

El Morro

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Supporting troops in the COVID-19 fight

Story on page 5



From the Garrison Commander



Over the past weeks we have experienced an unprecedented emergency situation that will leave an enormous impact on how we learn, work, socialize and communicate. Our daily lives have drastically changed since the outbreak of COVID-19.

Coronavirus has changed what we do like going from physical presence at the office or school to virtual activities such as telework and online classes, cancelling entertainment and sporting events, closing beaches, parks, restaurants, malls, etc.

One thing coronavirus hasn't change is who we are. While we continue monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and making decisions to ensure the overall health and safety of our community, we must remember what identify us as members of this Army community, who we are. A good example is the events that connects us such as this month's observances - Month of the Military Child, Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Volunteer Week, National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, Earth Day and SOS Gold Star Spouses Day.

During this month we honor the countless sacrifices made by military families and the approximately 1.9 million children of military members serving at home and overseas. This year's Month of the Military Child comes at a time when military-connected children and their families

are faced with completely new challenges. Thus making our military families, a great example of the meaning of courage, strength and resiliency.

Another observance that is very close to our hearts is the Child Abuse Prevention Month. Childhood is a time when we build the memories that will support us in our adult life. Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to act collectively to raise awareness and empower members of our community to play a role in making great childhoods happen. COVID-19 has made life difficult for everyone—especially children and families. Therefore, it is important to recognize that the time to support and protect our children is now. At Fort Buchanan we are committed to helping families, their children and the entire community to thrive by supporting safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments. Together, we can prevent child abuse, because childhood lasts a lifetime and one abused child is too many.

National Volunteer Week provides us the opportunity to recognize and honor the countless individuals who selflessly invest in the lives of others. These ordinary individuals make extraordinary contributions to our Fort Buchanan community. Their actions enhance their own lives and the lives of those they serve, reflecting the best of Fort Buchanan and the Army values that bind us together. Thank you to all our volunteers!

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month is recognized in April by both civilian and military communities focusing on creating the appropriate culture to eliminate sexual assault and requiring a personal commitment from all Service members. This year's theme, "Building Cohesive Teams through Character, Trust and Resilience. Protecting Our People Protects Our Mission" reminds everyone about the importance of prevention, intervention, and

recognition of sexual assault in order to not only care for a victim, but more importantly remove the threat from the ranks and prevent sexual assault from occurring.

"Climate Action" is this year's Earth Day theme. The Army has never failed to seize on an opportunity to lead, and so does Fort Buchanan.

On Earth Day and every day, we take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to conduct operations that are safe and environmentally acceptable, to demonstrate leadership in environmental management by integrating environmental accountability into day-to-day decision-making and long-term planning processes across all missions, activities, and functions. We recognize the need for responsible stewardship of our environment now. Fort Buchanan is taking action, now!

We must not forget our SOS Gold Star Spouses, the surviving loved ones of our military members killed in the line of duty in combat. The recognition of their sacrifices is all at once a memorial for the fallen, a remembrance day for the survivors, and an appreciation for those who are sometimes in danger of being overlooked for their support and service to the country. Our Gold Star Spouses will always be a part of the Army Family. Fort Buchanan recognizes their courage and sacrifice and is committed to supporting them while honoring the legacy of their fallen loved ones. They will never be forgotten.

While we fight this pandemic I remind you that is mandatory to use protective cloth face coverings in areas where you cannot maintain six feet of social distance, wash your hands, and most of all, remain calm. This too shall pass. Working together is our best defense. Thank you for your support and understanding in these challenging times.

God bless you and your family.

Dios les bendiga.



Fort Buchanan



Visit Our Facebook and our Official Web page

Photos, lots of information and much more.

Go to Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/US-Army-Garrison-Fort-Buchanan-142863785819203/>

Go to web: <https://home.army.mil/buchanan>

Upcoming events

May

June

July

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

National Safety Month
USAG Summer Safety Campaign

Independence Day
July 4

National Retiree Appreciation Month

Establishment of Army Civilian Corps

USAG Change of Responsibility
July 14

National Day of Prayer
May 7

Virtual Army Birthday
June 14

Memorialization of Running Track
July 14

Military Spouse Appreciation Day
May 8

Flag Day
June 14

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Félix A. Santoni Coin Collection Unveiling
July 14

Mother's Day
May 10

Police Week
May 10 - 16

Armed Forces Day
May 16

Memorial Day
May 25

The community is invited to participate in these events as we partner together to provide opportunities, expand relationships, and show our appreciation to all who serve and support the United States Armed Forces.

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Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana

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The PAO reserves the right to edit all submissions and to determine the suitability for inclusion in EL MORRO.

Every effort will be made to publish submissions in a timely manner. However, time, layout, style and editorial considerations, as well as determinations for publication, are established by the Garrison Commander or the Public Affairs Officer.

The Deputy's Corner: Preparation Response...



Over the course of the last several months United States Army Garrison Fort Buchanan has been developing and refining our 'All Hazards Emergency Action Plan'. What does that mean for our installation community? Well, it should be seamless for all those that have transversed this installation over the years. What you have seen since March is an increase of our Health Protection Condition to ensure the safety and welfare of all who work-live-conduct business here. Our Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS) and in their role as the Installation Operations Center (IOC) have worked diligently in the development of protective measures to ensure we are all safe in the event of an 'All Hazards' occurrence here on the island of Puerto Rico and the installation. So what exactly have they done?

In cooperation with the other garrison directorates, tenants, and partners they have been able in the last nine months to revitalize how we look at disaster response and are better postured to immediately respond to keep the garrison operational. Though they do not do this entirely on their own, they synchronize the efforts and bring all key players into the fold to develop a plan that is feasible and attainable.

Since my arrival we have dealt with two named hurricanes, earthquakes, and a pandemic event. Remarkably this has only slowed down slightly our preparations for what is expected to be a very active hurricane season this year

beginning 1 June. Through their efforts, we will be ready and I am proud to work directly with them and our other directorates to ensure success.

In collaboration with the DPTMS and the Installation Safety Office for example, the Safety Officer alongside the Garrison Command Sergeant Major did inspections of the entire installation to ensure all debris and trash were removed or secured prior to the hurricane season beginning. As well as DPTMS will be the lead for the Emergency Preparedness Week the second week of June on the installation.

Their Emergency Manager developed banners and a social media campaign to make sure we are all aware of the season and risks involved. That is just some of how we are preparing for 'All Hazards'.

But how will we respond?

The installation is more ready than it has ever been, we have liaison officers assigned to the IOC from the Puerto Rico National Guard and 1st Mission Support Command that have been imbedded in the planning and will continue to serve as the conduit between our organizations. We have commitments from both these commands to assist where needed to always keep this installation operational, so in turn they will be able to fulfill their assigned missions on this island and globally.

This is a major factor in preparedness and our response. This garrison has limited capabilities when hit with a catastrophic event.

So what does this mean to you?

Expect what you have seen the last couple of months with our response to the COVID-19 crisis. We will continue to have limitations of access on designated days for those that are affiliated with the installation and have either a right or privilege to enter. We are not turning our back on anyone, but this installation will not be a safe haven after a catastrophic event for our retiree or veteran population. We must reserve critical resources for the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines assigned on the installation to be able to execute their missions. We will ensure our patrons and community, when safe to do so, may enter the installation. But this is also your responsibility to be prepared with emergency supplies.

Plan to keep you and your family safe and fed for a minimum of fourteen days after a catastrophic event. Keep in mind our partner employees at the Commissary and Exchange could be effected as well, and without employees we may not be able to open immediately or without some delay. We are all in this together. It is our goal to make sure our community has what it needs for any emergency. Be part of the solution and not part of the problem.



LTC James Rowsey

If you want to know what is going on and around our beautiful installation follow this account and let Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Rowsey know what questions you have!

Go on Twitter: @LtcRowsey or click: <https://twitter.com/LtcRowsey>

Find out where he's been, who said what, his quote for the day or week and what's happening that day or week on Fort Buchanan and more!

The Gary Sinise Foundation Sponsors Free Breakfast for Service Members

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Lorena Suárez, Erick Burgos, Freddie Linares, Damián Santiago and Jorge González from the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation started at 4 a.m., April 30, 2020, preparing breakfast sponsored by the Gary Sinise Foundation – Serving Our Heroes program to be delivered, via pick-up to Service Members at Fort Buchanan’s Community Club and Conference Center.



The 150 hot breakfasts consisting of scrambled eggs, smoked ham, hash browns, butter, jelly and orange juice not only fed the troops but showed appreciation for their service.

“For me, it is an honor to serve the Soldiers and to say thank you for what they do,” said Jorge González, head cook at the Community Club. “My life’s goal is to feed people. Since I was



a kid I saw my Dad’s respect towards Soldiers, today is my honor to serve them.”

Freddie Linares supports the work at the Community Club’s kitchen because “I like to participate in the kitchen and serve our customers.”

“As a cook, my job is to feed people,” said Damián Santiago, “I am proud to work for the Army and to serve our Soldiers.”



Erick Burgos, Community Club manager, thought about the idea of serving breakfast to the troops who are working in support to the COVID-19 emergency.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Fort Buchanan has not been able to conduct breakfasts during unit runs, lunch or other events for the troops.

Burgos thought that Gary Sinise Foundation is about honoring our defenders and “since we have Soldiers supporting the garrison at the gates and others working at their commands, this is our way of saying thank you for their service.”

Lorena Suárez expressed that she is grateful for this initiative that allows her “to serve those who serve us.”



Sgt. 1st Class Algarín, OIC for the Soldiers in this special security detail expressed his thanks for the initiative.

“This breakfast is an excellent initiative. It motivates the Soldiers. With this breakfast, they receive recognition and thanks for the important part they are playing in assisting in the fight against this disease.” said Sgt. 1st Class Wilfredo Algarín, Officer-In-Charge for the US Army Reserve Soldiers assigned to the special detail supporting the US Army Garrison at the installation’s gates.

Fort Buchanan leadership, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III, garrison commander; Lt. Col. James Kenneth

Rowsey II, deputy garrison commander; Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Heriberto Quintana and Greta M. Buccellato, deputy to the garrison commander, participated delivering breakfast to the troops at Fort Buchanan access points, Spc. Frances M. Vega and The Borinqueneers’ gates, as well as the Community Club and Conference Center.



USAR Commmanding General sets the example

Shared from Lt. Gen Charles D. Luckey Twitter
Chief and Commanding General US Army Reserve

“Standards and discipline matter now more than ever,”

“We must work together to protect this force to ensure the future readiness of the Army,” were the words expressed by Chief and Commanding General of the US Army Reserve, Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey on his twitter page, @LTG Luckey.

“Everything we do today ensures we will be able to win whenever and wherever we are needed,” he concluded.

Keep Pounding!

Lt. Gen. Luckey seen here leading by example, with protective measures in place.

Go to: https://twitter.com/LTG_Luckey



USAG Commander, Deputy and team beautify the Golf Course

Story and photos by Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II
Deputy Garrison Commander

Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander, Colonel Joseph B. Corcoran III and Deputy Garrison Commander, Lieutenant Colonel James K. Rowsey II worked along side Fort Buchanan Golf Course staff, April 21, 2020 to do some grounds maintenance and area beautification at the facilities.

The group took down 12 palm and other trees that were damaged by Hurricane Maria over two and a half years ago. They also accomplished some much needed trimming.

These efforts being made during the COVID-19 crisis will continue to improve the safety and recreational areas for our patrons once the course becomes operational again.

The Garrison leaders and team are

working around the clock to make improvements to the installation during this time.

Working together to improve Fort Buchanan’s community thru this crisis.



Soldier re-enlists during COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates committment

Story and photos by Grissel Rose
Public Affairs Officer

At the US Garrison Fort Buchanan Headquarters Plaza and observing protective measures due to the COVID-19 health emergency, Spc. Silverio Favela III swore in for four more years into the United States Army, April 13, 2020.

Soldiers assigned to the installation’s Veterinary Clinic proudly held the U.S. flag while Spc. Favela recited the Oath of Enlistment in front of garrison leadership, family and friends, all observing social distancing and facial covering preventive measures.

USAG Fort Buchanan Commander, Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III, congratulated Spc. Favela for “being part of the best team in the world.”

USAG Fort Buchanan Deputy Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II, shared words of mentorship with whom he described as an “excellent Soldier” and his family.



Rodriguez Army Health Clinic Commander, Lt. Col. Rachel J. Wienke, also congratulated Spc. Favela.

Favela has been working at the Veterinary Clinic since July 2019 as Food Inspector.

The Veterinary Clinic Commander, Cpt. Guisele Ballarini, described Favela as a “great Soldier, great team player and great future leader.”

“This re-enlistment represents to me pride in what I do and honor to my country and my family,” said Favela.

For his wife Emily, who received a Certificate of Appreciation from Cpt. Ballarini on the occasion of the re-enlistment of her husband, the ceremony represents “his hard work, dedication and good service.”

Favela was accompanied by his wife, Emily Y. López and his son Silverio Favela IV.



Spc. Favela was sworn in during his re-enlistment ceremony by his commanding officer, Cpt. Guisele Ballarini.



Lt. Col. Rowsey congratulated and shared some words of encouragement with Spc. Favela.



Spc. Favela’s wife Emily displays the Army Certificate of Appreciation she received from Cpt. Ballarini.





FORT BUCHANAN TEMPORARY CHANGE TO ACCESS GUIDANCE

Visitor Control Center: (787) 707-3995

As of 20 April 2020

****This notice expands the Senior Mission Commander's Guidance on Temporary Change to Access effective 21 April 2020 until further notice. THIS POLICY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME – Please watch for updates on our Facebook and Webpage*****

1. **HPCON Charlie:** Due to the emergency situation with Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Senior Mission Commander for Fort Buchanan has implemented Health Protection Condition (HPCON) Charlie with Delta Measures (Substantial - Sustained Community Transmission). To protect the force, we urge our community members to follow the Puerto Rico Governor's Executive Orders restricting movement and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for hygiene and social distancing. Social Distancing will be enforced on the installation. Do not come on post if you are sick or been mandated to be on restriction of movement from your command or health care provider.

2. **While Fort Buchanan is at HPCON Charlie:**

a. Borinqueneers' Gate is open 24/7. SPC Frances M. Vega gate is closed for the community. It is open Monday to Saturday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., **ONLY FOR SERVICE MEMBERS IN UNIFORM**, key and essential Common Access Card (CAC) holders and select personnel from the Puerto Rico National Guard supporting COVID-19 operations. Information about HPCON Charlie measures is available at <https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/covid19/Pages/HPCON.aspx>.

b. On Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday **ALL** valid installation access credentials will be accepted at Borinqueneers' Gate from 5 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily and must exit the installation by 5 p.m. **The MWR card and the VHIC pass WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED TO ACCESS THE INSTALLATION.**

c. Retirees and their dependents will be allowed based on the last digit of their license plate number. On Tuesday and Saturday **ONLY** cars with odd numbers will be allowed on post. On Wednesday and Friday **ONLY** cars with even numbers will be allowed on post.

d. Only one (1) person per vehicle. (Exception is paragraph (i.) below for RET DAV)

e. Only one (1) person will be allowed to enter the Commissary and Exchange. No dual shoppers.

f. All active/reserve Service Members and their dependents will have access to visit the Commissary and the Exchange every day of the week; however, preferred days will be Thursday and Sunday with shorter wait time.

g. Federal employees authorized to visit the Commissary and Exchange will have access to visit the Commissary and the Exchange during the week; however, preferred days will be Thursday and Sunday.

h. The trusted traveler program is suspended. No guests allowed.

i. Retired Disabled Veterans (RET DAV) are authorized to have one (1) authorized person to assist them to shop at either the Commissary or Exchange. Appropriate paperwork and clearance will be vetted at the VCC.

j. COVID-19 medical screenings to include temperature checks will be conducted for all personnel attempting to access Fort Buchanan. Any individual deemed unsafe will be denied installation access.

3. **Access Delays:** We expect medical screenings to cause major delays at Borinqueneer's Gate and traffic backups. Personnel seeking access to Fort Buchanan must plan accordingly.

4. **Commissary (DeCA) and Exchange (AAFES) Operations:**

a. The visitor policy is suspended. Authorized patrons are **NOT** permitted to bring any visitors into the Commissary or Exchange facilities. Only one hundred (100) in-store customers will be allowed at any given time inside the Commissary and Exchange main store, only fifty (50) at the PXtra and only three (3) at the Gas Station Store. Social distancing of not less than six (6) feet is mandated and will be strictly enforced. Social distancing is mandated inside the stores as well as in the lobby, food court, sidewalk and parking areas.

b. Patrons will bring and wear their own protective equipment - eye wear, mask and gloves. None will be dispensed at Fort Buchanan. Patrons should be prepared to stand for long periods of time. Cloth facial coverings are mandated to wear at all times.

c. Patrons will adhere to the above instructions as well as any other imparted by DeCA, AAFES and Fort Buchanan's Police Force. Non-compliant patrons will be escorted off the installation and will be barred from reentering post as deemed proper.

5. This Notice constitutes an **Order** to all individuals within the Fort Buchanan military installation. It is mandatory and punitive in nature. Violators will face adverse criminal and administrative sanctions. The Visitor Control Center hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. If you have questions concerning access to Fort Buchanan, please contact the Visitor Control Center at (787) 707-3995.



GUÍA DEL FUERTE BUCHANAN SOBRE CAMBIO TEMPORERO EN EL ACCESO

Centro de Control del Visitante: (787) 707-3995

Fechado al 20 de abril de 2020

****Este aviso amplía la Guía del Comandante Senior sobre el Cambio Temporero en el Acceso efectiva el 21 de abril de 2020 hasta nuevo aviso. ESTA POLITICA ESTA SUJETA A CAMBIOS EN CUALQUIER COMENTO – Por favor, esté atento a las actualizaciones en nuestro Facebook y página web*****

1. **HPCON Charlie:** Debido a la situación de emergencia con el Coronavirus (COVID-19), el Comandante de Misión Senior del Fuerte Buchanan ha puesto en efecto el Nivel de Condición de Protección de la Salud (HPCON) Charlie con Medidas Delta (Sustancial – Transmisión Comunitaria Sostenida). Con el fin de proteger a nuestra fuerza, solicitamos a los miembros de nuestra comunidad que sigan las Ordenes Ejecutivas de la Gobernadora de Puerto Rico que restringen el movimiento y las guías de los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) sobre higiene y distanciamiento social. El distanciamiento social será mandatorio a través de toda la instalación. No venga a la instalación si se encuentra enfermo o ha sido ordenado para estar en restricción de movimiento por parte de su comandante o proveedor médico.

2. **Mientras el Fuerte Buchanan se encuentra bajo HPCON Charlie:**

a. El portón Los Borinqueneers' está abierto 24/7. El portón Especialista Frances M. Vega está cerrado para la comunidad. Está abierto de lunes a sábado, de 6 a.m. a 6 p.m., SOLO PARA MIEMBROS DEL SERVICIO EN UNIFORME, personal clave y esencial con tarjeta de identificación (CAC) y personal selecto de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico en operaciones de apoyo del COVID-19. Información sobre HPCON Charlie con Medidas Delta se encuentra disponible en: <https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/covid19/Pages/HPCON.aspx>.

b. Durante martes, miércoles, viernes y sábado **TODAS** las credenciales válidas de acceso a la instalación serán aceptadas en el portón Los Borinqueneers de 5 a.m. a 4 p.m. diariamente y deberán salir de la instalación a las 5 p.m. **La tarjeta de MWR y el pase VHIC NO SERAN ACEPTADOS PARA ACCEDER A LA INSTALACION.**

c. A los retirados y sus dependientes se les permitirá el acceso en función del ultimo dígito de su número de tablilla. Los martes y sábados **SOLO** se permitirán vehículos con números impares (nones) en la tablilla. Los miércoles y viernes **SOLO** se permitirán vehículos con números pares en su tablilla.

d. Sólo una (1) persona por vehículo. (Con excepción a lo descrito en el párrafo (i.) abajo para los Retirados DAV.)

e. Sólo una (1) persona se le permitirá el acceso para entrar a la Comisaría y el PX. No clientes en pareja.

f. Todos los miembros del servicio activo/reserva y sus dependientes tendrán acceso para visitar la Comisaría y el PX todos los días de la semana; sin embargo, los días preferidos serán jueves y domingo con un tiempo de espera más corto.

g. Los empleados federales autorizados para visitar la Comisaría y el PX tendrán acceso todos los días de la semana; sin embargo, los días preferidos serán jueves y domingo.

h. El programa de viajeros de confianza está suspendido. No se permiten visitantes.

i. Los retirados DAV están autorizados a tener una (1) persona autorizada para ayudarlos con sus compras en la Comisaría o el PX. La documentación apropiada y la autorización serán revisados en el Centro de Control de Visitantes.

j. Se realizarán exámenes médicos COVID-19 que incluyen cotejos de temperatura para todo el personal que intente acceder al Fuerte Buchanan. Cualquier individuo que aparente ser un riesgo de seguridad se le negará el acceso a la instalación.

3. **Demoras en el Acceso:** Esperamos que los exámenes médicos causen demoras mayores en el portón Los Borinqueneers y retrasos en el tráfico. El personal que busca acceso al Fuerte Buchanan deberá planificar por consiguiente.

4. **Operaciones de la Comisaría (DeCA) y el PX (AAFES):**

a. Se suspende la política de visitantes. Los clientes autorizados **NO** están permitidos a traer ningún visitante dentro de las facilidades de la Comisaría o el PX. Sólo se permitirán cien (100) clientes en la Comisaría y la Tienda Principal del PX a la vez. En el PXtra sólo se permitirán cincuenta (50) y en la tienda de la Estación de Gasolina tres (3). El distanciamiento social no menor de seis (6) pies es mandatorio y se hará cumplir de manera estricta. El distanciamiento social es mandatorio dentro de las tiendas, así como en el vestíbulo, área de comida, acera y áreas de estacionamiento.

b. Se fomenta que los clientes traigan y utilicen su propio equipo protector – gafas, mascarillas y guantes. Ninguno será provisto en el Fuerte Buchanan. Usted deberá estar preparado para estar de pie por largos períodos de tiempo.

c. Los clientes deberán seguir las instrucciones anteriores, al igual que cualquier otra impartida por los empleados de DeCA, AAFES y la Policía del Fuerte Buchanan. Los clientes que no cumplan con dichas disposiciones serán escoltados fuera de la instalación y les será prohibido que puedan re-entrar a la instalación según se considere pertinente.

5. Este Aviso constituye una **Orden** para todos los individuos dentro de la instalación militar del Fuerte Buchanan. Es de índole mandatoria y de naturaleza punitiva. Los infractores enfrentarán sanciones penales y administrativas adversas. Las horas del Centro de Control del Visitante son de 7:00 a.m. a 4:00 p.m., lunes a viernes. Si tiene preguntas sobre el acceso al Fuerte Buchanan, favor de comunicarse con el Centro de Control de Visitantes al (787) 707-3995.

Legal Corner

Soldiers reminded to exercise ethical responsibilities during pandemic

By Joseph Lacdan, Army News Service, April 27, 2020

Even in difficult times, the rules still apply.

As the coronavirus continues to spread nationwide and the economy feels its impact, the Army Office of the General Counsel warns Soldiers that potential problems could arise if they choose to start fund raising campaigns for themselves or other Soldiers.

Some Soldiers or federal employees may have spouses or family members who have lost their jobs during the nationwide lock down. Those shouldering additional financial burdens may want to turn to popular crowd-sourced fund raising websites such as GoFundMe or Kickstarter.

John Kent, associate deputy general counsel at the Army Office of General Counsel and expert in ethics, said Soldiers should familiarize themselves with which gifts are acceptable.

“A gift is OK in some instances and not OK in others,” Kent said. “The overarching rule is it’s not OK when the gift is either given because of the individual’s status as a Soldier or an Army employee, or when it comes from a prohibited source. But there are exclusions and exceptions to this rule that may apply.”

Soldiers and Department of Defense employees cannot use their status as a service member or government employee as a means for soliciting funds. Further, DOD regulations generally prohibit Soldiers from receiving funds from “prohibited sources” - such as companies or private organizations that do business with or have vested interests with the DOD. Soldiers and employees also cannot receive donations from federal personnel who earn a lower annual income.

Fund raising campaigns could be organized, but rigorous accountability of donors and records of sources must be kept.



Soldiers and Sailors assigned to Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah, unload care packages and Christmas gifts during mail call on FOB Farah, Dec. 15, 2019. (Lt. j.g. Matthew Stroup)

“They are theoretically possible,” Kent said. “But the pragmatic problems with conducting them within the rules that we have to follow make that extremely difficult.”

Soldiers who choose to run such campaigns must be able to provide records, or otherwise they may have to return the funds. Kent said the problem could be escalated further if patrons donate anonymously.

“Some platforms cannot or will not identify who the real donors are,” he said. “And that poses a real problem.”

As an alternative to fund raisers, Soldiers can also apply for the Army Emergency Relief program to receive funds in financial emergencies. The funds can be applied towards utilities, rent and other living expenses.

As Soldiers become more publically visible in the fight against the global pandemic, they should understand the rules on accepting gifts from the public. Members of the National Guard, for instance, have deployed to assist hospitals in various states throughout the country, prominently in New York City and the northeast.

Soldiers generally may not accept gifts exceeding \$20 in value from a prohibited source or given to them because of their official positions as Soldiers, and such gifts must not total more than \$50 annually from any single source. Those gifts could include donations of protective equipment like masks and gloves. Unless an exception to the rule applies, gifts of cash may never be accepted from a prohibited source or because of one’s status as a Soldier.

Soldiers who have fallen ill with COVID-19 or another illness can receive certain gifts from their fellow Soldiers, to include food and other comfort items subject to certain limitations. Mr. Kent recommends seeking advice from an ethics counselor before accepting or giving such gifts.

There are some exclusions and exceptions to the base rule against accepting gifts from prohibited sources or based on their official status. For example, in addition to the \$20 gift rule, Soldiers may accept gifts from prohibited sources if the gifts have been made available to everyone or all military members. For example, during Operation Desert Storm, Busch Gardens offered free admission to all military members and their families. Certain social gatherings that meet specific exceptions may also be acceptable. Soldiers could potentially accept financial assistance from a crowd-sourced relief fund, provided that it does not discriminate based on position, rank or pay.

Additionally, Soldiers may benefit from gifts that are accepted by authorized senior Army leaders on behalf of the Army and then distributed to Soldiers and Army organizations supporting Soldiers. Such gifts could include equipment and discounts or free passes to entertainment events like concerts or sports games.

Soldiers should contact their ethics advisors if they are offered or have received excessive gifts from prohibited sources. Kent said such cases should be reported as early as possible.

Soldiers who have any questions regarding acceptable gifts can consult ethics counselors through their first sergeant or chain of command. Questions on whether donations from prohibited donors or fellow Soldiers are acceptable should also be directed to counselors, he said. “If there is a way for a Soldier to accept a gift within the applicable gift rules the ethics counselor will try to identify how that can happen.”

Chaplain's Corner

RELIGIOUS SUPPORT OFFICE IS READY TO SUPPORT

Please contact Chaplain East if you need to talk (787) 244-4981.

Chaplain East can meet in person, talk over the phone, or on other virtual platforms.

All Religious Support is currently on-line and can be accessed at the following Facebook Sites

FT Buchanan Chapel Protestant Service @ FaceBook:

https://www.facebook.com/Ft-Buchanan-Chapel-Protestant-Service-101189707958782/?tn=K-R-R&eid=ARCNACWVJQ7jdX5hi8YwdaXp6Q6dbOJdfRvFdV2BR_P8PCsM6u_3E6f9jVE9qb5wrECjOAXYcfPYVfF&fref=mentions

and...

Fort Buchanan St Francis of Assisi Catholic Community @ FaceBook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Fort-Buchanan-St-Francis-of-Assisi-Catholic-Community-115141189921692/>

Remember to stay "Solution Focused" because life is 10% of what happens to us and 90% of how we react to it.



Fort Buchanan Post Chapel



Strength to Strength

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mark A. East
Garrison Command Chaplain



The Fort Buchanan
Fire Department,
Fire Chief
wants you to know...

Summer Fire Safety

Fire Safety around the Home:

- Keep dead grass and weeds cut to ground level along fences.
- Use caution when operating gas powered lawn equipment.
- Watch for sparks from blades of edger's and mowers.
- Keep heavy brush, large shrubs or tree limbs from growing among electrical power lines.

Fire Safety for Barbecue (BBQ):

- Ensure your grease-catch is properly in place and cleaned.
- When using gas grills, make sure connections and hoses are in good condition and tightened to prevent leaks. Use soap water at connectors to find leaks.
- For charcoal grills, use only approved lighter fluids, never gasoline or other flammable/combustible liquids.
- Have a fire extinguisher, 5 gallon water-filled bucket or connected water hose.
- Charcoal should always be stored in cool, dry locations.
- Do not barbecue under carports, inside garages, within 10 feet of your home or within 25 feet of any building exit, window or HVAC unit.
- Ensure the charcoal is thoroughly extinguished by soaking it with water before discarding.
- **NEVER** leave cooking items unattended, not even a second!
- **NEVER** allow children near active cooking area.

Fire Safety for Camping:

- Ensure your tent meets flame resistance testing and certification.
- Ensure tent is placed in a clear area, free of excess combustibles, such as tall grass, brush or trees.
- Campfires should be located at least 50 feet from tents and downwind. Not authorized on Post.
- **NEVER** use open flame devices or gas powered lanterns inside tents.
- Use **ONLY** battery powered lanterns.
- Keep a fire extinguisher, bucket of water or sand nearby at all times.
- Turn off fuel lanterns, gas stove and thoroughly extinguish fire before going to sleep or leaving camp site.

Enjoy the summer, be Fire and COVID-19 safe. For Fort Buchanan Fire Prevention Office information: (787) 707-3410.

Fort Buchanan DFWMR Child and Youth Services make face coverings

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Buchanan Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) Child and Youth Services (CYS) helps the community making face coverings for CYS children, and staff.

CYS posted a video on DFMWR's Facebook, April 6, 2020 depicting the team effort involved in making these masks. Fort Buchanan working together for a common cause!

Watch the video: <https://www.facebook.com/buchananmwr/>



Photos acquired from DFMWR-CYS Facebook Video

Fort Buchanan Fire Fighters continue training

Story and photos by Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II
Deputy Garrison Commander

Fort Buchanan Firefighters do not let COVID-19 interfere with their training.

Demonstrated when they conducted drivers training on their vehicles, April 18, 2020 in the parking area behind building 152, the Welcome Center.

Lt. Col. Rowsey reported "No cones were injured in the filming of this video clip."

All firefighters are tested before each shift for symptoms/temp and social distancing is in effect!

To view the video go to: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1251635604946903042>



USAG Fort Buchanan mandatory guidance on face coverings



GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF CLOTH FACE COVERING IN PUBLIC AREAS

Effective immediately, **ALL** individuals (Military Personnel, DoD Civilian Employees, Family Members, DoD Contractors, and all other individuals on USAG Fort Buchanan installation) **WILL BE REQUIRED** to wear protective cloth face coverings in public areas or work centers when they cannot maintain six feet of social distance.

You **MUST** wear protective cloth face coverings at:

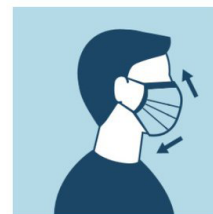
- Access Control Points/Public Interactions - Guards at the gates may require the lowering of face covers for facial identification.
- PX Food Court (For pick-up of To Go orders)
- PX (Main Store, Gas Station Store and PXtra)
- Commissary
- Community Club (For pick-up of To Go orders)
- IHG (El Caney Lodging)
- Installation Legal Office
- Rodriguez Army Health Clinic

This is an additional measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We ask your cooperation to protect yours and the health and safety of our community. Working together is our best defense.

Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19

How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings

- Cloth face coverings should—
- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
 - be secured with ties or ear loops
 - include multiple layers of fabric
 - allow for breathing without restriction
 - be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape



CDC on Homemade Cloth Face Coverings

CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission. CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

Should cloth face coverings be washed or otherwise cleaned regularly? How regularly?

Yes. They should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use.

How does one safely sterilize/clean a cloth face covering?

A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a cloth face covering.

How does one safely remove a used cloth face covering?

Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their cloth face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.



cdc.gov/coronavirus



GUIA SOBRE EL USO DE MASCARILLAS DE TELA PARA LA CARA EN AREAS PUBLICAS

Efectivo inmediatamente, **TODAS** las personas (personal militar, empleados civiles del Departamento de la Defensa, miembros de la familia, contratistas del Departamento de la Defensa y todas las demás personas en la instalación del Fuerte Buchanan) **DEBERÁN** usar mascarillas de tela protectoras en áreas públicas o centros de trabajo cuando no puedan mantener seis pies de distancia social.

DEBERÁN usar mascarillas de tela para la cara en:

- Puntos de Control de Acceso/Interacciones Públicas: Los guardias en los portones pueden requerir que baje la mascarilla para la identificación facial.
- PX Área de Comida (para recoger las órdenes Para Llevar)
- PX (Tienda Principal, Tienda de la Estación de Gasolina y PXtra)
- Comisaría
- Community Club (para recoger las órdenes Para Llevar)
- IHG (El Caney)
- Oficina Legal de la Instalación
- Clínica de Salud del Ejército Rodríguez

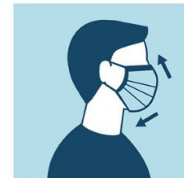
Esta es una medida adicional para prevenir la propagación del COVID-19. Le pedimos su cooperación para proteger la salud y seguridad suya y de nuestra comunidad. Trabajar juntos es nuestra mejor defensa.

Uso de Mascarillas de Tela para la Cara para Reducir la Propagación del COVID-19

Cómo usar una mascarilla de tela para la cara

Las mascarillas de tela para la cara deben:

- ajustarse de manera firme pero cómoda contra los lados de la cara
- asegurarse a las orejas con algún tipo de lazo
- incluir varias capas de tela
- permitir respirar sin restricción
- poder lavarse y secarse en la secadora sin sufrir daños ni deformarse



Recomendaciones de los CDC sobre las mascarillas de tela para cara hechas en casa

Los CDC recomiendan usar mascarillas caseras de tela en entornos públicos donde sea difícil mantener otras medidas de distanciamiento social (Ej: tiendas de comestibles como supermercados y farmacias), **especialmente** en áreas de transmisión significativa en la comunidad.

Los CDC también recomiendan el uso de mascarillas caseras de tela para desacelerar la propagación del virus y evitar que quienes puedan tener el virus sin saberlo lo transmitan a otras personas. Las mascarillas de tela para la cara hechas en casa con materiales comunes de bajo costo pueden usarse como medida adicional y voluntaria de salud pública.

Las mascarillas caseras de tela no se deberían usar en niños menores de 2 años ni en personas con problemas respiratorios o que estén inconscientes, incapacitadas o no sean capaces de quitárselas sin ayuda.

Las mascarillas de tela para la cara recomendadas no son mascarillas quirúrgicas ni mascarillas de respiración N-95. Esos son suministros críticos que se deben continuar reservando para los trabajadores de la salud y otros miembros del personal médico de respuesta a emergencias, como lo recomienda la guía actual de los CDC.

¿Las mascarillas caseras de tela deben lavarse o limpiarse de alguna manera con regularidad? ¿Con qué frecuencia?

Si. Se deben lavar rutinariamente según la frecuencia de uso.

¿Cómo se deben esterilizar/limpiar de manera segura las mascarillas de tela para cara?

Lavar las mascarillas de tela caseras en la lavadora es suficiente.

¿Cómo se debe retirar de manera segura una mascarilla de tela para cara luego de ser usada?

Las personas deben tener cuidado de no tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca al quitarse su mascarilla casera, y lavarse las manos de inmediato luego de quitársela.



Fort Buchanan implements further preventive COVID-19 actions

Story by Grissel Rosa
Public Affairs Officer, April 3, 2020

As developments occur of increased community transmission of COVID-19 in Puerto Rico, Fort Buchanan's leadership continues to assess and implement preventive actions to protect the health and safety of the military and civilians authorized to enter the installation.

Fort Buchanan is presently conducting medical screenings at The Borinqueneers' Access Control Point, consisting of questions regarding visitor's activities in the last 14 days such as; travelling to the United States, visiting nursing homes or hospitals, or having contact with persons who tested positive for coronavirus.

Other questions point out possible symptoms such as fatigue, trouble breathing, muscular pain, cough, diarrhea and sore throat. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) these symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Individuals who are deemed unsafe are denied access to the installation. This does not mean that said person is positive to COVID-19.

Reserve Soldiers from the 215th Military Police Detachment, 301st Military Police Company, 613th Military Police Company, and 49th Multifunctional Medical Battalion from the 1st Mission Support Command are providing support to the garrison, conducting medical screenings and enforcing guidelines, such as social distancing and the wearing of face coverings.

While personnel from the installation's Directorate of Emergency Services – Police Department conduct ID card checks and ensure individuals are in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order restricting vehicle movement based on the last numbers of their license plates.

Non-compliant individuals on these preventive measures are denied access or escorted out of the installation.



Due to the medical screenings, personnel who seek access to Fort Buchanan are experiencing delays and traffic backups.

Also, authorized personnel visiting the Commissary and the Exchange experience waiting in line for some time while social distancing and preventive measures are being implemented at these facilities.

Gas Station.

Fort Buchanan encourages personnel seeking access to the installation to plan accordingly and to practice good patience to ensure the protection of others.

Everyone's daily lives have been impacted by these and other protective measures in this unprecedented and on-



going health emergency.

Fort Buchanan leaders thank the community for their support in being cognizant of the government's directives, CDC guidelines and garrison preventive measures to help minimize the transmission risks of COVID-19.

For example, at any given time, only 100 in-store customers are allowed at the Commissary and main Exchange store, 50 at the PXtra and three at the



Fort Buchanan Deputy to the Garrison Commander speaks to the workforce

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Greta M. Buccellato virtually addressed the workforce, from the Fort Buchanan Commander's conference room April 2, 2020.

She addressed managing stress anxiety in the work place, regardless of whether manning a gate, taking care of a child at the Child Development Center, making an ID card, fixing a faulty air conditioner, or teleworking from home.

Buccellato indicated three steps to help in managing stress during these unprecedented times. First maintaining things in perspective. Consider what is probable versus what is possible. The second step, focus on the here and now. Often time's anxiety stems from feelings about the past, or thinking about the future, stay here in the present moment. Lastly focus on what matters to you, as well as your values.

She advised that while at home continue to engage in meaningful activity. Maintaining a healthy life style, to include, proper diet, sleep, exercise and social contact with loved ones by email and phone. If overwhelming feelings appear or trouble managing



To view the video go to: <https://www.facebook.com/142863785819203/videos/2661351410751428/>

fears, help is available.

Fort Buchanan Department of the Army Civilians are encouraged to call the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at 1 (866) 580-9046. Installation community members should call their local service provider.

Also the installation urges everyone to do their part to stop the spread of the coronavirus by: maintaining social distance; avoid touching eyes, face, nose and mouth and cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue, then dispose of the tissue immediately in the trash. Wash

hands often with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. And stay at home when you are sick except to receive medical care.

“While we are apart, we are not alone. Do your part and we will kill this virus together!” “Aunque estamos separados, no estamos solos. Haz tu parte juntos eliminaremos este virus!” said Buccellato.

We are Fort Buchanan!
¡Somos el Fuerte Buchanan!

“Stand up For MilKids” Child Abuse Prevention Month

Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander Col. Joseph B. Corcoran III and Garrison Command Sergeant Major Heriberto Quintana, signed the Proclamation on Child Abuse Prevention April 3, 2020. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the postponement of scheduled events, the garrison command continues to carry out its commitment to the Fort Buchanan community.

The proclamation was prominently

displayed at the Army Air Force Exchange main store lobby as well as at various locations throughout the installation.

Since 1983, April has been National Child Abuse Prevention Month and an annual observance in the United States.

To report child abuse or contact Army Community Service (ACS) for assistance: 24/7 Helpline (787) 221-7982, ACS (787) 707-3709, FAP Treatment RAHC on-call (787) 420-9316.

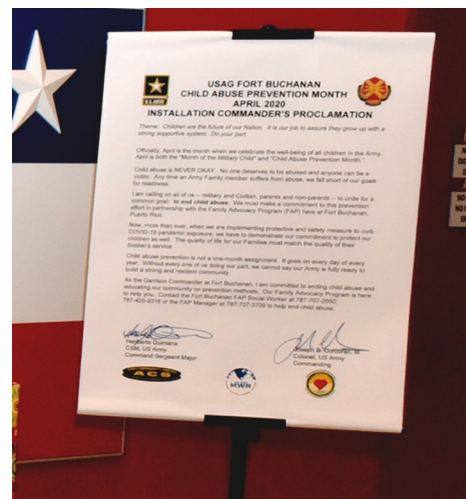


Photo by Grissel Rosa, Public Affairs Officer

AES teachers “Students are at the heart of all we do!”

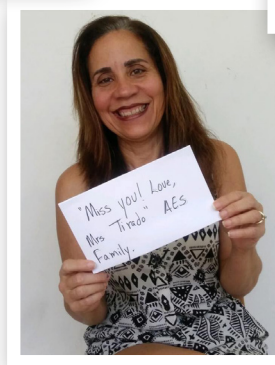
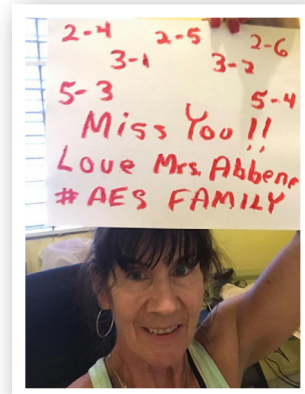
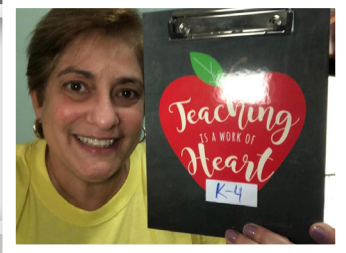
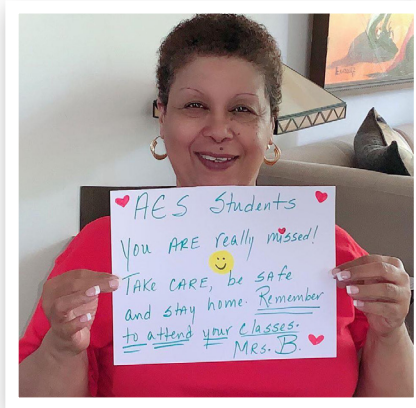
Story by Rosie Irizarry
Public Affairs Specialist

Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) Antilles Elementary School (AES) posted on their Facebook page over 30 photographs of teachers sending positive messages to their students April 1, 2020.

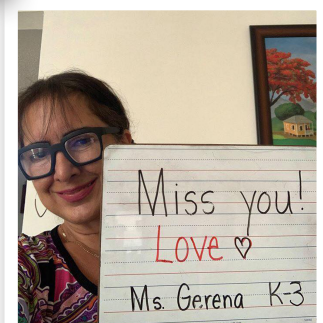
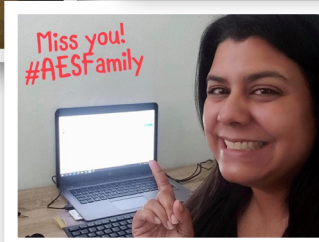
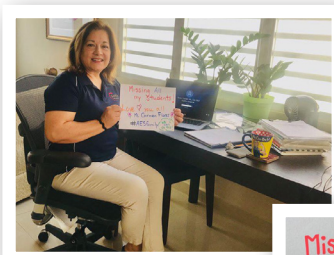
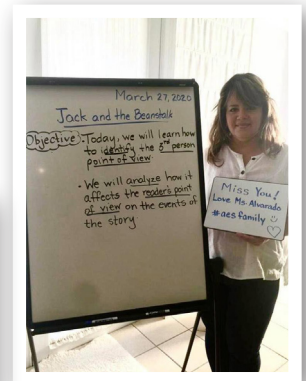
“School is much more than a building: School it is you!” was part of the message on the social media site. “You will always be the heart of what we do as teachers, and we can’t help but miss your daily presence in our lives!” the message concluded.

Students are at the heart of all we do!

To access DODEA AES Facebook go to: <https://www.facebook.com/DoDEAAmericas/photos/pcb.3655408901173759/3655403151174334/?type=3&theater>



AES teachers "Students are at the heart of all we do!" (cont.)



Soldiers train to provide community policing, courtesy patrols and medical screening

Story and photos by Lt. Col. James K. Rowsey II
Deputy Garrison Commander

Soldiers from the 166th Regional Support Group (166th RSG) of the 1st Mission Support Command (1st MSC), United States Army Reserve reported for duty to the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) at Fort Buchanan, April 2, 2020.

Soldiers reported to DES in order to receive training to provide assistance with community policing, courtesy patrols and medical screening.

These efforts will ensure the safety of key and essential civilians, tenants and partners that access the installation.

Fort Buchanan strives daily to improve tactics, techniques and procedures in this ever fluid operational environment.

These service members will help enforce social distancing, ensure the safety and health of the force, and provide much needed support to the installation in this time of crisis.

Emergency Manager, Charles A. Timms and Anti-Terrorism Officer,

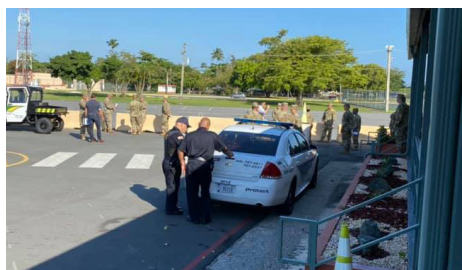
Christopher C. Nelson from Fort Buchanan Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS) joined installation Chief of Police, Lieutenant Colonel Tomás

Acosta-Lamberty as they worked with the DES team to provide the essential initial training of these Soldiers on their assigned duties.

ONE FIGHT - ONE TEAM!



Soldiers from the 166th RSG 1st MSC, receive training instruction from Fort Buchanan Directorate of Emergency Services staff to support safety and security measures on the base.



April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month



In the next monthly issue...



Spouses are the backbone of family support. The Army reaffirms its commitment to honoring spouses of our military.

Armed Forces Day...

Honoring our military heroes from all branches for their patriotic service in support of the United States of America.

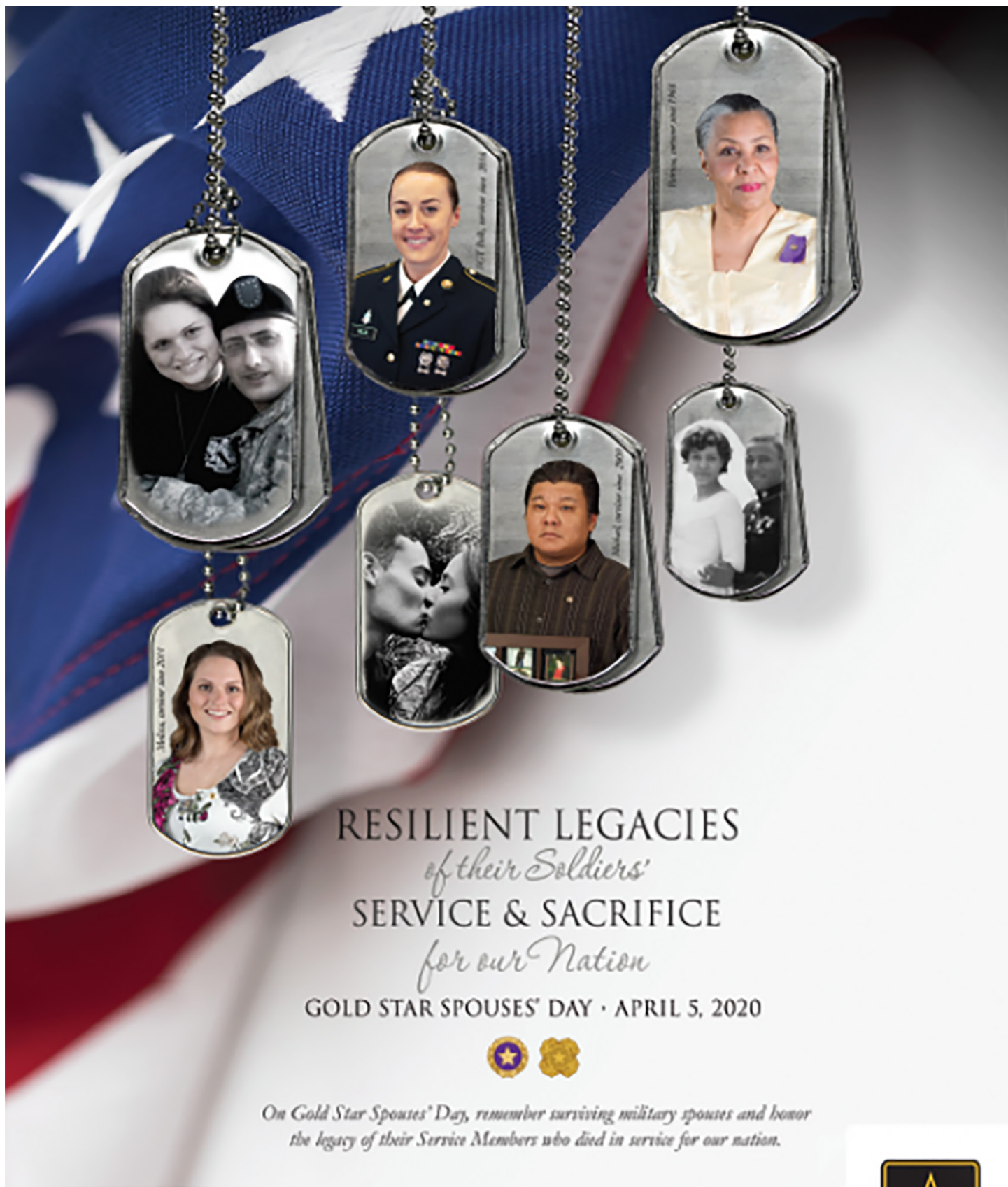
National Retiree Appreciation Day...

Every year military retirees, spouses, widows and widowers are honored and recognized for their service to the nation.

★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★

MEMORIAL DAY

This day honors fallen service members. It is observed the last Monday of May and represents a day of national awareness and reverence.



RESILIENT LEGACIES
of their Soldiers'
 SERVICE & SACRIFICE
for our Nation

GOLD STAR SPOUSES' DAY · APRIL 5, 2020



On Gold Star Spouses' Day, remember surviving military spouses and honor the legacy of their Service Members who died in service for our nation.



INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND

Learn about the symbols of honor that Gold Star Spouses wear. Visit armymwr.com/survivor-outreach

