

El Morro

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Sentinel of the Caribbean

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Fort Buchanan has a new Garrison Commander

Story on page 7



US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan's New Garrison Commander: Colonel Tomika M. Seaberry's Command Speech



“Buenos dias y gracias por su amable bienvenida a la familia del Fuerte Buchanan.” General Officers, Command Sergeants Major and the Fort Buchanan community, I am extremely honored you are here today and taking time out of your busy schedule to share one of the finest military traditions with me.

To my dear friends, to include my growing military family, thank you also for partaking in this special day in person and through the Garrison's Facebook live page.

I need to take a moment to thank Joe (Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III outgoing commander) and Jennifer for their dedication, commitment and their hard work throughout the garrison.

The Seaberry's humbly take the torch and will continue lead the garrison with dignity and respect. Joe, you have given me a world class, red carpet welcome and transition to the garrison. The on boarding also was superb. I called my friends that I served with I told them this garrison is 5-star!

Talking to directors and the hard working members of each section, I am extremely blessed and grateful to be a part of the garrison family. I must admit at this moment I am overwhelmed by the goodness of God, as you look around and see fine leaders who took time to be here, it says a lot.

To my family, it has been an interesting 365 days.

While I was deployed last year, my mother was on a ventilator for over 14 days. She recovered from COVID-19 and said she wouldn't miss this event for anything in the world. She is here today.

Also in January, as I was in the middle of packing and planning my stepmother's funeral after losing her life to COVID-19, when I received the call, I was selected as the next commander of Fort Buchanan. I cried deep tears of joy, pain and sorrow all at the same time, but it's an honor to

continue to show my leadership.

To Robert and our children, thank you for being my rock for over 24 years. I hope you and our amazing children never, ever forget that I truly recognize the sacrifices you continue to make as you support my military career.

In the Bible, Jeremiah 3:15, it says. . . “And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will guide you with knowledge and understanding.”

As I look around I am surrounded by shepherds, I see and feel in my soul I am in the midst of wisdom and knowledge. I look forward to continue the fine work that Joe has bestowed upon Fort Buchanan.

And finally to my Garrison Family . . . my battle, Command Sgt. Maj. Banks, my deputies, our Soldiers, our civilians and their families. Robert and I would like to especially thank you all for the warm welcome to the garrison, as I stated, you have given us 5-star treatment, I think we're better than a Ritz Carlton. We are looking forward to this amazing journey together.

I am looking forward to providing leadership, teamwork, team building, and humility throughout my leadership tenure.

As I close, I must leave you with two famous quotes that I believe will reinforce our garrison family: first from Gandhi – “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”

Chicago Bulls Coach, Phil Jackson said – “The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”

All policies and procedures remain in effect.

Thank you.





Fort Buchanan



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

Garrison Commander
Col. Tomika M. Seaberry

Garrison Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks

Deputy Garrison Commander
Lt. Col. Brian M. Mandock

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Upcoming events

May June July

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

National Retiree Appreciation Month

National Day of Prayer
May 6

Military Spouse Appreciation Day
May 7

Mother's Day
May 9

USAG Fort Buchanan Change of Command
May 11

Armed Forces Day
May 15

Memorial Day
May 31

Establishment of US Army Civilian Corps

PR National Guard Governor's Day at Camp Santiago

Women Veterans Day
June 12

US Flag Day
June 14

US Army 246th Birthday
June 14

Father's Day
June 20

PTSD Awareness Day
June 27

Independence Day
July 4
(Observed July 5)

Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary
July 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.

From the Garrison Command Sergeant Major: Memorial Day – “I will never leave a fallen comrade.”



The Soldier’s Creed, along with the Army values, is the way of life of our Soldiers.

Within the Soldier’s Creed, a statement takes relevance during Memorial Day. It reads, “I will never leave a fallen comrade.”

It is a special day when the nation gets together to pay homage to our heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of freedom and democracy.

What for some people may be a day off from work, for those who proudly wore, or still wear the uniform, Memorial Day has a distinctive meaning.

As President Abraham Lincoln said to his fellow citizens as he stood at the site of the battle of Gettysburg, “We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that the nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember,

what we say here, but it cannot forget what they did...”

Memorial Day is not about a long weekend but a day to honor those we have lost. As President Lincoln said, we cannot forget what all the previous generations of Soldiers did as they went in harm’s way risking everything for us, their fellow comrades, and our country. More than a million have paid the ultimate price in the wars and conflicts this nation has fought since the first Colonial Soldiers took up arms in 1775 to fight for our independence. Today we all enjoy the benefits of their service.

During this Memorial Day, as in the first held in 1860, we pay tribute to the brave men and women who took the oath of allegiance as members of the United States Armed Forces and died honoring their word, their commitment, and their loyalty.

It is our responsibility to teach other generations about the sacrifices made by our Soldiers. It will be our way to pay tribute to them by helping other generations to understand the essence of patriotism, which lies in the

willingness to sacrifice for one’s country.

All too often, we might forget how fortunate we are to live in a country that values life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is up to us to uphold the legacy of these past heroes and pass the torch to future generations so their memory can live on. We must lead the way for others to continue treating Memorial Day with reverence and respect.

To all, mission accomplished! Your legacy will live on in our hearts.

Thank you for your service. God bless you and your family.

We are Fort Buchanan!
¡Somos el Fuerte Buchanan!



Puerto Rico National Cemetery Photo by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist

Deputy Garrison Commander's Corner: Readiness: The Key Factor for 2021 Hurricane Season



USAG Fort Buchanan is the only federal Department of Defense military installation in Puerto Rico. Therefore, the garrison is continuously evaluating and improving its plans to be ready for all hazards that pose a threat to the community, such as hurricanes. We must be ready to protect life, health and property in order to maintain mission readiness.

This year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts a 60% chance of an above-normal number of named storms for the Atlantic hurricane season.

NOAA indicated there is a likelihood of 13 to 20 named storms with sustained winds of at least 39 mph, six

to 10 of those with the probability to become hurricanes, and three to five to become major hurricanes of Category 3 or higher.

Fort Buchanan works to prevent or mitigate the impact of these incidents to our community by building readiness through repetition. We conduct multiple rehearsals and exercises every year to train personnel, assess capabilities, and synchronize plans.

Some of these events are garrison-internal, while others include the installation and garrison staff, tenant organizations, and federal agency partners. The latter is exactly what we did in early May of this year.

USAG Fort Buchanan conducted a Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) Drill with approximately 50 participants from on and off island.

The scenario included a Category 4 Hurricane named Julian with potential to cause catastrophic damage. The major objectives of the ROC Drill were:

- 1) Identify gaps in capabilities or resources prior to landfall;
- 2) Prioritize and track resources;
- 3) Coordinate with tenants, partners, state and federal government, and interagency partners;

- 4) Review roles and responsibilities;
- 5) Establish command, control, communications and information requirements, and;

6) Identify low density resources that may become overly taxed during recovery.

Over the course of the ROC Drill, we identified risks and improved our responses to certain events during a natural disaster. Just as important, these drills helped with anticipating, coping with, adapting to, and recovering from the natural disaster, as well as, to increasing the community's capacity to be resilient in the face of the consequences we may have to struggle with.

Natural disasters will always occur. As we get ready for this year's hurricane season, we must remain vigilant and prepared. Garrison leadership is committed to take all precautionary measures to protect our community while maintaining operational readiness. Consequently, we evaluate our emergency plans and conduct ROC Drills to ensure the safety, health and well-being of our community. Working together is our best defense.

We are Fort Buchanan!
¡Somos El Fuerte Buchanan!



From the Deputy to the Garrison Commander: Talent Management- The Right Talent in the Right Job at the Right Time



In an increasingly uncertain future, it is ever more important that the Army employs the right talent in the right job at the right time.

Winning in this complex world requires every Soldier and Civilian to be on the field and playing their positions both home and away. Army readiness is strengthened by its people.

Talent management is a way to enhance Army readiness by maximizing the potential of the Army's greatest asset – its people. By better understanding the talent of the workforce and the talent needed by units, the Army can more effectively acquire, develop, employ, and retain the right talent, at the right time. The

Army Talent Management Strategy is the organizing concept for the Army's future-focused human capital management practices. The Department of Defense (DOD) is moving from an industrial age personnel system to a 21st-century talent management system that will enhance total force readiness by aligning individual capability with the Army's needs while optimizing human performance and engagement.

The Army People Strategy describes how we will shift from simply "distributing personnel" to more deliberately managing the talents of our Soldiers and Civilians. The strategy will help guide the Army to a future in which the Soldiers and Civilians are bonded together in cohesive teams, enjoy a far greater range of professionally rewarding opportunities, are better supported and developed, collaborate both in person and are proud to serve together in support of their organizations.

Ultimately you are the face of Fort Buchanan's commitment to its Soldiers and Families as well as our partners inside and outside of the gates. You are part of a team of professionals

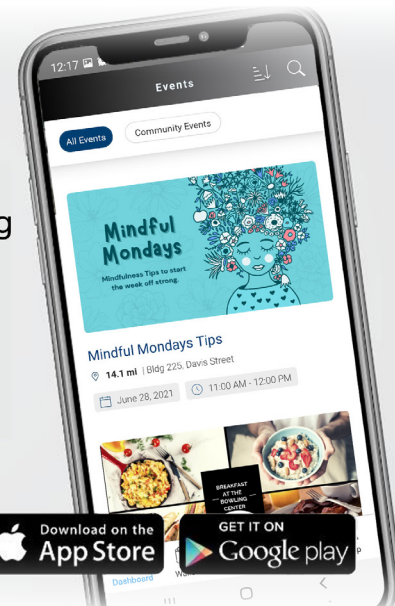
dedicated to providing world class customer service to our community members and to your garrison colleagues. Your opportunities for advancement are limited only by your commitment, desires and professional performance. You are expected to meet career development requirements and commit to a progressive program of formal training and self-development to certify that you are prepared to reach your full potential. I encourage you to meet with your supervisor or mentor and discuss the tools, knowledge and resources available to help you develop your skills and talent. In the words of Walt Disney, "Good things come to those who wait, but better things come to those who go out and get them."

In an increasingly uncertain future, it is ever more important that the Army employs the right talent in the right job at the right time. Winning in this complex world requires every Soldier and Civilian to be on the field and playing their positions both home and away. Army readiness is strengthened by its people.

We are Fort Buchanan!
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MAKE THE CONNECTION

Find out what's happening at Fort Buchanan and make lifelong friendships with the **NEW** Digital Garrison app on your smartphone or tablet.



US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan conducts Change of Command

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Buchanan welcomed its new garrison commander May 11, 2021 during a ceremony held at the installation Soldier Plaza. Colonel Tomika M. Seaberry became the garrison's 77th commander, assuming command of the only federal military installation in Puerto Rico from outgoing commander Colonel Joseph B. Corcoran III.

The Director of Installation Management Command (IMCOM) – Readiness, Ms. Brenda Lee McCullough, hosted the military ceremony attended by distinguished guests such as the Puerto Rico Secretary of State, Hon. Larry Seilhamer Rodríguez on behalf of the Governor of PR, Hon. Pedro R. Pierluisi; Mr. José Olmos on behalf of PR Resident Commissioner, Hon. Jenniffer A.



IMCOM-Readiness Director, Brenda Lee McCullough passes the garrison colors to Col. Seaberry charging her with the responsibilities of being Fort Buchanan's new garrison commander.



Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks led the PR National Guard Color Guard during the Change of Command Ceremony held May 11, 2021 at the Soldier Plaza, USAG Fort Buchanan.



(L to R) PR President of the Senate, PR Secretary of State, Maj. Gen. Shawley and Col. Seaberry shared a conversation prior to the ceremony.



Approximately 100 guests attended the event following COVID-19 protocols and procedures.



(L to R) Col. Corcoran, Dr. Jennifer Corcoran and Ms. McCullough participate in the Awards Presentation during the Change of Command Ceremony.

González Colón; President of the PR Senate, Hon. José Luis Dalmau Santiago; the Commanding General of the 81st Readiness Division and Fort Buchanan Senior Commander, Maj. Gen. Jami C. Shawley; local government officials, representatives of federal agencies, business sector, veterans organizations, commander's, officers and non-commissioned officers (NCO) of all armed forces in Puerto Rico, civilian employees and members of the local community.

Following the Change of Command Passing of the Colors, Ms. McCullough recognized outgoing commander, Col. Corcoran and his spouse Dr. Jennifer Lynn Corcoran for their outstanding support to the Fort Buchanan

community. McCullough presented Col. Corcoran with the Legion of Merit "for exceptionally Meritorious Service as a Garrison Commander... having significantly improved the readiness capability and quality of life for the entire Fort Buchanan community and



led the installation in the preparation, response and recovery from multiple natural disasters and a world-wide pandemic." McCullough also presented Dr. Jennifer Corcoran with the US Army Certificate of Appreciation.

McCullough recognized and thanked the members of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard (PRNG) Color Guard led by Garrison Command Sergeant Major José A. Banks and members of the PRNG 248th Army Band Hellfighters Brass Quintet under the direction of Staff Sgt. José Bocanegra, "for sharing their talents, your performance honors all who serve."



US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan conducts Change of Command (cont.)

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

The master of ceremony was Army Sergeant Patricia M. Landrau, paralegal noncommissioned officer with the US Army Reserve 1st Mission Support Command Judge Advocate Office.



Ms. McCullough recognized Col. Corcoran's contributions and impact as the outgoing garrison commander over the past two years, including prevailing over economic constraints, natural disasters, emergencies including the pandemic, enabling readiness, providing training and services; building cohesive and collaborative



relationships with military leaders, stakeholders, federal partners, political representatives and other community leaders. "I am confident you will continue to excel at every challenge the Army gives you," concluded.

"Commanding a garrison is tough today and it's a business that requires strong, inspired and inspiring leadership," said McCullough as she introduced the incoming garrison commander. "Col. Tomika Seaberry is



Col. Tomika M. Seaberry, in her first official act as Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander, passing the Garrison Colors to Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks.

a proven leader. She is ideally suited to lead the Fort Buchanan Team as they support the priorities and requirements set by Maj. Gen. Shawley and the IMCOM priorities by Lt. Gen. Douglas M. Gabram." She extended a special welcome to Col. Seaberry's family and concluded "Tomika I am confident you will lead this garrison with the same professionalism, pride and expertise you have demonstrated throughout your career. I look forward to seeing you and your team building on recent successes and begin planning and execution to enhance Fort Buchanan. You have my full support and of that of my staff."

Ms. McCullough also extended her gratitude to Maj. Gen. Shawley for her support to the Fort Buchanan garrison and to Dr. Corcoran for her support to the garrison community.

Col. Corcoran thanked Ms. McCullough for her words and acknowledged, "many people made my two years on Fort Buchanan one of the greatest assignments in my 23 year military career. He continued recognizing the leaders and representatives of the government



of PR, all Federal Agencies and civilian institutions who support Fort Buchanan as well as the Armed Forces who "continue to work tirelessly to support the people of Puerto Rico." He concluded, "Fort Buchanan will always hold a special place in my heart. I'm going home but I'm leaving home."



In her first address as Fort Buchanan's Garrison Commander, Col. Seaberry, thanked all who attended the event and those who watched the

event via Facebook Live, her family and "Joe (Col. Corcoran) and Jennifer for their dedication, commitment and hard work throughout the Garrison." She added, "The Seaberry's humbly take the torch and we will continue to build and lead the Garrison with dignity and respect...I am looking forward to working with the organizational leaders and their team...I am looking forward to giving you the best of me during my tenure," Col. Seaberry concluded.



Garrison Commander Col. Seaberry gives the order to retire the colors.



Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry posed with her mother (center), husband Robert (next to Col. Seaberry) and attending family members.



Memorial Day 2021

As the seasons change from winter to spring and spring to summer, the American commitment to honoring those men and women in uniform who have made the ultimate sacrifice remains constant.

Through the quality of your service, you safeguard their legacy not just on Memorial Day, but every day. Thank you for all you do.

This long holiday break will also mark the traditional start of summer and all that entails, both on and off duty. Many of you will be reporting to new duty stations, executing longer training days and perhaps assuming new leadership roles, all while maximizing leisure time with family and friends during vacations or quick getaways over extended weekends like this one.

Regardless of activity, summer is the Army's deadliest time of year, and we must mitigate risk and make good decisions in all we do.

Dynamic risk management - making real-time adjustments to our plans as conditions change - is applicable both on and off duty. The same environmental impacts of rain, fog or other obscurants that would cause us to modify or pause training missions are just as hazardous during personal travel. Delaying your departure until the weather clears or pulling over for the night due to fatigue might be disappointing in the short term, but it ensures you remain safe for the fun ahead.

Whatever your plans, always have a plan, but be flexible enough to roll with the unexpected.

As always, find tools to help you manage your risk at <https://Isafety.army.mil>. We wish you all a happy and enjoyable Memorial Day and safe summer in the upcoming months.

People First - Winning Matters - Readiness Through Safety!

William L. Gardner II
Command Sergeant Major

Andrew C. Hilmes
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding



**The Fort Buchanan
Safety Officer
wants you to know...**

Hurricane Preparedness: It Saves Lives

Hurricane season is around the corner. Every action taken to prepare in advance will significantly enhance your chances of survival. Hurricane season starts on June 1st and ends on November 30th, and additionally, we continue having to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

To develop a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan, individuals must understand the hazards associated with the hurricane's effects in your area. Is your household is vulnerable to floods, storm surges, tornadoes, and strong winds? Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. Their impacts can be felt hundreds of miles inland, and significant impacts can occur without a significant hurricane. Federal agencies like FEMA, National Weather Service, and your local state emergency management agencies have historical data and maps of past atmospheric events.

When it is time to put the plan together, take into consideration the following questions. How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings? Where will I go for shelter? What is my evacuation route? How will my family communicate if separated? Do I have all the emergency items needed? What about my pets? Do you have family members with disabilities? FEMA launched the [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) webpage designed to educate and empower the American people with a large variety of tools that assist you in making your plan.

A critical aspect of the plan is to have an emergency kit for each member of the family. The components of the kit will depend on your own needs.

Basic items that should be part of the kit are listed in this issue on pages 17 and 18.

For more information related to emergency preparedness access the following web pages:

- FEMA Ready Campaign - <https://www.ready.gov/>
- National Weather Service - <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/>
- American Red Cross - <https://www.redcross.org/>
- Negociado Para El Manejo De Emergencias Y Administración De Desastres – <https://www.manejodeemergencias.pr.gov/>

Carlos J. Alvarado
Installation Safety and
Occupational Health Manager



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

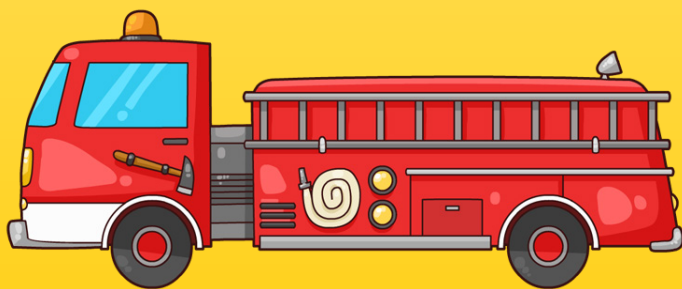
**What to do when you see the fire truck
stopping in front of the station?**

There has been an increase of people on post, not coming to a full stop or trying to drive around Fort Buchanan's fire trucks when fire crews stop in front of the station to back up into the vehicle bay.

Due to the nature of this profession, emergency responders are particularly vulnerable because they exit their vehicles to respond to situations on active roadways.

In a concerted effort to educate the Fort Buchanan community on the safety precautions that drivers need to take when they see emergency vehicles responding to an emergency or returning from one, here are some simple rules that can keep you and firefighters safe:

1. **SLOW DOWN** and check the flow of traffic around you.
2. If you are the lead vehicle, put your hazard lights on so cars behind you know they need to stop.
3. Come to a complete **STOP**.
4. **STOP** at least 500 feet behind any emergency vehicle with its lights on.
5. **NEVER** pass an emergency vehicle displaying warning lights unless directed to do so by spotters.
6. **WAIT** for the fire truck to back up into fire station and spotters signal before proceeding.



For fire emergencies call **911 Off Post** or
On Post 787-707-4911
For information and/or training call Fort Buchanan
Fire Prevention Office at: 787-707-3410

Legal Corner

New Commander's Policy Memorandum 18 – What You Need To Know

US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan recently established Policy Memorandum 18, Limitations on Entry for Individuals Under Investigation for Drug Related Offenses or Possession of Medical Marijuana. This policy's purpose is to uphold the integrity of the installation's Mission, Vision and Values, ensuring good order and discipline. This policy applies to all personnel on and attempting to, gain access to Fort Buchanan.

Although Puerto Rico may have laws regulating the use of marijuana, Fort Buchanan is a Federal Installation. Drugs are not permitted on Federal Installations. At no time is any form of marijuana or drugs allowed on base. Your compliance with all laws is mandatory in order to enter the installation. You will be barred and face criminal prosecution should you violate this new policy. Below are some important highlights:

Violation of this policy will result in a bar, administrative sanctions, including but not limited to, a limited or temporary bar from entry into Fort Buchanan. A Warning Letter will be issued to persons with a valid medical marijuana card and prescription. For Service Members, such sanctions are separate from and in addition to, any Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) action that a Service Member's chain of command might initiate. Individuals may appeal their sanction by submitting the same in writing to the Garrison Commander through the Installation Legal Office (390 Double Eagle Avenue, Suite 101, Fort Buchanan, PR 00934-4614).

The Garrison Commander has granted the Department of Emergency Services (DES) Officers and Agents the authority to issue pre-signed bar letters from the Deputy Garrison Commander. Limited Bar Letters will be provided to all employees within the installation or service members. These individuals will not be allowed to enter any of the AAFES locations, or other facilities without prior written approval. The bar length will be for a period of one-year. Temporary Bar Letters will be provided to all other individuals outside of the aforementioned group and the bar length will be for a period of one-year. For all individuals who attempt to gain access and possess a valid medical marijuana card with proper prescription, a Warning Letter will be provided. Violation of the warning letter could result in further action.

Everyone with the privilege to work, live, train and visit Fort Buchanan has the duty to abide by the laws and regulations that keep the community and installation safe.

We Are Fort Buchanan!
"Somos El Fuerte Buchanan"

Col. Dorian S. Germany
Staff Judge Advocate



Chaplain's Corner

Battling the Storms of Life...

...Or do we just close the shutters?

I moved to Puerto Rico last summer, an island abounding with brilliant sunshine, only to discover many houses completely shuttered.

I didn't understand, why would people want to deliberately shut out the beauty of the island? I wondered at this phenomena and thought about why this could be. I even commented to my wife that maybe everyone was conserving the precious cool air in the midst of the heat. Maybe the cost of electricity was simply too high. I know now that people were simply protecting their homes and more importantly, their occupants from potential storms.

Life can be like that sometimes. We encounter things we don't understand and we make up reasons for it in our heads. Some, like mine above, can be pretty amusing. Others can be more damaging and lead to misconceptions that can turn into disagreements or worse. It's important to ask questions about what you don't understand, and then, listen and learn.

In the Bible, it says that in a multitude of counselors, there is wisdom. As we encounter differing thoughts, practices, and lifestyles, we can always lead a conversation with a question, and then be sure to acquire understanding.

And as we approach this next season of storms and storm preparedness, let's be sure to pray for a peaceful summer.

God hears the prayers of those who dedicate themselves to understanding God's ways. Try to commit yourself to learning more about God, and those around you, to gain a larger perspective on life. As you acquire wisdom, you are better prepared to battle the storms in life, whether an actual storm or a life event. If you would like help in this area, the Religious Support Office is available to assist.

If you'd like to learn more about God this weekend, please join us for our Protestant and Catholic chapel services at the post chapel on Sundays:

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



IMCOM-Readiness Director visits Fort Buchanan for updates on projects

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

The Director of Installation Management Command (IMCOM)-Readiness, Brenda Lee McCullough visited USAG Fort Buchanan May 10-14, 2021 to participate in various updates of installation projects and initiatives.

During Ms. McCullough's visit she conducted a mentoring session with garrison director and supervisors, May 12, 2021 at the installation's Brig. Gen. James A. Buchanan conference room. Garrison Directorate leadership provided information on workforce strength, development and planning.



IMCOM - Readiness Director Brenda Lee McCullough during her mentoring session with Fort Buchanan Garrison Directors and supervisors.



Following this meeting, McCullough participated in a tour of the housing area. They visited a model home, an example of modifications and improvements being implemented in housing facilities on the installation. The Deputy to the Garrison Commander Derrick W. Hood; IMCOM – Readiness Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Dennison; Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Director, María “Angie” López, DPW Business

and Operations Integration Division, Manager, Carlos O. Guzmán and DPW Housing Manager, Yvette Robles accompanied McCullough throughout the tour.

Staff from the Directorate of Family and, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) Child Development Center (CDC) gave Ms. McCullough a tour of the state of the art facility highlighting the safety protocols and procedures that have been in place ensuring the safety of children, parents and staff. Joining the aforementioned group was the Garrison Commander, Col. Tomika M. Seaberry; Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks; FMWR Director Aida I. Aguilú; CDC Assistant Director,

Elisabeth M. Jusino and FMWR Child Youth Service (CYS) Parent and Outreach Services Director, Zaida Colón who provided insight on the operations and plans for the facilities.



DPW Environmental chief explains the phases of development of Las Casas Lake.



Ms. McCullough touring the model home at the installation's housing area.



Child Youth Service and Child Development Center staff guide Col. Seaberry, Ms. McCullough and Command Sgt. Maj. Dennison at the Child Development Center.

May 13 2021, IMCOM-Readiness Director and IMCOM-Readiness Command Sgt. Maj. Dennison; Garrison Commander Col. Seaberry; Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Banks; DPW Director, Ms. López and her Environmental Division Staff lead by Environmental Chief, Anibal Negrón visited Las Casas Lake for a brief on water resiliency, readiness, training and recreational opportunities. This was the first time Negrón briefed Col. Seaberry on the acquisition and status of the lake during a site visit. Negrón also explained the phase Las

IMCOM-Readiness Director visits Fort Buchanan for updates on projects (cont.)

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Casas Lake is at, providing both Ms. McCullough and Col. Seaberry with data and materials. He also reported on the successful, recent collaboration of a Puerto Rico National Guard engineer unit which has helped develop the lake grounds and the future joint ventures to complete the site’s project.



Within walking distance, the group went to a fully sustainable Rain Water Harvesting unit in a nearby facility. Both these initiatives are part of the Energy Security Strategy that enhance the mission readiness posture. The Rain Water Harvesting Systems treats approximately 150K gallons per month thus representing a savings of over \$50K per year. Las Casas Lake will support unit training, recreation, and future water purification.



Negrón explains the operation of the Rain Water Harvesting System and the benefits.

Following the lake visit the group went to the installation’s main Access Control Point, The Borinqueneers Gate and its Visitor Control Center (VCC) recently dedicated in honor of Borinqueneer and hero, Sgt. 1st Class Modesto Cartagena De Jesús. Directorate of Emergency Service (DES) Director Jorge Quiñones; DES Security Specialist, Ricardo Santiago;



(L to R) Col. Seaberry, Maj. Gen. Shawley, Ms. McCullough and Brig. Gen. Narciso Cruz at the installation’s IPB and IPL briefing, May 13, 2021.



Supervisory Security Specialist, Ramón Peluyera and DES Lead Security Guard, Maj. Héctor R. Ortíz explained the access and vetting process. Col. Seaberry presented herself to VCC guards and the FMWR Card agent, Ana “Elsie” Tirado and talked to them about their duties and tasks.

On the afternoon of May 13, 2021

at the Brig. Gen. James A. Buchanan conference room, the Garrison Commander, Col. Tomika M. Seaberry; 81st Commanding General and Fort Buchanan Senior Commander, Maj. Gen. Jami C. Shawley, Ms. McCullough and PR National Guard Assistant Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Narciso Cruz, in conjunction with garrison directors, staff and tenants participated in the Installation Planning Board (IPB) brief to delineate the garrison’s Integrated Priority List (IPL); the Project Review Board (PRB) to discuss the Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization (SRM) projects for FY22 and the Real Property Planning Board (RPPB) that addresses all real property requirements for all agencies and activities on the installation and supported areas.



(L to R) Derrick W. Hood, Command Sgt. Maj. Banks, Col. Seaberry, Command Sgt. Maj. Dennisen, Ms. McCullough, Ricardo Santiago and Jorge Quiñones at the VCC.

Photos by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist and Army Sgt. Josué E. Pagán Carbone, Public Affairs Intern

Fort Buchanan readies for Hurricane Season 2021 conducts ROC Drill

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

USAG Fort Buchanan conducted a Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) Drill, May 12, 2021 at the Navy Operational Support Center, Puerto Rico to train garrison staff, tenant organizations, and federal agencies to synchronize various internal and external plans, and assess the capability to respond to and operate during a natural disaster.

The exercise with an attendance of approximately 50 participants, established the groundwork for the upcoming hurricane season and a Full Scale Exercise to be conducted in December 2021.

The major objectives of the ROC Drill were to:

- Identify major gaps and seams in pre-positioning, response and recovery capabilities requiring external resources; Prioritize and track resources;
- Coordinate with tenants/ partners, state and federal government, and interagency partners; Review roles and responsibilities;
- Establish command, control, communications and information requirements; and
- Identify low density resources that may become overly taxed during recovery.



Anibal Negrón, Chief, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, shows the various resources within the garrison.



Garrison key leaders participated in the ROC Drill, among them (L to R), IMCOM-Readiness Director, Brenda L. McCullough; 81st Readiness Division, Commanding General and Fort Buchanan's Senior Commander, Maj. Gen. Jami C. Shawley and Garrison Commander, Col. Tomika M. Seaberry. (Far left) Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. Mandock and Commander, Contingency Command Post 1/Task Force 51, US Army North (Fifth Army), Brig. Gen. William J. Prendergast IV, listen attentively to Ms. McCullough's comments on the Rehearsal of Concept.



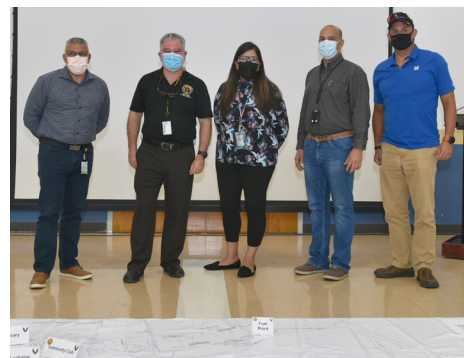
Representatives from the US Army Reserve, 1st Mission Support Command presented their resources and capabilities in support to the USAG Fort Buchanan in case of a natural disaster such as a Cat. 4 hurricane with catastrophic impact on the only federal military installation in Puerto Rico.

The ROC Drill was conducted by the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS), Plans and Operations Division led by José A. Boria Cruz with team members Joel Ramos and Stephanie Acosta.

The scenario, which included a Category 4 Hurricane named Julian with potential to cause catastrophic damage was assessed by deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. Brian Mandock, and DPTMS Director, Héctor Morán.



Col. Seaberry discusses various portions of the plan such as fuel and transportation with members of the Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) and their director, Onel Colón.



The ROC Drill was conducted by DPTMS team: (L to R) Director, Héctor Morán; Plans and Ops Chief, José A. Boria Cruz; Admin Assistant, Stephanie Acosta; Anti-Terrorism Specialist, Héctor R. Herrera Camerón and Ops Specialist, Joel Ramos

Photos by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist

USAG Fort Buchanan’s Senior Commander visits DODEA school

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

During her visit to the installation, May 10– 14, 2021, the Commanding General for the 81st Readiness Division and USAG Fort Buchanan’s Senior Commander, Maj. Gen. Jami C. Shawley shared with the students of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) Antilles Elementary School (AES).

Maj. Gen. Shawley was invited by the school principal, Lydia Blázquez, for a reading session with second grade students from Ms. Eva Figueroa class and Ms. Mary Jean Ladner English as a Second Language (ESL) class, May 12, 2021.



Maj. Gen. Shawley listens attentively to a second grade student during her visit to DODEA’s Antilles Elementary School, May 12, 2021.



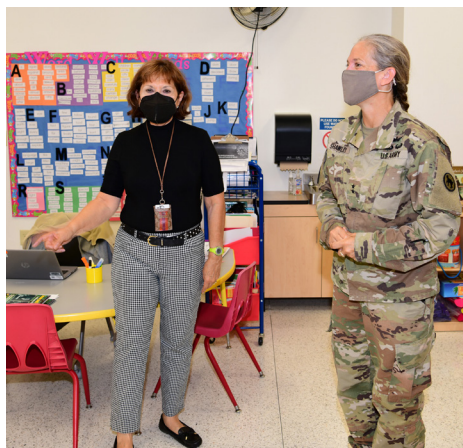
Antilles Elementary School principal, Lydia Blázquez and Maj. Gen. Shawley greet students as they entered the school facilities during Maj. Gen. Shawley’s visit.

Maj. Gen. Shawley engaged in an interesting conversation with AES second graders about their experiences at school, the lessons they are learning and the excellent work performed by the teachers under this unprecedented school environment.

Students and teachers enjoyed the Commanding General’s visit. DODEA schools opened for in-person classes while observing strict procedures and protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.



Second grade students from Ms. Eva Figueroa and Ms. Mary Jean Ladner, ESL class, shared their experiences at school and the lessons they are learning while following strict health procedures and protocols implemented by DODEA schools during COVID-19 pandemic.



Ms. Eva Figueroa, second grade teacher welcomed Maj. Gen. Shawley during her visit to her classroom at the Antilles Elementary School.



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

Incoming Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander meets Military Leadership

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist



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

Outgoing Garrison Commander Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III and Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Brian Mandock presented incoming Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry

to military leaders assigned to Puerto Rico, May 3, 2021. Present from the San Juan Military Entrance Processing Station Commander, Maj. Ravi N. Cruz and 1st Sgt. Luz D. Strnad; US Coast

Guard Sector San Juan Commander, Capt. Gregory H. Magee, Jr. and Base SJ Commander Javier Delgado; US Marine Corps, 1st Sgt. Jaime S. Alvarez; Navy Operational Support Center Commander David F. Zerda; PR National Guard (PRNG) Chief of Staff, Col. Samuel Agosto and PRNG Senior Army Advisor Col. Luis. A. Velez-Cortes.

Col. Seaberry discussed and exchange ideas with local military leaders and they in turn were able to get an idea of her goals and vision as Commander of US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan.

Fort Buchanan has a deep and long standing partnership with all sister services on the island, strengthening readiness, promoting shared military expertise and resources.

NOSC Puerto Rico celebrates Navy Chiefs 128th Birthday

Story by HM3 Jeramie A. Ortiz Pérez
NOSC Puerto Rico

Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Puerto Rico Puerto Rico celebrated 128 years of Navy Chief Petty Officer’s tradition, heritage, leadership, and service to the fleet, April 1, 2021 at the NOSC PR grounds.

Chief Petty Officers (CPO) make up the highest enlisted ranks in the US Navy known as “Deckplate Leaders.” Because Chiefs act as a bridge between Officers and Junior Enlisted making naval operations possible and efficient. According to Naval History and Heritage Command, “Chiefs are recognized for exemplary technical expertise within their rating, superior administrative skills, and strong leadership ability. Most importantly, chiefs bridge the gap between officers and enlisted personnel, acting as supervisors as well as advocates for



their Sailors.”

NOSC PR CPOs exemplify the Navy Core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment demonstrated by their hard work and dedication in a rapidly changing world, society and in the midst of a pandemic serving the Fort Buchanan community.

To all honorable Chiefs active and retired, thank you for the sacrifices made and for your service to our nation. Happy Birthday!



Photos by Navy HM1 (AW) Alvin A. Leon Ramos, NOSC PR

Hurricane season

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) NOAA's Climate Prediction Center has predicted another above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. For 2021, a likely range of 13 to 20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 6 to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 5 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher) expected. NOAA provides these ranges with a 70% confidence. The Atlantic hurricane season extends from June 1 through November 30. Regardless of the predicted outlook, everyone is still urged to prepare.

How to Prepare for a Hurricane

Stay informed and know your hurricane terminology:

- **Tropical depression:** A system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and sustained winds not exceeding 38 mph.
- **Tropical storm:** A system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and sustained winds 39–73 mph.
- **Hurricane/Typhoon:** A system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and sustained winds 74 mph or higher.
- **Storm surge:** A dome of water pushed ashore by winds during tropical storms and hurricanes. Storm surges can reach 25 feet high and be 50–1000 miles wide.

• **Hurricane/tropical storm watch:** Hurricane/tropical storm conditions are possible within 36 hours in specified areas. Stay tuned to radio or TV for further information.

• **Short-term watches and warnings:** Provide detailed information about specific threats during hurricanes, such as flash flooding or tornadoes.

Know the categories of hurricanes:

- **Category 1:** Winds 74–95 mph, storm surge 4'–5', minimal damage to plants and signs.
- **Category 2:** Winds 96–110 mph, storm surge 6'–8', some flooding,

minimal damage to mobile homes, roofs and small crafts.

- **Category 3:** Winds 111–129 mph, storm surge 9'–12', extensive damage to small buildings and low-lying roofs.
- **Category 4:** Winds 130–156 mph, storm surge 13'–18', extreme damage with destroyed roofs and mobile homes, downed trees, cut off roads and flooded homes.
- **Category 5:** Winds exceeding 156 mph, storm surge over 18', catastrophic damage destroying most buildings and vegetation, cutting off major roads and flooding homes.

- Install permanent storm shutters or have supplies available to board up your windows.
- Make sure trees and bushes are well trimmed and maintained.
- Keep enough fuel in your car's tank to evacuate. Expect a high volume of slow traffic.
- Build an emergency kit, make and practice a Family emergency plan and evacuation procedure.
- Develop a Family communication procedure in case you are separated. Keep in mind phone lines and cell phone towers may be down.

When a Tropical Storm/ Hurricane Watch Is Issued

- Listen to local radio/TV stations for up-to-date storm information.
- Clear yard of all loose objects that can be picked up by the wind.
- Prepare to protect your windows and glass door. Cover all windows of plywood or shutters.
- Check on your family and supplies disasters checklist (plans).
- Offer your home as shelter to friends or relatives who live in vulnerable areas or mobile homes.

When a Tropical Storm/ Hurricane Warning Is Issued

- Listen to the advice of local officials, and leave (evacuate) if they tell you to do so.
- Complete preparation activities. If you are not advised to evacuate, stay indoors, away from windows.

- Clean containers for drinking water and your bath tub for storing cleaning water.

During the Storm/Hurricane

- Stay inside and away from windows, skylights and doors.
- Wait for official word that the danger is over. Don't be fooled by the storm's calm "eye". The worst part of the storm will happen once the eye passes over and the wind blows from the opposite direction.

What to Do After a Hurricane

- If directed report your status using the Army Disaster Personnel Accountability and Assessment System (ADPAAS) (www.adpaas.army.mil).
- Avoid flood waters, standing or moving; they may be contaminated or deeper than expected.
- Beware of downed power lines.
- Avoid any roads where flood waters have receded; they may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Be extremely cautious when entering buildings and homes; there may be unseen damage.
- Clean and disinfect everything that was touched by flood water; it can contain sewage and other contaminants.

**Fort Buchanan
Emergency
Phone Numbers**

Police Desk
(787) 707-3337 or **4911 on post**

Fire Department and Ambulance
(787) 707-3410 or **5911 on post**

Rodriguez Army Health Clinic
(787) 707-2555 / 2558

Emergency Operations Center
(787) 707-3838 / 3380
(During duty hours, after duty hours, weekends and holidays call Police Desk)

Hurricane Preparedness

Basic disaster-supplies kit:

- Three-day supply of non-perishable food, a can opener and cooking utensils
- Sanitation and hygiene items (moist wipes and toilet paper)
- A whistle, matches and waterproof containers
- Board games, cards, arts and crafts, crayons, and other games for children
- Cash and coins
- Photocopies of credit and identification cards
- Important papers secured in water-proof containers. (Social Security cards, birth certificates, diplomas, titles, deeds to property, and special photos)
- Special needs items, such as prescription medications, eye glasses, contact lens solutions, and hearing-aid batteries
- Ensure your pet has proper ID, carrier and leash updated veterinarian records and pet supplies
- A seven day supply of water (three gallon per person per day)
- A first aid kit with instructions booklet
- Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members
- List of doctors, friends and relatives who should be notified if you are injured or evacuated to a safer location
- At least one change of clothing, footwear and one blanket or sleeping bag per person
- Emergency tools and supplies including a battery-powered radio or television, flashlight, mosquito repellent, sunscreen, a supply of batteries
- Fill your car's gas tank, check oil, water, and tires and secure an extra set of car keys
- Any other items to meet needs unique to your family

Family Disaster Plan Checklist

- Post emergency telephone numbers by the telephone.
- Inspect your home, car and boat for potential hazards.
- Install safety features (shutters) in your home including smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
- Learn basic safety measures including CPR and First Aid.
- Teach children how and when to call 911 or other emergency telephone numbers and which radio station to tune for emergency information.
- Identify ahead of time where you could go if you are told to evacuate.
- Assemble a disaster supplies kit with items you may need in case of emergency or evacuation to a safe location.

Fort Buchanan Emergency Phone Numbers

- Police Desk (787) 707-3337 or 4911 on post • Fire Department and Ambulance (787) 707-5911 / 5911 on post
 - Rodriguez Army Health Clinic (787) 707-2555 / 2558 • Emergency Operations Center 707-3838 / 3380
- (During duty hours, after duty hours, weekends and holidays call Police Desk)

In the next monthly issue...

"I am an Army Civilian a Member of the Army Team. . ."

June celebrates the Establishment of US Army Civilian Corps



June 14, 2021...



246th

ARMY BIRTHDAY



Honoring the Courage of the American Soldier

June 14 is...



CULTURAL
AWARENESS

OBSERVANCE



ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH



The Department of Defense pays tribute to the generations of Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) who have enriched our nation's history and who continue to be pivotal to our success as a nation as we move into the future.

AAPI encompass a diverse group of cultures, ethnicities, races, and languages. They include all Americans who trace their ancestry back to the Asian continent and the many Pacific islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month dates back to the 95th Congress (1977-1978) when they introduced five joint resolutions proposing that a week in May be designated to commemorate the accomplishments of AAPI.

After a congressional bill passed in 1978, President Jimmy Carter recognized the first 10 days of May as Asian-Pacific Heritage Week.

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush extended the celebration to cover the entire month.

May serves as the observance month to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 10, 1843. The date also marks the anniversary of the transcontinental railroad completion on May 10, 1869.

From 1865-1869, twelve thousand Chinese immigrants constructed the western section of the transcontinental railroad—one of the greatest engineering feats in American history.

The rich heritage of AAPI spans across the world and through the depths of America's history.

Generation after generation, AAPI have forged a proud legacy that reflects the spirit of our nation—a country that values the contributions of everyone who calls America "home."