



1st MSC Gazette

Recruiting, Promoting and Growing Citizen Soldiers

Vol. No. 2 Issue 2



Soldiers from the 246th Quartermaster (QM) Co. conduct Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle training at Fort Dix, NJ, 8 Feb, 2012. The 246th QM Co. mobilization is the most recent example of the operational nature of the US Army Reserve forces in Puerto Rico.

Budget cuts and the Army Reserve

By: Maj. Carlos M. Cuebas
1st MSC PAO

Fort Buchanan, PR- The current budget challenges that the nation is experiencing could have an impact in the Army's future, according to the article titled "Army Ready to face budget challenges", an Army News Service story recently published in the Army's official internet page.

However, despite the worrisome picture described

in the article, it appears that the economic impact could be considerable less for the Army Reserve.

"I think is safe to say the impact to the Army Reserve is going to be dissimilar to the Active Duty," said Maj. Gen. Jon J. Miller, United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) Deputy Commander for Operations, in an interview during his recent visit to Puerto Rico.

"The Army Reserve consumes a disproportionate small amount of resources for the amount of capabilities it provides. I think the Reserve is likely to compete very well for resources because it is

Both leaders stressed the need of maintaining a high level of readiness.

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1st MSC Gazette

*Promoting, Recruiting
and
Growing*

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New commander for the 390th TC Co.



1st Lt. Jay Rodriguez stands in front of his company, shortly after taking command, 4 Dec.

Ceiba, PR – The change of command ceremony is rooted in military history dating back to the 18th century. The 390th Transportation Corps Company (TC CO) continued with the tradition when it conducted a change of command ceremony at the US Army Reserve Center, Ceiba PR, 4 Dec., where the outgoing commander Capt. Eduardo Flecha relinquished his command to 1st Lt. Jay Rodriguez.

The change of command ceremony is rooted in military history, dating back to the 18th century.

Flecha, who was in command for approximately three years, is part of the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program. The outgoing commander departed to a position in the United States Army Reserve Command (USARC), at the Forces Management Division.

Rodriguez served in Iraq from 2010 to 2011 with the 512th Transportation Corps Detachment (TC DET) and with the 346th Transportation Corps Battalion (TC BN). The incoming commander's commitment to serve others as a leader, and his time in service demonstrates that he possesses the required skills and knowledge to have the privilege of

1st Lt. Rodriguez served in Iraq from 2010 to 2011 with the 512th TC Detachment.

commanding troops.

During the ceremony, both the incoming and outgoing commanders presented recognition coins to all those soldiers who scored a 270 or higher, with 85 points or more in each event, in the most recent Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT).

As part of the change of command ceremony, several soldiers assigned to the 346th TC BN were promoted, in recognition to their potential to serve in the next higher rank.

The 390th TC CO recently arrived from Fort Eustis, VA where they conducted their Annual Training (AT).

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Maj. Gen. Jon J. Miller, United States Reserve Command Deputy Commander, addresses the audience during the Armed Forces Generation Readiness Review conference in Puerto Rico.

such a good return on on investment,” added Miller.

A similar positive outlook had Maj. Gen. Keith L. Thurgood, USARC Deputy Commander

for Support, in a separate interview.

“Now is a great time for the Army Reserve. Even though we are under a fiscal constraint, that does not mean that we can’t deliver a very capable Army and the most decisive land force for the nation,” said Thurgood.

“We have a great history of thinking differently, acting differently, defeating the status-quo and making the difference. At the end of the day, it comes to leadership and leaders making the difference,” said Thurgood.

Both leaders stressed the need of maintaining a high level of readiness in the Army Reserve formations, despite the current

economic environment and even after the current operations in Afghanistan conclude.

“After we get out of Afghanistan, we still have to have capabilities for the Nation. Whether we are at Afghanistan or supporting some other humanitarian operation or some other situation around the world, we are still going to be needed,” said Thurgood.

“We also anticipate that there will be a demand from Combatant Commanders for Theater Security Cooperation missions. Therefore, it is entirely possible that soldiers from the Army Reserve engage in support to theater strategies,” said Miller.

**“I think the Reserve is likely to compete very well for resources because it is such a good return on investment,”
Maj. Gen. Jon J. Miller**

Miller and Thurgood made their statements during a recent visit to Puerto Rico to participate in the Armed Forces Generation (ARFORGEN) Readiness Review Conference, where USARC assessed the 1st Mission Support Command’s ability to execute the ARFORGEN management processes and readiness standards, 21-22 Jan.

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A new way to train our troops

By: Staff Sgt. José E. Santos Santos

Fort Buchanan, PR – Lead by Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernández and his staff, soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD) for the 1st Mission Support Command (MSC), conducted the new Army Physical Readiness Training (APRT), Nov. 5.

The Army's physical training has drastically changed from the old one. The warm up and cool down exercises, which are now called "preparation and recovery drills", are way different (and quite fun to do too) than the previous ones.

With the new preparation drills from the command voice of Sgt. 1st Class Edgar Paez, a noncommissioned officer from the 1st MSC maintenance section, the soldiers started their training. The executed drills were: the bend and reach; the rear lunge; the high jumper; the rower; the squat bender; the windmill; the forward lunge; the prone row; the bent-leg body twist; and of course, the push-ups.

Then, the soldiers performed the Military Movement Drills (MMDs) as part of the Endurance and Mobility Drills, which were the "main dish" for the day. The MMDs are a series of exercises designed to train the full



Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment for the 1st Mission Support Command wait for the command of Sgt. 1st Class Edgar Paez to execute one of the preparation drills, as part of the new Army Physical Readiness Training. 5 Nov. 2011 (Army photo by Staff Sgt. José E. Santos Santos/Released)

spectrum of aerobic and anaerobic endurance requirements.

All soldiers trained hard and up to the Army standards, while having a lot of fun on that Saturday afternoon.

"Excellent! We had a lot fun. We needed to change it, soldiers get tired of doing the same thing; we must do this more often", said Sgt. 1st Class José A. Cuevas, a veteran and a soldier who is currently working at the logistics section.

Cuevas also commented on the participation of the 1st MSC Commanding General on the APRT with his troops: "when

you see a General doing the same thing as you, that motivates you and makes you go the extra mile" he expressed.

It is very common to see Brig. Gen. Fernández and his staff performing with their troops in all types of training and events.

At the end, the new recovery drills were a nice "dessert" for the over 40 sweaty and motivated soldiers who were ready to hit the showers.

These changes on the Physical Fitness Program were made

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TROOPS from previous page for both the health and wellness of our troops, as well as their combat effectiveness.

By implementing these new exercises, it is expected that soldiers will be able to perform better in real situations on the combat zone.

“when you see a General doing the same things as you, that motivates you and makes you go the extra mile,”
Sgt 1st Class Jose A. Cuevas

Future officers in the making



US Army ROTC Cadets listen carefully to Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernandez briefing, 9 Dec 2011 (Army photo by Staff Sgt. José E. Santos Santos/Released)



Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernandez briefs ROTC cadets, 9 Dec 2011 (Army photo by Staff Sgt. José E. Santos Santos/Released)

Fort Buchanan, PR- Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernández, the senior US Army Reserve Officer in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, along with Command Sgt. Major René Rivera, briefed several Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets at the command's headquarters, 9 Dec.

The briefing consisted of the mission, vision, capabilities and priorities of the 1st Mission Command, as a way to inform the cadets about their available choices to serve the Nation.

There are many universities around the island of Puerto Rico that participate in the ROTC program. For these cadets, the US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico represents a great opportunity of serving in the US Army in a federal capacity, without having to move outside Puerto Rico.

US Army Reserve-PR promotes balance among its troops

“We really appreciate not only the participation of the 1st MSC soldiers, but also the participation of the whole military community. I hope you enjoyed this event.”

**Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernandez,
Commander US Army Reserve-
Puerto Rico**

Fort Buchanan, PR- With the intent of promoting the balance, morale and wellbeing among its workforce, families and the military community across the island, the US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico (1st Mission Support Command) celebrated a Sports Festival and a 5k run, 19 Nov at Fort Buchanan.

The event was funded with the Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) monetary award that the 1st MSC received last year. The Sports Festival included many activities for the family such as an obstacle course, paintball, water slide, rock climbing wall and others.

“We really appreciate not only the participation of the 1st MSC



A military dependent enjoys the climbing wall, during the 1st MSC Sports Festival, 19 Nov 2011 at Fort Buchanan, PR. The event promoted the wellbeing and morale of the troops and their families.

US Army Reserve-PR promotes balance among its troops

soldiers, but also the participation of the whole military community. I hope you enjoyed this event,” said Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernández, commander of the US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, 1st Mission Support Command.

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Angel Rios, from Carolina, PR, came with his family to participate in the event. “This type of activities is very important for the military community. It maintains the family balanced and the good relations among soldiers,” said Rios who was accompanied by his wife and two children.

As part of the benefits of participating in the event, the command distributed promotional items to all registered participants. A gym bag, an aluminum water bottle, a hat and shirts were part of the coveted articles received by the participants.

The main event of the day was the 5 kilometers run, which started at 4:30 p.m.

The overall winner of the race, with 18 minutes, 31 seconds, was Dennis Rodriguez, a University of Puerto Rico, Arecibo campus, student, who is the son of Orlando Rodriguez, a federal employee.

“This is the first time I participate in this type of event at Fort Buchanan, but I really enjoyed the race. I tried to run fast from the beginning, until I found my place in the group. Fortunately, I was able to

maintain my pace the whole time,” said Rodriguez.

The overall winner for the female category was Sgt. 1st Class Saby Calo, 1st MSC Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, with 23 minutes and 59 seconds.

“It was challenging because there was another female that I thought was going to pass me. But I liked it very much. I think this race should happen again next year,” said Calo.

Sgt. 1st Class Sammy Santiago, assigned to the 268th Transportation Company, was the first 1st MSC service member crossing the finish line.

“This was a very good run. I found the last 800 meters to be more challenging because there was a hill. But other than that, I feel happy to be able to make a good representation of the 1st MSC”, said Santiago who has been mobilized twice to Iraq.

“This is a great event because I had the opportunity of bringing my children and creating great family bonding,” said Santiago.

There were many service members, families and members of the military community who participated in the day’s events.

There were over 160 participants registered in the race, with several male and female categories.



Runners start the 5k race during the 1st MSC Sports Festival, 19 Nov 2011 at Fort Buchanan, PR. The event promoted the wellbeing and morale of the troops and their families..

Home from Afghanistan

Ponce, PR- Approximately 100 soldiers assigned to the 475th Eng. Co., 1st Mission Support Command, US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, came home to an emotive and happy reception, 14 Jan., after a yearlong mobilization in Afghanistan.

“The 475th Eng. Co. had one of the toughest missions that any unit of this command has faced in a long time,” said Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernández, commander of the US Army Reserve Forces in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

As a combat heavy engineer company, the 475th was in charge of improving the infrastructure in different areas of Afghanistan, to include places controlled by the Taliban forces.

“We built many miles of roadways to improve the transportation around the country, allowing the security forces to have access to previously inaccessible areas. We were basically going to the Taliban’s backyard,” said 1st Lt. Mike Martinez, acting commander of the engineer unit.

Due to the nature of their mission, approximately 70 percent of the unit’s forces were awarded the Combat Action Badge, in recognition for their performance under enemy fire.

In addition, at least three soldiers earned a Purple Heart decoration, for being wounded in the line of duty, as a result of enemy fire.

Staff Sgt. Luis Pérez-Serrano was one of the Purple Heart recipients.



Spec. Johnny Sabino, a member of the 475th Eng. Co., U.S. Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, hugs his daughter Nicole (8) at the Reserve Center in Ponce, PR, shortly after returning from Afghanistan, Jan 14, 2012. The 475th Eng. Co. is the first unit to return home in 2012.

“It was a difficult year, but we were able to accomplish the mission successfully,” said Pérez Serrano.

The performance of the 475th validates the 1st MSC pre-deployment training program and the inherent strengths of the troops and families assigned to the largest US Army Reserve Command in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

“These mobilizations teach you the value of things that you may not have appreciated before,” said Staff Sgt. Marilyn Bernier, one of the few female soldiers in the unit and who supervised construction projects during the deployment.

“A big thank you to my family for their unwavering support. Without them, I would never have gotten

here,” said Bernier.

Staff Sgt. Octavio Pérez-Colón, a Construction Equipment Operator with the 475th, was also happy for their return to the island.

“I am glad to finally be back home. Thanks to God all the members of the unit came back safely. This was a very difficult year with many, many missions and moments of stress, but we were able to do our job,” said Pérez-Colón.

Perez-Colón’s wife, Ms. Wanda Mayoral, also expressed her relieve.

“I cried a lot when I first saw my husband today. I had many mixed emotions. But this is over and he is finally here. We have a party in our neighborhood to receive him,” said

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Mayoral who was also the unit's Family Readiness Group leader during the deployment.

"I must thank all the families for their support during this past year," added Mayoral.

The members of the 475th Eng. Co. were the first Puerto Rico Reservists to arrive home in 2012.

The US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico has mobilized approximately 5,000 troops in direct support to the War against Terrorism, since the year 2001.

The performance of the soldiers assigned to the 475th Engineer Company validates the 1st MSC's pre-deployment training program and the inherent strengths of the troops and families assigned to the largest US Army Reserve Command in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.



Staff Sgt. Luis Pérez-Serrano, assigned to the 475th Eng. Co. hugs his wife Janet Lugo, at the Reserve Center in Ponce, PR, shortly after returning from Afghanistan, Jan 14, 2012. Pérez-Serrano is one of the three recipients of the Purple Heart decoration, for being wounded in the line of duty, as a result of enemy fire.

1st MSC Soldiers test physical readiness

By: Maj. Carlos M. Cuebas
1st MSC Public Affairs Officer

Fort Buchanan, PR- It was 5:00 a.m. and the soldiers assigned to the Headquarters-headquarters Company (HHC), 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC), were already getting prepared to conduct the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) at Fort Buchanan, 22 Oct.

Since 1980, the U.S. Army has assessed physical aptitude through the APFT, commonly known as the "PT Test". The APFT is a three-event physical performance test used to assess muscular endurance and cardio respiratory fitness.

"Passing the PT Test is very important because it is part of the standards expected from a soldier," said 1st Sgt. Ariel Feliciano from the HHC, 1st MSC Company.

There are over 90 soldiers assigned to the HHC. About 25 percent of those soldiers took the APFT two days in advance because they were part of the support team for this APFT event.

"We always have high passing rates in HHC for the APFT," said Maj. Rafael Cruz, Commander of the HHC Company.

"We also always have had a great participation on



Staff Sgt. Juan Fuentes (left) and Sgt. Sadilka Ferrao (right) administer the sit-ups event to Command Sgt. Maj René Rivera, 1st MSC Command Sgt. Maj.

APFT day. The Commanding General always establishes the example which is very visible," added Cruz.

Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernández, 1st MSC Commanding General, always takes the APFT with the troops, which motivates high participation, according to Cruz.

The event's Noncommissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) was Sgt. 1st Class Juan E. Gonzalez, who works in the Operations & Training section.

"I have a good support team to conduct this event. I hope everyone passes the PT test," said Gonzalez, minutes before the first formation.

The troops formed up at 5:15 a.m. and Sgt. 1st Class Edgar Paez, from the 1st MSC logistics section, was in charge of conducting the warming up.

Paez used the preparatory drills of the new Army Physical Readiness Test (APRT), which is expected to become effective in the near future, to conduct the warming up. The APFT was conducted following the current standards.

"Today we only used five preparatory drills as warm up exercises, with the intent of start getting our soldiers familiar with the new APRT," said Paez.

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Paez was very pleased with the soldier's reaction to the new warming up exercises.

"The soldier's reaction was very good. They were very attentive and motivated, while conducting the preparatory drills. I think that the 1st-MSG soldiers should not have any problems adjusting to the new PT test standards, when they become effective," added Paez.

Lt. Col. Samuel E. Licorish, Operations & Training Officer, and Sgt. 1st Class Saby

Calo, HHC's Personnel Administration Specialist, were expected to perform very well during this APFT, according to 1st Sgt. Feliciano.

"I am always nervous on PT test day. My goal is at least a 290," said Calo, while waiting in line to do her pushups.

"It is humid today. I am also always nervous on APFT day. Even if you train, you get nervous out here, because you want to do your best. My goal is a 296 or better," said Licorish.

As expected, the first individual crossing the finish line of the two-mile run was Licorish.

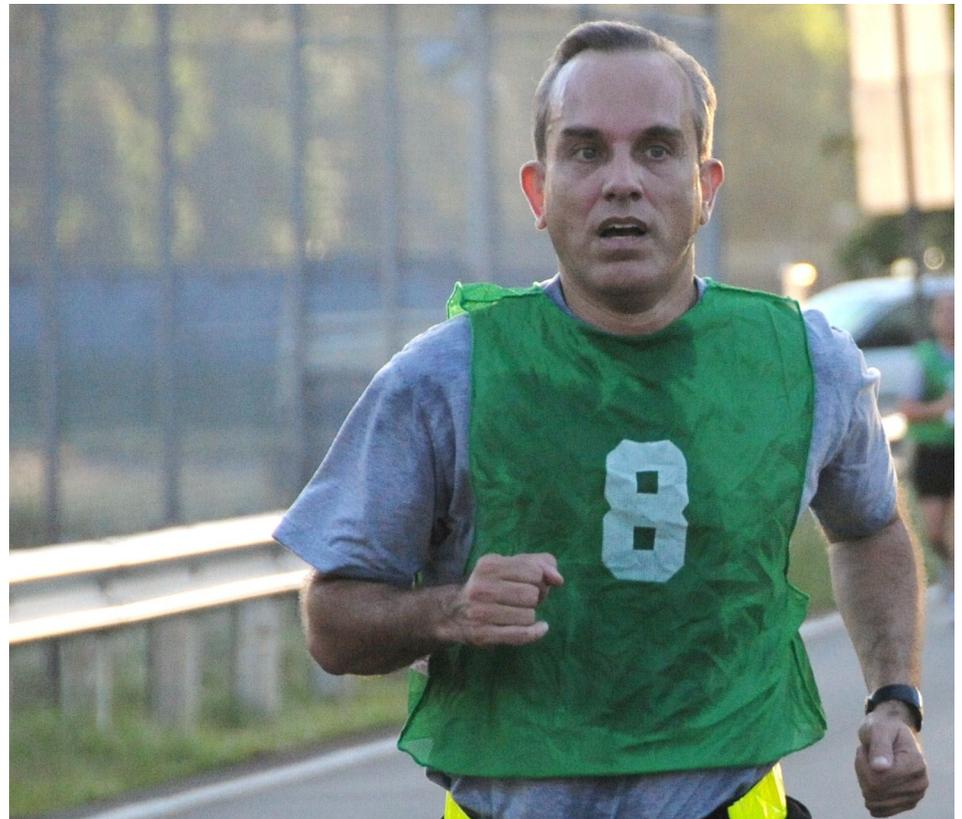
"I think my time was 13 minutes and 35 seconds, unofficial. It is hard to go out in a fast pace and keep it there. Next time you see me I will be doing twelve's," said Licorish shortly after crossing the finish line.

The first female finishing the two-mile run was, also as expected, Calo.

"I feel well. I wanted 14 minutes, but 15:22 is good also. My maximum time is 17 minutes", said Calo.

Out of all the soldiers who tested, only two were not able to pass the APFT at this time.

The APRT, designed to replace the current APFT, expands from three to five events, eliminates sit-ups, increases the pace of push-ups, and replaces the long-distance run with shorter-faster runs. The five events include: 60-yard shuttle run, one-minute rower, standing long-jump, one-minute push-up, 1.5 mile run.



Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernández, Commanding General 1st MSC, US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, sprints to reach the 2 mile run finish line, 22 Oct.

High school students aspire to become officers

By: Maj. Carlos M. Cuebas
1st MSC Public Affairs Officer

San Juan, PR- Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernández, commander of the US Army Reserve, Puerto Rico, 1st Mission Support Command, participated in a United States Service Academies Roundtable, hosted by the Congressman Pedro R. Pierluisi, at the congressional office in San Juan, 18 Oct.

Many high school students, parents and college counselors from around the island were present at this event, with the intent of gathering information about becoming officers in the US Armed Forces.

“The fact that you are here contemplating this course of action says a lot about you. Please know that each one of you have already earned my admiration and respect”, said Pierluisi while addressing the students during his opening remarks.

Representatives from the West Point, the Air Force Academy, the Naval Academy, the Coast Guard Academy and the Merchant Marine Academy were present at the event to explain the requisites to apply to their institutions. In addition, the personnel from the University of Puerto Rico’s Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) were present, explaining their program as well.

“I am glad to see you here. Your presence shows that you are committed. If after receiving the information about the Service Academies you decide that you still want to become an officer, but would

like to attend a college in Puerto Rico, then the ROTC might be your option”, said Lt. Col Gustavo C. Pérez, Professor of Military Science at the University of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras.

Pérez also stated that the US Army ROTC program commissions more Puerto Rican officers than any of the US Service Academies combined.

Brig Gen. Fernando Fernández was the senior officer in the event. “It is great to see so many young people who want to serve our nation as officers in the Armed Forces. It is also great to see parents, teachers and friends here tonight. It takes a particular type of individual to join the Armed Forces, especially as an officer. It also takes a very special family to support that individual”, said Fernández who talked and shared with many students and parents during the event.

Jonathan Hernandez, 17, from the C.I.E.M. private School in Carolina (Centro de Instrucción y Educación Moderna by its name in Spanish) was one of the students who asked many questions to Fernández.

“I came here because I am highly interested in pursuing a military career and a degree in political sciences. The college counselor referred me to come to this event as an alternative to reach my goals”, said Hernandez.

Applicants to all Service Academies, except the Coast Guard Academy, are required to obtain a nomination to the school. For students in Puerto Rico the nomination is made by the Resident Commissioner. To apply for the Congressman nomination, local students must access the website <http://pierluisi.house.gov/PDF/forms/nomination-form.pdf>.



Brig. Gen Fernando Fernández, senior US Army Reserve officer in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, addresses the many students, parents and college counselors who attended the United States Service Military Academy Roundtable, 18 Oct, 2011 at Congressman’s Pierluisi’s San Juan District Office.

Troops graduate WLC

Juana Diaz, PR- Ten soldiers assigned to the US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, 1st Mission Support Command, successfully completed and graduated the Warrior Leaders Course (WLC), 29 Sep., at Fort Allen, PR, as part of class 104-11.

The Warrior Leader Course (WLC) is the first step in Army leadership that teaches specialists and corporals the basic skills needed to lead small groups.

The 1st MSC WLC graduates are:

**1.Spec. Christopher Estepa
(166th Regional Support Group)**

**2.Spec. Noemi V. Cordova
(301st MP Co.)**

**3.Spec. Brian Ortiz
(301st MP Co.)**

**4.Sgt. Elmer Figueroa
(301st MP Co.)**

**5.Spec. Michel Medina-Diaz
(301st MP Co.)**

**6.Spec. Juan Diaz-Martinez
(301st MP Co.)**

**7.Spec. Davis Velez
(301st MP Co.)**

**8.- Spec. Hector Torres
(430th QM Co)**

**9.Spec. Jareuss Santana
(430th QM Co.)**

**10.Spec. Jose Marin
(430th QM Co.)**

Spec. Michel Medina Diaz won a place on the commandant's list by being the second most knowledgeable soldier in class, on Warrior Leadership skills. Master Sgt. Montgomery presented her with the 1st MSC Command Sgt. Major's coin for her hard work and dedication.

The WLC staff was composed of the Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) commandant Master Sgts. Jaime Peña, Carmen Tirado and Sgt. 1st Class Humberto Agosto, along with seven Active Guard Reserve (AGR) cadres. Master Sergeant Richard Montgomery was the guest speaker for the event.

The objectives of WLC are to graduate future NCO leaders who:

-Are technically and tactically proficient

-Make sound decisions

-Adhere to the professional Army ethos

-Communicate effectively

-Supervise and care for subordinates

-Teach, coach and counsel subordinates

-Build effective soldier teams



Soldiers assigned to the 1st MSC receive their graduation certificates from WLC. The school is the first leadership course for Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs).

Readiness is paramount



Command Sgt. Maj. Rene A. Berlingeri, 166th Regional Support Group Command Sergeant Major provides feedback during the ARFORGEN Readiness Review (AR2), 21 Jan.

Fort Buchanan, PR- Members of the United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) met in Puerto Rico to participate in the Armed Forces Generation Readiness Review (AR2) conference, which took place at the 1st Mission Support Command headquarters, 21-22 Jan.

The AR2 conference had the intent of reviewing the 1st MSC's ability to execute the Armed Forces Generation (ARFORGEN) management processes and readiness standards.

According to current policy, ARFORGEN is the core process for generating a supply of forces, using effective resource management in manning, training, and equipping in order to support the demands of combatant commanders and other Army requirements.

Leading the USARC team were Maj. Gen. Jon J. Miller, USARC Deputy Commander for Operations, and Maj. Gen. Keith L. Thurgood, USARC Deputy Commander for Support.

"What we are trying to do here is to make sure we implement strategies that really work, fixing responsibilities in organizations and individuals with authority and capabilities to solve the problems, as we build a progressive readiness, following the ARFORGEN model," said Miller.

What made this conference peculiar is the fact that it not only created a forum to identify the problems in the units, but through collaborative workshops, also identified possible real solutions.

"I like listening to these briefings because they give me a very good

snapshot of where the units are and how they are doing in terms of achieving the aim points that we require to deliver the capabilities that the nation needs," said Thurgood.

According to Miller and Thurgood, all Army Reserve units, to include the 1st MSC, must maintain a high level of readiness in their formations, even after the current operations in Afghanistan conclude.

"After we get out of Afghanistan, we still have to have capabilities for the Nation. Whether we are at Afghanistan or supporting some other humanitarian operation or some other situation around the world, we are still going to be needed," said Thurgood.

"We also anticipate that there will be a demand from Combatant Commanders for Theater Security Cooperation missions. Therefore, it is entirely possible that soldiers from the Army Reserve engage in support to Theater strategies," said Miller.

"Historically one of the highest levels of readiness of Army Reserve units has come from Puerto Rico..."
Maj. Gen Jon. J. Miller

During the AR2 conference, both 1st MSC Regional Support Group Commanders (brigade level), Cols. Lisa D. Bailey and
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Marcos R. Méndez, had the opportunity to present and explain the readiness status of their commands in areas, such as personnel, medical readiness schools and physical readiness, among others.

“Historically one of the highest levels of readiness of Army Reserve units has come from Puerto Rico and I think that is, in large part, for their desire and willingness to serve. I have really come to respect the soldiers in the 1st MSC and those who come from Puerto Rico “said Miller.

“I want to congratulate the Army Reserve units in Puerto Rico for their over 90 years of service. The Army Reserve in Puerto Rico has built a legacy of service and commitment to the nation that is really unsurpassed,” said Thurgood referring to the 90th anniversary that the US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico is celebrating in 2012.

The AR2 conference ended with specific products and ideas that are expected to improve the readiness of the largest US Army Reserve Command in the Caribbean.

“This is the first time that I have seen an effort that tackled particular issues at our command, at the strategic level. The USAR staff, with the help of the 81st Regional Readiness Command and the 1st MSC staff have accomplished an outstanding collaborative effort, that identified the main issues that affect unit readiness,” said Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernández, 1st MSC Commander, at the conclusion of the AR2 conference.



“ I want to congratulate the Army Reserve units in Puerto Rico for their 90 years of service. The Army Reserve in Puerto Rico has built a legacy of service and commitment to the nation that is really unsurpassed,” Maj. Gen. Keith L. Thurgood.

From left to right, Maj. Gen. Jon J. Miller, United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) Deputy Commander General for Operations, Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernández, 1st Mission Support Command (MSC) Commanding General, Col. Miguel A. Isaac, 1st MSC Deputy Commander and Col. Eric Bermudez, 1st MSC Chief of Staff, receive information about the readiness of the 1st MSC units, during the ARFORGEN Readiness Review (AR2) held at the Sgt. Miguel A. Ramos Hall, Fort Buchanan Puerto Rico, 21-22 Jan

Our Troops in action!



Staff Sgt. Hector R. Baez, an Adjuntas, PR native, assigned to the 475th Engineer Company, US Army Reserve-Puerto Rico, as a Horizontal Construction Engineer, shares some cookies with three Afghan children, during the month of October 2011. Baez was performing as security Noncommissioned Officer for a team that was operating heavy equipment, while working on a road improvement project at Maiwand, Afghanistan. (US Army photo, Staff Sgt. Marilyn Bernier/Released)

U.S. ARMY RESERVE



PUERTO RICO



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