

1st Mission Support Command – U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico



1st MSC Gazette



“Garita Warriors! Always First! Always Ready!”

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ON THE COVER:
**ARMY RESERVE
AND NATIONAL
GUARD TRAIN
TOGETHER
4-5**

**THE 475TH EN CO DEPLOYS
TO THE MIDDLE EAST 6**

**Fort Buchanan
Groundbreaking & Gate
Dedication 12-13**

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1st MSC Gazette

Contents

PAGE

4-5 Army Reserve & Army National Guard Train together

6 The 475th Engineer Company deploys to the middle east

7 Memorial Day

8-9 Building for the Future

10 Preparing for Man-made disasters

11 Armed Forces Day Run

12 Groundbreaking

13 Fort Buchanan Gate Dedication

Brig. Gen. Alberto C. Rosende
Commander

Col. Hector Moran
Deputy Commander

Maj. Ruth Castro
Public Affairs Officer

2nd Lt. Christian Ferrer
Public Affairs Officer

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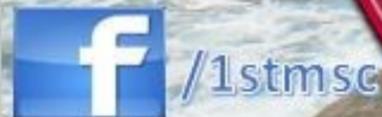
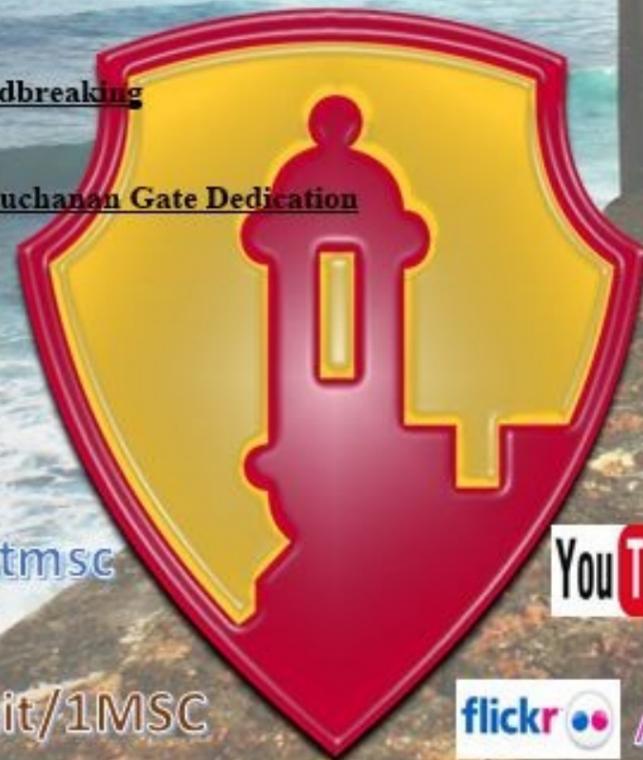
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E-mail submission to the 1st MSC Public Affairs Officer at ruth.castro.mil@mail.mil

1st MSC Phone Numbers

Commander	787-707-4928
Deputy Commander	787-707-4944
Safety Specialist	787-707-4182
Personnel	787-707-4164
Plans	787-707-4171
Public Affairs	787-707-4988



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Army Reserve and Army National Guard Train Together



Staff Sgt. Gilberto Robles verifies the back door of the Land Craft Mechanized (LCM) has been fully lowered for the container to be placed on the LCM at Ceiba, PR on June, 21st. (Photo by: 2nd Lt. Christian Ferrer, US Army)

CEIBA, Puerto Rico – The 390th Seaport Operations Company (SPOC), US Army Reserve – Puerto Rico, and the Land Craft Detachment (LCD), Puerto Rico Army National Guard, came together to enhance their capabilities during their Home Station Annual Training, 13-24 June.

The purpose of this training was to conduct a joint mission between the 390th SPOC and the LCD. Getting hands on training with the heavy ground vehicles and Land Craft Mechanized (LCM) in order to maintain Soldier Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) readiness.

The 390th SPOC Soldiers moved 11,000-pound containers onto the LCM by utilizing a Rough Terrain Container Handler (RTCH).

An RTCH can support up to 50,000lbs.

Staff Sgt. Gilberto Robles from the PRANG and Captain of the LCM, sees the value added to multicomponent training. “I am glad to see the Army Reserve and National Guard working together, hopefully this happens more often” said Robles, “It gives us the opportunity to bond and share our stories.”

Before any Soldier is allowed on the LCM, a safety briefing is given to ensure everyone is properly wearing the life vest and knows what safety measures to take in case of an emergency. Spc. Ricardo Cartagena from the PRANG, LCD, was designated as the safety instructor and delivered the briefing to everyone present.

The operator of the RTCH, Sgt. Kris



Sgt. Kris Gutierrez operates the Rough Terrain Container Handler to remove the container from the Land Craft Mechanized at Ceiba, PR on June, 21st. (Photo by: 2nd Lt. Christian Ferrer, US Army)

Gutierrez, 390th SPOC, commented on the additional training requirements needed in order to operate the RTCH. “To be an operator, we have to attend an 80 hour RTCH Operator course,” said Gutierrez. “I enjoy utilizing the RTCH because it is so well equipped and it even has air conditioning.”

In order to safely operate the RTCH, additional personnel serve as ground guides and are the additional pair of eyes the operator needs. Sgt. Reynaldo Cruzsierra and Pvt. 1st Class Luis Arzon assisted the RTCH operator by giving instructions to safely move and place the container on the LCM.

“It gives me and the Soldiers motivation to put in practice what we have learned throughout our careers,” said Sgt. Cruzsierra.

“I understand that we should get more hands on training rather than sitting in a class room listening to the same things over and over again”.

Master Sgt. Abner Zacheus, 390th SPOC, bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the unit and Soldiers confidently seek advice from him during training. “It is always good to see young Soldiers getting hands on training and it is even better when I see the USAR and the PRANG on a joint mission,” said Zacheus.

The 1st MSC command team expects to see more joint planning with the PRANG and continue enhancing their partnership. ♦

Family and Friends Bid Farewell to the 475th Engineer Company



Soldiers of the 475th Engineer Company say their last good-bye and shake the hand of the 1st Mission Support Command leadership prior to boarding their plane and heading to their mobilization station in Texas, on June 2nd. (Photo by: 2nd Lt. Christian Ferrer, US Army)

Friends and family bid farewell to the 475th Engineer Company during a departure ceremony on May 28, at Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico.

For the past six months, Soldiers from the 475th have undergone extensive training in preparation for their deployment.

Before heading to the Middle East, the 475th will report to a mobilization station in Texas for additional training.

Capt. Jackelyn Ruiz, commander for the 475th, is confident in her Soldiers and their ability to successfully complete their mission.



Sgt. Amado Rivera says good-bye to his wife and daughter prior to his departure on June 2nd. (Photo by: 2lt. Christian Ferrer, US Army)

Memorial Day



U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from the 1st Mission Support Command, participate in a Memorial Day event at Las Mercedes National Park, PR on May 30th. (Photo by: 2nd Lt. Christian Ferrer, US Army)

Ponce PR – U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from the 1st Mission Support Command, participated in a Memorial Day march at Las Mercedes National Park on May 30th.

During this solemn event, approximately seventeen different groups marched alongside each other. Veteran organizations, community members, family, friends and military members gathered to pay their respects for those that have given the ultimate sacrifice.



Retired Veterans, First Responders, Armed Forces, and Family members march along to honor the fallen heroes during the Memorial Day event at Las Mercedes National Park on May 30th. (Photo by: 2lt. Christian Ferrer, US Army)

Building for the Future



Soldiers of the 471st Engineer Company, place new floor tiles in the new Head Start building at Los Puerto's, Dorado, PR on August 1st. (Photo by: 2nd Lt. Christian Ferrer, US Army)

DORADO, Puerto Rico - Army Reserve Soldiers from the 471st Engineer Company (Vertical) and the 756th Engineer Company assisted in the remodeling a former elementary school into a new Head Start Facility, "Tesoro Infantil", June 20 – 3 August. The 471st demonstrated their support and dedication to local communities by helping with this project that benefits the citizens of Los Puerto's Sector in the Higuillar Ward of Dorado.

The improvements to the facilities include fixing architectural, plumbing and electrical issues. Their main focus involved ensuring the buildings were fully functional and met code and regulation standards.

Tesoro Infantil will open soon and provide an educational learning environment for children around the community. The Early Head Start program focuses on providing the families with experienced personnel on the stages of child development to assist parents with their understanding of their child's needs.

The Soldiers from the 471st and 756th EN companies took advantage of this opportunity to not only get hands on training of their Military Occupational Skills (MOS) but also assist a community in need. The mix of MOS' include 12W (Carpentry and Masonry), 12K (Plumbing), and 12R (Interior Electrician). Working together with other Soldiers that possess different skill sets fosters an environment for them to learn each other and enhance their capabilities.



Sgt. 1st Class Isaias Diaz (Right) reviews his construction plan with Staff Sgt. Jean C. Maldonado (Left) at Los Puerto's, Dorado, PR on August 1st. (Photo by: 2nd Lt. Christian Ferrer, US Army)

Sgt. 1st Class Isaias Diaz, Construction Operations NCO, demonstrates his level of passion and interest in construction. He continuously observes his Soldiers and ensures they are properly executing their tasks by offering them guidance and advice.

"I love what I do, and I love to see the Soldiers working hard, learning different technical skills, and putting into practice what they have learned during training and deployments," said Diaz. "What we are doing here, besides the training value that this has for us on the technical side, is letting the people know that the Army Reserve has the capability to help the local community in many different ways. The Army is not just about pre-

paring for combat missions, but also for peacetime and humanitarian missions."

Diaz holds the same passion for construction and the Army Reserve as his father. Diaz has remained in the same engineer battalion for the past 25 years. His father, Staff Sgt. Diaz Virella, also served in the same battalion for 20 twenty years. "I am blessed to be where I am right now. Knowing that my father served in the same battalion for twenty years and that I get to do the same for twenty five years is just amazing," expressed Diaz. ♦

PREPARING FOR DISASTERS

FORT BUCHANAN, Puerto Rico - U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from the 448th Engineer Battalion, participated in the Disaster Site Worker Outreach Training Program, 6 – 10 June.

Mr. Carlos Alvarado, 1st MSC Safety & Occupational Health Specialist, was designated as the principal trainer for this course together with personnel from the 22nd WMD-CST (Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team) Puerto Rico National Guard.

“Prior to conducting any type of work, the equipment in must be inspected or the consequences can be fatal,” explained Alvarado.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Disaster Site Worker



Soldiers from the 1st Mission Support Command train with chemical suits in order to enhance their performance during a real life scenario, Fort Buchanan, PR on June 9th. (Photo by: 2nd Lt. Christian Ferrer, US Army)

Outreach Training Program is for Disaster Site Workers who provide skilled support services, (e.g. demolition, debris removal, or heavy equipment) or site clean-up services in response to natural or man-made disasters. The pre-incident training is essential for ensuring disaster worker safety and health are priority when in support of any DSCA operations in any part of Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands (USVI).

This training is provided in support of DSCA Operations in order to save lives, prevent human suffering and mitigate greater property damage. These trainings enhance our capabilities to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of Continental US, Puerto Rico and USVI.



Soldiers from the 1st Mission Support Command train with chemical suits in order to enhance their performance during a real life scenario, Fort Buchanan, PR on June 9th. (Photo by: 2nd Lt. Christian Ferrer, US Army)

ARMED FORCES DAY RUN

FORT BUCHANAN, Puerto Rico - U.S. Army Reserve, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Navy Soldiers ran together during Armed Forces Day, on June 14, 2016.

Brig. Gen. Alberto C. Rosende, Commanding General of the 1st Mission Support Command led the way along with the guidons from each military branch.

This was a great opportunity for the various military members to learn from each other and build comradery.



Representatives from the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Coast Guard stand at attention before retrieving their respective branch guidon prior to the Armed Forces Day run at Fort Buchanan, PR on June 14th. (Photo by: 2nd Lt. Christian Ferrer, US Army)



Service members participate in an Armed Forces Day formation run at Fort Buchanan, PR on June 14th. (Photo by: 2nd Lt. Christian Ferrer, US Army)

Groundbreaking

FORT BUCHANAN, Puerto Rico - Multiple ceremonies took place on June 14, the Army's 241st birthday. The Memorial Park Groundbreaking Ceremony was one of them, where many veterans from the Vietnam War, World War II, Korean War, Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, participated along with their Families. The US Army Garrison and 1st Mission Support Command leadership also joined to recognize our war heroes who lived to tell their stories and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Veterans along with U.S. Army Garrison and 1st MSC leadership inaugurate the new Fort Buchanan Memorial Park, PR on June 14th. (Photo: by: 2nd Lt. Christian Ferrer, US Army)



SP5 Juan R. Rivera was awarded a Purple Heart and a Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars at Fort Buchanan, Memorial Park, PR on June 14th. (Photo by: 2nd Lt. Christian Ferrer, US Army)

During the event, a member of the Borinqueneers was presented with the highest of honors for his accomplishments as a Soldier during the Vietnam War, SP5 Juan R. Rivera.

SP5 Rivera got wounded twice during the Vietnam War 45 years ago. Today SP5 Rivera gets the recognition he deserved many years ago and received a Purple Heart and a Vi-

etnam Service Medal with 2 Bronze Stars.

Fort Buchanan's new Memorial Park is meant to be a place where people can visit to honor service members and remember the fallen Soldiers.

Fort Buchanan Gate Dedication



Members of the 65th Infantry pose around the 'Borinqueneer Gate' dedication plaque with Col. Michael T. Harvey after the unveiling at Fort Buchanan, PR on June 14th. (Photo: by: 2nd Lt. Christian Ferrer, US Army)

In dedication to the Soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment from Puerto Rico, who gave daily proof of their value during the Korean War 1950 - 1953, Fort Buchanan Gate 902 was renamed "Borinqueneers Gate" on June 14th, 2016.

A dedication plaque was placed on a monument near the Gate to remind everyone of the courage and determination the Borinqueneers fought with during the Korean War.



Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Felix A. Santoni and Col. Michael T. Harvey (Left), Brig. Gen. Alberto C. Rosende and SPC 4 (Ret.) Javier Morales (Right) pose around the dedication plaque of the Borinqueneers during the gate dedication ceremony at Fort Buchanan, PR on June 14th. (Photo: by: 2nd Lt. Christian Ferrer, US Army)



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Our goal is to prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault through a climate in which the dignity of every Soldier, Civilian, and Family Member is respected.

Make a personal commitment and set an example to others in preventing, responding to, and ultimately ending sexual offenses within our Army.

**Evelyn M. Franco-Marrero
1st MSC Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)**

**Phone: 787-707-3730
Mobile: 939-227-6802**