



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Lieutenant Colonel Milton Pérez
Battalion Commander

It has been a challenging, fast-paced mission. Changes have been the constant on the mission, but our soldiers have responded very well and have adapted well. The soldiers' focus on the mission and their discipline have been key factors for our success.

There has not been an obstacle that really affected the mission. We have had challenges that we have been able to overcome. Some examples are the physical fitness required by the XVIII Airborne Corps, the four-mile runs within 36 minutes, and the 20-km ruck marches with full combat gear in four hours. Although it took us some time, many of our soldiers are already reached the standards, and others are en route to achieve the standards. The combined efforts (teamwork) of our soldiers, NCOs and officers were key for our success this far.

It has been a rewarding and positive experience, of course. The soldiers had great opportunity to improve their physical condition, gain accuracy in weapons qualification and marksmanship skills. Our junior leaders have had the opportunity to perform on their own without close supervision. That allows them the opportunity to do their own assessment on their strength and weaknesses, and they have the time to improve on those needing improvement. We are also scheduled to receive the M240B Machine Gun and the M4 Carbine. This means our deployed soldiers will be the first ones within the Brigade to be trained and qualified with these weapons.

Most important of all is that our soldiers had learned how valuable they are and the important role they play in the defense of our country and democracy.

I really think our soldiers have been rewarded with the training, school opportunities, professional development (English classes), and a change to see other parts of the world while serving our country and securing the future of our loved ones. Our men and women demonstrated once again the Army and our country could count on them for future missions. □

FROM THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S DESK

Edelmiro Hernández
Battalion Command Sergeant Major

CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS: The Sergeant Morales Club

You might be wondering who Sergeant Morales was and what he did to deserve the recognition of having a club named after him. Well, Sergeant Morales is the fictitious name of a noncommissioned officer who, as a squad leader, consistently demonstrates the highest qualities of leadership, professionalism, and regard for the welfare of soldiers.

To become a member of this club, each NCO candidate must supervise a minimum of two soldiers and show how he or she molds, mentors and motivates those soldiers. Then he or she must pass a battalion and/or brigade board before facing the V Corps board composed by command sergeants major. As part of the board process, each candidate must present a Leader's Book to the board. Said book must contain information on all of the NCO's troops as well as information about every Army program. The board will review each candidate's Leader's Book and question each one of them about their methods of caring for soldiers, training, and USAREUR policies.

Competition for Morales Club recognition is challenging and only a handful of soldiers achieve it. USAREUR has about a 7 to 10 percent selection rate of those who compete.

In short, the Sergeant Morales Club membership recognizes and rewards distinguished junior NCOs whose leadership achievements merit special recognition and who have contributed significantly to developing a professional NCO corps and a combat-effective Army.

The governing regulation is USAREUR Reg 10-5.

If you ever have the opportunity to serve in USAREUR, I exhort you to take this challenge and be a member of this elite club. □

Read the Sergeant Morales Story on the next page

THE SERGEANT MORALES STORY

After completing a tour with a stateside division, Sergeant Morales was selected for an overseas tour in Germany. He was assigned to a unit that was part of USAREUR. Before coming to Germany, he had completed his high school education, continued to improve his command of the English language, and kept himself in top physical condition.

When he arrived at his unit, Sergeant Morales immediately settled in and used his experience and leadership techniques. He began his duty day in the barracks when his squad awoke in the morning, participated with his soldiers in physical training, ate his meals in the unit dining facility, organized and supervised the routine housekeeping and work details, and prepared the squad for the day's training requirements. During the course of his supervision, he was not reluctant to get his hands dirty.

Sergeant Morales made sure that the members of his squad were trained in their military occupational specialties. In addition, he stressed the tactical, technical know-how that makes a better soldier. Race relations and equal opportunity were not new to him; he lived them. The M113 was new to Sergeant Morales, but maintenance was not. He readily applied his knowledge to the M113. He took a hard look at the accountability of his soldiers, as well as the accounting, cleanliness, and serviceability of individual and squad property.

Sergeant Morales kept a leader's notebook containing personal data on each soldier. In addition, he kept a soldier's job book describing the proficiency of each soldier. Sergeant Morales counseled his soldiers monthly in personal and job-performance areas. The counseling records reflected complimentary as well as derogatory information. The information from the leader's notebook, soldier's job book, and counseling was used to guide his soldiers in promotion, proficiency, and career development, including their professional and academic education. He frequently held meetings with his squad, keeping members informed of what was going on. They discussed training, problems, and areas in which the squad performed well, and sought recommendations for improvement.

The soldiers in Sergeant Morales' squad knew exactly where they stood. The squad was united, including family members and friends, through social gatherings in the unit and community. He took pride that no squad member had ever been absent without leave. This was attributed to his personal concern for every member of his squad.

Sergeant Morales was proud of the personnel in his squad, their outward appearance, and the way they proudly wore their uniforms. Conduct and bearing were of the highest standards at all times. He ensured newly assigned members were properly oriented, sponsored, processed, and introduced to all other squad members at the first opportunity. Rehabilitated soldiers in his squad were accepted and treated the same as newly assigned squad members.

Sergeant Morales took additional steps in guidance counseling and training to help the rehabilitated soldiers become effective members of the team. The care Sergeant Morales showed for his soldiers resulted in the squad's achievements during annual general inspections, Army Training and Evaluation Team evaluations, and maintenance evaluation team findings.

Sergeant Morales led by example. He showed true concern for his soldiers and their family members. He took great pride in his soldiers, his unit, and his country. Sergeant Morales was a member of the NATO Team.

He was a leader.

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER **CH (CPT) Carlos Correa**

How to pray The Lord's Prayer, truly

- Don't say, "Our Father," when you don't behave like a child and live isolated in your selfishness.
- Don't say, "Who art in heaven," when you only think of worldly things.
- Don't say, "Hallowed be Thy name," when you don't honor it.
- Don't say, "Thy Kingdom come," when you can't tell its difference from material success.
- Don't say, "Thy will be done," when you can't accept it if it involves sorrow.
- Don't say, "Give us today our daily bread," when you don't care about those who hunger.
- Don't say, "Forgive our trespasses," when you don't forgive those who trespass against you.
- Don't say, "Deliver us from evil," when you take no part against it.
- Don't say, "Amen," when you haven't understood or haven't taken The Lord's Prayer seriously.

I am the Infantry!

Queen of Battle! For two centuries I have kept our Nation safe, purchasing freedom with my blood. To tyrants, I am the day of reckoning; to the suppressed, the hope for the future. Where the fighting is thick, there am I.

**From *I am the Infantry!*
which we will feature on our next issue**

Recent Events

Recent Events

THE 9-MILER

Dawn hadn't cracked yet when HHC 1st Bn 295th Inf set out its 9-mile hump on July 3. These pictures speak for themselves of the ensuing *adventure*.



Somewhere about the second mile.



Warriors, seen from an ant's point of view.



Even seasoned Rangers like these take breaks.

HAND GRENADE COURSE

Range #40, Hand Grenade Range - July 8 and 9. HHC 1st Bn 295th Inf conducted a hand grenade course to refresh those probably "missed" skills. Second Lieutenant Orlando Rodríguez served as OIC, assisted by S. Sgt. René Ramos, Safety NCO, and S. Sgt. Fernando Rivera and his crew of nine instructors. The instructors discussed the different types of hand grenades, and touched on the six throwing positions and the different scenarios.



2nd Lt. Orlando Rodríguez (kneeling, third from l.) and his crew of instructors on the Hand Grenade Range



The Wrecking Crew, captained by S. Sgt. Sammy Santiago (standing, c.). Sgt. Juan Fonseca, "el Filósofo de Santurce," (far r.) graduated as "Master Wrecker." (Literally, he almost destroyed the range.)



Walked through the steps by Assistant Instructor Pvt. 1st Class Jorge Boneta, Instructor S. Sgt. Fernando Rivera demonstrates the "Kneeling Throwing Position."

ENGAGEMENT SKILLS TRAINER

Looking for a place where you can hone on your marksmanship skills when not in the range? The Engagement Skills Trainer Facility #1 might be one of the answers you are looking for. Located at Bldg. AT-1843, on Longstreet Road, the EST is part of the Training Aids facilities on Fort Bragg. Recently, our one and only Sgt. Juan Ramón Fonseca visited this facility and checked out the function of this innovative virtual simulator that replaces the notorious “Weaponeer” of yesteryear. Unlike the “Weaponeer,” which featured an M16 connected to a console resembling a video arcade from the ’80s, the EST styles as a mini-theater complete with image projector and projection screen. The training weapons are connected to a “scorekeeping” box that relays the data to a PC. The EST includes simulators of individual weapons like the M16 Rifle, M249 SAW, M9 Pistol, M203 Grenade Launcher, and M60 Machine Gun, and crew-served weapons like the M2 .50-cal and the MK19 Machine Gun. The phone number at EST Fac #1 is 910-396-3291.



Sgt. Fernando Garriga (in the foreground, top picture) and Sgt. José Vélez, both from Co D 1-295th, demonstrate the use of the Engagement Skills Trainer with the M249 and the M16, respectively.

1-295th Inf History Facts

Headquarters and Headquarters Company 92nd Infantry Brigade was organized and federally recognized on April 8, 1923 in the Puerto Rico National Guard as Company L, 295th Infantry at Río Piedras.

It redesignated on June 1, 1936 as Company G, 295th Infantry, and further inducted into Federal service on October 15, 1940 at Camp Tortuguero, Vega Baja.

It inactivated on February 20, 1946 in the Panama Canal Zone. Eventually it expanded to form the 1st Battalion 295th Infantry (less Company C); then organized, to be Federally recognized on September 29, 1946, with headquarters at Río Piedras.

1st Battalion 295th Infantry (less Company C) consolidated February 15, 1959 with headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion 295th Infantry (which organized in 1922); Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion 295th Infantry (organized in 1949); and the Medical Company, 296th Infantry (organized in 1946); reorganized and redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 92nd Infantry Brigade.

Pa' que tú lo sepas....

El famoso Mambrú que recordamos fue a la guerra y nunca supimos cuando vendría no es otro que John Churchill (1650-1722, antepasado de Sir Winston Churchill, por cierto), Duque de Marlborough. “Mambrú” responde a una antigua costumbre europea de deformar apellidos extranjeros. El título de Marlborough pareció no ser la excepción al llegar a España.

Esta costumbre está muy bien documentada en la literatura europea. (Por poner un ejemplo, el escritor Daniel De Foe, quien cambió su nombre a Dafoe, describe como el homónimo personaje de su novela Robinson Crusoe pasó a conocerse con este nombre tras haber “nacido” Robinson Kreutznaer. La costumbre acompañó a los conquistadores y colonos del Nuevo Mundo, Puerto Rico no escapando de ella. El apellido Cofresí, por instancia, proviene del danés von Kupferschein.)

John Churchill es recordado como uno de los más grandes estrategas de la historia, acreditándose importantes victorias sobre Louis XIV de Francia.

**“Mine honour is my life; both grow in one;
Take honour from me and my life is done.”**

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, *Richard II*

HATS OFF

FOR

Capt. Benjamin Ponce

the only officer (and soldier, for that matter) who makes the 9-miler in wet weather boots



(How does he do it?)

Congratulations!

EL PENSADOR LIBRE

Contribuye el Sgto. Juan Ramón Fonseca
"El Filósofo de Santurce"

El "Ganso"

Muy bien conocido en nuestro argot del diario vivir, él es aquél que "se las sabe todas." En otras palabras, el más listo. Podemos algunas veces identificarlo como:

- el más lento en reaccionar
- el calculador por conveniencia
- el que se disfraza
- el que se anticipa buscando la "güira"
- el que gusta de impresionar
- el aguajero
- el que "coge pon" con otro
- el aparente tímido que dice "Yo no sé"
- el que se proyecta como el que más hizo
- el que no gusta de tomar responsabilidad
- el que teniendo el poder, lo delega todo

Todas estas características bien las podemos llamar "actuaciones artísticas". Hay ganso a nivel bajo como a nivel alto.

Did you know that . . .

- the XVIII Airborne Corps' 3rd Infantry Division is known as "Rock of the Marne"?

Coined after the division's firm stand against the German offensive at the Marne River, in northeastern France, 1918, "Rock of the Marne" is the older and more famous of the two nicknames the 3rd Infantry Division has earned with its reputation. ("Blue and White Devils," the second, echoes the description the German army gave those unstoppable men wearing blue-and-white shoulder sleeve insignia during the Anzio Campaign in western Italy, 1944.)

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

July (16-31)

Congratulations!

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| (14) SGT Cervoni, Luis - A 1-296 | (24) SSG Torres, Rubén - Trp E 192 |
| (20) SPC Casiano, José - HHC 1-296 | (25) SPC Rodríguez, José J. - HHC 1-296 |
| (20) SPC González, Carlos - D 1-295 | (27) SGT Ruiz, Manuel - Trp E 192 |
| (22) 2LT Santos, Ángel - D 1-295 | (29) SPC Rodríguez, Roberto - HHC 1-296 |
| (22) PFC Colón, José - A 1-295 | (30) SPC Elías, Pedro - HHC 1-295 |
| (22) SPC Santiago, Pablin - D 1-295 | (30) SPC Rodríguez, Ángel - HHC 1-295 |
| (24) SPC Medina, Edwin - HHC 1-295 | (31) BG Marrero-Corletto, Roberto - 92 SIB |
| (24) SPC Soto, Domingo - A 1-295 | (31) SPC Medina, Luis - D 1-295 |

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>

OTHER RECENT EVENTS

July 8 – GTMO I Team departs for Fort Dix, NJ.

July 10 – S. Sgt. Reinaldo Ortiz's Team 109 returns.

July 11 – Sgt. 1st Class Israel Colón's Team 73 returns.

July 13 – 1st Lt. Arnold Rivera's Team 59 and S. Sgt. John Santiago's Tem 64 return.

Puerto Rico's War Heroes

"They are going to fight for democracy, as real substance of liberty and of life."



Governor Luis Muñoz Marín
Farewell message to 65th Infantry Regiment
August 26, 1950



Agüeybana I "The Older" and Agüeybana II "The Brave" Two Names for Posterity

Agüeybana I was the supreme *cacique* of the island of Boriké when the Spaniards, under command of Don Juan Ponce de León, took possession of that part of the West Indies. Pacific in nature, Agüeybana was friendly to Ponce de León, whom he regarded as a *guaitiao* ("blood brother") and even accompanied in an expedition to La Hispaniola. Agüeybana died shortly after his return, in 1510. Agüeybana II, "The Brave," succeeded his brother early in 1511. A ferocious warrior, he promoted rebellion among his fellow Taínos, attacking the Spaniards and killing many of them. At first the Taínos refused to follow him, fearing the result of a war, as they believed the invading Spaniards to be immortal; but he convinced them of the contrary by having young Diego Salcedo drowned. Encouraged, the natives rebelled, but were defeated when the brave *cacique* fell in battle. Some Taínos fled deep into the island's country, and others canoed to nearby islands. After this, Taíno resistance was limited to very few attacks. Many of the enslaved Taínos killed their young ones and committed suicide. The lack of slave labor prompted Ponce de León to go after the Taínos on land and sea. That same year, 1511, Fernando de España gave the island a coat of arms, the same which continues to be the official seal of Puerto Rico. The king's action made the Taínos subject to the Crown, with the same rights Spaniards had, but with limited warranties.



Field Marshal Don Alejandro "Bloody" O'Reilly (1725-1795) Father of the Milicias Disciplinadas

A *visitador* (emissary) commissioned by Don Carlos III de España, Irish immigrant to Spain Count Don Alejandro O'Reilly arrived in Puerto Rico in 1763 to assess the general status of the island as the Spanish empire threatened to lose its grip in the Caribbean. His *Memoria al Rey de España sobre la isla de Puerto Rico*, a remarkable complete analysis of the Puerto Rican society of the time, helped promote a more progressive series of fiscal and administrative policies that reflected the Enlightenment ideals found in many European countries. This report saw the construction of roads and schools, and encouraged literate Spaniards to immigrate to the island, while dropping trade restrictions and lowering taxes. O'Reilly further recommended that people live in towns rather than be scattered about the countryside – shortly after this, seven new towns were established – but perhaps his greatest accomplishment is the island's military reorganization, the reconstruction of the fortifications all over San Juan, and the establishment of the disciplined militia consisting of 19 companies of infantry and five of cavalry. Four years later, he was appointed to lead a 3,600-strong force to quell the Creole rebellion in New Orleáns, Louisiana. Due to their conduct and valor, Carlos III awarded the *milicias* very high honors and Marshal O'Reilly the Captain-Generalship of New Orleáns. In his brief administration (1769-1770), O'Reilly reorganized the colony and emphasized fairness to anxious French colonists uneasy about Spanish rule.



First Lieutenant Luis R. Rodríguez One example of outstanding bravery

First Lieutenant Luis R. Rodríguez, 01338514, was part of the 65th Infantry Regiment's Company F when his unit attacked firmly entrenched hostile positions on Hill 297, in the vicinity of Tõngchon-ni, South Korea. The date was February 1, 1951. Stubborn enemy resistance and extremely mountainous terrain hindered the maneuverability of the attacking elements; nevertheless, Lieutenant Rodríguez repeatedly rallied the troops and, although frequently exposed to intense hostile small arms fire, successfully deployed his unit and pointed out the enemy positions. Although wounded in the ensuing action, this Borinqueneer refused medical treatment and stayed with his men for approximately one hour, encouraging them and controlling their fire. Inspired by their leader's display of outstanding bravery, "Fighting Fox" increased the intensity of its attack, forcing the enemy to withdraw with heavy casualties. Lieutenant Rodríguez's gallant actions earned him the Silver Star. Fox 2/65's Executive Officer, Rodríguez was one of the first ten soldiers from that units to rotate out in April (1951).