



# 1ST MSC GAZETTE

VOL. NO. 11/ ISSUE 1 FALL 2020



READY TO  
**SUPPORT**  
DURING THE PANDEMIC

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TRAINING DOES NOT STOP AT  
**THE 1ST MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND**

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## 1ST MSC GAZETTE

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey W. Jurasek  
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### **BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY W. JURASEK SENIOR FEDERAL ARMY OFFICER IN THE CARIBBEAN**



*As we get closer to the year 2021, I want to express my appreciation to all Soldiers, civilians, and family members, for your hard work and dedication over the past year.*

*We are also mindful that many military families from this command are unable to spend the Holidays with their loved ones.*

*On behalf of the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, thank you for your sacrifices and your noble tradition of service to the nation.*

*Happy Holidays!*







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# 1st MSC, 377th Theater Sustainment Command coordinate for possible emergency response

By: U.S. Army 363rd Public Affairs Detachment



**MAJ. GEN. GREGORY J. MOSSER (LEFT) MET WITH ALEJANDRO DE LA CAMPA, DIRECTOR, EXECUTIVE OFFICE AND SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR, AND OTHER PERSONNEL, AT THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY IN PUERTO RICO, AUG. 20. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SPC. JAIME TORRES, 363RD PAD/RELEASED)**

**F**ORT BUCHANAN, Puerto Rico —As hurricane season approached to its peak, Maj. Gen. Greg J. Mosser, Commanding General for the 377th Theater Sustainment Command (TSC), visited the island of Puerto Rico, Aug. 20, to assess the situation on the ground, while sustaining an effective communication with federal emergency response agencies in the U.S. territory.

With headquarters at New Orleans, Louisiana, the 377th TSC is assigned to the Army Service Component Command, U.S. Army North, and is in charge of coordinating sustainment support to contingency operations, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires and man-made disasters.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey W. Jurasek, senior federal Army officer in the Caribbean, and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Breck, welcomed Mosser to the 1st Mission Support Command headquarters, at Fort Buchanan,

and provided a briefing about the command's capabilities.

The 1st Mission Support Command is the largest federal U.S. Army command in the region.

“The U.S. Army Reserve Multifunctional Geographic Command for the Caribbean has substantial capabilities vital in disaster response. Our

men and women in uniform stand ready to support lead agencies for domestic emergencies and disaster relief efforts, under our Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) mission,” said Jurasek

The major points of discussion during the briefing were logistics, equipment and maintenance, as well as the communication readiness of each element within the commands.

“There is already a lot of planning that has been done, a lot of things in place. The better I understand and the better we collectively identify the gaps that may exist in those plans, the better I can come-in and help the island respond to the effects on any kind of storm,” said Mosser.

The leaders also talked about the lessons learned during the emergency created by Hurricane Maria in September 2017.

“In the event of an emergency, the

Immediate Response Authority (IRA) allows local authorities to use available Department of Defense assets to save lives, prevent human suffering and mitigate greater property damage prior to requesting formal support. Based on that, we added different incident-response teams to support different locations around the island,” said Col. Javier Rivera, the 1st MSC’s DSCA officer in charge.

The 377th TSC Commanding General was particularly interested in the implemented strategies to respond to natural disasters during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“How you operate on a COVID-19 environment should be the biggest priority. We need to establish how we are going to employ our resources and protect the health of the force,” added Mosser.

“The 1st MSC is working to minimize risk to the force in order to protect ourselves and ensure we are able to accomplish our missions. As in any military operation, we have implemented the required mitigation measures, to ensure our Soldiers are safe,” said Jurasek.

As part of the visit, Mosser also met with Federal Emergency Management Agency leaders and traveled to different sites around the island.

The effective communication and coordination between the 1st MSC the 377th TSC, and other federal emergency response key players on the island, clearly showcases how the Army Reserve is part of the synchronized federal emergency response system for immediate assistance.



# Training does not stop at the 1st Mission Support Command

By: U.S. Army 363rd Public Affairs Detachment

**C**IALES, Puerto Rico — Soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Urban Search and Rescue Team (US&RT), added a discipline to their specialized skills, by participating in a water rescue training, Sept. 7-11, at several locations around the island.

The Soldiers conducted the flooding rescue training session at the Manati River.

“The group is very good and the training sessions provide a complete experience when we are in the field carrying out the practical training,” said Spc. Elias De Jesus, from the 448th Engineer Battalion.

Due to the nature of their mission, rescuers are constantly exposed to a variety of unknown risks, especially in a water environment, where the visibility is significantly reduced.

“We are the safeguards of the rafts, following the guidelines of the raft commander; we manipulate the lines so that it moves from one side to the other safely,” said Sgt. Hector Burgos, from the 1st Battalion, 389th Regiment, while referring to the implementation of rafts during the drill.

The water training expands the capabilities of the only federal Army search and rescue team of the Caribbean.

“Now we have a trained group with all eight search and rescue disciplines, to include ropes, confined spaces, trenches, vehicle extraction, collapsed structures, decontamination, shoring, and now water rescue,” said Maj. Ruben Abreu,



**Soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Urban Search and Rescue Team (US&RT), added a discipline to their specialized skills, by participating in a water rescue training, Sept. 7-11, at several locations around the island. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Bryanne Vega Bermudez/ released)**

Search and Rescue Officer in charge.

The US&RT training is part of the training strategy for the largest federal U.S. Army command in the Caribbean.

“This training shows that we are always aggressively working in our level of readiness across the board. The training never stops,” said Col. Javier Rivera, the command’s Defense Support to Civil Authorities Officer in charge.

The water rescue training takes a special relevance because there are frequent floods around the island, even without the threat of a hurricane.

“There are floods almost every week. There are a lot of water rescues taking place on the island around the year,” added Rivera.

As the largest federal Army force in the Caribbean, Title 10 USC Section 12304a authorizes the Army Reserve to provide disaster assistance to a major natural disaster or emergency in the United States at the request of the governor of a state or territory.

“Water training is critical. Now more than ever, our men and women in uniform stand ready to support lead agencies for domestic emergencies and disaster relief efforts, under our Defense Support to Civil Authorities mission,” said Rivera.



# The 360th Civil Affairs Brigade Conducts Annual Training in Puerto Rico

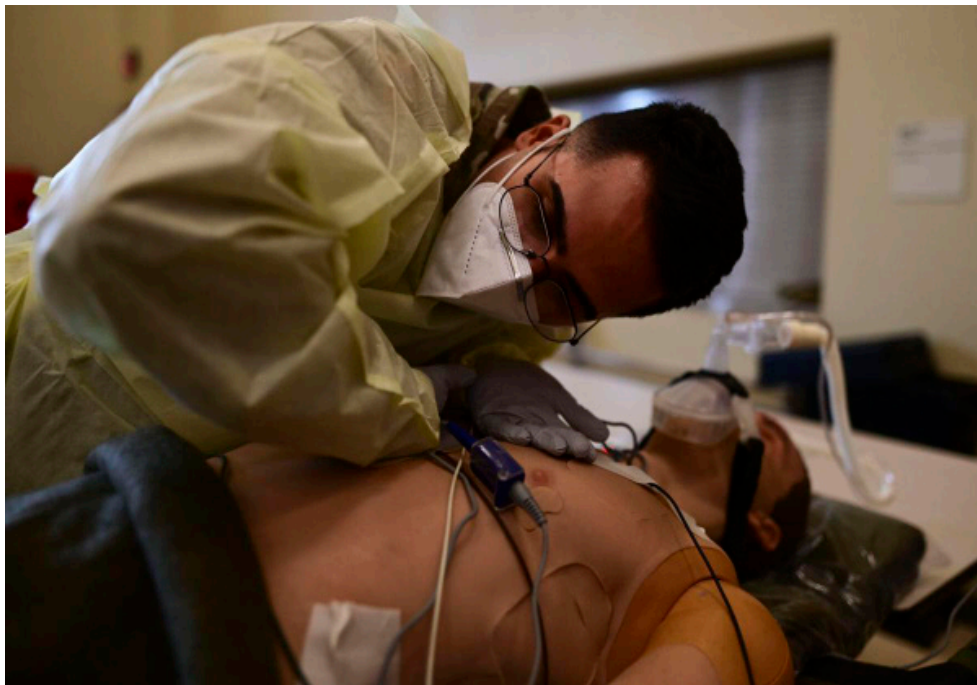


**THE 360TH CIVIL AFFAIRS BRIGADE, FROM FORT JACKSON-SOUTH CAROLINA, PARTICIPATED IN A COLLECTIVE ANNUAL TRAINING IN PUERTO RICO UNDER OPERATION CARIBBEAN RESPONDER (OCR), IN COORDINATION WITH THE 1ST MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND AND THE PUERTO RICO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. AUG 25**



# Ready to Support During the Pandemic

By: U.S. Army 363rd Public Affairs Detachment



## **A SOLDIER FROM THE 335TH AREA SUPPORT MEDICAL COMPANY (ASMC) WORKS IN A TRAUMA SITUATION SIMULATION TO BE PROFICIENT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY**

**S**AN JUAN, Puerto Rico —

As demonstrated by dozens of units in the Continental United States, the U.S. Army Reserve can help in the offensive against Covid-19 and in other emergencies.

As part of its regular mission, the U.S. Army Reserve on the Island has the capabilities to install, maintain and operate specific medical facilities. At a time when infections, deaths and hospitalizations due to the coronavirus continue to increase, the United States Army Reserve in Puerto Rico ensures that it is ready in case a mobilization is necessary to assist local authorities during this emergency.

Precisely on Aug 25, there was a demonstration of how the 335th Area Support Medical Company (ASMC) works in a

trauma scenario from the moment the wounded Soldier arrives until he or she is stabilized.

"We are the only Federal Army unit in Puerto Rico with the capabilities to offer basic care at both level I and level II. Basically, we would function as a CDT (Center for Diagnosis and Treatment) giving support as required. We basically have the capacity to attend all types of emergencies. We have laboratories, X-rays, dentists, and optometry." said Lt. Col. Modesto Ramos, Commander of the 335th ASMC.

For the Army Reserve to be activated, the local government must request assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). "If needed, the federal government could activate us to respond to local emergencies," said Ramos, noting that they have

about 75 fully trained Soldiers.

The Reserve has specific medical capabilities that can be installed anywhere around the world. In the emergency room, military doctors can treat open wounds, hypertensive crisis, trauma, fractures and dehydration, among other conditions. In addition, they have X-rays, laboratories, ventilators, heart monitors, defibrillators and the ability to store blood. It also has over 30 military ambulances.

## **They remember Maria**

Col. Javier Santiago emphasized that the 335th ASMC is prepared to handle any type of emergency. Recently the unit was stationed in Kuwait and also assisted in the crisis created by Hurricane Maria.

During the hurricane emergency, an emergency room was established in which they treated more than 2,000 people, on the grounds of the Buen Samaritano Hospital, in Aguadilla. "Everything was taken care of; from heart attacks, asthma, all kinds of wounds, many people who were bitten by dogs were treated. We did everything," said Santiago.

## **Training does not stop**

In addition, it was reported that the pandemic has not stopped the training of Army Reserve Soldiers. In the past months, more than 3,000 troops from other Army Reserve commands have mobilized in response to the Covid-19 emergency. Mitigation measures have also been implemented to safeguard the safety of the Soldiers, following the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

# Over a thousand Soldiers activated for training



**SOLDIERS FROM THE 1ST MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND PREPARING EQUIPMENT DUE TO THE TROPICAL STORM LAURA EMERGENCY, AUG.21. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY UPAR/ RELEASED)**

By: U.S. Army 363rd Public Affairs Detachment

**F**ORT BUCHANAN, Puerto Rico — With over a thousand Soldiers already activated throughout the island, the United States Army Reserve in Puerto Rico, the largest command of the United States Army at the federal level permanently established in the Caribbean, reported that it is ready to assist the civil authorities if necessary, as a consequence of the tropical storm Laura, Aug. 21.

Recently Brig. Gen. Jeffrey W. Jurasek, commander of the Army Reserve Forces in the region, received a visit from Major General Greg J. Mosser, chief of the 377th Logistics Support command, with whom he coordinated for a possible response to a local emergency.

"We have taken specific steps to ensure that we have more capabilities to help the people of Puerto Rico in an emergency," said Jurasek.

Even though there were over 1,000

Reserve Soldiers on active duty on the island, as part of their annual training, it is important to note that the responsibility for providing first response services rests with state authorities and the National Guard.

The state government can request the assistance of Army Reserve forces through the federal government chain of command.

"In the event that the state civil authorities and the National Guard need a federal military response, we do not have to wait for outside resources to come. Our command is here in Puerto Rico, pre-positioned and ready to assist immediately," said Jurasek.

As part of their regular mission, hundreds of Soldiers assigned to the U.S. Army Reserve in Puerto Rico are currently deployed worldwide to supplement active duty resources.

"Our men and women in uniform are ready to support agencies in charge of emergency response, under our mission of Defense Department Support to Civil Authorities. Our capabilities include search and rescue, logistical support, Civil Affairs and public information units, as well as robust engineering capabilities. As the largest federal Army command in the Caribbean, Title 10 of the United States Code, Section 12304a, authorizes us to provide assistance during a disaster or major emergency in United States, if the governor of the state or territory requests it through federal authorities," Jurasek added.

With approximately 5,000 Soldiers, the United States Army Reserve in Puerto Rico has units in Aguadilla, Mayaguez, Yauco, Ponce, Juana Diaz, Ceiba, Salinas, Puerto Nuevo, the Virgin Islands and its headquarters at Fort Buchanan.



# US Soldiers from Puerto Rico stand out in Poland



**Soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico share some time with children from a community in the southeast of the European country. (U.S. Army photo by UPAR/ released)**

**“The children really enjoyed our visit and I think we brought them a bit of joy. They also asked us a lot about Puerto Rico. That gave us the opportunity to share our culture. Some even tried to speak Spanish. That makes me feel good.”**

**Lt. Eduardo Santiago**

By: U.S. Army 363rd Public Affairs Detachment

**S**WIETOSZOW, Poland — Dozens of United States Army Reserve Soldiers from Puerto Rico recently shared with orphaned girls and boys at Swietoszow, in southeastern Poland, while carrying out their military mission in the country.

“They left at the beginning of the year (to Poland) and their mission there is to store and distribute ammunition in Europe,” said Lt. Col Carlos Cuebas.

“It was coordinated through the corresponding authorities to connect with the community in Poland, so they get to know us, as they feel comfortable with our presence there. You can say that barriers have collapsed,” Cuebas said.

Regarding the experience, Lieutenant Eduardo Santiago, a native of San Sebastián, said that it was “very emotional” to leave the base where they are and be able to share with the minors.

“It was very emotional to be able to leave our base and share with these children in a country that until 1991 was a member of the communist bloc,” said Santiago, who is the commander of Detachment 266th of the Reserve, currently deployed to the European country.

It was reported that as part of the exchange, the local troops carried out recreational activities with minors from the Kozuchow Orphanage.

“The children really enjoyed our visit and I think we brought them a bit of joy. They also asked us a lot about Puerto Rico. That gave us the opportunity to share our culture. Some even tried to speak Spanish. That makes me feel good,” he added.

Private Glissette Fox, a native of Carolina, participated in the visit. “Being able to see the smile of these children and how they enjoyed our visit fills me with immense joy. It was a unique experience that makes me remember why I joined the Reserve. I hope it can be repeated,” added Fox.



Fort Buchanan

# Holiday Celebration

&

## Misfit Toys Holiday Parade

DEC 11th | Community Club  
4 p.m.-9 p.m.

Live Bands - "La Moña" (Salsa/Merengue Band)  
& "Plena Fiesta" (Pleneros)

DJ Video Party - Typical Seasonal Food

Tree Lighting Ceremony - Misfit Toys Holiday Parade

*The event site will be divided in social distancing spots.  
Four people per spot & per vehicle. Spots are arranged in three  
areas with different proximity to the stage.*

**Entrance fee: Tier \$20, Preference \$15, and General \$10.**

Open to authorized ID card holders affiliated with Fort Buchanan,  
Federal employees, MWR Membership card holders, and trusted  
travelers with advance ticket purchase.

**For Tickets 787-246-6264**

**<https://bit.ly/FB-Holiday-Celebration>**





# EMPOWERING SOLDIERS TO BE RESILIENT

363RD PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT



**Jose A. Gonzalez, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, Suicide Prevention Manager led the suicide prevention training at Ramos Hall Oct 24. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jaime torres, 363rd PAD/ released)**

**MRT is about building mental toughness and being able to share that skill with subordinates, peers and family members**

**Staff Sgt. Areole Chancellor**

**F**ORT BUCHANAN, Puerto Rico—Troops assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment. U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, 1st Mission Support Command, participated on a Suicide Prevention and Master Resilience Training (MRT), Oct. 24, at the command's headquarters.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was conducted in a hybrid mode, including virtually via Microsoft Teams, and in person.

"I have been here for five years. We have been blessed to have gone through several years in a row without deaths by suicide in our ranks, and I think that is because most company commanders are properly trained and they are enforcing early intervention," said José A. González, Suicide Preven-

tion Program Manager.

The Suicide Prevention Program is a vital tool to keep our Soldiers in optimal mental conditions anywhere they perform duty, to include overseas tours, combat deployment, or even at home station.

"You do not wait until the last minute to visit the doctor when you have pneumonia. Mental health is the same; if you need help, just raise your hand and call someone. Fortunately, we have created an environment in which seeking for help is seen as a strength and not as a stigma," González.

Meanwhile Staff Sgt. Areole Chancellor, Signal Support System Noncommissioned officer, served as a facilitator for the MRT training.

"MRT is about building mental toughness and being able to share that skill with subordinates, peers and family members," said Chancellor.

One of the MRT skills discussed during the event was the Activating Event, Thoughts and Consequences, which allows the Soldier to identify specific thoughts about a specific event and the consequences of those events, understanding better the reaction to a situation.

These trainings are part of the Army Reserve efforts to teach troops about personal resilience and how to empower others to be resilient in their daily lives, with the ultimate intent of sustaining readiness across the ranks.

# MISSION COMMAND SUPPORT GROUP TRAINS ON ITS EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

By: 363rd Public Affairs Detachment



**SGT. MARTIN CRUZ, FROM THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE-PUERTO RICO URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM, SHOWS AND EXPLAINS THE CAPABILITIES OF THE TRIPOD TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE MCSG, AT FORT BUCHANAN, SEPT 18. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SGT. KATHERINE RAMOS, 363RD PAD/ RELEASED)**

**F**ORT BUCHANAN, Puerto Rico—Soldiers assigned to the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Mission Command Support Group (MCSG), recently trained on how to execute the Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) mission, at the command's headquarters.

The training also incorporated the members of the only federal U.S. Army Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Team in the Caribbean and the members of the Search and Rescue (S&R) Team-Puerto Rico under the State Emergency Management Bureau (PREMB).

The members trained as one team, facilitating cross-training, while rotating through different stations that showcased their supply, communication equipment, tools, power-supply and administrative capabilities.

"We have been focusing on our DSCA mission during our two-week annual

training period. So we have been working with the Puerto Rico Emergency Management Bureau and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), on our response within a natural disaster or other type of emergency," said Col. Pete P. Thiede, MCSG Brigade Commander.

Other activities scheduled for this training period

included operation of the Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS), FEMA operations strategies, a DSCA functional exercise and Immediate Response Authority.

"Today, our Search and Rescue Team is conducting a familiarization on rescue activities that would have occurred during earthquakes or hurricanes; as far as finding victims and getting them out of the situation that they are in," added Thiede.

Sgt. 1st Class Yesenia Pagan, Operations and Planning Non Commissioned Officer, explained that the brigade provides support during local emergencies by managing and synchronizing the

operations of all subordinates units.

"The main training focus of the MCSG is to coordinate support for domestic disaster relief based on the DSCA. One of the strengths that this brigade has is having five different battalions," said Pagan, while referring to the 402nd Civil Affairs, 1st-333rd Regiment, 1st-389th Regiment, 2nd-348 Regiment, and, the 49th Multifunctional Medical Battalion.

The training enabled all participants to rehearse and assess their response during notional situation, and provided a critical opportunity for leaders to evaluate their contingency plans, resources and capabilities. For example, Nino Correa, PREMB Commissioner and Juan Vera, PREMB Task Force Assistant, visited the event and provided guidance from their professional perspective.

During the emergency response to hurricane Maria, the U.S. Army Reserve in Puerto Rico mobilized approximately 2,000 Soldiers in a very short time to assist the local government with resources, skills and equipment, without having to wait for personnel to arrive from the mainland.



**NINO CORREA, PUERTO RICO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BUREAU COMMISSIONER, MEETS WITH THE LEADERS OF THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE-PUERTO RICO, SEPT 18, URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM (U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SGT. KATHERINE RAMOS, 363RD PAD/ RELEASED)**



# U.S. ARMY RESERVE-PUERTO RICO TROOPS SUSTAIN RESILIENCE

BY: 363RD PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT



**The latest Unit Prevention Leader class to complete the course certification under the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program poses for a photo, Sept. 22, at Fort Buchanan. (U.S. Army Reserve photo by Sgt. Katherine Ramos, 363rd PAD/ released).**

**F**ORT BUCHANAN, Puerto Rico—Soldiers from different units across the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico obtained the certification as Unit Prevention Leaders (UPLs) under the Army Substance Abuse Prevention Program (ASAP), at the command's headquarters, Sept. 22.

During the fiscal year 2020, over 70 Soldiers across the largest federal U.S. Army command in the Caribbean, have completed the UPL certification course that enables them to deter and reduce substance abuse through the force.

Jose Santos, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico's Alcohol and Drug Control Officer, led the three days certification course.

"You are going to be running the program for the commander and you are expected to be the subject matter experts on the areas of the Army Sub-

stance Abuse program," said Santos to the Non Commissioned Officers designated to serve as UPL for their units.

First, Santos described the UPL binder, used every year to validate the unit's compliance with the ASAP standard operating procedures.

"As an UPL you will conduct urinalysis collections, assist the commander in the administration of the unit testing and provide drug abuse prevention training," added Santos.

Santos covered the fundamentals of the pre-collection phase and introduced the smart testing principle, which is vital to ensure unpredictability. "Every commander should conduct random testing," highlighted.

"This program maintains our Soldiers ready to go on missions, stay mentally agile and physically fit," said Sgt. Sharlen Vega, Unit Prevention Leader for

**As an UPL you will conduct urinalysis collections, assist the commander in the administration of the unit testing and provide drug abuse prevention training.**

**Jose Santos,  
U.S. Army Reserve- Puerto Rico's  
Alcohol and Drug Control Officer**

the 246th Quartermaster Company.

Soldiers learned key strategies to implement during the collection phase and the procedures to follow afterwards.

To successfully complete the course, Soldiers must score more than 70 percent on the written exam and achieve more than 90 percent on the practical test.

"I learned a lot about procedures, the proper way to execute testing and the importance of paying attention to detail," said Sgt. Christopher Colon, from the 1st Battalion-389th Regiment.

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, Soldiers implemented social distancing and used the protective gear during the training.

The ASAP main mission is to strengthen the overall fitness and readiness of Army personnel and to enhance combat readiness, in accordance with the guidelines of Army Regulation 600-85.

# SGT 1ST CLASS SAMUEL RIVERA RAMOS; A SOLDIER FOR LIFE



**Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Rivera Ramos first photo in the US Army back in 1980, at the Fort Knox Reception Center in Kentucky (Courtesy photo)**

By: 363rd Public Affairs Detachment

**F**ORT BUCHANAN, Puerto Rico – Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Rivera Ramos from the U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, 602nd Engineer Detachment (EN DET) marked 40 years of military service, Oct 15, completing an exceptional career occupying many positions while

serving the needs of the nation.

Rivera served nine years in the Active Duty Component, then transitioned to the Reserve, where he successfully served for 31 years. His military occupation specialties include, Armor Reconnaissance Specialist, Supply Specialist, Military Intelligence and Draftsman/Illustrator.

“I never thought I was going to serve so many years. I always liked the Army and I knew I was going to do a career of it,” said Rivera. “In the Army you will learn new things, new experiences. The Army will make you an exceptional human being if you take advantage of all the opportunities,” added Rivera.

Rivera who is an Electric Engineer on his civilian occupation, and currently performs as the Senior Construction Supervisor of the 602nd EN DET, reflected on how his Army and civilian jobs complement each other.

“Both, my civilian and military careers have been like a good marriage. My civilian job involves getting a lot of technical knowledge,

and the Army is a place where I apply that knowledge,” added Rivera.

The Soldier has deployed three times to Kuwait. In 2003 he completed over 150 projects at Camp Victory Kuwait and was in charge of the Armed Forces Hospital Renovation Project, while serving in Alpha Company 448th Engineer Battalion, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Rivera also deployed to Kuwait with the 602nd EN DET, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2014. More recently, in 2019, The Soldier deployed again to Kuwait as part of Operation Spartan Shield.

“Serving my country is really important to me. I have a very religious background and being able to serve others has a great significance to me as a professional and as a human being. I am grateful because I have been able to serve my country in uniform,” said Rivera.

The Noncommissioned officer also participated on numerous local community outreach projects and Theater Security Cooperation missions in the U.S. Southern Command Area of Responsibility. Rivera was also the draftsman of “Plaza Primeros” and the Soldiers Monument design at the 1st Mission Support Command headquarters, which he considers to be his legacy.

The emergency created by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico represents another highlight of his career. During that emergency, Rivera’s mission consisted in clearing debris and landslides around the island.

(Continues on next page)



**“I never thought I was going to serve so many years. I always liked the Army and I knew I was going to do a career of it.”**

**Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Rivera Ramos**  
**Senior Construction Supervisor of**

“The awards I received during that recovery mission, have a special significance because I was helping my own community,” expressed Rivera.

As Rivera gets closer to his retiring date on Jan, 2021, he expressed his deep gratitude towards his wife, Rosa Maria Cruz.

“I will always thank God and my family, especially my wife, who has always been supportive. Basically, I was able to serve for 40 years in great part thanks to her. She also made sacrifices and was part of the decisions I made on my career. I am thankful for that”, Rivera concluded.

The U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, 1st Mission Support Command consistently invests on its human capital to continue building a resilient force, while recognizing the sacrifices of past generations of Soldiers and families.

Members of the Army Reserve who accumulate 20 or more years of qualifying service are eligible for reserve retirement when they reach age 60.



**Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Rivera Ramos posing in front of Plaza Primeros Monument. Rivera was the draftsman of the Plaza Primeros, which he considers his legacy to future generations. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Eduardo Rivera Escobales/ 363rd PAD) released)**



# *Oh, what fun it is to drive safely!*

The holiday season is the second-deadliest time of year for Army private motor vehicle mishaps, which often involve alcohol and other indisciplined behaviors like speeding and failure to wear a seat belt. If you drink, don't drive, and if you drive, don't drink.

**Safety is the most precious gift  
you can give this holiday season.**

# *Don't Slip<sub>on</sub> Safety*

*this fall and winter*



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For more information visit  
<https://safety.army.mil>



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