



Group of children try camouflaged face paint during the first youth weekend camp at the "Albergue Olimpico" 18-20 February 2011.

First youth weekend camp

Albergue Olimpico, Salinas—It was around 1400hrs, Friday 18 Feb 2011, when the first group of parents and children arrived to participate in the first Youth Weekend Camp for Reservist's dependents in the island. Army Reserve personnel from the continental United States and from the 1st Mission Command were receiving the children, as

their parents finished the registration paperwork. "The happiness is contagious today.

"This camp is an excellent idea"

**- Sgt. Julio Acosta
C co 35th Sig Bn**

The reservists residing in Puerto Rico were asking for a long time to have this event

in the island and today it has become a reality", said Marta Feliciano, Child and Youth Support Services Specialist.

One of the first parents to arrive was Sergeant Julio Acosta Portalatin, from Puerto Nuevo. He brought his son Abimael Acosta, 11 years old.

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Sworn in



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hits 10 yrs



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From the RSG's



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1st MSC Gazette

*Promoting, Recruiting
and
Growing*

Brig. Gen Fernando Fernandez
Commander

COL Miguel Isaac
Deputy Commander

COL Alfredo Gerena
Chief Of Staff

Capt. Carlos M. Cuebas
Public Affairs Officer

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1st MSC's new Command Sergeant Major

Effective 4 April 2011, the First Mission Support Command has Command Sgt. Maj. Rene R. Rivera Casanova as its top enlisted noncommissioned officer. Rivera is not a stranger to the 1st Mission Support Command, as he comes from the 166th Regional Support Group (RSG), where he served as Brigade command sergeant major.

Rivera enlisted in the U.S. Army in June 1981, right after graduating from the Carlos Escobar Lopez High School, in the humble town of Loiza, Puerto Rico. His first job in the U.S. Army was as Radio Operator.

During his career, the command sergeant major has attended numerous military schools, including the Sergeant Major Academy Class 55, the Command Sergeant Major Course and the 90A Theater Logistic Course. He holds a Master of Arts in Human Resources Development from Webster University in Saint Louis, Missouri, and a

Master Certificate in Organizational Leadership from Villanova University in Florida. Rivera deployed with the 166th RSG in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and served as the Garrison (Post) command sergeant major in Contingency Operating Base (COB) Speicher Tikrit, Iraq.

As Rivera assumes the U.S. Army Reserve top enlisted position in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, his top priorities include the welfare of Soldiers and their families. He also believes in maintaining a combat-seasoned force that is ready to deploy around the world in support of full spectrum of operations. One of his immediate goals is to provide the right leadership by coaching, teaching and mentoring a noncommissioned officer corp that will lead the way ahead during this period of persistence conflict. Additionally, the command sergeant major believes in preserving the Army values, costumes, and traditions that make the noncommissioned



CSM Rene R. Rivera

officer corps the backbone of the Army.

"We need noncommissioned officers (NCO's) who know what right looks like and do what is right, on and off duty. We need NCO's who set the right example in everything they do, and who are spiritually, mentally and physically strong. We need NCOs that are consummate professionals who sign their work with excellence", stated the newest 1st MSC command sergeant major

Rivera's wife, Marlene, and his step-son Brandon are ready to continue serving the U.S. Army Reserve and the 1st MSC, in this new phase of his lustrous career.

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This camp is an excellent idea and a great opportunity for our kids to get away from the video games and share this experience with other kids. I recently arrived from a deployment and my son experienced firsthand the sacrifice of being a military dependent. Now, with this camp, he can see and experience the great benefits that come along with that sacrifice", said the non commissioned officer who is assigned to Charlie Company, 35th Signal Battalion.

Another parent that expressed his excitement was Sergeant First Class Felix Rivera from Ponce. He brought Alexa and Nicole, who are 13 years old, and Delmarie and Felix who are 8 years old. "This youth camp

confirms that the U.S. Army Reserve always takes care of our families. These events give me great satisfaction and put me at ease because I know that whenever I am away from the family, the Army Reserve will take care of them".

The event also served to reconnect Mrs. Janet Rios Beltran with the military. Rios Beltran lost her husband, Specialist Juan Carlos Luna Lopez, last year. Specialist Luna was conducting post mobilization training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, in preparation for deployment. "I feel happy of being able to participate in this camp. It is great to be able to bring my son to this event. I am very grateful to the U.S. Army Reserve in Puerto Rico. They have treated me and my son, like a family" said Rios Beltran, while observed her son play with other children.

Ninety children within the ages of 5-17 years old participated in the youth camp, free of charge. Camp counselors were available throughout the weekend teaching the participants on sports techniques and guiding them, while enjoying the Puerto Rico's Olympic Center facilities.

This youth weekend camp is part of the United States Army Reserve effort to take care of military families. The 1st Mission Support Command Family Program offers education, training, referrals and periodic contact to the Soldiers' families during their mobilization. Through these initiatives, the United States Army Reserve in Puerto Rico ensures that military families are ready to face periods of separation.



Colonel Alfredo Gerena, 1st MSC Chief of Staff, helps a child getting his face camouflaged.

See all 1st MSC
photos on
www.flickr.com/photos/1stmisc





Ask your buddy

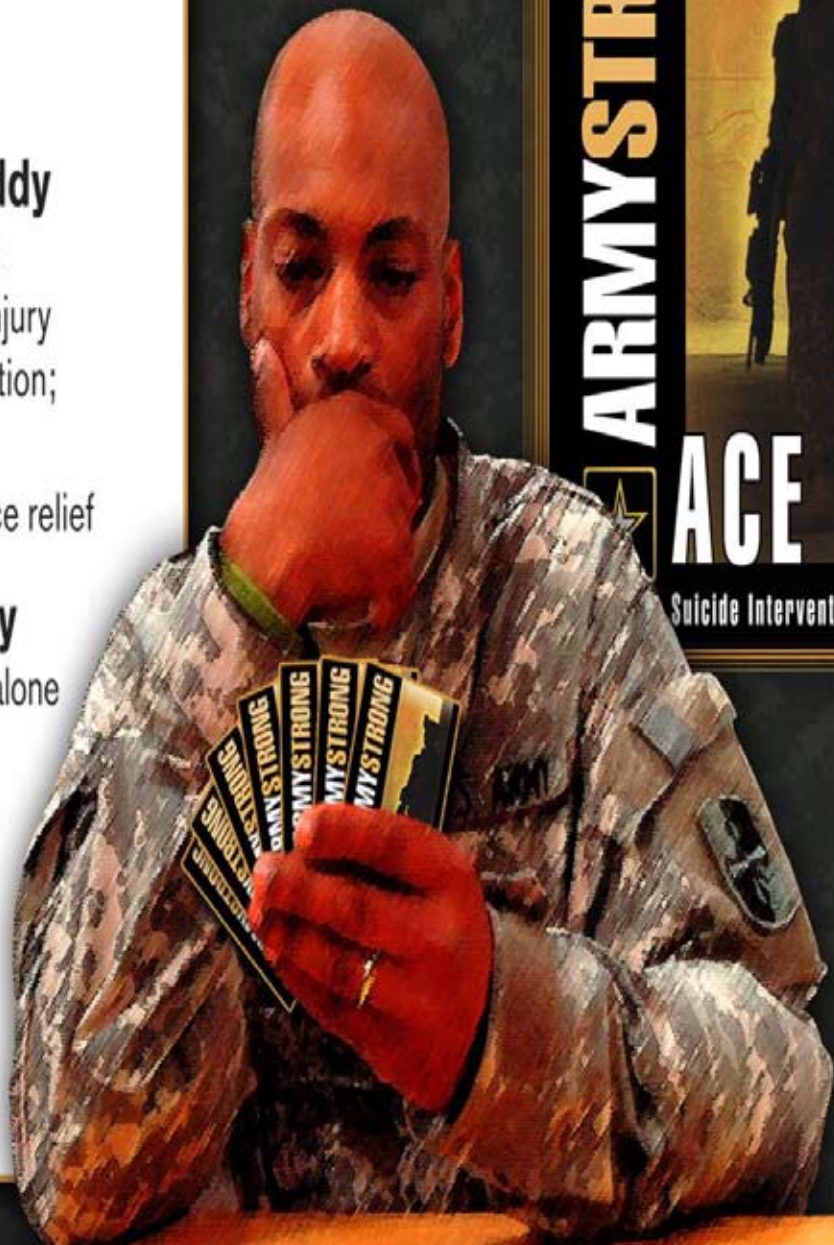
- Have the courage to ask the question, but stay calm
- Ask the question directly, e.g. Are you thinking of killing yourself?

Care for your buddy

- Remove any means that could be used for self-injury
- Calmly control the situation; do not use force
- Actively listen to produce relief

Escort your buddy

- Never leave your buddy alone
- Escort to the chain of command, a Chaplain, a behavioral health professional, or a primary care provider



SUICIDE AWARENESS

1st MSC Inspector General Oath of Office

Fort Buchanan, PR – In a simple but significant ceremony at the 1st MSC Headquarters on 13 February 2011, Brig. General Fernando Fernández administered the oath of office to the two newest members of the 1st MSC Inspector General office: MAJ Sandra Medina and Master Sgt. Myrna Rivera.

“I am very proud to have the chance to bring you on board as part of the 1st MSC IG team” said Fernandez, seconds before starting the ceremony.

“I feel very happy as I become one of the newest IG team members in the 1st MSC. I am ready to provide support to all the Soldiers that require our advice”, said MAJ Sandra Medina shortly after being sworn in.

“It is an honor to belong to the 1st MSC's Inspector General team”

-MSG Myrna Rivera

“It is an honor to belong to the 1st MSC Inspector General team. I will do my best to help our Soldiers”, said MSG Myrna Rivera.

The ceremony creates a bon-



Brig. Gen. Fernandez takes Maj. Sandra Medina's oath of office.

ding trust between the commander and the IGs. It is during the sworn in ceremony that the commander gives the IG the full spectrum of their duties, with the ultimate intent of upholding Army standards and the readiness of the command.

The Inspector General serves their commanders and their commands by executing the four IG functions: teaching, inspecting, providing assistance and investigating, with the specific purpose of enhancing the command's discipline, readiness, and operational war fighting capability.

MAJ Steven González, the chief

IG officer in the 1st MSC, also expressed his contentment. “I am honored to have these outstanding Soldiers in my office, to uphold the readiness of the command”.

“I feel very happy as I become one of the newest IG team members in the 1st MSC”

-MAJ Sandra Medina



U.S. ARMY

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INTERVENE ★ ACT ★ MOTIVATE

Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Prevention

INTERVENE

When I recognize a threat to my fellow Soldiers, I will have the personal courage to **INTERVENE** and prevent Sexual Assault. I will condemn acts of Sexual Harassment. I will not abide obscene gestures, language or behavior. I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I will **INTERVENE**.

ACT

You are my brother, my sister, my fellow Soldier. It is my duty to stand up for you, no matter the time or place. I will take **ACTION**. I will do what's right. I will prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. I will not tolerate sexually offensive behavior. I will **ACT**.

MOTIVATE

We are American Soldiers, **MOTIVATED** to keep our fellow Soldiers safe. It is our mission to prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. We will denounce sexual misconduct. As Soldiers, we are all **MOTIVATED** to take action. We are strongest...together.

www.preventsexualassault.army.mil

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Paper Clips celebrates 10 years serving Fort Buchanan



Mr. Jorge Cosme as he works in a Paper Clips busy day.

Fort Buchanan – Paper Clips is an outlet for office products manufactured by the National Industries for the Blind (NIB). The store celebrated last 22 February 2011, its 10 year anniversary of serving customers at Fort Buchanan.

The beginnings of the stores go back to 1936. Then the Winston-Salem Company started with a small workshop within their plant in North Carolina, employing six blind workers to manufacture mattresses, brooms, chairs and other items. The group kept growing to become National Industries for

the Blind (NIB) which manufactures the supplies sold at Paper Clips.

“Visually impaired people tell me over and over again that even though they cannot serve our country in uniform, by working in Paper Clips

they feel they are serving the country indirectly”, said Jerry O’Hagan, Director of Base Supply Centers.

During the event, one of the Fort Buchanan’s Paper Clips store employee received a cash award for his hard work and dedication. “Out of all the 400 visually impaired employees, Jorge Cosme has done the most to excel”, said O’Hagan. Brig. General Fernando Fernández was also present at the event. “Jorge represents what the young people in Puerto Rico can do to achieve success, despite their circumstances”, said the 1st MSC Commanding General

“Jorge represents what the young people in Puerto Rico can do to achieve success, despite their circumstances”

-Brig. Gen Fernandez

Notes from the Regional Support Groups



Soldiers maintain proper interval during the road march exercise.

210th RSG Road March

Ramey, Aguadilla- On 12 February 2011, the Headquarters and Headquarters detachment (HHD), 210th Regional Support Group conducted a 2.5 miles tactical road march. 20 Soldiers departed at 0730hrs from the Golf course entrance and finished at “Las Ruinas” around 0845hrs. Soldiers were evaluated on how to follow the proper distance on a formation and conduct a proper halt action. Following the march, the soldiers were trained on how to navigate using GPS (DAGR) and how to employ hand grenades.



Soldiers conduct After Action Review (AAR) at the conclusion of the road march.

Notes from the Regional Support Groups



Instructor helps Soldiers with their aiming.

166th RSG PMI

Fort Buchanan, PR- Soldiers from the 166th RSG conducted a preliminary marksmanship instruction (PMI) on 12 Feb. 2011. The training was conducted in preparation for their upcoming Weapons Qualification exercise. Spc. Humberto Davis trained Soldiers using the MACS 2000 system. The system is a M16 marksmanship trainer virtual simulator that helps the Soldier improve their skills on qualification.



Soldiers practice their marksmanship skills.

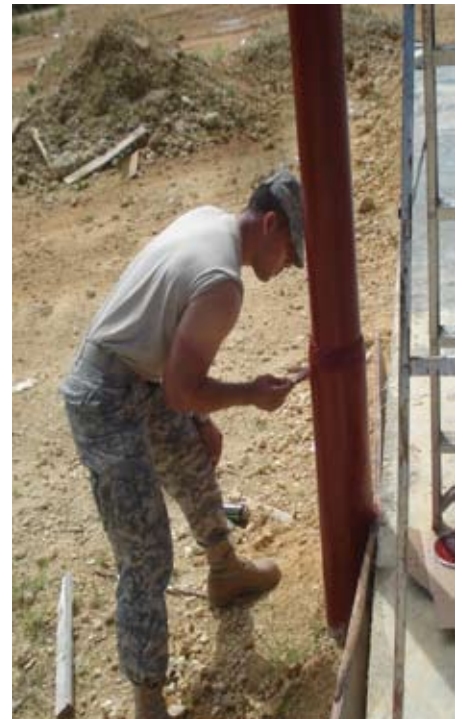


Sgt. 1st Class Rivera includes himself in the photo of his master piece.

448th Eng. Bn. Projects

Quebradillas, PR: Soldiers from the 448th Engineer Battalion assisted the Quebradillas Municipal Government in the construction of a basketball court in a rural community of the municipality.

The Soldiers prepared the terrain, constructed a 100' x 55' concrete slab and painted the court. The project was completed in three phases. SFC Samuel Rivera Ramos designed and painted the 1st MSC logo in the center of the court.



448th Eng. Bn. conducts many community outreach projects in Puerto Rico throughout the year

1st MSC female Soldiers honored by local press



Fort Buchanan: Four female Soldiers from the 1st Mission Support Command had a taste of what is like to be in the show business. In commemoration of the International Women's week (6-12 March 2011), several important puertorrican media outlets showed great interest in getting to know the female Soldiers assigned to the command.

The 1st MSC ambassadors before the local media included Captain Wanda Acevedo, 210th Regional Support Group Chaplain, Staff Sergeant Saby Calo, 1st MSC Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment Personnel Administration Noncommissioned Officer, Staff Sergeant

Lorraine Dejesus, supply Noncommissioned Officer for the 471st Engineer Company, and Staff Sergeant Aileen Vega, Heavy Equipment Operator assigned to the 346th Transportation Battalion.

"Be a mother and a soldier must be extremely difficult."

- Nuevo Dia reporter

The four female Soldiers were interviewed in the WAPA TV show "Entre Nosotras", the Telemundo TV Show "Dia a Dia", the TV newscast "Televisi-centro al Amanecer", El Nuevo

Dia newspaper (newspaper with the largest circulation in the island) and "Notiuno en la Manana", a prime time, island wide radio show.

"From here, to Hollywood", said SSG Saby Calo, while was getting ready to appear in "Entre Nosotras". This was the first time that most of the Soldiers had any contact with the press or any presence in the media. However, they had a spectacular performance and did an excellent representation of the female Soldiers assigned to the command.

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All news reporters conducting the interviews expressed their deep admiration to our Soldiers' service. "It is hard to be a mother. Be a mother and a Soldier must be extremely difficult. It is difficult to me as a civilian to grasp how you can manage all your roles" said Yaritza Rivas, news reporter from El Nuevo Dia, while conducted the interview with Dejesus, Vega and Calo.

We are very proud to represent the puertorrican woman

- Capt. Acevedo

Leslie Cruz, a Televiscentro en la Manana news reporter, was particularly interested in knowing the motivation for a woman to join the United States Army Reserve. "How can you unify all the roles that a woman has and on top of that be a Soldier?" asked the reporter in several occasions, almost implying that it was impossible to achieve. "We are very proud to represent the puertorrican woman; a woman that is a hard worker and who does not fear a challenge. For us, facing the challenge of being in the US Army Reserve has been another achievement" said Captain Wanda Acevedo in one of the interviews.



166th RSG supply personnel proudly present their certificates, after completing the Basic Supply Training

Basic Supply Training Class at 166th

Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico: Property accountability and supply discipline are paramount in today's Army Reserve. In fact, the success of any operation is determined, in many ways, on how well the commander and his or her staff manage the different classes of supplies and the unit's property.

The Army Reserve standard for accounting for supplies is to treat every piece of equipment as if it was your own property. The Army Command Supply Discipline Program (CSDP), which is implemented by Army Regulation (AR) 710-2, is the prime reflection of that standard. The CSDP provides Soldiers and leaders alike a common set of rules for safeguarding resources. In accordance with AR 710-2, "the best means of ensuring

command supply discipline is to be proactive and not reactive in supply operations. Supply discipline does not lend itself to infrequent emphasis. Enforcing supply discipline and compliance with regulatory requirements demands constant command emphasis. Commanders and Supervisors must routinely adhere to CSDP procedures and foster supply discipline at all levels". With these facts in mind, and in order to keep their staff up to date with the latest changes on supply regulations, the 166th Regional Support Group (RSG), S4 section, sponsored a Basic Supply Training. It was the first time this training was conducted in the island. The course was conducted from 28 Feb – 3 March 2011,

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at the Puerto Nuevo United States Army Reserve facilities.

As part of the classes, the students received a refresher session on hand receipt procedures, lateral transfers, turn in procedures and command discipline programs. The training also included block of instructions on financial liability of property loss (FLIPL), supply room operations and minor property book adjustments.

Mr. Victor Florence, a subject matter expert (SME) from the United States Army Reserve Command G4, was the instructor during the training. "I really enjoyed the students' participation in the training. They are true professionals", stated Florence who flew from Fort McPherson, Georgia to conduct this training.

1st MSC Soldier accepted to West Point



Spc. Ryne A. Flores, center, is flanked by his mother Eydie Flores and Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernández, commander of the 1st MSC

Fort Buchanan, PR: 18 March 2011 was a historic day in the 1st Mission Support Command. On that day Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernández received in his office Spc. Ryne Aaron Flores, the first United States Army Reserve Soldier from Puerto Rico who has been accepted to the West Point preparatory school.

through and we support him 100%", said Eydie L. Flores, mother of the Soldier.

Being accepted to the United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS) is not an easy task. The USMAPS is primarily an academic institution that accepts Soldiers from diverse backgrounds and challenges them to meet and exceed West Point's rigorous admissions standards. The academy receives 20,000 applications every year. Only 1,300 candidates get selected. This year.

Flores, who is assigned to the 448th Engineer Battalion, was one of those selected to fill one of the 68 available seats for the United States Army Reserve.

See WEST POINT next page

What is Strong Bonds?



Strong bonds is a chaplain led program that builds relationship resiliency?

To find out more visit
www.strongbonds.org

"We are really proud. This is a unique historical achievement, not only for you, but for the Army Reserve in Puerto Rico as a whole and specifically to our command" said the commanding general of the 1st MSC in Fort Buchanan.

"I feel very proud of him; he has always done very well academically and physically. He has wanted this since the age of four, so he has followed

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He will report on 18 July 2011 and, once he successfully completes the preparatory school, he will go directly into the West Point regular program, with an expected graduation date of summer 2016.

"I am ready to go now"
-Spc. Flores

"The great advantage (of the West Point Preparatory School) is that the applicant does not need the nomination from his or her Congressman. They can apply and get selected with only their unit's commander nomination", stated Lt. Col. Jose O. Olmos, West Point Admissions Representative and 1st MSC liaison for the USMAPS.

Those 1st MSC Soldiers interested in applying to the USMAPS can visit the West Point website www.admissions.usma.edu/Soldiers or can contact Lt. Col. Olmos at jose.olmos@us.army.mil.

Flores received the official West Point Preparatory School admission certificate and a 1st MSC Command Coin from the 1st MSC commander's hands. "I feel excited. I did not expect to receive it (the admissions certificate) like this. I am pretty excited and ready to go now", stated Flores, who is currently residing in Jobos, Isabela.



Reservists from the 475th Eng. Co. trained in situations that replicate, as realistically as possible, those they will experience overseas.

475th Eng. Co. completes mobilization training

By Tom Michele, Eagle Systems – Members of the 475th Engineer Company recently completed their post-mobilization training at Fort McCoy, Wis., preparing for a deployment to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

Since their arrival at Fort McCoy in January, Soldiers from the 475th Engineer Company have participated in extensive training on equipment and procedures to learn skills they will need to be successful in their mission overseas.

Company Commander, Maj. Hector Castaneda said the unit has come together, creating a cohesive environment during the extensive training in

preparation for future operations. "The troop morale and the motivation are high across the company. We have Soldiers with great initiative and leadership skills. We have Soldiers from several states and, with the support of their families, will increase the force of the unit and make it strong."

"I'm very proud and confident that the 475th's Soldiers will perform up to Army standards and I know they will exceed in each mission they are tasked to do," Castaneda said.

While at Fort McCoy, the unit planned and executed training to provide them with specific

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combat, survival and warrior skills.

This training is the cornerstone for preparing Soldiers for deployment. Soldiers train in an environment and in situations that replicate, as realistically as possible, those they will experience overseas. Soldiers lived in tents in a field location for a portion of the time they were training at Fort McCoy. The training area was surrounded by concertina wire, entry-control points and guard towers. Soldiers traveled in convoys. They encountered role players posing as civilians on the battlefield or opposing forces. The training is repetitive, and its intensity increases with each iteration. The ultimate goal is to have Soldiers respond intuitively to threats and situations they encounter.

The list of required training is extensive. The 475th participated in training related to weapons qualification, Army warrior training, physical fitness, leadership, combat life saving, improvised explosive devices, mounted combat-patrol operations, urban operations, entry-control point operations, motor-vehicle operations and maintenance, detainee operations, hand-to-hand combat, reflexive fire, night live-fire, culture/customs/language, land naviga-

tion, and much more.

The 475th's training culminated in a mission rehearsal exercise, which incorporated and tested all aspects of the individual and collective training they had received under conditions similar to what they will encounter while deployed.

Prior to deployment, the unit received additional military occupation specialty training. The company's senior enlisted Soldier, Master Sgt. Harry Gonzalez, said all 475th Soldiers have been through a complete process in which the unit is beginning to work as a whole. "The mobilization training at Fort McCoy and all the requirements for mobilization have been performed. Now the training has fulfilled all of the expectations of the unit and we are well prepared to go to war."

Did you know?

TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) is a premium-based health plan available worldwide to Selected Reserve members of the Ready Reserve (and their families) who are not eligible for or enrolled in the Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB)

Monthly Premiums
TRS premium rates are established annually on an calendar year basis. You are required to pay the monthly premiums if you decide to enroll in TRS. The 2011 monthly premiums are:

TRS Member-Only coverage: \$53.16 per month.
TRSMember-and-Family coverage: \$197.76 per month.

1st MSC Families are Army Strong!!



First Mission Support Promotions!



Fort Buchanan, PR- The caliber of the 1st MSC Soldiers is evident. In the last couple of months, we have had several promotion ceremonies. Moving clockwise, we can see Master Sgt. Walter Gonzales promotion. Next, Capt. Jose Ruiz Espada gets promoted to Major. The following picture depicts the newly promoted Lt. Cols. Elgin Mercado and Franco J. Nieves. Next, we see Lt. Col. Steven L. Gonzales during his promotion. The last photo shows 2nd Lt. Neryannie Figueroa getting her new rank of 1st Lt. pinned on by her husband.



Information Superiority



After receiving a historic 85 million investment in training and equipment for the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T), the 1st MSC has achieved information superiority by being able to provide much needed communications capabilities such as situational information, collaborative planning, sensor to shooter linkages, continuous operations and focused logistics, as required by the Army Vision 2011.