

# El Morro



Vol. 5 Issue 38

Sentinel of the Caribbean

June 2020



## Happy 245<sup>th</sup> Birthday U.S. Army!

Story on page 5





## From the Garrison Commander



June 14, 2020 is a great day for the United States Army, the Nation's most formidable fighting force. On this day we proudly celebrate 245 years of faithful service to our nation.

From our humble beginnings as an amateur force of Colonial troops comprised of untrained farmers,

merchants and tradesmen, to our status today as the largest branch in the US military, the Army has always been ready.

While historical circumstances have changed, the fighting spirit and values of the American soldier has never wavered.

The Army, its Soldiers, and the citizens are inextricably linked. As General George S. Patton Jr. stated, "The Soldier is the Army. No Army is better than its Soldiers. The Soldier is also a citizen. In fact, the highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one's country." The US Army is a reflection of the best that America has to offer.

Celebrating the Army's Birthday honors all American citizens in uniform and their families, who have served and continue serving this great nation in times of war and peace. These Soldiers are the moving force of our nation and the reason we celebrate this day.

For 245 years the Nation has entrusted the Army with preserving its peace and freedom defending its democracy. On this day we celebrate 245 years of America's Army. This is more than a celebration of the institution, it is a celebration of the Army's history, heritage, and its people.

Because the Army's story is America's story.

Happy Birthday Army! Hooah!



**245<sup>th</sup>**  
**ARMY BIRTHDAY**  
**AMERICA'S ARMY: When We are Needed, We are There**



(L to R) Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III presented the "Wiseest" Soldier, Garrison Command Chaplain Lt. Col. Mark A. East and the youngest Soldier, Private 1st Class Yareilys S. González with the 215th MP Co., 1st Mission Support Command received from Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana, Fort Buchanan Coins of Excellence for their participation in the Army Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony June 12, 2020 held at the installation's Community Club and Conference Center.

Photo by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist



Garrison Commander  
Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III

Garrison Command Sergeant Major  
Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana

Deputy Garrison Commander  
Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II

Deputy to the Garrison Commander  
Greta M. Buccellato

Public Affairs Officer  
Grissel Rosa

Command Information  
Rosie Irizarry

Mailing address-  
Public Affairs Office  
ATTN: IMSE-BUC-PA  
390 Double Eagle Ave., Suite 311  
Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico 00934-4616

Story Submissions-  
Email to: [rosario.irizarry.civ@mail.mil](mailto:rosario.irizarry.civ@mail.mil)

Telephone numbers  
(787) 707-4013/4486

EL MORRO is an authorized publication, posted  
in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1.

Contents of EL MORRO are not necessarily the  
official views of, or endorsed by, the  
U.S. Government, the Department of Defense,  
Department of the Army or  
U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Buchanan.

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.



Visit Our Facebook and  
our Official Web page



Photos, lots of information and much more.

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

Go to web: <https://home.army.mil/buchanan>

## Upcoming events

### June

**National Safety Month**

**Establishment of Army  
Civilian Corps**

**Fort Buchanan Virtual  
Army Birthday**  
June 12

**245th US Army  
Birthday**  
June 14

**Flag Day**  
June 14

### July

**Independence Day**  
July 4

**USAG Change of  
Responsibility**  
July 14

**Memorialization of  
Running Track**  
July 14

**Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Félix  
A. Santoni, Coin  
Collection Unveiling**  
July 14

### August

**Antiterrorism Month**

**Purple Heart Day**  
August 7

**Women's Equality Day**  
August 26

**Marine Corps Reserve  
Birthday**  
August 29

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.



## The Deputy's Corner: Leadership Renaissance...



Our United States Army has faced challenging times in the last two decades of war. A collective thought amongst scholars is that it has taken a significant toll on the leaders of our Profession of Arms. A significant movement speaks to the role of the Renaissance Leader in today's world and ever changing operational environment.

Who would have thought the Armed Forces would have taken such a lead in the response to the pandemic we are experiencing?

Many leaders would tell you we were not prepared for what we faced in a rapidly developing crisis, which included this installation and the island of Puerto Rico. But through leadership and a renaissance we have in our leadership here, we got to work and ensured the safety of this critical federal entity. I know first-hand what I and the Garrison Commander brought to the fight-renaissance leaders.

A renaissance leader is someone who has profound, diverse expertise and channels those abilities for purpose, problem-solving and unifying others.

A renaissance leader is driven by causes beyond himself and has a clear vision of the problem and end state. Human potential has reached unprecedented levels unheard of just one hundred years ago. The combination of globalization, technology platforms and flexible career models enables the growth of multifaceted leaders, especially in the military. Throughout a career we are told; to be a "jack of all trades, master of none", or to be the "Subject Matter Expert."

This focus or fail career advice held

many back. Should you be specialized or well-rounded for a successful career? Is that the key to success? There is another way, one that many are beginning to transform themselves in 2020.

Leadership Renaissance consists of having a diverse field expertise in your craft. Being broad in your knowledge and interests, possess the answers through being a life-long learner. Be proficient and an expert in a variety of fields and not just one. When you can accomplish this you can ensure focused objectives are accomplished and solve pinpointed problems across a wide spectrum of issues. What we learn assists us all in being able to address specific challenges in our lives and work daily. Leadership often is based on our experiences and growth over the years.

Leadership Renaissance will harness our shared experiences by working as a TEAM, and ensuring a unified approach from diverse backgrounds to great achievement.

Why does this matter to this garrison and all those that work-live-play here? It is a rather simple answer. Leadership Renaissance ensures we are focused on the long-term and not short-term objectives. Rarely will anyone who can classify under this style of leadership will see the end product or long term success. There have been a variety of changes to this installation in the last year. Some of those changes you can see, and some you cannot. You have seen a new access control point completed and open, you see a new gym annex - fire apparatus - reserve center - PXtra updates in progress. What you don't see are the projects

and behind the scenes work it requires to operate this installation successfully daily.

We operate on a very limited budget and lack of resources to do all that needs to be accomplished, but yet somehow make it work. Many patrons focus on the Commissary and AAFES facilities, but this installation is not here because of those functions.

It is here to support the United States Army and the island of Puerto Rico as the only Title 10 Federal Installation in the Caribbean. The Garrison must ensure our tenants and partners have the necessary facilities and training activities to be able to perform their assigned missions. With myself and the Garrison Commander you have leaders who are of the "Leadership Renaissance" mind-set. It is not about us. It is about the future of United States Army Garrison Fort Buchanan. You will not always agree with our actions or decisions, but someday the hard work will pay off and that is because of our TEAM. Help us by being part of the solutions, and not part of the problem.

Everyone has great ideas, but decisions that are made are based on the mission of this installation and supporting our serving military and their dependents on Puerto Rico first. Our military are the ones who have come forward as this island has already experienced several challenges this year. They will be the ones there in response to ensure the safety of all. Working together we can ensure this installation is here for generations to come.

WE ARE FORT BUCHANAN!!!  
¡¡¡SOMOS EL FUERTE BUCHANAN!!!

### DAYBREAK WITH THE DEPUTY

If you want to know what is going on and around our beautiful installation follow this account and let Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Rowsey know what questions you have! Go on Twitter: [@LtcRowsey](https://twitter.com/LtcRowsey) or click:

<https://twitter.com/LtcRowsey>





# Fort Buchanan virtual 245th Army Birthday commemoration

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist

The US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan commemorated the 245th United States Army Birthday in a virtual event held at the installation's Community Club and Conference Center June 12, 2020.

The virtual event, streamed live on Facebook, was hosted by Garrison Commander Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III. The guest speaker was the Commanding General of the 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC), US Army Reserve Brig. Gen. Jeffrey W. Jurasek. Fort Buchanan's Senior Mission Commander and Commanding General of the 81st Readiness Division, Maj. Gen. Kenneth D. Jones and The Adjutant General of the Puerto Rico National Guard, Maj. Gen. José J. Reyes provided video messages.

In attendance was Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, accompanied by his spouse Stephanie and son Trey; Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana; 1st MSC Command Sgt. Maj. Robert B. Breck, and Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) Director, William Roger Jr, who donated the Army Birthday Cake. US Army Garrison Command Chaplain, Lt. Col. Mark A. East provided the invocation and benediction.



"From our humble beginnings as an amateur force of Colonial troops comprised of untrained farmers, merchants and tradesmen, to our



status today as the largest branch in the US military, the Army has always been ready," said Col. Corcoran in his opening remarks. "While historical circumstances have changed, the fighting spirit and values of the American Soldier has never wavered," he said.

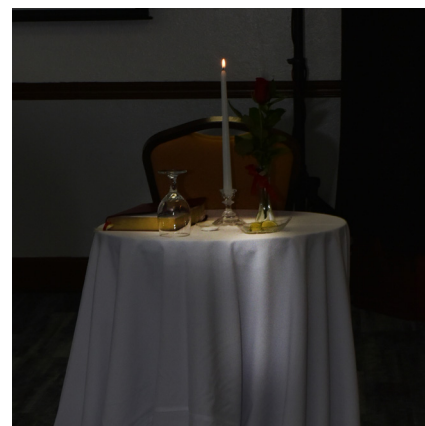


"Call to Duty, boots on the ground," said Brig. Gen. Jurasek. "Soldiers today and 245 years ago alike, responded to something we refer to as the Call to Duty. Serving one's country is a noble calling and I believe among life's greatest work. Nothing illustrates our nation's commitment more than



putting our Boots on the Ground where they are needed," he concluded.

In keeping with Army tradition, attention was drawn to the Fallen Comrade Table, a moment of silence was observed in tribute of those who served their country but never returned.



The Army Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony was conducted with the "wisest" Soldier, CH (Lt. Col.) East, joined by the youngest Soldier, Private 1st Class Yareilys S. González with the 215th MP Co., 1st MSC; Col. Corcoran, Brig. Gen. Jurasek, Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana and Command Sgt. Maj. Breck.

"On behalf of all our Soldiers serving around the world, thank you for participating in the 245th virtual Army Birthday commemoration," said Master of Ceremony, Garrison Public Affairs Officer, Grissel Rosa. "Thank you for all you do for your country. God bless you, your families and our nation. "Dios les bendiga," she said.

The commemoration concluded with everyone singing "Happy Birthday" and The Army Song.







# SENIOR MISSION COMMANDER GUIDANCE

## INSTALLATION ACCESS POLICY

Visitor Control Center: (787) 707-3995

Effective **16 June 2020**—Page 1 (**UPDATES IN RED**)

---

**\*\*This notice explains the Senior Mission Commander's Guidance on Fort Buchanan's Installation Access Policy effective 16 June 2020 until further notice. THIS POLICY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME – Please watch for updates on our Facebook and Webpage\*\***

1. **HPCON Charlie**: US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan is currently under Health Protection Condition (HPCON) Charlie (Substantial - Sustained Community Transmission). Information about HPCON Charlie measures is available at: <https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/covid19/Pages/HPCON.aspx>. To protect the force, we urge our community members to follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for hygiene and social distancing. The use of cloth face covering and social distancing is mandatory at the installation **if indoors or unable to maintain social distancing**. Do not come on post if you are sick or been mandated to be on restriction of movement from your command or health care provider.

**2. SPC Vega and The Borinqueneers Gates access:**

a. Until further notice, SPC Frances M. Vega gate is open Monday—Saturday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Sunday and Federal holidays closed), Inbound and Outbound traffic. Traffic through this gate is **ONLY** for Service Members, Common Access Card (CAC) card holders, select personnel from the Puerto Rico National Guard supporting COVID-19 operations, and **Fort Buchanan housing residents with the yellow identification cards. Uniform wear is not required.**

b. Borinqueneer's Gate (**Main Gate on PR 28**) is open 24/7. On Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday **ALL** valid installation access credentials will be accepted at Borinqueneer's Gate from 5 a.m. to **5 p.m.** daily and must exit the installation by **6 p.m.** if not associated with the installation. **The MWR card and the VHIC pass are accepted to access the installation.**

c. **VHIC and MWR cardholders**, in addition to Retirees and their dependents will be allowed based on the last digit of their license plate number **ONLY** Tuesday and Saturday FOR cars with odd numbers, and Wednesday and Friday for cars with even numbers.

d. Only two (2) persons per vehicle. **Exception are Resident's with Yellow credentials who may have more than two persons in a vehicle or Soldiers in uniform.**

e. The trusted traveler program is suspended. No guests allowed.

f. Retired Disabled Veterans (RET DAV) are authorized to have one (1) authorized person to assist them to shop at either the Commissary or Exchange. Appropriate paperwork and clearance will be vetted at the VCC.

g. COVID-19 medical screenings to include temperature checks will be conducted for all personnel attempting to access Fort Buchanan. Any individual deemed unsafe will be denied installation access. **Failure to comply will lead to negative action.**





## SENIOR MISSION COMMANDER GUIDANCE INSTALLATION ACCESS POLICY

Visitor Control Center: (787) 707-3995

Effective **16 June 2020**—Page 2 (**UPDATES IN RED**)

**\*\*This notice explains the Senior Mission Commander's Guidance on Fort Buchanan's Installation Access Policy effective 16 June 2020 until further notice. THIS POLICY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME – Please watch for updates on our Facebook and Webpage\*\*\***

3. **Access Delays:** We expect medical screenings to cause major delays. Personnel seeking access to Fort Buchanan must plan accordingly.

4. **Commissary (DeCA) and Exchange (AAFES) Operations:**

a. Only two (2) persons will be allowed to enter the Commissary and Exchange.

b. All active/reserve Service Members and their dependents will have access to visit the Commissary and the Exchange every day of the week; however, preferred days will be Thursday and Sunday with shorter wait time.

c. Federal employees authorized to visit the Commissary and Exchange will have access to visit the Commissary and the Exchange during the week; however, preferred days will be Thursday and Sunday.

d. The visitor policy is suspended. Authorized patrons are **NOT** permitted to bring any visitors into the Commissary or Exchange facilities. Only one hundred and fifty (150) in-store customers will be allowed at any given time inside the Exchange main store, only fifty (50) at the PXtra and only three (3) at the Gas Station Store. Only one hundred (100) in-store customers will be allowed at any given time inside the Commissary. The use of cloth face covering and social distancing of not less than six (6) feet is mandated and will be strictly enforced, **unless cohabitation of spouse or children**. Social distancing is mandated inside the stores as well as in the lobby, food court, sidewalk and parking areas.

e. Patrons will bring and wear their own protective equipment - cloth face covering (mask) and gloves. None will be dispensed at Fort Buchanan. Patrons should be prepared to stand for long periods of time.

f. Patrons will adhere to the above instructions as well as any other imparted by DeCA, AAFES and Fort Buchanan's Police Force. Non-compliant patrons will be escorted off the installation and will be barred from reentering post as deemed proper.

5. **Mandatory Guidance:**

This Notice constitutes an **ORDER** to all individuals within the Fort Buchanan military installation. It is mandatory and punitive in nature. Violators will face adverse criminal and administrative sanctions. The Visitor Control Center hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. If you have questions concerning access to Fort Buchanan, please contact the Visitor Control Center at (787) 707-3995. **Access to the Visitor Control Center is limited to five (5) patrons at a time inside the facility. First come-first served by sign-in roster. VHIC and MWR Card holders must receive locally produced credentials at VCC.**





## GUÍA DEL COMANDANTE DE MISIÓN SENIOR SOBRE LA POLÍTICA DE ACCESO A LA INSTALACIÓN

Centro de Control del Visitante: (787) 707-3995

**Efectivo al 16 de junio de 2020—Página 1 (ACTUALIZACIONES EN ROJO)**

**\*\*Este aviso explica la Guía del Comandante Senior sobre la Política de Acceso al Fuerte Buchanan efectiva al 16 de junio de 2020 hasta nuevo aviso. ESTA POLITICA ESTA SUJETA A CAMBIOS EN CUALQUIER MOMENTO – Favor de estar atento a las actualizaciones en nuestra página de Facebook y Web\*\***

1. **HPCON Charlie:** La instalación del Fuerte Buchanan se encuentra actualmente bajo el Nivel de Condición de Protección de la Salud (HPCON) Charlie (Sustancial – Transmisión Comunitaria Sostenida). Información sobre las medidas de HPCON Charlie se encuentra disponible a través de: <https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/covid19/Pages/HPCON.aspx>. Con el fin de proteger a nuestra fuerza, solicitamos a los miembros de nuestra comunidad que sigan las guías de los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) sobre higiene y distanciamiento social. El uso de mascarillas y el distanciamiento social es mandatorio en la instalación **si se encuentra adentro o no puede mantener el distanciamiento social**. No visite la instalación si se encuentra enfermo o se le ha ordenado a estar en restricción de movimiento por parte de su comandante o proveedor médico.

### 2. **Acceso a través de los portones Especialista Vega y Los Borinqueneers:**

a. Hasta nuevo aviso, el portón Especialista Frances M. Vega está abierto de lunes a sábado, de 6 a.m. a 6 p.m. (Cerrado los domingos y días feriados federales), tráfico de entrada y salida. El tráfico a través de este portón es SOLO para Miembros del Servicio, portadores de la Tarjeta de Identificación de Acceso Común (CAC), personal selecto de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico en operaciones de apoyo del COVID-19 y **residentes en el Fuerte Buchanan con tarjetas de identificación amarilla. No se requiere usar uniforme.**

b. El portón Los Borinqueneer (**Portón Principal en la Carretera PR 28**) está abierto 24/7. Los martes, miércoles, viernes y sábado **TODAS** las credenciales válidas de acceso a la instalación serán aceptadas en el portón Los Borinqueneers de 5 a.m. a **5 p.m.** diariamente, si no guarda relación con la instalación deberá salir de la misma a las **6 p.m.** **La tarjeta de MWR y el pase VHIC están aceptados para acceder a la instalación.**

c. **Los portadores de tarjetas VHIC y MWR**, además de los retirados y sus dependientes se les permitirá el acceso en función del último dígito de su número de tablilla **SOLO** los martes y sábados para vehículos con números impares (nones), y los miércoles y viernes para vehículos con números pares.

d. Sólo dos (2) personas por vehículo. **Exceptuando a los residentes con tarjetas de identificación amarillas quienes pueden tener más de dos personas en un vehículo o soldados en uniforme.**

e. El programa de viajeros de confianza está suspendido. No se permiten visitantes.

f. Los retirados DAV están autorizados a tener una (1) persona autorizada para ayudarlos con sus compras en la Comisaría o el PX. La documentación apropiada y la autorización serán revisadas en el Centro de Control de Visitantes.

g. Se realizarán exámenes médicos de COVID-19 que incluyen cotejos de temperatura para toda persona que intente acceder al Fuerte Buchanan. Cualquier individuo que aparente ser un riesgo de seguridad se le negará el acceso a la instalación. **El incumplimiento dará lugar a una acción negativa.**



## GUÍA DEL COMANDANTE DE MISIÓN SENIOR SOBRE LA POLÍTICA DE ACCESO A LA INSTALACIÓN

Centro de Control del Visitante: (787) 707-3995

**Efectivo al 16 de junio de 2020—Página 2 (ACTUALIZACIONES EN ROJO)**

**\*\*Este aviso explica la Guía del Comandante Senior sobre la Política de Acceso al Fuerte Buchanan efectiva al 16 de junio de 2020 hasta nuevo aviso. ESTA POLITICA ESTA SUJETA A CAMBIOS EN CUALQUIER MOMENTO – Favor de estar atento a las actualizaciones en nuestra página de Facebook y Web\*\***

3. **Demoras en el Acceso:** Esperamos que los exámenes médicos ocasionen demoras mayores. Las personas que busquen acceso al Fuerte Buchanan deberán planificar consecuentemente.

### 4. **Operaciones de la Comisaría (DeCA) y el PX (AAFES):**

- a. Sólo se le permitirá acceso a dos (2) personas para entrar a la Comisaría y el PX.
- b. Todos los miembros del servicio activo/reserva y sus dependientes tendrán acceso para visitar la Comisaría y el PX todos los días de la semana. Sin embargo, los días preferibles serán jueves y domingo con un tiempo de espera más corto.
- c. Los empleados federales autorizados para visitar la Comisaría y el PX tendrán acceso todos los días de la semana. Sin embargo, los días preferibles serán jueves y domingo.
- d. Se suspende la política de visitantes. Los clientes autorizados **NO** están permitidos a traer ningún visitante dentro de las facilidades de la Comisaría o el PX. Sólo se permitirán ciento cincuenta (150) clientes en la Tienda Principal del PX a la vez. En el PXtra sólo se permitirán cincuenta (50) y en la tienda de la Estación de Gasolina tres (3). Sólo se permitirán cien (100) clientes en la Comisaría a la vez. El uso de mascarillas y el distanciamiento social no menor de seis (6) pies es mandatorio y se hará cumplir de manera estricta, a **menos que conviva con el cónyuge o hijos**. El distanciamiento social es mandatorio dentro de las tiendas, así como en el vestíbulo, área de comida, acera y áreas de estacionamiento.
- e. Se fomenta que los clientes traigan y utilicen su propio equipo protector – mascarillas y guantes. Ninguno será provisto en el Fuerte Buchanan. Los clientes deberán estar preparados para estar de pie por largos períodos de tiempo.
- f. Los clientes deberán seguir las instrucciones anteriores, al igual que cualquier otra impartida por los empleados de DeCA, AAFES y la Policía del Fuerte Buchanan. Los clientes que no cumplan con dichas disposiciones serán escoltados fuera de la instalación y les será prohibido que puedan re-entrar a la instalación según se considere pertinente.

### 5. **Guía Mandatoria:**

Este Aviso constituye una **ORDEN** para todos los individuos dentro de la instalación militar del Fuerte Buchanan. Es de índole mandatoria y de naturaleza punitiva. Los infractores enfrentarán sanciones penales y administrativas adversas. Las horas del Centro de Control del Visitante son de 7:00 a.m. a 4:00 p.m., lunes a viernes. Si tiene preguntas sobre el acceso al Fuerte Buchanan, favor de comunicarse con el Centro de Control de Visitantes al (787) 707-3995. **El acceso al Centro de Control de Visitantes está limitado a cinco (5) clientes a la vez dentro de las facilidades. El servicio será a base del primero en llegar y mediante lista de registro. Los portadores de tarjetas VHIC y MWR deben recibir credenciales producidas localmente en el Centro de Control de Visitantes.**



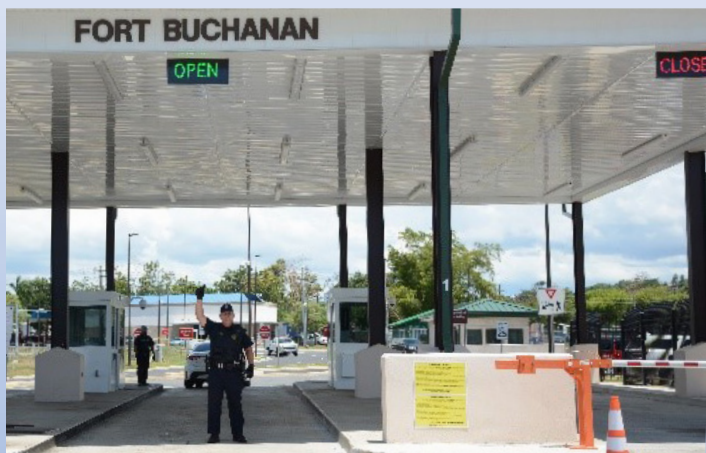


## The Fort Buchanan Police Department

### Borinqueneers' Gate has new signs

Visitors and personnel entering through Fort Buchanan's The Borinqueneers' Gate will now observe new posted illuminated signs overhead.

Each lane has been equipped with light-emitting diode (LED) signs to direct traffic to available lanes. The LED signs are located at the top of the structure and open lanes will be identified by a green "OPEN" and closed lanes will be identified with a red "CLOSED".



In addition to these new signs, in the front area of building 689 (Commissary/PX) there are signs indicating "No Loading Zone" and "Do Not Drop Off and/or Pick Up Passengers". Failure to follow the new posted signs can result in a citation.



Remember citations on Fort Buchanan are either Armed Forces Tickets or Central Violation Bureau citations.

The Fort Buchanan Police is constantly improving to better serve our community. Policing is as much about helping people and maintaining community quality of life as it is about enforcing laws.

The police department has also added an additional way to communicate with us via e-mail at [usarmy.buchanan.imcom-hq.mbx.fort-buchanan-police@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.buchanan.imcom-hq.mbx.fort-buchanan-police@mail.mil). Use this method for non-emergencies, general inquiries and situations that do not require immediate police response.



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

### Hurricane Season Preparedness Tips-Part 1

While Mother Nature is unpredictable, preparing for a hurricane before it makes landfall can help save your life. Here are a few steps to take today before a hurricane strikes your area.

**Start by** identifying any nearby evacuation areas with your family, and pick one place to meet for safe shelter.

**Make plans** for elderly, infant and pet needs during an evacuation. If your senior needs assistance, consider keeping a walker or wheelchair nearby to help them evacuate safely. Consider car seats for infants and crates or kennels for your pet.

**Stock up on gas** and keep your car tank full. In the event of a hurricane warning, there may be a shortage, so consider storing it in a gas can now safely outside of your home. Bring patio furniture and outdoor items inside. Leaving them outdoors may damage your home from wind gusts. Protect your home with sandbags, plywood or storm shields to reduce damage from strong winds and flooding.

**Turn off** gas, water and other utilities before hurricane impact, use battery operated devices. Whether you plan to stay through the storm or evacuate, you should have the essentials ready.

**Pack a bag** when a hurricane warning is issued. This way, if you need to evacuate, it's one less thing to worry about. Pack at least three days' worth of clothes, medication and non-perishable food. Start by stocking up on canned goods, they have a longer shelf life than the majority of fresh items that need to be cooked. Other foods that don't need refrigeration are fruit, beef jerky, crackers and nuts. Other common items to pack include blankets, flashlights and hygiene items.

**CDC also recommends** storing at least five gallons of clean water per person as water may be contaminated. You'll likely need water for drinking, bathing and medical needs. Here are a few other essentials the battery-powered radio or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) mobile app, First-aid kit, cell phone chargers, cash, infant and pet supplies as needed.

**After the hurricane passes** and it is safe to operate fuel electric generators and gas (LPG) appliances ensure to check for leaks with soapy water before operating.



# Legal Corner

## Military Spouses Residency Relief Act<sup>1</sup>

The Military Spouses Residency Relief Act, amended in 2019 provides a great tax benefit to military spouses.

### First let's look at a few terms:

Domicile, is a legal term that can best be described as meaning, simply, "home." Under the concept on which the state tax system is based, each person can only have one domicile at a time. Your domicile could be where you own property, have your car registered, have a driver's license, are registered to vote, or a variety of other official transactions that tie you to a specific place. A domicile is changed when you establish those official connections in a new location.

A residency, on the other hand, is simply the place you live, or the address you are currently using. A military spouse may be domiciled in Virginia, for example, because that's where all her legal paperwork originates, but physically live in North Carolina. Residency changes based on where you are physically living.

"Home of record" is a term used by the Department of Defense for service members. The home of record is the location where he or she lived when joining the military. It is used for determining some military entitlements, including final permanent change of station (PCS) allowances.

### What is the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act?

The Military Spouses Residency Relief Act (MSRRA), as it was first passed in 2009, allowed military spouses to claim for tax purposes the same state of domicile as their service member, as long as they had established domicile there, too. The 2019 amendments to the law give spouses more choices. Now military spouses can choose to file state tax returns in the service member's home state whether they have ever lived there or not. Beginning with the 2018 tax year, military spouses can file taxes in the same state as their service member -- claiming the same domicile -- without ever having set foot in the state. Alternatively, they can also choose to file in the state in which they have established their own domicile.

However, the MSRRA does not permit military spouses or their service members to arbitrarily pick for tax purposes a convenient state in which they have never established a connection. Claiming a state as domicile without establishing real connections could result in serious legal problems. You should seek the help of a bona fide tax professional in your state of domicile or you may call your nearest legal assistance office at (787) 707-5155.

<sup>1</sup> Amy Bushatz, "Here's What the Military Spouses Residency Rules Mean" Military.com, 2020.

Lt. Col. Dorian S. Germany  
Staff Judge Advocate



# Chaplain's Corner

## Trust in God is in our Readiness Plan

A nation yet to be born called for Citizen Soldiers to form the Continental Army 245 years ago this month. Their sacrifice became the bedrock for the selfless service on which we built our Army. It is an honor to follow in their footsteps as we celebrate the Army Birthday during June.

These first Soldier's had far less to trust in than today's Army. Today's Army is the best trained and the best equipped Army that the world has ever seen. Yet, our first Soldiers embraced their mission with strong hearts and determined resolve. We can discover the grounds of their resolve in what John Locke called an "Appeal to Heaven."

In his Second Treatise of Civil Government, eminent political philosopher John Locke argued that when all other political and individual methods of resisting tyranny are exhausted, only an "Appeal to Heaven" remains. In boldness our Founding Fathers called on our Citizen Soldier's to trust God as they believed our cause was just. Their example calls us forward today to embrace again with renewed passion the motto of the

United States of America, "In God We Trust."

Since 2002 some portion of the Army has been at war. During this time the American Soldier has renewed "Trust in God" as part of our readiness plan. In this struggle we have gone through the valley of hardships and we have come out stronger of mind, will, and emotions because our Trust in God has helped us keep a strong spirit.

During this conflict we and our families have also passed through the "Valley of the Shadow of Death". When our friends and family gave their life, we learned to place them into the hands of a just caring God. Our trust in God has given us the peace we need to drive on and stay in the fight to honor those who gave all.

We know better than anyone that the "Army that Goes Rolling Along" can only keep going strong as God watches over us as we watch over our brothers and sisters.

*Strength to Strength*

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mark A. East  
Garrison Command Chaplain





# Gary Sinise Foundation sponsors 245th Army Birthday Lunch

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist

In observance of the 245th US Army Birthday, Fort Buchanan's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMR) prepared approximately 180 free lunches for Active Duty Service members in uniform or with valid active duty CAC IDs. The meals, sponsored by the Gary Sinise Foundation (GSF) Serving Our Heroes Program were distributed at the Community Club and Conference Center June 12, 2020.

Eric M. Burgos, community club manager, led the initiative. The drive-thru / pick-up meals were prepared by DFMWR chefs, Jorge González and Damián Santiago along with cooks, Jacky Rojas and Sheila López. These were packaged by Carolyn Pérez, Karla Reyes, Yolanda Rivera, Maelina Ramos, and Estrella Casanova.

The lunches were handed out to Service Members by US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana.



Col. Corcoran and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana made the distribution fun for Service Members as they drove up to receive their meals by asking the trivia question "How old is the Army?" Some responses were interesting and the majority of Soldiers not only knew the age of the US Army but also that of services, such as the Puerto Rico National Guard.

Our Army's history of service to the nation is part of the enduring fabric of America's legacy, Fort Buchanan thanks DFMWR staff and the Gary Sinise Foundation for supporting our troops while commemorating the 245th Army Birthday.





# June is National Safety Month: Conduct on-site inspections

Story and photos by Joel J. Baylor  
Installation Safety and Occupational Health Manager



## Your Installation Safety Officer Wants You to Know

National Safety Month is observed in June. Army leaders at all levels can make a difference by becoming personally involved and fostering a positive safety and occupational health culture that enables Soldiers, Army Civilians and family members to effectively manage their personal risk.

Here are some tips to make your workplace safer.

### Conduct on-site safety inspections in your workplace

When on-site, make sure you are wearing the right Personal Protective



Equipment (PPE) for each area you enter.

Nothing takes away credibility faster than having the wrong PPE or not wearing it properly.

Be safe; don't

expose yourself to hazards during an inspection. Limit the size of the inspection group. Large groups tend to stifle open communication with workers.

### Look for easily observable hazards first, such as:

- Tripping hazards
- Blocked exits
- Frayed/exposed electrical wires
- Missing machine guards
- Poor housekeeping
- Poorly maintained equipment

Look for property damage, such as walls or doors damaged by equipment or forklift traffic. Such damage may indicate a potential for future worker injuries.

Talk to workers at their work stations. Workers are likely to know the most about the hazards and safety issues in their jobs. Tap into that knowledge. Make them comfortable talking with you. Assure them that you are interested in finding problems and fixing them, i.e., improving safety, not blaming anyone for your findings.

Avoid yes/no questions. Encourage conversation.

### Ask open-ended questions such as:

- What is the most hazardous task in your job? What makes it hazardous?
- If you have been injured in your job, what was the injury and how did it happen?
- What was done to make your job safer?
- How would you report an injury, hazard, or

near-miss?

**Seek out and talk** to the most recently hired workers to get their perspective on safety. These “fresh eyes” could have valuable insights.

**Observe** workers as they perform their job. For example, do they lift heavy objects? Do they stand/sit in awkward postures? Are they performing repetitive motions? If so, take notes and photos.

If their job involves handling chemicals or exposure to excessive noise and/or heat, a more detailed evaluation by a safety professional may be in order.

**Try to find solutions** for hazards while you are conducting the inspection by applying your own creativity and inspiring the creativity of workers. Finding solutions “on-the-spot” demonstrates your commitment to making the workplace safer.

## JUNE IS NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH 2020

### Hazard Recognition

HAZARDS ARE EVERYWHERE. WHAT RISKS AREN'T YOU SEEING?

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH 2019  
nsc.org/nsm

#### 'Seeing' Safety in A New Way

Learning visual literacy, according to the Campbell Institute, gives employees the ability to better understand their work environments. It also helps in enhancing hazard identification and comprehension of potential risks.

### Falls

DON'T GET TRIPPED UP! CLEAN UP SPILLS IMMEDIATELY.

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH 2019  
nsc.org/nsm

#### Prevent Slips, Trips and Falls

- Keep floors mopped and debris swept up.
- Remove obstacles and clutter from walkways and stairways.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Keep working areas/paths well-lit.

### Fatigue

70 MILLION AMERICANS SUFFER FROM A SLEEP DISORDER. DO YOU?

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH 2019  
nsc.org/nsm

#### Fatigue Risk Management

- Balancing workload and staffing.
- Shift scheduling.
- Workplace design.
- Monitoring of fatigue.
- Training for employees on fatigue.

### Impairment

DRUNK, DRUGGED, DROWSY, DIFFERENT. NO LEVEL OF IMPAIRMENT IS SAFE.

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH 2019  
nsc.org/nsm

#### Alcohol Is Only One Cause of Impaired Driving

Drugs — including opioids, marijuana and some over-the-counter medicines can impair driving by causing drowsiness, altering visual functions and affecting mental judgment and motor skills. Avoid driving while under the influence.



# Firefighters from PRARNG complete intense training with FB Fire Department

Story and photos by David De Jesús and Héctor Rivera  
Fort Buchanan Assistant Fire Chiefs

COVID-19 as a global pandemic, may affect operation of every public safety organization in the nation.

While fire department leaders, training officers and crews scramble to find quality training without compromising its most valuable asset, its firefighters, the Fort Buchanan Fire Department continues its commitment to share tactics and strategies with our brothers and sisters in uniform.

Members of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard 215th Engineering Firefighting Detachment (215th En FF Det.)/130th Engineering Battalion (130th En Bn) initiated two week long, firefighting training at the installation, in preparation for upcoming deployment. The training was held at the Fort Buchanan Fire Training Site. From May 31 until June 12, 2020.

215th En FF Det went thru a series of firefighting training that sharpened their skills and enhanced readiness, from basic hose line handling to live fire training.

Fort Buchanan (FBFD) Firefighters trained alongside the 215th En FF Det, exchanging knowledge and experience in a combined effort to support Soldiers in accomplishing their mission while deployed.

The unit and FBFD firefighters completed search and rescue, ladder evolutions, patient carry, and pump



101st Troop Command Commander Lt. Col. Victor Pérez and 130th En Bn Commander Lt. Col. Rafael Cordero were briefed and observed part of the training the 215th Engineer Firefighter Detachment received at Fort Buchanan's Fire Training Facility under the guidance and with installation firefighters.



operations training, leaving the units ready and prepared.

Their last day with the Fort Buchanan Fire Department, the 215th En FF Det was comprised of live vehicle fire training.

Objectives covered were scene size-up, vehicle approach, hose line deployment; engine, cab and wheel fires; fire control and extinguishment, and safety considerations.

This last day of training marked two weeks of intense and productive evolutions in preparation for the 215th next deployment.

The Fort Buchanan Fire Department is proud to have been part of this preparation knowing that our fellow Soldiers are more ready today to complete their mission as firefighters.

FBFD continues to adapt to today's directives, train hard and safe, completing the mission in support of Soldiers. "Keep on trucking"



# New PR FBI Director visits USAG Fort Buchanan strengthening partnerships

Story and photo by Grissel Rosa  
Public Affairs Officer

New Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director for the San Juan Field Office in Puerto Rico, Special Agent in Charge (SAC), Rafael A. Riviere visited Fort Buchanan accompanied by Assistant Special Agent in Charge, John S. Morales June 8, 2020.

Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III; Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana participated in the meeting to discuss initiatives of mutual collaboration between the federal agency and the military installation.

The new FBI director was named to the position in a ceremony held March 9, 2020 at the new FBI facilities in Hato Rey attended by Lt. Col. Rowsey representing garrison leadership.



SAC Riviere's previous assignment was Chief, Leadership Development Program at FBI Headquarters in

Washington, D.C. The FBI has dual responsibilities as a law enforcement and intelligence agency.

## 'Daybreak with the Deputy' "Back to the Gym!"

Story and photo Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II  
Deputy Garrison Commander's twitter page

"Back to the gym!"

Effective June 1, 2020 the installation Fitness Sports and Fitness Center partially opened its facilities with the "New Normal" protective measures, Monday to Friday from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. for Active Duty Military, Department of the Army civilians and installation residents for a maximum of 20 customers at any given time.

"Welcome back! Oh, how I have missed you!" said Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II on his twitter page. "Clean soap the equipment; maintain your social distancing; get in and out and give someone else an opportunity to work out! Keep your physical fitness up!" he posted.

Use of the facility is by reservation



only, with one hour of workout. The sauna is closed and there are no group classes.

To make your reservation call: (787) 707-3767 / (787) 707-3763 and (787) 707-3277.



# Fort Buchanan Emergency Preparedness “Prepare Now. Learn How.”

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist

June 1, 2020, the Atlantic hurricane season began. It runs from June 1st to November 30th, and geographically covers the Atlantic basin, which includes the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico.

Fort Buchanan has been diligently preparing for this hurricane season. In the April 2020 issue of *El Morro*, Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II monthly column “The Deputy’s Corner” was dedicated to preparation response. Rowsey highlighted the inspection of the entire installation to ensure all debris and trash are removed or secure prior to the season beginning and Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security’s (DPTMS) informative campaign that includes banners and the distribution of informative flyers with tips, guides and links for Emergency Preparedness Week.



“Prepare Now. Learn How” campaign flyers were handed out at the installation’s access control points; The Borinqueneers’ Gate and Spc. Frances M. Vega Gate June 5, 2020, by Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III; Lt. Col. Rowsey; Emergency Manager, Charles A. Timms and Chief of Plans and Operations, José R. Boria Cruz.

Campaign flyers continued to be distributed at the Army Air Force Exchange (Exchange) main store lobby where Timms was joined by Col. Corcoran, Lt. Col. Rowsey, DPTMS Director, Héctor M. Moran,

and Operations Specialist, Joel Ramos. Approximated 700 flyers were distributed this day.

“Our installation, our home will face unprecedented challenges as we respond to multiple events and anticipate re-emerging public health concerns while preparing for the



2020 hurricane season,” said Timms. “Although the operating environment has changed, our mission to help one another before, during, and after a disaster remains the same,” Timms concluded.

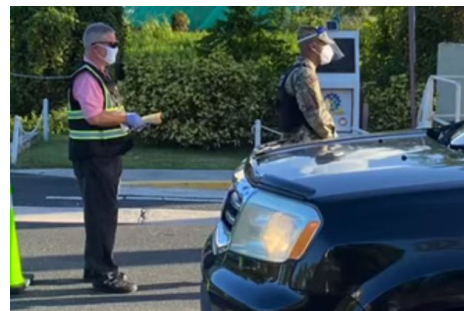
In the spirit of total force cooperation of all-hazard planning, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Buchanan, 1st Mission Support Command, and Puerto Rico National Guard have developed a guiding plan synchronizing. These



(L to R) DPTMS: Emergency Manager, Charles A. Timms; Operations Specialist, Joel Ramos and Director, Héctor M. Moran.

efforts support the installation’s all-hazard preparedness strategy, to meet the threat, and respond to the consequences versus focusing on the hazard itself.

The goal of these efforts is to reduce the impacts of a major event while maximizing assets effectively, with planning, command, and resource decisions made to benefit the whole



DPTMS Chief of Plans and Operations, José R. Boria Cruz at Spc. Vega Gate.

DPTMS Director Héctor M. Moran handing out material at Spc. Vega Gate.



Driver reviews the flyer provided by Col. Corcoran as the Col. explains the material.

community.

To help you prepare, Fort Buchanan leadership and DPTMS encourages everyone to:

- BE INFORMED: [https://ready.army.mil/ra\\_be\\_informed.htm](https://ready.army.mil/ra_be_informed.htm)
- MAKE A PLAN: [https://ready.army.mil/ra\\_be\\_informed.htm](https://ready.army.mil/ra_be_informed.htm)
- BUILD A KIT: [https://ready.army.mil/ra\\_get\\_a\\_kit.htm](https://ready.army.mil/ra_get_a_kit.htm)
- GET INVOLVED: [https://ready.army.mil/ra\\_get\\_involved.htm](https://ready.army.mil/ra_get_involved.htm)
- FOLLOW FEMA’s “Prepared, Not Scared” National Preparedness Month Campaign <https://www.ready.gov/september>.



# Directorate of Public Works employees recognized for outstanding contributions

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist

In order to ensure the safety and welfare of the Fort Buchanan workforce and community many garrison wide events have been postponed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of this Garrison Commander Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III and Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II presented six Directorate of Public Works (DPW) employees with recognitions they would have normally received at the Garrison 3rd Quarter Town Hall which was held virtually in May.

Victor Negrón, Gregorio Brown and Efrain Feliciano, received certificates of appreciation from the Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) for an emergency repair they did February 19, 2020 on commissary refrigeration units which all failed due to a power surge,

on the eve of a visit from Department of Defense Special Assistant for Commissary Operations. Their quick response saved refrigerated goods preventing the loss of government property, protected the community and allowed the commissary to have a successful visit from Admiral Robert J. Bianchi. Their supervisor, Carlos O. Guzmán (L) joined them in the group photo below.



DPW Director Maria “Angie” López, José L. Ortega and Yvette Robles received Fort Buchanan Certificates of Appreciation for their support during the installation’s 2019 Combined Federal Campaign. Their participation contributed to a highly successful campaign, ultimately making a difference in the lives of others.

“I am very proud of the contributions and commitment all of you demonstrate each and every day,” said Col. Corcoran.

## Fort Buchanan leadership meets with key leaders base support for DSCA

Story and photo by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist

US Army Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III and Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II hosted a meeting with Army National Guard, Assistant Adjutant General, Joint Force Headquarters, Brig. Gen. Paul B. Chauncey, III; Coast Guard Sector San Juan Commander, Cpt. Eric P. King; Defense Coordinating Officer FEMA Region II, Col. Thomas F. Pike, Jr.; Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO) for DCE FEMA Region V, Col. Shannon T. Miller; Military Deputy for Operations, United States Transportation Command, Col. Todd S. Bertulis; NORTHCOM Defense Coordinating Unit, Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer, Col. Juan Berrios and other representatives, to discuss base support for Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) June 2, 2020 at the Flag Room in



Garrison Headquarters.

Among the topics discussed were lessons learned from past emergency events and the way forward during COVID-19.

The group visited the Installation Operations Center (IOC) for the installation’s all hazards emergency presentation. Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) Chief of Plans and

Operations, José R. Boria provided an overview of IOC operations which synchronize resources, coordinates, and integrates installation current and future operations, and emergency planning.

Brig. Gen. Chauncey and others participated in the briefing that highlighted Fort Buchanan’s operational response for all hazards emergencies and the installation’s response and support to the force.





## A Message to the Army Community About Civil Unrest

3 June 2020

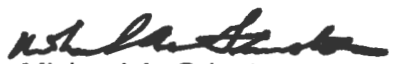
Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Family members and Soldiers for Life:

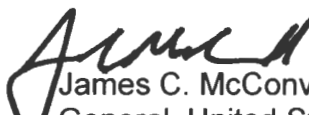
Over the past week, the country has suffered an explosion of frustration over the racial divisions that still plague us as Americans. And because your Army is a reflection of American society, those divisions live in the Army as well. We feel the frustration and anger. We felt it this week while traveling through the nation's capital with the DC National Guard. We feel it, even though we can never fully understand the frustration and life experiences of people of color, in or out of uniform. But we do understand the importance of taking care of people, and of treating every person with dignity and respect.

Our ability to defend this country from all enemies, foreign and domestic, is founded upon a sacred trust with the American people. Racial division erodes that trust. Though we all aspire to live by the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage, the Army has sometimes fallen short. Because just as we reflect the best of America, we reflect its imperfections as well. We need to work harder to earn the trust of mothers and fathers who hesitate to hand their sons and daughters into our care. How we respond to the anger that has ignited will chart the course of that trust.

Every Soldier and Department of the Army Civilian swears an oath to support and defend the Constitution. That includes the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. We will continue to support and defend those rights, and we will continue to protect Americans, whether from enemies of the United States overseas, from COVID-19 at home, or from violence in our communities that threatens to drown out the voices begging us to listen. To Army leaders of all ranks, listen to your people, but don't wait for them to come to you. Go to them. Ask the uncomfortable questions. Lead with compassion and humility, and create an environment in which people feel comfortable expressing grievances. Let us be the first to set the example. We are listening. And we will continue to put people first as long as we are leading the Army. Because people are our greatest strength.

God bless all of the people of our United States Army: our Soldiers, Families, Civilians, and Soldier for Life retirees and veterans. And God bless the United States of America.

  
Michael A. Grinston  
Sergeant Major of the Army

  
James C. McConville  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

  
Ryan D. McCarthy  
Secretary of the Army

# In the next monthly issue...

***Happy 243rd Birthday U.S.A.! ...***

***Virtual 4th of July events will take place across our great nation.***

***Fort Buchanan Change of Responsibility ...***

***In July the installation receives a new Garrison Command Sergeant Major.***



***Memorialization of installation running track...***

***Find out to who a Fort Buchanan running track will be dedicated and why.***



***A collection of coins for excellence donated to the installation...***



***July 14, 2020 Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Félix A. Santoni's impressive coin collection is unveiled.***



June 2006 the Army Civilian Corps was established by the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Army formalizing a 230-year record of service as a critical component of the total Army structure.



## Army Civilian Corps Creed



I am an **ARMY CIVILIAN** – a member of the Army Team

I am dedicated to our Army, our Soldiers and Civilians

I will **ALWAYS** support the mission

I provide leadership, stability and continuity during war and peace

I support and defend the Constitution of the United States and consider it an honor to serve our Nation and our Army

I live the Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage

**I AM AN ARMY CIVILIAN**

