



BORICUAS ON THEIR WAY HOME



Members of 1st Bn 295th Inf board one of the buses that will transport them to MUIC's Transition Center.

*Na-na, naa-na / Na-na, naa-na
Hey, hey, hey / Going home!*

The return home has begun for more than 200 members of the 92nd Separate Infantry Brigade.

Scheduled to depart during the first week of August, members of each of the ancillary units of the Brigade are undergoing the much heard of but little understood REFRAD (Release from Active Duty) process. The REFRAD, among many aspects, involves a thorough records review in order to ease the transition back to civilian life. Its highlight without a doubt is the issue of the DD Form 214, the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, the document entitling soldiers to receive, under given provisions, most veterans' benefits.

For as long as it has existed, the Puerto Rico Army National Guard has always said yes in every conflict the United States has participated. Operations NOBLE EAGLE and ENDURING FREEDOM were no exceptions. Most of the REFRADees are veterans of Operation GUARDIAN MARINER, an extension of the former two.

We are indebted to all of those comrades who said yes during a moment like this.

Thank you all for your support.

It isn't *adiós* for you folks, but *hasta luego*.

*For more photos on the REFRAD
see "Recent Events" section*



THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CH (CPT) Carlos Correa

The Chaplain

When George Washington assumed command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts, chaplains were already present for duty. Washington could count fifteen chaplains serving with the twenty-three regiments gathered around Boston. The Continental Congress gave the chaplains its official recognition on 29 July 1775, when it voted pay for various officers and enlisted personnel in the Continental Army not previously covered in its resolution of 16 July. The reference is two dollars per month, and it reads: "Chaplain 20." This was the same sum paid captains and Judge Advocates, and it was the first official recognition of chaplains by an American government. As such it is considered the birth date of the Chaplaincy. Nearly a year later, George Washington issued the following General Order:

New York, July 9th, 1776

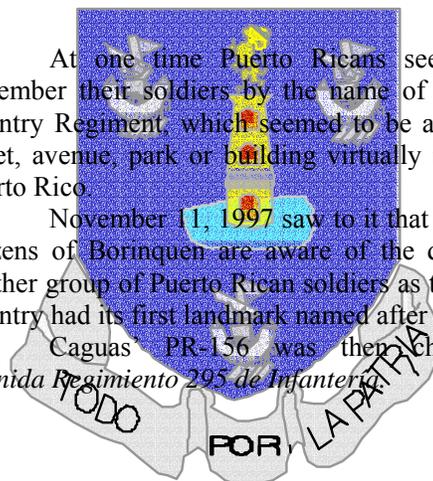
The Honorable Continental Congress having been pleased to allow a Chaplain to each Regiment, with the pay of Thirty-Three Dollars and one third dollars pr [sic] month – The Colonels or commanding officers of each regiment are directed to procure Chaplains accordingly; persons of good Characters and exemplary lives – To see that all inferior officers and soldiers pay them a suitable respect and attend carefully upon religious exercises. The blessing and protection of Heaven are at all times of public distress and danger – The General hopes and trusts, that every officer and man, will endeavor so to live, and act as becomes a Christian Soldier defending the dearest Rights and Liberties of his Country.

1-295th Inf History Facts

At one time Puerto Ricans seemed to remember their soldiers by the name of the 65th Infantry Regiment, which seemed to be at least a street, avenue, park or building virtually in all of Puerto Rico.

November 11, 1997 saw to it that now the citizens of Borinquen are aware of the deeds of another group of Puerto Rican soldiers as the 295th Infantry had its first landmark named after it.

Caguas' PR-156 was then christened Avenida Regimiento 295 de Infantería.



Recent Events

Recent Events

3rd Pay Day Activities

Friday, August 1, 2003 marked the third Pay Day Activities the 1st Bn 295th Inf has celebrated since its arrival in Fort Bragg. As in each and every one, the day began with the traditional four-mile run, followed by an awards ceremony honoring those soldiers who have distinguished themselves in the performance of their duties. This Pay Day Activities stood out as a very special one, as some of the awardees will be returning to Puerto Rico under the REFRAD process.

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the recognition of Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Díaz, the Battalion S-4 NCO, who will be retiring from the service after a fruitful career spanning over two and a half decades.

The ceremony included the promotions of José L. Cabán, Battalion S-1 NCOIC, and of Anthony Latalladi, former Assistant Team Leader of Troop E 192nd Cav's Team 109, to Sgt. 1st Class, each.

The third Pay Day Activities celebration culminated with eloquent speeches from Lt. Col. Milton Pérez, and the Brigade Commander himself, Brig. Gen. Roberto Marrero Corletto, who presided the awards ceremony.



Lt. Col. Milton Pérez leads the four-miler, followed closely by Troop E 192nd Cav.



Capt. Rafael Bueno (3rd from l.) poses with some of the awardees. Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Díaz (far r.), Bn S-4 NCOIC, retires after 26 years and distinguished and exemplary service.

*"No one is more professional than I
I am a noncommissioned officer. . . ."*



The two newest Sgts. 1st Class of the 92nd SIB: Anthony Latalladi and José L. Cabán, from Troop E 192nd Cav and HHC 1st Bn 295th Inf, respectively.

More on REFRAD



Members of the 92nd SIB loading their A and B bags onto the "cattle trucks" for transportation to MUIC's Transition Center at Old Division.



Welcome to Old Division

OTHER RECENT EVENTS

Returning Teams:

July 28 – 2nd Lt. José Martínez's Team 71

August 1 – Sgt. 1st Class Elvin Álvarez's Team 75

August 2 – Sgt. 1st Class Rey Rosado's Team 72

August 3 – Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Ways' Team 84

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.

I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!



I was there from the beginning, meeting the enemy face to face, will to will. My bleeding feet stained the snow at Valley Forge; my frozen hands pulled Washington across the Delaware. At Yorktown, the sunlight glinted from the sword and I, begrimed – saw a nation born. Hardship and glory I have known. At New Orleans, I fought beyond the hostile hour, showed the fury of my long rifle and came of age.

I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

Westward I pushed with wagon trains moved an empire across the plains extended freedom's borders and tamed the wild frontier.

I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

I was with Scott at Vera Cruz and hunted the guerrillas in the mountain passes – and scaled the high plateau. The fighting was done when I ended my march many miles from the old Alamo. From Bull Run to Appomattox, I fought and bled. Both Blue and Gray were my colors then. Two masters I served and united them strong proved that this nation could right a wrong and long endure.

I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

I led the charge up San Juan Hill scaled the walls of old Tientsin and stalked the Moro in the steaming jungle still always the vanguard,

I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

At Chateau-Thierry, first over the top, then I stood like a rock on the Marne. It was I who cracked the Hindenburg Line in the Argonne, I broke the Kaiser's spine and didn't come back 'til it was "over, over there."

I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

A generation older at Bataan, I briefly bowed, but then I vowed to return. Assaulted the African shore – learned my

lesson the hard way in the desert sands – pressed my buttons into the beach at Anzio and bounced into Rome with determination and resolve.

I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

The English Channel, stout beach defenses and the hedgerows could not hold me I broke out at St. Lo, unbent the Bulge vaulted the Rhine and swarmed the Heartland. Hitler's dream and the Third Reich were dead.

In the Pacific, from island to island I hit the beaches and chopped through swamp and jungle I set the Rising Sun.

I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

In Korea, I gathered my strength around Pusan swept across the frozen Han – outflanked the Reds at Inchon and marched to the Yalu.

I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

In Vietnam, while others turned aside, I fought the longest fight, from the Central Highlands to the South China Sea. I patrolled the jungle, the paddies and the sky in the bitter test that belongs to the Infantry.

I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

Around the world, I stand -- ever forward. Over Lebanon's sands, my rifle steady aimed – and calm returned. At Berlin's gates, I scorned the Wall of Shame. I spanned the Caribbean in freedom's cause, answered humanity's call. I trod the streets of Santo Domingo to protect the innocent. In Grenada, I jumped at Salinas, and proclaimed freedom for all. My arms set a Panamanian dictator to flight and once more raised democracy's flag. In the Persian Gulf, I drew the line in the desert, called the tyrant's bluff and restored right and freedom in 100 hours. Duty called, I answered.

I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

My bayonet on the wings of power keeps the peace worldwide. And despots, falsely garbed in freedom's mantle, falter hide. My ally in the paddies and the forest I teach, I aid, I lead.

I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

Where brave men fight there fight I. In freedom's cause I live, I die. From Concord Bridge to Heartbreak Ridge, from the Arctic to the Mekong, to the Caribbean I am the Queen of Battle! Always ready then, now, and forever.

I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

HATS OFF

FOR

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Latalladi, Trp E 192nd Cav

and

Sgt. 1st Class José L. Cabán, HHC 1-295th Inf

on their promotions.

And for all the Awardees



Congratulations!

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

August (1-15)
Congratulations!

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (1) Lebron, Omar - D 1-295 | (11) Carrillo, Francisco - HHC1-295 |
| (2) Aqueron, Wilfredo - A 1-295 | (11) Ortiz, Jorge - HHC 1-295 |
| (2) Clemente, William - 192 CS | (11) Perez, Enrique - A 1-295 |
| (3) Burgos, David - HHC 1-295 | (11) Rodriguez, Osvaldo - D 1-295 |
| (5) Sanchez, Jose - D 1-295 | (12) Ramirez, Julio - 1-296 |
| (6) Medina, Justo - 1-296 | (13) Irizarry, Eduardo - 1-296 |
| (7) Cuevas, Angel - A 1-295 | (14) Collazo Melendez - HHC 1-295 |
| (7) Dahlen, Paul - 192 CS | (14) Lopez, Nestor - 1-296 |
| (8) Fonseca, Juan - HHC 1-295 | (14) Nazario, Luis - 1-296 |
| (8) Ocasio, Mario - 192 CS | (14) Rivera, Tomas - HHC 1-295 |
| (10) Gonzalez, Raul - HHC 1-295 | (14) Santa, Ivan - HHC 1-295 |
| (10) Melton, Migdalia - HHC 1-295 | (14) Vanga, Luis - A 1-295 |
| (11) Ayala, Gilberto - 1-296 | |

.....
Pa' que tú lo sepas....

¿No le ha sucedido que en algunas ocasiones ha tenido que recurrir a Spanglish por no tener a la mano las traducciones de términos como estos a continuación?

Airborne – Quartermaster – Warrant Officer

Airborne traduce como “aerotransportado”
Quartermaster, como “cuartelmaestre”
Warrant Officer, “Oficial Técnico, o Administrativo”
.....

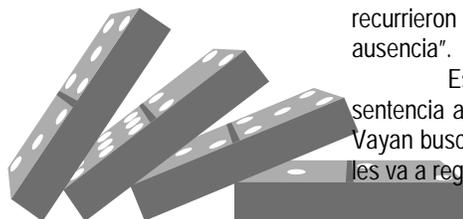
Did you know that . . .

- **the “All-American” nickname of the 82nd Airborne Division is inspired on a song?**

“The All-American Soldier”

We're All-American and proud to be;
For we're the Soldiers of Liberty.
Some ride the gliders through the enemy,
Others are sky paratroopers.
We're All-American, and fight we will,
Till all the guns of the foe are still.
Airborne, from skies of blue
We're coming through – Make Your Jumps,
Take Your Bumps Let's Go!
Put on your boots, Your parachutes –
Get all those gliders ready to attack today;
For we'll be gone into the dawn
To fight 'em all the 82nd way,
Hey!

words by Sgt. Carl Sigman



EL PENSADOR LIBRE

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

El Pasado

Es el presente que ocurre en nuestra vida cuando miramos atrás. Mientras que para algunos es algo que simplemente *sucedio*, indudablemente es un pliegue en la cortina del tiempo cuya marca se refleja en nuestro mañana.

Es un tañir de campana haciendo eco en el presente, afectando cada aspecto de nuestro diario vivir, positiva o negativamente.

Aprendamos de él, asemejándolo con un permiso para conducir que nos garantiza el privilegio de poder viajar por todos los caminos de la vida, alertándonos sobre cuáles debemos o no tomar.

* * *

A continuación, una contribución especial del Sgto. de Estado Israel Maldonado
“El Titán de la Llanura”

Todo Por La Patria

Muchas veces expresamos amor a un ser humano, o, tal vez a la familia; pero verdaderamente existe otros sentimientos que llevamos muy dentro de nosotros; como el amor por la Patria, que con mucho orgullo y honra sentimos por ese terroncito de tierra que nos vio nacer y crecer.

Ese amor nace con nosotros, como el apellido que nos identifica y que con gallardía y valor defendemos.

Por tal razón pienso a veces que “Todo por la Patria” se relaciona profundamente con este pensamiento expresado aquí:

Todo Por La Patria es entrega total por un sentimiento de identidad nacional.

.....
EN EL FASCINANTE MUNDO DEL DEPORTE DE LOS DOMINOS

Este pasado fin de semana aconteció un milagro sin precedentes cuando dos oficiales de alta jerarquía se anotaron dos victorias sobre el “Comisionado de Dominó de Puerto Rico”, y una más sobre dos “chongos”.

Apenas salían por la puerta ancha, se dieron cuenta de que el Comisionado calentaba, así que recurrieron a la excusa de la lluvia para “brillar por su ausencia”.

Esta falta de respeto al Comisionado les sentenció a dos “chivas” la próxima vez que se enfrenten. Vayan buscando sus mazos de yerba, que el Comisionado les va a regalar la soga.

- El Comisionado





The All-American Soldier

by Sgt. Luis Asencio Camacho

Although a rigid pattern of racial segregation prevailed in the United States Army of yesteryear, a great number of individuals took and championed the challenge of serving with pride, displaying their skills and determination while suppressing internal rage from humiliation and indignation. These men and women usually fought two wars – one against a military enemy abroad and another of discrimination on both the home front and abroad. This series aims to honor those individuals and groups of all-Americans.

The Tuskegee Airmen

“I have observed that those who have accomplished the greatest results are those . . . who never grow excited or lose self-control, but are always calm, self-possessed, patient, and polite.”

BOOKER TALIAFERRO WASHINGTON (founder of Tuskegee Institute), *Up From Slavery* (1900, 1901)

The Tuskegee Airmen were dedicated, determined young men who enlisted to become America’s first black military airmen at a time when many questioned their intelligence, skill, courage and patriotism. They came from every section of the country, and each one possessed a strong personal desire to serve at the best of his ability.

Their story begins in January 1941, when, pressed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the black press, and the public, the War Department conceived an “experiment” aimed to form an all-black fighter squadron, the first in the U.S. Army Air Corps (later the U.S. Army Air Forces). Those who possessed the physical and mental qualifications (most college graduates or undergraduates) were accepted as aviation cadets to be trained initially as single-engine pilots, and later as twin-engine pilots, navigators or bombardiers. Enlisted members were trained to be aircraft and engine mechanics, armament specialists, radio repairmen, parachute riggers, control tower operators, policemen, administrative clerks and all of the other skills necessary to fully function as an Army Air Corps flying squadron or ground support unit.

The airmen who became pilots were trained at the Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAAF), an isolated complex near the town of Tuskegee, Alabama. The first aviation cadet class of what was known as the “Tuskegee Experiment” began in July 1941, completing its training nine months later. Of the thirteen who started this class, five completed the training. One of them was Captain Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., a 1936 West Pointer who soon rose to lieutenant colonel and took command of the squadron.

Four hundred and fifty of the 992 pilots who trained at TAAF served overseas in the 12th Air Force’s 99th Pursuit Squadron (later the 99th Fighter Squadron) or the 332nd Fighter Group.

The 99th Pursuit Squadron received further training and saw aerial combat in French Morocco (North Africa) before its first mission, on June 2, 1943, a strafing attack on the Italian island of Pantelleria, in the Mediterranean Sea. Its conspicuous service (April 1943 – July 1944) earned it two Presidential Unit Citations.

The 332nd Fighter Group (100th, 301st and 302nd Fighter squadrons) prepared for combat at Selfridges Air Base, Michigan, to begin overseas combat operations in February 1944 with the 12th Air Force, flying air patrols over the Naples Harbor and the Mediterranean Sea. Its bomber escort mission to Berlin, Germany (March 24, 1945), earned it one Presidential

Unit Citation. The Germans, who both feared and respected these men, called them the *Schwartzte Vogelmenshen* (Black Birdmen), while white bomber crews referred to them as the “Red Tail Angels,” after the red paint on the Tuskegee’s tail assemblies – not to mention their reputation of losing not a single bomber to enemy fighters in any of their fighter escort missions over strategic targets in Europe.

After the war in Europe ended in 1945, the airmen returned to the United States with over 150 decorations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Legion of Merit, and the Red Star of Yugoslavia. Their return, however, met with continued racism and bigotry despite their outstanding war record. The Tuskegee Army Air Field continued to train new airmen until 1946, with women entering the program in several support fields. Many remained in the military during the post-World War II era and spearheaded the integration process of the armed services.*

In the end, the “Tuskegee Experiment” achieved success rather than the expected failure. Altogether, 992 pilots graduated from its TAAF courses; it flew 15,533 sorties and 1,578 missions without a single friendly bomber lost to enemy aircraft attack during 200 escort missions; destroyed 261 enemy aircraft at a relatively low cost of 66 pilots to aerial combat and 32 as prisoners of war; and won over 850 medals. This success was unique because no other fighter unit with nearly as many missions could make the same claim. In addition to all this, three of its pioneers rose to flag rank: Daniel James, the first black four-star general; Benjamin Davis, Jr., who rose to three stars; and Lucius Theus, who reached two stars.

The Tuskegee Airmen’s compelling chapter in history is magnificently portrayed in the award winning 1995 HBO production *The Tuskegee Airmen*, starring Laurence Fishburne and Cuba Gooding, Jr.

*In 1948, President Harry Truman enacted Executive Order Number 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces. This order, in time, led to the end of racial segregation in the military forces, a first step toward racial integration in the United States of America.

Further Readings:

Tuskegee Airmen Inc. *Who Were the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II?* (Available Online at www.tuskegeearmen.org)

www.coax.net/people/lwf/tus_air.htm (search engine)

Puerto Rico's War Heroes

"Whatever assignment the Eighth Army delegates to them, the Puerto Ricans accept without complaint and discharge with skill."

Unidentified war correspondent quoted in W.W. Harris'
Puerto Rico's Fighting 65th U.S. Infantry

Colonel Herman W. Dammer Rangers lead the way



Inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 1997 for his distinguished career as a Ranger officer and commander, New Yorker Herman Dammer started his military career as a National Guard cavalry lieutenant before volunteering for Ranger training in 1942. The executive officer of Colonel William O. Darby's original 1st Ranger Battalion ("Darby's"), Dammer was a quiet and competent soldier who soon earned the respect of those around him. So was he that, still a captain, was given command of two Ranger companies in North Africa. After the successful capture of the harbor at Port of Arzew, subsequently promoted, he assumed command of the newly formed 3rd Ranger Battalion, which eventually garnered one Presidential Unit Citation for actions at the Italian beachhead of Maori. In all, during

World War II, Dammer led Rangers through three campaigns, four amphibious landings, and several raids, garnering the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. During his tenure as commander of 2nd Battalion 65th Infantry Regiment (1949-51), he played pivotal roles during the U.S. X Corps evacuation as his men were among the first to meet the Marines withdrawing from the Chosin Reservoir and the last to evacuate the Hŭngnam beachhead. His 2/65 was probably the most "reliable" battalion of the three, often entrusted several "suicide" missions requiring Ranger skills and leadership. Dammer's gallant actions at Kodong-ni earned him his second Silver Star. The first commander to rotate out of Korea, he continued to serve in Vietnam before his retirement as a full colonel. The commander of the Virginia-based Ranger Battalion Association of WW II, Ranger Dammer, with his leadership, continues to set the example for all Rangers to follow.

Private First Class Victor Lizardi Bravery and coolness under fire



Hill 153, Tongch'on, Korea. February 16, 1952. A patrol from Love 3/65 was dispatched with the assignment of contacting the enemy. As the patrol advanced toward its objective, it was subjected to intense hostile automatic-weapons and small-arms fire from a well-entrenched bunker. The initial burst of fire inflicted four friendly casualties and pinned down the remainder of the patrol, preventing its further progress. Private Lizardi, realizing the necessity for neutralizing this enemy position, completely disregarded his personal safety as he dashed through a withering hail of enemy bullets directly toward the bunker and, when approximately twenty yards from the foe, he accurately hurled two hand grenades into the hostile emplacement, forcing its occupants to flee. The inspirational

heroism displayed by Private Lizardi in single-handedly destroying the enemy position reflects the highest credit upon himself and the fighting spirit of the Puerto Rican soldier. His bravery and coolness won Lizardi the prestigious Silver Star.

Sergeant Gilberto Cofresi An example of selfless service



The date was January 29, 1951; the place, South Korea. Company B, 65th Infantry was holding newly captured Hill 270, when the enemy attacked at night with a numerically strong force that inflicted heavy casualties on "Battling Baker." An aidman assigned to the Medical Company and attached to Baker 1/65, buck Sergeant Gilberto Cofresi calmly administered aid to the wounded, this throughout the ongoing onslaught of mortar, small arms, and automatic weapons fire. On one occasion, entirely on his own initiative and disregarding his personal safety, he traveled several yards over open ground under enemy fire to give aid to three wounded soldiers trapped in a draw and assist in their evacuation. Sergeant Cofresi's displayed bravery and devotion to duty earned him the Bronze Star.