



1st MSC Gazette

Recruiting Promoting and Growing Citizen Soldiers

Vol. No. 1 Issue 2



Mrs. Dilenia Peralta gets a new pair of eye glasses, as part of the BTH mission

“God is blessing you...”

Valverde province, Dominican Republic: Reservists from the 1st MSC continue working hard at the Dominican Republic, as part of the “Beyond the Horizon” (BTH) mission. The headquarters and command and control elements for the mission belong to the 1st MSC, under the watchful eye of Lt. Col. Louis A. Feliciano, who is also the 393rd CSSB Battalion Commander. “We have around 25

1st MSC Soldiers here, who provide the resources and capabilities that the down trace units require, in order to successfully complete the BTH mission in Dominican Republic. But most importantly, I think this is the type of mission that no Soldier will be able to forget, because we come here to serve the local community”, stated Feliciano.

“This mission provides

a comprehensive support to the most important needs of our people. This mission contributes to our sustained development, while solidifying the bonds which traditionally have united Dominican Republic and United States of America”, stated Abraham E. Luna, Commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade of the Dominican Army.

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1st MSC Gazette

*Promoting, Recruiting
and
Growing*

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Stronger Relationships : stronger Army!



1st MSC couples participate in the most recent Strong Bonds retreat.

Fort Buchanan, PR: Over 100 service members of the 1stMSC and their loved ones participated 29 April – 1 May 2011 in the most recent Strong Bonds retreat, at the Caribe Hilton Hotel.

Strong Bonds is a chaplain led program which builds relationship resiliency. The Strong Bonds mission is to increase Soldier and Family readiness through relationship education and skills training.

The Strong Bonds programs are applied to the Army Force Generation cycle (AR-FORGEN) in order to help Single-Soldiers, Couples and Families

to thrive in the turbulence of the military environment.

Attendees voluntarily participate in a Strong Bonds offsite retreat format designed to maximize relationship training impact. The retreat or “get away” provides an emotionally safe and secure training environment in which to address the effect of military lifestyle stressors.

Healthy relationships contribute to the maintenance of a healthy Army and a secure future force. With increasing demands placed on Soldiers and Families, to include both frequent

deployments and duty relocations, intimate relationships are fully tested.

Research shows that training in communication skills, intimacy, and conflict management increases marital satisfaction and reduces rates of Family violence.

Building Army Family resiliency is part of a strategic approach to cope with the high operational demand placed on today’s Army Reserve.

For more information visit www.strongbonds.org or call the 1st MSC Chaplain’s office at (707)707- 4953.

Research shows that training in communication skills, intimacy and conflict management increases marital satisfaction and reduces rates of Family violence.

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At the same time, the United States Ambassador to Dominican Republic, the Honorable Raúl Izaguirre, expressed his happiness about the work that is being done at the Caribbean nation. "Beyond the Horizon is another example of how the United States and the Dominican Republic work together. It is great to participate in a project that is not designed to destroy, but to build and help", said the Ambassador.

BTH is a civic-military effort that includes the construction of two medical clinics, the renovation of an existent dispensary and the reconstruction of a local school in the municipality of Mao. In addition, the mission offers medical care and services to the local population. Such services include optometry, dental care, gener-

al medicine, pediatrician and immunizations to most of the Mao municipality population. Currently, the Mao municipality population is around 49,000 people, in accordance with the most recent census.

Mr. Norberto Ventura is a local farmer, who went to obtain medical care in one of the BTH clinics. "I feel very, very happy. This is a poor country and that is why we are deeply grateful to the United States Armed Forces, for what they are doing here, helping our people", stated Ventura.

Mrs. Dilenia Peralta was another patient that enjoyed the medical services offered as part of BTH. "God is blessing you for what you are doing here. Here (in Dominican Republic) we have people who do not have the money to obtain medical attention. With these clinics,

we can see a doctor at last!" stated the homemaker lady. Besides the medical and infrastructure help, the BTH mission is having a great economical impact in the neighboring Caribbean nation. "We contracted services, goods and local products that are required for us to conduct this mission. This reality has an important impact in the local economy", said Lt. Col. Louis A. Feliciano.

"I feel very, very happy"

**- Norberto Ventura
Local Farmer**

BTH will have a presence of over 200 United States Service Members (Reservists, National Guard and Active Duty) deployed in Dominican Republic until mid summer 2011.



Lt. Col. Feliciano, Sgt. Maj. Marin and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Romero pose with grateful students of a reconstructed school at Dominican Republic

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Soldier completes Small Reaction Team Course

Juana Diaz, PR: Throughout the last decades, the violent protests and virulent attacks are in the uprising, especially against the United Armed Forces. This situation, along with the fact that the future warfare will probably continue to include enemy forces dressed in local civilian attire, with criminals released from prisons and with inexistent local populace control measures, has reinforced the need to establish and maintain an orderly environment, through the use of the Military Police Corps.

However, some situations require a highly specialized type of Military Police. The Military Police Small Reaction Team (SRT) is the answer to these difficult security situations. SRTs are the Army's version of a civilian Special Weapons Attack Team (SWAT). SRTs are rapidly deployed in the event that a situation develops that is beyond the scope of the regular Military Police Units. Such scenarios include hostage situations, counterterrorism operations, barricaded criminals, sniper incidents, VIP protection duties and others.

With this reality in mind, the 613th Military Police Company, which is subordinate to the 1st MSC, is actively taking important steps to establish a SRT in the island. One of these steps



Command Sgt. Maj. Rivera recognizes Staff Sgt. Caraballo's accomplishment by giving him a Command coin.

was to send Staff Sgt. Marcos Caraballo to the SRT course at the Advanced Law Enforcement Training Division, Fort Leonard Wood, MO. "I accepted the challenge and was honored to be selected among other elite Staff Sgts in the unit. In order to prepare (for the course) I conducted a rigorous physical training every day", stated Caraballo.

The SRT course is very physically and psychologically demanding. Due to the strenuous physical activity involved, students must not have a medical profile. All students over 40 years of age must be cleared by their installation medical

personnel, prior to their arrival to the course. In addition, the student must have a minimum qualification of sharpshooter or above, with his or her assigned weapon. Bottom-line, SRT course is not an easy one.

"During the course, I was involved in a variety of challenging psychological stressing training situations, along with a highly physically demanding curriculum. I was trained every day to be a leader and a team member, by going over a range of different challenging tasks", stated Caraballo after his graduation, 1 April 2011.

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“Staff Sgt. Caraballo is an exemplar noncommissioned officer. He lives up to the Army values and the Military Police Creed”, stated Capt. César Rodríguez, 613th Military Police Company Commander.

Caraballo was the only Army reservist attending the SRT team, class 008-11. In accordance with Capt. Rodríguez, Caraballo did an excellent job, measuring up to his counterparts in the active component, and representing our command during the course. “I was determined to pass this course, because I just did not want to let my unit, my fellow Soldiers or my Commander down. I am not a quitter; that is just not me”

Be all you can be, be Army Strong!

Fort Buchanan, PR: Be all you can be was the Army’s slogan some years ago. However, for those Soldiers who want to become officers through a direct commission, the slogan very well applies today.

At least, that is what 12 Army Reserve Soldiers showed when they appeared before the most recent 1st MSC Direct Commission Field Board, 6 May.

The Army Reserve Direct Commission Program was established to provide an additional resource for the command to meet its Army Reserve Officer Accession Mission.

“The field interview board is like a job interview. It consists of a three officer panel who

evaluate the Soldier on aspects such as leadership potential, command voice, appearance, academic preparation and others”, stated Sgt. 1st Class José Luis Rodríguez, 1st MSC Officer Accession Non-Comissioned Officer.

However, the journey of these 12 Soldiers started several months ago. It started ensuring they complied with all the prerequisites and completing the written application. Soldiers must ensure the written application is completed without mistakes, in order to improve their chances of selection.

Soldiers must also find a vacant second lieutenant position, have at least a secret security clearance, and have a General Technician (GT) score of 110 or higher. Bachelor's degree are recommended (can request waiver). Applicants with less than a college degree must at least have 60 credits hours of college and must request a waiver for lack of a bachelor's degree.

“The Soldiers’ chain of Command and the unit career counselors are the initial point of contact for this application. Interested Soldiers must contact them and initiate the paperwork as soon as possible, in accordance with the Army Reserve Officer Direct Commission Checklist”, pointed Rodríguez.



12 reservists appeared before the most recent 1stMSC field interview board

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1st MSC wins best formation award!



Soldiers getting ready for the Armed Forces Run, 20 May 2011.

Fort Buchanan, PR – Soldiers from the 1st Mission Support Command (MSC) demonstrated a high quality performance by winning the Unit Formation Award, over members from their sisters' branches in the Armed Forces Day Run this past Friday, 20 May 2011.

With an impressive amount of motivated soldiers (over 100), the 1st MSC kept a military formation throughout the event. The award is given to the unit which maintain a well organized formation by staying "dress right dress" while running or walking. "I was very excited, it was awesome, a huge



1st MSC Soldiers move forward eager to win.

1st MSC wins best formation award!

formation and we all kept our distance, we were looking good” Said SPC Magda Santos, member of the winning team, moments after the announcement was made.

Over 400 service members and civilians were present in the event. Mr. Julio Capaceti, Events Coordinator for the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command (MWR) in Fort Buchanan, was part of the team responsible for the organization of this event. “It was a joint effort, we planned this for months... and this year we exceeded our expectations, we have around 450 participants for today’s events”. He said.



The 1st MSC Colors go all the way up!



The Team celebrates!

**“we were looking good”
- Spec. Magda Santos**



VICTORY!

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While filling the initial paperwork, applicants are required to choose their desired branch in the Department of the Army (DA) Form 61. Details of the Army branches can be found in Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA PAM) 600-3.

Functional areas (such as public affairs, human resource management and comptroller) and branches (such as civil affairs) are not available for direct commission Soldiers upon their initial appointment. "Soldiers must select at least 3 to 5 possible branches" added Rodriguez.

In addition to the DA Form 61, the packet must include a DA Photo, letters of recommendation, and the personnel qualification record, among many other documents. "We provide assistance completing the packet to ensure it is in accordance with the Human Resources Command's guidance", stated Rodriguez.

Once the packet is properly submitted, the Soldier will appear before the next scheduled field interview board. The 1st MSC conducts four field interview boards per year. All 12 Soldiers that appeared before the field interview board on 6 May received a positive

recommendation from the command. Their packets will now go to the Human Resources Command board where they will make the final selection.

"We encourage all qualifying Soldiers to look at this program as an alternative. We are here to help", stated Rodriguez.

All those who want to be all you can be, can contact the 1st MSC Officer Accession Non-Commissioned Officer (Sgt. 1st Class Rodriguez) by calling 787-565-5387 or by E-mail: Jose.RodriguezGonzalez@usar.army.mil.

Soldiers set their sights on success



The zeroing of the weapon is critical.

CAMP SANTIAGO, P.R. – In what has become common practice to maximize training opportunities, Soldiers from the Headquarters, headquarters detachment, 1st Mission Support Command teamed up for weapons qualification ranges May 14.

Soldiers were ready to deliver training to one another and make the best use of weekend training time while getting Soldiers qualified to standard on the M9, M249, and the M16A2.

Basic instruction is important with every weapon system in order for Soldiers to qualify with confidence in their abilities.

"We perform PMI (Primary Marksmanship Instruction) at the squad level. When we

come to the range we go to the EST 2000 (Engagement Skills Trainer)," said 1st Sgt. Edwin Conde, 1st Forward Support Company, 448th Engineer Battalion.

The EST 2000 is a computer simulation that allows Soldiers to engage targets with a pneumatic weapon equipped with a laser. The air pressure in the weapon is released when the trigger is squeezed, which simulates recoil.

Though some Soldiers think they do not require PMI, Conde emphasizes its importance as a means of avoiding remedial training.

"All the Soldiers who don't qualify (zero) on the zero range, come back to the EST 2000, try

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SUCCESS from previous page to fix the problem and then come back to the zero range, the same process takes place at the (M-16) qualification range,” said Conde who joined the Army as a mechanic.

The thorough process undertaken by Soldiers in charge of the ranges ensures 1st MSC troops gain confidence in their weapons.

“Every time you perform to standard, you perform safety and you perform the Army standard,” he said.

Helping to move that standard along from up in the tower was Staff Sgt. Angeles Guzmán, Forward Support Company, 448th Engineer Battalion who was operating the popup targets on the M-16 range.

“I enter all the information and the names of the Soldiers and the results of the Soldiers,” said Guzmán.

Though it doesn't seem like much, at the end of the three day qualification range she will have entered names of hundreds of Soldiers.

She does much more than that.

On the orders of the range noncommissioned officer in charge, Guzmán initiates the three intervals of popup targets as Soldier on the firing line aim for center mass switching from the prone supported, prone unsupported and kneeling position.

Though she claimed to not cheer on Soldiers she might know on the firing line during one round of firing, she could be

heard crying out when someone she knew missed a 200 meter target.

In cooperation with Soldiers from the 448th Engineer Battalion, 1st MSC troops kept the weekend's training moving right along.

“We have professional Soldiers, in my unit you are going

to find engineers, medics, lawyers, who are E-5, E-4, E-6, and E-7 that is what is different now,” Conde said referring to the careers often found within the ranks of the Army Reserve. Such people are what makes today's Army Reserve unique.

“They focus on training, they focus on taking care of each other and they focus on performing their mission to standard,” he said.

Zeroing is a critical step in the process of qualifying with your assigned weapon



The tower Non-commissioned Officer maintains the control of the events during the weapons qualification

Helping Soldiers to find a job!

WASHINGTON - Unemployed veterans, wounded warriors, reserve-component service members and their spouses searching for jobs can find one-stop shopping at a Web portal designed just for them.

Operated by the Army Reserve, the military-friendly Employee Partnership of the Armed Forces at www.EmployerPartnership.org lends assistance not only to those looking for a job, but also to public and private employers who are ready to hire former service members and help to support the troops, said Maj. Gen. Keith L. Thurgood, deputy chief of the Army Reserve.

"It's all about connecting supply and demand," Thurgood said.

Employers are attracted to veterans because they are highly skilled leaders from the finely tuned military atmosphere, the general explained.

"That's the crux of the program," Thurgood said. "It's a mutually beneficial program where the employer gets someone who's drug-free, understands collaboration, [and] can think strategically and act at a tactical level to get the job done."

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen,



Capt. Carlos J. Ramirez is the 1st MSC liaison for the Employer Partnership Program

chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is a longtime advocate of hiring veterans.

"Veterans bring a maturity. They bring leadership. They bring a life experience," he said last year. "They bring a dedication they may not have had when they were 17, 18 or 19 years old, when they were coming out of high school or in the first couple years of college."

Thurgood said the portal, launched on Veterans Day, still is in its infancy, but already has 7,500 registered users.

"We've got over 1,300 [emplo



yers with job openings], including 95 Fortune 500 companies," he said.

While many job websites exist on the Internet, Thurgood said, veterans should know EmployerPartnership.org offers a personal touch, such as a resume-building feature that translates military language into civilian terms. Deciphering "military speak" is a common concern for human resources people in the corporate world, the general added.

"We take [a military specialty] and translate it into some-

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thing an HR professional can understand," he said. "That's a very important piece of what we do."

And it's not just about the military, Thurgood said.

"It's about a national program we need to put in place to share this great resource that we call people, because if you look at the unemployment rate, and the demographic of 18-to-24-year-olds, and then break that down into veterans, it's higher than the national average."

And sometimes, he added, the rate of unemployment among veterans is twice of the rate among civilians.

"It's free, it's easy"

-Maj. Gen Thurgood

"We have ability to reach out to you personally to help you get your resume right, help you through the interview process, and make the right connections with employers," the general said. "The personal touch is something we provide

that nobody else does."

The portal also has advice for veterans who want to start a business, Thurgood noted, offering training that explains how to become a smarter business person and entrepreneur.

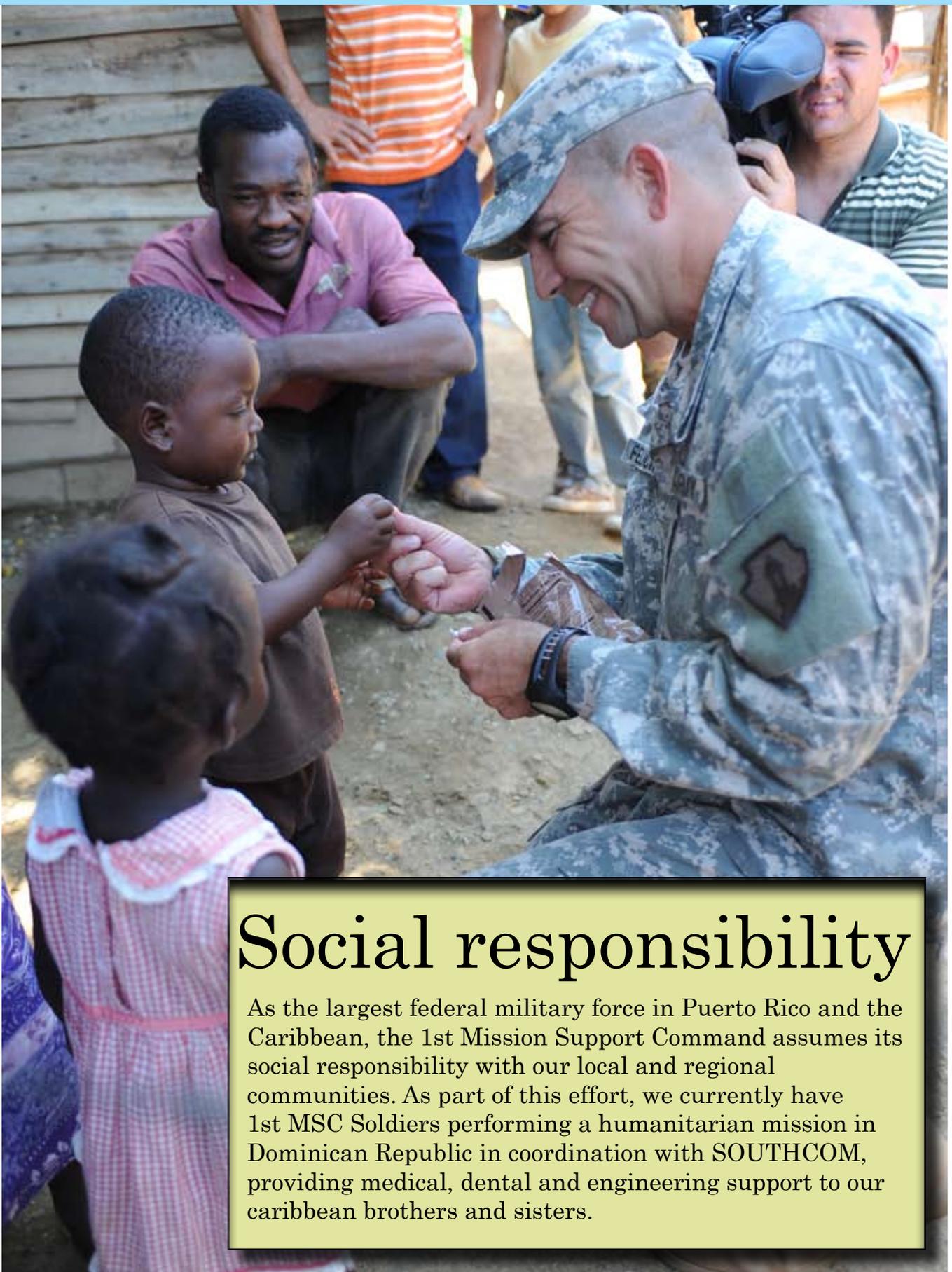
"It's free, it's easy, and it's a great way for us to connect the great skill sets that we bring to corporate America," he said. "In my opinion, our great military does two things well: it delivers results and grows leaders. That's exactly what America needs."

Soldiers of the 276th Maintenance Co. recognized



Soldiers from the 276th OD Maintenance Company receive the coin of excellence from Brig. Gen. Mark W. Corson (103rd ESC Commanding General) and Col. Lawrence Fuller (402nd AFSB Commander).

The Soldiers assigned to the 276TH Operations Cell play a vital role on the Mobile Redistribution Property Assistance Teams (MRPAT) missions, following the guidelines of the 2-402nd AFSB RESET Section. 276TH Operations Cell is responsible for providing a wide range of administrative and management support to the RESET mobile missions. They prepare, submit, and track RESET Teams Air Movement Requests (AMR). They also maintain Reset briefing and mobile missions calendar. These duties are critical, especially during the current drawdown operations in Iraq, within the framework of Operation New Dawn (OND).



Social responsibility

As the largest federal military force in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, the 1st Mission Support Command assumes its social responsibility with our local and regional communities. As part of this effort, we currently have 1st MSC Soldiers performing a humanitarian mission in Dominican Republic in coordination with SOUTHCOM, providing medical, dental and engineering support to our caribbean brothers and sisters.