



THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S VISIT

On June 18, the Adjutant General of Puerto Rico, Brig. Gen. Francisco A. Márquez, paid a special visit to the soldiers of the 92nd Separate Infantry Brigade provisionally stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

TAG began his salutation by echoing the raves usually accompanying the name of the 92nd SIB wherever this one is spoken about and its performance abroad. "The Puerto Rico Army National Guard is making history," Márquez said, alluding to the uniqueness of the mission usually entrusted to Marines.

He also provided a glimpse of the upcoming Guantanamo mission and the "difficulties" in its aspects. He concluded by announcing the upcoming Fourth of July celebration activity to be held at Ballajá Barracks in honor of the Puerto Ricans mobilized in support of Operations NOBLE EAGLE and ENDURING FREEDOM. □

For more on TAG's visit, see "Recent Events"



TAG-PR, Brig. Gen. Francisco Márquez, addresses the troops of HHC 1st Bn 295th Inf. June 18.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Captain Diego Dávila
Commander, E Trp 192nd Cav

The mission has been a very big eye-opener for the Puerto Rico Army National Guard, and for the 92nd Infantry Brigade (Separate), especially. A lot of things have been proven with this mission, both positive and negative, and it is up to the leadership of

the PRARNG to take advantage of the good things learned and post this in a good SOP. On the other hand, take the negative and find good solutions, and present a good document of lessons learned. Something very important of this mission is that history is on the making, and we are part of that history.

Time has been a big factor. This mission has happened so fast, and changes are given constantly that this has put on all a lot of pressure, probably causing rushed decisions. Also, the lack of communication, and automation equipment has gotten the Command and Control to work longer hours. If it wasn't for the cellular phones, personal laptops, and all the supplies the troops have brought, I don't know where we would be today. I most certainly understand that a lot of these things we are doing are being done for the first time, and yes, the are being done by the standards, with pride and for our country. Just one more obstacle affects the mission, and that is being away from our loved ones. Most of the troops are not used to being separated so long, but the great majority has been able to cope with the distance by working, exercising, and doing sports they never did.

Most definitely this mission is a very positive experience, and will provide Troop Echo with more tools to work and train with, and also each leader will know what to expect from their troops in high visibility and pressure moments. The progress here is big; we have progressed professionally, technically, and most important of all, we have progressed as a *TEAM*. □



Capt. Diego Dávila and 1st Sgt. William Borges.

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AN OPERATIONAL TALK



Maj. Bienvenido Serrano, second from the left, flanked by part of his staff: Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Robles, Assistant Operations NCO; Capt. Héctor Santiago, S-3 Air; and Spec. Alejandro González, RTO.

Sgt. Juan R. Fonseca interviews
Maj. Bienvenido Serrano, Operations Officer

Q. What is the main function of your section?

A. Plan, coordinate and monitor the Battalion operations, including the training phase. We also ensure that at the moment of carrying out operations, missions and/or training, units count on the necessary resources to fulfill given tasks; this includes, for example, materials and technical references.

Q. What effects has the mission had on the dynamics of the section?

A. It has permitted us to get to know us better, what gives us the opportunity of exploiting our strongest points and strengthen those others in which we are not experts yet.

Q. Which would you consider has been the most difficult aspect for you and your section?

A. Recently we have received changes in regards to the composition of the Battalion and the nature of our mission. This has required redesigning of both individual and collective training; furthermore we have had to reevaluate our order of priorities as far as operations and training is concerned.

Q. How do you catalog the experience of working with soldiers from other units and specialties?

A. The experience has been excellent, for we have had the opportunity of finding out more how the other Army branches work. This is essential for my professional betterment and my future as an officer.

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CH (CPT) Carlos Correa

Companionship and Communion

What is the difference between companionship and communion? In companionship with God we come to Him, recognizing our limit of strength. In communion with God we stay with Him, recognizing our depth of spirit. In companionship with God we long to see and understand. In communion with God we long to feel and belong. Those who seek companionship without communion, seek power without commitment, a display without dedication, and proof without love.

From the book *Light in the Shadow of Jihad*,
by Dr. Ravi K. Zacharias

1-295th Inf History Facts

The first Annual Training of the Puerto Rico National Guard was conducted by the First Infantry Regiment at the Salinas Training Site from December 6 to December 20, 1920.

Its first commander was Major Jaime Nadal, who also held the position of Senior Instructor – as per orders of the Department of War – until 1925, when he returned to his duties in the Regular Army.

He was succeeded by Luis Esteves, who commanded the unit until May 31, 1920.

(The First Infantry Regiment reorganized as the 295th Infantry on December 26, 1922.)

RECONSTRUCTING LOST/DESTROYED DD
214s – CODES USED ON DD 214s

A website has been established to provide veterans information on how to replace lost, missing, destroyed or never obtained DD 214s, and reference information on codes used on DD 214s.

Please see URL:

<http://members.aol.com/forvets/dd214.htm>

or contact:

Brooke Rowe, Associate Librarian
The American War Library

<http://www.americanwarlibrary.com>

“The United States does not claim to have the key to human wisdom or success. But we do claim to be judged on facts and not on fiction.”

- General of the Army
GEORGE CATLETT MARSHALL

Recent Events

Recent Events

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S VISIT



TAG-PR, escorted by 92nd SIB Commander, Brig. Gen. Roberto Marrero Corletto, is welcomed by Lt. Col. Milton Pérez, r., and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Edelmiro Hernández, l., upon arrival to 1st Bn 295th Inf HQs.



Briefed by the 1st Bn 295th Inf Staff.



At the Officers Call celebrated at the Sports USA Bar.

“A MÍ EL 295”

Thursday, June 19, 2003 was a special day to reckon in the 1st Battalion 295th Infantry as the Battalion flag was raised for the first time in front of Battalion HQs, Bldg. C-3927. As *milicianos* of yesteryear did when the rally call “¡A mí el 295!” was given, Spec. Pedro Díaz (HHC), Spec. Lucas Colón (Co A), Spec. Daniel Torres (Co D), and Spec. Alexis Torres (Trp E 192nd) gathered around the pole to raise the newly uncased flag in a formal ceremony presided by Brig. Gen. Marrero Corletto and Lt. Col. Milton Pérez.



The Flag Detail: From l. to r.: Spec. Daniel Torres (Co D), Spec. Alexis Torres (Trp E 192nd), Spec. Pedro Díaz (HHC), and Spec. Lucas Colón (Co A).



Raising the Battalion Flag.

OTHER RECENT EVENTS

June 20 – 2nd Lt. Ernesto Torres’ Team 60 and Sgt 1st Class Jorge Luna’s Team 110 returned from Jacksonville, Fla.

June 24 – Sgt 1st Class Ezequiel Padín’s Team 58 departed.

June 25 – Sgt 1st Class David Rodríguez’s Team 80 returned from Kuwait.

I am the 1st Battalion 295th Infantry! The senior unit of the Puerto Rico National Guard

My roots go back to the deeds of the “Captain of Land and Sea” Don Juan Ponce de León, first governor of our island. Although he did not know me, I do acknowledge my debt with him and his legacy. I trained vigorously during the thirties and was mobilized in 1940 close to the declaration of the Second World War. I underwent my training at Camp Santiago, where I still go for weekend and annual training, getting ready to stop the enemies of my country and our democratic form of government. I have profound respect and reverence for the past, and get prepared for the future. I have realized anonymous, yet important, security missions in Curaçao, Aruba, Surinam, Trinidad, and Jamaica. I patrolled the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans, going through Panama territory to protect Gatun, Pedro Miguel, and Miraflores floodgates. After armistice was signed, I returned with glory to state control and converted into what I am today: the proudest unit of the National Guard.

After my performance during the riots and civil disturbances of year 1950 I received recognition from all commands and spheres.

My achievements in the marksmanship program of the United States National Guard have been such, that the name of the 295th Infantry is registered in the record book at Camp Perry, Ohio, Land of the Shooting Art.

I will follow my way straightforward, and in this moment I am displaced in the eastern part of our beloved island, where I have gained the respect of my fellow citizens in all emergencies in which I participated. I have never, and I will never, give a backward step!

“A mí el 295”

Did you know that . . .

- **the 101st Airborne Division was the first Army division equipped with nuclear weapons?**

Though inactivated after World War II, in the 1950s the “Screaming Eagles” Division, 101st Airborne, dusted off its parachutes to meet a new “rendezvous with destiny” as it became the first Army division to be equipped with tactical nuclear weapons.

(Nuclear weapons stockpiling began slowly, with only 13 storage sites in the entire country in 1947; 56 in 1948; and 298 in mid-1950. The first four sites were of the main stockpile type, and were built before 1950. One of them was Site B, at Clarksville Base, “the Birdcage,” adjacent to Campbell AFB and Fort Campbell, Tennessee-Kentucky. Campbell AFB was transferred to the Army in 1959.)

The nuclear operation shut down in 1965, and Fort Campbell annexed the facility in 1969. “The Birdcage” is used today as a munitions and equipment storage area for the fort.

HATS OFF

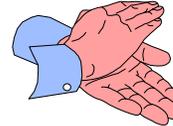
FOR

Sgt. Fernando Garriga (Co D)

and

Sgt. Jaime Negrón (HHC)

ON THEIR PROMOTIONS



NCOs lead the way

Congratulations!

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

July (1-15)

Congratulations!

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| (1) SGT Molina Manaser – HHC 1-295 | (9) SSG Torres Felix – HHC 1-295 |
| (3) SPC Molina Florencio – Trp E 192 | (10) SPC Rivera Javier – HHC 1-295 |
| (4) PFC Felix Erick – Trp E 192 | (11) PV2 Morales Luis – A 1-295 |
| (4) SSG Latalladi Anthony – Trp E 192 | (11) SGT Rivera Jose O. – D 1-295 |
| (5) SPC Alvarado Ronnie – A 1-295 | (11) SGT Sanchez Ramon – B 1-296 |
| (5) SFC Robles Samuel – HHC 1-295 | (12) SPC Gonzalez Carlos H. – D 1-295 |
| (5) SPC Rodriguez Jesus – HHC 1-295 | (12) SGT Serrano Gabriel – HHC 1-295 |
| (5) SGT Rodriguez Jose M. – HHC 1-296 | (13) SPC Maldonado Carlos A. – HHC 1-295 |
| (6) SPC Aponte Miguel – Trp E 192 | (14) SFC Ways Dennis A. – HHC 1-295 |
| (8) SPC Albino Julio – C 1-296 | (15) SPC Pagan Ricardo – A 1-295 |
| (8) SGT Hernandez Raul – Trp E 192 | |

Pa’ que tú lo sepas....

El llamado y cotizado “parcho de combate” no es realmente lo que su nombre implica. Erróneamente se le ha denominado así al parcho por servicio en el extranjero.

EL PENSADOR LIBRE

Contribuye el Sgto. Juan R. Fonseca
“El Filósofo de Santurce”

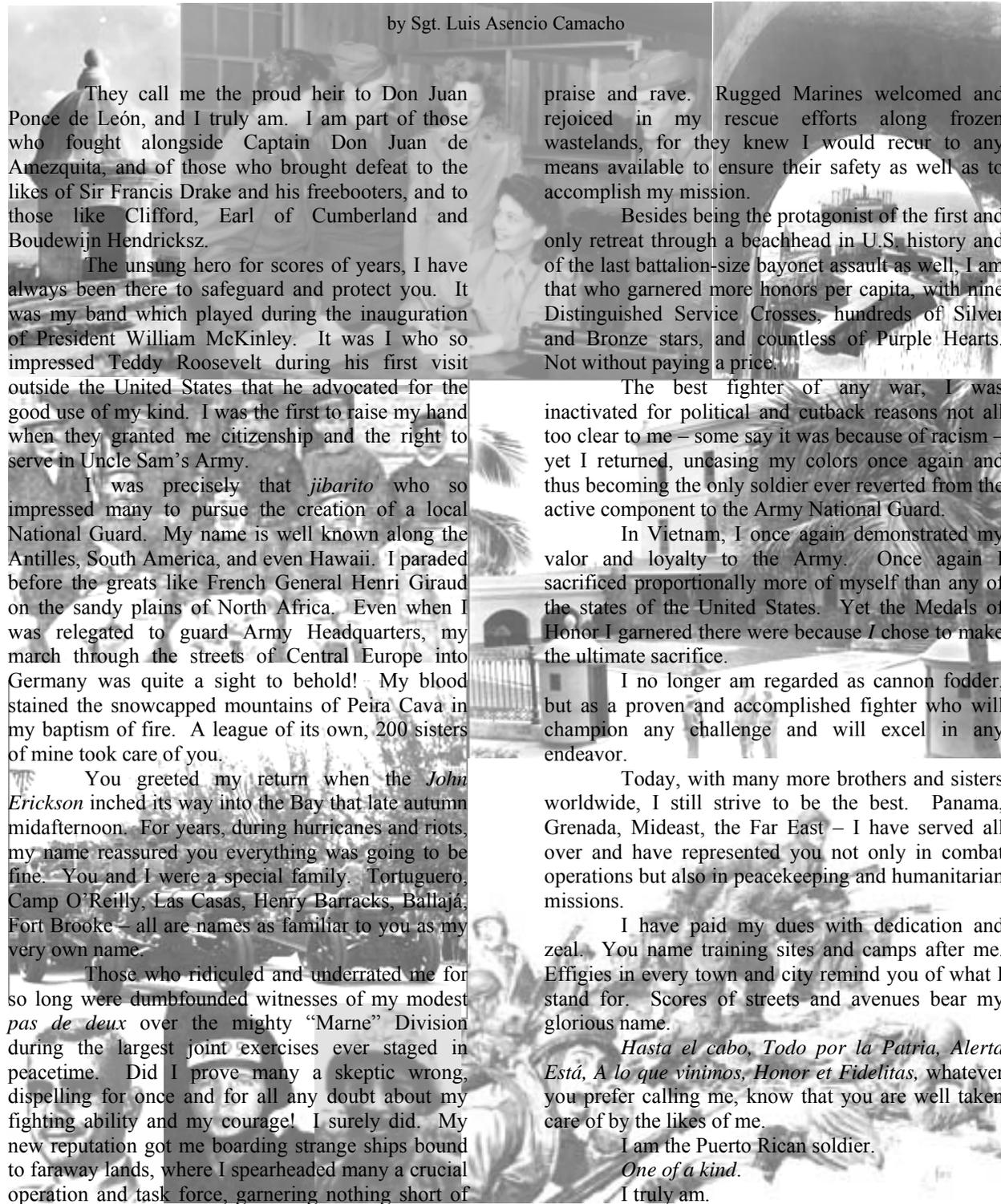
Ilusión

Es soñar con algo que creemos poder alcanzar aún cuando no siempre lo logremos, pero que nos mantiene con una ferviente esperanza donde sentimos haber conquistado el placer de sentirnos felices.



ONE OF A KIND

by Sgt. Luis Asencio Camacho



They call me the proud heir to Don Juan Ponce de León, and I truly am. I am part of those who fought alongside Captain Don Juan de Amezquita, and of those who brought defeat to the likes of Sir Francis Drake and his freebooters, and to those like Clifford, Earl of Cumberland and Boudewijn Hendricksz.

The unsung hero for scores of years, I have always been there to safeguard and protect you. It was my band which played during the inauguration of President William McKinley. It was I who so impressed Teddy Roosevelt during his first visit outside the United States that he advocated for the good use of my kind. I was the first to raise my hand when they granted me citizenship and the right to serve in Uncle Sam's Army.

I was precisely that *jibarito* who so impressed many to pursue the creation of a local National Guard. My name is well known along the Antilles, South America, and even Hawaii. I paraded before the greats like French General Henri Giraud on the sandy plains of North Africa. Even when I was relegated to guard Army Headquarters, my march through the streets of Central Europe into Germany was quite a sight to behold! My blood stained the snowcapped mountains of Peira Cava in my baptism of fire. A league of its own, 200 sisters of mine took care of you.

You greeted my return when the *John Erickson* inched its way into the Bay that late autumn mid-afternoon. For years, during hurricanes and riots, my name reassured you everything was going to be fine. You and I were a special family. Tortuguero, Camp O'Reilly, Las Casas, Henry Barracks, Ballajá, Fort Brooke – all are names as familiar to you as my very own name.

Those who ridiculed and underrated me for so long were dumbfounded witnesses of my modest *pas de deux* over the mighty "Marne" Division during the largest joint exercises ever staged in peacetime. Did I prove many a skeptic wrong, dispelling for once and for all any doubt about my fighting ability and my courage! I surely did. My new reputation got me boarding strange ships bound to faraway lands, where I spearheaded many a crucial operation and task force, garnering nothing short of

praise and rave. Rugged Marines welcomed and rejoiced in my rescue efforts along frozen wastelands, for they knew I would recur to any means available to ensure their safety as well as to accomplish my mission.

Besides being the protagonist of the first and only retreat through a beachhead in U.S. history and of the last battalion-size bayonet assault as well, I am that who garnered more honors per capita, with nine Distinguished Service Crosses, hundreds of Silver and Bronze stars, and countless of Purple Hearts. Not without paying a price.

The best fighter of any war, I was inactivated for political and cutback reasons not all too clear to me – some say it was because of racism – yet I returned, uncasing my colors once again and thus becoming the only soldier ever reverted from the active component to the Army National Guard.

In Vietnam, I once again demonstrated my valor and loyalty to the Army. Once again I sacrificed proportionally more of myself than any of the states of the United States. Yet the Medals of Honor I garnered there were because I chose to make the ultimate sacrifice.

I no longer am regarded as cannon fodder, but as a proven and accomplished fighter who will champion any challenge and will excel in any endeavor.

Today, with many more brothers and sisters worldwide, I still strive to be the best. Panama, Grenada, Mideast, the Far East – I have served all over and have represented you not only in combat operations but also in peacekeeping and humanitarian missions.

I have paid my dues with dedication and zeal. You name training sites and camps after me. Effigies in every town and city remind you of what I stand for. Scores of streets and avenues bear my glorious name.

Hasta el cabo, Todo por la Patria, Alerta Está, A lo que vinimos, Honor et Fidelitas, whatever you prefer calling me, know that you are well taken care of by the likes of me.

I am the Puerto Rican soldier.

One of a kind.

I truly am.

Collage (clockwise): Sentry box at Fort Brooke (El Morro Castle); Puerto Rican soldiers with Women's Army Corps clerks in Germany, c. 1940s; USA transport American Legion entering the San Juan Bay; Sentries at the gates of Ballajá Barracks, 1940; The Borinqueneers, Korea, 1951; Spec. Héctor Santiago Colón, 1968; Pvt. Carlos J. Lozada, 1967; Capt. Eurípidés Rubio, 1966; 155mm guns of the 51st Coast Artillery Regiment (Mobile), 1941; Puerto Rican Regiment U.S. Volunteers, 1900.

The author is an amateur military historian currently editing the final manuscript of a novel based on the exploits of the 65th Infantry Regiment in the Korean War.

"TODO POR LA PATRIA"

Puerto Rico's War Heroes

"I have the privilege of personally knowing the many times and many ways you fought and defended our capabilities as soldiers and as citizens. I still remember your words one day, 'Somebody has been selling the Puerto Rican soldiers too low.' And, 'I have never seen a bunch of men more willing to do their jobs even in adverse conditions.'"

First Lieutenant Victor M. Navas,
in letter to Col. W.W. Harris, June 22, 1951

Brigadier General William Warner Harris (1907-1997)

100% Borinqueneer



Born in St. Louis, Missouri, 1930 West Point graduate William Harris was the operational planner for the invasion of Normandy under Dwight Eisenhower's command before his assignment as commander of the all-Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment in 1949. During his two-year tenure, Harris witnessed the transformation of his Puerto Rican troops from "rum and Coca-Cola" soldiers to first-class warriors with renown all over the higher spheres of the U.S. Army. Harris' leadership during the Hŭngnam evacuation (December 1950) rated the then colonel the Silver Star. An advocate and publicist of his *Borinqueneers*, he was responsible for getting the Pentagon to accept worldwide assignments to Puerto Ricans. His memoirs *Puerto Rico's Fighting 65th U.S. Infantry: From San Juan to Chorwan* is regarded by serious historians as a true jewel rich in lessons.

From San Juan to Chorwan is regarded by serious historians as a true jewel rich in lessons.

Technical Sergeant Clement "Clem" Resto **One Puerto Rican with a high way of life**

A member of Eighth Air Force's 303rd Bombardment Group (H) "Hell's Angels," Squadron 358, engine Tech Sergeant Clement Resto participated in the bombing of the Aircraft Component Plant at Anklam, Germany on October 9, 1943. The task was such a success its lead bombardier catalogued it as a "damn well-planned, well-executed mission by all concerned." (With a total of 27 tons of 1,000-lb bombs and incendiaries, gunners claimed one destroyed, two probable, and six damaged enemy aircraft.) Clem's many awards and recognitions include letters of commendation from Sir Winston Churchill, two Air Medals, the Purple Heart, and the POW Medal. The 303rd, a B-17 Bomber Group stationed in Molesworth, England, adopted the motto "Might in Flight" in October 1942, and lived up to it on each of its record 364 missions. The mission in which Clem Resto participated is fully detailed in *Might in Flight*, by Harry D. Gobrecht, Lt. Col., USAF (Ret.).



Master Sergeant Pedro Rodríguez (1912-1999)

Double Hero



With a long and fruitful career that began in 1934, *lajeño* soldier's soldier Pedro Rodríguez rose from private to sergeant in only three months, had served along the Panama Canal Zone, and had marched through Southern France and Germany during World War II when the USNS *Marine Lynx* sailed for war-torn Korea. A veteran of the Naktong bulge and the Chosin Reservoir rescue, a master sergeant acting as platoon leader in Fox 2/65, he would earn his first Silver Star for bravery for actions in the vicinity of Ŭijongbŭ. While leading operations to secure Hill 476 on March 24, 1951, a camouflaged enemy emplacement opened fire on Rodríguez's men. Ordering one squad to fix bayonets and leading an assault on the general area from which the gunfire had come, Rodríguez charged the position, yelling and shooting his rifle, making the enemy soldiers flee and abandon their ammunition and rations. Seven days later, his company came under a mortar barrage while attacking a heavily defended hill near Ch'oksongmyŏn. Its lead platoon pinned down and having suffered heavy casualties, Fox 2/65 requested reinforcements from 1st Platoon, Rodríguez's. Rodríguez led his platoon in an assault that routed the enemy. These actions garnered the master sergeant his second Silver Star for bravery weeks before he rotated out with the first draft and returned to Puerto Rico to take up a job with the U.S. Postal Service.

"TODO POR LA PATRIA"