

EL MORRO

SENTINEL
OF THE CARIBBEAN



Happy New Year!
¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

Message to our Fort Buchanan Community Mensaje para Nuestra Comunidad del Fuerte Buchanan

The USAG Fort Buchanan Command Group, Garrison Commander, Col. Tomika M. Seaberry; Garrison Command Sergeant Major José A. Banks, Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Brian M. Mandock and Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Derrick W. Hood, along with our dedicated workforce, would like to thank our Retirees, Veterans and community partners for your support during 2021.

Every day we are committed to providing you the safest possible environment while delivering the support and services you require. By listening to the voice of our

community, we learned you wanted to bring back El Morro newspaper in its paper format. Today, we are proud to share with you our first issue after a few years' hiatus.

As we stand together on the threshold of 2022, may the New Year bring you health, happiness and prosperity.

Sincerely,
USAG Fort Buchanan Command Group

Los miembros del Grupo de Comando del Fuerte Buchanan, la Comandante de la Guarnición, Coronel Tomika M. Seaberry; Sargento Mayor de Comando de Guarnición José A. Banks, Comandante Adjunto de Guarnición Teniente Coronel Brian M. Mandock y el Comandante Adjunto de la Guarnición, Derrick W. Hood, junto con nuestra dedicada fuerza laboral, deseamos agradecer a nuestros Retirados, Veteranos y socios comunitarios por su apoyo durante el 2021.

Todos los días estamos comprometidos en brindarles el ambiente más seguro

posible mientras les brindamos el apoyo y los servicios que necesitan. Al escuchar la voz de nuestra comunidad, supimos que querían traer de vuelta el periódico El Morro en su formato de papel. Hoy, estamos orgullosos de compartir con ustedes nuestro primer ejemplar después de una pausa de algunos años.

Mientras estamos juntos en el umbral del 2022, esperamos que el Año Nuevo les traiga salud, felicidad y prosperidad.

Sinceramente,
Grupo de Mando del Fuerte Buchanan



Col. Tomika M. Seaberry Garrison Commander

**¡Feliz Año Nuevo a la Familia del Fuerte Buchanan!
Happy New Year to Fort Buchanan's Family!**

Since taking command on May 11, 2021, I realized two unique things about this installation and Puerto Rico. First, every community member's warm welcome and hospitality make you feel like you are a part of their family. Second, I can say that Puerto Rico is the only place in the world with the most extended holiday season!

Despite economic constraints, a pandemic of global proportions, earthquakes, and some tropical storms, 2021 was a year of many accomplishments. We told time to reassess and caliber our efforts. After extensive planning and collaborations, we refined our Fort Buchanan vision and mission statement. Our vision is "To be the premier installation for support and services." We can only achieve our vision by accomplishing our mission.

Starting in 2022, the total workforce of Fort Buchanan remains committed to serving, and our revised mission statement allows us to capture the essence of serving: "USAG Fort Buchanan delivers base support and services to enable holistic readiness for the total force."

Our vision and mission statement, along with the garrison's strategic plan, will energize us to create a multi-domain training complex. We need to keep pursuing high-performance, sustainable facilities, become the organization of choice for our Armed Forces and Partner Agencies in the Caribbean. At the same time, continue our culture of collaboration with Puerto Rico's community through strategic partnerships.

Frederick Douglass once said, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress." For centuries, leaders in some form or fashion stressed the importance of incorporating holistic in the workforce. As we move towards a holistic readiness framework, some people may find it challenging. The Fort Buchanan team thought it was vital to adopt and incorporate "holistic" within our mission statement. Our new approach will get us out of our comfort zone of what we have known and done for the past 20 or 30 years and explore what we can do from a physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual perspective.

As we know, time waits for no one. Yet, 2022 will be the year for us to roll up our sleeves and work towards new

professional development opportunities for our workforce. We are increasing our programs and services that meet mission readiness while building resilience for our military. We must continue working on energy and water sustainability infrastructures and housing revitalization for our families; and enhancing our physical security at our installation access points for our community, among other initiatives.

The future of Fort Buchanan looks promising thanks to the most critical part of this military installation – its people. I invite all Civilians, Soldiers, Service Members, Veterans, Retirees, and their Family members to get together and continue creating a better community united by goodwill. Together we can make all these dreams come true. Let's start the New Year with hope and blessings to all. Comenzemos el Nuevo Año con esperanza y bendiciones para todos.

From our family to yours, ¡Feliz Año Nuevo! Happy New Year!

We are Fort Buchanan! ¡Somos el Fuerte Buchanan!

Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks Garrison Command Sergeant Major

**The new year – new beginnings,
new hopes and new aspirations**

2022 represents a blank slate in which you, a great Soldier of the best Army in the world, have the opportunity to set new goals in your military career. A career that the US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan supports through its Strategic Plan.

This Garrison's Strategic Plan establishes the development of military training facilities to meet current and future requirements. The plan contemplates an institutional and individual training platform concept based on a holistic approach of an institutional training campus that will provide the equipment and facilities in support of readiness. The plan also includes, the construction of a new US Army Reserve Center expected to be completed this year and the use of las Casas Lake for the 92W course.

These are two good examples of how Fort Buchanan is working on the plans directed to improve its training capabilities in support of our Soldiers. That is the garrison's "New Year's

Resolution." We aim high and set goals to meet mission requirements, readiness and resiliency among our troops.

This is the garrison's plan, now, what could be a good Soldier's plan? 2022 is the time to make your resolutions count. It gives you the opportunity for fresh starts and self-improvement. Having ideas for self-improvement isn't difficult. Turning those ideas into accomplishments requires hard work, determination, and some planning.

The New Year is not here yet, I ask you to take some time to think about where you are right now in your profession of arms and personal careers. Think about any area in your life that could use some improvement. Make your goals and decide which direction you'd like to go.

Make sure your goals are realistic and achievable. Is your goal improving your physical fitness or completing higher-level tasks that can allow you to develop more skills and abilities to be promoted? I'm not saying you can't dream big, but

make sure your goals are possible and within your control. Be sure you can make them happen. Remember not to overload yourself with too many goals, which can quickly become unachievable.

As a Soldier, there is a chance that other factors will affect your goals, such as deployments or relocations. Remain flexible and mentally prepared to adjust your goals as needed. After establishing and organizing your goals, get ready to achieve them.

New Year is the new beginning, of new hopes and new aspirations. 2022 is waiting for you to have the best year ever in your professional and personal careers. May each and every day of this coming year bring in your life more happiness and more success. Wishing you a Happy New Year... May God bless you.





Lt. Col. Brian Mandock Deputy Garrison Commander

Fort Buchanan excitedly looking
towards the future

At USAG Fort Buchanan, we constantly look for ways to improve our ability to deliver base support and services to enable holistic readiness for the total force. That is our mission. This past year served as a prime example of how we plan and prepare to respond during all-hazards events so there is minimal disruption to the services we provide during times when those services may be needed most.

In 2021, Fort Buchanan conducted multiple exercises to increase overall readiness and reduce operational risk during all-hazards emergencies. We conducted a Hurricane Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) Drill to synchronize plans and assess the capability to respond to and operate during a natural disaster. This ROC Drill was followed by an Active Shooter drill in August and a Full Scale Earthquake Exercise held in December to validate the installation’s capability to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond, and recover from all

hazards event, be it natural, technological or terrorism.

The garrison also established partnerships with local agencies to provide better services. One example would be the signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Puerto Rico Department of Public Safety, to provide a centralized E9-1-1 call system between Fort Buchanan’s DES Fire and Police emergency dispatch number 4911 and Puerto Rico’s E9-1-1 state call system. This will provide a significantly quicker response to emergencies inside the base.

These are only a few examples of how we are continuously working to ensure continued, safe access to Fort Buchanan services. Still, we know we have more work to do. Fort Buchanan is excited for the New Year’s opportunities to get better and be known as a premier installation.

We are Fort Buchanan! ¡Somos el Fuerte Buchanan!

Derrick W. Hood Deputy to the Garrison Commander

Make your career path your
new year’s resolution



I would like to start the New Year by recognizing the contributions of our garrison workforce during 2021. It was a year full of challenges and opportunities for Fort Buchanan. We continue to successfully provide premiere customer service and programs in support of the installation, residents, tenants and partners

Every day, the 400+ women and men of the garrison workforce tackle some of our country’s most pressing issues. Whether supporting our service members and their families, caring for our veterans, retirees, fixing air conditioners, or planning a community event, our workforce is focused on making life better for the Fort Buchanan community.

In a 2014 address, President Obama said: “To rise to meet the challenges of the 21st century, we need a Federal Workforce with the necessary skills, experience, and tools to meet its diverse mission now and in the future.” Fort Buchanan leadership at all levels will work to fulfill this vision. Our goal is to recruit, train, retain, and honor a world-class workforce to serve the American people.

Over the past year, our overarching focus has been to create

a culture of learning and provide our employees with training opportunities to prepare them for career advancement. By investing in new tools and technologies and collaborating with external partners, we have helped foster a workforce capable of tackling 21st century challenges. In particular, we have focused on:

- Establishing a USAG Fort Buchanan Team Member On-boarding Program and SOP that provides procedures to integrate newly assigned Civilian employees to the workplace
- Adopting workplace policies that reflect the modern American economy; such as maximizing the use of telework for eligible employees
- Improving our operations by embracing a focus on customer service excellence and cyber security.
- Establishing a Mentor Program
- Conducting Emotional Intelligence Training: Game Changer Training
- Establishing a City Management Fellowship Program

EL MORRO EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Garrison Commander
Col. Tomika M. Seaberry

Garrison Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks

Deputy Garrison Commander
Lt. Col. Brian M. Mandock

Deputy to the Garrison Commander
Derrick W. Hood

Public Affairs Officer
Grissel Rosa

Command Information
Rosie Irizarry

Mailing address-
Public Affairs Office
ATTN: IMSE-BUC-PA
390 Double Eagle Ave., Suite 311
Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico 00934-4616

Story Submissions-
Email to: rosario.irizarry.civ@army.mil
Telephone numbers
(787) 707-4013/4486

EL MORRO is an authorized publication, published in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1. Contents of EL MORRO are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, Department of the Army or U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Buchanan.

EL MORRO is published monthly 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.

In striving to make USAG Fort Buchanan the installation of choice and a model employer, Garrison leadership has expanded opportunities for all members of the team. We’ve made progress in reviewing position descriptions to effect upgrades by classification/accretion of duties (non-competitive promotion), increased workplace flexibilities to help employees balance their work life and home life. We’ve also promoted diversity and inclusion in the workforce through many EEO forums.

We will continue to collaborate with organizations from the private sector and other government agencies through innovative fellowship programs. And we will establish a hiring excellence campaign to help human resources specialists and supervisors hire the critical talent we need.

Customer service is at the heart of everything we do. There is much more work to be done. I am confident that the dedicated men and women of Fort Buchanan will continue in their efforts to build an even greater workforce now, and in the future.

Have a great New Year! ¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

Fort Buchanan conducts Full Scale Exercise

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa, Public Affairs Officer



USAG Fort Buchanan activated the Emergency Operations Center December 7-8, 2021 in support of the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) Full Scale Exercise (FSE) to validate the installation capability to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond, and recover from an all-hazards event (natural, technological or terrorism).

In this case, it was an earthquake that replicated a “real world, real-time” emergency. The emergency was, December 7, 2021 at 8:22 am a 6.9 magnitude earthquake with epicenter North of San Juan struck the USAG Fort Buchanan area with aftershocks of 6.4 magnitude December 8, 2021. Messages were immediately released in English and Spanish to keep Fort Buchanan and the local community informed.

Among the participants were garrison tenants such as the Network Enterprise Center (NEC), Logistics Readiness Center (LRC), Mission and Installation Contracting Command (MICC), Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC), Army and Air Force Exchange Service (Exchange), Defense Commissary Agency (DECA), 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC), PR National

Guard (PRNG), Rodriguez Army Health Clinic (RAHC), Navy Operational Support Center Puerto Rico (NOSC), Vet Clinic, DODEA schools and the American Red Cross. Community partners included the Emergency Departments from Bayamón and Guaynabo, the Fire Department from Puerto Nuevo, San Juan and the air ambulance from AEROMED. The following federal agencies also participated in the FSE, FEMA Region II, Veterans Affairs, and the VA Hospital.

The FSE scenarios included, a ruptured Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) tank with a gas release at the Exchange Main Building area, a collapsed roof at The Borinqueneers Access Control Point and damages to the Visitor Control Center, a power outage in various facilities due to damages to the Electrical Sub Station, damages to Exchange Food Court, severe damages at DECA warehouse, a power outage at the NEC



facilities that required the use of a generator to remain operational during the aftershocks, and the activation of the Emergency Family Assistance Center (EFAC) at the Community Club to provide life-sustaining and human services to the affected population.

A team from Installation Management Command (IMCOM) comprised of 15 members evaluated and provided feedback on the various functional areas of the exercise, observing and documenting performance against established capability targets and critical tasks, in accordance with the Exercise Evaluation Guides.

The FSE objective also included the evaluation of the garrison’s recovery planning process that addressed all core capabilities and risk management considerations, among other factors. The FSE included the outstanding job performed by role players that posed different emergencies, from minor injuries to casualties. From



first responders, rescue units to the use of specialized equipment, all tasks were executed promptly and professionally, as it would be in a real life emergency.

In a Letter from Fort Buchanan Command Group to the Community, garrison leaders stated “Our most valuable resource is our people. We are committed to protecting you by providing the safest possible environment for those who work, train and live at this installation. Our stringent safety standards and continuous training help us ensure the well-being of our people and the communities we interact with.”

The exercise concluded with an After Action Review (AAR) from IMCOM’s Evaluator Team on December 10, 2021. Among the areas highlighted by the team was the outstanding engagement of the garrison’s senior leaders, the Public Affairs network sharing installation operational status across the island and the excellent job of the Liaison Officers (LNOs) performing their function as a relay point of information to their personnel, EOC team and Commander on their agency’s ability to provide services and execute their mission.



Fort Buchanan welcomes the Holiday Season

Story by Grissel Rosa, Public Affairs Officer

Photos by Grissel Rosa, Public Affairs Officer and Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist



weather in contrast with the warm temperature in Puerto Rico. The Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander wished the community, “may we all share the wonders of faith, goodwill and hope in peace, and may the New Year bring you health, happiness and prosperity.”

December 10 and 11, 2021 marked the beginning of the Holiday Season at US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan with the traditional Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony, respectively.

The events started with a Holiday Parade, the theme was “Everybody is Santa” with Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the Three Wise Men as the main highlight. During the Tree Lighting activity there were bumper cars, photos with Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Three Wise Men, artisans, food, beverages and live music.

The entertainment began with Puerto Rican composer and singer José Nogueras who delighted the audience with various holiday songs well-known in the Puerto Rican culture. Followed by Bonny Cepeda and his group who put everyone to dance all over the place with merengue rhythms from the Dominican Republic, concluding with the salsa music from Luis González and his band.



The highlight of the night was the Tree Lighting Ceremony in which Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander, Col. Tomika M. Seaberry, accompanied by children from the garrison’s community officially welcome the Holiday Season.

Col. Seaberry performed a small skit portraying Holiday celebrations in Chicago with coat and hat due to the cold



Fort Buchanan receives Secretary of the US Army Energy and Water Award for conservation during Energy Action Month

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry - Public Affairs Specialist



(L to R) Resources Energy Manager, Homar Velázquez Archilla; Environmental Prospection Specialist, Francisco J. Méndez; Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Director, María "Angie" López and Environmental Division Chief, Anibal Negrón, were the technical points of contact for awards received for water harvesting, ground water well and installation water distribution pipe initiatives.



(L to R) Pollution Prevention Program Manager, Osvaldo I. Fantauzzi; Environmental Protection Specialist, Francisco J. Méndez and Resources Energy Manager, Homar Velázquez Archilla handed out informative materials at the Fort Buchanan Army Air Force Exchange main store lobby and explained to the Fort Buchanan community how they can do their part to protect the environment during October, Army Energy Action.

The Army observes Energy Action Month each October to raise awareness of the critical role energy resilience plays in mission readiness and to drive behavior change. This year, the Army's theme is "Power to Win". The Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division (DPWED) at US Army Fort Buchanan received the 2021 Secretary of the US Army Energy and Water Award under the Water Efficiency Category in recognition of accomplishments during fiscal year 2020.

DPW Environmental Division has received, 2020 EPA-Federal Green Challenge Awardee – Waste Program; Department of Defense. Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico recycled and diverted 6,052 tons or 72 percent of their waste from landfills. Also received in 2020 the Federal Energy and Water Management (FEMP) - Federal Energy and Water Management Awards, the US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan Energy Management Program was recognized in the "Program" category.

In 2019 EPA-Federal Green Challenge Awardee - Northeast (Region 2) Regional Award Winners; Waste, Energy and Water, for having recycled 5,219 tons of material out of landfills over the last two years. This included aggregate construction, wood and other,

and non-building & building related material. They decreased their water usage by 42,961,965.70 gallons over the last two years. Finally decreasing energy usage by 26.54 percent over the last two years. Also in 2019, Federal Energy Management Program Awards – DPW Director, Maria "Angie" López received the Career Exceptional Service on behalf of U.S. Army Garrison Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. DPWED was a 2018 Federal Green Challenge Awardee – Waste Program. The Fort Buchanan DPWED diverted and recycled a total of 2,804 tons of waste from landfills, resulting in a diversion rate of 60 percent.

DPWED planned various activities during the 2021 Energy Action Month in order to promote October Energy Action Month and highlight the critical importance of energy resilience to support mission readiness. Some of the hosted activities included: Information awareness tables and public announcement system messages at AAFES stores, awareness flyers distribution, global email messages and social media postings through our USAGFB Public Affairs Office.

There are many things we can do to contribute to Fort Buchanan's "Power To Win" by making "Energy Informed" decisions. We have come a long way and have

implemented many projects, such as Solar Photovoltaic Sites, LED Lighting, Advanced Metering, and Rain Water Harvesting Systems, to ensure that our mission readiness and energy security is sustained. Being these fully sustainable Rain Water Harvesting Systems, the driving "Power to Win" the 2021 Annual Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Award in the Water Efficiency category. These contribute to the conservation of potable water starting in 2018 with 11 total systems installed, with four completed in FY20. These systems provide on-site potable water to offset off-site utility provided water to ensure availability during natural disasters and utility disruption, which are common.

However, our daily decisions will ultimately ensure that we become a sustainable installation, which prevents energy waste. Our actions will help us control and lower our yearly energy use at a fraction of the cost to the tax payer's money. No matter how much money we can invest in energy reduction projects, ultimately our daily actions can shift the current trend of becoming a more energy dependent installation into a more sustainable and balanced one. We all can contribute to sustain our continuous "Power to Win", find more about it at <https://www.asaie.army.mil/Public/ES/energyactionmonth.html>

Military Medics provide COVID-19 vaccinations to Fort Buchanan First Responders

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry - Public Affairs Specialist



Puerto Rico National Guard Army Aviation Cpl. Diego B. Sánchez; Air Force Master Sgt. Juan A. Santos; Air Force Medical Public Health Officer Lt. Col. Ana R. Rivera and Airman Jean C. Declet prepare to administer 60 vaccinations of the Moderna Booster to Fort Buchanan First Responders and staff.

A four member team comprised of Army and Air Force Medics vaccinated 60 first responders from Fort Buchanan Directorate of Emergency Services – Fire and Police Departments and Garrison staff at the Installation Operations Center November 19, 2021.

Puerto Rico National Guard Army Aviation Cpl. Diego B. Sánchez; Air Force Medical Public Health Officer Lt. Col. Ana R. Rivera; Airman Jean C. Declet and Air Force Master Sgt. Juan A. Santos have been traveling the island at times vaccinating up to 90 people per day against COVID-19.

The Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security organized the administration of the Moderna booster vaccines for Fort Buchanan's first responders to assist in compliance with mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for service members and Army civilians, necessary to protect the health and readiness of the force.

"Our team has done many vaccination events and we have four vaccination

centers, Salinas, Fort Buchanan, Muñiz Air National Guard Base and the 141st Air Squadron Control, Ramey Air Force Base, Aguadilla," said Lt. Col. Rivera.

"I am glad to have these vaccinations administered in Fort Buchanan. I appreciate Cpl. Sánchez professional attitude. He was gentle and caring," said Fort Buchanan Police Chief Thomas Acosta-Lamberty.



Lead Firefighter Phillip J. Orlinski received from Army Aviation Cpl. Diego B. Sánchez his booster shot.



Handicap Transport 7 days / 24 hours

SERVICES TO: VA San Juan and VA Clinics Private Travel



787-712-2030
Monday to Friday 7:00am a 7:00pm
Saturday and Sunday 8:00am a 5:00pm

We are in  Autocita

Garrison Commander meets with Fort Buchanan's Retiree Council

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry - Public Affairs Specialist



Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry and the Command Group met with Council Chairman Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Fernando Fernández at garrison headquarters Flag Room November 9, 2021.

Prior to the Retiree Council Quarterly Meeting, Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry and the Command Group met with Council Chairman Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Fernando Fernández at garrison headquarters Flag Room November 9, 2021.

At this first meeting since Col. Seaberry assumed command of the garrison, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Fernández explained the importance of the Retiree Council meetings, which due to the constraints imposed by the pandemic have at times been postponed. Fernández stressed that these meetings ensure that correct information and messages are shared with Veteran associations and organizations especially concerning installation access and changes in policy. He also provided updates on future events Retiree Council members have planned, such as the upcoming 2022, 100 Year Anniversary of the US Army Reserve in Puerto Rico. He announced next year's visit of the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman (SEAC) of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. SEAC Ramón Colón-López,



Approximately 30 members representing 16 Veterans Organizations and 8 staff from various garrison directorates participated in the Quarterly Retiree Council Meeting held at the Gen. James A. Buchanan Conference Room at Garrison Headquarters.

born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, holds a distinct military position and rank within the United States Department of Defense and is designated the most senior enlisted service member, by position, in the United States Armed Forces.

Col. Seaberry accompanied by Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Brian Mandock; Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks and Deputy to the Commander Derrick W. Hood, presented the projects in the works now, such as the ongoing construction of a Reserve Center on post, which is approximately 70% completed and upcoming projects like improvements to the gymnasium. Col. Seaberry also highlighted recent



(Center) Garrison Commander Col. Seaberry listens attentively as Veterans and Retirees put forth their concerns and inquiries.



Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry welcomes Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Assistant Director Puerto Rico, Anthony Coltrane to the Fort Buchanan Retiree Council Meeting.

successful events held like the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) hiring fair which culminated with approximately 30 on-the-spot hires in direct assistance to veterans and service members.

Immediately following the office call, they proceeded to the Retiree Council Meeting where approximately 30 members representing 16 Veterans Organizations and 8 staff from various garrison directorates participated. Some of the Veterans organizations represented were Puerto Rico Veterans Advocate and Deputy, Agustín Montañez-Allman, Esq and Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Segundo Ferro, respectively; Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) Luis A. Soto and CASA Emeritus, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Félix A. Santoni; Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Assistant Director Puerto Rico, Anthony Coltrane; American Legion Angel Narvaez;



(L) Puerto Rico Veterans Advocate and Deputy, Agustín Montañez-Allman, Esq addressed some concerns on medical plans and facilities, suggesting that Veterans organizations should be concentrating on bringing Veterans and Retirees back to the island, since after the onslaught of Hurricane María there has been a steady migration to the main land United States.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Commanders John Fisher and Ruben Arce and Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 59 President Jorge Pedroza.

"Welcome to the house you helped build," said Col. Seaberry, in her opening remarks to the council, extending a special mention to VA Anthony Coltrane. "I am here to make a difference instantly, while keeping our people safe. Since I assumed command this past May, we held the 4th of July Celebration, October Fest event, all the month of October had a Haunted House, did a Trunk or Treat, opened the installation six days not just five, opened Spc. Vega Gate for access and opened the gymnasium for Veterans and their spouses. I am here and I am listening. The team and I are looking at all the ways to improve while keeping everyone safe," said Col. Seaberry in conclusion.

Presentations were made by Tricare Representative Gerardo Garcia discussing and answering questions on their Open Season and from the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Sports and Events Divisions, respectively, Roberto Fernández and Julio Capacetti who announced the Holiday Celebration to be held December 10 and 11, 2021.

After the presentations, council members opened the floor to concerns, questions and general topics of discussion. Some issues raised were regarding healthcare, discounts at the Commissary and approaching events to include the State DAV Convention in April 22-24, 2022 planned to be held at the Fort Buchanan Community Club and Conference Center and a Boots To Business on-line training to establish Veteran owned businesses. The discussion was a lively exchange of opinions, interests and suggestions culminating in a commitment to continue to serve the Veteran community.

USAG Fort Buchanan celebrates and honors Veterans Day

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry - Public Affairs Specialist



Addressing attendees, Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks said "Welcome to our Veterans this is a wonderful event that we have been looking forward to for a while."

Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry thanked everyone for attending the Veteran Appreciation Day event and expressed the honor and privilege it is for her.

Col. Seaberry addressed the approximate 250 Veterans, Service Members and their families.

The PR Veterans Advocate, Agustín Montañez-Allman, Esq. provided a brief presentation on the work his agency does as a facilitator between Veterans and different federal agencies as well as assistance with claims.



Col. Seaberry asked all the Veteran Organization representatives with informative booths at this event to raise their right hand and promise to be present at the next Veterans Appreciation Day event.

Deputy to the Garrison Commander Derrick W. Hood receives information from PR Veterans Advocate Director of Claims, Leslie Morales.

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Banks signs up with the association of Veterans of Foreign Wars. Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Banks signs up with the association of Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Veteran and Association of US Army's representative Chief Warrant Officer (Ret.) Cristino Lozada Cruz had his blood pressure and glucose levels checked at the MCS booth.

US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan held three days of activities in commemoration of Veterans Day. On Monday, November 8, 2021 the installation Religious Support Office led by Garrison Command Chaplain, Maj. David S. Keller and members of the post chapel congregations had an information booth with free materials for the Veteran community at the Army, Air Force Exchange Service (Exchange) main store lobby.

The next day Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry and the command group held an office call with Fort Buchanan Retiree Council Chairman Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Fernando Fernández prior to the quarterly meeting of the Retiree Council at the Gen. James A. Buchanan Conference Room.

The garrison held a Veterans Appreciation Conference at the Fort Buchanan Community Club and Conference Center, November 10, 2021 with the participation of over 30 Veterans and Veterans support organizations attended by approximately 250 Veterans, their families or companions.

"The purpose of this Veterans Appreciation Day event is to maintain Veterans, service members and their families up to date on benefits and privileges available

and to foster good will between the Veteran community and Fort Buchanan," said Transition Services Specialist and master of ceremony, José R. Morales.

"Welcome to our Veterans this is a wonderful event that we have been looking forward to for a while," said Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks. "I know it has been a difficult year and a half with the pandemic, but this right here is progress. To all you Veterans this is your day, enjoy it and we hope it meets your expectations," he said in conclusion.

"I want to start this off by saying thank you. It is my privilege to be here today to honor such a very special group – American Veterans," said Col. Seaberry. "Tomorrow all across the nation we will celebrate and honor America's Veterans for the devotion, patriotism, selfless service and sacrifice that you made on behalf of me and people that you don't even know across this world. Veterans thank you for keeping us free. Thank you for teaching us the ultimate giving of yourself and having faith in your nation. You are the heart and soul of the spirit of our nation." Col. Seaberry concluded quoting President Calvin Coolidge "The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten." Fort Buchanan will never forget its Veterans and their families, our heroes.

The PR Veterans Advocate, Agustín Montañez-Allman, Esq. expressed his appreciation to the attendees providing a brief on the work his agency does as a facilitator between Veterans and different federal agencies. Montañez-Allman explained that his office is considered a VSO, a Veterans Service Organization and is accredited and approved by the Veterans Administration to take all types of claims such as, compensation, pensions, and any benefits issues even medical. "Today we have our Director of Claims, Leslie Morales at our information booth here. Anything that you may need please stop by and see her," said Montañez-Allman. The PR Veterans Advocate has two installations; the Veterans Home in Juana Diaz and a State Veterans Cemetery funded by the Veterans Administration.

During this event Veterans received information, checked on claims, and even got their blood pressure and glucose levels verified.

At noon at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (Exchange) main store lobby Col. Seaberry and Exchange General Manager, Thea M. Sarver handed out to Veterans an Exchange Commemorative Veterans Day Coin and were served cake during a Veterans Day Cake Cutting Ceremony.

2021

YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY



Physical Fitness Center Annex memorialized in honor of PFC Roberto E. Clemente Walker

FEBRAURY



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of Maxie Williams Track

MARCH



PR National Guard and Fort Buchanan work together in Las Casas Lake

APRIL



Garrison celebrates first national Borinqueneers Day dedicating VCC in honor of SFC Modesto Cartagena

MAY



JUNE



Fort Buchanan supports "Corazón Azul"

JULY



Fort Buchanan hosts Public Affairs Network Meeting

AUGUST



Fort Buchanan supports "Our Community Salutes" 10th Anniversary Celebration

SEPTEMBER



Fort Buchanan has a new Dental Clinic

SEPTEMBER



Fort Buchanan signs MOA with PR Department of Public Safety

OCTOBER



Fort Buchanan hosts Domestic Violence 5K Fun Run/Walk

OCTOBER



Fort Buchanan receives SECARMY Award for FY21 Energy and Water Conservation Program

NOVEMBER



Fort Buchanan celebrates 2021 Organizational Day

DECEMBER



DECEMBER



Christmas Parade Tree Lighting

USAG Fort Buchanan Celebrates 2021 Organizational Day

Story by Grissel Rosa - Public Affairs Officer

After waiting almost two years due to the pandemic, USAG Fort Buchanan celebrated its traditional Organizational Day, November 5, 2021 at the Cabaña Picnic area. Garrison employees from all directorates and staff offices and some of their immediate family members joined by various tenants such as the Logistics Readiness Center (LRC), Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) and the Mission and Installation Contracting Command (MICC) had a day of fun and camaraderie while observing COVID-19 preventive measures.

The purpose of the Organizational Day was to recognize the achievements, hard work, and dedication of the workforce. It also stressed the importance of US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan's mission of enabling holistic readiness for the total force.

There were various tables around the area with information on programs and services.

The event started with the invocation by Garrison Chaplain David S. Keller followed by the Installation Safety Officer, Carlos Alvarado who presented important



information in preparation for the holidays. Garrison Commander Colonel Tomika M. Seaberry officially marked the beginning of the activities giving thanks to all the Fort Buchanan team, garrison and tenants, highlighting the agenda for the day, which was...to have fun!

Sports included intense volleyball and basketball competitions, table tennis, dominoes, bocce ball, corn hole, horseshoe, hula-hoop, virtual shooting, and bowling. The winner of the coveted Fort Buchanan trophy was announced at the end of the day in an environment filled with anticipation, especially from the undefeated team of

DPW (Directorate of Public Works). Roberto Fernández, supervisory sports specialist and master of ceremony for the event started, "With 125 points, the team from DPTMS (Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security), ILO (Installation Legal Office) and MICC (Mission and Installation Contracting Command). With 150 points, the team from DHR (Directorate of Human Resources), RMO (Resource Management Office and CPAC. With 200 the LRC (Logistics Readiness Command) team. In third place, with 450 points...DPW. (The crowd asked, "If DPW was always undefeated and this year is in third place, who is the winner of the Garrison Cup?) Roberto continued. In second place, with

475 points the DFMWR (Directorate of Family and, Morale, Welfare and Recreation) team. An in first place, with 600 points...the Headquarters Team comprised of the Chaplain (Religious Support Office), Firefighters (Directorate of Emergency Services-Fire Department) and PAIO (Plans, Analysis and Integration Office). The garrison commander immediately grabbed the trophy and ran showing it to the cheering crowd! But, there's always next year. So, stay tuned.

Col. Seaberry, representing the Command Group team, Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. Brian Mandock and Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Derrick W. Hood, thanked everyone for their participation, which surely met the goal of having fun and getting together to share a good time as we approach the holiday season.



J & M Palerm

Seguros y Fianzas

Seguros de Viajes

787-902-6566
787-902-6562

- Servicios prestados por Médicos
- Medicamentos Recetados
- Exámenes y Procedimientos Diagnósticos
- Servicio Dental por Emergencia
- Traslado por Emergencia Médica
- Repatriación de Heridos o Enfermos
- Estadía de Hotel durante Convalecencia ordenada
- Repatriación de Restos Mortales
- Traslado de Familiar para acompañarle en la Convalecencia
- Estadía de Regreso, en fecha diferente a la prevista
- Repatriación de menores, hasta los 15 años de edad
- Asistencia Legal en caso Accidente de Tránsito
- Reembolso de Gastos or demora o cancelación de Vuelo
- Localización de Equipaje retrasado o extraviado
- Indemnización por perdida definitiva de Equipaje
- Localización de Equipaje retrasado o extraviado
- Compensación por Equipaje no localizado (en 72 horas o más)
- Regreso por fallecimiento de un familiar
- Regreso por un siniestro en su domicilio
- Pérdida de Conexión Aérea
- Pérdida de Pasaporte





**American
Red Cross**

Story by Rosemarie (Beba) Valdez
Regional Director of Communications
American Red Cross Puerto Rico Chapter

In commemoration of Veterans Day, the American Red Cross Puerto Rico Chapter honors Veterans for their service and acknowledges veteran volunteers that each day stand up with the Red Cross to help military and veteran communities.

In the last fiscal year 2021, volunteers from Service to the Armed Forces provided more than 7,119 hygiene and personal items to Veterans in Puerto Rico. Volunteers Carmen Hernández, Rodney Austin and other Veterans helped with these distributions.

Veteran volunteers apply their unique, professional skills in a variety of ways. For instance, Dr. Nelson López, a veteran mental health specialist, provides Red Cross resiliency workshops to other Veterans. "It [not only] allows me to connect with other Veterans in difficult times, but it also gives me the opportunity to hear their stories, accomplishments and gain more knowledge to continue helping active duty members, Veterans and their family members," said Nelson López.

Through the American Red Cross Hero

Care Network, veteran volunteers answer emergency calls 24/7 to help military families in times of emergencies. They also respond to disasters in the island and around the nation. They conduct virtual workshops to combat feelings of isolation in injured Veterans and their caregivers. They deliver care packages to Veterans in different health clinics and VA hospitals. They also sewed and delivered thousands of face coverings to military and veteran hospitals in need during the initial months of the pandemic; just as the Red Cross did to support World War I Soldiers during the 1918 flu pandemic.

Volunteering as a Veteran

Ties between the Red Cross with the military and veteran community spans for nearly 140 years. Many Red Cross volunteers are Veterans who continue to support their communities after their active duty service ends. From functional, programmatic to leadership roles, Veterans give back and support the mission of the Red Cross. To learn more about how you can support the Red Cross mission in your community, visit cruzrojapr.net or call (787) 758-8150.



Chaplain's Corner

A power outage can cause the tiniest of lights to glow even brighter

Column by Garrison Command Chaplain
Maj. David S. Keller – "Serving with You!"

Power outages seem to be a regular occurrence on the island these days. When the power goes out, it is a constant reminder to me how dependent we are on technology and electrical devices. When the lights go out, so does my router, which causes my internet and streaming ability to come to a complete and grinding halt. One can feel so isolated and helpless.

It is at this juncture that I hear the coquis or the sounds of my family moving around. I remember that there is life outside the realm of a TV, computer or tablet. We talk and interact more over a simple board game with a flashlight. And you know what, it turns out to be a wonderful time. Yes, I can still use cellular phone if I have the data left. However, my phone won't turn my lights on without a generator. My phone doesn't own my relationships with my family and friends, I do.

In a way, turning out the power eliminates distractions for a time. It causes me to reconnect with my God and my faith journey. It serves to focus me on the voices around me that really matter – God and my family.

As we start this New Year, when we are faced with darkness, it simply causes the tiniest of lights to glow even more vibrantly. So when you see the lights flicker and the house goes quiet, remember that you have an eternal power source to which to connect. You simply have to light a candle, speak a prayer ... or wait until the power company turns the electric back on – your choice.

If you'd like to connect to an eternal power source this and every weekend, please join us for our Protestant and Catholic chapel services at the post chapel every Sunday:

**Protestant Chapel
Service at 9:30 am**

**Catholic Chapel Service
at 11:30 am.**

Services will continue to be live streamed on Facebook for the Ft. Buchanan Chapel Protestant Service <https://www.facebook.com/Ft-Buchanan-Chapel-Protestant-Service-101189707958782>.

USAG Fort Buchanan and 1st MSC co-host “In Gratitude We Thrive” Prayer Luncheon

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry - Public Affairs Specialist



Army Chaplains and Religious Affairs Noncommissioned Officers pose with the guest speaker (center) First Calvary Division, Division Chaplain, Lt. Col. Jorge L. Torres.

US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan and the US Army Reserve 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC) co-hosted a Prayer Luncheon with the participation of the Puerto Rico National Guard (PRNG) for approximately 150 Service Members and Department of the Army civilians at the installation's Community Club and Conference Center, November 17, 2021.

1st MSC Family Life Chaplain Maj. Joseph Okpe served as master of ceremony and 1st MSC Command Chaplain Lt. Col. Edgardo Ortiz provided the welcome remarks, benediction and invocation.

“With great joy we celebrate this event with the purpose to give thanks to God for taking care of each of us during this year and looking forward in faith for the future,” said Chp. Ortiz “There is a quote that says “Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and



Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry and 1st Mission Support Commander, Col. Carlos M. Cáceres exchange greetings as Deputy to the Garrison Commander Derrick W. Hood speaks with Col. Cáceres spouse Sonia Cáceres.

more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend,” he concluded.

“We’ve been through a lot in the past couple of years and sometimes we are so busy adding up our troubles that we forget to count up our blessings. I would tell you even though the storm seems like it’s not going to be over, it will be over because the Chaplains got together and decided to feed us, that is a good sign of a blessing. I would challenge

everyone in this room to join me to be, one, a servant leader and two, to give a little bit more, at least 10% more of yourself,” said Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to stand here, to be able to talk to you at such an important event, in fellowship, in partnership, with the Puerto Rico National Guard and our friends from the Garrison. It is truly a blessing to be amongst so many friends and leaders that are so devoted to the wellbeing of our Soldiers, our mission, and our spiritual wellbeing,” said 1st MSC Commander Col. Carlos M. Cáceres.



Leadership and staff of the Puerto Rico National Guard with Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. José J. Reyes (Center) and Assistant Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Narciso Cruz to his right.



Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry challenged the audience to join her in being a servant leader and striving always to give more of yourself.

“Prayer is the solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God or an object of worship. Prayer is a necessary part of human existence,” said Chp. Okpe as he presented the main portion of the event, prayer.

Garrison Command Chaplain Maj. David S. Keller led the prayer for leadership and the community. PRNG Full Time Support Chaplain Lt. Col. Julio Vera led the prayer for Puerto Rico and our families. From the Fort Buchanan Chapel congregant, US Air Force (Ret.) Joseph Bender led the prayer for Veterans, Retirees and Department of Defense civilians, and 1st MSC Deputy Command Chaplain Lt. Col. Wanda I. Acevedo led prayers for blessings in disguise and for the meal.



1st MSC Command Chaplain Lt. Col. Edgardo Ortiz provided the welcome remarks, benediction and invocation.



1st MSC Commander, Col. Carlos M. Cáceres in addressing the audience expressed the honor and privilege to be at the prayer luncheon and recognized the fellowship the activity represents.

Chp. Acevedo also led a choir who sang special spiritual songs and hymns during the meal. The musical members accompanying Chp. Acevedo were 1st MSC 166th Regional Support Group Brigade Chaplain Capt. Julio Vargas; from the Rodriguez Army Health Clinic Soide Rodríguez and Carlos LLaraza, and Chaplain Candidate 1Lt. Yesbelmary Figueora.

The event culminated with guest speaker, First Cavalry Division, Division Chaplain Lt. Col. Jorge L. Torres narrating the extraordinary heroism, patriotism, selfless service of World War II hero and Medal of Honor recipient from the 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division Chaplain Capt. Emil J. Kapaun. Chp. Kapaun while prisoner, saved countless Soldiers and service members, and sacrificed his life for them.

Chp. Torres asked “Can we truly give thanks in all circumstances? How can we be resilient and grateful during difficult times? ...and have we not all been going through challenging times?” Recounting the story, “As Father Kapaun was being taken to the death house by the enemy he said looking at his captors “Forgive me if I have offended you.” He looked at his men and they saw he gave a blessing to the enemy and Kapaun said, looking at his captors “forgive them Father for they know not what they do,” two days later he was dead,” said Chp. Torres. “With the Kapaun story I am here to tell you yes, yes, a resounding yes. By living out Chp. Kapaun’s story, caring for others more than ourselves we can truly give thanks in all circumstances, be resilient and grateful even during difficult times,” concluded Chp. Torres.



Approximately 150 Service Members and Department of the Army civilians attended the Prayer Luncheon “In Gratitude We Thrive.”

Military Leaders serve Thanksgiving Lunch to Service Members, Veterans and Retirees

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry Public Affairs Specialist

November 24, 2021, the day before Thanksgiving, military leaders got together at Fort Buchanan's Community Club and Conference Center to serve approximately 450 guests, free meals to Service Members, Veterans and Retirees, and purchased meals to their families and Department of the Army Civilians.

Members of USAG Fort Buchanan Command Group comprised of Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Brian Mandock; Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks and Deputy to



(L to R) Lt. Col. Mandock, Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Banks, Derrick W. Hood and the Director of Human Resources, Ulises Marrero served free meals to approximately 450 guests, among them Service Members, Veterans, and Retirees during the Thanksgiving Lunch sponsored by Gary Sinise Foundation.



1st MSC Commander, Col. Cáceres and his spouse Sonia had the opportunity to thank all for their service to our nation.

the Garrison Commander Derrick W. Hood, in conjunction with by the Commander of 1st Mission Support Command Col. Carlos M. Cáceres; representatives from the Puerto Rico Army National Guard G-3 Deputy Chief of Staff Col. Alberto L. Miranda, Lt. Col. Rodolfo A. Colón, and Sgt. Maj. Reynaldo Soto, along with the garrison's Director of Human Resources, Ulises Marrero, served the lunch sponsored by the Gary Sinise Foundation Serving Heroes Program.

The organization honors our Service Members, Veterans and Retirees through their Serving Heroes Program. The program states that "Serving Heroes is more than a meal.

It's an opportunity to form connections and strengthen communities. It's a simple way to remind our heroes that America cares and is grateful for their service. We're showing our gratitude face-to-face with a plate, a smile, and a handshake."

The Directorate of Family and, Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff from the Community Club prepared the meals. While the children from Child and Youth Services contributed to the celebration providing colorful decorated paper turkey's used as center pieces on the tables.

"It's wonderful to break bread with the community, with all the services Vets, Retirees and Civil Servants. Meeting the community was great!" said Command Sgt. Maj. Banks.

"This event got all the tenants' leaders together, 1st MSC, PRANG serving Service Members and the community. It was a simple yet significant event for all participants," said Lt. Col. Mandock.



PRNG G-3, Col. Miranda and G-3 staff joined other leaders to serve the Thanksgiving Lunch to our troops, Service Members, Veterans and Retirees.

Fort Buchanan donates food to Puerto Rico Food Bank

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry - Public Affairs Specialist

In early October US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan began collecting food for the Puerto Rico Food Bank, part of the Feeding America Program, since the advent of the pandemic last year they have been running very low on supplies.

Garrison Command Chaplain Maj. David S. Keller placed throughout the installation boxes with posters with the list of items needed by the food bank with the target of delivering the nourishment November 22, 2021 before Thanksgiving Day.

A team comprised of Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry; Garrison Command Sgt. Major José A. Banks; Religious Support (RSO) Non-commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) Sgt. Juan Merced; Chp. (Maj.) Keller and commissary staff began emptying boxes located at the Commissary and loading the donated food to be delivered.

Before leaving to the food bank November 22, 2021, Chp. (Maj.) Keller went to several locations throughout the base to pick up the donations boxes. At the Puerto Rico National Guard (PRNG) Joint Forces Headquarters in Fort Buchanan, Air NG Tech. Sgt. José J. Quijano, Master Sgt. José A. DeJesús and Senior Enlisted Leader Air NG Command Chief James L. Brown assisted in packing the collected donations. Followed by Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Commander David F. Zerda and Master Chief Fernando J. Quiñones who helped gather their collected food donations.



Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry (center), Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks, Commissary staff, (L to R) Garrison Command Religious Affairs NCO, Sgt. Juan Merced and Garrison Command Chaplain Maj. David S. Keller gathered four shopping carts full of food donations from boxes located at the commissary.

At the Puerto Rico Food Bank, Chp. (Maj.) Keller, Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Banks and Garrison Command Religious Affairs NCO Sgt. Merced were received by Administrator, Claribel Gonzalez; Program Manager Damaris Soto and Communications and Marketing Director, Kudra Quiles.

The first thing the food bank does when food donations are delivered is place all the items on pallets, then they are weighed, the weight is documented with the information from the donator. Fort Buchanan collected and donated 958 pounds of food, equal to 3 pallets.

Soto gave the Fort Buchanan team a tour of the warehouse facilities including a store where 188 organizations such as



(PRNG) Joint Forces Headquarters in Fort Buchanan, Air NG Master Sgt. José A. DeJesús, Air NG Tech. Sgt. José J. Quijano, Garrison Command Chaplain Maj. David S. Keller, and Senior Enlisted Leader Air NG Command Chief James L. Brown pose with the donated food collected at their unit.



(L to R) Garrison Commander Col. Seaberry and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Banks load up the donated food for transport to the food bank.

Bill's Kitchen, La Fondita de Jesús can get food for their use for a donation of 19 cents per pound. Every weekend they feed approximately 1,078 children.

The Food Bank has programs for feeding the elderly, college students and more. Between July and October 2021 206,683 pounds of food fed 23,532 children; 55,736 pounds of food fed 12,386 older adults and 487,574 pounds of food fed 108,350 impacted communities.

The Fort Buchanan team left honored and committed to continue to support these relief efforts, aware that due to the pandemic as rations dwindle and unemployment rises, families find themselves in difficult circumstances.

USAG Fort Buchanan conducts Retirement Ceremony “In Honor of Your Service” for Soldiers and Civilian

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa - Public Affairs Officer



Garrison Commander, Col. Tomika M. Seaberry presented Josian Sánchez' awards accompanied by his spouse, Judith Sánchez during the significant event conducted at the garrison's chapel on November 4, 2021.



Garrison Commander, Col. Tomika M. Seaberry presented to Master Sgt. Victoria her Soldier for Life package accompanied by her mother Querube Ceja who came with other family members from Panama for the occasion.



(L to R) Josian Sánchez, Col. Seaberry, Master Sgt. Victoria and Maj. Ocasio pose as new retirees and Soldiers for Life at the end of Fort Buchanan's Retirement Ceremony.

service with the Armed Forces of the United States; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal from the United Nations Command and United States Forces Korea for exceptionally meritorious service. As the Deputy Provost Marshal, “he spearheaded United States Forces Korea Provost Marshal policy revision efforts, covering a range of topics including law enforcement procedures and Serious Incident Reporting.” A true leader who proudly served as a member of the

Buchanan truly represents our Army values for 20 years of loyal service to the US Army and 21 years of service as a federal government employee. The legacy he leaves at Fort Buchanan is his dedication to work and unconditional support to others. He was presented the Commander's Award for Civilian Service. He was “commended for his excellent meritorious service and performance over twenty years while serving with honor and distinction in various positions at the United States Army Garrison Fort Buchanan. His actions throughout his career resulted in exceptional contributions and were vital to the success and mission accomplishment of the organization.” He also received a Certificate of Appreciation upon his retirement “for the many years of service, which you have given to our country” and a Certificate of Retirement.

Maj. Ocasio's spouse, Lissandra Rivera and Josian Sánchez's spouse, Judith Sánchez received a Certificate of Appreciation on the retirement of their respective husbands for their “unselfish, faithful and devoted service,” as well as their unfailing support and understanding that helped to make possible their husbands lasting contribution to the Nation.

Col. Tomika M. Seaberry, garrison commander, described the group of retirees as “heroes” who loyally served our nation for 20, 30 or more years through different career paths. The Retirement Ceremony “marks the end of a chapter in their lives and the beginning of a promising future.” Her message to the retirees was “to cherish your memories during your time in service, for which we are all grateful, but moreover remember your friends as you transition to another chapter of life by the hand of God and family. To all, many blessings in your future endeavors.”

USAG Fort Buchanan Command Group leaders, directors, civilians, military personnel, families and friends got together November 4, 2021 at the garrison's chapel to conduct a Retirement Ceremony to reflect on the past endeavors and to present our gratitude to two Soldiers and one member of the garrison's workforce for the legacy they left at each organization they served.

The group of retirees was comprised of the following: Maj. César Ocasio, deputy provost marshal, United States Forces Korea and United Nations Command, Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea had many responsibilities on his shoulders. His previous assignments, awards, decorations and academic achievements provide an impressive background of his accomplishments. He was presented the Defense Meritorious Service Medal from the Department of Defense for outstanding meritorious

United States Army.

Master Sgt. Liza Judith Victoria from Mc Donald Army Health Center who joined the Army in November 1997. During her 24 years of service, she held various leadership positions, from team leader to Platoon Sergeant until becoming Master Sergeant at McDonald Army Health Center at fort Eustis, Virginia. She received the Meritorious Service Medal “for meritorious service in positions of increased responsibilities, culminating as the Medical Company First Sergeant. Her exemplary service and commitment to the nation through time of war and peace have been steadfast, unwavering and in keeping with the Army Values.”

Josian Sánchez, management and program analyst from the office of Plans, Analysis and Integration (PAIO), USAG Fort

Staff member from Fort Buchanan CPAC recognized for outstanding service

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry - Public Affairs Officer

Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC), Senior Human Resources Specialist Diana I. Román-Negrón was surprised to be summoned to the Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander's Conference Room November 19, 2021.

Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry, explained that since joining the fort Buchanan CPAC in March of this year, Román-Negrón was able to resolve many stagnant personnel actions that were destined to stay deskbound. Present were Deputy to the Garrison Commander Derrick W. Hood and Garrison Command Sgt. Major José A. Banks and joining them via video conferencing from Jacksonville CPAC was Human Resources Director Caryll E. Wilson.

Col. Seaberry said “There were actions that had been stagnant for very long periods of time and Diana Román-Negrón went in seeing the possibility of their resolution and resolved them, while taking great care of others.” Col. Seaberry presented Román-Negrón with the Fort Buchanan Coin of Excellence for her outstanding service to the civilian workforce.

“One personnel action that had been stagnant for years was in our Directorate of Emergency Services, a person who was a GS 4 for a long period of time Román-Negrón worked the case and this person has been finally successfully promoted,” said Hood. “Her work ethic and positive service attitude is making great strides in our CPAC for our civilian personnel,” he concluded.

“We are very proud of you Diana and the great work you have done,” said Wilson.

“I am extremely humble for the recognition. This is a team effort not only mine. I feel that providing outstanding customer service to all stakeholders is imperative. It's about how we treat people and how you make them feel,” said Román-Negrón. Her favorite quote is “The greatest good is what we do for others,” - Mother Teresa. Diana I. Román-Negrón has been with the Civilian Human Resources Agency for a total of 25 years.



Senior Human Resources Specialist Diana I. Román-Negrón received from Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry the Commander's Coin for Excellence for exemplary work at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) at Fort Buchanan, joining them are (L) Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Derick W. Hood and (R) Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks.



(L to R) Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Derick W. Hood; Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry; Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks; Senior Human Resources Specialist Diana I. Román-Negrón and via video conference, Jacksonville CPAC was Human Resources Director Caryll E. Wilson.

USAG Fort Buchanan Domestic Violence Awareness 5K Fun Run/Walk

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa - Public Affairs Officer

The Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR), Army Community Services (ACS), Family Advocacy Program (FAP) ended October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a 5K Fun Run/Walk, held at Fort Buchanan October 30, 2021.

A group of approximately 50 runners/walkers comprised of garrison personnel, Service Members, Families and community joined Command Group leaders – Col. Tomika Seaberry, garrison commander; Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks, Lt. Col. Brian M. Mandock, deputy garrison commander and Derrick W. Hood, deputy to the garrison commander - at the Cabaña Picnic area for the event.

Every year, Fort Buchanan joins this national observance with events like the 5K Fun Run/Walk to promote awareness to prevent domestic or intimate partner violence. Col. Seaberry emphasized, “The Army’s priority is the safety and security of its people. Domestic violence is prevalent in every community. It affects all people regardless of age, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion or nationality. At Fort Buchanan, we have zero tolerance for domestic violence”.

The ACS team composed of Ruth González, FAP manager; Raymond Morales, Exceptional Family Member Program;



Adelina Reynoso-Acosta, Sexual Assault Response coordinator and Ivette Dávila, ACS acting chief encourages you that if you see something, say something! Take action and quickly report suspected abuse. It might save a life. You can call the Victim Advocacy Hotline at (787) 221-7982 or reach out FAP for help in developing healthy relationship skills to prevent this type of violence. Educate yourself to help others, a family member or friend, who might be in a potentially abusive relationship. The team, in conjunction with Roberto Fernández, DFMWR Supervisory Sports Specialist, provided information, gifts and fruits to all participants.

“We want our community to have healthy relationships free from domestic abuse. We want you to be safe and have a healthy and happy life. We are Fort Buchanan! ¡Somos el Fuerte Buchanan!,” concluded Command Sgt. Maj. Banks.

J & M Palerm

Seguros y Fianzas

**Un Mundo de Seguros,
Seguros para todo el Mundo**

787-902-6566 / 787-902-6562
jpalerseguros@gmail.com

**1055 Marginal Ave. Kennedy
Suite PH-2
San Juan, PR 00920**



Pólizas para Dueños de Negocio



Programas para Iglesias



Planes Médicos



Pólizas de Auto



Asistencia de Viaje



Asistencia en Carretera



Seguros de Vida



Asistencia 60+



Póliza de Dueño de Hogar ("Homeowner")



Seguros de Embarcación



Inundación ("Flood")



Seguros de Aviación



Asistencia en el Hogar



Pólizas Comerciales

USAG Fort Buchanan celebrates its first “Trunk or Treat”

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa - Public Affairs Officer



Over 200 adults and children got together at the old Child and Youth Services (CYS) parking area to celebrate USAG Fort Buchanan’s first “Trunk or Treat” event, October 29, 2021. Kids from the garrison’s housing area and kids at heart enjoyed this great alternative to the traditional “Trick or Treat” in safe location.

Cadets from University of Puerto Rico Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) from Rio Piedras, Cayey, Bayamón and Turabo; US Marine Corps Reserve, the Exchange, the 166th Regional Support Group, Rodriguez Army Health Clinic, Veterinary Clinic, the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS), garrison Command Group and the Directorate of Emergency Services – Fire Department showed their extraordinary skills and creativity with themed designs.

The event started at dusk with scary and funny costumes, clowns, dinosaurs, princesses, superheroes, and even visitors from other galaxies and Mount Olympus. Many of the adults wore elaborate costumes like the ROTC cadet clown and his dog who won the first prize followed by “Maleficent”. In the “trunk” category, from the ROTC Program as well, the first prize went to the “Greek Gods” and “The Purge” in second position.

The event was at no cost, safer than normal trick or treating, and more convenient for parents because they only had to take



their kids to one place. Parents were very pleased with the initiative. “We are looking forward for next year to have this fun event for our community,” said Col. Tomika M. Seaberry, garrison commander. Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. José A. Banks thanked all for their support to this new event at Fort Buchanan.

We are Fort Buchanan! ¡Somos el Fuerte Buchanan!

Many of the adults wore elaborate and extraordinary costumes like the ROTC cadet clown and his dog (top left) who won the first prize followed by “Maleficent” (top right). (Photos below) One participant was “very impressed” with the “scary” dinosaur from Jurassic Park . Even Sparky, Fort Buchanan’s Fire Department mascot met his “Mini Me”. In the “trunk” category, from the ROTC Program, the first prize went to the “Greek Gods”. The “Super Heroes Family” posed for the picture during the “Trunk or Treat” event. It was definitely a lot of fun for all family members.





Autocita
“Su Transporte de Confianza”

Handicap Transport
7 días / 24 horas

SERVICIOS A
Hospital de Veteranos
Clinicas de Veteranos
Viajes Privados



712-2030

UN SERVICIO DE PRIMERA PARA GENTE DE PRIMERA

787-712-2030

Lunes a Viernes 7:00am a 7:00pm
Sabado y Domingo 8:00am a 5:00pm



Photos by Grissel Rosa - Public Affairs Officer and Rosie Irizarry - Public Affairs Officer



HAPPY



Holidays

