



# PRESENTE

215th EN CO (VER)  
in KUWAIT

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## MENSAJE DE NUESTRO AYUDANTE GENERAL



BRIG. GEN. ISABELO RIVERA

Reciban un caluroso y cordial saludo de mi parte todos los que conforman la gran familia de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico.

Quiero expresar el gran orgullo que siento de haber sido designado y confirmado como el vigésimo primer Ayudante General de la mejor Guardia Nacional de la Nación. Desde mi llegada a esta posición he podido notar el extraordinario orgullo y motivación que nos llena, y motiva en este esfuerzo común.

Nuestra misión y visión nos permite enfrentar el reto por el bienestar de todos. Seguimos enfocados y comprometidos en trabajar con nuestras comunidades con los Programas Juveniles ChalleNGe, CREANDO y Starbase. Continuamos apoyando las agencias de gobierno en su compromiso de velar por la seguridad de nuestro país cuando adiestramos con el Departamento de Bomberos en combatir fuegos forestales y la Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica con el tendido de líneas de alto voltaje. La Guardia Estatal también ha estado muy activa ayudando a las comunidades en Cataño y San Juan, con la reparación de hogares destruidos por el fuego y Feria de Salud respectivamente. Recientemente apoyamos a nuestros vecinos, las Islas Vírgenes durante el ejercicio "Vigilant Guard 17", y sobre todo seguimos cumpliendo de manera ejemplar con el juramento de proteger y defender la democracia y la seguridad de nuestra Nación con unidades desplegadas en Kuwait como la 215 de Ingeniería y el retorno de la 92nd SIG y la 777 AV desde Kuwait y el personal de la 3678 CSSB desde Afganistán. Todos han hecho un trabajo extraordinario que nos llena de orgullo.

También nuestras familias, quienes son la fuerza que nos impulsa y la razón de nuestro servicio, merecen el apoyo incondicional de nuestra parte como lo ha hecho el Batallón 130 uniéndose en hermandad con la familia de la SPC Jacqueline Quiñones y llevando a cabo actividades tales como "Purple Up for Kids", del Programa de Jóvenes y Niños de nuestra Guardia durante el mes del Niño Militar.

Sé que la confianza que brinda la disciplina y la convicción de saberse preparados los llena de motivación. Deseo que ese mismo orgullo sea transmitido a todos aquellos con quienes nos aliamos día-a-día ya sea a la Patrulla Aérea Civil, La Reserva de la Infantería de Marina, la Policía y los Bomberos de Puerto Rico. Que cada uno de ustedes sea un ejemplo vivo de la calidad de cada Ciudadano-Soldado o Aviador de nuestra organización y para que por su ejemplo de vida, sus valores y el compromiso demostrado con la institución otros desarrollen el deseo de unirse.

Siéntanse orgullosos de su uniforme y de lo que él representa. Solo así, con esta actitud y acción positiva, estaremos siendo parte del cambio significativo que buscamos para el bien de Puerto Rico.

Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico...

¡SIEMPRE PRESENTE!



Siempre tendrán nuestro apoyo hasta que el último de nuestros Soldados y Aviadores regrese a casa...

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Design and Artwork by: 1st Sgt. Waldemar Rivera, PRNG-PAO

# PRESENTE

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# PICTURE OF THE DAY



Sgt. 1st Class Cristobal Colón from the 3678th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 191st Regional Support Group, PRARNG, returned home after a one-year deployment to Afghanistan, April 8. The group, out of Fort Allen in Juana Díaz, received a most warm welcome from the PRARNG leadership, family members and friends upon arrival at the Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport in Carolina. (Photo Provided)

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# 215th EN CO (VER)

# MAKING IT HAPPEN IN KUWAIT

Provided by: Cpt. Luis A. Camacho Santiago, PRNG-215th EN CO CDR

The 215th EN CO (VER) is the first unit under the 190th EN BN called for Active Duty in support to overseas contingency operations. The 157 soldiers departed Puerto Rico on Dec 2016, and successfully completed the Post-Mob training at Ft Bliss Texas.

The unit is currently deployed, it's mission is focused on the construction, remodeling, and demolition of facilities. Upon arrival to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, the unit started receiving missions, and within a month, 102 soldiers, divided in 7 teams, were assigned to projects in 5 different countries. While deployed, training has been continuous to assure the unit's readiness, and soldiers have been able to continue their military education in a variety of courses.

The high unit morale and focus on mission has been recognized during visits from the 176th EN BDE, and the 854th EN BN. Project execution and quality resulted in the presenting of a coin from Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

According to 1st. Lt. Argenies E. Gonzalez García, XO and OPS OIC, "The 215th Engineer Company is the first unit of the 190th Engineer Battalion to deploy to Middle East, deploying with 82 pieces of equipment exceeding the safety standard. This was achieved through a joint effort among the 215th EN CO, the 190th EN BN and the PRARNG-MATES (Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site) personnel whom invested hundreds of man-hours and thousands in repair parts in order to achieve this outstanding level of maintenance. The unit Field Maintenance Team and Supply Section also completed the validation of Weapons, Optics and CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) equipment, processing over 300 Job Orders. These results were achieved thanks to



Building of the 215th EN CO Headquarters facilities in Kuwait. This is the starting point from where the unit "makes it happen" while mobilized in this mission. (Photo illustration provided by the 215th EN CO Vertical)

the dedication and highly committed leadership of the 215th EN CO operations, maintenance and logistics personnel whom, in combination with the Command Team, tracked the movement and preparations of the organic equipment ensuring a successful deployment to theater."

1st Sgt. Jose O. Reyes Mojica's overall impression about the unit and the mission was expressed as follows: "The mission is a complex one, but the cohesiveness of soldiers and team-building between platoons, has resulted in a level of morale that has been at its highest. I see INITIATIVE at all levels, from the young soldier to the experienced NCO; RESPECT to the ranks and to all individuals, and the WILLINGNESS of each of my soldiers to go to the most difficult and time demanding missions. The overall READINESS of the unit has increased, and that is seen on every project, work order, and mission that we are assigned."

The unit commander, Cpt. Luis A. Camacho Santiago stated, "Since the time before we deployed, I was confident and convinced that the unit was ready to operate



Cpt. Luis A. Camacho Santiago, commander 215th EN CO (VER), receives a visit from Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, while deployed in Kuwait with his unit. Semonite presented the unit with a coin in appreciation for its outstanding performance in its mission across its area of responsibility. (Photo provided by the 215th EN CO Vertical)

down to the team level in multiple and remote locations. The training plan developed prior to deployment was key in assuring readiness for small teams missions, as well as for platoon level projects. Project leadership has been provided at all levels, from Junior NCOs leading squads and teams, to Senior NCOs and Officers running complex and challenging construction missions.

"A key to the success has been the combination of soldiers willing to do their best, and the leadership supporting the mission and taking care of soldiers. As in every mission, the success is highly impacted by the performance of the Operations and Field Maintenance Teams. The complexity of the multisite mission was a challenge, but that challenge was the motivation for both support teams to deliver superb results during the training and current deployment phases. I am fortunate to lead this unit, and can assure that it is a cohesive team that is always 'Ready to Build!'"



Members of the 215th EN CO (VER) prepare a mold for concrete pouring while deployed in Afghanistan. The main objective of this unit is the construction, remodeling, or demolition of facilities within their area of operations in the Middle East. (Photo provided by the 215th EN CO Vertical)

# GUARDIA NACIONAL DE PUERTO RICO

## LISTOS PARA ATENDER INCENDIOS FORETALES



Ante la temporada de incendios forestales que se avecina, la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico ya está preparada para atender este tipo de emergencias de ser así necesario.

El equipo de aviación de la GNPR ha realizado entrenamientos con el uso de sistema de Bambi Bucket siendo el más reciente en el municipio de Toa Baja.

“Este tipo de adiestramiento asegura la capacidad de nuestros aviadores de atender emergencias de incendio forestal, y a su vez asegura el funcionamiento adecuado del equipo al momento de la emergencia”, dijo el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de Brigada Isabelo Rivera.

Cuando la temperatura se eleva convierte la grama, árboles y arbustos en el material idóneo para la creación de un fuego forestal que pudiera arrasarse cientos de hectáreas de bosque. Un simple cigarrillo puede desatar un incendio que pudiera poner en peligro vida y propiedad. Es bajo este escenario y como parte de su misión estatal y comunitaria, que helicópteros UH-60 “Blackhawks” de la GNPR entran en acción con el uso del sistema “Bambi Bucket” el cual ha sido utilizado efectivamente en el proceso de contención y extinción de fuegos forestales.

El diseño del “Bambi Bucket” permite al helicóptero maniobrar sobre el agua, recargar y descargar sobre el fuego con mayor rapidez sin necesidad de regresar a la base. Esto brinda la ventaja de operar en áreas remotas reduciendo el tiempo entre las descargas. (Foto por Sgto. Alexis Vélez, PRNG-PAO)

## Commanders sign Agreement: Air National Guard Air State Guard



By Lt. Col. Ricardo Castrodad, PRANG-PAO / Photo provided

The Puerto Rico National Guard's 156th Airlift Wing strengthens its bonds with the Puerto Rico Air State Guard through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding at Muñiz Air National Guard Base, April 9.

Col. Edward L. Vaughan, 156th Airlift Wing commander, and Col. Jesus Delgado, 1st Air Base Group commander signed the Memorandum of Understanding to solidify the working relationship between the Puerto Rico Air National Guard and the Puerto Rico Air State Guard.

“Our partnership with the Puerto Rico Air State Guard is stronger today than ever,” said Vaughan. “Every way the 1st Air Base Group has been able to help us; they’ve done an outstanding job. Their dedication to our community and the 156th Airlift Wing is vital to our mission readiness.”

Col. Delgado said, “For all of us in the 1st Air Base Group, signing this MOU is the culmination of years of effort to formalize our relationship with the 156th AW. This is a historic milestone, and the beginning of a new era of partnership and joint work among us. I thank Col. Vaughan, Col. Figueroa and all the 156th AW leadership and Airmen for believing and trusting in the integrity and capabilities of the 1st ABG’s Airmen.”

Vaughan further elaborated that while State Guard Airmen work side by side with the 156th during regular scheduled drills, there were legal hurdles that needed to be solved. The MOU resolved a lot of those issues and demonstrated the organization’s commitment to having a strong relationship between the 156th AW and the 1st ABG, now and for years to come.

# GNPR: POR UNO DE LOS SUYOS SE UNE EN HERMANDAD

Por: Sgto. Maestre Luis E. Orengo, Oficina de Asuntos Públicos, GNPR

Ciudadanos-Soldados del Batallón 130 de Ingeniería de Combate y miembros de diversas unidades de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico así como líderes de la organización, asociaciones privadas y benéficas se dieron a la tarea de apoyar la lucha de Jacqueline Quiñones y la de su familia contra el cáncer.

Quiñones es oriunda de Isabela y madre de dos hijos. Desde que tiene memoria tuvo un sueño: el de pertenecer a las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos. Este se hizo realidad en agosto del 2005 cuando ingresó a la GNPR como especialista de suministros. A través de los años su carisma y desempeño la han caracterizado de forma tal que se ganó el respeto de sus compañeros, así como el reconocimiento por su empeño, labor y dedicación.

Un día de diciembre de 2016 su vida cambió de forma drástica para siempre, ese día recibió el diagnóstico más inesperado que se pueda recibir: cáncer. Poco a poco la dura realidad y la incertidumbre que acompañaron el diagnóstico y los subsecuentes embates de la enfermedad fueron abriendo brecha al positivismo y la esperanza aunque los retos eran más que evidentes.

“Había una misión y los miembros del batallón 130, junto con miembros de la GNPR, se dieron a la tarea de brindar un apoyo extraordinario que ha permitido a Quiñones y su familia aminorar las exigencias económicas de esta lucha”, dijo el 2do Teniente David Cruz Ayala, del Batallón 130 de Ingeniería. “Es común dentro de esta hermandad que cuando un compañero necesita ayuda siempre aparecerán las manos suficientes para hacer la obra”.

Entre las actividades pro-recaudación de fondos se incluyó un torneo de softball con 12 equipos, en el cual Quiñones hizo el primer lanzamiento, y un torneo



La Especialista Jacqueline Quiñones del Batallón 130 de Ingeniería de Combate de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico y madre de dos hijos, siempre soñó con ser parte de las fuerzas armadas. Sus compañeros del 130 se unieron a otras asociaciones privadas y benéficas para darse a la tarea de apoyar a Jackeline y a su familia en su lucha contra el cáncer. (Foto provista)

de dominó en adición a las tradicionales actividades de venta de comida y juegos para niños. Sobre \$7,300 dólares fueron recaudados en la actividad.

“Estoy agradecida por este maravilloso regalo y por todo el apoyo que me han dado durante este proceso”, expresó Quiñones. “Con este sostén que me han dado me demuestran que tienen la visión para proveer apoyo emocional, consuelo y esperanza y han ayudado a reducir el impacto emocional de esta enfermedad en mí y en mi familia. La Guardia Nacional se ha convertido en mi familia”.



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# AS A FORCE OF ONE CHOPPERS, BOATS AND RED TABS



Por: 1st Sgt. Waldemar Rivera, PRNG-PAO / Photos by: Sgt. José Ahiram Díaz, PRNG-113th MPAD

Citizen-Soldiers of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard 191st Regional Support Group Landing Craft Detachment, Army Aviation and Marine Corps Reserve Detachment 1, Landing Support Company, Combat Logistic Regiment 45, took part in a joint training exercise at former Navy Base Roosevelt Roads, Ceiba, Puerto Rico, April 8.

The exercise involved loading containers onto the Landing Craft and taking them out to sea where the Marines harness the containers onto a UH-60 Blackhawk to be airlifted from the Landing Craft onto dry land.

This exercise was repeated several times without a single glitch since this is not the first time PRNG units work in conjunction with the Marines during training or real-life situations.

This training is part of an ongoing effort to work on real life scenarios in order to hone the skills of the service-members and maintain their readiness and ability to work in joint endeavors across military branches.

The Landing Support Company, Combat Logistic Regiment 45 is part of the 4th Marine Logistics Group (4th MLG) based in New Orleans, Louisiana.



# PRNG Best Warrior Competition

## SCORES AT



By Master Sgt. Luis E. Orengo Román, PRNG-PAO

Constant challenging situations, physical and mental obstacles, and continuous movement were part of Region III Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition. This event was a five-day marathon of mental and physical trials that pushed the Citizen-Soldiers to their limit and beyond. It took place at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville, KY, April 23-27.

Ten selected teams from Region III Army National Guard gathered to determine the most outstanding Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year for the region by testing the team in tactical proficiency and physical endurance; and the PRARNG was ready to tackle the challenge.

“Even though the challenge was great I had plenty of confidence in the training and support we received in preparation for this competition,” said Sgt. Anibal Soto, noncommissioned officer in A Company, 1st Battalion, 296th Infantry Regiment. “I have participated in other competitions with the National Guard such as the Winston P. Wilson, the Special Forces Assessment and Combatives at NGB level, but each one has been a different experience.”

Soto, who served in the Marine Corps, expressed the importance of family during his preparation. “I left the Corps and returned to the Island to keep up with my



Spc. Yamiel Olivares, from 105th Forward Support Company, conquers an obstacle course while representing the PRNG at the Region III Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition held at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville, KY, April 23-27. (Photo Provided)

family,” Soto said. “They are very proud of what I’m trying to accomplish and the idea of competing in an event like this one fills them with pride. Of course I have to juggle family time and training, but my whole family is backing me up in this.”

The PRARNG team faced up nine other teams during the grueling five-day competition that covered running, shooting, road marching, maneuvering through obstacles, and the assessment of their knowledge in areas such as: Leadership, Land Navigation, Code of Conduct, Sexual Harassment/Assault and First Aid among a myriad of other topics.

“The Training in Puerto Rico was constant, intensive and accumulative,” said Spc. Yamiel Olivares, from 105th Forward Support Company. “The professionals at PTAE (Pre-deployment Training Assistance Element) kept us on our toes every minute of every hour during training, not only did they prepare us physically, but mentally as well.”

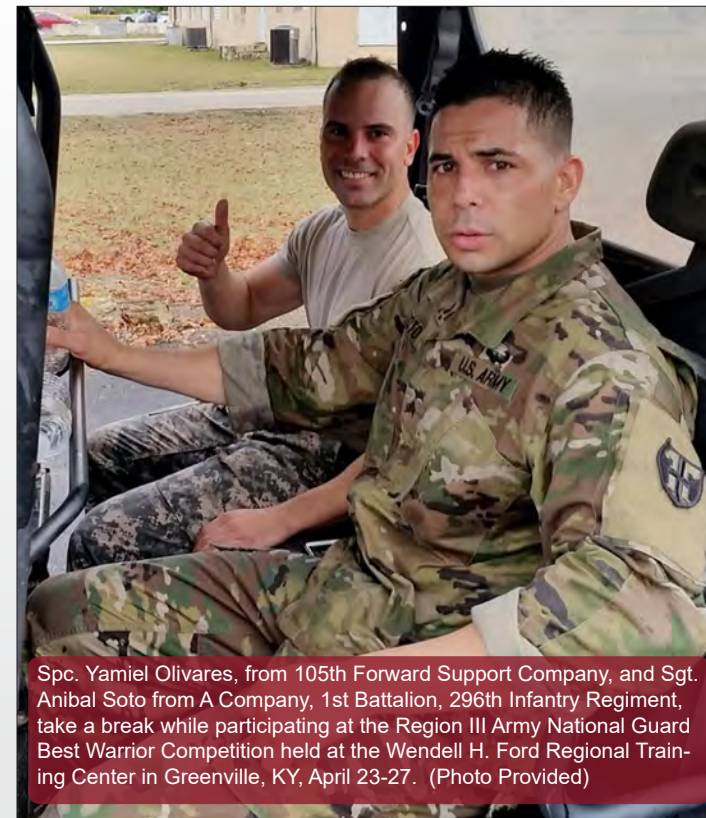


Sgt. Anibal Soto Quiñones (extreme right) and Spc. Yamiel Olivares (extreme left) pose with State Comand Sgt. Maj. Juvencio Méndez at Joint Force Headquarters in San Juan, Puerto Rico, during an event celebrating their accomplishments, March 21. (Photo by Sgt. Alexis Vélez, PRNG-PAO)

Olivares, who has served in the PRARNG for a little over two years, praises the support he and his partner received. “All resources were provided to support us for this event,” said Olivares. “We were well prepared, physically and mentally to give the best demonstration and to represent the Puerto Rico National Guard at its best.”

The PRARNG team showed its confidence in making an outstanding impression among the other competitors.

“We came here to submit ourselves to a grueling five-day match,” said Soto. “We looked forward to meet-



Spc. Yamiel Olivares, from 105th Forward Support Company, and Sgt. Anibal Soto from A Company, 1st Battalion, 296th Infantry Regiment, take a break while participating at the Region III Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition held at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville, KY, April 23-27. (Photo Provided)

ing new people, enjoying the experience, but above all to win.”

“Great teams, they are all great teams!,” said Sgt Maj. Juvencio Mendez, PRNG State Command Sgt. Maj. “Our team came prepared and ready to take on the challenge, but so did the others.”

The contest was stiff from the beginning. For 72 hours the Puerto Rican team battled all obstacles and challenges as nine other States were also fighting hard to keep up and get ahead. When the dust settled two Citizen-Soldiers emerged as clear winners: Staff Sgt. Dustin Rottero, Tennessee National Guard and Spc. Richard Lively, Georgia National Guard.

“We are proud of the opportunity given to us to represent our Guard in this competition and to learn,” said Olivares. “I believe we did even better than we personally expected, but the other teams were awesome too, and we all came here to win. I’d like to congratulate the winners Staff Sgt. Rottero and Spc. Lively. It was a well-earned victory.”

After the award and recognition ceremony the FY 2017 Region III winning team is headed to a new challenge at Camp Ripley, Minn., where the Army National Guard will hold the national competition in July.

# 2do Chuzazo CONTRA EL ABUSO SEXUAL

Por: Sgto. Alexis Vélez, PRNG-PAO / Fotos por PRNG-PAO

Ciudadanos-Soldados y Aviadores de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico, miembros de la Reserva, el Navy y la Policía de Puerto Rico participaron del Segundo Torneo de Bowling contra el Asalto Sexual en la Bolera en el Fuerte Buchanan el 26 de abril.

El evento formó parte de las actividades realizadas por la GNPR en observación al Mes de la Prevención y Concientización del Asalto Sexual. El mismo fue auspiciado por la Asociación de Sargentos Mayores y Chiefs de la GNPR.



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New office at Muñiz ANG Base

# Puerto Rico Wing Civil Air Patrol



Provided by 156th Airlift Wing

The Puerto Rico Wing Civil Air Patrol conducted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony May 2 for its new Wing headquarters administration office at Muñiz ANG Base.

Col. Edward L. Vaughan, 156th Airlift Wing Commander, presided over the ceremony, accompanied by Col. (CAP) Carlos Fernandez, Wing Commander of the Puerto Rico Civil Air Patrol, Lt.Col. (CAP) Carlos Muñoz, Government Relations Advisor, and Juan Rodriguez, Wing CAP Administrator, in which the ceremonial ribbon was cut inaugurating their new office that is located inside the 156th Airlift Wing headquarters.

This new office location will reinforce the partnership between the Puerto Rico Air National Guard and the Puerto Rico Civil Air Patrol as members of the Total Force. This is directly in line with the Chief of Staff of the Air Force's intent to pursue closer Total Force and joint partnerships.

Col. Fernandez said, "What started as an idea just a

few months ago now has become a reality, having the Wing Commanders of two components of the Total Force working together across the hall from each other. We are excited and grateful to be on base as this will further enhance carrying out our missions."

According to its website, the Puerto Rico Civil Air Patrol is comprised of more than 1,000 cadets and senior members, distributed across 30 units operating three aircraft and 12 ground assets. Several members of the 156th Airlift Wing also maintain membership in the Civil Air Patrol.

As the Congressionally designated auxiliary of the US Air Force, Civil Air Patrol is tasked with Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, and Emergency Services. Among the Emergency Services, CAP performs search and rescue, disaster relief, humanitarian services, Air Force Support, and Counter Drug support.

Learn more about CAP here:  
<http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com>.



# REGRESAN DE MISION EN HONDURAS 544 DE POLICIA MILITAR



Foto por 1er Sgto. Waldemar Rivera, GNPR-PAO

Por Sgto. Maestre Luis E. Orengo Román, GNPR-PAO

Ciudadanos-Soldados de la Compañía 544 de Policía Militar, con base en Ponce, regresaron a la Isla luego de estar desplegados en la República de Honduras, 4 de mayo. La unidad, compuesta por 63 Ciudadanos-Soldados, fue recibida en el Aeropuerto Internacional Luis Muñoz Marín por la alta oficialidad de la GNPR.

"La Compañía 544 de Policía Militar es una de las unidades más movilizadas de nuestra organización y es un ejemplo del compromiso y dedicación de los más de 10,000 Ciudadanos-Soldados, Aviadores y civiles que componen la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico", dijo Rivera.

Actualmente unos 270 miembros de la GNPR continúan movilizadas en misiones fuera de PR. Sobre 16,500 Ciudadanos-Soldados de la GNPR han sido movilizadas desde los ataques del 11 de septiembre.

"La Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico ha estado envuelta en misiones de Seguridad en la Base de Soto Cano en Honduras por más de 10 años como parte de nuestra responsabilidad federal", indicó el Ayudante General de PR, General de Brigada Isabelo Rivera. "Los Soldados que recibimos hoy se han destacado como embajadores de nuestro país y de la nación haciendo una extraordinaria labor en apoyo a las misiones del Comando Sur en Honduras. Agradecemos el hecho de que todos han regresado con bien a sus familias y a nuestra isla".

El personal de la Compañía 544 de Policía Militar se desplegó para misiones de seguridad en la República de Honduras en mayo de 2016.

Durante el proceso de movilización los guardias nacionales pasaron por una serie de adiestramientos en el Fuerte Bliss en Texas, donde pulieron sus destrezas militares en vías a cumplir esta misión.

# PRNG SUPPORTS VIRGIN ISLANDS *Vigilant Guard 2017*

Story and photos by: Master Sgt. Luis E. Orengo, PRNG-PAO

It was a well expected early morning call as selected members and units of the Puerto Rico National Guard deployed to the Virgin Islands to support a massive recovery effort after a devastating 7.5 earthquake and a 20-foot-high tsunami raked the island hours earlier. In the scenario, St. Thomas and St. Croix sustained significant damage to their infrastructure including the loss of vital communication capabilities, structure damage, displaced personnel and hazardous material (HAZMAT) incidents.

This scenario was portrayed as part of “Vigilant Guard 2017,” an exercise conducted by the National Guard Bureau, Northern Command and selected states to evaluate the response and needs during a massive emergency. This time it was Virgin Islands and the PRNG among units from Texas, West Virginia, Florida, Pennsylvania, Georgia and elements from NGB that rushed to the battered islands to provide life-saving resources after the devastating event.

“We have to understand that whatever happens in the Virgin Islands will affect us also,” said the Adjutant General of Puerto Rico, Brig. Gen. Isabelo Rivera, while touring the ‘Vigilant Guard’ scenarios at St. Croix. “We will probably be compromised with our own situations in case of an emergency, but under the Vigilant Guard 2017 scenarios we were able to provide support to our neighbor and help them to stabilize its situation to start the recovery process. This exercise also helps us in evaluating our own readiness, giving us the opportunity to test and improve our capabilities.”

The Landing Craft Detachment, PRARNG Aviation, 22nd Civil Support Team, the PR CERF-P unit and a myriad of other support elements from the PRNG 191st Regional Support Group gathered in Saint Croix and St. Thomas to coordinate efforts and missions conducive to reestablishing the lives of the island residents.

“In a catastrophe we will call our partners across the region and the Nation to help pull us through our darkest hours,” said Mona L. Barnes, Director of the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency.



“During a crisis, where lives are threatened, it is not the time to determine whether our channels of communication and our process for requesting support are functioning. Vigilant Guard is not only critical to finding gaps, but it is necessary for the safety of our community.”

Vigilant Guard exercise tests the states’ and territorial governments’ ability to respond to a catastrophic event, looking closely at how officials coordinate the delivery of federal and military assets in support of emergency response operations.



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# PRNG for the kids PURPLES-UP

Story and Photos by 1st Sgt. Waldemar Rivera, PRNG-PAO

The Puerto Rico National Guard celebrated the Month of the Military Child event with a series of activities tailored for military kids at the PRNG Readiness Center in Fort Buchanan, April 11.

other kid's activities. The TC Doll (Todo Corazón Doll) and helpers were part of the celebration's activities while kids stood in line to get their faces painted with super heroes or princess designs.

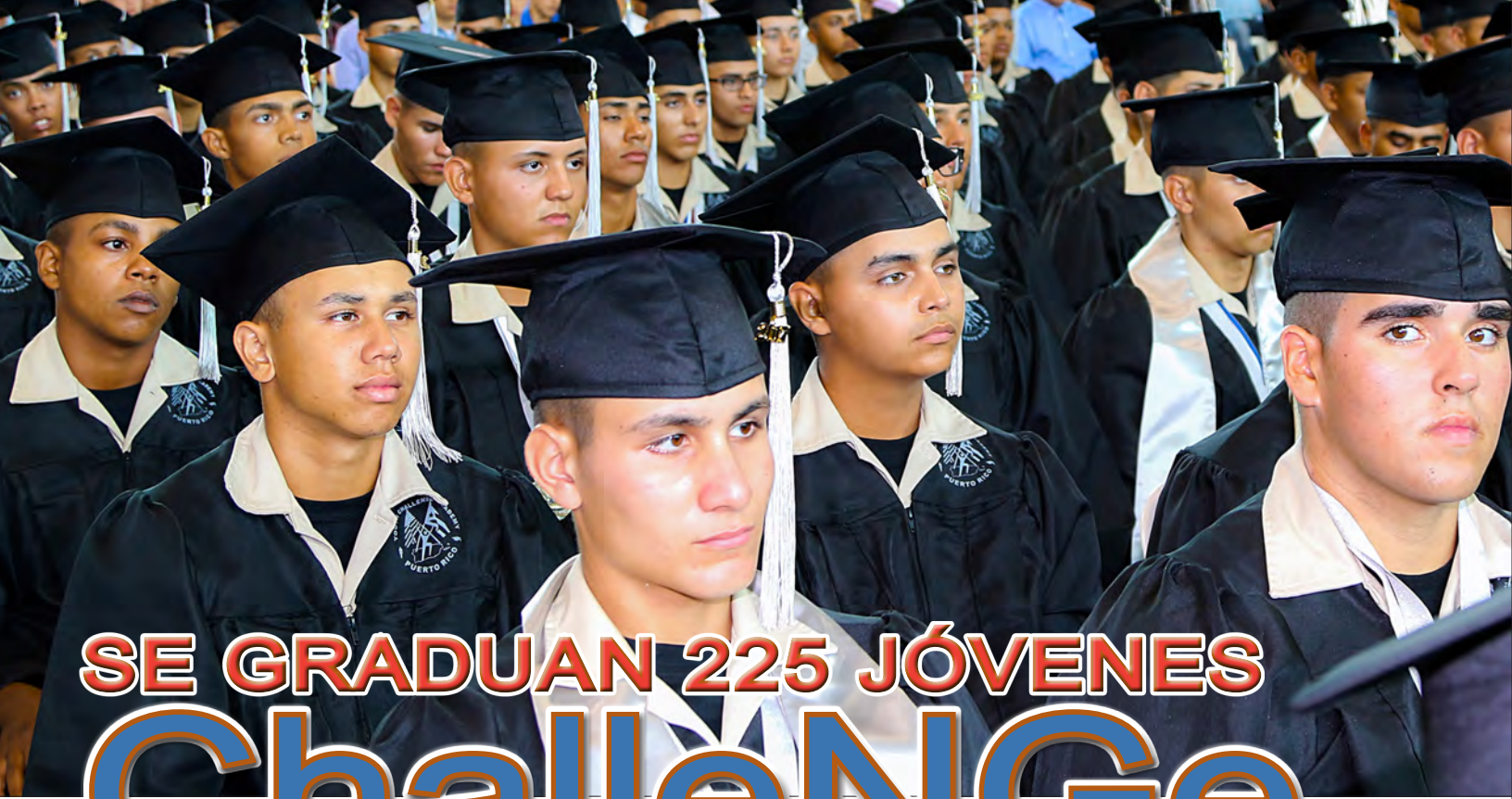


This event, which was established in 1986, was coordinated through the PRNG Child and Youth Program (CYP) and it takes place yearly during the month of April in order to honor military children and youth during the whole month. A total of 40 children and youths participated in this event supervised by CYP personnel and volunteers and the color-theme chosen for this event was purple.

“This event has been celebrated every year but this time we put a little twist to it,” said Ms. Minerva Rosado, coordinator for the CYP. “It’s the first time we do a ‘Purple-up for Military Kids’ where you get to bring your kids to work and everyone wears purple in support of the event.”

The day’s events started with stretching exercises followed by the Home Depot Workshop for kids, an egg-hunting activity with prizes and a kid’s movie among





# SE GRADUAN 225 JÓVENES ChalleNGe

Por Sgto. Maestre Luis E. Orengo Román, PRARNG-PAO/Fotos por Sgto. Alexis Vélez, PRARNG-PAO

**D**oscientos veinticinco jóvenes de la Clase 17-01 del programa juvenil Youth Challenge Academy vieron por fin sus aspiraciones completadas al recibir sus diplomas de 4to año como parte de los actos de graduación llevados a cabo en el Coliseo Dolores “Toyita” Martínez de Juana Díaz, marzo 23.

Cientos de familiares, mentores, amigos así como la alta oficialidad de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico hicieron acto de presencia para celebrar junto a los jóvenes este simbólico acto.

“Estos jóvenes son el mejor ejemplo de que cuando hay deseo cosas extraordinarias pueden ocurrir”, indicó el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de Brigada Isabelo Rivera. “Los conocimientos, experiencias de vida y prácticas que han adquirido durante el programa les servirán en su crecimiento y desarrollo futuro”.

El programa ChalleNGe busca redefinir la vida y experiencias educativas de los jóvenes desertores escolares a través de un sistema que integra la excelencia académica y la disciplina militar. El programa tiene una duración de 22 semanas y ha sido el vehículo por

el cual 5,320 jóvenes han logrado reconstruir sus vidas por los pasados 22 años.

En la clase, compuesta por 172 varones y 53 féminas, se reconocen 20 Altos Honores, 22 Honores, 27 jóvenes que sobresalen por aprovechamiento académico, 10 reconocimientos por cooperación y 6 reconocimientos por perseverancia. La Clase 17-01 completó 12,144 horas de labor comunitaria que impactaron positivamente las comunidades en las cuales participaron.

“La Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico y el programa Challenge son testigos de la educación en acción”, dijo Rivera. “Hemos visto que cuando se unen experiencias, valores y disciplina se crea un individuo completo con deseos de progresar y sin temor a los cambios y retos de la vida. Estos jóvenes son el ejemplo de que aún hay esperanza para nuestro País”.

Luego de la graduación los cadetes pasan a un proceso de seguimiento de un año en donde padres y mentores se convertirán en los facilitadores de las experiencias de vida.



# COMMEMORATION OF MEMORIAL DAY 2017

Photos by 113th MPAD, PRNG-101st Troop Command



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# PRNG NCO BALL 2017

Photos by Sgt. Alexis Vélez, PRNG-PAO



# HEADLINERS



Citizen-Soldiers from the Puerto Rico National Guard, 215th EN CO deployed in Afghanistan, built a memorial site for the 1st CAV "Wagonmasters" to honor three Soldiers and 2 Civilians who were killed, with others wounded, from a suicide bomb attack on 12 November 2016. The unveiling ceremony was held on May 7, 2017 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (Photo provided)



El Grupo de Apoyo de Aprestamiento Familiar de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico celebró su Taller de Recursos que se llevó a cabo en el Hotel Gran Meliá de Río Grande, Puerto Rico, 28-30 de abril. Durante el evento se ofrecieron talleres educativos y charlas instructivas para los voluntarios y los participantes del programa. Al cierre del evento se entregó un reconocimiento a los miembros más destacados del programa durante el pasado año. (Foto provista)



Members of the 101st Troop Command and Medical Command met at Marista School in Guaynabo City to conduct CPR and First Aid training to the Girls Scout-Troop 001, April 29. This training helps the Scout members to hone their basic life-saving skills and teaches them how to react in case a real emergency arises. (Photo provided)



Lt. Col. José Román passes the 124th MP Bn. colors to Col. Hector Herrera Cameron, 92nd MP Bde. Commander, while relinquishing the command of the unit to Lt. Col. Alfredo Zapata, May 6. The ceremony was held at Camp Santiago Joint Training Center in Salinas, Puerto Rico. (Photo by Spc. Gabriel Rivera, PRNG-113th MPAD)

Citizen-Soldiers of 1st Bn. 296th Inf. Reg. received Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) training at Camp Santiago, Salinas, Puerto Rico, February 24. This training was conducted in preparation for Exportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) and Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) rotations. Depicted in the photo, Mr. William Deem, Senior Training Advisor of the Mission Control Training Support Program, identifies strategic locations on a map with 1st BN 296th Inf. Reg. commander, Lt. Col. José de Santiago. (Photo by Spc. Agustín Montañez, PRNG-113th MPAD)



Citizen-Soldiers who represented the Puerto Rico National Guard at the 40th Lincoln National Guard Marathon held at Lincoln, Nebraska, May 7. The team competed against more than 13,500 other marathoners including athletes from the Army and Air National Guard representing 40 States and two U.S. territories. They all finished the 26.2 mile-long route with excellent marks bringing much pride to the PRNG. (Photo provided)



Camp Santiago Garrison Commander, Col. Carlos Cáez Sierra, receives the Silver Order of De Fleury Medal from Brig. Gen. Isabelo Rivera, Puerto Rico Adjutant General and Col. Narciso Cruz, Chief Facility Management Officer, during a ceremony held at Camp Santiago, May 6. The Silver De Fleury Medal is awarded to individuals who have significantly contributed to the US Army Engineer Corps throughout the span of their careers. (Photo by Sgt. José Ahiram Díaz, PRNG-113th MPAD)



El Comandante de La Guardia Estatal de Puerto Rico, General de Brigada (PR) Edwin Rivera Malave, celebró una ceremonia de ascenso a cuatro miembros del PRSG, de izquierda a derecha: Col. Angel Rivera, Asst CG, Col. Rafael Irizarry, Provost Marshall, Col. Javier Pérez, J2, Gen. de Brigada Edwin Rivera, PRSG CMDR y la Primer Teniente Elisa Alicea. (Foto suministrada)



Citizen-Soldiers from the 1473rd QSC and 105th FSC from the Puerto Rico National Guard received training on their new M5K Light Capability Rough Terrain Forklift (LCRTF) at MATES, Camp Santiago, February 27. This new and more advanced equipment comes to augment the capacity and capabilities of these units to move and manage loads in a faster and safer manner. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Waldemar Rivera, PRNG-PAO)



Citizen-Soldiers of the 3678th Combat Support Battalion, 191st Regional Support Group, PRARNG, returned home after a one-year deployment to Afghanistan, April 8. The group, out of Fort Allen in Juana Díaz, received a most warm welcome from the PRARNG leadership, family members and friends upon arrival at the Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport in Carolina. (Photo by: Master Sgt. Luis E. Orengo Román, PRNG-PAO)





**Guardia Estatal de Puerto Rico**

# APOYANDO A CATAÑO

Historia y fotos por Sgto. Alexis Vélez, PRNG-PAO



Miembros de la Guardia Estatal, componente voluntario de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico, colaboran con el municipio de Cataño en la reconstrucción de varias residencias que fueron destruidas por un incendio el pasado año, mayo 17.

“Esto es parte de la misión comunitaria que tiene la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico y gracias al compromiso de nuestra Guardia Estatal podemos apoyar la labor del municipio de Cataño a mejorar la calidad de vida de este grupo de puertorriqueños”, expresó el Ayudante General de Puerto Rico, General de Brigada Isabelo Rivera.

Desde el lunes, Ciudadanos-Soldados de la Guardia Estatal han trabajado en la construcción de una de las residencias para la cual el municipio de Cataño proveyó los materiales y se espera que este completada al finalizar esta semana.

“Estoy muy agradecido de la ayuda que la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico nos ha dado, más aún cuando se trata de ayudar a personas que lo necesitan”, expresó el alcalde de Cataño, Honorable Félix Delgado Montalvo.

Por su parte, Ibraín Figueroa Tañón, quien perdió su residencia en el incendio, indicó estar más que agradecido y contento por la ayuda que ha estado recibiendo ya que pronto podrá disfrutar de su nueva casa.

En la reconstrucción de la residencia de don Ibraín, la cual es de madera y zinc, trabajaron 26 Ciudadanos-Soldados de las Compañías de Ingeniería 500, 501, 502 y 503, así como de la Compañía de Transportación 300 del componente estatal de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico.

“El personal de la Guardia Estatal es totalmente voluntario y no cobra nada mientras completa la misión

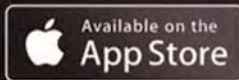
encomendada”, indicó el Comandante de la Guardia Estatal, General de Brigada Edwin Rivera Malavé. “Cada uno de ellos son un gran apoyo para la GNPR, en especial en misiones comunitarias que van desde construcción hasta ofrecimiento de servicios de salud como ocurre en las ferias de salud que se realizan a través de todo Puerto Rico. Todos son profesionales que siempre dicen presente al llamado de servir al País desde la faceta militar. Ese es su orgullo y ese es su compromiso”.





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