceremony at the command's headquarters, March 23.

"Becoming a noncommissioned officer in the U.S. Army is a huge milestone in the career of an enlisted Soldier. In fact, for many the measure of success in the enlisted Army profession comes at the achievement of earning the rank of command sergeant major. I have been blessed in my career with great noncommissioned officers, who made me the officer that I am today. While reflecting about that, the NCO Creed comes to my mind," said Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, senior federal Army Reserve officer in the region.

This ceremony marked Santiago's last official act in the Army Reserve, as he is retiring after 36 years of exemplary military service to the nation. Santiago was accompanied by his wife Maria Santiago and his family.



Command Sgt. Maj. Robert B. Breck, new 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Command Sergeant Major, addresses the audience, March 23 2019, at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, during the Change of Responsibility ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jaime Torres, 363rd PAD/Released)

The Army holds a change of responsibility ceremony when a senior non-commissioned officer (NCO) leaves a leadership position, and a new NCO arrives.

"If it wasn't for the Army my life would have been different, without so many opportunities. I joined the Army for the same reasons many of you also joined, to get out of challenging circumstances and to expand my opportunities, serving something bigger than myself. To get ahead in life, start a Family and be somebody. I found all of this in the United States Army," said Santiago emotionally during his farewell speech.



# NEW COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

As the new command sergeant major, Breck, whose last assignment was as the 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support), Logistics command sergeant major, will perform as the senior non-commissioned officer for the Army Reserve-Puerto Rico soldiers, with an approximate strength of 5,000 troops and responsibility over 11 Reserve centers across Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands.

"I have a special place in my heart for Puerto Rico. Back in the 1980's I had the privilege to share beautiful moments with the people of Puerto Rico, while serving as a missionary on this beautiful island. That is why I am honored to be back now as the senior federal noncommissioned officer in the region, which gives me the opportunity to work closer with the men and women in uniform, and the families, from this glorious command," said Breck, who was accompanied by his wife Michelle Breck and his family.

The change of responsibility ceremony is a military tradition. The Army holds the ceremony when a senior non-commissioned officer (NCO) leaves a leadership position and a new NCO arrives. The ceremony renders honors to the departing NCO and provides official recognition for the incoming leader.



Command Sgt. Maj. Robert B. Breck (left), receives the 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico colors from Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, senior federal Army officer in the Caribbean (right), during the change of responsibility ceremony at Fort Buchanan, PR, March 23, 2019.(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jaime Torres, 363 PAD/released)

# U.S. Soldier from Puerto Rico, among the best in the Army Reserve



FORT BRAGG, NC- In what represents a significant achievement for the Caribbean Geographic Command, Sgt. Edward Singh, a Mayaguez, Puerto Rico native assigned to the 475th Engineer Company, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, was selected as the 2019 Best Warrior Competition Noncommissioned officer Runner up, after five days of an intense competition, June 28, here.

Singh's participation in the competition, highlights the very essence of what it means to be the most capable, combat-ready, and lethal federal force in the history of the nation.

One of the events right out of the starting gate was the

German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge test – an opportunity for the Warriors to get a feel for an allied nation's army physical fitness test and earn either a bronze, silver, or gold badge.

This event was followed up by the Army Fitness Combat Test, a new strenuous, six-event fitness test designed to better prepare Soldiers for combat tasks that will roll out in October 2020, which replaces the current three-event test that has been in place for nearly four decades.

PFC Benyamin Santiago, a Coamo, Puerto Rico native, assigned to the 430th Quartermaster Company, also participated in the competition.

"Sgt. Singh certainly represents the very best of our Army. Both Singh and Santiago honor the great legacy of military service of past generations of U.S. Soldiers from Puerto Rico," said Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, senior federal Army officer in the Caribbean.

During the emergency created by Hurricane Maria, Singh was assigned to the engineer mission of clearing roads up in the mountains in Puerto Rico, to facilitate the transit across the region.

Singh has been in the Army Reserve for 10 years and currently pursues a pharmacy technician degree at the Interamerican University in San German.



# Celebrating Army Reserve's 111th birthday, while planting for the future

BARCELONETA, PR- Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, senior federal Army officer in the Caribbean, and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Breck, senior noncommissioned officer in the region, planted a fruit tree with students of the 4H club at the Eli Ramos Rosario Elementary School, April 23, as a way to celebrate the 111th Army Reserve birthday, in direct connection with the local communities.

"It is an honor for me to be here today. Before being a general, I was a teacher. Before being a teacher, I was a member of the 4H club. Do always your best and give your best effort on everything you do," said Shultz while addressing the students.

The teachers, students and administrative personnel were very excited with Shultz' visit.

"Soldiers are a motivation for the kids. They see you as heroes and as an example to follow and we are very grateful for your presence," said Lisa Morales Rivera, the 4H club liaison at the school.

As part of the process of planting the fruit tree, Allan Iribarren, a 4H club agronomist, explained the importance of taking special care of the tree.



*Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, senior federal Army officer in the Caribbean planted a fruit tree with students of the 4H club at the Eli Ramos Rosario elementary school, April 23, as a way to celebrate the 111th Army Reserve birthday, in direct connection with the local communities. (Photo Credit: Sgt. Jayson Rivera, 363rd PAD)*

Iribarren also reflected over the presence of the Soldiers.

"The importance of this moment is to show the citizens and the kids how the Soldiers contribute to the development of the community, and how they work to keep the peace and democracy that all enjoy," said Iribarren.

Shultz' participation on this community event showcases how the Army Reserve, as the largest federal U.S. Army command in the Caribbean, assumes its social responsibility with local communities and its commitment to sound environmental stewardship.

The U.S. Army Reserve in Puerto Rico is leader in environmental protection. For example, the Army Reserve installation of Fort Buchanan is a Net Zero Water Pilot installation that has been implementing many water conservation initiatives, such as low water devices, well water irrigation systems, rainwater harvesting systems and the repair of the entire potable water distribution system, among many other initiatives.

"We must support initiatives like this here today, so we can keep a healthy environment, while we accomplish our mission, always being sensible to effective environment protection measures," added Shultz.

# U.S. Army Reserve-PR units prove to be key during Vigilant Guard



*SPC. Michael Diaz, a Military Police Soldier from the 301st Military Police Company, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, performs duty at one of the Fort Buchanan's gates, during the Vigilant Guard exercise, March 14. Having access to Fort Buchanan was one of the main concerns Soldiers and family members had during the emergency created by hurricane Maria in 2017. (U.S. Army photo/released)*

SALINAS, PR- Approximately 75 U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Soldiers participated in the Vigilant Guard exercise, March 4-14, at different locations across the island, in direct coordination with the Puerto Rico National Guard, Army North and different federal and state level agencies.

"This is a great effort that is helping us exercise how we work as one team, in case of a future

emergency," said Brig. Gen Dustin A. Shultz, senior federal Army officer in the Caribbean.

As part of the event, Shultz joined Lt. Gen Jeffrey S. Buchanan, Army North Commander who traveled to the island, and together with Brig. Gen. Jose J. Reyes, Adjutant General of Puerto Rico, constituted the Army team during the exercise.

"This is a wonderful training opportunity for us, to learn from each other. The most important thing is our preparation for a future emergency," said Buchanan during a joint press conference.

The U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico established an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at their headquarters, but also had a Liaison Officer at the Puerto Rico National Guard facilities.



# U.S. Army Reserve-PR units prove to be key during Vigilant Guard

"This was a great training opportunity because we had all Department of Defense components present, being able to plan together how to respond as one team," said Lt. Col Carlos Rivera, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Defense Support to Civil Authorities Officer.

One of the key capabilities deployed by the Army Reserve-Puerto Rico were the communication nodes.

Sgt. Josué Rivera, from C Co. 35th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, was in charge of one of the three Command Post Nodes deployed in support of Vigilant Guard.

"My team was able to provide real time voice and data to the EOC's, and in addition, we were able to install, operate and maintain Commercial Coalition Equipment, which allowed us to provide commercial phone and internet services to the users, something that was critical during the emergency created by Hurricane Maria," said Rivera.

Another main U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico capability employed during the exercise was the Urban Search and Rescue team, which deployed to the Camp Santiago Joint Maneuver Training Center.

"This exercise was very good because implemented role players. That element brought a lot of reality to the event, and truly tested our ability to perform our mission," said Lt. José Tristani, Officer in Charge of the Search and Rescue team.

The U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico organized and trained the Urban Search and Rescue team, as a result of the lessons learned from the emergencies created by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

"Being able to actively participate in the Vigilant Guard exercise, certainly has made our team more confident to work with external agencies, learning from their experiences and enabling a better response in the future," added Tristani.

Other Army Reserve capabilities employed during Vigilant Guard were Engineers, Logistics, Civil Affairs, Transportation, Fuel Distribution, Water Purification and Military Police.

These unique federal Army Reserve capabilities, are already on the island and can be employed, without the need to wait for help from the Continental United States.

"By working together, working as one team, we will be better prepared to respond to a future emergency," said Shultz.

With thousands of members from the National Guard, Army Reserve, Army North, federal and state agencies, Vigilant Guard helped military units unify their efforts to support civilian authorities in case of a future emergency response in Puerto Rico.



# German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge in Puerto Rico

FORT BUCHANAN, PR-

Dozens of 1st Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Soldiers participated on the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFPB), April 2-4, in a competition that took place at several places around the island.

The competitors were required to conquer four events to include swimming, physical test, pistol qualifications and a ruck march, in order to achieve a gold, silver or bronze badge.

The ruck march appeared to be the most challenging event, pushing the Soldiers to their limits.

“The Soldiers tested their abilities and how far they can push themselves,” said Sgt. 1st Class Alvin Medina, Noncommissioned officer of the event.

The participants came from different units within the 1st Mission Support Command. Since not everyone knew each other, they were required to work as a team, recognizing each other’s strengths and weaknesses.

“The most important thing is not who won gold, silver or bronze. I think the most important aspect of the competition is the teamwork,” added Medina.

The competition was supervised by Lt. Col. Stephan Euler and Sgt. Maj. Ronald Schiller, from the German Liaison Office at the U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command.

“Everything in this event is a team effort, and you did it as a team,

you did it for the team, and you did it with the team. That is all you need. There is not more to it. You don’t need any more motivation,” said Schiller, during the awards ceremony, which took place at the command’s headquarters, April 5.

Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, the senior federal Army officer in the Caribbean, was also present during the awards ceremony.



The competitors were required to conquer four events to include swimming, physical test, pistol qualifications and a ruck march in order to achieve a gold, silver or bronze badge. (U.S. Army photo/released)





Sgt. Katherine Dozier, a 25 years old Soldier from Cidra, Puerto Rico, was one of the three females that received the GAFPB. Even though Dozier was able to qualify for the bronze badge, she is already planning to do it again next year and try to qualify for the gold badge. (U.S. Army photo/released)

“You all are my heroes, because you did the hard thing. You choose to put on the uniform and to do it, to represent the best of our military, to represent the best of this command and to show our allies how important this is to us” said Shultz to all the competitors.

*The ruck march appeared to be the most challenging event, pushing Soldiers to their limits.*

Out of all the participants, there were five gold, 19 silver and eight bronze badges winners.

Sgt. Katherine Dozier, a 25 years old Soldier from Cidra, Puerto Rico, was one of the three females that received the GAFPB.

Even though Dozier was able to qualify for the bronze badge, she is already planning to do it again next year and try to qualify for the gold badge.

“I saw the competition and thought that it wasn’t that hard. But being a competition so physical you feel the fatigue after each event, and then you struggle, but you have to keep going. You have to be menta-

lly tough. Even when you are really exhausted, you must keep going,” said a proud Dozier.

By participating in this event, the Soldiers assigned to the largest federal U.S. Army command in the Caribbean, demonstrated their high level of readiness and willingness to accept new challenges.

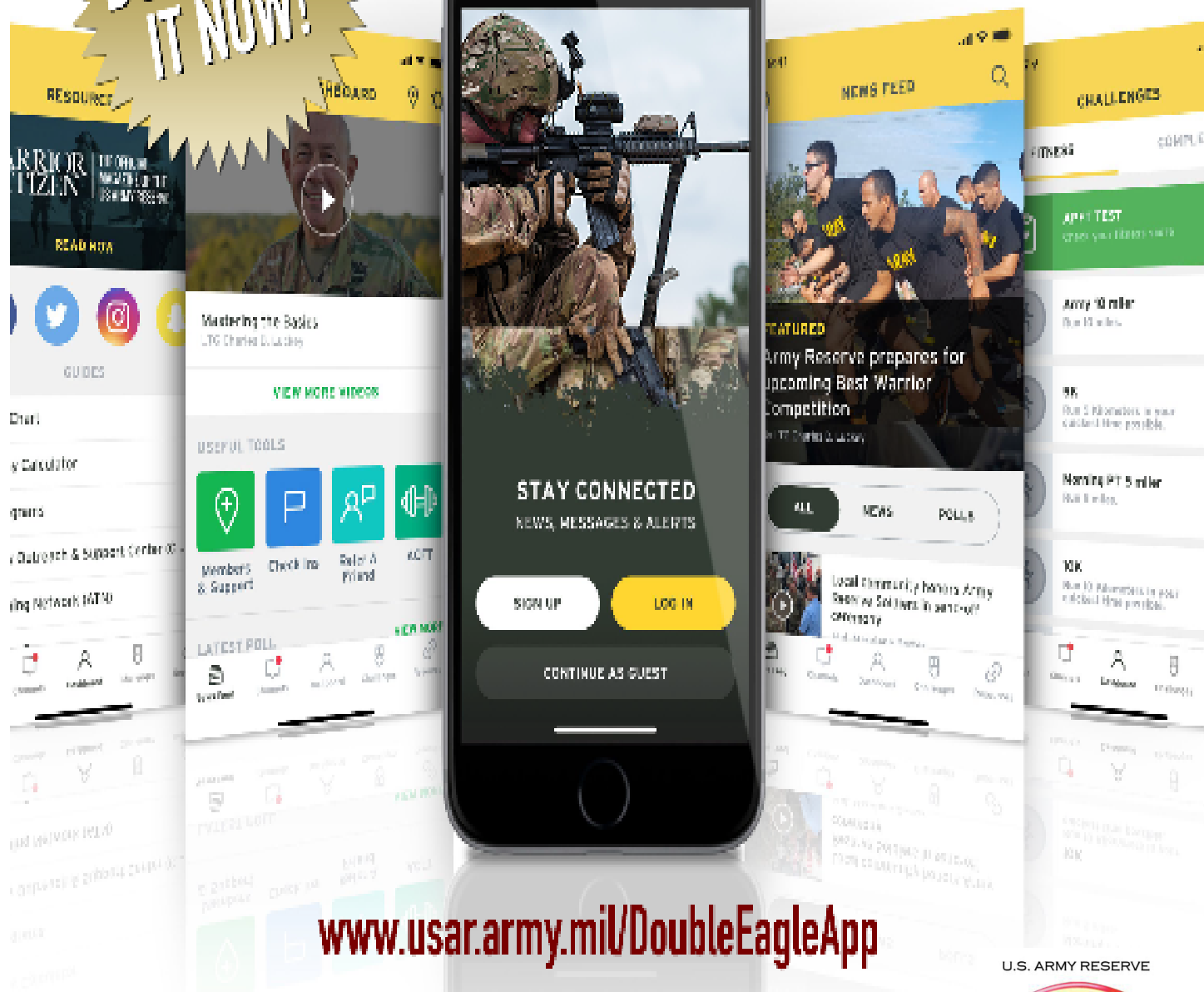
The GAFPB is a decoration of the German Armed Forces, authorized for wear by the U.S. military, and awarded to Soldiers of all ranks.

The GAFPB is one of the few approved foreign awards, and it is one of the most sought after awards to achieve.

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