

# El Morro

Vol. 3 Autumn Edition Sentinel of the Caribbean Jul-Aug-Sep 2018



## Honoring Gold Star Mother's and Families

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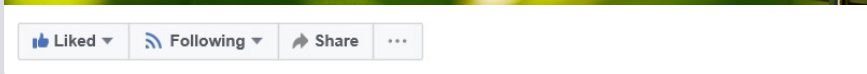
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EL MORRO is published quarterly by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Garrison.

All editorial content of EL MORRO is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the U.S. Army Garrison, Public Affairs Office. For guidance on how to submit items for publication, e-mail the garrison Public Affairs Office.

The PAO reserves the right to edit all submissions and to determine the suitability for inclusion in EL MORRO.

Every effort will be made to publish submissions in a timely manner. However, time, layout, style and editorial considerations, as well as determinations for publication, are established by the Garrison Commander or the Public Affairs Officer.



## Our Facebook's New Look



New look, new photos, new information and much more.

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

## Upcoming events

### October November December

**National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

**National Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

**Energy Awareness Month**

**National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

**Fire Prevention Week**

**Columbus Day**  
October 8

**National Native American Indian Heritage Month**

**Military Family Appreciation Month**

**National American and Alaska Native Heritage Month**

**National Family Week**

**Discovery of Puerto Rico and Culture Day**  
November 19

**Puerto Rico Night**  
Antilles High School

**Veterans Day**  
November 12

**Thanksgiving Day**  
November 22

**Turkey Trot 5K Race**

**National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month**

**Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**  
December 7

**USAG Holiday Parade**  
December 7

**USAG Holiday Celebration**  
December 8

**Human Rights Day**  
December 10

**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.



# USAG Fort Buchanan Honors Gold Star Mothers and Families

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist

In 1936 Congress designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day to recognize Mothers of Service members who died while defending our Nation. It was in 2009 that President Barack Obama proclaimed this last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day.

Fort Buchanan joined the nation in observance of this day by holding a service September 30, 2018 at the Post Chapel. The service was coordinated through the installation's Army Community Service, Survivor Outreach (SOS) office.

Approximately 50 Mother's and



Edwin Ramos-Jourdan, PRNG Survivor Outreach Service contractor served as master of ceremony for the event.

families of fallen military whose home of record is Puerto Rico attended the service. Among the guests were Juan D. Nieves, director of the PR National Cemetery; Brigadier Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, commanding general of the 1st Mission Support Command; Lt. Col. Patrick J. Dillon, deputy commander US Army garrison and representing the Puerto Rico National Guard (PRNG), Sgt. Maj. William López, PRNG G-1.

Maj. Wanda I. Acevedo, garrison command chaplain, provided the invocation, a heartfelt prayer and benediction.



"There is no greater privilege than to thank these Gold Star Mother's and families for their sacrifice, while encouraging them to accept whatever support is needed and provided by our military family," said Lt. Col. Dillon. "We are committed to providing quality care, support and services to surviving family members," said Dillon.

"A long line of heroes stretching from the Independence War to the mountains of Afghanistan, selfless patriots, have



Lt. Col. Patrick J. Dillon, garrison deputy commander spoke about the value of the Gold Star Mothers and families in the military family.

defended our lives and liberties with valor and honor," said Brig. Gen. Shultz. "As Mothers and families of these heroes, I know you're proud of their decision, of their commitment, of their actions on the battlefield, proud



Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, commanding general of the 1st MSC, addressed the Gold Star families recognizing the pride they have in their fallen heroes.



The PRNG provided an Honor Guard who performed the traditional Flag Folding and Taps Ceremony.



Approximately 50 Gold Star Mothers and families were present for the service and ceremony held at the post chapel.

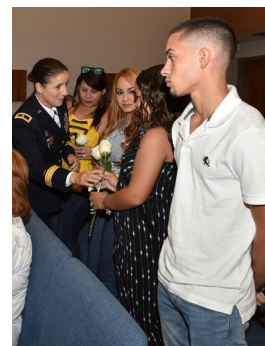
they stepped forward when so many others never even considered it, proud of the one very personal decision they made to serve the cause higher than themselves regardless of the outcome to them personally," said Shultz.

The event included the solemn Flag Folding and Taps Ceremony, carried out by the PR Army NG Honor Guard and the ceremonial presentation of white roses.



Brig. Gen. Shultz and Lt. Col. Dillon rendered honors to the fallen heroes.

(Photo R) Brig. Gen. Shultz and (photo below) Lt. Col. Dillon, handed out single white roses as symbols of a promise of hope to all the Gold Star Family members.





# USAG Fort Buchanan Fourth Quarter Town Hall - awards, trainings and awesomeness

Story by Grissel Rosa  
Public Affairs Officer

During the 4th Quarter Town Hall meeting held at the Community Club and Conference Center September 20, 2018, USAG Fort Buchanan Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass, after presenting awards, Army Certificates of recognition and trainings, listed some of the on-going and planned projects and initiatives that enhance the military installation's relevance.

Some of projects include: the Apparatus Building for the Fire Department; The Borinqueneer's gate new controlled access, to be completed in about a year; the approval of Phase 3 on the improvements in the water pipe system; the construction of the new Child Development Center; new

Reserve buildings and Motorcycle Safety Range.

Col. Bass not only emphasized these infrastructure projects but also initiatives that show the garrison's commitment with the community through improvements in customer satisfaction rates, safety rates, no suicides reported and being better prepared for this hurricane season.

The garrison commander summarized these achievements in one word – awesome – describing that Fort Buchanan is better and stronger thanks to the garrison's best resources, its employees. "You are the best Fort Buchanan employees ever seen," concluded Bass.



(L to R) Francheska Soler, Gary W. Chastain, Gabriel Cruz, José Feliciano, Gustavo Villaronga, Loren Febres, Norman Rivera, Odemarís Torres and Betzaida Sanchez received from Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana award certificates in recognition of five years of service in the Government of the United States of America.



(L to R) Josué García, Efraín Feliciano and Javier Rosario received from Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana award certificates in recognition of ten years of service in the Government of the United States of America.



Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana awarded certificates in recognition of fifteen years of service in the Government of the United States of America to (L to R) Javier Moyet, Evelyn De La Cruz and Nancy Rivera.



Navy Religious Petty Officer 3rd Class Rivera on temporary duty assignment to the garrison Religious Services Office distributed religious materials during the Town Hall Meeting.



Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana awarded certificates in recognition of twenty years of service in the US Government to Milda Román and Isaac Cruz.



Carlos Guzmán and Nancy Cortés received from Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana award certificates in recognition of twenty five years of service in the US Government.



(L to R) Angel A. Vázquez, Mildred Cepeda, William Rivera and Manuel Quiles received from Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana award certificates for thirty years of service in the US.

Photos by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist



# USAG Fort Buchanan Fourth Quarter Town Hall (cont.)



Hundreds of employees and supervisors attended the last Town Hall for fiscal Year 2018.



Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana award certificates in recognition of thirty-five years of service in the US Government to (L to R) Carlos Maldonado, Eva Cabañas, Javier González and Arlene Romero.



Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana presented USAG certificates of appreciation to (L to R) Aida Aguilú, Nino Bassaro, Kevin La Luz, Roberto Fernández, Irma A. Muñoz, Carlos Sotomayor, Gary W. Chastain, Julio Capacetti and Héctor Rosado for support to the children's camp with Detroit Lion Running Back LeGarrette Blount.



Iralis Jiménez received from Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana the Garrison Certificate of Appreciation for support to the children's camp with Detroit Lion Running Back LeGarrette Blount.



Spc. Lisseth I. Mayen Hernández received an Army Achievement Medal from Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana for support to the Army Family Housing.



Staff Sgt. Maria P. Bardo received a Army Commendation Medal from Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana for support to the Army Family Housing.



Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana presented Orlando Garcia the Superior Civilian Service Award for outstanding performance while serving as the installation's Chief of Military Personnel Services Division.



Rafael Silva-Amberty received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for exemplary service as Material Expediter at the O&M Division from Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana.



Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana presented Gilberto Valentin the Department of the Army Certificate of Achievement for meritorious achievement and exemplary service as Recreation Assistant for the installation's Sports and Fitness Center.

September is Suicide Awareness Month, Garrison Army Substance Abuse Program Coordinator, Carlos Montañez provided suicide awareness training and resiliency discussion.



Maj. Wanda I. Acevedo, garrison command chaplain, using examples from Hurricane Maria, gave an in depth presentation on adjusting to and overcoming adversity, as well as recognizing and being resilient.

William S. Leyh, deputy to the garrison commander, emphasized the prevention and effects of suicide, sexual harassment and assault on the military and civilian forces.



Photos by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist



# USAG Fort Buchanan Fourth Quarter Town Hall (cont.)

Garrison Family Advocacy Program Manager and Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Javier González led a presentation on the impacts of sexual harassment and assault on Army readiness.



Marino Dominicki received the Department of the Army Certificate of Achievement for meritorious achievements and exemplary service as a volunteer while supporting the Soto Cano Air Base community in Honduras from Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana.



Tod A. Scalf, director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation presented Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana with a welcome sign inscribed with the garrison commander's theme "We are Awesome."



Estrella Casanova a member of DFMWR stands beside her daughter, Guillian Hernández who received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for meritorious service while serving as a lifeguard during the Hurricane Maria response period from Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana.



Fort Buchanan staff listen intently as they are given several required trainings.



Col. Bass presented to the workforce new projects including construction and improvements to the infrastructure; initiatives demonstrating the garrison's commitment to the community with enhancements in customer satisfaction rates and other areas. He summed it up as "awesome" stating, "You are the best Fort Buchanan employees ever seen," said Bass.



Col. Bass takes a selfie with the workforce as they pose for the picture.



Staff diligently took notes as the Garrison Commander highlighted the advancements made since the last quarter.



# First Joint Services Suicide Awareness / Prevention Campaign “Embracing Life”

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist

Chaplains from the Puerto Rico National Guard (PRNG), U.S. Army Reserve 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC) and U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Fort Buchanan held the first Joint Services Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month prayer breakfast at Fort Buchanan's Community Club and Conference Center September 19, 2018.

Chaplains from all the military services at Fort Buchanan and the U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Juan, provided prayers throughout the event for those who are feeling despair and need help; for family members, co-workers and comrades-in-arms to be aware of the signs and act, in order to reduce the incidence of suicide and build resilience.

During the prayer breakfast a recognition ceremony was held with members of each of the three joint



Garrison Command Chaplain, Maj. Wanda I. Acevedo gave the invocation to begin the prayer breakfast.

Plaza, with the signing of the 2018 U.S. Army Suicide Awareness and Prevention Campaign proclamation by (L to R) Brig. Gen. Narciso Cruz, assistant adjutant general PRNG, Col. Jorge Marrero, commander of 210th Regional Support Command, representing the commanding general of the 1st MSC, and Col. Guy D. Bass, commander of the USAG Fort Buchanan. (See photo below)

During this ceremony three hand painted artist renderings of a tree of life were displayed at the end of



Fort Buchanan's military leadership represented by Brig. Gen. Cruz, PRNG; Col. Marrero, 210 RSG, 1st MSC and Col. Bass, USAG commander signed the Suicide Awareness and Prevention Campaign proclamation with their respective Suicide Prevention Managers behind them (L to R) Neva Rosado, PRNG; José A. González, 1st MSC and Carlos M. Montañez, USAG, September 7, 2018.

services receiving a plaque imbedded with a symbolic tree of life for saving the lives of two Soldiers and a civilian.

This year's suicide awareness and prevention month campaign theme was “Embracing Life”. In attendance were approximately 50 Service Members and civilians.

This was the third event held in observance of September - Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month.

The kick-off was held September 7, 2018 at Fort Buchanan's Soldiers

the event all attendees put their finger prints with bright colorful paints supplied on the trees symbolizing their commitment to combat and promote awareness resilience in the struggle to lower suicide rates as a whole.

Suicide is a serious public health problem that affects people of all ages, it is the tenth leading cause of death for Americans and 20% of suicide deaths in the U.S., annually, are military veterans.



(L to R) FMWR's Youth Center Acting Facility Director, Luis Maldonado presents Juleisi Berrios, student who created and edited the video on bullying shown and Janitza Davilez Perez teacher at the Youth Center.



Members of PR Army NG 1013th Eng. Co. received a recognition for the successful suicide intervention which saved the life of a Soldier.



1st MSC Suicide Prevention Manager, José A. González poses with Sgt. Ivelisse Massas who received a plaque in recognition of saving a Soldier's life through a successful suicide intervention.



USAG Casualty Operations Supervisor, Luis A. Cruz, narrates the events where he saved the life of a fellow employee who expressed a desire to commit suicide.



PR Air NG, 156th Air Lift Wing Chaplain, Cpt. Mirely Ravelo provided the benediction.



# 2nd Annual MyVA Veterans Benefits Fair at Plaza Las Americas

Story by Grissel Rosa  
Public Affairs Officer

Hundreds of veterans, retirees and their families attended the 2nd Annual MyVA Veterans and Families Service Fair at Plaza Las Americas Mall, September 6-7, 2018, to receive updated information and follow-up on the status of their claims, among other services.

The two-day event, hosted by MyVA Community Outreach was conducted in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) San Juan Regional Office, the PR National Cemetery, the VA Hospital, Rodriguez Army Health Clinic, USAG Fort Buchanan in partnership with various local and federal agencies and veterans' organizations.

The main speaker for the event, Hon. Steve Young, Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N), Veterans Health Administration emphasized the various programs and services provided to the veterans' community. The innovative part of the program was Vet Talk in which members of the military and civilian community shared their experiences as they answered the question "How being a veteran shaped your vision of the world?"

The interactive Vet Talk section was hosted by MyVA Chairperson, Nanette Rendón.

There were information booths from Fort Buchanan's Directorate of Human Resource's Soldier for Life - Transition Assistance Program where veterans and retirees received information on how to capitalize their Army experience and skills as they transition into a civilian career.

The Retirement Services Office was also present helping them and their families to prepare for retirement among other services.

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's

Army Community Services (ACS) had several booths providing information on education and opportunities through numerous programs and resources for

retirees, veterans and their families.

Fort Buchanan's mission is to value our veterans through consistent and accessible programs and services.



(First row L to R) Participants included: Abner Concepción, Deputy Director, VBA; Dr. Antonio Sánchez, Acting Director, VA Hospital; Hon. Roberto Feliberti, Associate Judge, PR Supreme Court; Hon. Steven Young, Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management, Veterans Health Administration; Hon. José L. Dalmau, Senator; Dr. Rafael Rodríguez, PR Secretary of Health and Brigadier Gen. Dustin A. Shultz, commanding general, 1st Mission Support Command.



During the course of two days, VBA staff assisted veterans with processing claims, following up on the status of submitted claims and orientation on the claims process.



USAG Fort Buchanan Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass addressed the audience on programs and services offered at the military installation for veterans, retirees and their families such as Soldier for Life, Retirement Services Office and Army Community Services.



(R to L) ACS Director, Wilda Diaz flanked by volunteer, Carlos Maymi and Information and Referral Manager, Liza Muñiz provide a customer with a services brochure and information on services they provide service members and veterans.



Grissel Rosa, Fort Buchanan's Public Affairs Officer, served as master of ceremony at the opening of the two day event.

Photos by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist



# Groundbreaking Ceremony at The Borinqueneers' Gate

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist

USAG Fort Buchanan held a Groundbreaking Ceremony at The Borinqueneers' gate, August 23, 2018, marking the construction work of the new access control point.

The event conducted at the gate dedicated after Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment, was attended by members of the civilian and military community including commanders of the US Armed Forces, garrison directors, staff and tenants.

The value of this new access control point at The Borinqueneers' gate demonstrates the continuous support and investment of the federal government and the Department of Defense to the US Army Garrison Fort



Participants in the Groundbreaking Ceremony included: (L to R) Eng. Chandru Aradhya Gubbi, project contractor for Eastern Construction; Steve Brown, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); Eng. Jeffrey E. Bayers, project manager, USACE; Maria (Angie) López, director, Public Works; Col. Guy D. Bass, garrison commander; Luis Soto, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army; Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana, garrison command sergeant major and Jorge Quiñones, Acting director, Emergency Services.



Col. Guy D. Bass, garrison commander emphasized DoD's commitment to Fort Buchanan through the money invested in construction projects. For example, in FY 2017-18 Fort Buchanan injected more than \$52.7 million in construction to the local economy.

Buchanan.

The investment in this construction project is approximately \$10 million with an estimated completion date of November 2019.

On a regular day, approximately 7,000 thousand vehicles enter through The Borinqueneers' gate.

Phase 2 of the construction of the new access control point at The Borinqueneers' gate was executed August 28, 2018 at 6 a.m. with the

Thanks to a concise and well implemented plan managed by Fort Buchanan police and security, the change did not affect the regular flow of traffic at the new alternate gate off Road 28, Spc. Frances Vega gate by Roosevelt Ave. nor the intersection at Chardón Plaza next to the PXtra and Community Club and Conference Center.

"The changes at The Borinqueneers' gate have gone off really well, it's just a matter of people getting familiar with the new route," said Col. Guy D. Bass, Fort Buchanan garrison commander. Col. Bass and William S. Leyh, deputy to the garrison commander stood watch at The Borinqueneers' and Spc. Vega gates, to ensure the smooth transition of the changes at the alternate gate.

The changes in the entrance at The Borinqueneers' gate, will not only modernize the access control point by adding lanes, but also facilitate improved access to garrison facilities for years to come.



(L to R) USAG Fort Buchanan Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass speaking to Chief Jorge Quiñones, acting DES chief, stood watch at the new alternate check point area to ensure the seamless changes of The Borinqueneers' gate as guards carried out their routine check point duties.



# DODEA Students Success and Community Collaboration

Story and photos by Alex Lozano  
Antilles High School Senior and Public Affairs Intern

August marks the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year. The leadership of the Department of Defense schools on Fort Buchanan shared their expectations that features a common denominator – the success of all students, from pre-k to seniors.

Lydia Blázquez (photo right), Antilles Elementary School Principal, identified various goals for this school year such as: improve the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) scores, expand parent collaboration, attendance and outreach.

Antilles Middle School Principal, Luldes Giraud, envisions teachers, students and parents working together on three major goals. First, to strive for an increase in student achievement, especially in math. Second, to have



intervention classes on Saturdays to help students that need academic support. Lastly, to increase student and teacher collaboration. Giraud emphasized that community collaboration is key to the school.

The leadership team at Antilles High School (AHS) is comprised of Dr. Thomas Whittle, Principal and Edwin Caballero, Assistant Principal.

Dr. Whittle, 2018 Secondary School Principal of the Year for the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) and honoree of the National Association of Secondary

School Principals in 2018, emphasizes his main goal for student achievement level which is to increase in DODEA Standardized Testing - PARCC and for all students to graduate college-and-career-ready. He also welcomes collaboration with community partners.



Edwin Caballero's (photo above), personal goals for this school year are focused in increasing school spirit, encouraging teacher involvement in events, extracurricular activities, and fostering a one- team mentality.

## Fort Buchanan Firefighters support PR Firefighters

Luis R. Roig-Casillas  
Fire Chief, USAG Directorate of Emergency Services

Fort Buchanan Directorate of Emergency Services, Fire Department (DES-FD) joined forces with Puerto Rico Fire Department (PRFD) during the fire at La Casa del Camionero, MOTOPAC and Amalie Oil warehouses, located at an industrial complex close to the military installation, August 22, 2018.

PRFD requested Fort Buchanan firefighters' support based on a Memorandum of Agreement.

Garrison Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass, approved the request and immediately DES-FD provided a Fire Engine staffed by firefighters Johnathan Parker, Gilberto Hernández, Carlos Carrasco, Paul Hartman, Abdiel Aponte and Carlos Lebrón.

The crew, commanded by Assistant Fire Chief David De Jesús, was key in

extinguishing the fire providing 180 gallons of Foam Agent, essential to fight petroleum base fires, and 49 man hours.

During the operation DES-FD fire engine supplied water to fire hoses and devices such as, water monitors and ladder trucks. Both fire teams worked together hand in hand throughout

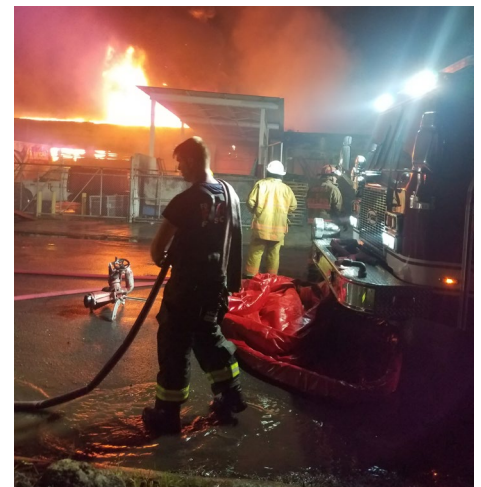


Team effort between firefighters crews was demonstrated as they exchange a SCBA bottle.

the entire operation for the safety of adjacent warehouses to include the CAPECO fuel farm.

The training and commitment of Fort Buchanan firefighters are essential elements in support of the community.

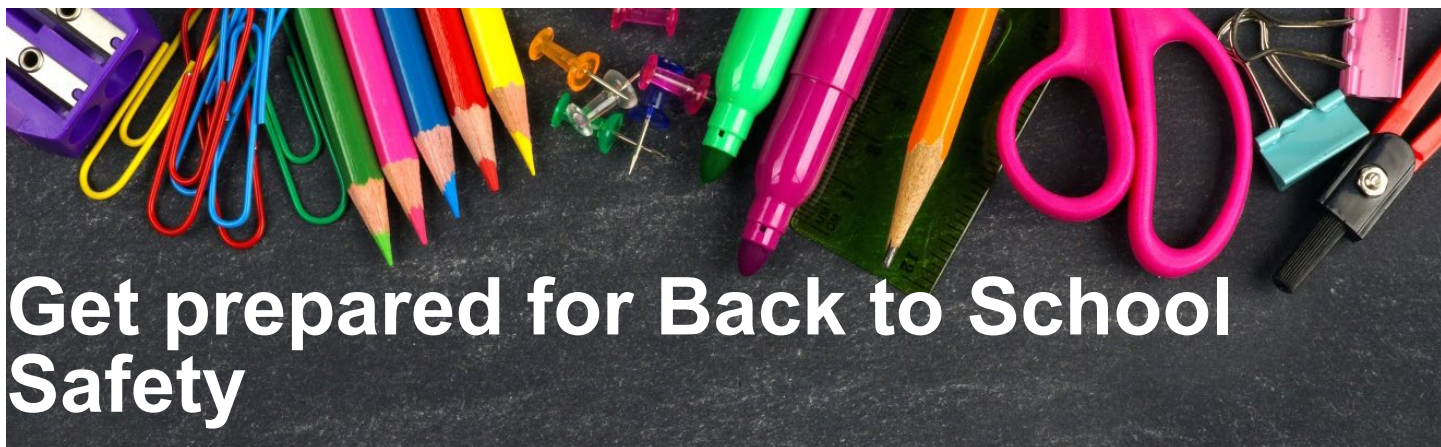
After accomplishing their mission, all firefighters with their equipment came home safe.



Federal, State and Municipal Fire Departments combined efforts in extinguishing the fire.

Photos by David De Jesús, Fort Buchanan Assistant Fire Chief





# Get prepared for Back to School Safety

Story by Joel J. Baylor  
Safety and Occupational Health Manager

## It's back to school time!

As school doors open, traffic gets a little heavier on our streets. People are back from vacations, school buses and public transit are on regular routes, and more people are walking, cycling or driving to school.

To help with the transition and share the roads safely, read our safety tip. Help everyone stay safe this school year!

### 1) Observe School Zone Speeds

Although you should always obey posted speed limits, it is especially important during the school year. Children crossing the road on their way to and from school can easily get distracted and step into harm's way. Slowing down and being vigilant is crucial to keeping kids safe. Children are often out throughout the day at recess, lunch, and for certain classes, so it's important to drive slowly throughout the day.

### 2) Obey the Crossing Guard

A crossing guard is there to keep children safe. If you come up to a set of lights, and the light turns green, but the crossing guard still says stop, follow his/her direction and not the traffic light. There might be a child still crossing the street that you can't see.

### 3) Watch for Darting Children

Kids are small and easily distracted, and for drivers, this can create dangerous situations on the roads. Be vigilant and alert behind the wheel. You never know when a small child might step out from between parked cars or

off a sidewalk. Your fast reflexes might be needed to prevent an accident.

### 4) School Buses

Most mishaps take place outside the bus. Make sure children don't arrive too early at the bus stop where they can wander or get into mischief. Make sure children wait well away from the road and stay back until the school bus makes a full stop and the doors open. Explain that they must walk at least 10 feet away when crossing in front of the bus so the driver can see them. When driving your car near a school bus please note that extra caution is needed. You shouldn't pass a school bus when the signal lights are flashing (as children are often crossing the road at that time), and drive slowly as a general precaution.

The following information is useful for school bus passengers, their parents and teachers.

#### Rules for getting on the bus safely:

1. Be at the bus stop on time. Never run to or from the bus.
2. Wait at the designated stop in a safe place well back from the side of the road.
3. Remember the danger zone around the bus. The danger zone is anywhere close enough to touch the bus. The bus driver cannot see you when you are in the danger zone.
4. If you cross the street to get on the bus: when the bus comes, wait until it has come to a complete stop. The bus driver will make sure all the traffic stops. The stop arm will be out and the red lights will be flashing. Watch the driver. When the driver knows it is

safe, he or she will signal you to cross, but watch for traffic yourself. Walk, don't run.

5. Hold the hand rail as you get on the bus. Don't push or shove.

#### Rules for on the bus:

1. Take your seat as quickly as possible and sit properly, facing forward at all times.
2. Hold bags and parcels in your lap. Do not put your feet into the aisle: someone might trip.
3. Keep your head, arms and everything inside the bus. Don't throw anything out the windows or around in the bus.
4. Talk quietly. The driver must concentrate to drive the bus safely.
5. Save snacks for snack time at school or for when you get home. They may spill or you may choke if the bus goes over a big bump.
6. No fighting, shouting or playing in or around the bus.
7. Always follow the bus driver's instructions.

#### Rules for leaving the bus safely:

1. When you leave the bus, hold the handrail and step away from the bus.
2. To cross the street in front of the bus, walk ahead at least 10 feet. Cross only when the driver gives a signal. Cross the street in single file.
3. If you drop something near the bus, don't pick it up. Tell the driver or another adult first.
4. If everyone is getting off the bus, the people at the front leave first. Do not push.
5. Be familiar with the bus driver's rules for emergencies.



# Soldier For Life - Transition Assistance Program prepares Soldiers for civilian life

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist

From July 30 to August 2, 2018 mandatory briefings were provided to transitioning, retiring and demobilizing members of the PR National Guard and US Army Reserve by Fort Buchanan's Soldier For Life and Transition Assistance Program (SFL-TAP) at the installation's Training Support Center, building 511. Twenty eight transitioning service members, from the non-commissioned officer ranks of Sergeant to Command Sergeant Major, to the officer's rank of Major participated in the training sessions.

During the course of these briefings, participants were given information, links and points of contacts for Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and services; home loans; education and training assistance; employment services that



Miguel Aponte, Fort Buchanan's Retirement Services Officer (RSO) presented an overview of the RSO and the sequence of events for the week.



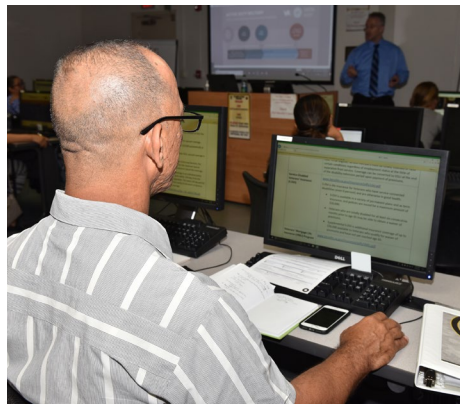
Providing the briefing on life insurance and its importance was Carlo Greer a counselor from Evoke Consulting.



**TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
Start Strong • Serve Strong • Reintegrate Strong • Remain Strong



A career counselor from the Soldier For Life program gave the Transition Overview section of the mandatory briefings.



Retiring Command Sgt. Maj. Gerardo Guzmán Santiago follows along on the computer as Greer presents his training.



A facilitator provided employment training on self-assessment, exploring careers, tools and job search resources to the transitioning service members.

includes translating military skills and training; identifying gaps with civilian employment; eligibility for employment licensure, certification, and apprenticeship; life insurance; memorial and survivor benefits; health care, and disability compensation. They also learned how to navigate the VA web portals.

Fort Buchanan's SFL-TAP delivers transition services that ensure all eligible transitioning Soldiers have the training and counseling necessary to be successful as a civilian. SFL-TAP has a Virtual Center that provides access to required courses, counselors, transition materials, resume resources, and seminars, go to [www.sfl-tap.army.mil](http://www.sfl-tap.army.mil). The contact number at Fort Buchanan for SFL-TAP is (787) 707-3546 and is located on post at 514 South Terminal Road.



Transitioning service members participate in inter-active trainings, accessing the web-sites they will be using during this transition process.



# Army Community Services celebrates 53rd Birthday

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Buchanan celebrated the 53rd birthday of Army Community Service (ACS) July 26, 2018 at the installation's Cabaña Picnic Area with inflatables, wall climbing, face painting, a clown show, a magician, DJ music, refreshments, and entertainment for the entire family.

Enjoying the celebration were 25 children from the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation's (Family MWR) School Age Center, participating in the Summer Camp; 16 youths, middle to high school age, from the installation's Teen Center and military as well as civilian parents who accompanied their children. Garrison Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass joined the festivities addressing the attendees and singing Happy Birthday to ACS.

ACS provides numerous programs and resources for Service Members from all branches, including active duty, guard and reserve - their Families, retirees and DoD civilians.



ACS staff, Ivette Dávila and Javier Gómez greeted all the participants for the birthday event.



Both small and big kids had fun getting their faces painted with butterflies, super heroes and other colorful motifs.



The children from the Family MWR School Age Center participating in the Summer Camp pose for a fun picture with Col. Bass.



The School Age Center children enjoyed clowning around with the clowns.

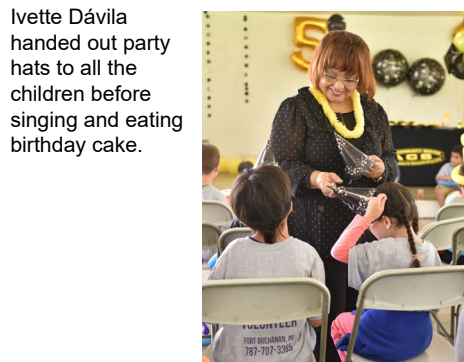


The children shared their knowledge of ACS, on its birthday with Javier Gómez, SARC.



(L to R) Javier Gómez, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator; Raymond Morales, Exceptional Family Member Program coordinator; Liza Muñiz, ACS information and referral program manager; Ivette Dávila, Employment Readiness Program manager and Col. Guy D. Bass garrison commander lead the children in singing happy birthday to ACS.

School Age Center, Child Care Assistant Provider, Yeritza Silva helps the children put on birthday party hats.



Ivette Dávila handed out party hats to all the children before singing and eating birthday cake.



(L to R) Edwig Pedre, Army Emergency Relief and Financial Readiness program manager and Roberto Gómez, Family Advocacy Program manager hand out fruit flavored snow cones to the delight of the children.



# Fourth Quarter Newcomers Orientation “Arrive Strong”

Story and photo by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Fort Buchanan Army Community Services conducted its fourth quarter Newcomers Orientation at Fort Buchanan's Community Club and Conference Center, July 19, 2018.

A total of 35 facilitators presented their services, facilities and points of contact for important areas on and off the installation to an audience of approximately 50 newly arrived Service Members, civilian employees, and their families.

“On behalf of the Garrison's Command Group welcome to Puerto Rico and to Fort Buchanan,” said Garrison Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana.

He addressed the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) non-commissioned officers, advising them to “...find that



Arlene Romero, relocation manager with Army Community Service provided all the newly arrived service members, civilians and their family with a welcome package.



Joanne Fitzgerald, new Family MWR NAF support manager, along with service members register to receive installation information during the orientation.

super-person that always does the right thing, hold on to their cape and build your own leadership, package your own career, look for who's that rock, who's that mentor and remember you carry, mentor, your officers, and if you take care of your officers they'll take care of you,” Quintana concluded.

Fort Buchanan Newcomers Orientations provide all newly arrived Service members, civilian employees and their family members with first hand information on the services and facilities available to ensure quality of life at their new duty station and home.



Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana, garrison command sergeant major, welcomed the newly arrived Service Members, civilians and their families to Puerto Rico and to Fort Buchanan and addressed the non-commissioned officers.

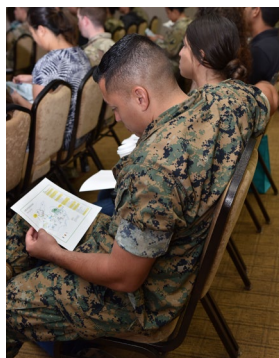


Francisco Rodriguez, Red Cross specialist provides Spc. Piñero information on the services the Red Cross, Puerto Rico Chapter has to offer.



A Soldier from the 1st Mission Support Command at Fort Buchanan poses questions to Tricare service personnel.

A new member of the Fort Buchanan community from the US Marine Corps accompanied by his family reviews a map of the installation provided by Family MWR.



The Army Air Force Exchange had a table with shoppers and information on the facilities they have in Puerto Rico.



# Fort Buchanan conducts it's fourth quarter Retirement Ceremony

Story and photo by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Aponte receives from Garrison Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass the U.S. Army Certificate of Retirement.

The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Buchanan honored two P.R. National Guardsmen in a retirement ceremony held at the installation's Brig. Gen. James A. Buchanan conference room July 19, 2018. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jorge Rivera Aponte retired after 28 years of honorable military service as a pilot in Army Aviation.

Sergeant First Class Edwin Mercado Colón retired after 31 years of honorable military service with his last duty assignment in the 124th Military Police Battalion (MP BN). "It's a great privilege to recognize these outstanding Soldiers as they conclude their career in the Army and begin a new well deserved chapter in their lives," said Col. Guy D. Bass, garrison commander. Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana, garrison command sergeant major presented both retirees with their Soldier For Life pins.



Sgt. 1st Class Edwin Mercado Colón receives from Col. Bass and Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana, garrison command sergeant major, the U.S. Army Certificate of Retirement.

## Fort Buchanan Police Department building it's workforce from within

Story and photo by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Buchanan's Police Department (FBPD) held a promotion and recognition ceremony at the Police Station July 11, 2018.

Maj. Tomás N. Acosta-Lamberty, Supervisory Police Officer (Operations Officer) performed the ceremony with the assistance of Libertad González, Directorate of Emergency Services administrative support assistant.

Police Officer (PO) Jorge Rodriguez was promoted from police officer to desk sergeant. Rodriguez has been with the installation's Police Department for four years, was Puerto Rico PD and is a U.S. Army Reservist in the 215th Military Police Co. with the 1st Mission Support Command. PO Manuel Rivera was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and is now a training officer. He has been with the FBPD since 2007 and has prior military service.



Flanked by fellow police officers, (Center L to R) Fort Buchanan Police Officers, Lt. Manuel Rivera and Jorge Rodriguez proudly display their Department of the Army Certificates of Promotion.

Obed Rodriguez joined FBPD on July 9, 2018, the Monday preceding this ceremony. Rodriguez, a member of the 225th MP Co. with the Puerto Rico National Guard. Police Officer Diana Soto also just completed an intense certification as a U.S. Army Police Officer in addition to having already completed a three month training in the

U.S. Army Civilian Police Academy at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri last year.

The addition and improvements in Fort Buchanan's law enforcement personnel further supports the public service and security missions to provide a safe environment for the installation's community.





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

### General Grilling Tips

Grilling is one of the favorite outdoor activities for those of us who enjoy a grilled steak, a slab of ribs or just having a good time with family and friends. To keep you and your loved ones safe while grilling, NFPA recommends the following general guidelines:

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Check the major connection points between the gas (propane) tank hose and the regulator and cylinder, and where the hose connects to the burners. Tighten if loose.
- Check the gas (propane) tank hose for the potential (gas) leaks.

There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.

If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.

Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.

There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.

When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.



## The Fort Buchanan Police Department

By Jorge Quiñones  
Police Chief

### Plain view items and walking back to your car

If you are reading these articles on personal safety and taking them to heart, then you are making life difficult for a thief. This third article of a series on personal safety has to do with valuables left inside your car while parked and the vulnerable time when you walk back and get inside your car.

Too often valuables, such as, laptops, money, purses, and cell phones, etc., are left in plain view inside cars. It is an invitation for someone to break into your car and take them away. The thief will simply break a window with a hard object, stick his hand inside your car, and run away with several of your valued items. Can you imagine yourself without your cell phone, it would be like the end of the world!

However, there is a simple fix to this problem. Don't leave your valuables in plain view, that's it! Take them with you or put them inside the trunk of your car, either way your valuables are not in plain view. Remember that a thief is a very busy and scared person. He or she has many more cars to break into and they are afraid of getting caught. Therefore, the thief needs to spend as little time as possible in one robbery, if you make it hard, he or she will move onto a softer target.

Another way to possibly become a crime statistic is when you return to your car. At times we park during the day to come back at night. Perhaps you parked your car at a location in the parking lot that has very poor or no lighting.

Now what? Well, there are several things you can do to minimize becoming a crime victim. First, park underneath or in the proximity of a lamppost so that it is lit at night. Second, call the security guard on duty to give you a ride or escort you to your car. Third, if there is no light from a lamppost and there are no security guards, start walking to your car and every 10th step or so look back, look to your left and to your right. You must appear strong and confident, bad guys don't want to be seen or recognized for obvious reasons.

Before getting to the door of your car, you should have your keys out and ready to open the door lock (unless you have a modern car with a keyless entry system). Once inside your car immediately engage the locks, turn on the engine and start rolling. Remember, the longer you remain idle, the more chances of being a crime victim. Some people get inside their cars and without locking the doors start looking for something; they get comfortable, adjusted; look at themselves in the mirror; they do everything but securing the doors. Not good!

Make it difficult for the thief. Don't be the next crime victim!



# Legal Corner

**Knowing the differences between civilian (PR) and military notarizations prevents unnecessary complications.**

Let's start with the Puerto Rico notarizations. Only attorneys that are certified as notary publics may notarize in PR. Every non-deed notarization (such as affidavits, sworn statements, and notarized applications) is consecutively numbered. Deeds (known as "escrituras" in Spanish) are mandated under PR law, among others, whenever the rights over real property are affected, for wills, and for powers of attorneys. A PR Notary-Public never surrenders the original deed, which must remain part of his/her annual books of deeds for the rest of his/her life and even thereafter, given the fact that when a notary passes away, his/her books of deeds are seized and stored away by the governmental Notarial Archivist for his/her region. Every civilian notarial act requires government fees of some sort, starting with a \$5 stamp for each affidavit or notarization.

Military notarizations work differently. They are, first of all, always free of charge. Their authority springs out of 10 U.S. Code, Sections 1044a-d. They may be carried out anywhere in the world by an authorized official, to wit: judge advocates, civilian attorneys, legal NCOS and civilian paralegals. But not everybody is eligible for these services. In general, only members of the armed forces (to include reserve and retired) and their dependents are entitled. Notarized military documents are exempt from any requirement of form, substance, formality, or recording required under any state law. The original of the notarized document will always be provided to the client and neither the military notary nor the legal office will keep a copy. This particularity may at times become critical. For example, if your civilian will is lost or destroyed, you can easily obtain another copy from either the notary or the archivist. Should your military will be lost or destroyed however, the testator will have no recourse except that of, should he/she remain alive and competent, have a new one made.

With regards to powers of attorney, which are the legal instruments most often prepared at the Installation Legal Office (ILO), Section 1044b specifically provides that a military power of attorney is exempt from any requirement of form, substance, formality, or recording otherwise required under the laws of a State; and shall be given the same legal effect as a power of attorney prepared and executed in accordance with the laws of the State concerned. So, if the power of attorney's content is legally sufficient for its intended purpose, it cannot be turned down because it was not prepared in accordance with Puerto Rico law.

Please do not hesitate to contact the ILO at (787) 707-5138 or at Building 390 should you have any questions or concerns regarding this or any other legal matter. Thank you for your service.

Lt. Col. Joseph D. Copeland  
Staff Judge Advocate



# Chaplain's Corner

**Earn it!**

In May we celebrated one of the most important holidays in our nation - Memorial Day, a day to honor those who faithfully served our nation. This national observance originally called Decoration Day, based on the tradition of decorating graves with flowers, wreaths and flags, remains at Arlington National Cemetery, where our Commander in Chief presents a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Our US Army Chaplain Corp. has three core competencies that guide all we do. They are: nurture the living, care for the wounded and honor the fallen.

Several times throughout my career I have been part of a funeral detail for a fallen Soldier. It has always been my utmost privilege to render such an honor. However, I realize that many times society and even Service Members forget our fallen. Maybe we don't have the time to put a flower or a flag on a tomb; but, is this the only way we can honor our fallen heroes? I believe this holiday call us to do more than that. We need to honor their great sacrifices by telling their stories and be grateful for the freedom we enjoy.

One of my favorite movies is "Saving Private Ryan". It begins in Normandy, at the American Cemetery and Memorial where an elderly man walks among the rows of gravestones accompanied by his wife, his daughter, his son-in-law, and three teenage granddaughters. He searches the crosses and stops at one, where he falls to his knees, crying. His family that walks behind him try to comfort him. It is the tombstone of Captain John Miller who took his men behind enemy lines to find Private James Ryan, whose three brothers were killed in combat. I am sure most of us have seen this movie. All of Captain Miller's men died in the search. Even Miller dies on the last scene. Ryan tells him that the planes are P-51 Mustangs, "tank busters." Miller calls them "Angels on our shoulders." He beckons Ryan closer and with his dying breath, tells him "Earn this. Earn it." Suddenly the movie goes back to the scene at the cemetery where an old Ryan is standing at Captain Miller's grave. He tells Miller that he hopes he has lived up to his wish and been worthy of all that Miller and his men did for him.

He asks his wife if he's led a good life and if he's a good man?

Today I echo these words: "Earn this, earn it." I ask, are we living a life up to the expectations of all the men and women who sacrificed their lives so we can live in freedom?

Let us reflect on the true meaning of the celebration of Memorial Day and honor our fallen comrades by living worthy of their sacrifices.

Living a life that proves we "Earn it!"

PRO DEO ET PATRIA  
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

CH (Maj.) Wanda I. Acevedo  
Garrison Command Chaplain





# Thousands celebrate Fort Buchanan's Independence Day

Story by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Buchanan observed the birth of the nation celebrating Independence Day July 7, 2018, at the Exchange parking area, with live music, 14 food trucks and kiosks, 36 artisans' booths, four Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) stations, golf lessons, rock climbing, paint ball, inflatables for the children and a live fireworks display.

Over 27,000 people attended the open-post event dancing to one of Puerto Rico's most famous bands El Gran Combo, Melina León and the rock and roll stylings of Zahara, enjoying lots of food, a safe environment and fun for the entire family.

U.S. Army Garrison Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass; Garrison Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana, accompanied by children of Service Members and Juan R. Sanfeliz, Jr. (Uncle Sam) sports specialist with DFMWR counted down to begin the colorful live fireworks display and patriotic music.

As the only Army installation in the Caribbean, Fort Buchanan takes the occasion to commemorate the freedom, history and legacy of the United States of America and thank its Service Members, civilians and families for their selfless service, honor, commitment and patriotism.



Food trucks offered a variety of meals, snacks and drinks to the multitude of hungry attendees to the event.



Over 27,000 people joined the celebration of the 242nd birthday of the United States of America in the safety and comfort of Fort Buchanan July 7, 2018.



Among the thousands attending the Independence Day celebration at Fort Buchanan were service members, veterans, civilians and their families, under the security of Fort Buchanan, P.R. National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve, Police.

A musician from the rock and roll band Zahara entertains the crowd with a guitar solo.



Fun and entertainment as the audience joined the live bands with song and dance.



Excited military children initiate the fireworks display with (L) Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana, and (R) Col. Bass.



Fort Buchanan's live fireworks display synchronized with patriotic music played tribute to the birth of the United States of America.

Photos by Neysa G. Maldonado, Marketing Office DFMWR



# Fort Buchanan Child Development Center construction moves forward

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist

The U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass, conducted a walk-thru July 3, 2018, at the construction site of the new Child Development Center (CDC) in Fort Buchanan's Coconut Grove housing area with USAG Command Sgt. Maj., Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana; Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Director, Maria "Angie" López; DPW Chief, Engineering Division, Luis E. Torres; Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) Director Tod A. Scalf; DFMWR Acting Child Youth Center Coordinator, Aida I. Aguilú; DPW



Garrison commander, Col. Guy D. Bass greets the staff going out on the construction site walk-thru of the CDC.

Engineering Technician and for this Installation Management Command (IMCOM) fiscally approved project Contracting Officer Representative, Gustavo O. Villaronga; DPW Contractor and Assistant to Villaronga, José A. Márquez and Atlantic Marine Construction (AMC) Co. Project Superintendent, Robert Ocampo.

Groundbreaking for this \$15 million dollar project was May 2017. It is to date 45% completed and is expected to be at 70% by the end of 2018 with a projected completion date of April 2019.

The new CDC has a projected area of 29,600 square feet with 114 parking spaces, including five for handicap. According to Villaronga, everything is running per schedule.



The new CDC, a \$15 million dollar project is scheduled to be completed by April 2019, it will provide a modern, safe and secure facility for military and eligible federal children.

He is in constant communication with IMCOM, providing weekly reports that are validated by Ocampo.

"This makes things successful, having great communication," said Angie López. "This project supports the military community with better

facilities for service member's children and eligible federal partners," López concluded.

"At the end of the day we resolve issues and 'Get It Done!'" said Luis Torres.



José A. Márquez, DPW contractor shows Col. Bass areas within the new facilities before the site walk-thru.



(L to R) Garrison Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana inquires about interior construction areas to DPW project Contracting Officer Representative, Gustavo O. Villaronga; and Márquez.



(L to R) DPW Director, Angie López answers questions from Family MWR Director, Tod A. Scalf and Family MWR Acting CYC Coordinator, Aida I. Aguilú.



Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana looked up to the ceiling of the facility noting the protected fixtures while discussing interior construction details with Ocampo.

Atlantic Marine Construction (AMC) Co. Project Superintendent, Robert Ocampo briefs the participants of the construction site walk-thru.





# Garrison Chaplain Assistant retires after 36 years of honorable military service

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist

In an emotional ceremony, Sergeant First Class Edwin Ruiz, garrison chaplain assistant retired after 36 years of proud and faithful service to the U.S. Army July 2, 2018 at Fort Buchanan's chapel, before family, friends and the Fort Buchanan military and civilian communities.

"Today you will be part of history. We will witness the Retirement Ceremony and honor a distinguished non-commissioned officer for his 36 years of outstanding and honorable service," said Grissel Rosa, garrison public affairs officer and master of ceremony for the event.

Staff Sgt. Gustavo Padilla and Spc. Luis Cosme with the 1st Mission Support Command G-1 Honor Guard detail, performed the flag folding ceremony, a symbol of gratitude



Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana spoke admirably about the service, sacrifice and dedication of Sgt. 1st Class Ruiz.

honoring those brave Soldiers who have proudly served the nation.

"During recovery efforts of hurricane Maria, his significant contributions impacted more than one hundred families and Soldiers, and three local municipalities with nearly ten thousand life-support supplies distributed. His efforts helped relieve some of the worries and concerns of service members', families and helped keep them focused on recovery efforts in their community," said Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana, garrison command sergeant major.

"On behalf of the Command Group and the entire Fort Buchanan community, we sincerely wish you, Carmen, Alexandria and Isaiah a

Ruiz' family, fellow service members, Fort Buchanan staff and friends gathered to wish him well as he begins this new stage in his career as a U.S. Army retiree and "Soldier For Life".



Sgt. 1st Class Ruiz in his remarks thanked his family, the service members, civilians and friends who aided him during his honorable career in the U.S. Army.

Honor Guard Spc. Cosme respectfully salutes as the U.S. flag is presented to Sgt. 1st Class Ruiz.



wonderful retirement from the United States Army. Congratulations my friend, you will always be my brother-in-arms, you will always be a Soldier for life, thank you for your faithful service to this nation, to the United States Army, the United States Army Reserve and for always being there to help me out. God Speed, may you always be blessed," said Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana.

Sgt. 1st Class Ruiz was presented with the folded U.S. flag, the Meritorious Service Medal, U.S. Army Certificate of Retirement, and a Certificate of Retirement presented by the Army Chief of Chaplain. His spouse, Carmen was awarded the U.S. Army Certificate of Appreciation, a Certificate of Appreciation presented by the Army Chief of Chaplains and



Ruiz was awarded by the President of the United States a Certificate of Appreciation for military service and is seen here receiving from Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana the Meritorious Service Medal. .

a U.S. Army Garrison Fort Buchanan Certificate of Appreciation presented by Command Sgt. Maj. Quintana.

In appreciation for their consistent support during his military career Ruiz gave bouquets of flowers to his wife, his daughter Alexandria, his sisters Mildred and Elizabeth Ruiz and a plaque to his son Isaiah.

Maj. Wanda I. Acevedo, garrison chaplain presented Ruiz with a mounted sculpture whose plaque read, "To SFC Edwin Ruiz for 36 years of faithful service to the United States Army. 'Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'" Matthew chapter 25: 23, Pro Deo et Patria, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, July 2, 2018.



Sgt. 1st Class Ruiz' family proudly pose for a group photograph after the event.



# Fort Buchanan hosts Public Affairs Network Meeting

Story by Grissel Rosa  
Public Affairs Officer

USAG Fort Buchanan Public Affairs Office hosted a meeting with the participation of twenty public affairs officers (PAO), specialists and public information officers (PIO) from different federal agencies and military commands in Puerto Rico, June 27, 2018 at garrison headquarters.

The theme “Information Integration” served as basis for PAOs and PIOs from Customs and Border Protection, Veterans Affairs Regional Office, San Juan; U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services; Food and Drug Administration, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Dept. of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; U.S. Coast Guard, Puerto Rico National Guard, 1st Mission Support Command, Small Business Administration, FEMA, American Red Cross, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Rural Development, to share lessons learned from Hurricane Maria to improve communication initiatives and identify



(L to R) Maj. Paul W. Dahlen, PAO, PR National Guard; Ricardo Castrodad, PAO, U.S. Coast Guard; Ensign Stacy N. Urreola, U.S. Coast Guard; Delyris Aquino, PAO, FEMA and Grissel Rosa, PAO, USAG Fort Buchanan shared experiences and provided recommendations to improve the exchange of information in the event of natural disasters such as Hurricane Maria as well as other emergency situations. The PAOs Network Meetings will contribute to the readiness, response and resiliency of all agencies and commands.

resources.

The group concurred to expand the network and incorporate local government and municipal public affairs officers from various offices such as: Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency, Health Department, State Department, Security Bureau, Dept. of Education, Ports Authority, Dept. of Transportation, and municipalities, among others. The meeting is scheduled for mid-August 2018.

One of the common challenges

identified by PAOs and PIOs was doing more with less personnel, equipment and other resources. Therefore the group emphasized the need to build these partnerships between federal, military, local government and municipal counterparts that will allow sharing of factual information in a timely manner in support of mission and readiness. Among the many benefits of these strategic partnerships is the opportunity to expand communication venues to tell the Army's story.



“Information Integration” was the theme of the Public Affairs Network, Meeting held 27 June 2018 at USAG Fort Buchanan headquarters with the participation of 20 public affairs/public information officers from federal agencies in Puerto Rico.

Photos by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist



# Logistics Readiness Center staff member awarded Dept. of the Army Safety Award

Story by Onel Colón  
Director Logistics Readiness Center

Major General Duane A. Gamble, commanding general of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command presented Anibal Alvarez, logistics management specialist at the LRC in Fort Buchanan, the Army Individual Award of Excellence in Safety - Senior Level Department of the Army Civilian June 27, 2018 in Fort Hood, Tx. “The Army Safety Awards Program is designed to recognize, promote and motivate success in accident prevention through risk management by recognizing the accomplishments in the field of safety by individuals and units. It features positive measurements of current Army goals, improved plaques and certificates, and streamlined submission procedures. The program also allows

organizations to develop additional awards tailored to meet their unique accident prevention and safety recognition goals,” excerpt from U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, June 13, 2018, to read the entire article go to:

[https://www.army.mil/.../army\\_names\\_fiscal\\_2017\\_safety\\_award\\_...](https://www.army.mil/.../army_names_fiscal_2017_safety_award_...)



Photo by U.S. Army

## Fort Buchanan Equal Opportunity Specialist promoted

Story and photo by Rosie Irizarry  
Public Affairs Specialist

Roberto González, garrison Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) specialist was surprised when he was called forward before the start of the weekly Command Staff Meeting by Garrison Commander, Col. Guy D. Bass, to be presented with a Department of the Army Certificate of Promotion June 26, 2018 at Brig. Gen. James A. Buchanan Conference Room. Roberto González was promoted to the civilian rank of GS-12. He has been EEO specialist for the past two years, serving a civilian population of 435 people. The certificate reads, “This promotion recognizes demonstrated ability and is a credit to both the individual and the Army,” it is effective July 8, 2018. The Fort Buchanan Equal Opportunity Office strives to ensure fair treatment of all persons based on merit, fitness



and capability in support of readiness, it enforces federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person’s race, color, religion, sex

(including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information.



# Boy Scouts of America Troop 514 camps out at Fort Buchanan



Story and photos by Anibal Negrón

Chief, Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division

Members of Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop 514 from Ponce, Puerto Rico visited USAG Fort Buchanan June 22-24, 2018 to complete trainings in energy and water conservation, solid waste reduction, recycling, endangered species awareness (Boa and "Palo de Rosa"), insect and plants monitoring (National Ecological Observatory Network) and fire safety with Fort Buchanan's Firefighters.

The troop camps at garrison throughout the year to do volunteer



work in support of Fort Buchanan's Natural Resource Conservation. Some of the initiatives completed earned

them badges, such as planting trees for a new Experimental and Educational Endangered Species Enhancing Area that harbors "Palo de Rosa" specimens.

This community outreach project with BSA Troop 514 raises awareness on environmental stewardship, as well as stakeholder involvement towards mission readiness, sustainability,

community resiliency, and strategic partnerships.



Fort Buchanan firefighters taught the members of Troop 514 about fire safety and they enjoyed learning how to use the fire hose.



Enellis S. Mulero Oliveras, graduate student of the University of P.R. and her field assistant, Sergio Paulo Morales Vidot, undergraduate biology student at Inter American University provided workshops on Endangered Species Management and Bird Assessment.



Edgardo Garced-Meléndez with DFMWR taught the Boy Scouts about recycling and environmental protection.



Anibal Negrón, chief, environmental division in DPW welcomed the troops and provided some insight as to the day's events.

The Boy Scout troop from Ponce did volunteer work by planting seedlings of endangered specie "Palo de Rosa with the assistance of Mulero Oliveras.





**SUICIDE  
PREVENTION  
MONTH**  
SEPTEMBER 2018

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**STRONG.**

YOU'RE  
**READY.**

YOU'RE  
**ESSENTIAL.**

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