

Puerto Rico #1



PUERTO RICO CHAPTER
Resolution

Title: Support the permanence of Fort Buchanan in Puerto Rico, the only base with active personnel in the Caribbean.

WHEREAS, According to the plan of the Government of the United States, the Secretary of Defense shall refer to the Base Realignment and Closure Committee a preliminary list of installations to be closed no later than May 10, 2005. It has been estimated that there are 500 military bases; and

WHEREAS, **Fort Buchanan** was established 82 years ago, and it is the only base with active personnel in the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, Before the Southern Command was established in Puerto Rico in 1999, Fort Buchanan had more or less the same labor population: 100 soldiers and 600 civilians; and

WHEREAS, Fort Buchanan serves as liaison to 15,000 reservists and members of the National Guard, many of whom have been activated and are currently serving in different fronts fighting against terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Fort Buchanan renders services to retired soldiers, veterans of the Department of Defense and their families, which added to its employees, reservists, contractors and retired persons, the Fort serves more than 104,000 persons; and

WHEREAS, The military installation has an economic impact of approximately \$197.8 Million in Puerto Rico. (This includes payment of military and civilian personnel, contracts and domestic markets); and

WHEREAS, Fort Buchanan is needed to maintain the long and glorious military tradition on our Island, since other military bases such as Camp Garcia in Vieques, Roosevelt Roads in Ceiba and Ramey in Aguadilla have closed, Buchanan being the only military installation remaining in Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, All Puerto Ricans who treasure their U.S. citizenship must defend the permanence of Fort Buchanan, for the services it provides to our soldiers who are, at present, fighting in the war against terrorism, for its meaning to thousands of veterans, and for what it represents to the military history and tradition of the Island; and

WHEREAS, The Puerto Rico LULAC Chapter wants to express its solidarity with the National Foundation for Women Legislators and its Resolution of Veterans Affairs Policy Committee, thus joining this request; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Puerto Rico LULAC Chapter and the National Foundation for Women Legislators' Veterans Affairs Committee, through its members from the various states, call to support the permanence of Fort Buchanan in Puerto Rico.

Submitted by Senator Lucy Arce, Council 14004

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