

El Morro

Vol. 4 Winter Edition

Sentinel of the Caribbean

Oct-Nov-Dec 2019



Fort Buchanan celebrates the Holidays

Story on page 4



From the Garrison Commander



This past year has been a time of achievement, progress, and renewed hope for both Fort Buchanan and Puerto Rico.

As we continue to demonstrate a spirit of resolve and unity, we are building a ready, resilient, and sustainable installation that strengthens our community and offers hope to those in need.

In 2019, Fort Buchanan made significant contributions to Puerto Rico.

The base invested more than 700 million dollars in the Puerto Rican economy, contracted with local companies for construction and service projects, provided volunteer support to charitable organizations, and strengthened partnerships with local government officials and business leaders.

We directly employed over 2,500 military and civilian personnel and supported more than 330,000 service members, retirees, veterans, and family members.

Our construction projects supported warfighters, their families, and the environment.

We demolished old facilities to make way for a new Reserve Center which will support warfighter training.

Further, we renovated one track and are building another to support the new Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT).

We opened a new state of the art consolidated Child and Youth Services facility to better support families.

And as good stewards of the environment, we completed replacement of aged water pipes reducing water loss and saving over 2.5 million dollars and completed repairs on our Solar Panel Arrays and Wind Turbines.

As we worked to rebuild our installation, we also reached out to those in need.

We partnered with the Red Cross to open an on-base office, sponsored Wounded Warrior, Veteran, Special Olympics, Boy Scouts, PGA, and American Cancer Society activities, and donated canned food to local food banks as well as holiday gifts to local children.

Finally, we sought to improve our off-base partnerships. We visited with the San Patricio Coalition, AMGEN, and Goya and learned how they succeed in their business ventures.

We also visited with our neighbors from Bayamón, Cataño, Guaynabo and San Juan, as well as other municipalities such as Camuy, Fajardo, and Ceiba. During those visits, we saw firsthand how each municipality values and supports their service members and veterans.

Among the many selfless acts of service provided by the Fort Buchanan family, the most rewarding for me was having the privilege to serve food to the homeless at La Fondita de Jesus along-side my battle buddy, Garrison Command Sergeant Major Heriberto Quintana – truly a life changing experience that everyone should try, no matter the location.

I encourage you to learn more about

Fort Buchanan's community outreach and partnership efforts which are continually posted on our US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan Facebook Page.

As we look towards 2020, we are excited to welcome home Veterans who are now eligible to use the services they have earned.

We will continue our efforts to build a ready, resilient, and sustainable Fort Buchanan.

Later this month we will re-dedicate and open the new access control point, The Borinqueneer's gate.

In March, the new Fire Department apparatus building should be complete.

In April, we'll open the Physical Fitness Center Annex

In May, the Waterspout will re-open.

And in July, Coconut Grove family housing will be demolished to make way for new housing construction.

Throughout the year, you will see renovation work at Exchange facilities, the Community Club, and in Las Colinas family housing.

By the end of the year, we hope to see Soft and Creamy Ice Cream at the Exchange and a Dental Clinic at the PXtra.

As we move forward into the New Year, I encourage all to give thanks for our many blessings, and to join with me in reaffirming our commitment to a ready, resilient, and sustainable Fort Buchanan.

"We are Fort Buchanan"

"Somos el Fuerte Buchanan"

Jennifer and Makenzie join me in sending our best wishes to each and every one of you for a Happy New Year.

Comenzemos el Nuevo Año con esperanza y bendiciones para todos.

¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

Happy New Year!



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Garrison Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana

Deputy Garrison Commander
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Photos, lots of information and much more.

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

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

Upcoming events

December January February

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

New Year's Day
January 1

African American/ Black History Month

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
December 7

Three Kings Day
January 6

Presidents Day
February 18

USAG Holiday Parade
December 6

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
January 21

Illustrious Puerto Ricans Day
February 18

USAG Holiday Celebration
December 7

DFMWR Operation "Feliz Navidad" 5K Fun Run/Walk
December 14

National Guard Birthday
December 13

Christmas Day
December 25

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

The Deputy's Corner: Keys to Success



After being here for several months now, some people have asked me, "What are your Keys to Success?" As

depicted on the graphical display I have three main keys to success: **#1 TIME AND PRIORITIES**, **#2 BE READY**, and **#3 LEAD**.

#1 TIME AND PRIORITIES

I learned very early in my career over nearly three decades that TIME & PRIORITIES would be a major key to my overall success or failure. I feel both are extremely important and should be a joint #1. Many leaders speak to having a "balance" or "work-life balance" in their careers. For me that concept was explained as a young man to me by my grandfather. He brought out an old gold scale and put coins on one side and the weights on the other until it was perfectly balanced. Then he said, "See this is balanced, but even though you can achieve balance, the smallest thing can tip the scale." He then pulled out a feather, signifying the smallest-lightest object/thing and placed it on the coin side and it tipped the scale ever so slightly. He went on to say in order to be effective you must have "Effective Time Management". Always plan ahead allowing flex time, that is, always have time for you and your family. Don't put too much on your plate, and know when to say no or negotiate a more achievable period of time for that task to be completed. But always base your time on your set priorities.

We should all have priorities in life, mine are "Faith-Family-Duty". These are self-explanatory and have always been my priorities. I have this tattooed on my chest for a constant reminder. I place my Faith first above all, I always focus on my Family, and then I can give my Duty the fullest attention it needs. Often times Duty supersedes some time from my Faith and Family, but I always

make sure to have time for those two priorities in a day. For when we finally leave our Duty, we will still have our Faith and Family if we did things the right way throughout life. This number one sets the cornerstone foundation for my number two and three.

#2 BE READY

Training to be proficient is a must for Soldiers and Civilians alike. Maximize every training opportunity that can grow you in your profession. Be Professional, it makes a difference. If you are then others will see you as a mentor and follow your lead. Read and educate yourself by being a life-long learner. Learn something new each and every day. Self-Reflection is a must, take time in your day to reflect on what you accomplished and what you have to accomplish the next day – write it down and see the success. Grow each day as a Soldier, Civilian and Leader. We can all make improvements if we put forth the effort. Be the example in your Physical Fitness, walk-run-ride a bike and eat healthy for we only have so much time in this body. Be the Subject Matter Expert or know where to find them. You do not have to know everything, but if you know what regulation to read, what document to site, or have a "Phone a Friend" you can never go wrong. It is always ok to say you do not know. Look for the answer, find it, and get back to the individual. Be tactically and technically proficient in your job or career – know your craft and know how to lead!

#3 LEAD

A great leader knows that networking with your peers and seniors is critical. You never know when you may need some assistance and

building a strong network can pay off in the end. As such you should also collaborate by working with your peers or TEAM. Help each other out, share best practices and never be afraid to put a product out there for feedback that could enhance your organization. An effective leader is also a great mentor who can guide and direct those behind them to success. A leader that leads with love and compassion, makes decisions and stick with them, and support those in their charge will never be alone when they need help. Lastly be a good follower, sometimes you will have to lead, sometimes you will have to follow. Be the follower and teammate all would want in their organization or team. Know your role at that time.

LTC Rowsey "Keys to Success!"

<p>#1 TIME & PRIORITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective time management (time) - Backwards plan – always allow flex time – and always allow time for you and your family. Use Mission Command and don't put too much on your plate. - Faith – Family – Duty (priorities) - These have always been my priorities, if number two or three interfere with one or two you have to make some changes on how you are doing things. 	<p>#2 BE READY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train (get to the field and out of home station –maximize every training opportunity, with concurrent training.) - Be Professional - Read & educate yourself - Self Reflection is a must! - Grow each day as a Soldier, Civilian and Leader - Physical Fitness (be the example) - Be the Subject Matter Expert (SME) or know where to find them! - Be tactically and technically Proficient – know your craft! 	<p>#3 LEAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Network (with peers and seniors) - Collaborate (with your peers or TEAM) - Mentor - Guide - Direct - Love & Compassion - Make Decisions and stick with them - Support your Soldiers & Civilian in your charge! - Be a good follower!
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I hope this has been helpful and enlightening and at a minimum this has been the foundation of my individual keys to success over my career.

We Are Fort Buchanan! Hope to see you around post.

DAYBREAK WITH THE DEPUTY

FORT BUCHANAN, PUERTO RICO

SENTINEL OF THE CARIBBEAN

LTC James Rowsey
@LtcRowsey Follows you

United States Army Garrison, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, Deputy Garrison Commander - Sentinel of the Caribbean- Army Reserve - IMCOM -81st Readiness Division

Follow on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LtcRowsey>

Fort Buchanan celebrates it's "Tree Lighting Ceremony"

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

December 7, 2019 marked the beginning of the Holiday Season at US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan with the traditional Tree Lighting Ceremony.

The event held at the Community Club and Conference Center had a little bit of everything for everyone in the family.

For the kids, there were bumper cars, inflatables, wall climbing, face painting, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus and the Three Wise Men, as well as entertainment.

For the kids at heart, there were artisans, food, beverages and live music by Plena Libre, Luis González (El Tsunami de la Salsa) and La Mákina.

The event was an open post event and the community enjoyed the rhythms of plena, salsa and merengue, dancing all over the place while kids enjoyed a myriad of rides and activities.

The highlight of the night was the Tree Lighting Ceremony in which Fort Buchanan Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II accompanied by Army Cpt. Fernando Sostre's family, daughters Janai and Carla, his son Fernando and wife Jeniffer.



Families could not wait to ride with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Army Cpt. Fernando Sostre's family, daughters Janai and Carla, his son Fernando and wife Jeniffer waited to turn on the lights of Fort Buchanan's Christmas tree.



Lt. Col. Rowsey counts down with the crowd as the Sostre family are ready to light the tree.

Lt. Col. Rowsey welcomed the community on behalf of Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III, Garrison Command Sergeant Major Heriberto Quintana and Deputy to the Garrison Commander Greta M. Buccellato, and was grateful for all the good things such as support, partnerships and friendships received during this year. Lt. Col. Rowsey wishes the Fort Buchanan family a joyful holiday season and ¡Muchas Felicidades! (More photos on back cover.)



Visitors posed for family portraits with the Three Kings in their colorful robes.



The atmosphere was of celebration in a safe and comfortable setting.



Col. (Ret.) Margarita Aponte former Rodriguez Army Health Clinic Commander celebrated Christmas with her daughter, Rebeca and granddaughter, Aaniyah.



Families waited in line to get a photograph taken with Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. Rowsey.

Many danced the night away to salsa and "merengue".



(L) Luis González (El Tsunami de la Salsa) kept the salsa going and the crowd dancing..

Children shared with Lt. Col. Rowsey the spirit of the holidays.



Fort Buchanan kicks off the holidays with a “Super” parade!

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

The theme for Fort Buchanan’s 2019 Holiday Parade was superheroes. Garrison directorates and tenant organizations dressed in capes, masks and costumes, accompanied their uniquely decorated floats from Depot Road to the final staging area at the installation’s Community Club and Conference Center December 6, 2019.

Military and civilian personnel, parents, children, veterans, and visitors waited anxiously along the parade route ready to receive the superheroes and in some cases even the villains of these characters.

As is the tradition, the parade was initiated by Antilles High School Junior Reserve Officer’s Training Corps (JROTC) proudly marching, singing cadence’ and carrying the United States and Puerto Rico flags.

The superheroes and floats were, Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II as Superman, while Administrative Support Assistant, Millie Sánchez was Super Girl and arch-enemy Lex Luther was portrayed by Command Admin. Support Assistant, Robert Carrasquillo. The Directorate of Human Resources had Iron Man and all the staff wore Iron Man masks; the Logistics Readiness Center had their own Green Lantern with a power ring while the rest of the staff all wore their Green Lantern Masks; Directorate of Public Works (DPW) paraded behind Wonder Woman, Admin. Support Assistant Layra Ortíz, while carrying the DPW flag. The Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security staff walked alongside their Spiderman vehicle wearing Spiderman shirts. Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation’s Auto Craft Shop were Transformers. They decorated not only a flat-bed tow truck but a car while the mechanics and shop personnel wore their Transformer shirts. Captain America made his appearance in the Installation Legal



(L to R) Super Girl, Millie Sánchez; Black Panther, Jonathan B. Parker; Captain America, Cpt. Shawn Moynahan; Killmonger, Vance E. Phillips; Superman, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II; Green Lantern, Javier Rivera and Shazam, Lt. Cmdr. Jeremy L. Britt. Photo by Assistant Fire Chief, David De Jesús.



Office, the other staff members wore their masks and stuck a pose for the onlookers. The Naval Operational Support Center Puerto Rico (NOSC) Lt. Cmdr. Jeremy L. Britt was Shazam!, other sailors and NOSC staff were his elves, tossing candy to bystanders. The Fort Buchanan Exchange had the new



female Captain Marvel accompanied by her masked entourage and an Exchange shopping cart (Captain Marvel’s flying ship) filled with presents. Accompanied by the staff, children from the installation’s Child and Youth Center (CYS) wore a colorful variety of superhero costumes as they

paraded behind CYS’ Transformer. The Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) paid homage to a Mexican superhero from the 70’s TV Series “El Chapulín Colorado. The DECA Officer and his staff wore the iconic antennae and red shirts with yellow hearts. Fort Buchanan’s Fire Department had two fire fighters dressed up as Black Panther and Killmonger, who had a pig on a spit roasting.

Every year the parade marks the beginning of the Holiday Season at Fort Buchanan filled with camaraderie, fun and excitement. (See back cover for additional photos.)



Photos by Grissel Rosa, Public Affairs Officer

Historic visit to Fort Buchanan by Puerto Rico Secretary of Education

Story and photo by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Puerto Rico Secretary of Education (PR Sec Ed) Dr. Eligio Hernández Pérez visited US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan for the first time and some of its educational facilities December 19, 2019. Dr. Hernández was accompanied by members of his staff.

Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III; Deputy Garrison Commander, James K. Rowsey II and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana, provided the PR Sec Ed an overview of the installation and its partnerships in the Puerto Rico community, with emphasis on educational training. The Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA), Luis Alberto Soto and CASA Emeritus, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Félix A. Santoni also attended the meeting held at the Commander's Flag Room at Garrison Headquarters.

Following the opening brief Dr. Hernández and his staff were given a tour of installation educational facilities. The tour started with a visit to the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) Library. There FMWR Director, Joanne Fitzgerald and Supervisory Librarian, Eva Cabañas, walked the PR Sec Ed through different areas identifying the educational value and sources for supporting all school ages. Cabañas was asked to describe the recent IMCOM's "Million Dollar Makeover" competition where the installation's library won \$20,000 to be used toward transforming part of the facility into a Community Learning Area for social learning activities. This will introduce new events, children and adult programs, arts and crafts workshops, author events, book clubs, and Family game nights. Cabañas prepared and submitted the winning entry on behalf of the library.

The second stop was to the new state of the art Child and Youth Services (CYS) Center. There Dr. Hernández



The PR Sec. of Education, Dr. Hernández' visit began at the Garrison Commander's Flag Room with a briefing.



Dr. Hernández and Col. Corcoran talked as they walked to the Child and Youth Services Center.

and his staff was received by CYS Outreach Director, Zaida Colón and Facility Director, Luis Maldonado who briefed him on programs and activities for the children and youth of Fort Buchanan. Dr. Hernández expressed how impressed he was with the facility and even requested more information from Colón and Maldonado on the programs being implemented at CYS.

The final stop of the PR Sec Ed's tour was Antillas Elementary School (AES). AES Principal, Lydia Blázquez, Puerto Rico Community superintendent, Dr. Jacob Sherwood, Department of Defense Educational Activity-America (DODEA) administrators and educators led the facility tour to show the efforts of the collaboration through new neighborhood hub style learning. Dr. Hernández upon entering some classrooms was introduced to children and he took the opportunity to talk to them. The PR Sec Ed shook hands with the cafeteria cooking staff who was preparing lunch before visiting children doing physical education at the gym. AES is also a relatively new facility with two floors of classrooms



Dr. Hernández' the first stop on the tour of Fort Buchanan was the installation's Library. Eva Cabañas describes programs and benefits.



Garrison Command, CASAs and CYS staff pose for a group shot with the PR Sec Ed.



DODEA staff and the Garrison Commander pose with the PR Sec Ed.



Dr. Hernández challenged some of the children with counting teasers using his fingers.

and special training areas.

After taking a group shot with AES and DODEA staff Col. Corcoran presented Dr. Hernández with his commander's coin.

Dr. Eligio Hernández left expressing his gratitude for this initial tour of the installation and for the development of future partnerships for the both the Puerto Rico and Fort Buchanan communities.

HOW TO ACCESS FORT BUCHANAN WITH A VHIC OR PRIMARY CAREGIVER LETTER

The below guidance does not apply to Veterans and their authorized dependents who possess military retiree identification cards as those cards already provide access to Fort Buchanan, the Commissary, Exchange, and MWR services.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (NDAA) OF 2019?

1. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2019, Section 621, provides expanded access to military installations for specific Veterans and caregivers so they may utilize certain morale, welfare and recreation privileges (MWR) to include base exchanges and commissaries beginning January 1, 2020.

HOW CAN I GAIN ACCESS TO FORT BUCHANAN?

2. To gain access to Fort Buchanan, eligible Veterans and caregivers must go to the Fort Buchanan Visitor Control Center located at the SPC Frances M. Vega gate (Monday – Friday, 0700-1600 hours except Federal Holidays) and provide:

Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) (Figures 1 or 2) or Primary Caregiver Letter issued by the Veterans Administration (VA), and [NOTE: VA information on how to obtain a Veteran Health Identification Card is available at: <https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic/index.asp>.]



Figure 1



Figure 2

Acceptable Real ID credential (valid Driver's License, DTOP issued identification card, or US Passport), and

Social Security Number; and

Consent for a National Crime Information Center (NCIC) check. Once cleared, a Fort Buchanan Installation Access Pass will be provided (Figure 3).

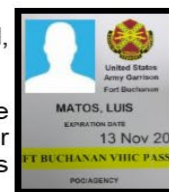


Figure 3

3. The Fort Buchanan Installation Access Pass (figure 3) provides access to the Fort Buchanan installation. The VHIC (figures 1 and 2) or Primary Caregiver Letter provides access to the Exchange, Commissary, and select MWR services once on Fort Buchanan.

4. In the past, personnel with a VHIC (figures 1 and 2) were provided Fort Buchanan Installation Access without an accompanying Fort Buchanan Installation Access Pass (figure 3). Effective January 1, 2020, personnel who present a VHIC (figures 1 and 2) without an accompanying Fort Buchanan Installation Access Pass (figure 3) will be denied installation access until they obtain a Fort Buchanan Installation Access Pass (figure 3) at the Visitor Control Center.

5. Veterans and caregivers in possession of a valid Installation Access Pass and a valid VHIC or Primary Caregiver Letter, are authorized to use the following on Fort Buchanan: Exchange, Commissary, and select fee based MWR services (Community Club and Conference Center, Golf, Bowling, Outdoor Recreation, Auto Skills, Special Events, and Leisure Travel).

ARE FAMILY MEMBERS OF ELIGIBLE VETERANS AND CAREGIVERS AUTHORIZED TO ACCESS FORT BUCHANAN?

6. Family members of eligible Veterans and caregivers who are not eligible for installation access, Commissary, and Exchange privileges in their own right are not authorized privileges under NDAA 2019, Section 621. Eligible Veterans and caregivers in possession of a VHIC (figures 1 or 2) and a Fort Buchanan Installation Access Pass (figure 3) are not authorized to sponsor family members onto the installation under the Trusted Traveler Program. Family members not otherwise authorized installation access can gain access to the installation and select MWR services by obtaining an MWR Card at a cost of \$30 per person with an annual renewal cost of \$25. The MWR card does not authorize access to the commissary or exchange. For more information, please visit: <https://buchanan.armymwr.com/programs/mwr-card>.

7. As the Fort Buchanan Visitor Control Center has limited personnel resources, Veterans and caregivers seeking to obtain an Installation Access Pass may experience long wait times and should plan accordingly.

MORE INFORMATION

8. For questions concerning Fort Buchanan Installation Access, please contact the Visitor Control Center at (787) 707-3995.

COMO ACCESAR AL FUERTE BUCHANAN MEDIANTE EL USO DE LA TARJETA DE IDENTIFICACION DE SERVICIOS DE SALUD (VHIC) O UNA CARTA DE CUIDADOR PRIMARIO

*** La siguiente guía no aplica a los Veteranos y sus dependientes autorizados que poseen tarjetas de identificación militar para retirados, debido a que dichas tarjetas ya brindan acceso a los servicios del Fuerte Buchanan, la Comisaría, el PX y los servicios de Moral, Bienestar y Recreación (MWR). ***

¿QUE ES EL NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (NDAA) DEL 2019?

1. La Ley de Autorización de Defensa Nacional (NDAA, por sus siglas en inglés) de 2019, Sección 621, proporciona acceso ampliado a instalaciones militares para Veteranos y cuidadores específicos para que puedan utilizar ciertos privilegios de Moral, Bienestar y Recreación (MWR) incluyendo los PXs y Comisarías comenzando el 1ero. de enero de 2020.

¿COMO PUEDO LOGRAR ACCESO AL FUERTE BUCHANAN?

2. Para obtener acceso al Fuerte Buchanan, los Veteranos y cuidadores elegibles deberán ir al Centro de Control de Visitantes del Fuerte Buchanan localizado en el portón Especialista Frances M. Vega (Lunes – Viernes, 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. excepto días feriados federales) y presentar:

- Tarjeta de Identificación de Servicios de Salud para Veteranos (VHIC, por sus siglas en inglés) (Ejemplo 1 ó 2) o una Carta de Cuidador Primario emitida por la Administración de Veteranos (VA),



Ejemplo 1



Ejemplo 2

[NOTA: La información de la Administración de Veteranos (VA) sobre cómo obtener una Tarjeta de Identificación de Servicios de Salud para Veteranos está disponible en: <https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic/index.asp> .]

- Credencial de Identificación Real Aceptable (Real ID) (licencia de conducir válida, tarjeta de identificación emitida por el Departamento de Transportación y Obras Públicas, o pasaporte de los Estados Unidos), y
- Número de Seguro Social; y
- Consentimiento para una verificación del Centro Nacional de Información Sobre Delitos (NCIC, por sus siglas en inglés).

Una vez completado el proceso, se le proporcionará un pase de acceso a la instalación del Fuerte Buchanan (Ejemplo 3).



Ejemplo 3

3. El pase de acceso a la instalación del Fuerte Buchanan (Ejemplo 3) provee acceso a la base. La Tarjeta de Identificación de Servicios de Salud para Veteranos (VHIC) (Ejemplos 1 y 2) o la Carta del Cuidador Primario provee acceso al PX, Comisaría y servicios selectos de Moral, Bienestar y Recreación (MWR) una vez estén en el Fuerte Buchanan.

4. En el pasado, las personas con Tarjeta de Identificación de Servicios de Salud para Veteranos (VHIC) (Ejemplos 1 y 2) recibían acceso a la instalación del Fuerte Buchanan sin tener un pase de acceso a la base (Ejemplo 3). A partir del 1ero. de enero de 2020, las personas que presenten una tarjeta de VHIC (Ejemplos 1 y 2) sin un pase de acceso a la base (Ejemplo 3) se le denegará el acceso a la instalación hasta que obtenga un pase de acceso a la instalación del Fuerte Buchanan (Ejemplo 3) en el Centro de Control de Visitantes.

5. Los Veteranos y cuidadores que tengan un pase válido de acceso a la instalación y una tarjeta VHIC o una Carta de Cuidador Primario, estarán autorizados a utilizar los siguientes servicios en el Fuerte Buchanan: PX, Comisaría, y servicios selectos de MWR basados en costo o tarifas (el Community Club and Conference Center, el campo de Golf, la Bolera, Recreación al Aire Libre, Taller Automotriz, Eventos Especiales y la agencia de viajes Leisure and Travel).

¿LOS FAMILIARES DE LOS VETERANOS ELEGIBLES Y SUS CUIDADORES ESTAN AUTORIZADOS PARA ENTRAR AL FUERTE BUCHANAN?

6. Los familiares de Veteranos y Cuidadores Elegibles que no son elegibles para tener acceso a la instalación, la Comisaría y el PX por derecho propio no tienen privilegios autorizados bajo la NDAA 2019, Sección 621. Los Veteranos y Cuidadores elegibles que posean una tarjeta de VHIC (Ejemplos 1 y 2) y el pase de acceso a la instalación del Fuerte Buchanan (Ejemplo 3) no están autorizados para patrocinar a miembros de la familia para que tengan acceso a la instalación bajo el Programa Trusted Traveler. Los miembros de la familia que de otra manera no están autorizados para tener acceso a la base pueden obtener acceso a la instalación y a servicios selectos de MWR obteniendo una Tarjeta de MWR a un costo de \$30 por persona con un costo de renovación anual de \$25. La Tarjeta de MWR no autoriza acceso a la Comisaría ni al PX. Para mayor información, por favor visite: <https://buchanan.armymwr.com/programs/mwr-card> .

7. Debido a que el Centro de Control de Visitantes tiene recursos de personal limitados, los Veteranos y Cuidadores que buscan obtener un pase de acceso a la instalación pueden experimentar largos tiempos de espera y deberán planificar adecuadamente.

MAS INFORMACION

8. Para preguntas sobre el acceso a la instalación del Fuerte Buchanan, puede comunicarse con el Centro de Control de Visitantes al (787) 707-3995.

USAG Fort Buchanan 1st Quarter Town Hall Meeting “¡Parranda!”

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Approximately 300 members of the Fort Buchanan workforce, directors and tenants gathered at the 1st Quarter 2020 Town Hall meeting December 17, 2019 at the installation’s Community Club and Conference Center.

Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran’s III greeted the attendees reiterating “How honored and privileged am I, to serve as the Garrison Commander at the best installation in the United States Army,” “Fort Buchanan, even though probably one



Col. Corcoran provided valuable feed-back from the Command Climate Survey, explaining the command’s plan and the responsibilities of the employees.

of the smallest installations in the US Army is perhaps one of the most recognized, because of it’s people. It is due to the hard work, effort and dedication that you provide every day to the customers of this installation,” Corcoran concluded.

Directorate of Emergency Services Director Jorge Quiñones addressed the issue of Distracted Driving. He emphasized “Distraction and driving are a lethal combination. Any type of distraction be it texting, cell phone calling, watching a video, applying make-up, driving with pets on the lap and even talking to passengers, are a hazzard,” said Quiñones.

Deputy to the Garrison Command Greta M. Buccellato presented changes occurring over the next six months such as the expanded access for Veterans to Fort Buchanan. She explained that a law



In an effort to maintain the workforce informed Greta Buccellato reviewed the upcoming changes.

was passed in Washington, effective on January 1, 2020 giving them access to make use of the Exchange, the Commissary and certain Cat C FMWR Facilities and activities.

“More important than it being the law is that it is the right thing to do. It’s the right way to treat our veterans. The veterans have to fit certain categories described in the law, it is not applicable to all veterans.” She went on explaining how this will work and what are the procedures.

Buccellato mentioned additional upcoming dates such as the new access control point at The Borinqueneers’



Maria Nuñez had the town hall stretching and moving in place as part of her wellness presentation.

gate which should be open by the end of January; the firefighters apparatus building, the new gym and the Water Spout scheduled to open in time for summer.

Col. Corcoran presented the results from a mandated Command Climate Survey and identified three key points to a plan developed as a consequence, 1- Effective Communication: give everyone a voice, define goals and

expectations, and build teams; 2- Transparent Decision: hire the right people, trust people to make decisions and use Army Tools to support decision making and 3- Meaningful Leader Development: prepare supervisors to develop employees, hold employees and supervisors accountable for individual Development Plans and deliver Refresh Of the Workforce (ROW) training. In addition to the commands plan he identified the role of the workforce.

“My job is to be as transparent as possible, to provide the best guidance possible to the directors so that everyone can do their job to the best of their ability,” said Corcoran. “Also to



Greta M. Buccellato presented the quarter in review accompanied by photographs, here shown are Robert Carrasquillo and Millie Sánchez, command group administrative support assistants.

provide you with the right tools for your tool kit so you can do the great things that you need to be doing and continue to do the great things you do for our customers that includes training,” he continued, “Fort Buchanan is a great place to work, it is a pleasure and an honor to work with each and every one of you,”

Army Substance Abuse, Suicide Prevention, Employee Assistance programs and Civilian Wellness Coordinator, Carlos Montañez provided and overview of the Civilian Wellness program and the process requirements to enjoy this benefit.

Sports and Fitness Center, Fitness

USAG Fort Buchanan 1st Quarter Town Hall Meeting (cont.)

Facility Manager, Mary Nuñez in addition to giving the information about upcoming physical fitness events and facilities, after calling forward other certified fitness experts, she had everyone do some stretching and muscle relaxing exercise. Followed by Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Director, Joanne Fitzgerald introduced “PGA Hope”, a program that introduces the game of golf to veterans with disabilities to enhance their physical mental social and emotional wellbeing. To date, 15 disabled American Veterans have graduated from an eight-week program held at the Fort Buchanan golf course.

Garrison Command Chaplain Major Mark A. East discussed living, talking Army Values and recognizing them in others, before leading the town hall in prayer.

Greta Buccellato provided the quarter in review, “I think it’s really important that we have a shared understanding of how much good work has been done here at Fort Buchanan in the last ninety days. So I want to share our story with all of you. During this quarter the command group focused in strengthening our partnerships with other uniform services and our off-base and community partners.” She said as she presented images depicting the various events, directorates and persons who had an impact on the quarter, including presenting new garrison staff members of the Plans Analysis Integration Office Team, the canned food winners of the Make a Difference Day and more.

Time-in-service, honorary and US Army award presentations was followed by the promotion of Tomás Acosta-Lamberty to Lieutenant Colonel and Fort Buchanan’s Police Chief. His daughter Stephanie Acosta, with DFMWR pinned his new Police Chief badge on his uniform.

Directors presented their hail and farewell portion of the town hall with a moment to recognize Evaristo “Jr.” Rivera for his passing.

Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey asked what have we been doing during the past ninety days we have been trying to tell the story, it’s about telling the story for you, we have stepped up our social media game. I have been to almost all the sites, sections and directorates, enjoying conversations with all of you. Rowsey organized the crowd so Public Affairs Officer, Grissel Rosa could take a quick video shouting out “We Are Fort Buchanan” in both English and Spanish is posted on social media.

Col. Corcoran in his closing remarks said, “Thank you for what you do every



Adolph Hernández with FMWR, received from Col. Corcoran and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana, an award certificate for five years of service in the US Government.

day and for attending today. I need every one of you to be safe, because I need you back after the holidays, after you enjoy your families, friends, to do what you do best. And he closed with a



New Fort Buchanan Police Chief Lt. Col. Tomás Acosta-Lamberty proudly displays his Dept. of the Army Certificate of Promotion. By his side is his daughter, Stephanie Acosta who works in DFMWR, DES Director Jorge Quiñones (L) Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana and Col. Corcoran.

Luis Maldonado with the Child and Youth Services Center received from Col. Corcoran and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana, an award certificate for ten years of service in the US Government.



questions and answers session.

Buccellato recited a “Bomba” written by Grissel Rosa in the Puerto Rican tradition.

Then the ‘parranda’ party started.. members of various directorates and community friends marched in, playing a variety of instruments singing a selection of Puerto Rican “Aguinaldos” (typical Christmas Carols) bringing the town hall to their feet as they danced around the ballroom. And so ends the first quarter of 2020!



(L to R) Rubén Maldonado, Luis Alicea, Irma Cotto, Joel Ramos, María “Angie” Ramirez and José L. Torres received from Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana and Col. Corcoran award certificates for twenty years of service in the US Government.



Col. Corcoran and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana, awarded Ivette Dávila with Army Community Services, a certificate and pin, for twenty-five years of service in the US Government.

USAG Fort Buchanan 1st Quarter Town Hall Meeting “¡Parranda!” (cont.)



Rafael V. Morales, LRC TMP Dispatcher received from Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana and Col. Corcoran an award certificate for thirty years of service in the US Government.



Nathaniel Santana Román, Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) received the Army Medal of Achievement for Civilian Service while serving as Transportation Assistant, Installation Transportation Division from (l to r) Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana, LRC Director, Onel Colón and Col. Corcoran.



Certificates of appreciation for support to the Warrior Training Advancement Course were awarded to (L to R) Grissel Rosa, Raúl Rodríguez, Charlotte Burgos, Jaime Morales, Solimar, Vélez, Luis Reyes, Edwin Ruiz, Henry Sierra and Rosie Irizarry, by Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana and Col. Corcoran.



Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana and Col. Corcoran awarded certificates of appreciation for their achievement as Army Readiness Assessment Program Top 25% (L to R) Leonel Román, Alex Nieves, Efrain Colón and Anibal “Andy” Alvarez.



Everyone joined in to do the team cheer “We Are Fort Buchanan!” in both English and Spanish. The moment was filmed and posted on the installation’s Social Media, Facebook and Twitter.



Eva Cabañas, Installation Library DFMWR received from Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana and Col. Corcoran the Army Certificate of Achievement for the preparation, submission and winning IMCOM’s “Million Dollar Makeover competition.



Lt. Col. Rowsey confirmed that for the past ninety days “we have been telling our story in the social media world,” as he rallies everyone to cheer.



People could not help but dance around the ballroom to the contagious rhythms of typical “Aguinaldos” (Christmas Carols) played by fellow garrison staff and friends.



Lesvia “Zory” Malpica received the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service from DPW Director María “Angie” López, Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana and Col. Corcoran



Photos by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Buchanan supports Wreaths Across America honors our heroes

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

USAG Fort Buchanan participated in the annual event “Wreaths Across America” conducted December 14, 2019, at the Puerto Rico National Cemetery to remember our fallen U.S. Veterans; honor those who serve and teach our children the value of freedom.

The host for the event, Puerto Rico National Cemetery Director, Juan D. Nieves, highlighted that they started the activity in 2016 with less than 100 wreaths, many donated by a funeral home in Bayamón.

In 2017 there were over 200 wreaths, with Nanette Rendón from MyVA Community donating one wreath for each female Veteran.

In 2018 the amount of wreaths increased to over 800 with the support of Walmart.

This year, and thanks to the support of Crowley Transport, there were 6,500 wreaths placed on the graves of our Veterans.



Three generations of the Cintrón Albertorio family carry the wreath to be placed on the grave of a family member.



Lt. Rowsey and Maj. Gen. Reyes attended the event to pay respect to veterans and their families.

Luis A. Soto; The Adjutant General of the Puerto Rico National Guard, Maj. Gen. José J. Reyes; the Director of VA Caribbean Healthcare System, Carlos Escobar; members of the Youth Challenge Program from Juana Diaz, Civil Air Patrol and family members of some of the 60,000 Veterans who rest at the Puerto Rico National Cemetery.

Wreaths Across America is a nonprofit that lays wreaths at graves of fallen service members at national cemeteries. In 2014, volunteers laid 700,000 wreaths at over 1,000 different locations.



Juan D. Nieves PR national Cemetery director and host for the event converses with Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey.

Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, attended this significant event that shows the importance of cultivating a culture of gratitude in which we remember and honor our Veterans as well as keeping their sacrifices and stories of courage and achievements alive for future generations.

The event was also attended by representatives of the local community, such as the Mayor of San Juan, Hon. Carmen Yulín Cruz; the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army,



A troop member from Boy Scouts of America lays a wreath before the United States Navy Seal.



Lt. Col. Rowsey met for the first time San Juan Mayor, Hon. Carmen Yulín Cruz.

US Coast Guard Commander Delgado renders honor after laying a wreath at the base of the United States Coast Guard Seal.



Approximately 200 military, Dept. of Defense civilians, volunteers and the families of veterans resting in the hallowed grounds of the PR National Cemetery were present to honor and remember them during the holiday season.

Fort Buchanan annual Turkey Bowl Army vs Marine

Story and photo by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Every year, prior to Thanksgiving, Fort Buchanan holds its Turkey Bowl. The flag football game between US Army and combined Navy/Marine Corps (USMC) teams was held at Pirates Field, next to Antilles High School (AHS), November 22, 2019.

Fort Buchanan's traditional Turkey Bowl, is a testimony to the 'esprit de corps' between service branches demonstrating pride, fellowship and common loyalty to our military and our nation.



The US Army team poses with 2019 Turkey Bowl winners the US Marine Corps, as they proudly display the trophy.



The JROTC drill teams from Antilles High School at Fort Buchanan and Antilles Military Academy in Trujillo Alto, PR gathered for a group shot with Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Rowsey.

The 12 member Navy/Marine Corps team included Naval Operations Support Center (NOSC) Puerto Rico Commanding Officer, Lt. Cdr. Jeremy L. Britt, USMC Supply Sergeant, Sgt. Joanna Millan and the support of nine-year-old Travis Tate son of USMC Staff Sgt. Travis A. Tate.

The Army team was also comprised of 12 members, including four Antilles High School students, Marcelo Campos, Derick Alvarado, Josue Polanco and Carlos Gandiaga.

During the first half of the game, the two teams faced off in a friendly, intense match with the Army maintaining a considerable lead.

Students from AHS filled the bleachers and their Pirates Cheerleading Squad encouraged the football teams and their classmates in the Army team. They also maintained the audience motivated throughout the game.

AHS JROTC, Sabre and Color Guard teams under the commands of Sgt. Gino Falche and 1st Sgt. José Román respectively, executed the posting of the colors and formed two sabre arches under which the teams

passed to enter the field establishing the commencement of the game. The AHS JROTC was under the guidance of Sgt. 1st Class José Tirado. A student from AHS sang 'La Borinqueña' and US National anthems. Antilles Military Academy JROTC located in Trujillo Alto, performed Armed and Un-Armed Precision exhibitions during half-time. The commander of the Armed Drill Team was Maj. Michael A. González and the Unarmed Drill Team was Lt. Luz Marrero under the direction of 1st Sgt. Braulio Coriano.

Fort Buchanan Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, commanding officer for the event, met with referees and team captains near the 20 yard line to determine who would start the ball. Marines won the toss.

Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (FMWR) provided referees Luis Maldonado and José Martínez; Supervisory Sports Specialist, Roberto Fernández who maintained the electronic score board and Sports Specialist, Juan R. Sanfeliz Jr. Maldonado, Fernandez, Sanfeliz

and Lt. Col. Rowsey provided the rules of engagement and safety briefing for the game.

After half time, the Navy/Marine team intensified their game and took the lead after the five minute mark, winning with a final score of 32 to 22. The coveted Turkey Bowl Trophy will be housed at the USMC headquarters till next year.

"This game was full of good competitive spirit," said USMC 1st Sgt. Jaime S. Alvarez. "It demonstrates camaraderie and how the military always comes together, specifically here at Fort Buchanan," he concluded.

"This was fantastic, outstanding! Navy, Marine and Army did a great job," said Lt. Cdr. Britt. "I appreciate the job the Garrison FMWR did in preparing the field and setting up



the markers. A special thanks to the JROTC for the Color Guard, Sabre and Drill teams," Britt concluded.

The youngest member of the USMC team, Travis Tate said, "It was fun to watch. Especially at the end."

CYS Kids compete for a free turkey during Thanksgiving Run!

Story and photo by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

As part of Thanksgiving fun, approximately 177 parents, siblings and Fort Buchanan community members, attended the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR), Child & Youth Services (CYS) Youth Turkey Run November 21, 2019 at the Antilles High School track field on post.

Event coordinator, **CYS Sports Specialist, Irma Arlene Muñoz**, provided children and visitors with the rules of engagement and introduced Deputy Garrison Commander, **Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II** to the attendees. **CYS Sports and Fitness Director, Wayne Chastain** and **CYS Sports staff member, Eduardo Avila** tracked the winners. Assisting in the overall success of the event were volunteers,



The winners proudly pose with their turkeys and medals for participation.

Marcelo Cedeño and **Carlos Reyes**, along with other **CYS staff**.

There were 125 young competitors. The 4 to 5 year-old children competed in the 200 meter race, while kids from 6 to 8, 9 to 11, 12 to 14 and 15 to 18 years of age, competed in 400 meter races.

At each of the ten runs, military and civilian parents ran alongside their children, cheering them on and taking photographs with their mobile phones



trying to capture all the action. Many waited at the finish line to congratulate their athletes.

Lt. Col. Rowsey received each of the runners at the finish line with a high five and words of encouragement.

All runners received a medal for their participation. **Lt. Col. Rowsey** presented each of the 1st prize winners with their well-earned turkey, awarding a total of ten frozen turkeys.

Professional baseball players meet with Fort Buchanan for future partnership

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

Fort Buchanan received the visit, November 19, 2019 of various active and former professional baseball players: **Anthony Graffanino**, former Major League Baseball (MLB) second and third baseman, and shortstop; **William Jameson Fisher**, active with the Chicago White Sox; **Mike A. Gellinger**, former MLB second and third baseman and Coach for the Chicago White Sox; **Tejay Anthony Anyone**, starting pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds; **Ryan Thomas Cordell**, outfielder and free agent, active with the Chicago White Sox; **Hediberto (Eddie) Vargas**, retired MLB first baseman, who played with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The group led by **Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Victor Roy Rivera** conducted baseball clinics around the island as part of their Christian mission with the organization **Unlimited Potential, Inc.**



“The group also teaches young kids respect towards God, their parents and themselves,” said **Eddie Vargas**.

They were greeted by Deputy Garrison Commander **Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II**, at the Bowling Center. He commended their mentorship for kids and teens.

“This is resiliency,” said **Lt. Col. Rowsey**, “what they do every day one



on one with these kids.”

The group also visited the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) Training Center to practice with the EST 2000 virtual firing range.

Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Rivera coordinated with garrison to bring the baseball clinics to Fort Buchanan next year.

“Let’s Play Ball!”



Resource Management Officer retires after 40 years of honorable service

Story and photo by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Buchanan bid farewell to Resource Management Officer, Héctor Torres-Hernández after forty years of service to the Government of the United States in a ceremony held at Brig. Gen. James A. Buchanan Conference room, November 19, 2019. Present for the ceremony were garrison and tenant unit directors, and the Resource Management Office staff.

During the ceremony Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, acting on behalf of Garrison Commander Joseph B. Corcoran III and Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Greta M. Buccellato, presented Torres-Hernández with a certificate and lapel pin in recognition of forty years of service to the Government of the United States (20 years in the Army and 20 years as a civilian employee); a Department of the Army Certificate



Retiring Resource Management Officer, Héctor Torres-Hernández (center) received from the RMO team a token of appreciation for his service.

of Appreciation and Certificate of Retirement.

“It is absolutely my honor to present this certificate to you,” said Buccellato as she presented him with his time-in-service certificate and highlighted that, “The resource management (RM) business is really the heart of every installation. It’s how installations run. People don’t get hired, bills don’t get

paid, and contracts don’t get written without the resource management office. Héctor rose from GS 5 all the way to GS 14 through his budgetary and resource management career. He has been a stalwart here at Fort Buchanan for the RM program so it is with heavy heart we wish you well in your retirement. But we do wish you well,” she concluded.

“We cannot do what we do every day unless somebody behind the scene says ‘you have the money to do it,’ It takes a whole team. You have a great team and you have been that leader for many years. I not only thank you for your civilian, but also, for your military service,” concluded Rowsey.

“I did 20 years active duty and 20 as a civilian. I dedicate this retirement to my father, because of him I did not leave the service and I am here today. Thank you all,” concluded Héctor Torres-Hernández.

Religious Support Office delivers donations to “La Casa del Veterano”

Story and photo by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

For several months the protestant and catholic congregations from Fort Buchanan’s post chapel have been collecting donated personal hygiene items and 15 pedestal fans in support of our veterans residing in La Casa del Veterano in Juana Diaz, P.R. Fort Buchanan Garrison Command Chaplain (Major) Mark A. East and ten volunteers delivered the donations to the only veteran’s home on the island, November 16, 2019.

Volunteers from the Religious Support Office (RSO) under the direction of Ch. (Maj.) East were, Angela and John East; RSO Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Spann III; Rosa Rodríguez, garrison supervisory budget officer; Police Chief Tomás Acosta-Lamberty, his wife Evelyn Vargas Pérez, her mother Carmen Pérez; Ramón A. Rivera, senior human resource



Chaplain (Maj.) East led a service in the home’s chapel, attended by residents, their families, staff and volunteers.

specialist, his wife Jeanette Rivera and Rosie Irizarry, public affairs specialist.

The visit was coordinated with William D. Vélez, from the Puerto Rico Office of the Advocate of Veterans Affairs who oversees La Casa Del Veterano. The volunteers were warmly greeted by residents as well as nursing staff and Physical Medicine Coordinator, Vivian Rodríguez. Rodríguez received the donations and provided an escort of the home.

During the visit, the volunteers shared

time with some of the 128 veterans and spouses, who live at La Casa Del Veterano. Many of them, over 92 years of age, live in the area designated for long term care and assisted living.

In the evening Ch. (Maj.) East provided a worship service at the home’s chapel and to the surprise of the home’s staff the chapel was filled with residents.

“This was an excellent event. Our veterans like to see they are not forgotten. Many of them do not receive visits from family, either because they too are elderly or because they do not live near. To have someone go room to room, talk, listen and pray with them, just to share a moment, is wonderful,” said Vivian Rodríguez.

Fort Buchanan recognizes those who have served and continue to serve our nation with honor. As a nation, we must ensure that the service and sacrifice of our Veterans is never overlooked or forgotten.

1st Quarter SFL-TAP Workshop helping Soldiers transition to civilian life

Story and photo by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Approximately 27 Soldiers with varying ranks and years of service attended the Soldier For Life (SFL) – Transition Assistance program (TAP) eight day workshop held at the Fort Buchanan's Training Division Center, November 14, 2019.

José Morales, SFL-TAP transition assistance specialist welcomed participants, "I know everyone here has already developed a mind-set as to what you will be doing once you separate from service. I advise you to clear your mind of all that. You no longer have a job and do not know what you will be doing tomorrow," said Morales.

Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey III shared with transitioning Soldiers his personal family military experience and history as an example of the transition process and his commitment. "I'm invested in

"Speaking to you today truly means something to me and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your service," said Deputy Garrison Commander, LTC James K. Rowsey III, addressing transitioning Soldiers.



taking care of Soldiers and civilians," he said. On translating their military experience and training to civilian experience Lt. Col. Rowsey explained that, "The Garrison Commander and I have visited places like AMGEN a major world-wide pharmaceutical here and Goya industries. Guess who they like to hire? Former military. They have in their workforce many former military, including a member of the AMGEN staff is a Reserve Ambassador, a retired Command Sergeant Major and he's at the forefront of taking care of

our military there.

Present at the workshop were DHR Director, Maria S. Morales and Military Personnel Division Chief, Ulises Marrero-Diaz as well as instructors from Fort Bliss, Financial Counselor, Verónica Mora and Career Counselor, Lydia Ordoñez.

Every quarter DHR conducts SFL – TAP workshops for Soldiers and celebrate hiring events and other opportunities to meet with prospective employers and connect to civilian opportunities.

Fort Buchanan Security Chief receives Patriotic Employer Award

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

The Office of the Secretary of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) recognized Fort Buchanan Director of Emergency Services (DES) Physical Security Chief, Ramón Pelayera as a Patriotic Employer and presented him with a certificate in a ceremony held at Brig. Gen. James A. Buchanan Conference room November 13, 2019.

The certificate was presented to Pelayera by ESGR Puerto Rico committee leadership members, Vice Chair, Carlos E. Huertas; Military Outreach Director, Luis E. Diaz-Diaz and Ombudsman Director, Rubén Sánchez. Present for the ceremony were Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran, III; Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II; Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Greta M. Buccellato; DES

Director, Jorge Quiñones; Fire Chief, Luis Raúl R. Roig, Police, Security Guards, Assistant Fire Chiefs, inspectors and garrison staff.

Pelayera, retired US Army and has worked at the installation for 15 years was nominated for this recognition by Jesús Diaz Zayas, one of 21 security guards at the installation.

"I am surprised, I did not expect this acknowledgment. But more so I would never have expected that an employee would nominate me for an award," said Pelayera. "This tells me, as a supervisor, I am doing my job."

Fifty percent of Fort Buchanan's security guards serve in the Puerto Rico Army & Air National Guard as well as



the Army and Navy Reserve.

The ESGR is a Department of Defense office that informs and educates service members and their civilian employers regarding their rights and responsibilities governed by the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA). It serves as a neutral, free resource to employers and service members. (Excerpt from ESGR web site: <https://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/Puerto-Rico>)

Fort Buchanan shares with neighbors at Goya de P.R.

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III and Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, visited the main headquarters of Goya, Puerto Rico as part of the installation community outreach initiatives, November 13, 2019.

The visit included a tour of the facilities of one of the largest manufacturing and distribution centers in the island with an extension of over 30 acres nearby the military installation.

Goya Foods, the largest, Hispanic-owned food company in the United



(L to R) Lt. Col. Rowsey, Col. Corcoran, Carlos Unanue, President of Goya and Col. (Ret.) Cabrera engaged in an interesting conversation as Unanue tells the story of Goya. From their humble beginnings at their first facility in Rio Piedras to becoming one of the biggest food companies in the world with over 30 acres that house their manufacturing and distribution center in Bayamón.



Col. (Ret.) Horacio A. Cabrera-Rodriguez, Vice President and Senior Corporate Counsel for Goya PR, Inc. and former Reserve Ambassador shares the company's history with Col. Corcoran and Lt. Col. Rowsey during the visit to their facilities located near Fort Buchanan.



Col. Corcoran and Lt. Col. Rowsey look at the map made of cans from Goya's products that mark their operations and distribution centers throughout the world.

States was founded in 1936 by Spanish immigrants, Don Prudencio Unanue and his wife Carolina.

In 2018, Goya was ranked #2 as a leading U.S. food brand for its social influence and community support. The company has 26 facilities throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Spain, and employs over 4,000 worldwide.

As recent as 2016, Goya opened five new state-of-the-art manufacturing and distribution centers in Texas, California, Georgia and New Jersey. The company that started distributing Spanish products such as olives, olive oil, and sardines; today manufactures and distributes over 2,500 food products from the Caribbean, Mexico,

Spain, Central and South America generating \$1.5 billion in annual sales.

Goya and Fort Buchanan share common values as both take pride of their people – military and civilian – their commitment to service and support to our nation. For example, “Goya Gives” supports nearly 300 charitable endeavors, programs, scholarships, and events. It donates millions of pounds of food to local food banks and shelters, especially during times of natural disasters such as Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, Superstorm Sandy, and Hurricanes Harvey and Irene. During 2017-2018, Goya launched the “Can Do” campaign to benefit Feeding America and donated over 1.5 million pounds of food to families in need in



(Center) Carlos Unanue and (R) Cabrera-Rodriguez show the Fort Buchanan coin presented by the garrison commander, in appreciation of their contributions to the community.

the United States.

Garrison leaders expressed the hope to continue working together on initiatives of mutual collaboration and to maintain a positive and lasting relationship between neighbors.

Fort Buchanan “makes a difference” with the community

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

As part of the USAG Fort Buchanan community outreach, garrison military leadership comprised of Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III; Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana, joined by civilians from the Directorate of Human Resources (DHR) and the Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) delivered food collected through the initiative “Make a Difference.”

A total of 2,137 canned food, collected in 11 days amongst 15 garrison directorates and tenant organizations was delivered November 12, 2019.

The following organizations were the recipients: “Second Harvest of Puerto Rico” in Bayamón, a food bank that distributes food to over 200,000 people through non-profit organizations across Puerto Rico; “La Fondita de Jesús” in Santurce that supports the community of homeless in the San Juan area; and “Bill’s Kitchen” in Hato Rey, that provides services to men, women and children with HIV/AIDS.

The President of “Second Harvest of Puerto Rico”, Denisse Santos and coordinator Angel Ortiz greeted the group and thanked Fort Buchanan for this initiative in support of those less fortunate, especially during the upcoming holiday season.

At “La Fondita de Jesús” Alex Santana, Aixa Diaz and Oswaldo Marrero helped the group unload boxes of canned food that will be used to feed many homeless, unemployed and young people leaving substitute homes, women survivor of domestic violence and the elderly. Jorge Ortiz, representative of Bill’s Kitchen was thankful to the Fort Buchanan community for their effort to reach out and help others who otherwise



The president of “Second Harvest of Puerto Rico” greets garrison military leaders and civilians.



In the spirit of the Holidays, the garrison group visited La Fondita de Jesús as part of “Make a Difference” initiative distributing canned food to non-profit organizations that support the local community.



Employees from DHR and LRC achieved their goal to distribute the more than 2,000 canned food to various non-profit organizations.

would have nothing to eat. These local organizations are affiliated with the Combined Federal Campaign.

At the upcoming December Fort Buchanan US Army Garrison Town Hall Meeting, the two installation organizations with the highest amount of canned goods collected will be formally recognized with Make a Difference Day Food Drive trophies. The winners are, the Directorate of Family and Morales, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) with a total of 680 cans collected and installation partner, Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) with 181.

Speaking to all the participants in the food drive, “While DFMWR and



Luis Cruz from LRC and Iris Alvarez from DHR lend a hand unloading the canned food donated to La Fondita de Jesús.



Garrison military leaders and civilians at “Second Harvest of Puerto Rico” delivering food.



Member of Fort Buchanan’s military and civilian community proudly pose showing the satisfaction of helping others in need.

LRC won bragging rights, all of you are winners because your donations will help restock food pantries that help those in need during the upcoming holiday season. Your collective efforts prove that “one can make a difference,” said Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Greta M. Buccellato.

Every year Fort Buchanan and its community voluntarily participate in support of those less fortunate. October 1, 2019, the installation kicked off the 2020 Combined Federal Campaign, in partnership with hundreds of thousands in the federal community, providing a great opportunity to support charities and hundreds of worthy causes.

FB leadership participates at PR Government's Veterans Day activity

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III; Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, and Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Greta M. Buccellato participated in the Veterans Day celebration, November 11, 2019, sponsored by the Office of the PR Advocate for Veterans Affairs and its director Agustín Montañez Allman, Esq.

The event marked the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion Department of Puerto Rico, organization that hosted the event in Fajardo.

Special guests for this celebration were the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vázquez Garced; President of the House of Representatives, Hon. Carlos (Johnny) Méndez, José Aníbal Meléndez, who represented his father, Hon. Aníbal Meléndez Rivera, mayor of Fajardo and Hon. José Luis Dalmau Santiago, President of the Commission for Military Affairs, House of Representatives.

Other distinguished guests included Director SES Carlos R. Escobar and Deputy Director Dr. George Vélez, Veterans Administration Caribbean Healthcare System; Col. Corcoran, Lt. Col. Rowsey, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Félix A. Santoni, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Emeritus; unidentified guest; Agustín Montañez Allman, Esq; Maj. Gen. José J. Reyes, The Adjutant General, PR National Guard (PRNG) and Chaplain (LT. Col.) Julio Vera, PRNG.

Mayor Meléndez' son reiterated his father's admiration and respect for all veterans, and for the patriotic value of loving flag and country.

Hon. Carlos (Johnny) Méndez presented a motion and the Presidential Medal to the commander of the American Legion Department of Puerto Rico, Carlos Orria who represents 3,500 veterans in 10 districts and 60 posts around the island.



(L to R) SES Carlos R. Escobar, Dr. George Vélez, Col. Corcoran, Lt. Col. Rowsey, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Santoni, unidentified guest; Agustín Montañez Allman, Esq; Maj. Gen. Reyes, and Chaplain (LT. Col.) Vera.

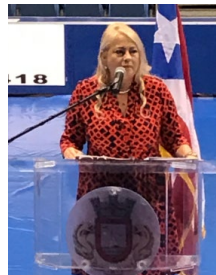
Governor Wanda Vázquez acknowledged the courage, sacrifices and commitment to our nation of our veterans. She also recognized the labor for a hundred years of the American Legion Department of Puerto Rico, in times of war and peace.

During the event, the Governor proudly presented her father, former Sgt. Luis Alberto Vázquez, Korean War veteran and Bronze Star recipient who “for this humble servant [referring to herself], it has been more than an

honor, a privilege...to live and grow to the care, protection and under the teachings of one of you [veterans], who taught me the discipline, seriousness and integrity in the performance of my work.”



The event marked the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion Department of Puerto Rico.



Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vázquez Garced.



President of the House of Representatives, Hon. Carlos (Johnny) Méndez.



(Top and bottom photos) Col. Corcoran and Lt. Col. Rowsey posed with members of local veterans organizations.



(L to R) Greta M. Buccellato, Col. Corcoran, Hon. Wanda Vázquez Garced and Lt. Col. Rowsey.



Fort Buchanan reflects on Veterans Day: “No Greater Love”, honors our veterans

Story and photo by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

Fort Buchanan’s military and civilian community got together to reflect on the service to our nation and to honor our veterans with a Veteran’s Day Reflection at the post chapel, November 7, 2019.

Chaplains from all the Army components led the event jointly. Retired Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Billy White from the Puerto Rico National Guard presented the invocation; Deputy Command Chaplain, 1st Mission Support Command, Major Wanda Acevedo led participants in a prayer for national servants and the song “Finding Strength” to pay respect to our veterans and military.

Family Life Chaplain from the 1st Mission Command Major Evelio Rodriguez and Garrison Command Chaplain Major Mark A. East, presented a joint benediction for those who served our country and especially for those who gave their life in that



Puerto Rico National Guard Retired Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Billy White.



Rendering a musical tribute to Veterans, Ch. (Maj.) Wanda I. Acevedo sang “Finding Strength”.



Fort Buchanan’s military and civilian community remembered with gratitude those who have been true and brave, and have served our nation in its hour of need.



In commemoration of Veterans Day, Mikayla East performed a musical selection.



Ch. (Maj.) Rodríguez and Ch. (Maj.) East presented a joint benediction.

service.

Mikayla East performed a musical selection to commemorate Veterans Day. A day in which the nation pays tribute to all American veterans – living or dead – and give thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

Regional Health Command Atlantic Commanding General at Fort Buchanan

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

Brigadier General Michael L. Place, MD, Commanding General, Regional Health Command Atlantic, U.S. Army Medical Department, met with members of USAG Fort Buchanan leadership, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, deputy garrison commander and Greta M. Buccellato, deputy to the garrison commander during his visit to the Rodriguez Army Health Clinic (RAHC) November 21, 2019.

Brig. Gen. Place was accompanied by Lt. Col. Rachel J. Wienke, commander, RAHC. It was the Regional Health Command Atlantic Commanding General first visit to RAHC where he received a tour of the facilities



During Brig. Gen. Place’s office visit, the Garrison Command Group shared information on Fort Buchanan’s mission, current and future initiatives and the partnership with the Rodriguez Army Health Clinic.

and command brief on the services provided as well as future plans. He also participated in a town hall with RAHC employees. Other activities included a tour of the Veterinary Clinic and the Commissary.



(L to R) Greta Buccellato, Lt. Col. Wienke, Brig. Gen. Place and Lt. Col. Rowsey.



Lt. Col. Rowsey presented Brig. Gen. Place with the USAG Fort Buchanan coin on behalf of the Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III.

Fort Buchanan supports ROTC Program 100th Anniversary

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan Commander, Colonel Joseph B. Corcoran III, accompanied by Cpt. Sean E. Moynahan, Trial Counsel at the Installation Legal Office (ILO) and Christopher Nelson, DPTMS-Anti-Terrorism Officer attended the ceremony commemorating the centennial of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Program in Puerto Rico.



In the audience there were prominent guests, military and civilians, acknowledged for their contributions to the Puerto Rico community.

The event held at their facilities at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR), Rio Piedras Campus, November 7, 2019 included remarks by Lt. Col. Orlando R. Rojas, Professor of Military Science, Rio Piedras; Dr. José L. Perdomo, Vice President for Student Affairs, UPR, representing Dr. Jorge Haddock, President, University of Puerto Rico; Brig. Gen. Antonio V. Munera, Deputy Commanding General, US Cadet Command and Maj. Gen. José J. Reyes, The Adjutant General (TAG), Puerto Rico National Guard (PRNG) who started his military career at the UPR ROTC in Rio Piedras.

The cadets from the Taino Warriors (UPR-Rio Piedras), Bulldogs (UPR-Mayaguez) and Air Force conducted a rappelling demonstration while a cadet squad displayed their abilities in combat training.

The event served as background for the 2019 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony that acknowledged the outstanding accomplishments from



(L to R) Maj. Gen. (Ret.) González Vale, Col. (Ret.) Berrios Amadeo, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Víctor Pérez and Hon. José F. Aponte, member of the House of Representatives.



Part of cadet training is mountaineering operations in which they learn specialized skills required to be successful during mountain warfare.



Maj. Gen. Reyes, main speaker for the event, reminisced on his military career that started as a 2nd Lieutenant at the UPR ROTC Program in Rio Piedras.

officers who hailed from the Puerto Rico ROTC Program.

The group of distinguished civilians and military of Puerto Rico recognized for their relevance and contributions to our community included: Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Luis E. González Vale, official Puerto Rico historian; Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Félix A. Santoni, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Emeritus; Col. (Ret.) Luis Berrios Amadeo, Esq., who served as Chairman of UPR Board of Trustees, member and Secretary of UPR Governing Board; Brig. Gen. Narciso Cruz, Assistant TAG, PRNG; Brig. Gen. Miguel Méndez, Commander, Army NG, Joint Forces



Col. Corcoran and Lt. Col. Orlando R. Rojas.



Col. Corcoran and Brig. Gen. Antonio V. Munera.



Col. Corcoran shares a conversation with Brig. Gen. Jeffrey W. Jurasek, commanding general, 1st Mission Support Command. At right, Cpt. Moynahan, from Fort Buchanan ILO.

Headquarters-PR; Brig. Gen. José R. Burgos, former Commander, 1st Mission Support Command; Brig. Gen. Irene Zoppi, Deputy Commanding General for Support, 200th Military Police Command and Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Isabelo Rivera former TAG, PR National Guard.

The Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps was born with the signing of the National Defense Act of 1916, since then it has provided leadership and military training at schools and universities across the country. It is the largest commissioning source in the American military.

Garrison leaders at AMGEN's Veterans Ceremony: Honoring All Who Served

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

US Army Garrison military leaders, Garrison Commander Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III, Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, attended AMGEN's Veterans Day Ceremony to show respect and honor to all our veterans.

AMGEN, one of the leaders in biotechnology with manufacturing operations in Juncos, P.R. celebrated November 6, 2019 its Veterans Day Ceremony: Honoring All Who Served.

The event hosted by AVEN, AMGEN Veteran Employee Network, started with a Flag Pole Ceremony at Veterans Drive.

AMGEN Manufacturing Limited Puerto Rico Vice President Manufacturing, Rayne Waller, highlighted in his speech the basis of this celebration which is "to honor those who served and still serve, who answered the call to duty, fighting for our freedom, defending the values that make us American citizens."

The outdoor ceremony was followed by Veterans Day Ceremony conducted at the cafeteria/auditorium facility with welcome remarks by AVEN representative, 1st Lt. Víctor Solís, who said, "It is our service and sacrifice that remains our nation stable."

AMGEN's Executive Director, Guy De Jane, emphasized the importance of our veterans and this event "because of their sacrifice we can live free. We owe them our respect and gratitude."

The Adjutant General, Puerto Rico National Guard, Maj. Gen. José J. Reyes main speaker for the event, emphasized that for more than 100 years, Puerto Rican veterans have been a symbol in our lives serving selflessly with pride, courage, honor, commitment and integrity to our country and our nation.

Other highlights of the event included the ceremonies of the Fallen Comrade Table and Flag Folding, the presentation of the Don Quijote award to Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) René Berlingeri and Maj. Gen. Reyes, as



Members of the Color Guard carry the flags for the Flag Pole Ceremony conducted at Veterans Drive located at the main entrance of AMGEN Manufacturing in Juncos.

well as AMGEN's coin presentation to members of the audience.

AMGEN leaders also posthumously recognized Rubén Camacho, an employee and veteran who recently lost his life due to an illness.



(L to R) Col. Corcoran, Rayne Waller, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Berlingeri and Lt. Col. Rowsey shared a conversation during the event.



(L to R) Lucy Arce, Col. Corcoran, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Berlingeri and Lt. Col. Rowsey pose for a photo at the event.



Guy De Jane reiterated AMGEN's respect and gratitude to our veterans.



Military leaders present their respect during the ceremony.



About one hundred guests, among them, government and military representatives, employees/veterans, AMGEN's leadership and representatives of veterans organizations attended the significant event to honor our veterans.



Col. Corcoran and Lt. Col. Rowsey pose with PRNG-TAG, Maj. Gen. Reyes.



Col. Corcoran, Elba Cintrón, WWI veteran and Lt. Col. Rowsey proudly show their AMGEN coins.



The Fort Buchanan Police Department

Distracted Driving is Dangerous!

Distracted driving is dangerous. People die, get injured, and property gets damaged.

According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the radio, entertainment or navigation system—anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

There are three types of distractions: Visual, Manual, and Mental.

Texting involves all three.

Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for approximately 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

Texting also takes one hand, sometimes both, off the steering wheel.

Texting has proven to be the perfect mental distraction because you only think about the next "ding" signaling the arrival of the next text. You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of having a traffic crash.

Put the cell phone down and away from your sight. This way you will not be tempted to pick it up to read a text and to answer it.

You deserve to arrive alive. Stop texting!



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



...Nor how to begin 2020!

FIRE SAFETY -

Provide a safe environment at home and away from home 24/7.

Install working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, ensure they are in working condition by checking the battery and expiration date.

Keep fire extinguishers within easy reach. Perform maintenance on fire extinguishers, ensure serviceability.

Make sure to stay alert when cooking or grilling, unattended cooking is the number one cause of home fires.

Never overload electrical systems, if needed for temporary use electrical extensions cord must be the proper gage size. Any heat producing electrical appliance must be connected to an outlet not an extensions cord.

When away from home close all doors, thus in case of fire, the spread of fire is controlled and minimized damages. Know the ABC'S of smoke danger: **A** – **SENSE** hear alarms, smell smoke, see fire, feel heat or hear popping; **B** – **ALERT** everyone if you hear an alarm, smell smoke, see fire, feel heat or hear popping; **C** – **GO** stay low and go to designated safe place away from the smoke and fire. Wherever you are make sure a fire and evacuation plan is in place, create one to keep your love ones safe.

For further education visit us at the Fort Buchanan Fire Station, Bldg. 1321.

We want you and love ones to be safe at home, vacationing and wherever you are...

BE FIRE SAFE!!!

Legal Corner

Ethics Guidance on Office Parties and Gifts

While December has passed, the holiday celebrations continue here in Puerto Rico. The Installation Legal Office (ILO) encourages each garrison employee, military and civilian, to enjoy the New Year with family, friends, and co-workers. At the same time, it is important that we are aware of and adhere to our ethical obligations as federal employees. The general guidance below addresses a variety of issues that often arise during the year. This guidance does not address all scenarios. If you have a specific question or concern, do not hesitate to contact the ILO Ethics Counselor.

Office Parties.

a. Generally, office parties are unofficial events; you may not use appropriated funds to pay for them.

b. Employees must be aware that participation in office parties is voluntary.

c. Employees may provide voluntary contributions for office parties and may contribute a set amount to pay per person costs. Employees cannot be pressured into making a contribution. All contributions must be voluntary.

d. Directorate or staff sections may use a “de minimus” amount of official time to organize parties. Using good judgment, supervisors may permit some limited use of duty time for preparations. However, preparing for events should not become a significant part of any employee’s duties.

Gifts.

Employees may exchange gifts, subject to the following rules. Generally, you may not give a gift to your supervisor. In addition, an employee may not accept a gift from an employee receiving less pay, unless the two employees are not in a supervisor subordinate relationship and there is a personal relationship between the employees that would justify the gift.

a. As an exception, you may give a gift to your supervisor or to an employee receiving more pay, and the individual may accept it, if the gift is valued at \$10 or less. This \$10 limit also applies to the total maximum value of a group gift and cannot be in the form of cash.

b. All employees may also give and accept food and refreshments shared in the office (e.g. an office potluck).

c. An employee may not accept a gift from a contractor or contractor employee unless the gift is valued at \$20.00 or less per occasion with no more than \$50.00 worth of gifts from the same contractor for the calendar year.

Employees may plan and participate in office party events. While a limited use of government resources and time is permitted for such events, each of us must use common sense and good judgment. Have a happy and safe New Year!

Point of contact, ILO Ethics Counselor at (787) 707-5163.

Lt. Col. Dorian S. Germany
Staff Judge Advocate



Chaplain's Corner

New Year 2020

Good news!

You do not need to sit around and wait for your circumstances to change to be joyful, content, or gracious. You can handle troubles from the inside out.

Here are three tips for staying strong in the New Year.

1. Remember trouble comes from the outside and the source to stand your ground comes from the inside.

2. Do not run on a Spiritual deficit. Feed your inner Spirit with your FAITH. Take time to fast your body and feast your Spirit on your FAITH.

3. Make your FAITH the focus not the trouble. Remember it is not the size of the mountain that counts. It is the size of your God. You can be trouble minded or God minded. One will steal strength the other will impart strength. The joy of the Lord is your strength.

Remember God created you to go from Strength-to-Strength!

Happy New Year from your religious Support office!



Fort Buchanan Post Chapel

Strength to Strength

Chaplain. (Maj.) Mark A. East
Garrison Command Chaplain



Tax season is coming! Fort Buchanan Tax Assistance Center opening soon

Story by Sgt. 1st Class K. Medina

Installation Legal Office Non-commissioned Officer In Charge



The Fort Buchanan Tax Assistance Center (TAC), opens February 18, 2020 to prepare and electronically file federal income tax returns free of charge to eligible individuals.

The center, staffed Soldiers and volunteers, trained and certified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) provides free basic income tax preparation to eligible Service members, dependents, and retirees.

It can inform taxpayers about special tax credits for which they may qualify, such as the earned income tax credit, child tax credit, and credit for the elderly or the disabled.

The TAC does not provide tax assistance services to taxpayers that are, self-employed, involved in other private business activities, or taxpayers with rental properties.

Fort Buchanan Installation Legal Office (ILO) runs and operates the TAC as part of its Legal Assistance mission.

The TAC is located in Bldg. 390 Double Eagle Ave., Suite 101.

Tax returns will be prepared starting February 18 until April 15, 2020. Tax returns will be prepared by appointment **only** not on a walk-in basis.

To schedule an appointment call (787) 707-5155.

Eligible taxpayers interested this service **must** bring the following documents to have your tax return prepared:

- Proof of Identification (ID card

with photo)

- Social Security cards for you, spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration

- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents listed on the tax return

- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-MISC. You can obtain your DFAS W-2 from www.mypay.dfas.mil.

- Interest and dividend statements from banks and brokers, including

required forms or have a special power of attorney or IRS Form 2848 authorizing you to sign for the spouse not present.

- Form 1095-A, B or C Health Care
- Puerto Rico Tax Return (PR residents)

The following documents may be necessary depending on your circumstances:

- Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) assignment letter for you, your spouse and dependents;
- Proof of foreign status, if applying



mortgage interest statements (Forms 1099)

- A copy of last year's federal and state returns, if applicable

- Bank account routing numbers and account numbers for Direct Deposit

- Total paid for childcare provider and the childcare provider's tax identifying number (the provider's Social Security Number or business Employer Identification Number), if applicable

- To file taxes electronically on a married-filing-joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the

for an ITIN;

- Divorce decrees and receipts for alimony paid or received;

- Child custody and support orders;

- Receipts for IRA contributions;

- Receipts and other supporting documentation if you plan to itemize your deductions in lieu of the standard deduction.

For more information, contact the Installation Legal Office: (787) 707-5155 / Cpt. S. Moynahan:(787) 707-5135 / Sgt. 1st Class K. Medina: (787) 707- 5147.

Garrison supports PR Veterans Induction Ceremony at PR State Dept.

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander, Colonel Joseph B. Corcoran III attended the Induction Ceremony of the Class of 2019 to the Hall of Fame of Distinguished Puerto Rican Veterans held at the Puerto Rico State Department, November 1, 2019.

The induction ceremony was sponsored by the Office of the Puerto Rico Advocate for Veterans Affairs.

The event hosted by US Army Reserve Ambassador Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Fernando Fernández, and PR Advocate for Veterans Affairs Agustín Montañez Allman, Esq., represented a tribute to distinguished Puerto Rican veterans who honorably responded to the call to duty from all walks of life and U.S. Armed Forces.

The Class of 2019 was comprised of: Rear Admiral Frederic Louis Riefkohl (WWI and II); Maj. Gen. Carlos Fernando Chardón (WWII). WWII Veterans included: Sixto Escobar, Sgt. 1st Class Modesto Cartagena, WWII and Korean War; Elba Cintrón Ruiz and Carmen Contreras Rozak. From the Vietnam War were inducted: Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Jorge A. Otero (The Puerto Rican Rambo); Jorge Pedroza and Raúl Quiñones; Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Lester Martínez López, M.D. (Cold War).

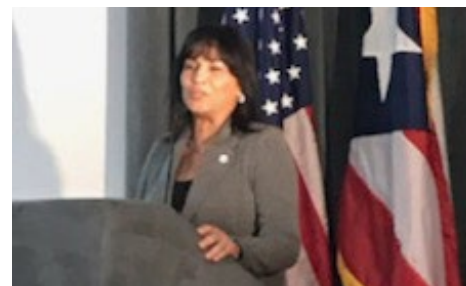
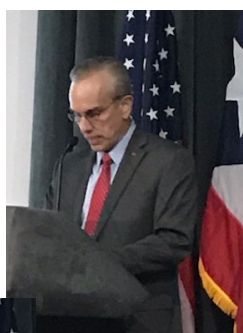
Inductees from recent wars were: Maj. (Ret.) Iván Castro (Persian Gulf, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq). From the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, Iraq and currently deployed: Maj. Gen. Raúl E. Escribano and Navy Capt. Miguel A. Cubano, M.D.; Brig. Gen. Irene M. Zoppi (Persian Gulf) who serves as Deputy Commanding General–Support, 200th Military Police Command.

Since becoming citizens of the United States in 1917, Puerto Ricans have served in every major United States military engagement. Nine Puerto Ricans (including those of Puerto Rican descent) have been awarded the United



Over 100 guests filled the State Department amphitheater in support of this significant event to honor those who served our Armed Forces since WW I and those who are still serving to defend our nation.

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Fernando Fernández, US Army Reserve Ambassador.



The acting Secretary of State, Maria Marcano De León welcomed guests to the ceremony in which all the stories had a common denominator - valor, honor and commitment to service.

Agustín Montañez Allman, Esq., Puerto Rico Advocate for Veterans Affairs



Jorge Pedroza, President of the Vietnam Veterans of America Puerto Rico State Council.



Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Lester Martínez, M.D.

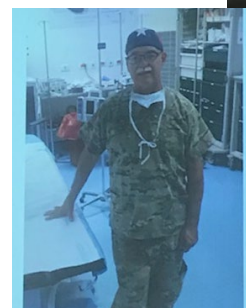
Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Jorge A. Otero (The Puerto Rican Rambo)



Raúl Quiñones



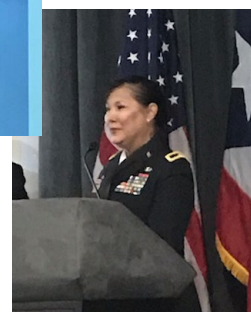
Maj. (Ret.) Iván Castro



Navy Capt. Miguel A. Cubano, M.D.

States' highest military decoration—the Medal of Honor—while seven have been awarded the Navy Cross and eighteen have been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Brig. Gen. Irene M. Zoppi, Deputy Commanding General–Support, 200th Military Police Command.



Garrison leaders volunteered serving lunch at La Fondita de Jesús

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III and Garrison Command Sergeant Major Heriberto Quintana joined volunteers at La Fondita de Jesús, October 30, 2019 to lend a hand to those in need by serving lunch to over one hundred members of this non-profit organization located in Barrio El Gandul in Santurce.

La Fondita de Jesús, established in 1985, started as an idea from a group of ladies to offer services to homeless people who wander in the San Juan area. For over 30 years the goal has been, “to make community with the homeless, by promoting the development of their spirituality, self-sufficiency and equity, with a view to an integral transformation, within a framework of justice and dignity.”



Col. Corcoran and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana were greeted by volunteer, Carmen Santoni and employees of La Fondita de Jesús.

Initially they offered help and support to a limited population providing food, clothing and essential care. Over time they expanded their services, having a transitional housing program known as “El Pueblito de Jesús” (Jesús’ Little Town); basic services through the “Door to Change”; the “Health Connection” with primary medical care, nursing, mental health, addiction counseling, dermatology, and health education; “Community Integration” that provides social work, spiritual support, social justice and development and self-sufficiency, job placement and formal studies, recreation and



Edwin E. Otero, briefs Col. Corcoran and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana on the services provided at La Fondita de Jesús.



The micro-business “Our Garden” grows “cilantrillo” (coriander) for sale at the roof terrace of the housing program “El Pueblito de Jesús”.



Ñañi Santoni, volunteer teacher at the art workshop shows Col. Corcoran and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana one of the paintings done at the workshop.

transportation.

They have various micro-businesses: a thrift shop called “La Percha” (The Closet), “Nuestro jardín” (Our Garden) that grows “cilantrillo” (coriander) for sale, and an art workshop led by volunteer Carmen (Ñañi) Santoni where some of the paintings are selected and presented for auction every year.

La Fondita de Jesús not only provides services to those who have a dependency (alcohol or drugs) or a mental health condition, but also for people who have been unemployed,



Xenia Avilés, in charge of the volunteers at the kitchen, prepares Col. Corcoran to serve lunch.



Col. Corcoran and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana joined the team of Xenia, Maribel and Ethel Dávila to serve lunch at La Fondita de Jesús.



Col. Corcoran and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana volunteered to serve participants at La Fondita de Jesús who in return showed their appreciation for their service.

homeless; young people leaving substitute homes; women survivors of domestic violence, and the elderly.

Col. Corcoran and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana thanked Executive Director of La Fondita de Jesús Socorro Rivera Rosa, for the opportunity to volunteer, share with the community and support the great work they do on behalf of those in need.

It is satisfying to participate in a social initiative like this that goes above and beyond to serve others with dignity and respect.

Award Spotlight! Director of Public Works receives prestigious service recognition

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

FEMP hosted its 39th annual Federal Energy and Water Management Awards ceremony at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. October 29, 2019.

During the ceremony, Fort Buchanan Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Director, Maria “Angie” López received the Career Exceptional Service Award for contributions to significant operational efficiencies throughout her 20 years of service to the U.S. Army.

“As Director of DPW at Fort Buchanan, she oversees a \$25 million budget and leads her staff to meet and surpass federal and Army energy and water security requirements. Ms. López is committed to ensuring long-term energy and water security. Fort Buchanan generates much of its own power from ten solar photovoltaic (PV)



arrays, and is currently the only Army Reserve-funded installation harnessing wind power. The renewable energy capacity of Fort Buchanan is currently 6.5 megawatts, or about 24% of the post’s demand,” excerpt from FEMP Award web site.

The awards were presented to 28 winning individuals and teams by FEMP Director Robert Ivester and the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office

of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Chief of Staff and Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency Alex Fitzsimmons.

The FEMP Awards recognize individuals, groups, and agencies for their outstanding contributions in the areas of energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of advanced and renewable energy technologies at federal facilities.

Fort Buchanan’s Environmental Division spreads Energy Action News

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

The Environmental Division of Fort Buchanan’s Directorate of Public Works in observance of Energy Action Month and in partnership with Army Air Force Exchange (Exchange) and the Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) manned an informational booth, October 18, 2019 at the Exchange main lobby. DPW Environmental Chief, Anibal Negrón and members of his staff provided energy conservation flyers and brochures, exhibited Solar panels and energy saving equipment that can be used in this effort. They also presented environmentally safe energy producing alternatives with data on the positive effects on the environment. The Exchange displayed products available in their stores such as LED bulbs, and rechargeable batteries and chargers. DECA Assistant Commissary Officer, José A. López also had energy saving



DPW Environmental staff, (far right to left) Resources Energy Manger, Homar Velazquez; Pollution Prevention Program Manager, Osvaldo I. Fantauzzi and Environmental Protection Specialist explain how to accomplish energy saving to a crowd at the Exchange main lobby area.

products in exhibit and information promoting the reduction of energy consumption which they sell.

October is Energy Action Month and Fort Buchanan uses the opportunity offered by this yearly initiative to disseminate as much information about what the installation has done and plans to do in the future to reduce energy and water consumption in order to minimize

its impact on the environment. This year’s theme “Energy resilience enables Army readiness” is a reminder that energy is a key mission enabler and a force multiplier for a ready and resilient Army. Fort Buchanan and the Army encourages everyone to be mindful of energy use, reduce consumption and promote energy conservation throughout the year.

Photo by Anibal Negrón, Chief, DPW Environmental Division

Military and Civic leaders partner in support of the community

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

Leaders from U.S. Army Garrison Fort Buchanan and Coalición Comunidad de San Patricio, Inc. (San Patricio Community Coalition, Inc.) shared information and initiatives in support of military and local community during a meeting held October 28, 2019 at Empresas Caparra facilities.

Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III; Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana and Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, participated in the meeting attended by the Coalition members and neighbors of the San Patricio Avenue area to discuss initiatives of mutual collaboration and benefit.

The Coalition is a non-profit organization comprised of community members that want to promote significant changes in security, infrastructure and for the mobility of their members.

In addition to developing community projects aimed at community well-being such as: HomeFit workshops or how to make the home safer, advice on how to avoid fraud and identity theft they also conduct recreational activities. The organization represents more than 5,000 families that live in the area.

Col. Corcoran briefed the audience on the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) amenities that are available to the community at Fort Buchanan, provided information on construction projects such as improvements to The Borinqueneers' gate that will alleviate the traffic flow at the Caparra intersection, as well as answered questions from the audience on the mission and vision of the only federal military installation in Puerto Rico.

Fort Buchanan leadership looks



Garrison military leaders listened attentively to Mr. González's presentation on the future developments in the San Patricio area.

with optimism to this meeting as "the beginning of a lasting relationship between neighbors."

"We hope to strengthen relationships as good neighbors and looking forward to collaborate in upcoming projects," said Dr. Carmen M. Sarriera, president of San Patricio Community Coalition, Inc.

Dr. Carmen M. Sarriera, President, San Patricio Community Coalition, Inc. addressed the audience on the agenda for the meeting and welcomed Fort Buchanan military leaders to the activity.



Col. Corcoran briefed participants on the mission and vision of the installation as well as updates on construction projects and FMWR events.

"We are grateful for your presence and agree that the conversation was very important. I am sure it will produce effective steps of mutual benefit," concluded Jorge R. González, vice president of San Patricio Community Coalition, Inc.



Adolfo González, President of Empresas Caparra presented an update on the construction projects in the San Patricio area.



Fort Buchanan Garrison Commanding Officer Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III provided an overview of the amenities available to the community at the installation.

Fort Buchanan Police Department promotes from within

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Buchanan Lead Police Officer, Sergeant Angel M. Corchado was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Supervisor, October 28, 2019, in a ceremony held at Directorate of Emergency Services headquarters. In attendance were fellow police officers, Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III; Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana; DES Director, Jorge Quiñones; Police Chief, Maj. Tomás Acosta-Lamberty, firefighters and garrison staff.

After serving 26 active duty years in the US Army Infantry, Corchado joined the installation's police force in 2006 as the last RTO (Radio Transmission Operator) and has steadily promoted during his exemplary 13 years of

service. "I see this as part of the service I started as a Soldier, taking care of people, providing safety and ensuring their well-being," said Corchado. "Most importantly I continue to be part



of the same family, the United States Army," he said.

Lt. Supervisor Corchado requested his new lieutenant ranks be placed on his shoulders by Officers Nelson Del Valle and Tali Albarrán, he explained why. "The reason we grow is because of the people below us. It is due

to their hard work, they make Fort Buchanan look good. I wanted them to be recognized," he said. When asked about his well-known use of the catch phrase 'can do!' Lt. Corchado said, "There isn't anything a person can't do. If you have the motivation you too, can be a 'can do' person," he concluded.

"Corchado is a 'can do' person, he always uses that slogan. It's a 'can do' attitude, it is real, not fake and he is 'can do' every single day. His 'can do' attitude brought him from a GS-06 to a lead GS-07 and now to a supervisor who will be in charge of a squad," said Quiñones.

"The most important thing I saw here was Lt. Corchado bringing in subordinates to promote him, because you don't get there alone. We need a lot of people, it takes a village to get us to where we're at," said Col. Corcoran.

Fort Buchanan supports the fight against breast cancer "Wear Pink Day"

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Fort Buchanan showed its support in the fight for a cure by hosting several initiatives during the month.

Garrison Directorates, tenant organizations, civilians and Soldiers united to "Wear Pink Day" in donning pink shirts and hats October 18 and 25, 2019.

Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, joined Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III; Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Greta M. Buccellato, Installation Legal Office, Trial Counsel, Cpt. Sean Moynahan, and Garrison Command Chaplain, Maj. Mark A. East showed the installation's support at Fort Buchanan's FMWR Cancer Awareness 5k Run/Walk October 19, 2019.



Photos courtesy of Fort Buchanan Public Affairs, Directorates and Tenants

Deputy Garrison Commander visits Spc. F. Vega and The Borinqueneers' Gates

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Physical security barriers were once again strategically positioned at Spc. Frances M. Vega Gate October 21, 2019. Although public notification of the change and possible delays in traffic flow, was published on social media, members of the Fort Buchanan community voiced their concerns about the change traffic delays.

In response, Deputy Garrison Commander, Lieutenant Colonel James K. Rowsey II visited Spc. Vega Gate during the peak hour of inbound traffic October 25, 2019 to observe and hand out lollipops to children.

Lt. Col. Rowsey confirmed that although traffic has incremented and there were some delays, traffic was flowing. He discussed with Fort Buchanan Emergency Services Director Jorge Quiñones and Police Chief, Maj. Tomás Acosta-Lamberty



Lt. Col. Rowsey at Spc. Frances M. Vega Gate.

measures to expedite access, thus ensuring safety for all visitors and the installation's security guards.

Continuing to observe the flow of traffic to and from the installation, Lt. Col. Rowsey visited The Borinqueneers' Gate October 29, 2019. He stayed at the gate during the peak hours of inbound traffic and noted that it flowed steadily and uninterrupted. Rowsey took the opportunity to offer his "buenos días!" as he greeted Soldiers, service members, Army and Department of Defense civilians, parents, their



Lt. Col. Rowsey at The Borinqueneers' Gate.

children, teachers, retirees and veterans. "All of our gate guards are doing a fantastic job every morning, making sure that we can get safely in and out of this installation where people come to work, live and play," he concluded.

As indicated in a memorandum posted October 25, 2019 on the US Army Garrison fort Buchanan Facebook page, soon the new and state of the art access point at The Borinqueneers' gate will be open for daily operations, assisting in the flow of traffic in the mornings.

DHR partners with DEA for National Prescription Drug "Take Back Day"

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Twice a year Fort Buchanan's Directorate of Human Resources (DHR) partners with Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) efforts to take back expired, unused or unwanted prescription medications. DHR assisted DEA in setting up an informative booth with a collection drop-off at the Fort Buchanan Exchange main lobby October 23 and 26, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fort Buchanan joined the more than 6,036 sites nationwide where in a safe, convenient and responsible way, unwanted prescription drugs can be disposed of. For the first time, DEA was also accept vaping devices and cartridges at any of its drop off locations.

Visitors to the Exchange brought bags of unwanted and many time,



Visitors to the Fort Buchanan Exchange took advantage of the drop-off site to clean out their medicine cabinets.

unused medications and received from DEA volunteer's information on the potential for abuse of medications and the work DEA does in fighting to enforce the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States.

Since the first National Prescription Drug Take Back Day in September 2010 DEA has collected more than 11 million pounds of medication. A total of 882,919 pounds of medication were collected. (Stats by <https://takebackday.dea.gov/sites/default/files/NTBI%2018%20Totals.pdf>)



1st Army Senior Advisor supporting the Puerto Rico National Guard, Col. Luis Vélez depositing unwanted prescription drugs suggested to Frederick Frewert, DEA volunteer, that DEA have secure drop-off boxes and sites available all year round for veterans and military to use.

DEA's Take Back Day at the installation, provided a safe and convenient way to dispose of unwanted, unused or expired prescription drugs.

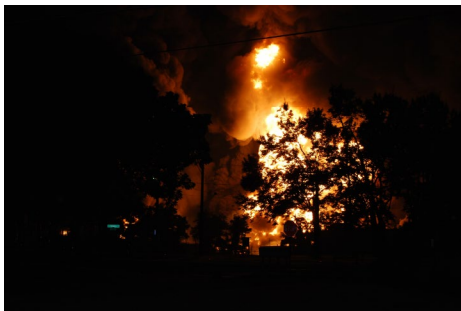


10 Years after the CAPECO Refinery explosion

Excerpt from story by Marc McCormick
Former Fort Buchanan Public Affairs Specialist

Ten years ago, at 12:21 a.m., under the dark cover of night the Caribbean Petroleum Corporation Refinery, commonly known as CAPECO in Cataño just a two lane road across from Fort Buchanan rumbled with violent explosions, rating 2.5 on the Richter Scale and illuminating the sky with towering flames.

“Fort Buchanan first responders immediately reacted to the incident sending fire trucks and DES police to the commercial area of the Garrison. The area, which encompasses the Commissary, Army Air Force Exchange (Exchange), Shopette/Gas Station and the PXtra shopping facility, were the structures in eminent danger from possible further explosions at the fuel farm. Unknown at the time was the number of fuel tanks that had exploded or caught fire out of the 40 at the fuel depot.



Taken at approximately 12:30 a.m., October 23, 2009 following the CAPECO explosion, this view is from Coconut Grove Housing at Fort Buchanan looking across Pee Wee Field.

The initial shock wave from the blast site extensively damaged the Commissary/Exchange complex, Directorate of Public Works (DPW) and El Caney Lodge. In the installation, the headquarters for DPW was virtually decimated, housing units, Exchange, the Commissary and other structures also experienced impairments,” reported by then, Fort Buchanan Garrison Public Affairs Specialist, Marc McCormick.

“By day three –October 25, 2009 the blazes at the fuel farm were successfully extinguished. However,



danger still remained. Authorities were able to take control of the area in the afternoon begin their investigations.

The Fort Buchanan DPW conducted a survey of building damages on the Garrison and began coordination for clean-up efforts. The Garrison DPW HQ building itself suffered some of the greatest damage and had to relocate essential control functions to a temporary location.

A state of emergency was declared by the federal government and the Puerto Rico Commonwealth.

Local areas affected were Cataño, Bayamon, Guaynabo, Toa Baja and parts of San Juan. The governor of Puerto Rico, the Hon. Luis Fortuño, held a press conference from the Puerto Rico Emergency Operations Center working from Pedrín Zorrilla Coliseum located on Roosevelt Avenue, two miles from Fort Buchanan.

Asked to address the media at the conference, former Garrison Commander Col. Edwin C. Domingo said, “Assessment of the damages is still on-going. Our police, firefighters and personnel from Public Works and Safety are inspecting all buildings on post with support from the 22nd Civil Support team and units from the Puerto Rico National Guard & Virgin Islands,” informed McCormick.

Today DPW has a new modern facility. Installation housing units, the Exchange, Commissary and any other structure then affected show no signs of the damage suffered.

“Fort Buchanan displayed outstanding meritorious service under extraordinary dangerous circumstances. They immediately reacted in response to a massive fire at the Caribbean Petroleum Corporation (CAPECO) refinery located less than 200 yards from the installation. Within minutes, the Directorate of Emergency Service (DES) personnel began securing the installation, providing fire fighting support to responding Puerto Rican units, evacuating and accounting for minor injuries. The US Army Garrison distinguished themselves by demonstrating unequalled devotion and superior performance of simultaneous and exceptionally difficult tasks above the normal day to day operation while leading to the safety and recovery of the installation,” reads the Army Superior Unit Award (ASUA) awarded



Governor Luis Fortuño and his cabinet members listen intently as Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo delivers remarks concerning the garrison during a live island wide television news conference.

to the installation. The ASUA was presented to over 460 military and civilian installation personnel during a ceremony held March 28, 2012.

Fort Buchanan today is stronger because of the readiness, resiliency and exemplary dedication to duty displayed October 23, 2009 and the days that followed. The US Army Garrison continues to train and prepare its Soldiers and Army Civilians to be ready and resilient at all times in keeping with the highest of Army standards.

New members to FB “Arrive Strong” attend Newcomers Orientation

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Fort Buchanan Army Community Services conducted its 1st quarter Newcomers Orientation at Fort Buchanan’s Community Club and Conference Center, October 17, 2019.

Approximately 31 facilitators presented their services, facilities and points of contact for important areas on and off the installation to an audience of military, civilian employees and their families.

“On behalf my battle buddy, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III, the garrison

community to bring your family. FMWR does a lot of programs, a lot of open post events for all of you and your families. I exhort you to bring them and enjoy this safe space. Again it’s a great place, for me probably the best assignment I’ve ever had,” concluded Quintana.



This was Lt. Col. Rowsey’s first Newcomers Orientation at Fort Buchanan after joining the installation’s command group in September.



1st Mission Support Command Inspector General, Lt. Col. Luis J. Vega talks with Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Greta M. Buccellato, both joined the Fort Buchanan community recently.



Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana welcomed new members to the Fort Buchanan family at the 1st Quarter Newcomers Orientation.

commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, deputy garrison commander and Greta Buccellato, deputy to the garrison commander who are here and also new, welcome to Puerto Rico and to Fort Buchanan,” said the first speaker, Garrison Command Sergeant Major Heriberto Quintana.

Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana provided an overview of installation requirements and rules, such as Reveille and Retreat, and how to pay honors to the nation during those times.

“We implement a Service Culture Campaign part of an IMCOM initiative, and what I ask is if there’s an issue to please submit an ICE (Interactive Customer Evaluation) comment, so that we know what’s going on and track it,” said Quintana. “We strive for greatness. We strive to give the best customer service to everyone. We’ll strive to resolve the issue,” he said.

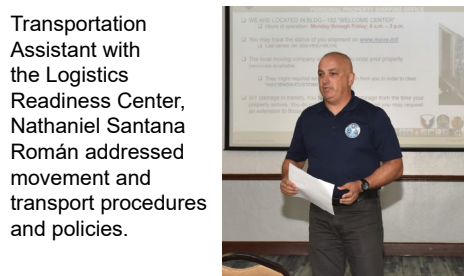
“This is a great place. A great, safe

Lt. Col. Rowsey introduced himself and shared some of his military and family background. In speaking he indicated that the civilian workforce is a priority, “Because you are the continuity of this installation so our focus is to take care of each and every one of you,” said Rowsey. “I’m going to be visible and I truly want to get to know you. I want to make an impact, it’s about taking care of people,” he concluded.

The quarterly Fort Buchanan Newcomers Orientations provides service members, civilian employees and their families with direct information on the services and facilities available to ensure quality of life at their new duty station and home.



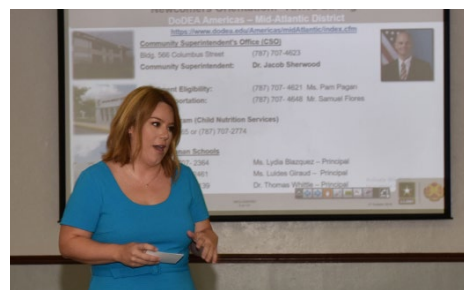
Red Cross volunteer, Carmen Hernández, briefed the audience on the benefits and services offered by the new Red Cross offices located inside Fort Buchanan.



Transportation Assistant with the Logistics Readiness Center, Nathaniel Santana Román addressed movement and transport procedures and policies.



Ernesto Berrios with Army Community Services (ACS) served as master of ceremony and explained the services and facilities found in ACS.



Elizabeth Roybal, ISS Literacy PK-5, spoke on behalf of Department of Defense Educational Activity schools in Fort Buchanan

Fort Buchanan's Mixed Team runs the 35th Army Ten-Miler

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

A six member Active Duty Mixed Team from Fort Buchanan participated in the 35th Annual Army Ten-Miler (ATM) held in Washington, D.C., October 13, 2019.

With 25,185 entries to this year's race, runners from all over the United States, its territories and internationally converged on the Pentagon after submitting themselves to months of grueling training and tryouts.

Team Buchanan members were: Team Captain Lt. Col. Rachel J. Wienke, Commander, Rodriguez Army Health Clinic; Staff Sgt. Javier Torres Rolón, Medic Noncommissioned Officer (NCO)-In-Charge, 225 Military Police Battalion (Bn.), Puerto Rico Army National Guard (PRARNG); Staff Sgt. Anibal Soto Soto, Recruiting and Retention NCO, Recruiting and Retention Bn., PRARNG; Sgt. 1st Class

Julio A Ramirez, Recruiter, Recruiting and Retention Bn., PRARNG; GM3 Christine Garcia Sánchez, Gunner's Mate, Navy Operational Support Center PR and 2Lt. Juan M. Vázquez Díaz, Training Officer, 1st Bn. 296 Inf., PRARNG. During ATM tryouts, Vázquez Díaz held the rank of Sergeant, but has since commissioned as an officer.

The overall team time was 29 minutes and 22 seconds faster this year than last year. Individual team members were prepped and trained by Sports Specialist, Juan R. Sanfeliz Jr.; Supervisory Sports Specialist, Roberto Fernández and other members of Fort Buchanan's FMWR. "I'm so proud of all of them for doing a great job! My thanks go out to Juan Sanfeliz and all the FMWR team for such great support," said Lt. Col. Wienke. "We are all very honored to represent Fort Buchanan and Puerto Rico," she



Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Wienke, Commander RAHC

concluded. "First Army Ten-Miler in the books!" said Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander, COL Joseph B. Corcoran III who ran with his daughter, Mackenzie for the first time. "Thanks for always pushing me," said COL Corcoran to her.

The Army Ten-Miler promotes the Army, supports fitness goals and fosters esprit de corps. In support of All-Army Sports, the proceeds from the race benefit FMWR programs.

Puerto Rico Veterans Advocate meets with Fort Buchanan Garrison Command

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

The Puerto Rico Veterans Advocate, Agustín Montañez-Allman, Esq. met with Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III; Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana at the Commander's Flag Room, Today, October 9, 2019. This is the first time the Hon. Montañez met with Col. Corcoran, who assumed command of the installation in June of this year and Lt. Col. Rowsey who joined the command team this past September. Montañez provided some history and details on the services his office provides to Puerto Rico veterans. The US Army Garrison Command is actively fostering and

strengthening lasting relationships with the Puerto Rico community, as well as federal and local government agencies. Fort Buchanan serves a large

veteran community, providing services, events, facilities and recreation in its commitment to honor service members, veterans and their families.



(L to R) Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II; PR Veterans Advocate, Agustín Montañez-Allman, Esq.; Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III, Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana

Public School children play golf at Fort Buchanan

Story and photo by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan hosted a golf clinic between Puerto Rico Department of Education (DE) San Juan Region public schools and the PGA IC (Professional Golf Association Island Chapter), October 8, 2019 at the installation's lush green golf course.

This clinic introduced the sport of golf to fourth and fifth grade students from Román Marín Solá and Santiago Iglesias Pantín schools, both from the Municipality of Guaynabo. There were 25 children from each school, accompanied by Physical Education teachers and their Directors. The children received training at the driving range and putting green from Tony Loyola, president of the PGAIC; Jose E. Rodriguez, vice president PGAIC, and Fort Buchanan Golf Course manager; Alberto Rios, golf



director with Bahia Beach in Rio Grande; Miguel A. Caraballo Fred, director of the Physical Education Program at the Puerto Rico DE and Anibal Lugo, teaching professional at Dorado Beach. Also present from the Bayamón Regional Education Office, Szaritsa Ayala Cruz; David Rosa from the Special Sports School in Salinas and Physical Education teacher, Raúl Burgos from Eduardo Garcia Carrillo School in Canóvanas.

"This initiative creates opportunities for these children to learn golf, something different from the sports they are usually exposed to," said Jose E. Rodriguez.

"This is a good experience, I had never been to Fort Buchanan. It is beautiful," said Szaritsa Ayala Cruz.

Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III; Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana joined the children at the putting green and driving range. Col. Corcoran assisted some young potential golfers on the putting green by placing his boot as a guide, while Lt. Col. Rowsey showed two brothers how to hold their arms and where to place their feet in order to putt.

Although this was the first time a golf clinic for public school children was held on post, Fort Buchanan has a history of community outreach with children and has hosted events, supported and partnered with local academic and government agencies, neighboring municipalities and civic audiences.

Fort Buchanan's Leadership attends MEPS Change of Responsibility

Story and photo by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan leaders, Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III and Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, attended the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) Change of Responsibility Ceremony, October 4, 2019 at their facilities in San Juan.

During the ceremony 1st Sgt. Angel E. Febus relinquished responsibilities as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for San Juan MEPS to 1st Sgt. Luz D. Strnad.

Maj. Angel A. Vega, Commander, MEPS, described the ceremony as "the transfer of command responsibility of a great leader to another great leader." The position has two vital roles: advise and assist the Commander in the daily operations and serve as the focal point and care for the well-being of each member of the organization.



MEPS Commander highlighted that during 1st Sgt. Febus service he faced two Cat.4 hurricanes, and overcame many challenges along with the team comprised of MEPS service members, civilian employees and service liaisons.

During Febus' term, MEPS administered over 14,986 enlistment tests, conducted over 8,488 medical examinations to applicants, over 6,974 enlistment contracts and processed over 6,617 shippers for military service.

1st Sgt. Strnad comes to MEPS from Fort Bliss, Texas, where she served as the Senior Human Resources Sergeant, 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade.

In his remarks 1st Sgt. Febus thanked every member of the MEPS team, "a bunch of hard working people," for all their support. He also thanked Maj. Vega for his trust. "Every MEPS wants to be like San Juan MEPS!," he concluded.

1st Sgt. Strnad was accompanied by her mother Luz Maria and her daughters Hanna, Savannah and Jhene. After the Change of Responsibility Ceremony, Col. Corcoran administered the Oath of Enlistment to three new recruits who vowed to defend the United States Constitution and obey the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Fort Buchanan's Garrison Commander officially welcomed them to the Army's family.

Fire prevention “Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!”

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Buchanan’s Fire Department kicked off Fire Prevention Week with Garrison Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III signing the proclamation at the Command Flag Room in Garrison Headquarters, October 4, 2019. Present for the signing were Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II; Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Greta M. Buccellato; Director of the installation’s Emergency Services, Jorge Quiñones; Fire Chief Luis Raúl R. Roig Casillas, Assistant Fire Chiefs, Fire Prevention Chief, Fire Inspectors, Fire Captains, Fire Fighters and two Career Practicums from Antilles High School assigned to the Garrison Command Group and Public Affairs Office.



Garrison Commander, Col. Corcoran signs Fort Buchanan’s Fire Prevention Week Proclamation, which began October 6 till October 12, 2019.



Fort Buchanan Fire fighters went door to door handing out fire prevention materials to residents.

8, 2019 and during the entire week, they distributed materials at Fort Buchanan’s Exchange, Department of Defense Educational Activity (DODEA) schools, the Rodriguez Army Health Clinic, military units on post, such as the Puerto Rico National Guard and offices. The fire department also held a drawing/poster contest for boys and girls of the elementary school and two bicycles were the grand prizes among the other prizes given to the children for their participation.



Fire fighter Carlos J. Lebrón handed out fire prevention materials to residents on post including fire captain helmets and coloring books for the children.

The National Fire Prevention Association’s (NFPA) theme for this year’s Fire Prevention Week is “Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!” and works to educate everyone about the small but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe (from the NFPA web site: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Fire-Prevention-Week/About>.)

Fire Fighters had an informative booth, October 11, 2019, at the Exchange where they handed out fire prevention materials and spoke to patrons visiting the store and the Commissary.



Fort Buchanan Fire Department mascot, Sparky poses with Puerto Rico Army National Guard, Assistant Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Narciso Cruz and Executive and Public Affairs Officer, Lt. Col. Paul W. Dahlen.

The signing of the Fort Buchanan Fire Prevention Proclamation signaled the start of week long fire prevention events. That same day Fire Inspector Lydia Rivera accompanied fire fighters and Captains as they distributed fire prevention materials throughout housing on post.



Photos by Rosie Irizarry, PA Specialist; Lydia Rivera, Fire Inspector and Fire Fighters

Fort Buchanan community to take time to make sure they understand how to stay safe in case of a fire, and our fire department trains hard to maintain Fort Buchanan safe,” he concluded.

For additional information:

<https://www.nfpa.org/>

The American Red Cross inaugurates office in Fort Buchanan

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

The American Red Cross Puerto Rico Region (Red Cross PR) hosted by the US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan inaugurated a new office on post at building 514, October 2, 2019.

Representing the Red Cross PR were Regional Executive, Lee Vanessa Feliciano; President, Board of Directors, Miguel Nieves; Service to the Armed Forces (SAF) volunteers and Regional Director for Disaster Services, Tony Rivera. Important guests were Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Greta M. Buccellato who spoke on behalf of the Garrison Commander Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III; Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Kenneth K. Rowsey II; Director of VA Puerto Rico National Cemetery, Juan D. Nieves and Assistant Director, Natalie Hubble and Commander of Fort



(L to R) Greta M. Buccellato, Miguel Nieves, Lee Vanessa Feliciano and Ramonita Santiago, SAF Regional Manager.

Buchanan's Rodriguez Army Health Clinic, Lt. Col. Rachel J. Wienke.

"It's been a journey to finally have the Red Cross' face in the base. After Hurricanes Irma and Maria, after all those events we have lived through and learned from, today we celebrate as a team with our volunteers and part of the staff. Having the Red Cross PR in

the base will help us have more direct access to the people we serve," said Lee Vanessa Feliciano.

"Ever since the Civil War we have been providing support to Soldiers in the field and across the world. To us it is important to have that presence right here where the action occurs, this is a very visible and palpable way to do it. We look forward to providing our services here at Fort Buchanan and thank the Garrison Commander," said Miguel Nieves.

"The Red Cross' partnership, not just with its communities but also with the Department of Defense, is incredibly important to our ability to support our citizens, and those that are visiting and partaking of our services. It's great to see this partnership in this space, because we are, partners," said Greta M. Buccellato.

Command Squad vs Head Hunters Dodgeball Tournament

Story and photo by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer

Energy was high. It was the day everyone was waiting for - October 4, 2019. It marked the day of the battle between the Command Squad (Command Group) versus the Head Hunters (DODEA students from 7th to 11th grade) at the Dodgeball Tournament, held at Fort Buchanan's Child and Youth Services state-of-the-art facilities.

There was a lot of expectation in the air. "We Are the Champions", "We Will Rock You" and other rock hits served as the preamble that set the stage for this competition between two undefeated teams, it was the first tournament. The Head Hunters fans, students from Antilles Middle School and Antilles High School filled the bleachers and came ready to cheer their team. "Crush Command Team", "If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a



ball", "If you can dodge traffic, you can dodge a ball", "Go MST!" read some of the colorful signs. And they were not shy. They were confident. "We rock!" read another banner. "We'll win!" they shouted. The Head Hunters came out very cool, certain of their victory. Their coach, from CYS, was José "The Wrench" Martínez.

The Command Squad consisted of: Dr. Jacob Sherwood, DODEA superintendent; Greta Buccellato, deputy to the garrison commander; Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, deputy garrison commander; Lt. Col. Dorion Germany, staff Judge Advocate;

Dr. Gary Steffesmeier, Cpt. Sean Moynahan, Installation Legal Office; Millie Sánchez and Robert Carrasquillo, Command Admin team; Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana and Col. Joseph (Joe) B. Corcoran III, Garrison Commander were ready in spirit as they came out determined to play and win. The question was - Who will be taking home the coveted trophy for winning the First Dodgeball Tournament?

The game was fast. The first point was for the Head Hunters. The fans went wild cheering for the Head Hunters. While the little ones, safely, watched the tournament from the windows. Then, both teams regrouped and it was life or death. The Head Hunters finished the game with a score of 3-0. The Head Hunters were proclaimed the champions of Fort Buchanan's First Dodgeball Tournament! ... But, there's always next year.

In the next quarterly issue...

2020 USAG New Year's Reception...

Find out who attended and what was presented...

February is African American/Black History Month...

Fort Buchanan joins military installations around the world, in paying tribute to African Americans' contributions to protecting the nation and enriching our culture.

March is Women's History Month...

Celebrating the important contributions of women to our nation, both historically and in today's society.

San Patricio 5K "En Familia" in March...

For the past 23 years, Fort Buchanan partners with the local community to support this non-profit, fund raising event. Find out who ran and in support of what good cause.



Photos by Grissel Rosa, Public Affairs Officer and Rosie Inzarry, PA Specialist