



The Sentinel



The newsletter of the United States Army Garrison, Fort Buchanan - "Sentinel of the Caribbean"

Volume 1 Issue 1

May 2013

CONTENTS

Fort Buchanan recognized as "Most Improved"
Pages 1 and 3

IMCOM addresses Furlough
Page 3

ACAP helps in military transition and job assistance
Page 4

Fort Buchanan student accepted at USMAPS
Page 4

Fort Buchanan teaches kids about Fire Safety
Page 5

Fort Buchanan observes Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month
Pages 6 - 7

Garrison recognizes volunteers' contributions
Page 8

Fort Buchanan's Sixth Annual Earth Day Expo
Page 9

Fort Buchanan, Going Green!
Page 10



Fort Buchanan recognized as "Most Improved"

by Fort Buchanan Public Affairs

On March 26, 2013 Fort Buchanan was recognized by the Chief of Staff of the Army as a MOST IMPROVED installation in the Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) 2013 competition!

This recognition reaffirms the garrison's commitment to provide excellence in facilities and services in support of our Soldiers, their Families and the Fort Buchanan community. Being recognized as an ACOE "Most Improved" installation reflects Fort Buchanan's leadership and workforce resoluteness to create an environment that enhances their quality of life.

ACOE is the Army's program to achieve and sustain installation excellence using a holistic approach. It emphasizes strategies to support excellence in management and continuous process improvement. The program also assists Garrison Commanders in aligning mission with goals and objectives while benchmarking against the best installations and organizations in the Army.

During his visit to Fort Buchanan on April 15, 2013, Maj. Gen. Gill P. Beck, Fort Buchanan's Senior Mission Commander and Commanding General of the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC), recognized the ACOE team who put the package together "but represents the whole garrison. It is team effort. It not only tells the Fort Buchanan story but let the rest of the Army know the work that's being done here," said.

Maj. Gen. Beck emphasized the meaning of this recognition to the installation's leadership, workforce and community. "ACOE is saying that Fort Buchanan

is part of a group of people who is special, constantly seeking to improve, committed to be the best. It tells the Army about Soldiers and people doing their best. ACOE is big. It's one of the ways to demonstrate the value of Puerto Rico. What Puerto Rico can do for the Army as we move into the future", stated Fort Buchanan's Senior Mission Commander.

ACOE provides a framework that enables installations to build on organizational knowledge, foster a change in culture and demonstrate a commitment to excellence.

"You don't move into the future unless you know where you come from and what you are doing in the present," said Command Sgt. Maj. William Payne, Command Sergeant Major, 81st RSC. He added that "is looking at yourself and at the process to see where we can improve. To get "Most Improved" is an outstanding achievement."

Mr. James Eggleton, Chief of Staff, 81st RSC, commended "the incredible work and dedication" of Fort Buchanan's workforce and motivated the group saying, "the next step would be to be in Washington next year!"

ACOE adopted the Malcolm Baldrige criteria as the framework for performance assessment using the following categories: Category 1: Leadership – "Setting Direction"; Category 2: Strategic Planning – "Planning for Success"; Category 3: Customer Focus – "Understanding the Customer"; Category 4: Measurement, Analysis & Knowledge Management – "Managing by Fact"; Category 5: Workforce Focus – "Empowering & Engaging the Workforce"; Category 6: Operations Focus – "How Work Gets Done"; and Category 7: Results – "How well we do what we do."

See ACOE Page 3



ACOE Continuous Process Improvement Committee celebrates recognition
Photo by Josian Sanchez, PAIO



From the Garrison Commander



The Sentinel. The name might sound familiar to members of our workforce and community. The Sentinel was Fort Buchanan's newspaper for almost 40 years. Its birth goes back to November 22, 1957 as "an authorized weekly publication of the U.S. Army Forces Antilles and

Military District of Puerto Rico", Fort Brooke under Commanding General, Brigadier General James W. Coutts. "The purpose of THE SENTINEL" is to provide a central medium for communicating news of the Command's activities and for recognizing its individual and group achievements."

We welcome the new and improved The Sentinel as one of our essential communication links between the garrison and our customers – workforce, tenants and community -to share information.

Thank You and Congratulations Fort Buchanan! On March 26, 2013, our garrison was recognized by the Chief of Staff of the Army as a "Most Improved Installation" by the Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) in 2013! This recognition shows the dedication of our workforce in providing excellent service to our Soldiers, their Families and the Fort Buchanan community. Our workforce's effort in everything they do creates value for our customers by understanding their needs and responding to them with a firm commitment in the most efficient, accurate and timely manner.

Fort Buchanan is going green! During the Earth Day celebration we joined the Army and our nation promoting new actions and supporting alternatives to protect our planet. We have made considerable progress since December 2011 when the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center at Huntsville awarded an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) that recommends ten Energy Conservation Measures that will result in an estimated \$2.5 million in annual

savings and a reduction of 9,000 tons of green-house gases. This progress can be evidenced by renewable energy initiatives such as LED exterior and interior lighting, energy management controls, high efficient AC systems, and water conservation initiatives. We have succeeded in implementing some actions such as reflective roofs, photovoltaic solar energy panels, street lighting, occupancy sensors, and water efficient restroom fixtures. We also initiated the installation of two wind-powered generating turbines with a maximum production of renewable or clean energy of approximately 5 mega watts. The first one was raised on April 18, 2013.

After being selected as a Net Zero Water Installation by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment in 2011, the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division immediately put into action a Water Reduction Strategy or Net Zero Strategy with a goal to meet a 60 percent reduction by fiscal year 2020. Currently we have various initiatives in place through the implementation of two ESPC contracts that include: water leak survey, water fixtures, a new DFMWR Golf Course Irrigation System, water harvesting, one potable water-well and one irrigation water-well. These initiatives are estimated to be completed by the first quarter of next year, 2014.

April was also a significant month for the United States Army and our garrison as we celebrated the "Month of the Military Child" and the "Child Abuse Prevention Month". We got together to demonstrate our gratitude and appreciation to the most important members of our military families – our children - for the many sacrifices they make as their loved ones serve our country. We also recognized the observance of the Child Abuse Prevention Month. Reporting suspicions of child abuse and neglect is mandatory. Child abuse IS NOT tolerated. One abused or neglected child is too many. Let's keep them safe, providing the support families need to stay together and by raising our kids and youth to become happy, secure and stable adults.

From the Garrison Command Sergeant Major



At the beginning of the year, January 2013, Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, Chief of Staff of the Army published his Top Priorities. They are: "1) Provide trained, equipped, and ready forces to win the current fight while maintaining responsiveness for unforeseen contingencies. 2) Develop

the force for the future, Army 2020 as part of Joint Force 2020 – a versatile mix of capabilities, formations and equipment. 3) Sustain our high quality All-Volunteer Army – Soldiers, Civilians, and Families, and the Active and Reserve Components. 4) Adapt leader development to meet future security challenges in an increasingly uncertain and complex strategic environment. 5) Foster continued commitment to the Army Profession, a noble and selfless calling founded on the bedrock of trust."

Gen. Odierno's priorities can be summarized in three key words – professionalism, readiness and resiliency. These words not only epitomize who we are but are visible elements of who, how and why we serve. We serve the American people in missions around the world, with the best technology and equipment and capabilities on behalf of our Nation and democratic way of life.

This means that all Soldiers no matter where they are deployed must observe professionalism, readiness and resiliency. How does it apply to the Soldiers at Fort Buchanan? The NCO Creed states that "No one is more professional than I." Therefore our professionalism is under scrutiny every time, from the uniform we wear to the way we behave in front of our

chain of command, fellow Soldiers, members of the workforce and our community. We must do the right thing always, even if no one sees us. This shows not only our professionalism but most of all, our pride in service -Active, Reserve or National Guard. We are members of one team – the U.S. Army.

We are part of America's force of decisive action. Therefore readiness is key and essential in our performance. No matter the task or its difficulty, we are always ready to accomplish the mission. In order to achieve this goal we must take care of ourselves from a holistic perspective – physical, mental, spiritual and emotional. We can challenge ourselves during PT to enhance our physical readiness. We must pursue a good education to improve, develop and sustain our knowledge and skills. We can seek for spiritual guidance to increase our inner strength. To meet today's challenges and tomorrow's uncertain conflicts, we must not forget that sometimes our Families and ourselves need some emotional support to endure the sacrifices we do for them and our country.

This is where resilience kicks in. It is the strength needed to continue moving forward. It is our capacity to withstand everyday stress or the dangers at the combat zone. Resilience comes from supportive relationships like our peers, neighbors, friends and families. It also means seeking help in times of need, when you think the burden is unbearable, that you can't take it anymore and have suicide thoughts. Seek for help. If you see someone in this situation remember ACE – Ask, Care and Escort. Stress is inevitable but there are healthy ways to avoid harmful strategies such as substance or alcohol abuse. We want to see you healthy – physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally. We want to see you strong, Army Strong!



THE SENTINEL

Garrison Commander
Col. Caryn S. Heard

Deputy Commander
Lt. Col. Kenneth M. Hammond

Deputy to the Garrison Commander
Gunnar G. F. Pedersen Jr.

Garrison Command Sergeant Major
Command Sergeant Major Derrick T. Simpson

Public Affairs Officer
Grissel Rosa

Command Information
José L. López

Mailing address-
Public Affairs Office
ATTN: IMSE-BUC-PA
390 Crane Loop, Suite 311
Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico 00934-4616

Story Submissions-
Email to: jose.l.lopez120.civ@mail.mil

Telephone numbers
(787)707-4013/4486
Fax: (787) 707-3362

THE SENTINEL is an authorized publication,
posted in accordance with Army
Regulation 360-1.

Contents of THE SENTINEL are not
necessarily the official views of, or endorsed
by, the U.S. Government, the Department of
Defense, Department of the Army or
U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Buchanan.

THE SENTINEL is published monthly by the
Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Garrison.

All editorial content of THE SENTINEL is
prepared, edited, provided and approved by
the U.S. Army Garrison, Public Affairs Office.

For guidance on how to submit items for
publication, e-mail the garrison Public Affairs
Office.

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

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
determined by the Commander or the
Public Affairs Officer.

IMCOM addresses Furlough

U.S. Army Installation Management Command

SAN ANTONIO -- Leaders of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command headquarters pledged to work through the difficult times ahead together as a "team of teams" as members of the IMCOM workforce continue to face an unsure way ahead into sequestration and furloughs.

LTG Mike Ferriter, IMCOM commanding general, and IMCOM CSM Earl Rice, called for unity during a "packed house" town hall meeting at historic Fort Sam Houston Theatre Mar. 26 to help ease the pain of the potential furlough.

"We cannot get through this tough road separately," said Ferriter. "We can do this together."

"You are a valued member of this team," said Ferriter. "You are creating stability down at the garrison, so that when [Soldiers] are overseas, their Family home is safe and taken care of."

Karen Perkins, IMCOM director of human resources (G1), gave an update on what is known about furloughs today – even as decisions are still being made at the

Department of Army.

"I wanted to relay the straight facts about furlough planning, but first I want to say that your leaders know how important this is to our civilian workforce," said Perkins. "No matter what we do, we can take care of our employees."

Due to a decision at the Department of the Army level, furlough notices have been delayed in order for officials to assess the effect of the continuing resolution bill presented by Congress.

"Last week, I thought we were in execution mode," said Perkins. "We got a pause, due to the continuing resolution. The result is we're going to hold up for at least 2 weeks." Changes made by DoD two days after the town hall pushed the earliest date for furlough proposals into May.

Sequestration furloughs are a three-step process: proposal, reply and decision.

"After proposals are sent, every employee will have seven days to reply to their supervisor, either orally or in writing. All replies will be considered by the deciding official, and then final decisions will be given in writing."

The exact manner of how

the delay will affect the furlough schedule is unclear. Some implementation plans are still not settled without further guidance from the Department of the Army.

On March 28, the Secretary of Defense announced the reduction of furlough days to 14. "The maximum number of furlough hours is 176," said Perkins. "Part-time employee hours will be prorated based on their hours-per-week."

There are specific furlough exceptions for employees deployed in a combat zone and foreign nationals employed outside the continental United States. Nonappropriated fund employees are also excluded from furloughs regardless of how their positions are paid for.

"No one takes this lightly, we realize this will have an unprecedented effect on the workforce," said Perkins.

"Our attitude must be that this is the most important thing we can do together."

The command is taking other steps to engage the workforce during these times, including stress training led by the Chaplain's office. G1 sponsored supervisor training, weekly "lunch and learn"

speaker sessions and other spiritual counseling opportunities.

"We have the expert counselors in this headquarters who know the business of taking care of our Soldiers and Civilians," said Perkins. "We care about you. Everyone has something to learn and contribute. All I can say is grab someone and go take advantage of every opportunity."

Other details and announcements were made during a question and answer session, including how the furlough would be scheduled.

"Each garrison commander [in coordination with the senior commander] will make their own decision about furlough schedules but here at HQ, Friday will be furlough day," said Ferriter. "We listened to feedback from your leaders and decided that it would be best if you could tell your spouse and your kids 'you can count on me then.'"

"We want to be the best in the world and we want to do it right," said Ferriter. "As we build the capability to do what we do, little by little we go from over-hire to authorization. While we reshape, you need to continue to develop

yourself and your team.... That's as much certainty as we have today.

"We are good as an agency, but we are great as one of the best three-star headquarters in the Army," said Ferriter. "Taking care of Soldiers, Families, Civilians, Retirees and Survivors is what we do best. We have the skills and talent. Just give us a problem and we can solve it. The speed of action at the three-star level moves mountains."

There was an open discussion about the recent IMCOM leadership questionnaire and the survey results. While there was a high level of participation in the survey, the results showed an unacceptable rate of dissatisfaction among certain team members.

"We're still on the hurting side, not the healing side," said Ferriter. "The only thing we can control is our attitude. We will move these pipes." "You know why we come to work every day," said CSM Earl Rice. "We have the best job in the world. No bad guys are going to get in the way."

ACOE, From Cover Page

Fort Buchanan embarked in the journey of performance excellence to tell its story. It was Fort Buchanan's ACOE Continuous Process Improvement Committee's team effort that captured and highlighted all the great things Soldiers, Families, Civilians and community members do on a daily basis to accomplish the mission. Compiling the numerous accomplishments and making them fit in the limited number of pages of ACOE's application was not an easy task. But Fort Buchanan's team never gave up until they succeeded and the effort was compensated. Its team members felt like winners just by submitting the ACOE application. However, the feeling to know that the Chief of Staff of the Army acknowledged Fort Buchanan's commitment to performance excellence was...priceless!

"Being recognized as an ACOE's "Most Improved" installation reflects Fort Buchanan's commitment to creating an environment that delivers services and infrastructure to enhance the quality of life for our Soldiers, Families, Civilians and Community. We will continue our journey to performance excellence thanks to our committed

workforce and engaged team. Congratulations Fort Buchanan, you earned it!" concluded Col. Caryn S. Heard, Garrison Commander.

George H. Román, Safety Specialist Installation Safety Office: "This recognition shows me that there are folks out there that really recognize what we are doing in seeking excellence."

lence. I truly feel we were always the bridge to excellence that we know that we are."

Libertad F. González, DES Police Services: "I feel proud of being a part of the ACOE and we will try harder to achieve more recognition. The award for me is the first step to engage the workforce to do things proudly and be a part of the excellence of

Fort Buchanan."

Ricardo Santiago, Physical Security Inspector, Directorate of Emergency Services: "This award means to me the beginning of a journey, a jour-

Abuse Program: "This award makes me feel we are leading the way in helping Fort Buchanan become an Army Community of Excellence. I am very proud to be a part of this team."

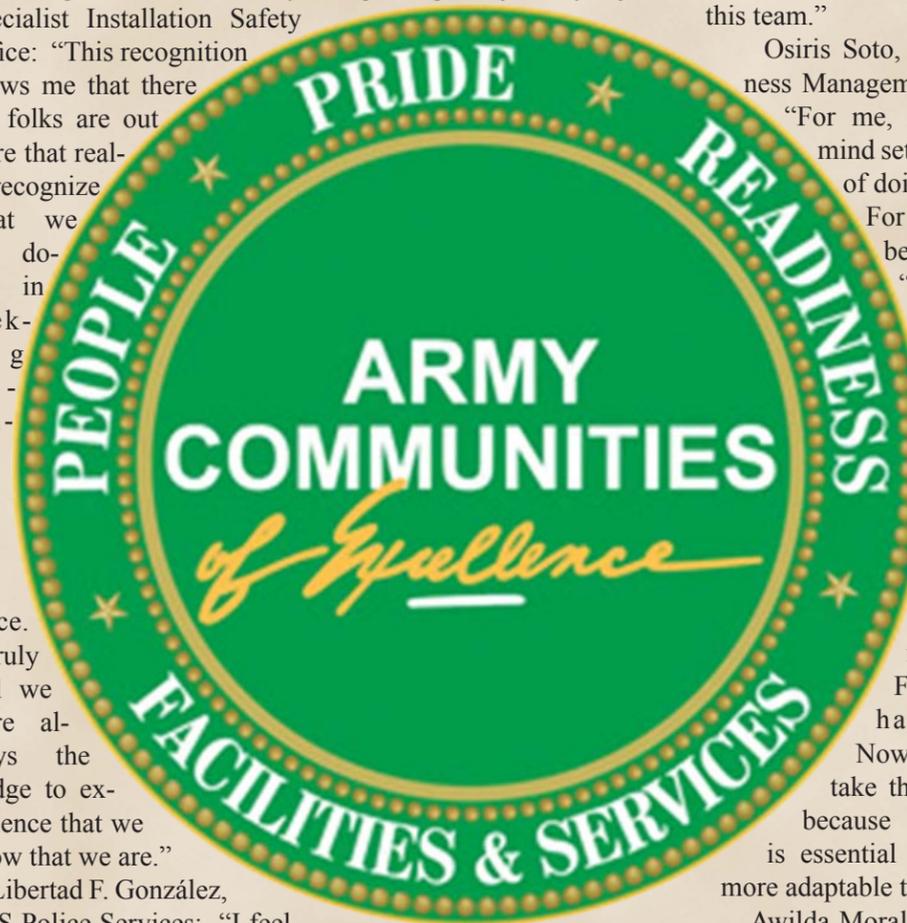
Osiris Soto, DPW Business Management Branch: "For me, ACOE is a mind set. A new way of doing business. For us to have been awarded "the Most Improved" by the Chief of Staff of the Army, provides me great satisfaction because they recognized Fort Buchanan has potential. Now we need to take the next step, because to win, it is essential we become more adaptable to change."

Awilda Morales, Management and Program Analyst, Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office: "What this award means to me is that higher headquarters, the Army Chief of Staff is recognizing all of our efforts to perform this im-

provement. To me, we were a winner just by applying for this award. This only means that we are moving in the right direction."

Francisco Méndez, Environmental Specialist for the Department of Public Works: "To me, this means that we (Fort Buchanan) have a dedicated team to portray all the forward perspectives and advance improvement plans in relation to our quality products and services. The question now will be, how can we improve "the Most Improved"? And that thinking process by itself is what will lead to our next level goals, is what ignites and propels everything we do into a higher degree of excellence."

Josian Sánchez, Program Analyst, Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office: "What the award means to me is what I already knew, that Fort Buchanan is a great place, a great installation but we still got a lot a work to do and one of the things is process improvement. I believe that if we capitalize and utilize the principals of the ACOE and Baldrige, we can improve our services and Fort Buchanan."



ney that will need the workforce's engagement, and most important, the support and engagement of the Fort Buchanan's staff."

Myrna Llanos, Preventive Coordinator Army Substance

ACAP helps in military transition and job assistance

by Fort Buchanan Public Affairs

The Directorate of Human Resources (DHR) Fort Buchanan hosted the Army Career Alumni Program (ACAP) workshop from the 18-22 March 2013, at building 511.

ACAP provides transition and job assistance services to Service Members that are transitioning out of the military service to civilian life. This is in response to Public Law 112-56 VOW ACT (Veterans Opportunity to Work), foundation of the Transition Assistance Program initiative, and HQDA EXORD 054-12. The Army goes beyond the basic requirements set by Congress and established the Army Career and Alumni Program. ACAP also provides transitioners the

detailed job assistance training, counseling and resources they need to quickly find a job – often before they leave active duty. ACAP workshop consist of briefings from several government agencies, such as: the Department of Labor. They provide the Transition Assistant Program (TAP) Training. This training gives attendees the knowledge, information and skills they need to achieve their post-transition occupational or educational goals; Veterans Administration provides benefits guidance. Other agencies that participate providing information and guidance are: the Education Center, ACS- Financial Counseling, Tricare Benefits, Survivor Benefits Plan, etc.

Workshops also support retention by helping Soldiers compare their current salary, benefits and opportunities with those they might be able to attain in the private sector. Additionally, they help Soldiers explore how enlistment in the National Guard or Reserves can play an important role in attaining financial stability and career development after they leave active duty.

This program was re-established at Fort Buchanan with the assistance and mentorship from Mrs. Maria Morales, Director, DHR; Mr. Alberto Orellana, DHR; Col. Caryn S. Heard, Garrison Commander; Command Sgt. Maj. Derrick T. Simpson and Mr. Gunnar Pedersen, Dep. to the G.C.



Mr. Edwin Lebrón, from DPTMS shares thoughts with Ms. Leawanna Abernathy, instructor, during a break in ACAP training on 21 March 2013. Photo by José L. López, PAO



Ms. Leawanna Abernathy, instructor, conducts a training session for Servicemembers participating in the ACAP program on 21 March 2013. Photo by José L. López, PAO

Fort Buchanan student accepted at USMAPS

by Fort Buchanan Public Affairs

Sidney Marie González, graduating senior at Fort Buchanan's Antilles High School was accepted at the United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS). USMAPS prepares candidates selected by the United States Military Academy Admission's office for the academic, physical, and military challenges of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Sydney Marie was also named candidate in the 2013 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. She was named one of more than 3,000 candidates selected from nearly 3.4 million students expected to graduate from U.S. high schools

in the year 2013. Inclusion in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, celebrating its 49th anniversary, is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities.

The proud parents of Sydney Marie, CWO II Wilfredo González and Mrs. Mariel Rosario emphasized that the sacrifices made by Sydney Marie paid off. "Now she has the opportunity to a bright future." Sydney Marie, who played soccer at AHS team, encourages other students to "go af-

ter their dreams." She truly represents the spirit of Antilles High School Pirates and the best of the Fort Buchanan community.



Sidney Marie González, graduating senior at Fort Buchanan's Antilles High School. Photo by José L. López, PAO



Command Sgt. Maj Derrick T. Simpson bids farewell to Spc. Isaac Hernandez during a lunch hosted by the Command Group on April 26 2013. Spc. Hernandez was assigned to U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Buchanan for the last year. The Garrison Commander, Col. Caryn S. Heard emphasized this is part of a warrior's life. The event might be bittersweet, but it is part of the Soldier's mission. Photo by José L. López, PAO



Sidney Marie González, stands proudly with her parents Mrs. Mariel Rosario and CWO II Wilfredo González. Photo by José L. López, PAO



238th Army Birthday Ball

Saturday, June 15th, 2013
Fort Buchanan Community Club
Dinner • Guest Speaker • Dance

Featuring
Puerto Rico National Guard Band

Attire:
Military: Army Service Uniform (other services equivalent)
Civilian: Ladies Evening Dress
Men Dark Business Suits

Doors open at 5:00 pm
Present ticket at the door
Cost \$45.00 per person

Ticket Sales:
787-707-2747 Joslan Sánchez
787-707-3872 David Cortés
787-707-3886 Angel Viruet



Fort Buchanan teaches kids about Fire Safety

by Fort Buchanan Public Affairs

In coordination with the United States Army Garrison Public Affairs Office, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, and as part of the garrison's Community Relations Program, 38 students from the Christian Nazarene Academy, Toa Baja, visited The Fire Department facility at Fort Buchanan on 19 March 2013. Mrs. Luz E. Santiago, third grade teacher at Christian Nazarene Academy, led the students along with a group of parents to educate them on Fire Safety. The group participated in a tour of the facilities, a fire safety video played and hosted by Firefighter Héctor Rivera and an interactive virtual home which simulates fire emergencies hosted by Lead Firefighter Luis Rojas, and Chief Inspector Axel Miranda from the Fort Buchanan Fire Department. After the educational activities, the students enjoyed lunch and played at the Bowling Center.

US Fire Administration, FEMA Home Fire Safety Tips

Every Home Should Have at Least One Working Smoke Alarm - Test it monthly, keep it free of dust and replace the battery at least once a year.
Prevent Electrical Fires - Never overload circuits or extension cords. Do not place cords and wires under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas.
Use Appliances Wisely - follow the manufacturer's safety precautions. Unplug appliances when not in use. Use safety caps to cover all unused outlets.
Plan Your Escape - Practice an escape plan from every room in the house. Caution everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping from fire and never to open doors that are hot. Select a location where everyone can meet after escaping the house. Get out then call for help.
Caring for Children - Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching your children that fire is a tool, not a toy.
Caring for Older People - Seniors are especially vulnerable because many live alone and can't respond quickly.



Students from the Christian Nazarene Academy in Toa Baja react to a simulated fire emergency while Chief Inspector Axel Miranda, from the Fort Buchanan Fire Department, explains proper electrical fire safety responses inside the Fire Department's Fire Safety Trailer, during their visit to Fort Buchanan on March 19, 2013.
Photo by José L. López, PAO



Mr. Luis R. Torres, from the Directorate of Family, Morale and Welfare (DFMWR) Bowling Center facility, issues bowling shoes to students from the Christian Nazarene Academy during their visit to Fort Buchanan on March 19, 2013.
Photo by José L. López, PAO



Mr. Héctor Rivera, Firefighter, meets with students from the Christian Nazarene Academy in Toa Baja inside a fire truck during their visit to Fort Buchanan Fire Department, on March 19, 2013.

Photo by José L. López, PAO



Students from the Christian Nazarene Academy in Toa Baja wait in line to tour the Fort Buchanan Fire Department on March 19, 2013.

Photo by José L. López, PAO



A student from the Christian Nazarene Academy in Toa Baja learns to bowl during his visit at the Directorate of Family, Morale and Welfare (DFMWR) Bowling Center facility in Fort Buchanan, on March 19, 2013.

Photo by José L. López, PAO



Fort Buchanan Fire Department Personnel, along with Students and staff from the Christian Nazarene Academy, rally in front of the Fire Department Fire Safety Trailer for a picture during their visit to Fort Buchanan on March 19, 2013.

Photo by José L. López, PAO

6 Fort Buchanan observes Month of the Military Child

Public Affairs Office

April marked the celebration of two important events in the U.S. Army - the "Month of the Military Child" and "Child Abuse Prevention Month". This was a very special commemoration not only at Fort Buchanan but throughout the military communities around the world. On April 2, 2013, Fort Buchanan celebrated the Kick-Off Proclamation for both events at the Child Development Center and School Age Center. Other events were conducted at the Department of Defense Elementary and Secondary Schools on the installation - Antilles Elementary School, Antilles Middle

School and Antilles High School. The students presented essays, poems and art work to show their appreciation to our military and civilian families.

Our Nation has an eternal debt with all the military children whose sacrifices allow us to reap the benefits of democracy. It is important to demonstrate "our gratitude and appreciation to the most important members of our military families - our children - for the many sacrifices they make as their loved ones serve our country," emphasized Col. Caryn S. Heard, Garrison Commander.



Command Sgt. Maj. Derrick T. Simpson, Garrison Command Sergeant Major presents a blue Teddy Bear to one of Antilles Elementary School students who participated in the event on April 10, 2013 at the Antilles Elementary School Auditorium.



Antilles Middle School students participated in the Kick-Off Proclamation for Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month on April 2, 2013 at Fort Buchanan's Child Development and School Age Centers.



Students and preschoolers were awarded medals and teddy bears that represented the Family Advocacy Program's appreciation for their contribution to the Kick-Off Proclamation for Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month.



Children from Fort Buchanan's Child Development and their teachers presented a skit in support of the Kick-Off Proclamation for Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month on April 2, 2013 at Fort Buchanan's Child Development and School Age Centers.



Col Heard awarded her son Aaron with the medal that represented the Family Advocacy Program's appreciation for his contribution to the Kick-Off Proclamation for Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month on April 2, 2013 at Fort Buchanan's Child Development and School Age Centers. Aaron, who is also a student at Antilles High School, was the guest speaker for the event.

Photos by José L. López, USAG Fort Buchanan Public Affairs Office and Master Sgt. Jimmy Silva, Religious Services Office

and Child Abuse Prevention Month ⁷

Fort Buchanan also observed the Child Abuse Prevention Month with activities throughout the installation such as educational booth at the Welcome Center and drive thru events at the DDESS schools. The closing event was conducted in collaboration with the Survivor Outreach Services and the Family Advocacy Program on April 27, 2013 at the Community Club. The activity included a special recognition to military children of our Fallen Service Members.

The goal of these activities was to provide educational materials to the community. Reporting suspicions of child abuse and neglect is mandatory. There are many indicators of the types of child abuse and neglect -physical abuse and neglect, sexual abuse and neglect, emotional maltreatment. There are also physical and behavioral indicators of such



Representatives from all military services, students, teachers and family members got together at Antilles Middle School Cafetorium on April 12, 2013 to participate in the school's ceremony honoring the Month of the Military Child and supporting awareness on Child Abuse Prevention Month. Col. Heard and Command Sgt. Maj. Simpson presented participation medals to all the students.

Mr. Rafael Sosa, music teacher, provides the drum roll during the Proclamation for Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month held at the Fort Buchanan Elementary School on April 10, 2013



Representatives from all military services, students, teachers and family members got together at Antilles Middle School Cafetorium on April 12, 2013 to participate in the school's ceremony honoring the Month of the Military Child and supporting awareness on Child Abuse Prevention Month. Col. Heard and Command Sgt. Maj. Simpson presented participation medals to all the students.

abuse and neglect. If you see some of these indicators such as: unexplained bruises and welts, consistent hunger or poor hygiene, consistent lack of supervision, especially in dangerous activities or long periods, stained or bloody underclothing to name a few, you must report it. If the child is being wary of adult contact, afraid to go home, wears clothing that covers body when not appropriate, has frequent school absences or tardiness, is unwilling to participate in certain physical activities, or has suicide attempts, among others, you must report it. "Child abuse IS NOT tolerated. One abused or neglected child is too many," stressed Col. Heard. Let's work together to keep them safe.



Fort Buchanan's Garrison Commander, Col. Caryn S. Heard signed the proclamation during the Kick-Off for Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month on April 2, 2013 at Fort Buchanan's Child Development and School Age Centers. Col. Heard was accompanied by students from Antilles Elementary, Middle and High schools at Fort Buchanan.
Photo by José L. López, PAO

Garrison recognizes volunteers' contributions

by Fort Buchanan Public Affairs

On April 25, 2013 Fort Buchanan continued the tradition of recognizing the commitment of those who offer their time and effort year round, those who quietly give the greatest gift of all – themselves - to help others, the most cherished members of the Fort Buchanan family – our volunteers.

According to Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander, Col. Caryn S. Heard, “this act of service or giving a hand is deeply embedded in our Army culture. Our volunteers don't ask for anything in return for their services. That's the essence of volunteering. Therefore it is important that their commitment doesn't go unnoticed.

“Our volunteers play a significant role as members

of our community. They support those who serve by contributing with their knowledge, skills and time enhancing the quality of life of our Soldiers and their Families. It is their time and energy that makes a difference in the lives of others.

“As our Soldiers get ready to deploy to defend our Nation, an army of volunteers is also ready to support family members who stay at home waiting for their return. This creates a strong bond based on mutual respect and support that proudly identifies us as an Army Family, an Army Strong Family. Today and every day is the perfect time to recognize these remarkable individuals who deserve our gratitude.

“Our Command is grateful to have a group of

trained and resourced professional volunteer force that is resilient, responsive, inspiring and encouraging, always looking for opportunities to serve. They demonstrate our Army and our nation that by working together, we can meet our challenges and accomplish our mission.

“Our nation is thankful to you - our volunteers. You are our unsung heroes that remain relevant responding to the call to service driven by an invisible force that comes “from the heart”, concluded Col. Heard.

Fort Buchanan volunteers presented Col. Heard a symbolic check which translates their “no-cost work” to the installation for the amount of \$139,071.90.



Ms. Nydia Quintana and her son Sebastián Pérez Quintana received an award from Col. Caryn S. Heard, Fort Buchanan's Garrison Commander, on behalf of Boy Scouts Troop 25 for their contribution to the reforestation of Fort Buchanan's Headquarters Building during the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony held April 25, 2013 at Fort Buchanan's Community Club. Photo by José L. López, PAO

Fort Buchanan volunteers presented Fort Buchanan's Garrison Commander a symbolic check which translates their “no-cost” support to the installation for the amount of \$139,071.90 during the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony held April 25, 2013 at Fort Buchanan's Community Club. Photo by José L. López, PAO



Fort Buchanan volunteers showed the awards and certificates presented by Col. Heard and Command Sgt. Major Simpson during the the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony held April 25, 2013 at Fort Buchanan's Community Club. Photo by José L. López, PAO

Fort Buchanan's Sixth Annual Earth Day Expo

by Fort Buchanan Public Affairs

Fort Buchanan joined the Army and our nation in promoting new actions and supporting alternatives to protect our planet through the celebration of the 6th Annual Earth Day Expo held on April 19, 2013 at the Community Club. The activity, hosted by the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division, serves as an education and community outreach tool to promote sustainability principles and operation in everyday life.

This year's theme "Protection and Conservation of Water Resources Pursuing a Net Zero Goal" reminded us to be good stewards of our environment and our responsibility to preserve it for future generations. "At Fort Buchanan we are doing our share in protecting our environment and natural resources. After being selected as a Net Zero Water Installation by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division immediately put into action a Water Reduction Strategy or Net Zero Strategy with a goal to meet a 60 per-

cent reduction by fiscal year 2020. Currently we have various initiatives in place through the implementation of two ESPC contracts that include: water leak survey, water fixtures, a new DFMWR Golf Course Irrigation System, water harvesting, one potable water-well and one irrigation water-well. These initiatives are estimated to be completed by the first quarter of next year, 2014," indicated Col. Caryn S. Heard, Garrison Commander, Fort Buchanan.

During the event there were conferences on various themes such as: "Net Zero Water Strategy Overview" by Mr. Anibal Negrón, Acting Chief, DPW-Environmental Division; "The Fort Buchanan Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC)" by Mr. Brian Hashimoto, Johnson Controls Inc.; "The Serpents of Puerto Rico and their Conservation" by Dr. Alberto Puente, Ph.D. Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, Arecibo Campus; "General Hydrogeology of Puerto Rico" by Mr. Angel Luis Alicea León, Geologist (ALTOL Environmental Services); "Sustainable Environmental Management Systems (SEMS) Awareness"

by Ms. Christine Velázquez, USAPHC; "Global Warming" by Mr. Sergio Bosques, USEPA and "Green Procurement Awareness" by Ms. Patricia Rippey, USAPHC.

Students from the Department of Defense Elementary and Secondary Schools at Fort Buchanan participated in the event visiting the various information booths with their teachers and showing their science projects. Antilles High School students conducted a "Fashion Show" using recycled materials.

"We need to keep a balance between mission, environment and community to establish and sustain necessary resources. We are committed to acknowledge the past by restoring the land and preserving cultural and historical resources. We are engaged in the present by meeting environmental standards that enable the Army to operate and protect our Soldiers, Civilians, Families and communities. We are creating our future as we institutionalize best practices and use our technology to ensure future environmental resiliency," concluded Col. Heard.



Anibal Negrón, Acting Chief, Environmental Division, hosted the Fort Buchanan Earth Day Expo held at the Fort Buchanan Community Club on 19 April 2013.

Photo by José L. López, PAO



A Fort Buchanan student points out a picture that caught her eye during the Earth Day Expo held at the Fort Buchanan Community Club on 19 April 2013.

Photo by José L. López, PAO



A group of students from Antilles Elementary School listen to the science teacher's instructions at one of the information booths during the Earth Day Expo held at the Fort Buchanan Community Club on 19 April 2013.

Photo by José L. López, PAO



A working miniature of the wind turbine raised on 18 April 2013 at Fort Buchanan was exhibited in Johnson Controls' booth during the Earth Day Expo held at the Fort Buchanan Community Club on 19 April 2013.

Photo by José L. López, PAO

“ We are creating our future as we institutionalize best practices and use our technology to ensure future environmental resiliency. ”



Alejandro Méndez, son of Francisco Méndez, from the Department of Public Works Environmental Division, demonstrates the workings of an R2-D2 made out of recycled material during the Earth Day Expo held at the Fort Buchanan Community Club on 19 April 2013.

Photo by José L. López, PAO



Silkía Colón, Natural Resources Department of Puerto Rico biologist, stocks her booth with a variety of indigenous trees ready for planting at the Earth Day Expo held at the Fort Buchanan Community Club on 19 April 2013.

Photo by José L. López, PAO

Fort Buchanan, Going Green!

by Fort Buchanan Public Affairs

The Army's Strategy for the Environment; Sustain the Mission, Secure the Future is a major advancement in its appreciation of the relationship between mission, community and environment. Sustainability refers to the intelligent use of our resources, natural, technological and cultural; to meet the needs of our communities, today, as well as in the future. The Army's Strategy establishes a foundation for environmental stewardship as a major concern and serious commitment for Fort Buchanan.

Since December 2011 when the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center at Huntsville awarded an Energy Savings Performance Contract or ESP, Fort Buchanan made considerable progress through the implementation of ten Energy Conservation Measures that will result in an estimated \$2.5 million in annual savings and a reduction of 9,000 tons of green-house gases. This progress can be evidenced by renewable energy initiatives such as LED exterior and interior lighting, energy management controls, high efficient AC systems, and water conservation initiatives. The installation has also succeeded in setting into motion some actions such as reflective roofs, photovoltaic solar energy panels, street lighting, occupancy sensors, and water efficient restroom fixtures. The garrison also initiated the installation of two wind-powered generating turbines with a maximum production of renewable or clean energy of approximately 5 mega watts.

Fort Buchanan's Garrison Commander, Col. Caryn S. Heard, emphasized the importance of "going green". She stated that "Our garrison will achieve its goal of securing our natural resources to sustain the environment through waste, energy and water reduction, implementing renewable resources technologies and modernizing our infrastructure. It is important to us, not only to work hard to defend our nation, but also to protect our natural resources and the environment. Sustaining the environment means securing the future of generations to come. This is our number one priority as we continue to do all we can to "Sustain the Mission, Secure the Future!" Remember - Army Green is Army Strong!"

To find out more about other programs managed at the Environmental Division, log on to Fort Buchanan's webpage and look under the Directorate of Public Works.



The recently installed wind turbine dwarfs several Johnson Controls employees while conducting a test of its workings on 18 April 2013.
Photo by José L. López, PAO



The wind turbine had been erected on 18 April 2013 by Fort Buchanan's Department of Public Works in an effort to perform function tests.
Photo by José L. López, PAO



Energy contractors perform their duties while the wind turbine is being tested on 18 April 2013.
Photo by José L. López, PAO



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7: CLDP
Graduation 10:00
USAG
Conference Room

May 9: Military
Spouse Appreciation
9 AM Community Club

May 10: Mother's
Day Balloon a Gram
POC: Estrella Casanova
707-5105

May 15:
Armed Forces Day
Fun Run

May 27: Memorial
Day Legal Holiday

May 31:
Hiring our Heroes

June 14:
Army Birthday Run

June 15:
Army Birthday Ball