

El Morro

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Sentinel of the Caribbean

February 2021



Photo by Army Sgt. Josue E. Pagán Carbone, Public Affairs Intern

Maxie Williams Track supporting readiness

Story on page 7



From the Garrison Commander: Extremism – not in our Army



February 5, 2021, the Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin, signed a memorandum directing a stand-down to address extremism in the ranks.

The definition of extremism is “the advocacy of extreme measures or views” and often employ violent means. Acts of extremism or any other harmful behavior such as racism, sexual assault and harassment are not acceptable – these acts undermine the rule of law are incongruent with what we protect the most – the people that make up our Army – and the oath we’ve taken to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.

The Army is committed to upholding

the Department of Defense policy that prohibits actively advocating, or participating in organizations that advocate, supremacist, extremist, or criminal gang doctrine, ideology, or causes. Participation in extremist organizations and activities is inconsistent with the responsibilities of military service, and is punishable through the full range of statutory and regulatory sanctions, both criminal and administrative.

The majority of those who serve in the Army will perform their duties with integrity and foster a culture of dignity and respect.

Further, a majority of those who serve will not support radially and ethnically motivated violent extremists, including white supremacists, and other domestic terrorists such as anti-government violent extremists. However, recent events have shown that we must remain vigilant in our efforts to identify and combat such ideology within the Army.

Extremism activities degrade readiness, erode trust, desecrate the Oath of Office, and instill mistrust in the American people. As an organization, we must not forget that being on the Army team is an honor and a privilege that comes with additional

responsibilities and obligations holding us to a higher professional standard and an expectation to set the example for others to follow. Therefore, I expect all employees, Soldier, Civilian, and contractors to abide by these core principles and use them to guide your actions at all times.

As the Fort Buchanan garrison commander, I can assure you that the garrison team continues to foster an environment free of discrimination, hate, and harassment to provide a culture that treats the visitors with dignity and respect. We owe that to the entire Buchanan family and I will not tolerate any action that is contrary to the Army Values.

The Army needs our help...I need your help...to eradicate this pervasive ideology that runs contrary to our core values and continues to metastasize through social media. If you see something, say something. Only by working together, as a community, team, family, will we be successful in eliminating extremist behaviors that degrades our Army and is detrimental to our great Nation.

We are Fort Buchanan!
¡Somos El Fuerte Buchanan!



FOCUS QUOTE FOR THE DAY

“I would argue ... if everyone is treating each other with dignity, respect and taking care of each other, you won't have sexual assault, harassment or racism and extremism in your formation.”

– Chief of Staff of the Army James C. McConville, Oct. 10, 2020



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US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan



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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>

On Twitter: [@usagftbuchanan](https://twitter.com/usagftbuchanan)

Upcoming events

February

**African American/
Black History Month**

USO Birthday
February 14

President's Day
February 15

**Day of Illustrious
Puerto Ricans**
February 15

**Maxie Williams Jr.
Track Ribbon Cutting
Ceremony**
February 19

**US Coast Guard
Reserve Birthday**
February 19

**Installation Legal
Office-Tax Center
Opens**
February 23

March

**March is Women's
History Month**

**American Citizenship
Day**
March 2

**Maj. Gen. (Ret.)
Félix A. Santoni Coin
Unveiling Ceremony**
March 12

Saint Patrick's Day
March 17

**2nd Quarter USAG
Fort Buchanan Town
Hall Meeting**
March 19

**Visitor Control Center
Memorialization
Ceremony**
March 25

**National Vietnam War
Veterans Day**
March 29

April

**April is Month of the
Military Child**

**April is Sexual Assault
Awareness and
Prevention Month**

**Child Abuse
Prevention Month**

**Gold Star Spouses'
Day**
April 5

**Volunteer
Appreciation Week**
April 18-24

**Apparatus Building
Memorialization
Ceremony**
April 19

**Days of Remembrance
and Holocaust
Remembrance Day**
April 19-26

Earth Day
April 22

**US Army Reserve
Birthday**
April 23

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.

From the Garrison Command Sergeant Major: The Stigma of the Weekend Warrior



How many times have you listened the term “Weekend Warrior” when someone refers to Army Reserve or National Guard Soldiers?

Even Merriam-Webster has a definition. It reads: “A member of the military reserves who trains on the weekends and for a few weeks every year.”

We must debunk the stigma that a “Weekend Warrior” is synonymous of Soldiers who are only committed to a weekend every month and two weeks every year.

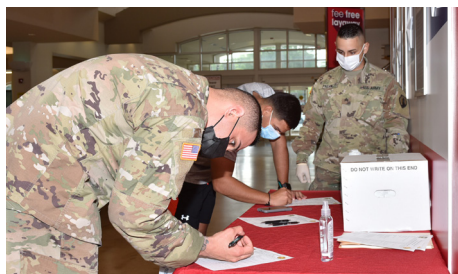
The “Weekend Warrior” phrase does not define the commitment of our Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers. Our Reserve forces demonstrate a genuine commitment by serving their country while fulfilling their civilian profession. Like the Army Reserve motto reads: “Twice the Citizen.”

The Army Reserve and National Guard are the most diverse military force in the world with Soldiers transitioning from Active Component directly to the Reserve or the National

Guard, in addition to the professional experience and skills they bring from their civilian occupations.

Reserve and National Guard Soldiers have a requirement to attend drills or Battle Assemblies (BA) one weekend each month and two weeks every year during the summer. However, our Soldiers achieve more during a weekend than most organizations do in a month.

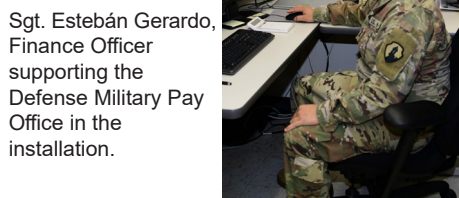
In reality, our Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers serve more than a weekend every month and



Garrison Public Affairs Intern Sgt. Josue E. Pagán Carbone (right) conducted a community survey for the installation's publication El Morro.



Sgt. Patricia Landrau, Installation Legal Office (ILO) Paralegal Noncommissioned Officer.



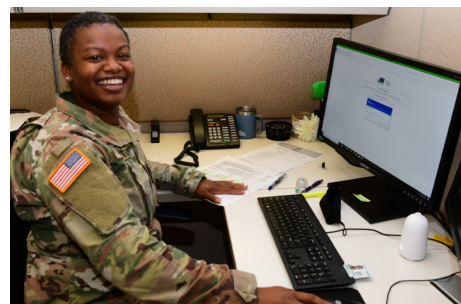
Sgt. Estebán Gerardo, Finance Officer supporting the Defense Military Pay Office in the installation.



Spec. Nashaly Delfi, Front Desk and Housing Management Specialist assigned to the Fort Buchanan Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Housing Office.



Spec. Lorraine Piña administrative support to the US Army Garrison Command, works with Roberto L. Carrasquillo, garrison administrative support assistant.



Spec. Lakendra S. Newton Housing Management Specialist at DPW Housing Office.

two weeks in a year. They are fully committed, not because they have to, but because they love what they do.

Between their civilian careers and their military commitment, many of them dedicate more hours than most full-time employees.

Our Soldiers stand ready to support in times of war and national disasters. They know our community better than any other organization because they are part of our community.

Our Reserve forces are essential to deploy, fight, and win our Nation's wars, while protecting our homeland. The strength of our Army Reserve and National Guard is the key to sustaining operations during war or national disasters.

We wouldn't be the best Army in the world without their support.



PR National Guard (PRNG) 1011 Engineer Company Soldiers on Active Duty for Operational Support (ADOS) orders provide Fort Buchanan construction support at the Las Casas Lake area for training, recreation and operations.



(L to R) PRNG 1011 Eng. Co First Sergeant, 1st Sgt. Benigno Seda and Las Casas Lake Construction Site Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, Sgt. 1st Class Erick Collazo review the construction site at Fort Buchanan.

Deputy Garrison Commander's Corner: The Importance of Readiness



Since the 1800's military departments, as well as Congress, have used the word "readiness" to refer to the state of military personnel, training, equipment and other related activities.

ready to deploy, fight and win in **Conflict**. In periods absent of armed conflict, we must be prepared to **Compete** with potential adversaries. In order to compete effectively, we must **Change** to achieve overmatch on future battlefields. Still, we must retain flexibility that allows the Army to respond to **Crisis**, like the on-going COVID response or natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes.

Fort Buchanan must be ready to protect against the potentially harmful effects of man-made incidents and natural disasters by ensuring we have action plans in place. These outline what to do during a crisis that otherwise would negatively impact the installation. We put these plans into action through training, rehearsals and

as realistically as possible.

We live by our motto "We are Fort Buchanan." All garrison directorates, special staff, tenant organizations and, military and federal partners participate in these events. This ensures that all that would be involved acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to perform their required tasks. We synchronize operations, making certain critical response actions are not overlooked by any team members during an emergency. Doing so with all partners helps us reduce the impact these hazards have on essential operations and services, critical infrastructure, and property.

Fort Buchanan works daily to support those who compete with our adversaries, and if necessary, win in

"Fort Buchanan works daily to support those who compete with our adversaries, and if necessary, win in conflict."

If you were to skim defense-related news from the past few weeks, you would notice all services are grappling with challenges to their readiness.

What does that mean? Are our servicemen and women not ready to fight and win, if called upon?

The Department of Defense (DOD) defines readiness as "the ability of military forces to fight and meet the demands of assigned missions."

Lieutenant General Charles A. Flynn, Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Strategy and Planning, took this a bit further in an op-ed last fall.

Ready for what? He proposed a new framework called the "Four C's".

As the Army, we must always be

drills. Trainings such as Earthquake, Hurricane, All Hazards Table Top Exercises, as well as Anti-Terrorism and Active Shooter drills are conducted

conflict. But, if crisis comes, we will be ready. "There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation." General (Ret.) Colin Powell



Photo by Grissel Rosa, Public Affairs Officer

US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan conducted an Active Threat Table Top Exercise (TTX) at Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Félix A. Santoni Reserve Center, September 28, 2020, in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

From the Deputy to the Garrison Commander: Recognizing women's contributions for Women's History Month



During the month of March, our nation celebrates and pay tribute to the countless contributions to our Nation,

Women's History Month. This national observance provides us the opportunity to recognize the countless contributions that women – civilian and military - have made throughout history. Contributions that have enriched our culture and strengthened our communities.

This year's theme "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced," recognizes the accomplishments of many courageous women who participated in the suffrage movement to fight for their right to vote.

From the early days of women's activism to our current day, women have continued to exercise their constitutional right to vote, and like many groups, women have protested and marched to attain that right. As a result of their efforts, women are now in the legislatures of each state; have held the office of governor; have held office in the U.S. Congress; and even reached the highest level in the executive branch of government, as Vice President of the United States.

I will offer some specific examples of women who have made lasting contributions to our country.

Patsy Takemoto Mink made waves when she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1964, representing Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District. Although she was born in the U.S., her family was from Japan. In the workforce, the odds were stacked against her: Law firms refused to hire her, telling her that women should stay home to care for their children. After being elected, she was one of only eight women in Congress at that time. Many do not realize that Mink was one of two

principal authors and sponsors of the bill, and even penned its first draft.

To this day, Title IX's influence lives on, a vital tool in the fight against discrimination and sexual harassment in classrooms and in school sports.

Sonia Sotomayor grew up in challenging circumstances. Although she recalled regular summertime visits to Puerto Rico to see friends and family, her home life in New York was difficult. In 2009 Sotomayor would make history as the first Latina to become a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Since then, she has built her reputation on being an advocate for criminal justice reform and women's rights.

We look back on the accomplishments of Retired U.S. Army Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody who became the first woman to reach a four-star officer rank in the history of the United States military in 2008. Dunwoody, who led Army Materiel Command before her retirement in 2012, remained a pioneer throughout her decades-long service. In 1992, she became the first woman to command a battalion in the 82nd Airborne Division during the First Gulf War, according to the Purple Heart Foundation.

We celebrate the accomplishments of Dr. Condoleezza Rice, the first black woman to serve as the United States' national security adviser, as well as the first black woman to serve as U.S. Secretary of State.

We honor the commitment and service of the Military and Civilian women serving at Fort Buchanan. We are committed to fostering an environment of diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity. Please take the opportunity to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of women serving our nation and communities.

CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Get your installation services and post information for Fort Buchanan on the **NEW** Digital Garrison app on your smartphone or tablet.

We Are Fort Buchanan
Somos El Fuerte Buchanan

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USAG Fort Buchanan inaugurates Maxie Williams Track

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

USAG Fort Buchanan hosted the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the Maxie R. Williams Jr. Track February 19, 2021 with the participation of Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III, garrison commander; Brig. Gen. Jeffrey W. Jurasek, commanding general, 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC); Lt. Col. Brian Mandock, deputy garrison commander; Derrick W. Hood, deputy to the garrison commander, directors and staff.



Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Banks spoke to the commitment to military readiness.

“Today’s ceremony marks the completion of another garrison project that reaffirms Fort Buchanan’s commitment to the readiness of our Service Members and the quality of life of our community,” stated Garrison Command Sgt. Major José A. Banks.



The track is 400 meters long and has six lanes. Its center has been leveled with plans to use it as part of the Army Combat Fitness Test.

The re-inaugurated facility honors



(L to R) Command Sgt. Maj. Banks, Col. Corcoran, Brig. Gen. Jurasek and Command Sgt. Maj. Breck cut the ribbon that re-inaugurated Maxie Williams Track facility to be used as part of the Army Combat Fitness Test for our troops.



(L to R) 1st MSC Command Sgt. Maj. Breck and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Banks.

one of Fort Buchanan’s community member, US Marine Corps First Lieutenant Maxie R. Williams, Jr.

A student at Antilles High School in the 1960’s whose legacy was perpetuated by the Class of 1969 dedicating the Athletic Field after this member of the US Marine Corps who bravely served our country and was killed in action during Vietnam War.



The event showed the collaboration between Garrison and 1st MSC leaders in support of our military and civilian community.



The guest speaker for the event, 1st MSC Command Sgt. Maj. Robert B. Breck recognized “What a legacy he [Maxie Williams] must have had, to name this field in his name. His legacy is amazing. That’s what we as leaders would like to see, that people remember the example of what we did. To leave this kind of legacy is an honor and a privilege.”



US ARMY GARRISON FORT BUCHANAN INSTALLATION ACCESS POLICY

Effective 21 February 2021

****This notice explains US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan's Installation Access Policy effective 21 February 2021 until further notice. THIS POLICY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME – Please watch for updates on our Facebook, Twitter, Webpage and Digital Garrison app.****

1. HPCON Bravo +: US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan is currently under Health Protection Condition (HPCON) Bravo + (Moderate—Increased Community Transmission). The use of face masks and social distancing of not less than six (6) feet is mandatory at the installation. 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 yellow identification cards. Uniform wear is not required.

b. Borinqueneer's Gate (Main Gate on PR 28) is open 24/7. Wednesday to Sunday ALL valid installation access credentials, MWR and VHIC cards will be accepted at Borinqueneer's Gate from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily to access the installation.

c. VHIC and MWR cardholders, in addition to Retirees and their dependents will be allowed on base **ONLY** Wednesday to Sunday and restricted from accessing the installation on Mondays and Tuesdays.

d. Only up to four (4) affiliated persons per vehicle with the exception of Fort Buchanan Residents with Yellow credentials. All passengers must wear cloth face covering.

e. The trusted traveler program **is suspended** until further notice. **No guests allowed.**

f. Retired Disabled Veterans can bring 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.

3. Commissary (DeCA) and Exchange (AAFES) Operations:

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

b. All active/reserve Service Members and their dependents as well as Federal employees authorized will have access to visit the Commissary and the Exchange every day of the week.

c. 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 face masks 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. Non-compliant patrons will be escorted off the installation and will be barred from reentering post as deemed proper.

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 a.m. to 4 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.



GUARNICIÓN DEL FUERTE BUCHANAN POLITICA DE ACCESO A LA INSTALACIÓN

Efectivo al 21 de febrero 2021

****Este aviso explica la Política de Acceso a la Instalación efectiva al 21 de febrero 2021 hasta nuevo aviso. ESTA POLITICA ESTA SUJETA A CAMBIOS EN CUALQUIER MOMENTO— Favor de estar atento a las actualizaciones en nuestra página de Facebook, Twitter, Web y la aplicación Digital Garrison****

1. HPCON Bravo +: La instalación del Fuerte Buchanan se encuentra actualmente bajo el Nivel de Condición de Protección de la Salud (HPCON) Bravo + (Moderado— Aumento de Transmisión Comunitaria). El uso de mascarilla y el distanciamiento social no menor de seis (6) pies es mandatorio en la instalación. No visite la instalación si se encuentra enfermo o se le ha ordenado a estar en restricción de movimiento por 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 amarillas. No se requiere usar uniforme.

b. El portón Los Borinqueneer (Portón Principal en la Carretera PR 28) está abierto 24/7. De miércoles a domingo TODAS las credenciales válidas de acceso a la instalación, tarjeta de MWR y VHIC serán aceptadas en el portón Los Borinqueneers de 6 a.m. a 9 p.m. diariamente 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 a la instalación **SOLO** de miércoles a domingo, el acceso a la instalación será restringido lunes y martes.

d. Sólo hasta cuatro (4) personas afiliadas por vehículo exceptuando a los residentes del Fuerte Buchanan con tarjetas amarillas. Todos los pasajeros deberán usar mascarillas.

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

f. Los retirados DAV podrán traer 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.

3. Commissary (DeCA) and Exchange (AAFES) Operations:

a. Sólo se le permitirá acceso a dos (2) personas juntas 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

c. 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. 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.

b. 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. El horario del Centro de Control del Visitante es de 7 a.m. a 4 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) personas 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 deberán recibir credenciales producidas localmente en el Centro de Control de Visitantes.



The Fort Buchanan Police Department

Fort Buchanan Police Department.

As the Fort Buchanan Police continue to provide services to keep our community safe, we would like you to keep in mind several safety tips.

Due to the current pandemic the sale of face masks can be found anywhere. Whether you are purchasing at a store or online keep in mind that there are counterfeit products on the market.

Cheaper is not always better, especially when it has to do with personal protective equipment. Purchase safety equipment from known suppliers, stores and online sources.

Millions of counterfeit face masks have been confiscated in the United States alone over the last several weeks.

For more information, the community can check out the Center for Disease Control (CDC) at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/international-respirator-purchase.html> and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nppt/topics/respirators/disp_part/default.html.

The Fort Buchanan Police is always committed to maintaining our community safe and informed.

Fort Buchanan Police desk (787) 707-3337, for emergencies dial (787) 707-4911, or on post dial 4911. Off post dial 911.



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

More time at home – time to talk fire safety

With people spending more time at home teleworking and kids taking online classes it is the perfect time to talk with your family about fire safety.

- Three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no working smoke alarms.
- Less than 50% of homeowners have an escape plan
- **Carbon monoxide (CO) is the #1 cause of accidental death**

- 60% of consumers do not test their smoke and CO alarms monthly
- Only 47% of people report having CO alarms in their home

- Just 43% of homeowners have an escape plan
- **Unattended cooking is the #1 cause of home fires**

Take the time to discuss and practice home safety, so you and your family are ready for the unexpected. Having functioning alarms installed throughout your home is the first line of defense for fire prevention. They work around the clock to provide your family an early alert in the event of an emergency, providing you time to safely escape. Smoke and CO alarms should be placed on every level of the home, as well as inside and outside each bedroom. Fire extinguishers should also be placed on every level of the home, especially in the kitchen and garage.

7 Ways to Prepare for a Home Fire

- Install the right number of smoke alarms. Test them once a month and replace the batteries at least once a year.
- Teach children what smoke alarms sound like and what to do when they hear one.
- Ensure that all household members know two ways to escape from every room of your home and know the family meeting spot outside of your home.
- Establish a family emergency communications plan and ensure that all household members know who to contact if they cannot find one another.
- Practice escaping from your home at least twice a year. Press the smoke alarm test button or yell “Fire” to alert everyone that they must get out.
- Make sure everyone knows how to call 9-1-1.
- Teach household members to **STOP, DROP and ROLL** if their clothes should catch on fire.

Call 9-1-1 Off Post or On Post 787-707-4911

Fort Buchanan Fire Prevention Office at 787-707-3410.

Chaplain's Corner

Do you need more transparency in life?

...Or do you need to guard your heart a bit more? It is a question worth pondering as you consider the health of your relationships.

Windows are an important part of the living space. They let in light during the day and allow its residents a picture of what is going on outside. A curtain can be used to completely block out the outside world and provide a comfortably dark environment for rest and privacy.

When that curtain is open however, as I like to remind my boy, if you can see someone, they can see you too! But what if you don't want your view to be shut off completely, or you want some light, but not all of it? The answer is blinds of course!

Blinds can be raised or lowered as well as adjusted to allow more or less light. This is a similar concept in our relationships. Like a set of blinds, you can adjust your interactions by either allowing more or less visibility to your soul. In the vertical spectrum, we have a God in heaven that desires for us to know him, and to be known by him. But we also have a myriad of relationships around us that may require adjusting the blinds horizontally.

With those closest to you, it is important to be transparent with your thoughts, emotions, and beliefs. Transparency provides a way to better understand one another which can strengthen most relationships. On the other hand, there may be times that it is entirely appropriate to close yourself off in order to be safe and maintain your privacy.

Deciding how much or how little you open up to others is entirely up to you. There is also a popular phrase, "eyes are the window to the soul." Your spiritual health can be measured in a way by what you take in through your eyes.

If you'd like to see a church in action, please join us for our Protestant and Catholic chapel services at our new times:

Protestant Chapel Service: 9:30 am on Sunday

Catholic Chapel Service: 11:30 am on Sunday

Services will continue to be live streamed on each communities' Facebook page, Protestant Service: <https://www.facebook.com/Ft-Buchanan-Chapel-Protestant-Service-101189707958782/>

Catholic Service: <https://www.facebook.com/Fort-Buchanan-St-Francis-of-Assisi-Catholic-Community-115141189921692>

Serving With You

Maj. David S. Keller Garrison
Garrison Command Chaplain



The
BLACK FAMILY
BLACK HISTORY MONTH



DEOMI
PRESS

www.defenseculture.mil

FORT BUCHANAN TAX ASSISTANCE CENTER OFFERS PREPARATION FREE OF CHARGE FEDERAL TAX RETURN FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS



The Fort Buchanan Tax Assistance Center (TAC), opened February 23, 2021 to prepare and electronically file federal income tax returns free of charge to eligible individuals. The center, staffed by IRS trained and certified Soldiers and volunteers, provides free basic income tax preparation to eligible Service members, dependents, and retirees. It can inform taxpayers about special tax credits for which they may qualify, such as the earned income tax credit, child tax credit, and credit for the elderly or the disabled. The TAC does not provide tax assistance services to taxpayers that are self-employed, involved in other private business activities, or with rental properties.

Fort Buchanan Installation Legal Office runs and operates the TAC as part of its Legal Assistance mission. The TAC is located at the Installation Legal Office (ILO) at 390 Double Eagle Ave. Suite 101, Fort Buchanan. Tax returns will be prepared from February 23 until April 15, 2021. Tax returns will be prepared by appointment only. Appointments are required for drop-off and pick-up. There will be no walk-ins this year. We are also going to be doing virtual tax preparation for this year, to best serve the needs of our community. The Fort Buchanan Tax Assistance Center follows and adheres to strict CDC COVID-19 safety protocols. To schedule an appointment call (787) 707-5155, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. closed all federal holidays.

MUST bring the following documents to have your tax return prepared:

- Proof of Identification (ID card with photo)
- Social Security cards for you, spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents listed on the tax return
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-MISC. You can obtain your DFAS W-2 from www.mypay.dfas.mil.
- Interest and dividend statements from banks and brokers, including mortgage interest statements (Forms 1099)
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns, if applicable
- Bank account routing numbers and account numbers for Direct Deposit
- Total paid for daycare provider and the provider's tax identifying number (Social Security Number or business Employer Identification Number), if applicable
- To file taxes electronically on a married-filing-joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms or have a special power of attorney or IRS Form 2848 authorizing you to sign for the spouse not present.
- Form 1095-A, B or C Health Care
- Puerto Rico Tax Return (PR residents)

The following documents may be necessary depending on your circumstances:

- Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) assignment letter for you, your spouse and dependents;
- Proof of foreign status, if applying for an ITIN;
- Divorce decrees and receipts for alimony paid or received;
- Child custody and support orders;
- Receipts for IRA contributions;
- Receipts and other supporting documentation if you plan to itemize your deductions in lieu of the standard deduction.

USAG Fort Buchanan leaders meet with San Patricio Coalition

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

USAG Fort Buchanan Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks shared initiatives of mutual collaboration during a partnership meeting with Jorge González, president of San Patricio Coalition (Coalición San Patricio) February 22, 2021 at garrison headquarters.

The organization that started in 2013 is comprised of 5,000 residents in the San Patricio area. Among the initiatives presented by garrison leaders is the MWR Card Membership that provides access to various resources and activities within the garrison such as the Bowling Center, Community Club and Conference Center, Golf Course, special events, and others.

Some initiatives presented by González included speaking engagements with key groups within the community like the San Juan Rotary



Photos by Army Sgt. Josue E. Pagán Carbone, Public Affairs Intern

(L to R) Jorge González, president of San Patricio Coalition, Garrison Commander, Col. Corcoran and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Banks.

Club, AARP and Empresas Caparra, the participation of local companies in Fort Buchanan's hiring events and Fort Buchanan teams participation in family events, for example, the San Patricio Family 5K (which Fort Buchanan has supported for more than 20 years) and the 3/K9 for mascots. Along with a proposed 10% discount at various restaurants and food facilities at San

Patricio Mall for military members and their families.

In a partnership that Col. Corcoran described as "seamless" both leaders agree that these initiatives are in support of San Patricio and Fort Buchanan communities' quality of life."

"This is what Fort Buchanan is doing for the community as part of our responsibility as a good neighbor, for the Army and our nation," concluded Corcoran.



Col. Corcoran and Command Sgt. Maj. Banks presented González with the garrison coin in appreciation for the partnership and support with Fort Buchanan's military and community.

Veterans Services Organizations hold quarterly meeting at Fort Buchanan

Story and photo by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

USAG Fort Buchanan Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III; Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. Brian Mandock and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks, participated in the quarterly combined in-person/virtual via teleconference meeting with Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) chaired by Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Fernando Fernández, president of the Installation's Retiree Council held at the garrison's Maj. Gen. James A. Buchanan Conference Room, February 10, 2021.

These meetings, coordinated by Fort Buchanan Directorate of Human Resources, Retirement Services Officer, Miguel Aponte, provide an opportunity to share up-dated information and respond to frequently asked questions regarding access to the installation, programs and services.

The Garrison Commander reiterated



that his priority since COVID-19 started a year ago, "has been to ensure the safety of the Fort Buchanan Community," as he explained the current access policy and the possibility of future changes. Col. Corcoran re-affirmed that the restrictions and preventive measures in place, serve to protect and respect our veteran community and that the Garrison Command continues to assess the situation every day while making adjustments as is possible.

Among those present were: Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the US Army, Luis A. Soto-Ruiz; Fort

Buchanan Directorate of Human Resources (DHR) Director, Ulises Marrero-Diaz; Commissary Officer, William Roger; Transition Assistance Program Specialist, José R. Morales who responded to questions made via teleconference; DHR Military Personnel Division Chief, Eric J. Amaro; 1st Mission Support Command Chief Public Affairs, Lt. Col. Carlos M. Cuebas; Directorate of Emergency Services Chief of Police, Tomás Acosta-Lamberty, who also answered questions concerning access and security and representing the Association of the US Army, Chief Warrant Officer (Ret) Cristino Lozada.

Col. Corcoran thanked all veterans and their organizations for their participation and continued support to our nation. He re-emphasized that his intent is that all veterans receive every entitlement they have earned, while ensuring the safety of the entire Fort Buchanan community.



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

FEB - 4 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Use of Masks and Other Public Health Measures

We must defeat the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and defend the force against COVID-19 while protecting our Nation. In accordance with Executive Order 13991, "Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing," January 20, 2021, and Office of Management and Budget Memorandum, "COVID-19 Safe Federal Workplace: Agency Model Safety Principles," January 24, 2021, this memorandum rescinds Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Department of Defense Guidance on Cloth Face Coverings," April 5, 2020, and provides updated guidance on the use of face coverings and masks, social distancing, and full compliance with health guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Effective immediately, all individuals on military installations, as defined below, and all individuals performing official duties on behalf of the Department from any location other than the individual's home, including outdoor shared spaces, will wear masks in accordance with the most current CDC guidelines. Individuals must wear masks continuously while on military installations except: (1) when an individual is alone in an office with floor-to-ceiling walls with a closed door; (2) for brief periods of time when eating and drinking while maintaining distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines and instructions from commanders and supervisors; (3) when the mask is required to be lowered briefly for identification or security purposes; and (4) when necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability.

Individuals must consistently wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth and that comports with all current guidance from the CDC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Locations where masks must be worn include any common areas or shared workspaces (including open floorplan office spaces, cubicle embankments, and conference rooms) and in outdoor shared spaces. Masks recommended by the CDC include non-medical disposable masks, masks made with breathable fabric (such as cotton), masks made with tightly woven fabric (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source), masks with two or three layers, and masks with inner filter pockets. Novelty or non-protective masks, masks with ventilation valves, or face shields are not authorized as a substitute for masks. Masks must fit properly (i.e., snugly around the nose and chin with no large gaps around the sides of the face).

All individuals on military installations and all individuals performing official duties on behalf of the Department from any location other than the individual's home will follow CDC guidance and practice physical distancing, specifically by staying at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from other people who are not from an individual's household in both indoor and outdoor spaces. Social distancing should be practiced in combination with other everyday preventive actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including by wearing masks, avoiding



OSD000860-21/CMD001534-21

touching your face with unwashed hands, and frequently washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

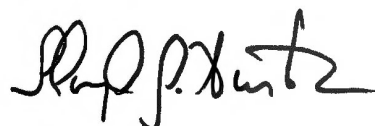
Categorical or case-by-case exceptions to these requirements for Service members and their families in environments other than office spaces that are necessary for military readiness, that are related to living on a military installation, or that are related to mask wearing by children (so long as such exceptions are consistent with CDC guidelines for mask wearing by children) may be granted in writing by DoD Component heads and should include appropriate alternative safeguards whenever feasible, such as additional physical distancing measures or additional testing consistent with DoD testing protocols. The authority to grant exceptions for all DoD Components located on the Pentagon Reservation is the Interim Director of Administration and Management. For all other situations outside of office settings when temporary unmasking is necessary for mission requirements, the authority to grant exceptions may be delegated in writing to officials at a level no lower than a general/flag officer in the grade of O-7, Senior Executive Service member (or equivalent), or, for installations that do not have officials at these levels, O-6 installation commanders.

For the purposes of this guidance, a military installation is a base, camp, post, station, yard, center, homeport facility for any ship, or other activity under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of a Military Department or the Secretary of Defense, including any leased facility, which is located within any State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or Guam. In the case of an activity in a foreign country, a military installation is any area under the operational control of the Secretary of a Military Department or the Secretary of Defense, without regard to the duration of operational control.

DoD Components will comply with applicable labor relations obligations to the extent such obligations do not conflict with the agency's ability to conduct operations during this emergency.

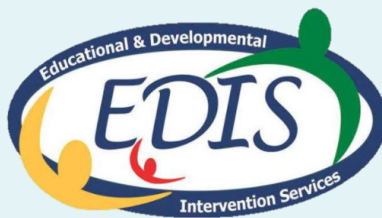
COVID-19 is one of the deadliest threats our Nation has ever faced. As we have done throughout our history, the military will rise to this challenge. It is imperative that we do all we can to ensure the health and safety of our force, our families, and our communities so we can prevail in this fight.

Questions concerning this guidance may be directed to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.



cc:

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Oversight
Director of Administration and Management



The Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) program offers early intervention services to support Military Families in their efforts to promote their children's growth, development, and learning.

ACT EARLY AND CALL EDIS IF YOUR CHILD AT:



12 MONTHS

Does not crawl
or sit on his own



18 MONTHS

Does not have at least
6 words or point to things



24 MONTHS

Does not use
2-word phrases to talk



30 MONTHS

Does not want to play
with other children or with toys

If your child is younger than 36 months and you would like to have more information regarding your child's development, call the Fort Buchanan EDIS program, and request a **FREE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING** for your child.

Call today: (787) 707-2165/2167

Visit our website: www.edis.army.mil

Your child must be a dependent of an Active Duty Military, AGR
or Coast Guard member assigned to Puerto Rico to receive services from EDIS.

USAG Fort Buchanan leaders meet with Banco Popular PR partners

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

Leaders from USAG Fort Buchanan and Banco Popular shared initiatives in support of the military and civilian community during a partnership meeting held January 28, 2021 at garrison headquarters.

Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III and Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Derrick W. Hood participated in an amicable dialogue with Banco Popular San Juan Region: Executive Vice President, Group Manager, Administration Group, Eduardo J. Negrón-Méndez and Senior Vice President and Division Manager, Jorge

A. García Noya; Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Luis A. Soto and Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Emeritus, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Félix A. Santoni to discuss initiatives

125 branches of the bank. It has been servicing the financial needs of the military installation community for almost 70 years.

The garrison's mutually beneficial strategic partnerships are essential to leverage public-private partnership authorities and opportunities to identify efficiencies, seek cost savings, cost avoidance, improving, and strengthening relationships with local organizations like Banco Popular. "The benefits of these partnerships are widespread as we identify areas of mutual collaboration to address issues of common concern," said Col. Corcoran.



Photo by Army Sgt. Josue E. Pagán Carbone, Public Affairs Specialist

of mutual collaboration.

Banco Popular de Puerto Rico, Buchanan Branch was established November 28, 1951. It is one of the

Fort Buchanan Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Corner



FMWR Employee retires after 33 years of NAF Service

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Buchanan's Directorate of Family and, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) honored William Rivera who retired January 31, 2021 after 33 years of federal service to the non-appropriated fund service.

Rivera served as Materials Handler in FMWR from July 28, 1988 through January 29, 2021. "During this period Mr. Rivera has been a dedicated professional and mission-oriented employee. He has been extremely reliable in managing the non-appropriated fund warehouse for the Garrison



and consistently provided superb customer support and property accountability. Mr. Rivera's dedication and commitment to duty reflect great credit upon himself, the Installation Management Command, and the United States Army," read the United States Army Certificate of Appreciation presented to him by Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III.

(L to R) FMWR Program Director, Joanne B. Fitzgerald, Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III and William Rivera, retiring employee.
Photo courtesy of FMWR

Commissaries... Future of the benefit

Story by Keith Desbois
DeCA Public Affairs Specialist

Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) leadership came together Dec. 2-3, 2020 to create a new vision for the agency and refine the mission and direction for 2021 and beyond.

Looking forward to the future and using lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, the new vision will embrace ways to better serve the military community in line with Department of Defense direction.

DeCA has identified the need to improve its long-term revenue trend and, by implementing the new vision, make the strategic changes required to sustain the slight increase in sales seen in 2020, primarily attributed to the pandemic-buying in March and April.

“2020 was a challenging year, and the pandemic reinforced the commissaries’ critical mission in delivering to our customers the essential items they wanted and needed,” said Bill Moore, DeCA director and CEO. “Moving forward, and using what we have learned, we will work with our industry partners to ensure we have a steady distribution of product and the personnel available to get these items on the shelves, meeting the needs of our deserving patrons in more convenient ways.”

The commissaries’ updated mission statement of “deliver a vital benefit of the military pay system that provides grocery items at a significant savings in order to enhance quality of life and readiness” focuses on the agency delivering congressionally mandated annual patron savings of 23.7 percent or more.

DeCA leaders discussed several potential initiatives to ensure this savings goal is met.

“Our mission statement and vision were outdated compared to where the industry is going and where our agency needs to go, so we got together as leaders and developed a better focus that takes us into 2021 and beyond, and also leverages advancements in delivering

the benefit,” Moore said.

DeCA’s new vision, “to be the grocery provider of choice for eligible patrons – delivering a vital benefit exclusively for the military community and their families,” reaffirms the agency’s commitment to superior customer service and providing the items patrons want and need at the best price, he added.

To achieve this vision, the agency established priority focus areas for improving the way it delivers the benefit. Some of those areas include the following:

- Increasing sales, as DeCA owes it to its customers to deliver an efficient and effective commissary shopping experience
- Expanding patronage by educating and conducting outreach events to get more of the newest eligible patrons – first term troops and younger service members along with disabled veterans – into the stores
- Valuing customer feedback by responding to comments provided on the annual Commissary Customer Service Survey and ForeSee customer feedback tool to determine what attracts and maintains new customers
- Adding e-commerce options such as expanding CLICK2GO curbside service to more locations and accepting online payments are just a couple of ways DeCA is looking to make shopping more convenient
- Improving the supply chain by increasing DeCA’s order fill rates and



Photo by Rick Brink, DeCA

Tiara Edwards loads groceries in the vehicle of a customer using the Fort Lee Commissary’s CLICK2GO online ordering/curbside delivery service Aug. 4. Services like CLICK2GO are a key part of DeCA’s future focus.

bettering the agency’s relationship with its suppliers and distributors to ensure commissary customers have what they want, when they want it

Also, as part of this refocusing process, DeCA refined its values, emphasizing a greater focus on trust and treating all with dignity and respect.

“Overall, our overriding goal for 2021 and beyond is to ensure every eligible patron has the opportunity to enjoy the benefit,” Moore said. “This goal will be the basis of our corporate push to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our commissary operations. We will lean forward to achieve our future goals, while ensuring an agency culture, focused on our deserving patrons.”

In the next monthly issue...



March 12, 2021...

***Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Félix A. Santoni
Coin Unveiling Ceremony***



***Fort Buchanan Visitor Control Center
Memorialization Ceremony...***

To be held March 25, 2021.



March 29 is...

**NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR
VETERANS DAY**

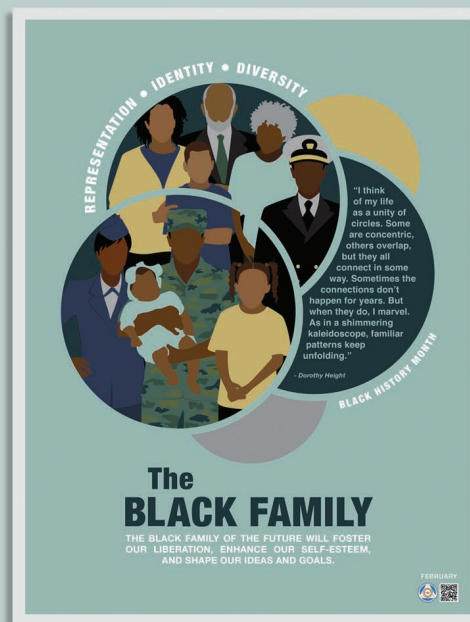


CULTURAL
AWARENESS



OBSERVANCE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



FACTS

Each February, we recognize African American/Black History Month to honor the contributions of African Americans throughout our nation's history through times of peace and conflict.

The observance is mandated by Public Law 99-244.

The annual celebration of achievements by Black Americans is associated with Dr. Carter G. Woodson. In 1915, Dr. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now called the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH).

In 1926, Dr. Woodson initiated the celebration of Negro History Week, which encompassed the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month, during the celebration of the United States Bicentennial. He urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

Over the years, the ASALH themes have reflected changes in how people of African descent in the United States have viewed themselves, the influence of social movements on racial ideologies, and the aspirations of the Black community.

The 2021 theme is: The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity. The Black family has been a topic of study in many disciplines—history, literature, the visual arts and film studies, sociology, anthropology, and social policy.

On military installations around the world, the Department of Defense joins in paying tribute to African Americans' contributions to protecting the nation and enriching our culture.