

# EL MORRO

SENTINEL  
OF THE CARIBBEAN



Story on page 4

Colonel Charles N. Moulton became U.S. Army Garrison Fort Buchanan's 74th commander, assuming command of the only federal military installation in Puerto Rico from outgoing commander Colonel Tomika M. Seaberry, in a ceremony conducted at the 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC) Sgt. Miguel A. Ramos Hall November 30, 2022. Col. Moulton took the Garrison Colors virtually passed to him by Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Readiness Director Brenda Lee McCullough host of the ceremony, assuming command authority of the installation.





## Col. Tomika M. Seaberry Fort Buchanan Outgoing Garrison Commander

Thank you for sharing this journey with me

Regardless of how much training one has received throughout their life. The most emotional action is saying goodbye, especially when one has submerged their professional and personal time into a community filled with dedicated, caring, hardworking, and compassionate people. Eighteen months ago, one of my dreams became a reality, commanding at the brigade level. However, I never imagined being a Garrison Commander, especially not the Garrison Commander of Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

When I received the congratulatory call, I quickly became overwhelmed with emotions. So much was happening in my personal life; I asked my Lord if this was the right time. Although I paused, I knew it was the right time regardless of whatever was going on in my life.

As I reflect on my eighteen months in command, commanding Fort Buchanan has been a humbling assignment. Although I am thousands of miles away from my family, I saw early in my tenure I had a purpose for being in Puerto Rico. It wasn't just to say I was the commander but to show that I was a commander of the people. I wanted our community to understand three things about their new Garrison leader quickly, their opinions mattered, and I am a leader who listens and acts on their concerns/issues. I also wanted to show I am a servant leader consistently. I knew I needed to earn trust, especially as we came to terms with operating within the COVID-19 environment.

From day one of my command, my priority has been People First. I heard a common theme chanting improve service and support to all. After conducting sensing sessions with our workforce and the golfing community, both groups shed some light on areas the garrison needed to improve. The first order of business was removing all the access restrictions placed on retirees and veterans to Fort Buchanan. Under my command, Fort Buchanan remains standing because of retirees, veterans, and their families' sacrifices to our nation.

I quickly understood what Fort Buchanan meant to our community. I had the desire to enhance our community's footprint of giving. Working with our Fort Buchanan Chaplain, volunteers from our workforce, Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA), Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), Defense Commissary Agency (DeCa), DOCS Dental, the 1st Mission Support Command, the Puerto Rican Army National Guard, US Army Recruiting Company San Juan, and the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment 1 made our community initiatives extraordinary. Together we painted the Independent All Living Center, fed over 2,000 families, and opened our doors and hearts to foster children. We conducted 9/11 Remembrance walks, helped restock the Puerto Rico Food Bank, provided a helping hand to a local church in need of outdoor restoration, and found the time to conduct a Women's Empowerment Week and host Trunk or Treats. Each event touched the core of my heart and soul. I enjoyed witnessing us unselfishly rolling up our sleeves and going to work.

The dark side of command is always the loneliness of command. Making a decision is what we do as leaders. Knowingly, not everyone will like your decision. Yet, I try not to see their transgression as a personal shot. Because I knew all the facts which are helping shape my decisions. One of my tough decisions came during a spike in several municipalities' COVID cases. Should we significantly reduce our footprint or trust our migration plans? I trusted our plan and the data. Once we successfully made it over the hump, months later, we were bracing for a storm. Another decision point was when Tropical Storm Fiona turned into Hurricane Fiona, Fort Buchanan's gates remained open, and we continued our essential services. Granted that the lines at the gate were a nightmare and power was up and down, our gates were not open only for essential personnel. The safest place in Puerto Rico offering essential service after Hurricane Fiona was Fort Buchanan. Regardless of one's active or inactive status, we knew our community needed Fort Buchanan. A spike in COVID cases and

hurricane making landfall tests the resiliency of any leader. As the late Cicely Tyson once said, "Challenges make you discover things about yourself that you never really knew. They're what make the instrument stretch-what makes you go beyond the norm." Nevertheless, with a dedicated and caring team, my teammates have stretched me and made commanding Fort Buchanan worth its weight.

Thank you to the USAG Fort Buchanan workforce, partners, agencies, providers, and the community. You have given me so many great memories. You left an impression on my soul and polished me as a leader. Thank you for accepting me and opening your heart and mind to new ideas. Thank you for trusting me with your thoughts and sharing this journey with me.

Many blessings to you all.





# Fort Buchanan’s New US Army Garrison Commander Col. Charles N. Moulton’s Command Message

## Looking Forward

“Muy buenos dias a todos.” Good morning distinguished guests; partners, family and friends.....

It is my honor to stand before you as the 74th successor to a distinguished lineage of commanders who set an example of commitment to ensure Fort Buchanan has been and will always be the “Sentinel of the Caribbean.”

I am both honored and humbled as I join the Fort Buchanan team of professionals and assume the responsibilities inherent in this command and meet the challenges ahead.

Though I come from a large family in Massachusetts, I’ve had the pleasure of serving at locations throughout the world and country. I am most recently coming to you from New Orleans where I served as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, Training, and Plans at the 377th Theater Sustainment Command. The climate and locations may have changed over the years, but the sense of community and importance of family never does.

To the members of our Military and Civilian community, I look forward to meeting you and serving with you as

part of the Fort Buchanan family and contributing to our community with premier base support and services and to do so with trust, transparency, and collaboration.

I am enthusiastic about getting to know the people, learning about the history of this beautiful island, and experiencing the richness of the Puerto Rican culture.... and I certainly look forward to expanding my very small – Pequeña - grasp of the Spanish language.

Col. Seaberry,  
Thank you for your support during our transition, in which you managed to share your invaluable experiences and wisdom. I look forward to building upon your legacy.

Ladies and gentlemen,  
Thank you once again for the honor of your presence. May God continue to bless the Fort Buchanan community.

“Dios les bendiga a ustedes y sus familias, gracias.”



# Command Sgt. Maj. Roderick W. Hendricks Garrison Command Sergeant Major

## Standing in the threshold of a new year

December is a meaningful month. It is a time to pause to count our blessings. The freedom of this great country in which we live, the Service Members deployed around the world ready to defend it and the members of Fort Buchanan’s community that pray for their safe return.

2022 has been a year full of challenges. We keep dealing with a worldwide pandemic and had our share of an active hurricane season that brought Fiona to our shores. These and other events make us reflect on the values this community has in common - teamwork, respect and caring. The challenges we overcame this year helped

us solidify our resolve, keeping up our hope and willful spirit as a resilient family comprised of Service Members, garrison workforce, tenants, Veterans and Retirees. To all, my deepest gratitude for all your support.

As we stand in the threshold of a new year, I invite you to reflect on all those resolutions we launched at the beginning of 2022, and re-focus. For example, improving your overall fitness, invest in your professional growth, tighten your finances. Put a deadline to them. Seek out for other’s advice. It could be within your unit and your chain of command. Above all, stay positive.

As you share with family and friends, remember to keep safety your number one priority. Don’t drink and drive. I encourage you to remain vigilant and watch out for one another. If you know someone that might have suicidal ideations, check on them. Trust your instinct and take action. You might save someone’s life. If it’s you, seek help. We all experience challenging times, but you are not alone. Asking for help is a sign of strength not weakness.

Thank you all for your support throughout the year. We are thankful for what we have, for the family we love, the friends we cherish and for the blessings that will come. For all the men and women serving in our Armed Forces and their Families, may the Holiday Season and the New Year be filled with blessings and joy.

Happy Holidays! “¡Feliz Navidad!”

We are Fort Buchanan! “¡Somos el Fuerte Buchanan!”



**Garrison Commander**  
Col. Charles N. Moulton

**Garrison Command Sergeant Major**  
Command Sgt. Maj. Roderick W. Hendricks

**Deputy Garrison Commander**  
Lt. Col. Brian M. Mandock

**Deputy to the Garrison Commander**  
Yvette L. Castro

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# US Army Garrison conducts 74th Change of Command Ceremony

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist

Colonel Charles N. Moulton became U.S. Army Garrison Fort Buchanan's 74th commander, assuming command of the only federal military installation in Puerto Rico from outgoing commander Colonel Tomika M. Seaberry, in a ceremony conducted at the 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC) Sgt. Miguel A. Ramos Hall November 30, 2022.

Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Readiness Director Brenda Lee McCullough hosted the ceremony via Microsoft Teams, virtually passing the colors, as Col. Moulton replaced Col. Seaberry, who will take command as Brigadier General of the 4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) San Antonio, Tx.

"Today we honor one of our military's oldest traditions by witnessing the change of command between Colonel Promotable, Tomika M. Seaberry and Col. Charles N. Moulton. As the director of IMCOM Readiness it is my privilege and honor to serve Soldiers, Civilians and Families. It is always my privilege and pleasure to be a small part of this tradition as we salute Col. Seaberry, her husband Robert, for an amazing, successful command and all of your support. I would also like to welcome her mother Ms. Miller, I know you are so incredibly proud of Tomika. Thank you for your commitment to the Soldiers, Civilians and families from our US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan," said McCullough. "I would also like to welcome Col. Moulton, as we say in Texas, "Take up the reins of Fort Buchanan." Welcome to the IMCOM Readiness Team and family. Charles, you are a proven leader and the ideal person to assume command and lead US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan. I am confident that you will invest your professionalism, pride and expertise into the Soldiers, Civilians and Family members of Fort Buchanan. They deserve nothing less," she concluded.

To the Soldiers from the Puerto Rico Army National Guard Color Guard led by Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Roderick W.



I had a purpose for being in Puerto Rico. It wasn't just to say I was the commander but to show that I was a commander of the people. I wanted our community to understand three things about their new Garrison leader quickly, their opinions mattered, and I am a leader who listens and acts on their concerns/issues. I also wanted to show I am a servant leader consistently," said Col. Seaberry. "Thank you to the USAG Fort Buchanan workforce, partners, agencies, providers, and the community. You have given me so many great memories. You left an impression on my soul and polished me as a leader. Thank you for accepting me and opening your heart and mind to new ideas. Thank you for trusting me with your thoughts and sharing this journey with me," She concluded.

"It is my honor to stand before you as the 74th successor to a distinguished lineage of commanders who set an example of commitment to ensure Fort Buchanan has been and will always be the "Sentinel of the Caribbean. I am both honored and humbled as I join the Fort Buchanan team of professionals and assume the responsibilities inherent in this command and meet the challenges ahead. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you once again for the honor of your presence. May God continue to bless the Fort Buchanan community," said Col. Moulton.

Hendricks and 248th Army Band Hellfighters Brass Quintet under the direction of Staff Sgt. Anthony Martinez, "Thank you for sharing your talents with precision and discipline. Your performance honors all of those who serve," said McCullough.

The ceremony was streamed via Facebook live to approximately 2,300 garrison staff and Fort Buchanan community. Present at Ramos Hall were approximately 130 distinguished guests, among them was IMCOM Readiness Senior Advisor Command Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Oliver II; Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) Luis A. Soto; CASA Emeritus, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Félix A. Santoni and his spouse Carmen Sein; Naval Reserve Center PR Commanding Officer Cdr. David F. Zerda; 1st MSC Chief of Staff Col. Richard Avilés; Rodriguez Army Health Clinic Commander, Lt. Col. Alex C. Montgomery; San Juan Recruiting Company Commander and staff Cpt. Shani T. Walsh; commander's, officers and non-commissioned officers of all armed forces in Puerto Rico, representatives of federal agencies, business sector, veterans organizations, civilian directors and employees, and members of the local community.

"As I reflect on my eighteen months in command, commanding Fort Buchanan has been a humbling assignment. Although thousands of miles away from my family, I saw early in my tenure







Fort Buchanan Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Roderick W. Hendricks, in representation of Garrison leadership supported Veterans in the official Veteran's Day event hosted by the Puerto Rico government through the PR Office of the Advocate for Veterans Affairs speaks to an over 90-year-old Korean War Veteran, member of the renown 65th Infantry Battalion who was honored during the event.

USAG Fort Buchanan Command Sgt. Maj. Roderick W. Hendricks, representing garrison leadership, supported our veterans' community participating in the official Veteran's Day event hosted by the Puerto Rico government through the PR Office of the Advocate for Veterans Affairs and its Director Agustin Montañez Allman, Esq. in conjunction with the Mayor of Naranjito, Hon. Orlando Ortíz Chevres November 11, 2022 at the Gelito Ortega Sports Complex in this municipality.

Members of the Puerto Rico legislature, Hon. José Aponte from the House of Representatives; Hon. Gretchen Hau from the Senate, as well as Hon. Omar Marrero, Secretary of State, who represented Governor Pedro R. Pierluisi, participated in the event attended by dozens of veterans who came from various towns around the island to celebrate Veteran's Day. At one of the sports complex facilities there were information tables with an array of programs and services in support of the veterans' community. Early morning there was a 2K with the participation of Soldiers from the Army Reserve in Puerto Rico, the 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC). The official activity took place at the indoor court, home of the Naranjito "Changos" (Puerto Rican Grackle") professional volleyball team.

Among the military leaders at the event were the Puerto Rico National Guard (PRNG) Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. José J. Reyes; Brigadier Gen. (Retired), US Army Reserve Ambassador, Fernando Fernández, and members of the US Coast Guard. The 1st MSC Commanding Officer, Col. Carlos M. Cáceres received the Military Order of the World Wars

## USAG Fort Buchanan supports the Veteran Community during Veteran's Day in Naranjito

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa, Public Affairs Officer

Bronze Patrick Henry Organizational Award in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Army Reserve in Puerto Rico.

After the presentation of the colors by the PRNG Color Guard; the Massing of the Colors by veterans' and civic organizations commanded by US Air Force Col. (Ret.) Carlos Quiñones; La Borinqueña and the US anthem performed by the Hellfighters Brass Quintet from the 248th PRNG Band, directed by Sgt. Maj. Anthony Martinez Ortiz and the invocation offered by Auxiliary Chaplain Rev. Francisco Rivera Narváez, US Coast Guard, Sector San Juan. The program continued with the presentation of the Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) flag by members of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Puerto Rico Chapter and Taps played by Sgt. Rafael Rodriguez from the PRNG 248th Band.

Hon. Ortiz Chevres, mayor of Naranjito and Chief Warrant Officer in the PRNG, whose father also served the US Army during Vietnam War, emphasized that "there have been many conflicts in which veterans have defended democracy.

Ortiz Chevres and Montañez Allman, a decorated Soldier from the Gulf War, highlighted the commitment of the members of the Reserve to the Puerto Rican families, providing essential services during emergencies such as Hurricane Maria as well as other natural disasters.

Maj. Gen. Reyes addressed the audience on the historical significance of November 11 at the 11 hours (11-11-11) when the Allied forces signed a ceasefire agreement with Germany bringing World War I to an end. "The nation stops to celebrate the feat of thousands of men and women - over 360,000 who have served and over 36,000 - who continue to serve with courage and dedication," said Reyes.

Sec. of State, Omar Marrero, highlighted the respect and admiration of the people of Puerto Rico for the veterans. He thanked them for teaching us by their example on how to be better Puerto Ricans, quoting President Theodore Roosevelt who during his speech "The Man in the Arena" said, "It is not the

critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; . . . who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly." Marrero, in conjunction with members of the legislature, Mayor Ortiz and military leaders, presented the Governor's Proclamation to representatives from various veterans' organizations.

The main speaker for the event was Col. Cáceres who said "Veterans, you are the reason we are here, and our nation continues to be the land of the free." The 1st MSC Commanding Officer also highlighted the participation of Puerto Ricans in the US Army Reserve in times of peace and war.

On the celebration of the centenary of the Reserve in Puerto Rico, the Veteran's Advocate presented Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Fernández with an award for his work as past commander of the US Army Reserve, as well as for his contributions during the mobilization and transfer of troops from the island to the Gulf War.

The event concluded with the Benediction presented by the Chaplain of the American Red Cross, Puerto Rico Chapter, Minister José A. Llanos Encarnación; and recognition of three Veterans over 90 years of age who attended the activity.

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# USAG Fort Buchanan in collaboration with Department of Veterans Affairs in Puerto Rico hosts Retiree Appreciation Day event

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist



Fort Buchanan US Army Garrison in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in Puerto Rico hosted a Retiree Appreciation Day, Claims Clinic, Veterans and Families Benefits Outreach event attended by approximately five hundred retirees and their families at the installation's Community Club and Conference Center's Grand Ballroom November 10, 2022.

Seventy-six Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) and, affiliated federal and civil agencies provided information to military Retirees, Veterans, Service Members, their Families and Survivors from 8 a.m. till 2 p.m. They provided services such as personal assistance in claims processing and inquiries; burial and memorial benefits; compensation; pensions; appeals; life insurance; eligibility and enrollment; education benefits; Veteran Readiness and employment and more.

The master of ceremony for the event Association of the United States Army Puerto Rico Chapter President, Chief Warrant Officer (Ret) Cristino Lozada and guest speakers were, in representation of the Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry, Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Roderick



W. Hendricks; Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Brian Mandock; on behalf of San Juan Veterans Affairs Regional Office Executive Director, Leanne Weldin, Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Officer, Jose A. Vega and Puerto Rico and Morovis VA National Cemeteries Director Juan Nieves.

"Thank you all for attending, we have here so many great veterans and supporting organizations here today. We want you today to walk away with an abundance of information. I am honored to be here to carry the guidon of the services available for our Retirees and Veterans. It was President and General George Washington who said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation." Thank you for your service and the sacrifice your families have made. Tell your story!" said Command Sgt. Maj. Hendricks.

"You are the center of this event – not me. I am humbled and honored to be in your presence. This is Retiree Appreciation Day! There's a much history in this room and Fort Buchanan means a lot to you. A



hundred times over, thank you!” said Lt. Col. Mandock.

“The Department of Veterans Affairs, PR thanks the leadership of Fort Buchanan for opening up the installation to this event. The work we do is important because you trust VA to oversee and help you with your well-earned benefits. VA is Vets helping Vets! We want to serve you and are honored every day to do so,” said Vega.

During his remarks, Nieves said, “Please do as Lt. Col. Mandock said, walk out of here knowing all



a pre-Revolutionary War uniform of the National Guard – War of 1812 – Mexican American War – Civil War up to the Operational Camouflage Pattern uniform worn today by Soldiers.

Community Club's Borinquen Bar and Patio served approximately 400 lunches at a special discounted price to all Retirees and Veterans with musical entertainment by Los Mismos (formerly known as Son Veteranos.) To see more photos of this event go to: US Army Garrison Fort Buchanan Facebook

the benefits you have rights to, take advantage of this moment. Thank you.”

There was a ceremony in recognition of former and recently deceased Fort Buchanan Retirement Services Officer Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Santiago S. “Chago” Vazquez. Congressional Record of the US House of Representatives from the office of Congresswoman, the Honorable Jenniffer González Colón and from the Puerto Rico House of Representatives approved Motion 2430 submitted by PR House Representative Hon. José F. Aponte Hernández honoring Chago Vazquez was presented by Lt. Col. Mandock to his surviving son, Alvin and daughter, Jaqueline escorted by her husband Army Command Sgt. Major (Ret.) Sergio Figueroa.

Vazquez served in the military for 23 years and then as a US Army Civil Servant for another 50 years, “Respected as a leader, family man, father, grandfather and restless advocate of Puerto Rico’s veteran and military community, Sargent First Class (Ret.) Santiago is an example and inspiration to be follow by all,” from the Congressional Citation.

Fourteen students from North Point Military Academy located in Vega Baja, PR displayed historical US Army Uniforms beginning with





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# Fort Buchanan Religious Support Office delivers donations to the Veteran's House on Veteran's Day

Story by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist  
Photos courtesy of Fort Buchanan Chapel volunteers

For several months the Fort Buchanan Religious Support Office and its two congregations, Protestant and Catholic, received donations and delivered them to the Veteran's House (La Casa del Veterano Roberto González Vázquez) in the municipality of Juana Díaz on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2022.

Six volunteers accompanied Fort Buchanan Garrison Command Chaplain Maj. David S. Keller and Religious Affairs Noncommissioned Officer, Staff Sgt. Juan Merced Jaipersad to deliver hundreds of donated personal hygiene products such as, soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, socks, bed linens, towels, etc. to the 120 residents of the veteran's nursing home. They were welcomed and escorted throughout the facility by Medical Director, Dr. Osvaldo Orengo Ramos and Administrative Executive Secretary, Lyanne M. Figueroa Rivera.

"When the residents were told that representatives from Fort Buchanan were coming to visit the home, they got really excited. Having been military and served their nation, is a maximum event in their lives," said Dr. Orengo.

In recognition of Veteran's Day, the Veteran's home had live music during lunch and conducted a Purple Heart Recognition Ceremony. Dr. Orengo presented four Purple Heart Recipients with a Certificate that read, "With Purple Heart distinction for your trajectory of service in



the United States Armed Forces. Given November 11, 2022 in Juana Díaz, P.R." and pin with purple ribbon. The event was dedicated to one of its residents Ernesto Díaz. Díaz entered the US Army at age 17 and was immediately deployed to serve in the Vietnam War. By age 18 he suffered enemy fire and became paraplegic. The other three recipients were, Raúl Torres Torres, who upon receipt of his certificate and pin, became very emotional with gratitude; Army 1st Sgt. (Ret.) Armando Cabrera Ramos and Angel Pagán Rivera, who was a member the renown 65th Infantry Battalion during the Korean War.

During a walk-through of the facility, one of their prominent residents' is 100-year-old Lt. Col. (Ret.) Elba Cintrón Ruiz. Although bedridden, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Cintrón energetically described her exploits as an officer, one of only 13 Puerto Rican's recruited during WWII to the US Army Nurse Corps. She laughed a little when she described having married her husband, also a Soldier and



Noncommissioned Officer in the 65th Infantry Battalion, because she out ranked him. She was a 2nd Lieutenant at the time. The walls of her room are covered with military photographs, recognitions and family pictures, as is customary to see in the resident's rooms.

Chp. (Maj.) Keller and the volunteers from Fort Buchanan shared with the Veterans the installation's print publication, El Morro and, spent time with them and shared stories.

The Veteran's House is ascribed to the Puerto Rico Veteran's Advocate Office it is a residential institution that provides long-term health care to Veterans of the US Armed Forces. The institution provides direct care (Nursing Home) and assisted living. "La Casa Del Veterano," as it is known in Spanish, is regulated by the Puerto Rico Department of Health, Department of the Family and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

November 11 is commemorated as Veterans Day, in honor of all those who have served our nation. The Army believes that every Soldier is a "Soldier for Life." Veterans can inspire and encourage the next generation to serve by sharing their positive experiences in the military. US Army Fort Buchanan is humbled and honored to have paid a visit to "La Casa Del Veterano," we were inspired and owe a debt of gratitude to these heroes, every day.





# Change of Command Ceremony









## USAG Fort Buchanan holds Army vs. Marine Turkey Bowl Flag Football Game

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist



USAG Fort Buchanan held the much-awaited Army vs. Marine Turkey Bowl Flag Football Game sponsored by the installation BOSS (Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers) Program at the Antilles High School field November 23, 2022.

The tense and highly competitive game was neck to neck from the beginning and ended with the US Marine Corps / Navy team winning with a score of 14 to 13.

Although there were several periods of rain, the inclement weather did not deter the players from the game. Equal to the task were referees from Directorate of Family and, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) Child and Youth Service (CYS) Director and Facility Manager, Luis Maldonado; CYS Sports and Fitness Director, Gary W. Chastain and FMWR Supervisory Sports Specialist Roberto Fernández. The referees provided the rules of engagement for the game and did an outstanding job throughout.

In the Army Team was Fort Buchanan Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. Brian Mandock; Team Captain, Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Roderick W. Hendricks; Garrison Command Chaplain, Maj. David S. Keller; players from 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC) units: 393rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 166th Regional Support Group, 420th Quarter Master, 271st HR Co., 35th Signal Battalion and 1st MSC G-3. Team Captain for the Marine / Navy Team was USMC LSPT EQ CO 4 LSB, 1st Sgt. Isai J. Estupinan, with the participation of US Navy Reserve Center PR Commanding Officer, CDR David F. Zerda with other Sailors and Marines. The

Marine / Navy team had the only female player, US Navy Yeoman3 Lissette Lee Ramirez on defense, although YN3 Lee Ramirez participates in many different sports, this was her first flag football game.

In the bleachers and under a tent were Army and Marine / Navy cheer leaders, supporting their teams with chanting.

Congratulations to the Marine / Navy Team for an excellent game filled with great camaraderie and team spirit.

HURRAH!



## Military Leaders serve Fort Buchanan Thanksgiving Lunch Buffet hosted by the Gary Sinise Foundation

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist



Approximately 150 Service Members, Military Retirees and Veterans, and approximately 30 Department of the Army Civilians and community members were served a Thanksgiving Lunch Buffet by Military Leaders at the installation's Community Club and Conference Center Grand Ballroom, November 23, 2022.

The thanksgiving lunch buffet was served by Fort Buchanan Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Roderick W. Hendricks; Deputy Garrison Commander Brian Mandock; Navy Reserve Center Puerto Rico (NRC PR) Cmdr.

David F. Zerda; NRC PR Senior Enlisted Leader, Chief Petty Officer Andrew V. Johnson; Deputy to the Garrison Commander Yvette L. Castro; Directorate of Family and, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) Non-appropriated Funds Support Chief Lillian W. Orlando, Budget Analyst Michelle Laboy, Management Assistant, Kitza I. Rivera and Budget Analyst Liliana Benitez; PR Army National Guard (PRANG) State Command Sgt. Maj. Luis R. Cora; PRANG Construction Facility Management Office (CFMO) Cpt. Luis A. Quiñones; PRANG CFMO

Sgt. Héctor L. Rivera and San Juan Recruiting Company Commander Cpt. Shani T. Walsh.

The free meals for the Service Members, Military Retirees and Veterans was hosted by the Gary Sinise Foundation, part of their Community Outreach and Education, Serving Heroes Program, and prepared by the FMWR Community Club and Conference Center chef and cook staff.







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## Chaplain's Corner

Why do we give gifts at this time of year?

Story by Maj. David S. Keller, Garrison Command  
Chaplain – “Serving with You!”

“Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house...” You probably completed the sentence in your mind just now. It is from that famous Christmas poem that has been passed down through the ages about St. Nicolas, Santa Claus, and gift giving. But did you know that there is debate on who wrote that piece of holiday literature? Some say it was written anonymously in 1823 while others give credit to Clement Clarke Moore, a well-known writer and theological professor, in 1844.

Despite the controversy, it is one of the most popular poems for this season of lights. And no matter what you think of the mythology surrounding Santa Claus and flying reindeer, it can give a cause for celebration. The practice of gift-giving is well recognized in this old tale. A jolly old man braves the darkness of the night to give gifts to both young and old. How does this portly man fit into your house? Well, that is a mystery to bedazzle the children.

But let's ask a different question. Why do you give gifts at this time of year? Are you participating in a family tradition? Perhaps it is not a sleigh, but a menorah and golden covered chocolate coins? There are many different beliefs that are celebrated during this season. For my family, we celebrate the birth of a child, born to save the world and bring the light of salvation to those separated from an eternal God. We give gifts to memorialize the occasion of the three wise men traveling to honor the Christ child Jesus.



We teach this to our children so that they know, despite the wonderful gifts given and received this day, God has given the best gift. We wake up Christmas morning with joy for what God has done for us.

In the busyness of this holiday season, don't lose sight of why we give gifts. And then, enjoy that peace-filled night where, “Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.” If you'd like to join us for a Christmas celebration, please join us for our Protestant and Catholic chapel services every Sunday at the post chapel:

**Protestant Service: 9:30 a.m.**  
**Catholic Mass: 11:30 a.m.**

For more information, Fort Buchanan St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community: <https://www.facebook.com/Fort-Buchanan-St-Francis-of-Assisi-Catholic-Community-115141189921692/> or the Fort Buchanan Chapel Protestant Service: <https://www.facebook.com/Ft-Buchanan-Chapel-Protestant-Service-101189707958782> which continues to be live streamed every Sunday.



# Fort Buchanan Garrison Directors Kayaking towards Team Building!

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist



Under a cloudy sky and drizzling rain, nine garrison directors as well as the Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodrick W. Hendricks participated in a Kayaking Team Building event November 7, 2022, at the installation's Las Casas Lake.

The garrison directors present were, Safety and Occupational Health Officer Carlos J. Alvarado; Director of Public Works, Anibal Negrón; Resource Management Officer, Rosa I. Rodríguez; Directorate of Family and, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) Program Manager, Scott D. Abell; Information Management Officer, Tony W. Buie; Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Adelina Reynoso-Acosta; Garrison Command Chaplain, Maj. David S. Keller; Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Yvette L. Castro and Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Magda Figueroa.

FMWR Outdoor Recreation staff led by Recreation Specialist and Facility Operator, Kevin O. La Luz Rivera; Recreation Assistant, Nora E. Dudley and Recreation Facility Operator Assistant, Isaac Rivera provided instruction to the group on



Kayaking procedures and safety on the lake.

Directors and FMWR staff paired off into six kayaks and gingerly went into the water. The afternoon turned into a spectacular time, with ducks swimming along with them. They traveled around the entire circumference of the lake

as they familiarized themselves with the sport and returned near the lake entrance. From there they learned to zig zag, which enhanced the team building aspect, the two person teams had to work together to maneuver in this manner. They culminated their experience with a race, which really put to the test their teamwork abilities.

Col. Seaberry and Negrón won the race with Reynoso-Acosta and Castro in a tight second place.

“This was good! This is what Team Building is about! It’s about taking a breath away from the day-to-day work and enjoy each other,” said Col. Seaberry.

“Nora rightly told us that this is an opportunity for us to see some of the new things FMWR is offering on post and to go back to our directorates and share with our people. Kayaking is a team sport. You cannot get to your destination if you don’t work together and the zig zagging really pushed that team building to the limits! It was lots of fun and educational,” said Buie.

“Thank you all for taking part in this event. This lake is a treasure and this was just a taste of how this lake can be used. Visiting this lake can be a time just to listen to nature, to get out of your own mind and relax. You can visit here during your lunch hour and kayak for a half hour and unwind to continue your day,” said Dudley. “Now you can say you did it! You Kayaked! You are our third successful group since the inauguration of Las Casas Lake as a recreational facility earlier this year,” she concluded.

Fort Buchanan’s FMWR Outdoor Recreation Equipment Checkout Center is a one-stop rental facility for recreational and rental needs. They’re hours of operations are Sunday and Monday – Closed, Tuesday – Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm, Saturdays – 8 am to 1 pm. Contact: (787)707-3734 / (787)707-3138. For details and costs click: <https://buchanan.armymwr.com/programs/outdoor-recreation> Authorized patrons: Active-Duty Military, Retirees, Reservists, Department of Defense Civilians, and their Families.





# USAG Fort Buchanan celebrates a Spooktacular Friday with its 2nd annual “Trunk or Treat”

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist



Approximately 800 adults and children from Fort Buchanan’s housing and community got together at the Chardón Plaza parking area to celebrate a Spooktacular Friday October 28, 2022, with the second annual “Trunk or Treat” event.

Puerto Rico Air National Guard (PRANG), 156th Wing; US Marine Corps Det 1, Landing Support Company; Navy Reserve Center; Fort Buchanan Logistics Readiness Center (LRC); US Army Recruiting Company; Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR); Directorate of Emergency Services – Fire and Police Departments and Fort Buchanan Garrison Command Group displayed unique creativity and talents in decorating the trunks of vehicles (the Marines decorated a Humvee) filling them with candies and goodies for the kids, and kids at heart.

The “Trunk or Treat” began in the evening with the arrival of children and adults in costumes depicting scary clowns, bat girls and boys, superheroes, Minecraft characters, dinosaurs, pirates, Woody from Toy Story, transformers, fairies, princesses, Buzz Lightyear, Iron Man and Iron Girl, Stormtroopers from Star Trek, aliens and an entire

family riding on baby blue unicorns, to name a few.

As the children walked around the decorated vehicles they put stickies on their favorite trunks, and the winner with 84 stickies was the Garrison Command Group trunk with the Stranger Things Theme, in second place was the USMC in scary lit up masks, with 33 stickies and in third place the LRC’s frightening clown had 31 stickies.

Approximately 500 children were given 500 pumpkins for carving from FMWR and trick or treat bags. There was also face painting; clowns making balloon animals and swords; a magic show; an Autumn Fest kids costume contest; an Army Community Service Pets costume contest, and superheroes, Batman, Thor, Superwoman and Superman took photographs with all the children, all at no cost. Prizes were awarded to the contest winners.

The event offered a safe and secure environment for the children to trick or treat and was convenient as all the activities were in one area. Fort Buchanan Police Officers Brian Fonseca and Justin Alvarez maintained a watchful eye from their post at the interior gate near the event area, serving and protecting the community and our children.

“We are happy to step up and support the community, and pleased to be here,” said PRANG Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, Brig. Gen. Paul N. Loiselle.

“This is fun...we are happy to do this,” said PRANG Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. James L. Brown. The PRANG trunk was filled with candy for all the children to enjoy.

Parents were very happy and the children enjoyed themselves. The especially liked talking and getting photographed with Sparky the FBFD mascot, receiving firefighter helmets and more candy.

“This is my last event here and I have enjoyed every minute of it. I hope you have enjoyed it also. Puerto Rico has been good to me, I have relished the time I’ve had with this community,” said Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry.

“It is so good to see everyone here tonight. I appreciate your participation, have fun!” said Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Roderick W. Hendricks. We are Fort Buchanan! ¡Somos el Fuerte Buchanan!





## Helping Santa choose the right toy for your young child

Story by Early Childhood Specialists, Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS)



Choosing developmentally appropriate toys for your Holiday gifts can be challenging. The toys you select for your child will have a long-lasting impact on his/her development. From birth to 2 years of age, your once dependent infant will develop into an “Independent” and “Curious” toddler. This stage of development, also known as the sensorimotor stage, is full of exploration and trial and error. During this stage, your toddler will be most interested in safe toys that she can use to explore and learn about the world around her. This is why it is important to select a toy that is safe, age-appropriate, promotes healthy development and encourages positive behavior.

Your child’s current developmental stage plays a major role in toy selection. It is important to observe the skills he/she is currently learning, such as fine motor skills, self-care and language development, as a guide for selecting toys that enhance those skills. The toy you select should fit your child’s thinking, language, physical skills, feelings, and friendships.

Age-appropriate toys help children learn and practice skills important to child development. The key is to choose quality toys that engage children and teach them while they play. Ask

yourself these questions before you buy a toy for your child. If you answer YES to most of them, the toy is probably a good purchase.

- Will my child be interested enough to play with it repeatedly? For several minutes or even an hour at a time?
- Is it constructed well? Will it hold up to lots of use?
- Does my child provide the power and imagination to operate the toy?
- Will my child feel successful when using this toy? Does it challenge my child’s abilities just enough?
- Can the toy grow with my child? Will it still be appealing in a year? For several years?
- Can my child use the toy in different ways? Can it be used creatively?
- Will it help my child learn about other people, nature, or how things work?

The American Academy of Pediatrics offers the following advice to parents and caregivers: “Keep in mind that the most educational toy is one that fosters the interaction of an adult with a child in a supportive, unconditional play. Toys are never substitutes for the attention of devoted caregivers.”

If you have concerns regarding your toddler’s development and your child is; entitled to DODEA Americas (Department of Defense Education Activity schools); dependent of an Active

Duty military assigned to Puerto Rico (Title 10); Active Guard Reserve (AGR) or Coast Guard member, call the Fort Buchanan Rodriguez Army Health Clinic early intervention program: Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS), to request services for your child. EDIS is located at Building 519, Depot Road, Fort Buchanan, PR. Telephone: (787) 707-2165. For additional information, contact via email at: maria.d.ortizsoto.civ@health.mil

Taken from, The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and PEDIATRICS (Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics). Information from the booklet “The power of Play: Learning through Play from Birth to Three” [www.zertothree.org](http://www.zertothree.org) Related websites: <http://oureverydaylife.com> [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org) [www.earlychildhoodnews.com](http://www.earlychildhoodnews.com) <http://kidshealth.org>



## Antilles Middle School celebrated the Spooktacular Fall Dance

Story and photo by Jared Collins, Antilles Middle School Principal

Department of Defense School Activity (DODEA) Antilles Middle School (AMS) at Fort Buchanan celebrated the Spooktacular Fall Dance November 1, 2022, sponsored by the 8th Grade Class. This student incentive event celebrated the academic effort and gains made by our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders during the 1st Quarter.

An extraordinary group of parents, staff and teachers volunteered their time and effort to ensure students had a safe, fun and exciting time.

“This was the first dance since the pandemic hit almost 3 years ago, and level of enthusiasm was off the charts!! Our fundraising goal for the 8th grade class was surpassed, raising more than \$3,000 on a single event, with no expenses and all based on donations,” said Dr. Luz C. Wright, the 8th grade sponsor. The 8th grade sponsor is the staff member who guides, sponsors and helps the 8th grade students with

activities, promotion, fundraisers, dances, etc.

Students enjoyed various activities, such as “Adams Family” performance by the AMS band under the direction of Band Teacher, Daniel Ausbury, entertainment by DJ Cosmo, a photo booth, Costume Contest and Dance-Offs.

Extracurricular activities such as this end of quarter celebration dance help students with their social and emotional well-being, as well as developing important skills that can transfer into academic performance, such as creative problem solving and teamwork.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this dance a success. Most importantly, thanks to all the students who participated because YOU are the #1 reason why we did it! Happy Holidays!



# Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander attends Antilles Elementary School Career Day

Story and photos by Rosie Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist



The Fort Buchanan Department of Defense Educational Activity (DODEA) Antilles Elementary School (AES) held Career Week events from October 24 till October 27, 2022 and conducted a Career Day Assembly at the AES cafeteria October 27, 2022.

AES career week events included, storytelling, show and tell, drawing and writing activities, as well as participating in the Paws in Jobland, an interactive career online program for younger students (pre-K through fifth grade). In Paw's in Jobland, students go on a lively virtual tour through the Jobland neighborhood while along the way, they learn how to identify personal interests and explore careers.

Teachers and students at the school assembly participated in Vocational Dress-Up-Day, bringing to school small props and/or wearing costumes that relate to their favorite or selected career. There were Firefighters, Doctors, Nurses, Veterinarians, Police Officers, Soldiers, Sailors, Librarians, Astronauts, Chefs, Pilots, Construction Workers, Train Conductors, Princesses, Martial Arts Sensei's, Basketball and Baseball Players, Flight Attendants, Musicians, and many more.



The Career Day Assembly, was comprised of two sessions, the first, kindergarten to second grades and the second, third to fifth grades with a distinguished panel of guest speakers to include, Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander Col. Tomika M. Seaberry; from the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra, Violinist Verónica Rodríguez and Cellist Reisaac Colón; Veterinarian Dr. René Cardona; PR Army National Guard Black Hawk Pilot, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Adalíz Pagán and from Puerto Rico television station Tele11, News Reporter Nuria Sabazco and Cameraman Angel Delgado.

Fifth graders, Isabella C. Zerda and Enzo Martínez served as moderators, presenting questions to the panelists who in turn, indicated what they do; spoke candidly about their careers; why they love their professions; the driving force to their success; challenges they have faced as well as benefits, and from their personal experiences, suggestions for the young audience.



The master of ceremony was Pre-Kindergarten to Second Grade School Counselor, Marilyn Muñoz. "Whatever career you choose for yourself, choose something that you like, enjoy and makes you happy. If you are happy and enjoying it, you will make a big difference in the lives of the people that you serve, and success will come naturally," said Muñoz in addressing the assembly.

"Never settle for no – always pursue your dreams," said Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Pagan.

Dr. Cardona is a horse veterinarian who specializes in equine medicine and services at the racetrack Hipódromo Camarero in Canóvanas, PR, as well as providing his services to farmers and horse owners on the island. He displayed horse skull and

leg bones to the delight of the children. "I enjoy sharing and talking with children," said Cardona.

"What do you enjoy the most about your career and what have been the most important subjects for your career?" asked Isabella C. Zerda of the panel.

"You can be anything you want to be. I am Tomika Seaberry, the Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander and what I enjoy the most is helping people, making a difference in the lives of others and inspiring leaders. I walk around the installation, I talk and listen to people," responded Col. Seaberry. "The most important subjects for me were, mathematics, engineering, arts and science," she concluded.



"I enjoy giving people a voice, who may not have one. I like informing people of situations they may need to know about. I loved all the subjects in school, they all inspired me but in particular I enjoyed history, English and Spanish," responded Sabazco. "To all the teachers here... you guys have superpowers, you made this day, dedicated to telling the students about us and our careers, possible. I applaud all you!" she concluded.

When the violinist and cellist played a short selection of tunes, all the children sang along with their last rendition of a song from the movie "Encanto."

During a teacher question and answer period, Fifth Grade Teacher, Ive Pérez asked Col. Seaberry, "What are character traits important to your career?"

"Integrity, always be honest. To be a servant-leader," said Col. Seaberry.





## USAG Fort Buchanan supports local and national Red Ribbon Week

Story and photos by Grissel Rosa, Public Affairs Officer

USAG Fort Buchanan leaders, Garrison Command Sergeant Major Roderick W. Hendricks and Deputy to the Garrison Commander Yvette L. Castro, participated in the Puerto Rico Government Red Ribbon Week campaign kick-off hosted by Puerto Rico Governor Pedro R. Pierluisi at La Fortaleza (Governor's Mansion) October 24, 2022. The event gathered heads of federal and local agencies in their commitment to prevent the use of illegal drugs, especially among our children.



Messages from Governor Pierluisi, U.S. Attorney for Puerto Rico, Stephen Muldrow; Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Director, Denise Foster; FBI Special Agent in Charge, Joseph González and Puerto Rico Department of Public Safety Secretary, Alexis Torres emphasized the importance of parents' participation in their children's activities to prevent them from becoming users of illegal drugs. Teaching them about the dangers of drug abuse and addiction. Those dangers include

dropping out of school and becoming victims of drug traffickers and criminal organizations engaging in other violent crimes, from theft and carjacking to the massacres we see in the streets causing fear in the community.



Governor Pierluisi reiterated the collaboration between federal and local agencies in the initiatives against drug trafficking and the use of illegal drugs. Other participants included The Adjutant General of the Puerto Rico National Guard, Maj. Gen. José J. Reyes; PR Secretary of Justice, Domingo Emanuelli and Deputy Commander, U.S. Coast Guard, Sector San Juan, Capt. Robert M. Pirone.

To conclude the event, the facade of La Fortaleza was lit up red in honor of the national campaign led by the DEA. Red Ribbon Week is observed from October 23 to 31, 2022. A community initiative that started after the death of DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who was tortured and killed in Mexico in 1985. The red ribbon is a symbol in honor of Camarena's memory and his battle against illegal drugs embracing his belief that one person can make a difference.

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- Regreso por un siniestro en su domicilio
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- Pérdida de Pasaporte





# Fort Buchanan Safety Office conducts 1st Quarter FY23 Collateral Duty Safety Officers Meeting

Story and photos by Rosie, Irizarry, Public Affairs Specialist



Fort Buchanan Safety and Occupational Health Manager, Carlos J. Alvarado Martínez conducted the 1st Quarter for Fiscal Year 2023 Collateral Duty Safety Officers (CDSO) meeting October 28, 2022 at the garrison headquarters General James A. Buchanan Conference room.

Fourteen Collateral Duty Safety Officers from the directorates of Emergency Services, Fire Department and Physical Security; Public Works (DPW); Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation (FMWR); Human Resources (DHR) and Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) met to plan, coordinate and execute the installation safety program to include inspections, training, hazard reporting and analysis, and the promotion of safety awareness.

The requirement to appoint CDSOs is in accordance with Army Regulation 385-10 states “Safety organizations

will be augmented by additional duty (military) or collateral duty (Department of the Army (DA) Civilian) safety personnel to perform required safety and accident prevention functions in Army units and industrial and administrative activities.” This regulation prescribes policy, responsibilities, and procedures to safeguard and preserve Army resources worldwide (to include Soldiers,



DA Civilians, and Army property) against accidental loss.

CDSO duties include, but not limited to: attending meetings requested by the Installation Safety Officer (ISO) (SOHAC, Safety Committee); conduct low risk safety inspections & report findings; coordinate and track with ISO for employee training given by him; provide pre-holiday safety briefings to employees; Report employee injury/illness; assist during investigations and Keep training records for their directorate / division.

During the meeting policies and definitions such as what is an Army Accident and what are Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) reporting requirements.

“The meeting was successful, there was good participation and a demonstrated interest in the installation’s safety program. It is a positive movement forward of directors and employees taking ownership and implementing our safety program,” said Alvarado.

The Fort Buchanan Safety Office’ purpose is not to adjudicate responsibility or punitive actions due to accident reporting or investigation, but to prevent any future incidents.

Remember “Safety by Choice, Not by Chance.”



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