

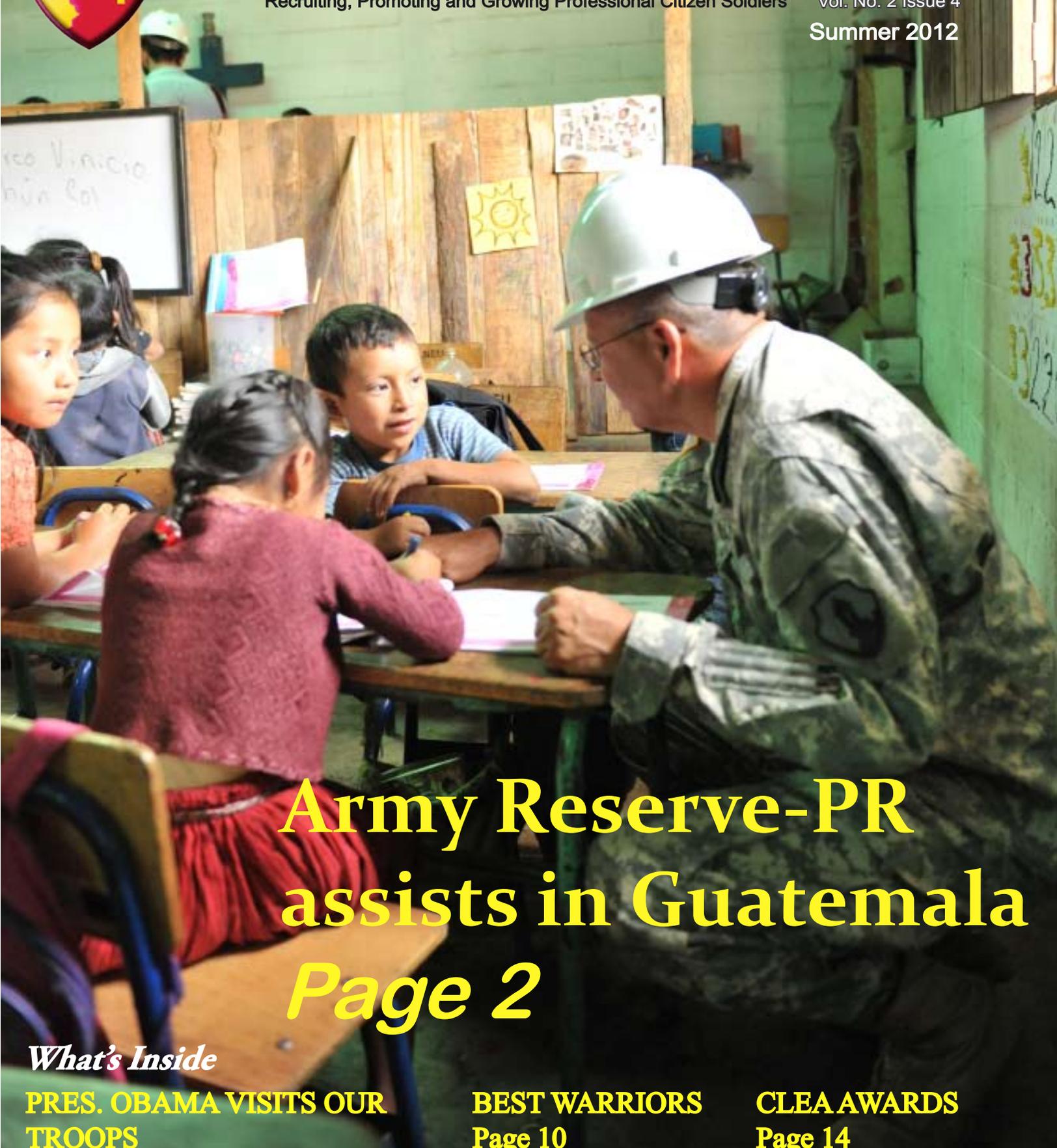


1st MSC Gazette

Recruiting, Promoting and Growing Professional Citizen Soldiers

Vol. No. 2 Issue 4

Summer 2012



Army Reserve-PR assists in Guatemala *Page 2*

What's Inside

**PRES. OBAMA VISITS OUR
TROOPS**
Page 6

BEST WARRIORS
Page 10

CLEA AWARDS
Page 14

1st MSC Gazette

*Promoting,
Recruiting
and
Growing*

Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernández
Commander

Col. Miguel Isaac
Deputy Commander

Col. Eric Bermudez
Chief Of Staff

Maj. Carlos M. Cuebas
Public Affairs Officer

Sgt. José F. Babilonia
Public Affairs NCO

The 1st MSC Gazette is an authorized publication printed IAW AR-360-1 in the interest of Soldiers, civilians and families of the 1st MSC.

Opinions expressed are those of the individuals and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. government, Department of the Army or its agencies.

All photos are property of the U.S. Army, unless otherwise credited.

1st MSC Gazette is published by the 1st MSC Headquarters located at 353 Wilson Road, Fort Buchanan, PR 00934-4608

E-mail submissions to the 1st MSC public affairs officer at Carlos.cuebasmedina@us.army.mil

1st MSC Phone Numbers

Commander -787-707-4928
Deputy Commander
787-707-4944
Safety Specialist
787-707-4182

Personnel 787-707-4164
Plans 787-707-4171



US Army Reserve-PR assists in Guatemala



A convoy of U.S. Army Reserve troops assigned to the 1st Mission Support Command drive through the rugged terrain of northern central Guatemala, in order to continue their job building a new school at the Sarrax-Och village, in Coban Province, June 6, 2012. (US Army photo by Maj Carlos M. Cuebas, 1st MSC PAO)

By Maj Carlos M. Cuebas
1st MSC PAO

COBAN PROVINCE, Guatemala -- In a clear testament of the operational nature of the U.S. Army Reserve, engineers assigned to the 1st Mission Support Command played a critical role during the U.S. Southern Command Theater Security Cooperation known as Beyond the Horizon, during the month of June.

The Beyond the Horizon (BTH) mission is designed to foster goodwill and improve relations between the United States and the government of Guatemala, while allowing U.S. military personnel and units to sharpen

their occupational skills and practice deployment and redeployment operations to better prepare to respond to future challenges.

**"What we are doing
will stay and the
population will
always remember us,"**

**Sgt. 1st Class
Victor Misla
471st EN CO**

"The Army Reserve does not only mean going to war. It also means conducting humanitarian missions like this one," said Staff Sgt. Juan Cruz, a carpenter with over 20

years of experience in the Army Reserve-Puerto Rico.

The U.S. Army Reserve soldiers built a new school at the Sarrax-Och village, located approximately 30 kilometers outside Coban city, in northern central Guatemala.

Sarrax-Och is a remote village with approximately 1,000 residents. The economy of the village is based on agriculture, mainly the production of coffee.

During their rotation, the Army Reserve soldiers from Puerto Rico finished the work that was started by three

*SEE GUATEMALA
NEXT PAGE*

GUATEMALA FROM PAGE 2

previous rotations of troops, who deployed to Guatemala from different commands in the United States.

“We are working in two schools, constructing a new building and renovating another one that was in very poor shape,” said Chief Warrant Officer Two Miguel Velazquez, acting commander of the 471st Engineer Company, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico.

“We are in the final phases of the project, installing doors, painting and finishing up the details of the construction,” said Sgt 1st Class Samuel Rivera-Ramos, construction supervisor assigned to the 471st Engineer Company.

According to the school’s director, Guillermina Arévalo, there are over 250 kids who will receive a better education thanks to the new facilities.

“What you are doing here is a blessing for all of us in the community,” said Arévalo.

The Army Reserve troops have gone above and beyond the basic requirements for this mission. According to Velazquez, they have used excess construction material to improve other areas on the school.

“We are currently fixing the students seats and making new teachers desks. Also, we are leveling the backyard of the school, so the kids can play soccer,” said Ve-

**ON THE COVER:**

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Miguel Velázquez, acting commander of the 471st Engineer Company, U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, talks with the Sarrax-Och’s children at their temporary school in Coban Province, Guatemala, June 6, 2012.

lazquez.

In addition to the school project, the soldiers worked in a maternity delivery room at the Carcha municipality.

“Our job here is to finish up a maternity delivery room, making an electrical connection for a sterilizer that they have not been able to use in years. We are also sealing and painting the facilities,” said Sgt 1st Class Victor Mislá, construction supervisor with over 19 years of experience.

According to the hospital’s director, Dr. Barbara Fernández, thanks to the job being done by the soldiers, the hospital will be able to double their capacity to receive expecting mothers.

“Now we will be able to better serve pregnant women and avoid maternity deaths in our munic-

ality,” said Fernández.

According to the officials, the municipality of Carcha has the highest maternal mortality in Guatemala.

The soldiers used every opportunity to express their thoughts about the mission being conducted in Guatemala.

“We are making a small contribution to improve the quality of life of all Guatemalans. What we are doing will stay and the population will always remember us,” said Mislá.

“Since we are able to speak in Spanish with the local population, our job here goes beyond the construction of a building. We are really making a connection with the Guatemalan people,” added Velazquez.

Maintenance: the key for a strong Army



Spec. Guillermo Loperena, a Welder Specialist assigned to the 276th Maint. Co., works on one of the components of the trailers, as required by the Modification Work Order, 23 April, 2012, AMSA, Fort Buchanan, PR. (US Army Photo by CW3 Carlos Acevedo, 1st MSC G4/Released)

By: SGT Jose F. Babilonia
1st MSC Public Affairs Office

Fort Buchanan, PR- Soldiers from the 276th Maintenance Company (MNT CO) US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, performed a Modification Work Order (MWO) April 23-27, by welding components of organic trailers, which are critical for the unit's mission accomplishment.

According to Army Regulation 750-10 (Army Modification Program), a modification work order includes any alteration, conversion, or modernization of an end item or component of an end item, which in any way changes or improves the original purpose or operational capacity in relation to effectiveness, efficiency, reliability, or safety of that

item.

The trailers being modified, which are assigned to the 276th MNT CO, 390th Transportation Corps Co and the 471st Engineer Co, were fixed at the Army Materiel Support Activity (AMSA) #161, Fort Buchanan.

The AMSA's mission is to provide maintenance support to the Army Reserve equipment in the San Juan, Puerto Rico geographical area.

Some of the soldiers working in the modification of the trailers, returned from Iraq last year.

In 2011 the 276th MNT CO returned from Iraq, where they performed the high visibility mission at the United

States Transfer to Iraq (USETTI) activity. This complex equipment repair, maintenance and property accountability transfer operation was responsible for the transferring of over 48,000 vehicles and pieces of equipment to the government of Iraq.

"When you get out of AIT (Advance Individual Training) then is when you really learn how to weld. Very little times you have the opportunity to practice your MOS (Military Occupational Specialty)," said Sgt. Jose Opio from 276th MNT CO in Juana Diaz PR, one of the soldiers performing the modifications on the equipment.

*SEE MAINTENANCE NEXT
PAGE*

*MAINTENANCE FROM
PREVIOUS PAGE*

“I think that the upgrade done to the equipment will avoid many injuries to our soldiers” added Chief Warrant Officer 3 Carlos A. Acevedo, 1st Mission Support Command Maintenance Officer, which is the largest federal Army command in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

“I think that the upgrade done to the equipment will avoid many injuries to our soldiers.”

**CW3 Carlos Acevedo
1st MSC G4**

The readiness of the military resources not only consists of the physical and mental preparation of our troops, but also of the equipment, which many times is responsible for the preservation of life.



Spec. Guillermo Loperena (left) and Sgt. Jose Opio, both assigned to the 276th Main. Co., install the fixed trailer parts, 23 April, 2012 (Army photo by CW3 Carlos Acevedo, 1st MSC G4 /Released)

Pres. Obama visits our troops



Soldiers assigned to a detachment of the 246th Quartermaster Company, US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, currently mobilized in Afghanistan, pose for a picture with the President of the United States, during Pres. Obama's visit to the Country at the beginning of May, 2012. (US Army Photo by Maj Federico Martinez, Commander 246th QM Co./Released)

Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan—The troops assigned to the 246th Mortuary Affairs Company, US Army Reserve Puerto Rico, currently deployed in Afghanistan, received the unexpected visit of President Barak Obama, during the Commander in Chief's visit to the Southwest Asian country, during the month of May 2012.

According to Maj. Federico Martinez, commander of the unit, the US President met the troops and shared with them for a few minutes.

"Mr. President talked with the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Mortuary Affairs Collection Point, Sgt. Jorge A. Cruz-Machado and expressed he already knew that the troops belonged to the Army Reserve-Puerto Rico," said Martinez.

The 246th Mortuary Affairs Company's mission is to provide logistical support in the preparation and transportation of fallen soldiers.

The 246th, which was the first unit from the Army Reserve-Puerto Rico deployed in 2012, has a considerable number of members with previous mobilizations in support to several Overseas Contingency Operations.

The 246th QM Co. was the first unit from the Army Reserve-Puerto Rico to be deployed in 2012.

35th ESB detachment deploys to Middle East

By Sgt. Jose Babilonia
For 1st MSC Public Affairs Office

Carolina, PR- A detachment of approximately 30 soldiers assigned to the 35th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, flew to a mobilization station in the continental states, 6 April, where they would receive additional training before deploying to the Middle East.

“This is a huge responsibility because I am responsible for these soldiers and it is my responsibility to bring them back safely,” said Master Sgt. Gustavo Serrano-Roman, the detachment’s Noncommissioned Officer, who experiences his first mobilization in a 36 years long career.

The troops will have the mission of providing communication services to units in the region, to include telephone, data and video services. In order to accomplish their mission, the Puerto Rican troops will use some of the modern communication equipment and training that the unit received last year, which represented an 85 million investment, known as War fighter Information Network (WIN-T).

WIN-T is the Army’s on-the-move, high-speed, high-capacity backbone communications network, linking war fighters on the ground with commanders and the Global Information Grid, the U.S. Dept. of Defense’s worldwide network-centric information system.

Sgt. Antonio Marcos Villafañe, with eight years of service in the Army Reserve, and who has been deployed to Iraq in the past, was part of the deploying group.

“It is somehow difficult to the family, but I am physically and mentally prepared to accomplish the mission and to return with all the troops who I lead,” said Villafañe.

Family members and friends showed up to farewell the troops.

Miguel A. Vazquez Gonzalez, father of Specialist Kevin D. Santiago Rivera, who has been in the Army Reserve for two years said: “This is what he wanted, I believe he is well aware of what he is doing and

he enjoys it and that is very important.”

The 35th ESB detachment is the second unit being mobilized in 2012, when the Army Reserve-Puerto Rico celebrates its 90th anniversary.

“This is a huge responsibility because I am responsible for these Soldiers and it is my responsibility to bring them back safely.”

Master Sgt. Gustavo Serrano-Roman, Detachment NCOIC



Master Sgt. Serrano addresses the troops assigned to the 35th ESB, as they get ready to board the bus, that would take them to the airport, April, 6, 2012 (US Army photo by Sgt. Jose Babilonia, 1st MSC PAO/Released)

Looking for a job?



Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernandez, Commanding General of the 1st Mission Support Command (far right), and Erin M. Thede (far left), director of the Employer Partnership Office, present Michelle Otero and Janice Garcia (center), representatives from El Banco Popular, with a certificate to recognize their participation in the Employer Partnership initiative, 31 May, 2012. (US Army Photo by Sgt. Jose Babilonia, 1st MSC PAO NCO/Released)

By: 2LT Solimar Rodriguez
For 1st MSC Public Affairs Office

Fort Buchanan, PR – In a continuation of the combined effort between various employers and the US Army Reserve Puerto Rico, Banco Popular, the largest bank in Puerto Rico, joined the Employer Partnership program, 31 May.

The goal of the Employer Partnership program is to provide a direct link between employers and service members to assist the troops in their quest for suitable employment opportunities.

Through the partnership, service members can leverage their military training and experience for career prospects in today's civilian job market with national, regional and local Employer Partners.

Employers benefit from this initiative because they can potentially save on recruiting and training expenses. Soldiers receive specialized training that can be translated to numerous civilian occupations without the need for extra training. In addition, they are honed in leadership skills and are highly professional.

“This program is excellent because it allows us to have access to new talent, who are dedicated, professional and very disciplined,” said Michelle Otero, Banco Popular representative.

Currently, there are over 3,000 employers participating within the program and over 400,000 jobs opportunities available to soldiers, nationwide. The Employer Partnership helps facilitate the transition between the military and the civilian world in various ways.

The employers offer the chance for soldiers to access jobs throughout various industries in the national, regional, and local scope, in order for them to be able to realize their maximum potential in their career goals.

The relationship being built through this program allows soldiers to be able to meet their service obligations and serve their nation, without having to worry about losing their civilian jobs, while serving the nation.

Those interested in knowing more about the Employer Partnership program can contact Maj Carlos J. Ramirez @ 787-707-2454 or by email carlos.ramirezjimenez@usaac.army.mil

A Tale of Two Brothers

By: Capt. Hector L. Prieto
215th MP DET UPAR

Afghanistan- They are affectionately called “los gemelos” (the twins), among other names, but don’t be deceived by what these brothers are called without first getting to know the Henriquez brothers well, because their smiles only reflect the joy of being hard workers, hard chargers and a pair of superb team players.

Raised in Isabela Puerto Rico, the sons of Reynaldo and Taty, Kenneth and Ray Henriquez are among the few brother-soldiers serving together in combat in Afghanistan and assigned to the same unit, the 215th Military Police Company.

Kenneth, 31, the older brother is an aspi-ring pilot. He started his aviation studies in Puerto Rico and continued them in Lakeland, FL, then moved back to PR in 2005. While in Afghanistan he is studying for his commercial instruments license.

Younger brother Ray prefers keeping his feet on the ground. Recently, he had the honor of being selected as part of an elite 7-man team to represent the unit in the Muleskinner challenge, a grueling 100-mile relay, where he completed 12 miles for the team. He also participates in every 5K held at Bagram.

Both brothers joined the US Army Reserve in 2008, Kenneth as a Supply Specialist, Ray as a Transportation Specialist, but both wanted to go the extra mile.

The brothers went with their father to the unit commander’s house one night and asked him if they could join the 215th MP Company.

“They are a great family. They do everything together as a family. As a fam-

ily they came to talk to me about becoming Military Police (MP’s), and it was an honor to have them join the 215th MP DET family”, said Capt. Hector Prieto, 215th MP Company commander.

The Henriquez have been a great addition to the 215th MP Company family in many aspects.

The brothers have assisted the unit in a lot of areas, supply, maintenance, as drivers, as clerks, they have assisted the 215th in anything they can get their hands on. They even helped remodel and upgrade the facilities where the unit performs their Customs mission in Afghanistan.

“From removing carpets, laying linoleum floors, painting and doing a bit of construc-

tion, they help with just about everything”, said Staff Sgt Jose Garcia, their shift supervisor.

Career wise, both brothers went to the Military Police school Jan. 2011, then both went to the Traffic Accident Investigation school, then the Pashto language course, the Battlefield Forensics, then Annual Training in Italy with the unit in June 2011, followed by Readiness Training Center Sept. 2011, and Annual Training in North Carolina in October of the same year, all the time together as brothers, by blood and with the extended family of their unit.

In this their first deployment, the Henriquez brother’s tale is just beginning. Their commitment and values are an everyday occurrence in today’s Army Reserve and specially here in Afghanistan.



Kenneth (left) and Ray Henriquez (right) are among the few brother-Soldiers serving together in combat in Afghanistan and assigned to the same unit, the 215th MP Detachment, US Army Reserve Puerto Rico.(US Army photo by Capt. Hector Prieto)

US ARMY RESERVE-PUERTO RICO'S BEST WARRIORS!

Fort Buchanan, PR- The 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC) celebrated its Best Warrior Competition (BWC), April 11-13.

The competition took place at Fort Buchanan and at the Camp Santiago's Joint Maneuver Training Center, Puerto Rico.

The purpose of the local BWC is to select the best four troops assigned to the largest federal US Army command in the Caribbean to represent the organization at the national US Army Reserve BWC at Fort McCoy, WI, July 14-21 2012.

"Here we have elite soldiers between E1 to E4 (Private to Specialist). Also, we have the best Non-commissioned Officers (NCO's) of the Reserves," said Command Sgt. Maj. Rene Berlingeri, 166th Regional Support Group senior noncommissioned officer.

The participants were tested to their limits, mentally and physically, being required to successfully pass several challenges and tests, in order to stay in the competition.

The troops were required to complete an Army Physical Fitness Test, execute their marksmanship skills, conduct a 6 miles tactical road march, and conduct a land navigation written and practical test, among other challenges.

But perhaps the most challenging portion of the BWC was the final day, when the soldiers had to face several Command Sgt. Maj.



From left to right, Private 1st Class Josue Vazquez from the 390th Transportation Co. (alternate selectee), Xavier Sanchez from the 266th Ordnance Co. (primary selectee), Staff Sgt. Xabriel Ortiz, from the 311th Quartermaster Battalion (primary selectee) and Sgt. Francis Hernández from the 471st Engineer Co (alternate selectee) (US Army photo by Private 1st Class Christian Claudio, UPAR, Released)

to answer very specific questions about general US Army knowledge.

"This is a great way to motivate soldiers, in a competition. In that way, we give our best to show that we are leaders and can go further," said Sgt. Francis Hernández, one of the participants assigned to the 471st Engineer Company, US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico.

"For the competition at Fort McCoy is very important that the soldiers that we choose here have a good knowledge about general US Army matters," said Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Muñoz, 210th Regional Support Group, senior noncommissioned officer.

"We are looking to see how well developed they are as leaders. We also observe their presence and their writing skills," added Berlingeri.

All the soldiers were excited and giving their best efforts.

"For me this was excellent. Just to see how far you can go and to see other soldiers reaching their own limits, and the friendships that we build here makes it a great experience," said Private 1st Class Xavier Sanchez.

SEE WARRIORS! NEXT PAGE

*WARRIORS! FROM
PREVIOUS PAGE*

Out of the thirteen soldiers who participated in the US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico BWC, only four were selected.

The soldiers who will have the honor to represent the local command at Fort McCoy are Staff Sgt. Xabriel Ortiz, assigned to the 311th Quartermaster Battalion and Private 1st Class Xavier Sanchez, assigned to the 266th Ordnance Co.

Sgt. Francis Hernández, assigned to the 471st Engineer Co. and Private 1st Class Josue Vazquez, assigned to the 390th Transportation Co. were selected as alternates. Congratulations to all!

A Partnership for Success

By: SGT Jose F. Babilonia
1st MSC Public Affairs

San Juan, PR- The 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC) and the Puerto Rico Recruiting Activity joined forces at The Embassy Hotel and Casino, April 14, during the Recruiting Partnership Council (RPC).

The RPC's objective was to discuss the accession requirements of the largest US Army Reserve command in the region and to coordinate efforts between the 1st MSC and the Recruiting Activity in Puerto Rico.

"It's always good to talk to our number one customer, which happens to be the 1st MSC," said Lt.

Col. José Francisco Malgarejo, Battalion Commander of the Miami Recruiting Battalion, which covers the US Virgins Islands, Puerto Rico and 7 counties in South Florida.

"Working with the command team (referring to the 1st MSC) has been an excellent opportunity for my command to support the efforts that the General (Fernández) and the Command Sgt. Maj. (Rivera) want to accomplish here in Puerto Rico, which is to enlist the best qualified individuals into the Reserve, to make them soldiers and to continue making them better citizens for Puerto Rico," added Malgarejo.

During the RPC, Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernández, Commanding General of the 1st MSC, US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, briefed the recruiters and senior leaders about the structure of the command, as well as the need for specific personnel, identified by Military Occupational Specialty (MOS).

"We have an open lane of communication; you understand our needs, we understand your needs," said Fernández, while addressing the US Army Recruiting Command personnel.

The RPC is a forum to establish a perpetual partnership, improve communications, and synchronize recruiting efforts between Recruiting activity and U.S. Army Reserve. The primary function of the council is to build and sustain unit personnel strength.



Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernández, commander of the 1st MSC, listens to a question from one of the recruiters attending the RPC, April 14, 2012, San Juan, PR (US Army photo by Sgt. Jose Babilonia, 1st MSC PAO NCO/Released)

More local troops to Afghanistan

Carolina, PR- Approximately 100 soldiers assigned to the 393rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, left the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico in route to Afghanistan, 12 Jun.

The troops would stop at a mobilization station in the continental states in order to receive additional training, before departing to the Southwest Asian country.

Once in Afghanistan, the 393rd CSSB will serve as a command and control element for over 1,200 troops from different components, to include active Army, National Guard and civilian employees.

Command Sgt. Maj. Josue Maldonado, who has been in the Army Reserve for 22 years, is part of the deploying unit.

“We are here doing our job, which is to be soldiers. We will complete our mission, defending liberty and democracy,” said Maldonado.

Auria Santos, mother of Capt. Angel L. Morales, was also present to farewell the troops.

“I am very proud of my son because in the Army Reserve he has been able to achieve professional progression,” said Santos.

As part of their preparation for this deployment, the troops of the 393rd CSSB participated in the



Troops and family members from the 393rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, pose for a picture in front of the State Capitol building, after conducting the units farewell event, 11 June, 2012, San Juan, PR. (US Photo by Sgt Jose Babilonia, 1st MSC PAO NCO/Released)

SOUTHCOM humanitarian mission Beyond the Horizon (BTH) at Dominican Republic in 2011.

allowed the commander of the unit to exercise the command and control skills and procedures they will now apply.

Their participation in BTH allowed the commander of the unit to exercise the command and control skills and procedures they will now apply.

According to Pres. Obama, the withdraw of troops from Afghanistan should be completed by 2014.

Since 2001, approximately 5,000 troops assigned to the US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico have been mobilized in support of Overseas Contingency Operations worldwide.

The 393rd CSSB is the third unit being mobilized in 2012, when the Army Reserve-Puerto Rico celebrates its 90th anniversary of service to the nation.

The participation in BTH

Mission accomplished

Carolina PR- A group of eight U.S. Army Reserve Puerto Rico soldiers returned to the island Apr. 24, after completing a one year tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

The soldiers assigned to the 268th Transportation Corps Company (TC CO) in Fort Buchanan and the 390th TC CO based in the former Roosevelt Roads U.S. Navy base in Ceiba, served under the 236th Inland Cargo Transportation Company from Illinois.

The troops were conducting transportation missions in three command regions, including the Eastern Command Region.

While in Afghanistan, the troops were conducting transportation missions in three command regions, including the Eastern Command Region, where in recent months the country had experienced massive protests against an alleged burning of a Koran.

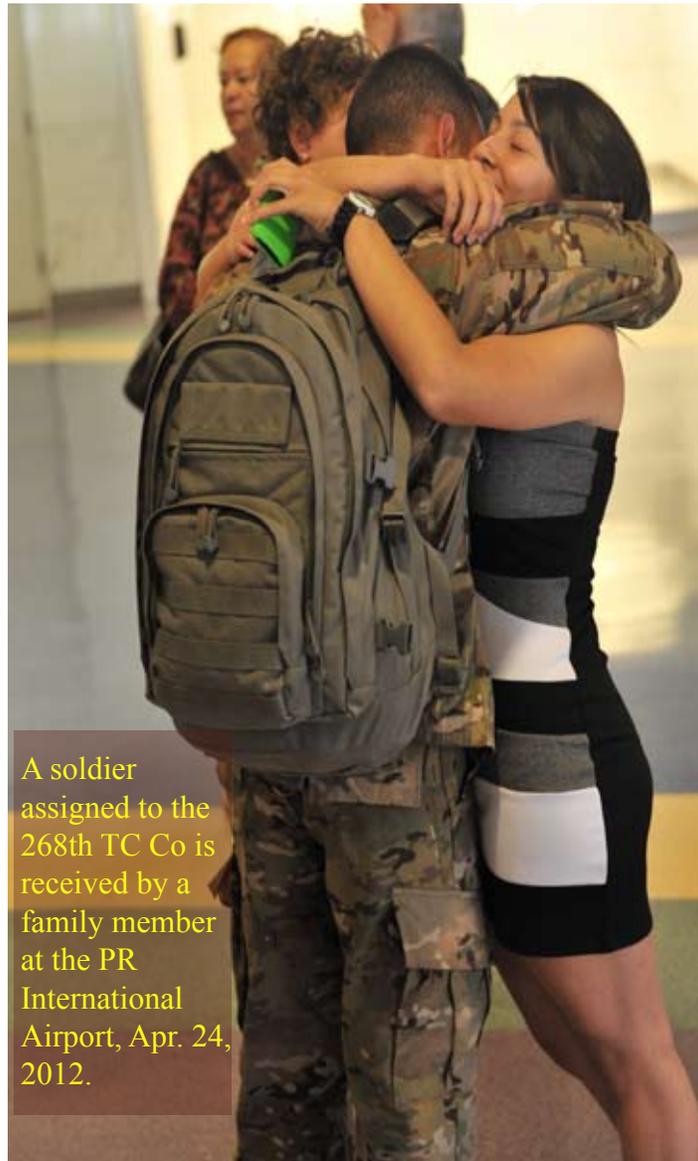
The soldiers also undertook missions in the command regions that include the capital and northern part of the country.

“I feel very proud to have represented the island, very satisfied, but now I cannot wait to join my family,” said Sgt. Efraín Flores, cargo specialist.

Another important mission assigned to our soldiers included the organization and planning of supply convoys out of Bagram, Afghanistan.

“It was a great experience, and I’m happy to be returning home,” said specialist Wiletsy Collazo, the only woman in the group.

The detachment was received by Col. Eric Bermudez, 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC) Chief of Staff and Command Sgt. Maj. Rene Rivera, 1st MSC Command Sgt. Maj.



A soldier assigned to the 268th TC Co is received by a family member at the PR International Airport, Apr. 24, 2012.

A culture of supply and maintenance discipline

Washington, DC- Several 1st Mission Support Command, US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico units were recognized during the 8th Annual Chief of Staff of the Army Combined Logistics Excellence Awards (CLEA) Ceremony, 5 June.

The Aguadilla based 77th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and the Caguas based 597th Quartermaster Company received the Maintenance Excellence Award in the small and medium category, respectively.

The 448th Engineer Battalion, from Fort Buchanan, was selected as runner up for the same award, in the small category.

In the Supply Excellence Award, the 448th Engineer Battalion was once again highlighted and selected as a winner in the Property Book for the Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) category.

The ceremony honored a total of 54 Maintenance, Deployment and Supply Army, Reserve and National Guard units from the United States, Korea, Japan, Germany, Italy, Guam, Netherlands and Puerto Rico.

The winners went through a rigorous program to be considered for the award.

The competition begins when an Army Command nominates one or more of its units based

on published guidelines and regulations. Next, the evaluators from the U.S. Army Transportation, Ordnance, and Quartermaster Centers, augmented by Army National Guard and Reserve soldiers, travel worldwide to conduct on-site evaluations of the units nominated by their Commands.

General Lloyd J. Austin III, Army Vice Chief of Staff and Lieutenant General Raymond V. Mason, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, presented the awards to the winners.

“Set the example, to share with others the practices that enabled your success. I want you to teach others what right is,” said Austin.

“The real winners are all the boots on the ground around the world, who win by the work your units do every day to enhance Army readiness,” said Mason.

According to an article published in the US Army website, “the 77th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion has an extremely efficient maintenance program with an obvious team effort between the Supply and Maintenance NCOs. The high level of motivation and pride is demonstrated throughout the unit’s maintenance program. The safety program was one of the best the judges saw. The Commander’s and First Sergeant’s weapons were maintained and clean. The Test Measurement & Diagnostic account was up to date and all on hand items required were enrolled.”

The article also refers to the 597th Quartermaster Company indicating that the unit has a very well organized repair parts program and effective tool room procedures. The Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) program was efficiently managed, as was the unit’s arms room.

This unit’s mission requires the soldiers to support themselves for field level maintenance; the unit established effective maintenance practices and procedures.

Master Sgt. Ricardo Pastrana and Staff Sgt. Edwin Rivera, both from the 77th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) and Master Sgt. Matthew Ramirez and Staff Sgt. Jorge Osorio from the 597th Quartermaster Company, represented the units during the ceremony.

Chief Warrant 2 Victor Maldonado represented the 448th Engineer Battalion.

“The real winners are all the boots on the ground around the world, who win by the work your units do every day to enhance Army Readiness.”

**Lt. Gen. Raymond V. Mason
Army Deputy CoS Logistics**

SEE CLAG NEXT PAGE

CLAG FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

“I promptly realized that encouraging units in our command to participate in the AAME competition was never about winning an award.

It is clear that the recognition the soldiers received by the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army in front of a huge crowd of the finest maintainers and logisticians of Active Component, Army Reserve and Army National Guard is gratifying, but it is mostly about validating our maintenance operation and to provide the commander with the highest capacity of equipment readiness

for deployment,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Carlos A. Acevedo, 1st MSC Maintenance Officer.

The Army Award Maintenance Excellence (AAME) was established in 1982 by the Department of the Army to recognize exceptional accomplishments in unit maintenance across the full spectrum of Combat Arms, Combat Support and Combat Service Support units.

The program objectives are to improve and sustain maintenance readiness, evaluate the status of total maintenance operations, improve efficiency and reduce waste.

The Supply Excellence Award

(SEA) was created in 1986 to recognize excellence in supply operations. The Quartermaster school is responsible for executing the program.

The SEA objectives are to enhance logistics readiness of all Army units, enforce the Command Supply Discipline Program and to provide a structure for official recognition of group and individual initiatives.

The 1st MSC winners were recognized at the Washington Marriott with a ceremony and banquet. The winners were also treated with a tour to the National Mall in Washington, DC and the Pentagon memorial.



Several 1st Mission Support Command, US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico units were recognized during the 8th Annual Chief of Staff of the Army Combined Logistics Excellence Awards (CLEA) Ceremony, at Washington, DC, 5 June. (US Army photo by 1st MSC G4/Released)

Take 5

for Motorcycle Safety



- Ride with a battle buddy— join a Motorcycle Mentorship Program!
- Let Motorcycle Safety Foundation training kick-start you for success.
- Ride quick, agile and safe with Military SportBike Course training.
- Suit up for safety— wear your personal protective equipment.
- Keep the “rubber side” down by riding responsibly.
- Don't speed. Life is not a sprint— it's a marathon.

Take 5 ... then take action.



ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG

