

El Morro

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Sentinel of the Caribbean

June 2021



Happy 246th Birthday
U.S. Army
Story on page 7



From the Garrison Commander: The US Army - Guardians of the Nation's Democracy for 246 Years



We live in an era of persistent conflict and a constantly changing environment – a new fiscal and social reality, natural disasters of various magnitudes, and an ongoing worldwide pandemic.

Despite all the challenges surrounding us, our organization for 246 years has been the guardian of our nation's democracy and the American way of life. An organization based on values passed from one generation to another of those who served, are presently serving, or will be serving, the U.S. Army.

For 246 years, the Army has firmly believed that values generate moral principles that will become an intrinsic part of our Soldiers' lives. Being "Army Strong" goes beyond physical endurance and mental preparedness, readiness, and resiliency. It encompasses an indomitable spirit guided by high ethical and moral values. These traits are desirable in a person and collectively expected in a nation that lives up to the ideals of its founding fathers.

That is the reason why Fort Buchanan is proud

of our Soldiers, Wounded Warriors, Family members, Army civilians, Army retirees, and veterans who continue to show their commitment and are still willing to serve their country. They epitomize what is best about our nation. Their willingness to sacrifice to build a better future for others and preserve our way of life exemplifies the Army values.

Our Soldiers are loyal to the organization they represent. Their sense of duty often exceeds even their expectations as they strive for the challenge, in many instances going above and beyond their call of duty to serve others. Just as our civilian force, they follow the Customer Service Culture principles in their daily interactions with the community. These members of Fort Buchanan's family earn the community's respect for the commitment they show in their performance, working together to help improve the quality of life of Soldiers and Families.

The Soldiers and civilian members of Fort Buchanan achieve their respective missions in many ways but with one common denominator. They

voluntarily and proactively take the lead in looking for new ways to get the job done.

One of the most significant values is an honor. It is our way of life. Since the first day I arrived at Fort Buchanan, I can only express my gratitude to each Soldier and civilian for their support in their effort to serve our community at their best.

Doing what is right, legally and morally, is evident in the history and lineage of this military installation.

As General Mac Arthur said: "Duty, honor, country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope comes forlorn."

The Army Values unite us as members of the United States Army family. For this, we count our blessings – our Families, for their health and prosperity and our Soldiers, for proudly serving our nation. It is with great pride that we say, "We are Fort Buchanan!" ¡Somos el Fuerte Buchanan!"





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US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan

Fort Buchanan

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our Official Web page**

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Go to web: <https://home.army.mil/buchanan>
On Twitter: [@usagftbuchanan](https://twitter.com/usagftbuchanan)

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Upcoming events

June

**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

July

**Fort Buchanan
Independence Day
Celebration**
July 3

Independence Day
July 4
(Observed July 5)

**Army Chaplain Corps
Anniversary**
July 29

August

**Anti-Terrorism
Awareness Month**

**DODEA new school
year**

Purple Heart Day
August 7

**Department of
Defense Birthday**
August 10

**Women's Equality
Day**
August 26

**Marine Corps Reserve
Birthday**
August 29

The community is invited to participate in these events as we partner together to provide opportunities, expand relationships, and show our appreciation to all who serve and support the United States Armed Forces.

From the Garrison Command Sergeant Major: The Role of NCOs during the 246th Birthday of the US Army



June marks the 246th birthday of one of the oldest and most respected organizations in our nation, the United States Army. As part of this important milestone in our nation's history, I would like to recognize the most accomplished group of military professionals, the United States Army's Non Commissioned Officers Corps (NCOs) - "the backbone of the American Army."

NCOs have played a vital role in the growth, development and defense of our nation. They have fought wars from the American Revolution, World War I and II, the Cold War, the Gulf War, to the present War on Terrorism. Where duty calls, you'll find an NCO. They are also recognized as "the keepers of our standards", from the recruiting station to basic training, to combat zones; from civil affairs operations to medical, to logistical support; and responding to humanitarian crises at home and abroad – whether active, Guard or Reserve, U.S. Army NCOs take the lead.

An NCO's job has always been to train and lead to accomplish the mission. NCOs make it happen – they have inspired others to work toward common goals, leading from the front and providing an example of what right looks like. Living by our core values and creed develops and instills the critical

leadership skills that are required as we train and grow leaders. NCOs are the front line in enforcing our institutional values. The foundation of achieving excellence in our warfighting.

The courage shown by this group of professionals through many wars and conflicts attests to their proud heritage of facing fear, danger or adversity as they move forward following the right path, doing the right thing. Throughout our nation's history – from the battles of Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill, up to the present – NCO heroes have led the way. Multiple and sometimes extended deployments, the stresses of battle, the wounds of war – both seen and unseen – all of this has taken its toll on our troops; yet, morale remains high – a testament to their extraordinary resiliency.

Today our nation continues to face challenges at home and abroad. Much of the burden has fallen on those who have volunteered to put on the uniform.

As a Senior NCO, I expect all NCOs to be engaged with your Soldiers. But most of all, remember, you are America's most accomplished group of military professionals.

You are the United States Army's Non-Commissioned Officers Corps, the proud guardians of 246 years of a heritage based on loyalty to our nation, bearing true faith and allegiance to the United States Constitution, the Army, your units and your Soldiers.

I expect you to live by the Army values and The NCO Creed with honor. For this is our way of life. As stated in The NCO Creed "I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, Noncommissioned Officers, leaders! ... bearing true faith and allegiance to the United States Constitution, the Army, your units, and your Soldiers."



Painting, Ready for Patrol, New Mexico, 1870s

The Army's noncommissioned officers emerged from the Civil War with new requirements for technical competence. Their growing specialization was evident in the small, isolated coastal and frontier forts garrisoned by the regular forces. Each line Soldier, whether a cavalry trooper, infantryman, or cannoneer, was supported by a growing number of technicians. (From The Noncommissioned Officer: Images of an Army in Action, <https://history.army.mil/html/artphoto/pripos/prponco.html>)

Deputy Garrison Commander's Corner: The Importance of Partnerships between Garrison, Commands and Tenants



Growing up, my parents taught me the value of teamwork - at school, at home and with friends.

They also taught me the value of taking a long-term perspective over immediate rewards.

I often heard statements like "Share or I will take it away," "If you cannot play nice, you will not play at all," and "If you do not take care of what you have, you will soon have nothing" still serve me well given the current operational and fiscal environment.

The Army is reorienting from counterinsurgency operations towards large scale combat operations against a near-peer threat. Such changes reflect the need to adapt to the changing nature of our military environment.

Here, another lesson we learn as kids comes into play, "You do not always get what you want." If the fiscal year 2022 budget is any indication, the Army's portion of the defense budget will remain flat, at best, into the future. We are not likely to get all the people or resources that we need to accomplish our mission. This is where those other lessons we all learned as kids are helpful.

People are the Army's number one priority. At Fort Buchanan, our community of "people" consists of

Soldiers from all Army components, other Service Members, Civilians, Family Members, Retirees and Veterans.

Collectively, we are going to have to work as a team and take a long-term perspective if we are to identify areas of mutual collaboration to address issues of common concern.

In the current fiscal environment, it is essential for USAG Fort Buchanan to identify efficiencies, seek cost savings and strengthen relationships to best take care of what we get.

For example, looking into this year's hurricane season, those lessons learned from our parents become relevant. Teamwork between our partners is critical to understand each other's expectations and requirements prior to any emergency.

These partnerships allow us not only to recognize needs, but also help us leverage each organization's

strengths to increase efficiencies and minimize suffering during and after an emergency.

Recently, we conducted a Hurricane Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) Drill to train garrison staff, tenant organizations and other external agencies such as FEMA and the US Corps of Engineers to identify the strengths and capabilities of all partners' response during a natural disaster.

We worked with checklists and emergency plans that enable our community to sustain readiness while ensuring their life, safety and sustainment. It is a team effort that we cannot do without the close collaboration with our partners.

At Fort Buchanan, we remain committed to take care of our "people" and our partners to support a ready force and the Army's mission.

We are Fort Buchanan!

¡Somos el Fuerte Buchanan!



Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry talks with one of Fort Buchanan's Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) Director Onel Colón and his staff during the Hurricane ROC Drill held this past May, about the critical support this tenant organization provides during a potential emergency situation.

From the Deputy to the Garrison Commander: The role of the Army Civilian Corps: Character, Competence and Commitment in support of our nation



Since the Revolutionary War, Army Civilians have worked and fought alongside our Soldiers. George Washington formed the Continental Army from a diversity of ordinary civilians – farmers, settlers, shopkeepers, unskilled laborers, as well as others – who were willing to fight for their country’s freedom.

Since the Revolutionary War, through the many wars and conflict until present, Army Civilians have become a professional volunteer force that reflects the Army’s culture, character, values and mission.

An Army Civilian is a Federal Civil Service employee who takes the same oath of office of the members of our Armed Forces, solemnly swearing to support and defend the Constitution of the United States in an agreement with the Army, our nation and its citizens. The Army Civilian Corps states that:

I am an Army Civilian; a member of the Army Team.

I am dedicated to our Army, our Soldiers and Civilians.

I will always support the mission.

I provide leadership, stability and continuity during war and peace.

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

Nation and our Army.

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

I am an Army Civilian.

The role of the Army Civilian Corps in the defense of our nation has been recognized in numerous occasions. Hon. Francis J. Harvey, former Secretary of the Army, in a memorandum dated June 19, 2006, affirmed, “the Army Civilian Corps is vital to our nation’s security and critical to the Army’s success in peace and war.” A statement that was sustained by the former Under Secretary of the Army, Dr. Joseph W. Westphal who acknowledged the significant contributions of Army Civilians in support of our Soldiers, “so our warfighters can concentrate on their missions on the fronts, and come home safely to their families, homes, and communities across the nation.”

The Army’s missions around the globe have evolved and become more complex, so have the roles of Army Civilians. Today, there are over 300,000 men and women work in more than 700 job series across 50 plus career fields, including cyber security, engineering, medicine, science, technology, contracting and administration (among others), who serve the nation through the Army Civilian Service.

Army Civilians occupy senior leadership and mission critical positions in the operating force deploying alongside soldiers. The Department of Defense Expeditionary Civilian Workforce performs jobs that represent a broad range of occupational needs within deployed locations. The program allows civilians to apply capability, experience and knowledge

in positions that range from blue collar to white collar, to include senior executive deployment opportunities. The goal is to provide enduring and reliable support that best meets the needs of combatant commanders.

Army Civilians serve side by side with our Soldiers. As part of the Army team, they are recognized for their heroism or bravery. An example is the Secretary of the Army Award for Valor established April 15, 2002, to acknowledge acts of heroism or bravery connected with an Army Civilian or Army activity that in some way benefits the Army. The performance of the act must be evidenced by voluntary action above and beyond the call of duty. Even though the award is not presented in recognition of activities or conflict with an armed enemy, the situation must have involved personal hazard or danger and the voluntary risk of life, but not solely for saving a life. The equivalent military decoration for this award is the Soldier’s Medal.

Army Civilians have come a long way from the first patriots that formed the Continental Army. Army Civilians have become trusted Army professionals due to their Character to uphold the Army Ethic in their decisions and actions; their Competence to perform their duty with discipline and to standard; and their Commitment to contribute honorable service and accomplish the mission despite adversity, obstacles and challenges.

Army civilians are an integral part of the Army team, committed to selfless service in support of the protection and preservation of the United States.

We are Army Civilians!

We are Fort Buchanan!

¡Somos el Fuerte Buchanan!

Fort Buchanan celebrates 246th Army Birthday with free lunch for the troops

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

USAG Fort Buchanan Garrison celebrated the US Army's 246th birthday with a lunch prepared by Directorate of Family and, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) cook staff and sponsored by the Gary Sinise Foundation followed by the traditional Cake Cutting Ceremony June 14, 2021 at the Community Club and Conference Center patio.

Acting Director of FMWR, Aida Aguilú, and Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Derrick W. Hood greeted Soldiers and Service Members as they registered to receive their free lunch.

USAG Fort Buchanan joined the Army family in "Honoring the Courage of the American Soldier," this years Army birthday theme.

No matter the challenges we have faced in our installation – hurricanes, earthquakes and a world wide pandemic – we have been always ready to support. For 246 years the Army has served our nation.

For almost 100 years Fort Buchanan continues to answer the call to duty. To conclude the event, Soldiers showed their pride to belong to the best Army in the world singing "Happy Birthday US Army."



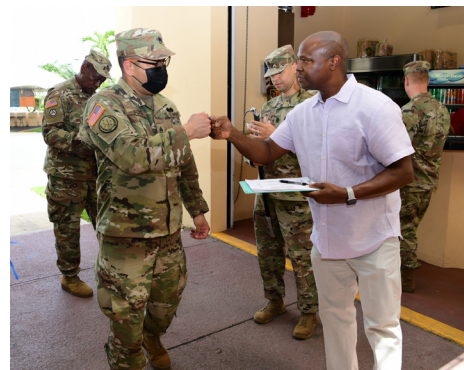
FMWR Fitness Center Facility Manager, María Nuñez, handed out free lunches sponsored by the Gary Sinise Foundation to Soldiers and Service Members who participated in the event.



(R) Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks joined the youngest, (L) Private 1st Class Christian Reyes and "wisest," (center) Staff Sgt. Raúl Cardona during the traditional Cake Cutting Ceremony in celebration of the 246th Birthday of the United States Army.



Acting Director of FMWR, Aida Aguilú, and Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Derrick W. Hood greeted Soldiers and Service Members as they registered to receive their free lunch.



Command Sgt. Maj. Banks addressed 1st Mission Support Command Reserve and PR National Guard Soldiers, honoring them for their courage to stand behind their oath to defend our Constitution and our nation.



Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. Brian Mandock recalled the history of the Army and its role as the defender of our freedom. "This is America's Army. Be proud to be part of one of the greatest organizations in the world, for 246 years more," he concluded.

Fort Buchanan conducts community outreach in support of Corazón Azul

Story by Maj. David S. Keller
Fort Buchanan Garrison Command Chaplain

Volunteers from USAG Fort Buchanan joined the Religious Support Office (RSO) team on June 26, 2021 to support Corazón Azul, Inc.

The independent living center for adults over 21 years of age with the condition of autism in its severe form, located in Bayamón, is a non-profit organization.

Its goal is to offer independent living skills, vocational rehabilitation, therapies, and related treatments. The school provides areas such as an apartment setting, cafeteria, grocery store, laundromat, library, and office to teach adults with autism life skills that will help them to have a more productive and independent life.

Corazón Azul, Inc. will provide services to adults over 21 years of age who otherwise would not have the support from a government program. The PR Department of Education leased the facilities that used to be an elementary school, at a cost of \$1.00.

Fort Buchanan Garrison Command Chaplain (Maj.) David S. Keller and Soide Y. Rodriguez, from the Rodriguez Army Health Clinic, Educational & Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) coordinated the initiative with Corazón Azul's Director, Vanessa Villegas. Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry, joined the group of approximately 30 volunteers from the Command Group, the Directorate of Public Works; the Directorate of Family and, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Army Community Services, Installation Legal Office and Rodriguez Army Health Clinic cleaning and painting the facilities.

"We feel blessed to have such a large volunteer effort from Fort Buchanan," said Corazón Azul, Inc. Director.

The initiative, part of the garrison's community outreach, was highlighted by Col. Seaberry who concluded, "We



Fort Buchanan's team and representatives from Corazón Azul pose for a group photo during the event held June 26, 2021 showing the satisfaction of a job well-done in support of the community of adults with severe autism.



Corazón Azul Director addresses Fort Buchanan volunteers who went to support the non-profit organization cleaning and painting the facilities located in the municipality of Bayamón, where they will serve adults with severe autism to become more independent and productive persons.



Fort Buchanan volunteers lend a hand to those in need cleaning and painting Corazón Azul facilities to support the community of adults with severe autism that will receive services at the non-profit organization.

strive to be good neighbors and positive role models within the community by taking every opportunity to participate in events to give a hand to those in need."



Photos above and below show Fort Buchanan volunteers in action.



US Army Reserve Command Sergeant Major visits USAG Fort Buchanan

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

United States Army Reserve (USAR) Command Sergeant Major Andrew J. Lombardo visited US Army Garrison headquarters and installation facilities during his visit to Puerto Rico June 24, 2021.

Command Sgt. Maj. Lombardo's first stop was an office call with Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander Tomika M. Seaberry; Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Brian Mandock and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks held at the Commander's Flag Room. Garrison leadership provided Command Sgt. Maj. Lombardo with a briefing on installation resources and future projects, emphasizing on Soldier training and readiness, facilities, services and programs.



After the meeting, garrison leadership escorted Command Sgt. Maj. Lombardo to Las Casas Lake where Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Director María "Angie" López; DPW Environmental Chief, Anibal Negrón and DPW Resource Energy Manager, Homar Velázquez briefed Lombardo on the process of acquiring the lake and the phases of work making the lake a training opportunity, water resource and recreational site in the near future.



The group also visited one of several water-harvesting sites on the installation. Resource Energy Manager, Homar Velázquez detailed the benefits that are presently obtained by these water-harvesting facilities: savings to the US Army and resiliency during any emergency.



At the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) Training Division Center, led by Training Division Chief, Jaime Morales, the team walked through classrooms, where Lombardo spoke to Soldiers about the opportunities offered by the Montgomery GI Bill and continuing their education for military career progression. At the training center, he visited the devices storage area where Soldiers can reserve and use training equipment for their units. There they visited the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) 2000 area which is designed to



simulate live weapon training events directly supporting individual and unit weapons qualification, including individual marksmanship, small unit collective and judgmental escalation-of-force exercises in a controlled environment under the direction of DPTMS staff.



Garrison leadership and Command Sgt. Maj. Lombardo, his Aide de Camp, Sgt. 1st Class Luke R. Klein; Senior Religious Affairs Noncommissioned Officer (NCO), Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Spann III; Garrison Command Chaplain, Maj. David S. Keller and Public Affairs Intern Sgt. Josué E. Pagán Carbone participated in a conversational lunch held at FMWR's Bowling Center patio. Lombardo led an informal discussion on training opportunities for Soldiers and asked the NCO's questions about their career progression and goals. Lombardo gave them guidance and tips.



Fort Buchanan leadership supports UPR-ROTC Program partners

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

USAG Fort Buchanan Commander, Col. Tomika M. Seaberry and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks attended the Commissioning Ceremony of the 32 cadets that comprised the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) ROTC Program “Taino Warriors Battalion.”

The event was conducted at the Puerto Rico Capitol facilities in Old San Juan, June 19, 2021.

Lt. Col. Orlando R. Rojas Banrey, Professor of Military Science congratulated the cadets and highlighted the contributions families made to our country instilling in them the value of service.

“The Army passes the mantle of leadership to a new generation capable of operating and leading us during any situation...After taking the Oath, the future of our nation rests in your hands,” said Rojas.

Among the guests were: Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Emeritus, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Félix A. Santoni; Assistant Adjutant General, Puerto Rico National Guard, Brig. Gen. Narciso Cruz; Command Sergeant Major, Puerto Rico National Guard, Command Sgt. Maj. Andrés Ruiz-Sierra; President, University of Puerto Rico, Dr. Jorge Haddock; Dean, Ana G. Méndez University, Gurabo Campus, Dr. David Méndez Pagán, and Interim Dean of Students, Inter American University, Bayamón Campus, Ms. Grace Gómez.



Col. Seaberry and Command Sgt. Maj. Banks share anecdotes and professional advice with UPR-ROTC cadets soon to be 2nd Lieutenants of the US Army.



Lt. Col. Rojas administered the U.S. Army Commissioned Officer Oath to the UPR-ROTC “Taino Warriors Battalion” cadets, now 2nd Lieutenants in the U. S. Army.

The guest speaker was Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Antonio J. Vicéns, former Adjutant General, Puerto Rico National Guard, who addressed the cadets indicating “the rank does not mean you are a leader but you are responsible for a group of people. Earning their trust is your most important responsibility. People will not follow you if they don’t trust you.”

His advice to the new Second Lieutenants was, “1. Start the foundation by knowing them. 2. Take care of them and they will take care of you. 3. Have a good relationship with your Noncommissioned Officers. 4. Be a role model for your Soldiers.”



Family members were recognized for their support during the pinning of the bars ceremony. “The values they instilled in these cadets will be of great value to the nation,” said Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Vicéns, as he addressed the UPR-ROTC cadets and their families.



Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Vicéns, Command Sgt. Maj. Banks and Col. Seaberry recognized the bright future of the Army with this new generation of officers.



Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Myers receives the Silver Dollar Salute from 2nd Lieutenant Giovanni Bonilla López, a revered tradition representing a token of appreciation for the enlisted member’s guidance and mentoring during the time as a cadet in the ROTC.

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

Chaplain's Corner

Your life... a grand story

There is something about a good story teller. A person who can tell a grand tale full of emotional ups and downs is like riding a roller coaster through a thunderstorm. You can feel the crackling energy – every dramatic bounce that leaves your stomach in the roof of your mouth.

You can almost literally sense the twists and turns ahead. There is excitement and danger all mixed together. Have you ever felt that way?

Whether you believe it or not, your life is a grand story. The passion, drive and commitment are paired with compassion, patience, and new beginnings. Life has twists and turns, hills and valleys along the route we take. The highlights of life are what you choose to tell. Where you place your energy, your intellect, and your money are indicative of your values and what you consider to be important. What is the adventure in your past that you need to remember? How did you feel when it happened? And when you put these thoughts together, tell a loved one about it. Tell a friend a story about a time when... well that is for you to decide.

Do you know who else is a good story teller? God. For me, the book of Genesis tells the story of the beginning of creation. The following books in the Bible detail kings and queens, betrayals, floods, and extensive journeys throughout the known world. The Bible tells us of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Esther to name a few. It also tells us of ordinary men and women, who after spending a little time with God's Son, went on to do some pretty amazing things.

All of it is recorded in detail for you. Pick up a copy and read a little of it, you might be glad you did. If you'd like a copy of the Bible, or any Holy Book, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Religious Support Office.

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

Catholic Chapel Service: 11:30 am

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

Build a Kit for Disaster preparedness

After an emergency, you may need to survive on your own for several days. Being prepared means having your own food, water and other supplies to last for several days.

A disaster supply kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Make sure your emergency kit is stocked with the items on the checklist below.

Once you take a look at the basic items consider what unique needs your family might have, such as supplies for pets or seniors.

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

For more information 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

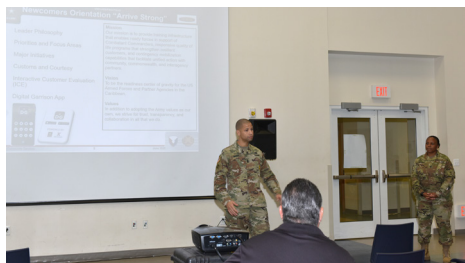


USAG Fort Buchanan first in-person 3rd Quarter Newcomers Briefing

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

The Directorate of Family and, Morale, Welfare and Recreation's (FMWR) Army Community Service (ACS) held its first in-person 3rd Quarter Newcomers Briefing since the beginning of pandemic protocols June 17, 2021 at the Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Santoni Reserve Center.

Approximately 15 new, Soldiers and Department of Defense Civilians attended the briefing, led by ACS Mobilization and Deployment Readiness Specialist, Ernesto Berrios. Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks provided the commander's orientation.



Col. Seaberry introduced her "battle buddy," Command Sgt. Maj. Banks to begin the briefing. Command Sgt. Maj. Banks presented their agenda starting with Leader Philosophy followed by priorities and focus areas, major initiatives, customs and courtesies, Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE), and the Digital Garrison App. Command Sgt. Maj. indicated that safety is the command's first priority, emphasizing to all to "stay focused, if you see something please say something."



"You will see that there are many differences here in Fort Buchanan from installations on the mainland. Access here, at this time is limited, but bear with us as we continue to review the access policy to ensure safety," Banks emphasized, "Please let us know if you are experiencing any challenges as you adjust to Fort Buchanan, or if you have any suggestions on how to do things better. Your feedback is what will make this a number one installation." He talked about the new housing projects starting soon as well the re-opening of the water park on post. Banks ended with the Digital Garrison App's general features and benefits.

"I challenge everyone to have the Digital Garrison App, if I see someone I will ask if they have downloaded the app, it is a personal challenge to me. I downloaded the app on May 11, the day I became the garrison commander here," said Col. Seaberry. She continued, "Whatever you put into this organization, whatever you put into Fort Buchanan, that's what you will get out of it. So if there is anything we need to improve on let us know." Col. Seaberry concluded by saying, "Welcome to Fort Buchanan. Everyone here is important. From me to you, no matter what your job is it is so important to me. If it is not going right for you, it is not right for me either. I'm only as good as you are."

After the command orientation, all of the newcomers were invited to receive materials and orientation from the different installation services

The Garrison Commander and Command Sgt. Maj. walked around to meet and greet all participants.



(R) Command Sgt. Maj. Banks and Col. Seaberry talk with newcomers, (L) Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Whitesell and his spouse Rachel.

There were over 20 representatives from Garrison and tenant organizations such as; FMWR and ACS; the Directorate of Emergency Service, both Fire and Police Departments; Directorate of Human Resources, Soldier for Life and ID Card Section; Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, Training Division; Garrison Safety Office; Rodriguez Army Health Clinic; Directorate of Public Works Housing Office; Installation Legal Office; the Red cross of Puerto Rico Chapter; the Exchange; Commissary and more. COVID-19 protocols were in place, social distancing was followed, masks and hand sanitizer were available for all attendees.



Installation Safety officer, Carlos Alvarado briefs (L to R) Sgt. 1st Class Webb and Sgt. Travis Adamson both new to the 1st Mission Support Command on post.

Two Fort Buchanan DPW staff members retire after a total 42 years of service

Story and photo by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

During an emotional and heartfelt retirement ceremony the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) bid farewell to two members of its staff June 25, 2021 at DPW Operations and Maintenance break/conference area.

Gregorio O. Brown retires after 21 years of service to Fort Buchanan, first as a contractor and later as Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) and Plumbing Supervisor.

Brown was presented the US Army Certificate of Achievement, a Time in Service Award and a plaque depicting the flag of PR, presented by Carlos O. Guzmán, Business Operations and Integration Division Chief.

"The shoes that Brown leaves will be hard to fill, he is a special asset to our organization," said a tearful Guzmán.

When asked what advice he gives



DPW's HVAC and Plumbing team pose for a group shot with Victor Rodríguez (light grey shirt) and Gregorio O. Brown (white shirt, both close to center)

his successor Brown said, "Answer your phone! If someone is calling you it is because they need you." Words confirmed by all that, Brown always responded, at any and all times.

Víctor Rodríguez chose to retire together with Brown because they share the same history and time in service, as a dedicated Air Conditioning specialist, Rodríguez was honored with a US Army Certificate of Appreciation

as well as his time in service certificate.

Rodríguez' advice to his successor is "You have to love your job. As long as you do that all will be well."

The ceremony was attended by DPW staff, Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry, the entire Command Group and friends from other directorates and tenant organizations.

Good luck and God Speed to both these wonderful persons!

ACS holds Father's Day - Dirty Diaper Daddy Derby Competition

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

In celebration of Father's Day the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program (FAP) held a friendly competition June 17, 2021 at the Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Santoni Reserve Center.

FAP Manager, Ruth E. González and RAHC Early Childhood Program staff led the four groups comprised of two members each. Representing US Army Garrison: Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Brian Mandock with Garrison Command Chaplain, Maj. David S. Keller; Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks with Garrison Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Derrick W. Hood

On behalf of the US Naval Operational Center PR: Commander David F. Zerda with Senior Enlisted Leader, CPO Andrew V. Johnson and PO1 Alvin A. León Ramos with PO2



Michael Pérez Salas.

There were four stations, the competitions were true and false statements about babies; visual identification of baby's waste on a diaper; identifying baby stages and ages and finally recognizing flavors in baby food, which was the most challenging.

Navy - León and Pérez vs Army - Mandock and Keller, were tied for first place, requiring going to a tie-breaker, they tied again, finally the Navy won the competition.

The winners were:

1st Place: PO1 León and PO2 Pérez



1st Place winners pose with their golden award.

2nd Place: Lt. Col. Mandock and Maj. Keller

3rd Place: Cdr. Zerda and CPO Johnson

Honorary Poop Masters: Command Sgt. Maj. Banks and Derrick Hood.

AMS students and Religious Support Office support deployed troops

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Seventh graders from the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA), Antilles Middle School (AMS), collected and prepared over 60 care packages for deployed Soldiers at the school's facilities, June 15, 2021.

The initiative was a joint effort between AMS and USAG Fort Buchanan Religious Support Office (RSO). Garrison Command Chaplain (Maj.) David S. Keller contacted a deployed Chaplain to distribute the care packages downrange.

Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry; Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. Brian Mandock; Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Derrick W. Hood and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks, joined seventh graders Fabiola Vega, Gil Paredes, Nathanael Colón, Deric Nieves and Ana Oquendo who led the preparation of the care packages, as well as AMS Principal, Luldes Giraud and teachers Jomary Dominguez, Verónica Pagán and Franklin Baldrick.



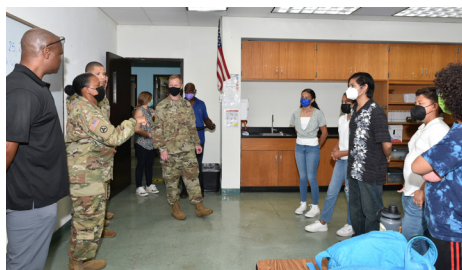
Each package included socks, personal hygiene items, wipes, sunscreen and hand sanitizer. Most importantly, it included notes prepared by the students, who despite the challenges posed by the pandemic solicited the articles, collected and prepared the care packages.

"Soldiers have been fighting for us for our freedom, we just want to show them our gratitude and appreciation," said Gil Paredes. "We are military. I can't imagine what it is like for them to



Antilles Middle School seventh graders proudly display their Certificates of Appreciation presented by garrison leaders for their commendable initiative in support of our deployed troops. Awesome!

be serving, to be first responders during this pandemic," said Deric Nieves. "We encourage others to help the community, it is important, and harder now during the pandemic. We need to give back," said Fabiola Vega.



USAG Fort Buchanan Commander, Col. Seaberry addressed the students highlighting that the initiative "is important to me. That is why I am here with my command team." She reiterated, "You have our firm commitment to help out in the community support efforts." Command team firmly believes in its motto that "We are Fort Buchanan!"

During the presentation of Fort Buchanan Garrison Certificates of Appreciation to the students, Col. Seaberry recalled, "When I was deployed my Soldiers and I looked forward to receiving mail. It was big deal to get a care package and more so with a hand written note. We all looked forward to them."

Command Sgt. Maj. Banks added, "When you are deployed, you are not

expecting packages like these, to me, to the troops, it means a lot. It reminds us that you are here supporting us."

Lt. Col. Mandock concluded, "This is impressive. That you all did this without prompting, on your own, is inspiring."



Garrison and school leaders pose for a group photo. (L to R) 7th grade teacher, Verónica Pagán; Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Derrick W. Hood; Garrison Commander, Col. Seaberry; Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Banks; 7th grade teacher, Jomary Dominguez; Garrison Command Chaplain, Maj. Keller; Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Mandock and AMS Principal, Luldes Giraud.

USAG Fort Buchanan Security Guard recognized for a job well done

Story and photos by **Laudis Ansa**
Fort Buchanan Police Detective

The Fort Buchanan Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) bid farewell to Security Guard (SG) Inkyung Walker. SG Walker will be relocating, and joining her husband who is also a Solider in the US Army Reserve.

SG Walker was recognized and presented a coin for her outstanding work attitude by the Puerto Rico National Guard Assistant to the Adjutant General (ATAG) Brig. Gen. Narciso Cruz June 15, 2021 at Police Headquarters on post. Additionally, SG Walker received a USAG Fort Buchanan Certificate of Appreciation and a coin of excellence from Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks.



Your Fort Buchanan Police would like to remind the community that medical marijuana and any type of illegal drug are not allowed on Fort Buchanan. Persons disobeying this expose themselves to criminal charges, incarceration, a fine, or both. Additionally, access to Fort Buchanan can be revoked with a temporary or



permanent bar.

If you need to contact the Fort Buchanan Police Department, you can reach us at the Police Desk 787-707-3337, which operates 24/7.

For tips or anonymous reporting, you can contact the criminal investigators at 787-692-4339 or 787-692-5435.

Garrison leadership joins DODEA-AMS to celebrate 8th Grade Promotion

Story by **Grissel Rosa**
Public Affairs Officer

USAG Fort Buchanan leadership, Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks joined the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) schools in celebrating Antilles Middle School (AMS) 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony, June 14, 2021 at the school's gymnasium.

DODEA leaders included District Superintendent, DODEA Mid-Atlantic schools, Dr. Donato Cuadrado; DODEA Americas Puerto Rico Community Superintendent Dr. Jacob Sherwood; AMS Principal, Luldes Giraud and AMS Assistant Principal, Edwin Caballero, among others.

Antilles High School Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Color Guard posted the colors for the event that



marks a new beginning in the lives of AMS 8th graders.

109 AMS Buccaneers completed the requisites of promotion to become the Senior Class of 2025.

"This is an unprecedented promotion ceremony," said Mia Rojas, President of the National Junior Honor Society, "A ceremony that has come true against all odds. We are the first class that made it to a promotion after a year of lockdown and remote learning due

to a pandemic. Here we are, standing strong and ready for what the future holds us!" concluded Rojas.



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

Fort Buchanan Emergency Preparedness information campaign in action

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

In Puerto Rico every year, June 1st marks the beginning of hurricane season. In preparation, the USAG Fort Buchanan Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security's (DPTMS) Emergency Readiness Office has an Emergency Preparedness information campaign which began with the distribution of informative flyers at both installation Access Control Points June 10, 2021.

DPTMS Emergency Manager, Félix J. Otero; Chief of Plans and Operations, José R. Boria and Antiterrorism Specialist, Héctor R. Herrera handed out the informative materials and answered questions early morning as military and civilians gained access to Fort Buchanan. The installation's goal is to maintain an informed, prepared



Emergency Manager, Felix J. Otero hands out flyers at Borinqueneers Access control Point.

and responsive community; maintain active partnerships with local and federal government agencies in case of any emergency.

To this end the USAG leadership has already conducted several Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) drills giving garrison directorates, tenant organizations and government agencies an opportunity to practice combat mission procedures and to put contingency plans into place.

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

The last one drill conducted this past May was a Hurricane ROC Drill.

Be Informed → Make A Plan → Build a Kit → Get Involved! Be ready!

For more information, Ready Army:

<https://ready.army.mil/>

FEMA: <https://www.fema.gov/>

Ready.gov: <https://www.ready.gov/> and download your Digital Garrison App for quick one-touch access to Hotline numbers and updated emergency information.



AAFES presents Fort Buchanan FMWR 10 million dollar check for Soldier services

Story by Thea M. Sarver
Puerto Rico Exchange General Manager

Puerto Rico Exchange General Manager Thea Sarver presented a \$10 Million, Family and, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) check to Fort Buchanan, PR Garrison Commander, Colonel Tomika M. Seaberry and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks, June 10, 2021 at the main entrance area of the Fort Buchanan Exchange.

Since 1895, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) has gone where Soldiers, Airmen and their families go to improve the quality of their lives by providing valued, tax-free goods and services at exclusive military pricing. The Exchange is the 61st-largest retailer in the United States. AAFES contributes approximately 70% of its earnings to FMWR programs.



Each branch of the United States Armed Forces has a FMWR branch, which provides free and discounted recreation to military personnel and their families. Although the facilities provided vary from base to base, the types of services, facilities and programs provided can include fitness centers,

pools, marinas, bowling centers, golf courses, restaurants, conference centers, catering, programs for single Service Members with special events, access to internet, movies and video games. Army FMWR also offers accredited family childcare, youth and school aged services

at many installations.

To our community, by choosing your Fort Buchanan Exchange for your store of choice, you helped raise valuable funds for FMWR, thank you for contributing to this very important mission! We Are Fort Buchanan! ¡Somos El Fuerte Buchanan!

Photo courtesy Fort Buchanan Exchange

USAG Fort Buchanan SHARP staff partners to train at San Juan MEPS

Story and photo by Robert Carrasquillo
USAG Fort Buchanan Command Administrator

San Juan Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) in collaboration with USAG Fort Buchanan Sexual Harassment Assault Response Program (SHARP) professionals hosted a face to face SHARP Annual Training where approximately 30 persons participated in group discussions on prevention practices, bystander interventions and learned standards about sexual harassment, sexual assault, victim's rights, and other Army policies June 9, 2021 at the SJ MEPS facility in Guaynabo, PR.

"The core intention of having SHARP training is for preventive measures. It is important to remind people of the Do's and Don'ts at the work place. What might be normal in their upbringing/culture might not be okay at the workplace," said SJ MEPS



(L TO R) San Juan Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) First Sergeant and Senior Enlisted Advisor, 1st Sgt. Luz D. Strnad; USAG Fort Buchanan Victim Advocate, Adelina I. Reynoso Acosta; USAG Fort Buchanan Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), Pallas Cryer-Harris and San Juan MEPS Commander, Major Ravi N. Cruz.

Senior Enlisted Advisor, 1st Sgt. Luz D. Strnad.

Fort Buchanan's partnership with sister services enhances readiness,

reaffirms Army Values and quality of life for our Soldiers, Service Members, eligible Veterans, Civilians, and Family Members.

"Our Community Salutes" leaders meet Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Luis A. Soto, and Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Víctor Pérez, president of "Our Community Salutes" (OCS) met with USAG Fort Buchanan Commander, Col. Tomika M. Seaberry to support Antilles High School graduates who will join the Armed Forces.

Present at the meeting held June 8, 2021 at the garrison headquarters were Fort Buchanan Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks and Staff Judge Advocate, Col. Dorion S. Germany.

OCS is national, non-profit organization founded in 2009 by educator and former U.S. Army officer, Dr. Kenneth Hartman, that helps communities recognize, honor and support high school seniors who plan to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces. It provides enlistees and their parents with guidance, information, resources and community support as their son



or daughter transition into military service.

Col. Seaberry recognizes the importance of Fort Buchanan's community support to honor these patriotic young adults who will enlist in the military after graduation. In her message to the enlistees, the garrison commander highlighted, "Soon you will be taking the Oath of Enlistment to solemnly swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic and to bear true faith and allegiance to the same. As you voluntarily take this oath, you will have the pride and honor of serving

our nation as a member of the Armed Forces."

She added, "The key phrase is "to serve our nation." Selfless Service, is one of the most important Army Values. The action per se is commendable as you commit to put the welfare of others – family, friends, community – and our nation before your own. A decision taken willingly and without recognition or gain to defend our most beloved treasure, our democratic way of life. You will become part of a special group, "Our Defenders of Freedom", as engraved in "Our Community Salutes" coin."

During the meeting garrison leaders shared with "Our Community Salutes" members of the board of directors various initiatives of mutual collaboration on behalf of the Soldiers and Service Members stationed at Fort Buchanan. Col. Seaberry received the OCS Coin from Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Pérez while recognizing OCS-Puerto Rico Chapter on their 10th anniversary.

Fort Buchanan Commander addresses the graduates of AHS Class of 2021

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

After what Antilles High School Principal, Vanessa Faerber described as a “challenging school year,” the Senior Class of 2021 conducted their graduation and 67th Commencement Ceremony June 8, 2021 at the Sheraton Hotel in San Juan.

Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA), Puerto Rico Community Superintendent Dr. Jacob Sherwood, introduced USAG Fort Buchanan Commander, Col. Tomika M. Seaberry and guest speaker for the event.

Col. Seaberry advised the graduates to “study hard to accomplish your goals.” She also shared some anecdotes from her high school years and said “I am your future. After hard work and study, here I am today. So stay focused. Stay committed. Be an artist. The world is your canvas. Do your masterpiece,” said Seaberry.



Col. Seaberry during her remarks for the Senior Class of 2021.

This year two Valedictorians shared the honor of having the highest academic achievements of the class. They were, Samarys Barrero, who reminisced on the challenges faced by the 125th “Pirates” of the 2021 Senior Class such as two hurricanes during Freshman and Sophomore years, earthquakes as Juniors and COVID-19 as Seniors.

“We survived four years that look like an apocalyptic novel. Despite all these challenges the most important



Antilles High School staff and guests: (L to R) Ms. Yamaris Sierra, Assistant Principal; Col. Seaberry, Fort Buchanan garrison commander; Ms. Vanessa Faerber, Principal; Dr. Donato Cuadrado, DODEA Mid-Atlantic District Superintendent and Dr. Jacob Sherwood, Puerto Rico Community Superintendent during the 67th Commencement Ceremony held June 8, 2021.

Antilles High School Valedictorian Samarys Barrero.



AHS Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Cadets were in charge of presenting the colors.



thing was the personal relationships and memories we share,” said Barrero.

Adriana Laureano, the second Valedictorian, asked her fellow graduates to “understand and take charge of your capabilities, and go beyond your limits.”



Antilles High School Valedictorian Adriana Laureano.



Col. Seaberry shared a moment with Dr. Cuadrado during the event.

DODEA Mid-Atlantic District Superintendent, Dr. Donato Cuadrado, defined the Commencement Ceremony as a new beginning into adult life and gave the Seniors the following advice: “1. Honor your parents, 2. Give people

Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander poses with JROTC cadet T. Vega who will be joining the Army.



In the next monthly issue...



***Happy Birthday US Army
Chaplain Corps...***

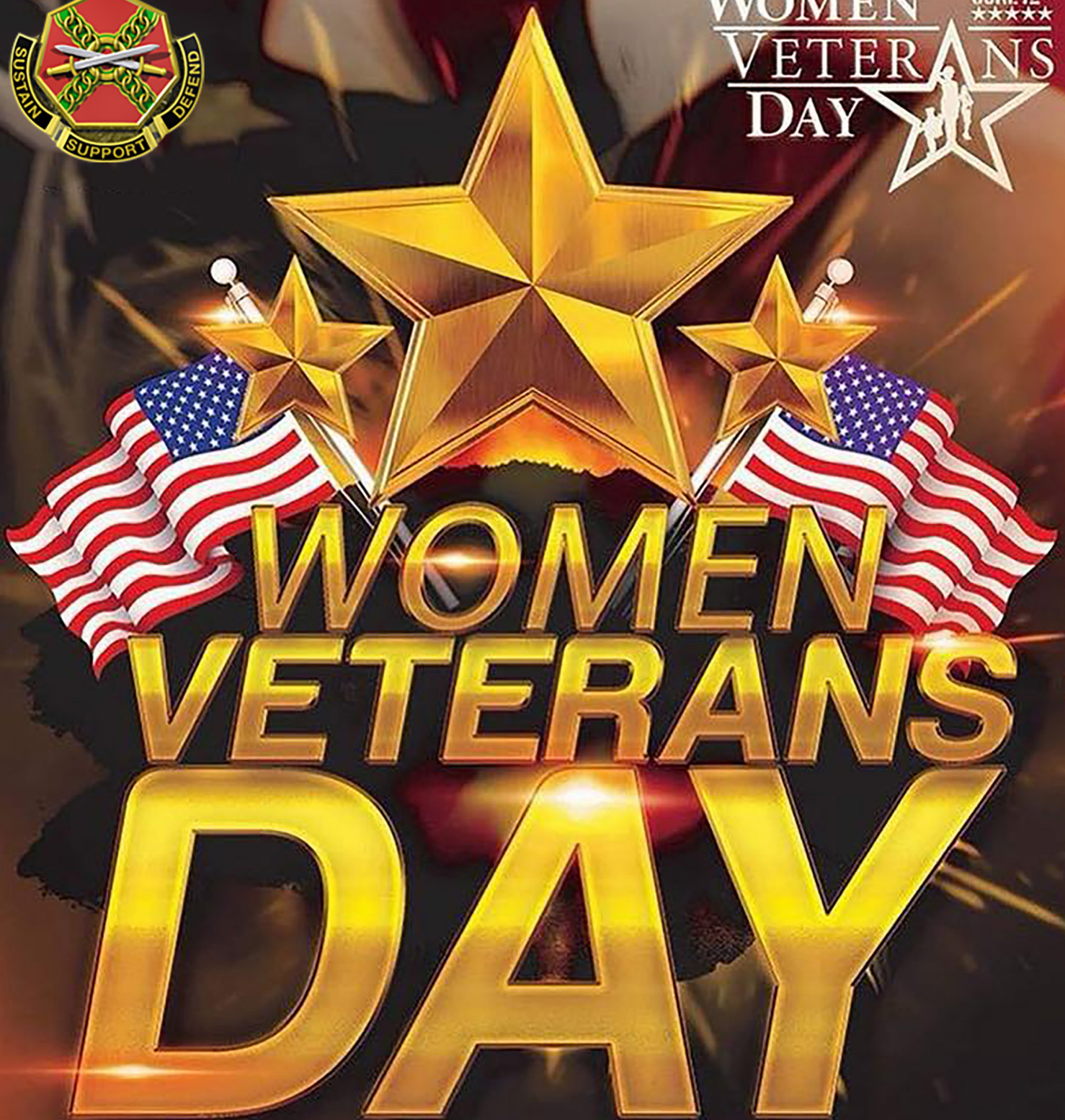
***Authorized by the Continental Congress,
July 29, 1775, "nurturing the living, care
for the wounded, honor the fallen."***





WOMEN
VETERANS
DAY

JUNE 12TH



I'M YOUR MOTHER. I'M YOUR DAUGHTER. I'M YOUR SISTER. I'M YOUR FRIEND. I'M YOUR NEIGHBOR

On June 12, 1918, President Harry S. Truman signed into law the Woman's Armed Services Integration Act, allowing women to serve as permanent, regular members of the military.