



**COMMANDER'S CORNER**

**Captain Omar Ruiz**  
Commander, A Co 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 295<sup>th</sup> Inf.



*Capt. Omar Ruiz, flanked on the left by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Luis Mateo (TL 86) and on the right by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Arnold Rivera (TL 59).*

The mission of Alpha Company during this mobilization was established long ago by the Battalion Commander. It called for every company to design ten to eleven twelve-man teams readily available to support Operation Guardian Mariners. Among other missions, we were to provide training to the teams once they return from their missions.

The effects this mission has had on the dynamics of work of the unit have been minimal. This owes much to the type of soldier we have in our National Guard. Ninety percent of them are professionals in different fields. Above everything else, they are people with an adult mentality. For example, the average age in Alpha Company is 38.5, whereas in any Regular Army unit it is 25.5. As experienced soldiers we know that the best teachers are those whom we share the battlefield with. Sometimes it is a little risky to ask for advice; but it is even more dangerous to give it. When he needs assistance, he limits himself to see if his comrades do or do not solve their problems. If they look for inspiration, they read on the lips of their comrades the words their Guardian Angel wants to transmit to them. When he is weary or lonesome, he does not dream of people who are distant, but he seeks the comfort of those around him, someone to share his sorrows or pains with. The soldiers of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard know that the farthest star in the universe manifests itself in those things around them.

*[Special thanks to 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Carlos Cruz]*

**PAYDAY ACTIVITIES**



*Lt. Col. Milton Pérez leads the first Payday Activities 4-Mile Battalion Run of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 295<sup>th</sup> Infantry on 2 May 2003.*

Payday offers commanders a predictable period of time each month to accomplish routine "housekeeping" tasks such as inspections, counseling, award ceremonies, and safety briefings. It is also a day in which soldiers should be given time to tend to personal tasks, to include payment of debts, car inspections, uniform maintenance, and other necessities . . .

Payday will be scheduled on the first Friday after payday every month IAW [in accordance with] XVIII Airborne Corps' Master Training Calendar.

Each commander will establish a program that accomplishes the following:

- (1) Conduct a four-mile run IAW the XVIII Airborne Corps standard (36 minutes) once each quarter during a designated payday. On paydays without a brigade run, battalions and separate company/ detachments will conduct commander-controlled physical training.
- (2) Hold unit formations . . .

After formation, units should release all soldiers (within mission constraints) that have met the day's standards to complete family and personal requirements.

*From "The Dragon Standard," pp. 52-53*

*Lt. Col. Pérez congratulates all the personnel from the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 295<sup>th</sup> Infantry who participated in and completed the run.*

**"KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!"**



**AN INTELLIGENT TALK**



**The “Deuce” Section.**

*Standing (l. to r.): Capt. Ponce, Spec. Del Valle, Spec. Rodríguez, Spec. Morales, and Sgt 1<sup>st</sup> Class García.  
Crouching (l. to r.): Spec. Hernández, and Spec. Silva.*

**Sgt. Juan Fonseca interviews  
Capt. Benjamin Ponce, Intelligence Officer**

**Q. What is the main function of your section?**  
A. Intelligence. We research and analyze the recent events in all the areas of operations our units are assigned to in the Middle East, and brief our soldiers on what they are to expect there. We provide our teams a thorough orientation on the country they are to visit. These briefings and orientations are focused on protection, personal safety, and weapons and other sensitive item issues.

**Q. What effects has the mission had on the dynamics of the section?**  
A. The effects of the mission on the dynamics of the section have been very positive. The work team is comprised of different units and specialties, but we have blended so well that can very well accomplish several missions at a time. We have as well learned a deal about inspecting armories and how to react to last minute changes and succeed in any mission.

**Q. Which would you consider have been the most difficult aspect for you and your section?**  
A. The constant changes in the areas of operations – not to mention the reaction time – which sometimes make it seem our preparatives are not those our soldiers deserve.

**Q. ¿How do you catalog the experience of working with soldiers from other units and specialties?**  
A. Excellent. Everyone has a great deal to offer, and we all learn from one another. The attitude of our soldiers is very positive and every one of them is eager to learn. □

**MOTHER’S DAY HOMAGE ACTIVITY**



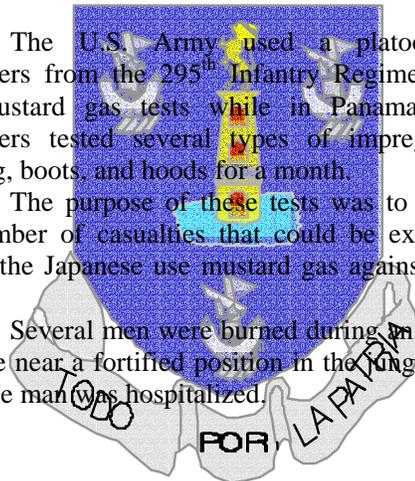
*Held on 10 May, this activity was sponsored by the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 295<sup>th</sup> Inf, with the support of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 65<sup>th</sup> Inf and the 92<sup>nd</sup> SIB. Thanks go to all of you who contributed to make this activity a success. Brig. Gen. Roberto Marrero (r) and Lt. Col. Milton Pérez (l) congratulate all the mom-soldiers of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Separate Infantry Brigade on their day.*

**1-295<sup>th</sup> Inf History Facts**

The U.S. Army used a platoon of volunteers from the 295<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment for live mustard gas tests while in Panama. The volunteers tested several types of impregnated clothing, boots, and hoods for a month.

The purpose of these tests was to assess the number of casualties that could be expected should the Japanese use mustard gas against U.S. troops.

Several men were burned during an attack exercise near a fortified position in the jungle. At least one man was hospitalized.



***Pa’ que tú lo sepas...***

“Alpha”, “Bravo”, “Charlie” . . . Aunque no se conoce a ciencia cierta el origen del alfabeto fonético, sí se conoce de una versión aparecida en una edición de *The Bluejackets’ Manual*, una publicación de la Marina de EE.UU. que databa de 1913. Aunque parezca increíble, en ese entonces existían fonemas como “Boy”, “Dog”, “Jig” y “Quack”. Las palabras escogidas para representar la mayoría de las letras han cambiado a través de los años. El alfabeto que conocemos hoy fue adoptado en 1957. Nótese que estos cambios deben ser aprobados internacionalmente. Solamente “Mike” y “X-ray” han permanecido en su estado original de 1913.

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

**Emergency Religious Support to Casualties**  
*(Peacetime and Combat)*

**Religious support to Jews and Moslem soldiers**

Religious support to casualties may be individualized at the location of injury, at a casualty collection point, or at some other location. Many casualties will not be able to move, requiring visitation to receive religious support from the UMT. Such support may have to be provided as a nondenominational service to members of different faith groups by the most available UMT member.

Soldiers may also request sacrament, rites, and ordinances which are not part of their own religious traditions, and UMT members may minister to those not of their own tradition. UMT, however, may not be required to administer to any person if doing so would be contrary to their conscience or religious group practices.

**To a dying Jewish Soldier:**

**The Shema**

"Hear oh Israel: the LORD our God,  
the LORD is ONE."

**Prayer at the death of a Jewish Soldier:**

"Thy Sun shall no more go down  
neither shall Thy Moon withdraw itself;  
for the LORD shall be Thine everlasting light,  
and the days of Thy mourning shall be ended.  
Amen."

**To a dying Moslem Soldier:**

**The Shahada**

"There is no God but Allah,  
and Mohammed is the messenger of Allah."

**Prayers for the dying:**

"Allah is Great! Allah is Great!  
Allah is Great! Allah is Great!"

"O LORD, may the end of my life be the rest of it;  
may my closing acts be my best acts,  
and may the best of my days when I shall meet Thee."

After a person has breathed his last, his eyes should be gently shut. While closing his eyes of the deceased, one should make the following supplication:

"O Allah! Make his affair light for him,  
and render easy what he is going to face after this,  
and bless him with Thy vision, and make his new abode  
better for him than the one he has left behind."

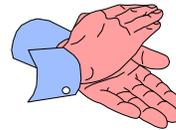
The person who leads in prayer should stand and face toward Mecca if possible.

**HATS OFF**

FOR

**2LT Ismael Ortiz, SFC Norma Torres,  
SPC María Hernández,  
and the 1-295<sup>th</sup> Inf S-1 Section**

**Thank you all for your support during the Mother's Day  
Homage Activity**



**"FROM HERE TO  
HOLLYWOOD!"**

**Congratulations!**

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**Did you know that . . .**

- the **82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division** had not always been an "airborne" division?

The *airborne* phase was actually an experiment designed by General of the Army George C. Marshall to exploit America's nearly unlimited aircraft production potential during World War II. Marshall had been so fascinated and intrigued by the German airborne operations on Crete that he conceived a visionary plan to make the invasion of German-occupied France (Operation OVERLORD) primarily an airborne operation.

His vision saw the creation of five airborne divisions, Matthew Ridgway's 82<sup>nd</sup> Infantry one of those. The newly converted division then split up to create the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne.

(Of the five airborne divisions, four eventually went to the Mediterranean and European Theater of Operations; and one to the Pacific.)

**"Who desires peace, should prepare for war . . .  
no one dare offend or insult a power of  
recognized superiority in action."**

**- VEGETIUS**  
*Military Institutions of the Romans*

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

May (16-31)

Congratulations!

- (16) SFC Padin, Ezequiel - A 1-295
(16) SPC Morales, Elias - 92 SIB
(16) SSG Ortiz, Morthemer - 92 SIB
(17) SGT Santiago, Jesus - 92 SIB
(17) SPC Torres, Etanis - HHC 1-295
(18) SGT Rivera, Alicia - 92 SIB
(18) SGT Rivera, Luis - HHC 1-295
(20) SGT Velez, Jose - D 1-295
(20) SPC Graffals, Gilberto - D 1-295
(20) SPC Padilla, Roger - HHC 1-295
(21) MAJ Rivera- Hernaiz, Jose - HHC 1-295
(21) SPC Orsini, Rodolfo - D 1-295
(22) SFC Torres, Norma - 92 SIB
(22) SGT Cruz, Octavio - 92 SIB
(22) SSG Rivera, Fernando - D 1-295
(23) SPC Vega, Luis - D 1-295
(24) PFC Arroyo, Joshue - D 1-295
(24) SGT Ortiz, Luis A. - Trp E
(25) CPT Correa, Carlos - HHC 1-295
(25) SPC Diaz, Pedro - HHC 1-295
(26) SGT Centeno, Raymond - 92 SIB
(26) SGT Vega, Pedro - D 1-295
(27) PFC Lasso, Jorge - 92 SIB
(27) PFC Sierra, Anthony - HHC 1-295
(27) SFC Aqueron, Wilfredo - HHC 1-295
(28) 2LT Torres, Ernesto - A 1-295
(28) PFC Perez, Carlos - Trp E
(28) SPC Caraballo, Heriberto - 92 SIB
(29) SPC Rosa, Wilfredo - D 1-295
(30) SGT Melendez, Victor - D 1-295
(30) SPC Arcadia, Mario - HHC 1-295
(31) SGT Rivera, Otoniel - Trp E
(31) SPC Garriga, Fernando - D 1-295
(31) SPC Nunez, Jose - A 1-295
(31) SPC Torres, Alexis - Trp E
(31) SSG De Casenave, Luis - D 1-295

EL PENSADOR LIBRE

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

Éxito

Todos deseamos triunfar. La diferencia que existe en poder lograrlo estriba en la forma en que lo conseguimos, porque algunos lo consiguen en una manera justa y razonable; mientras otros pueden lograrlo, pero a qué precio. Muchos sacrifican salud, dinero, familias, y hasta vidas.

No es lo mismo alcanzar la meta con mayor esfuerzo que con menor esfuerzo. Muchos de nosotros logramos el éxito a costa de otros, sin considerar los riesgos.

Tenemos que aprender que todo es posible en la vida, pero sin olvidar el valor humano para así poder disfrutar dicha meta en paz con uno mismo.

THE PUERTO RICO NATIONAL GUARD THROUGH THE AGES

Part I. The Milicias and the Coming of Age

by Sgt. Luis Asencio Camacho

From the Island's founding as a colony in 1508 to the U.S. Occupation in 1898, practically every village, town, and city in Puerto Rico had a company of militia infantry (eventually, cavalry and artillery as well), comprised of males ages 16 through 60. These units were collectively known as the milicias. Service in these units was an affair of prestige, as evidenced in the Milicias Urbanas de Puerto Rico, the first body organized (1693), comprised exclusively by Spaniards.

Year 1741 saw the creation of the Regimiento Fijo de Infantería, or El Fijo, the first body to accept criollos (natives) into its ranks. Several other bodies were created to form part of what eventually became known as the Cuerpo de Milicias Disciplinadas until their reorganization as Milicias Disciplinadas de Puerto Rico in 1765.

With slavery and slave trade in widespread (as was segregation in the instances of freed subjects), the milicias organized several bodies of "separate but equal" units - one of the most notorious the Compañía de Artilleros Morenos de Cangrejos, a company of black Puerto Ricans.

The service sheets of these units had given an excellent account of the valor of the Puerto Rican soldier. Centuries ago they had defeated both the feared Sir Francis Drake and the Dutch invaders under Boudewijn Hendricksz; nevertheless, the Lares Uprising of 1868 raised a few eyebrows in Spain, and the disbandment of these companies followed suit as Mother Spain began doubting the loyalty of Puerto Ricans. The milicias were replaced in 1871 by El Instituto de Voluntarios, a body of Spaniards and other loyalists from Spain's colonies in the Caribbean and South America. The voluntarios were also known as the incondicionales, after their political organization, the Incondicionalmente Español en Puerto Rico.

The U.S. Occupation marked the end of the milicias, with the creation of the Porto Rico Battalion Volunteer Infantry in 1899. President Theodore Roosevelt, during his 1906 visit to Puerto Rico, praised the discipline and disposition of the Puerto Rican soldiers, stating that it would be a shame "not to perpetuate this battalion," and promising that he would look to it that Congress continue supporting those fine soldiers.

After several reorganizations, the Battalion became federalized in 1920 under the designation 65th U.S. Infantry Regiment. The voice Porto Rico and its derivatives were eliminated but further added to the new National Guard units.

As of then the U.S. Army had already established two of the kind, the units which would eventually become the sister infantry regiments 295th and 296th. The term "Separate" was added to indicate that they stood alone, no major command-affiliated. In mid-1918, the Army had also established three other units: the 373rd, the 374th, and the 375th Infantry (all disbanded by January 1919).

Segregation continued to be an issue. Not only the 65th and its National Guard sisters were regarded as colonial troops, but also those Puerto Ricans living in the Continental United States faced discrimination. In New York, for instance, during World War II, dark-skinned Puerto Ricans wishing to serve in the military were assigned to the all-black 396th Infantry, also known as the "Harlem Hell Fighters," a unit in which band "El Jibarito" himself, Rafael Hernández, and his brother Jesús served. The 396th "Hell Fighters" went on to establish a reputation abroad, fighting under French command in Europe before disbanding shortly after the end of the hostilities.

On the next issue:

"The New Role of the National Guard"

The author is an amateur military historian currently working on the final editing of a novel based on the 65th Infantry Regiment's exploits in Korea.

# Puerto Rico's War Heroes

*"No ethnic group has greater pride in itself and its heritage than the Puerto Rican people. Nor have I encountered any that can be more dedicated and zealous in support of the democratic principles for which the United States stands. Many Puerto Ricans have fought to the death to uphold them."*

Brigadier General (Ret.) William Warner Harris  
former commander of the 65<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment

Puerto Rico is the proud home of a number of important military heroes, including four recipients of the Medal of Honor. The Puerto Rican contribution to the U.S. military has not been a small one, nevertheless. Of the 197,100 Puerto Ricans that have served as combatants, 6,220 have been wounded, and 1,225 have been killed in the service of their country. Puerto Ricans have served in every major conflict of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

## About the Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor has been awarded 3,428 times in the history of the United States (139 times to Hispanics). The recipients are military persons who are recognized as conspicuously distinguishing themselves at the risk of their lives "above and beyond the call of duty." The deed for which the person is recognized must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice. It must clearly distinguish the individual above his comrades and must have involved the risk of life. In fact, many of those who receive the award have lost their lives in the very act that qualified them for recognition.

Throughout the years, the Medal of Honor has become increasingly more difficult to earn and the esteem given its recipients has dramatically increased. President Harry S. Truman said once, "I would rather have that medal than be President of the United States. On the other hand, General George S. Patton said, "I'd give my soul for that decoration."

## About the Four Puerto Rican Recipients



### **Fernando Luis García Ledesma**

On September 5, 1952, Marine Corps Private First Class García Ledesma was named the first Puerto Rican recipient of this prestigious award for his service in the Korean War. In addition to that distinction, Camp García, on the island of Vieques, was named after him.

### **Eurípides Rubio, Jr.**

Born March 1, 1938, in Ponce, Puerto Rico, Eurípides Rubio enlisted in the U.S. Army at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, and rose to the rank of Captain in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, where he served as Communications Officer.



### **Carlos James Lozada**

Carlos James Lozada, born in Caguas, Puerto Rico, is remembered for his bravery while serving as private first class during the battle of Dak To, Vietnam, in 1967. The act that merited Lozada the Medal of Honor began at 2:00 p.m. on November 20, 1967.

### **Héctor Santiago Colón**

Specialist Fourth-Class Héctor Santiago Colón was born in Salinas, Puerto Rico. The short life he led has left a permanent positive imprint on his hometown. Born in the midst of the Second World War, December 20, 1942, he sacrificed his life on June 28, 1968, at the age of 25, to save the lives of those beside him in the Vietnam War. The former Salinas Training Site was named after him.



**"TODO POR LA PATRIA"**