



Executive Correspondence
DCN 1317

Partido Republicano de Puerto Rico Republican Party of Puerto Rico

Tiody Ferré, M.D.
Chairman
Zoraida F. Fonalledas, Esq.
National Committeewoman
Luis G. Fortuño, Esq.
National Committeeman

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FAX

TO: Chairman Anthony J. Principi
Base Re-alignment Commission

FROM: Carlos E. Chardon *[Signature]*
Secretary Republican Party of Puerto Rico

FAX 787-287-9678

SUBJECT: Letter on Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico

Number of Pages 4



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May 2, 2005

Chairman Anthony J. Principi
Base Re-Alignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Subject: Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico

Dear Chairman Principi:

The Republican Party Executive Committee in its April 9th meeting resolved to request the Base Re-Alignment Committee to leave Fort Buchanan out of the list to be submitted to the President this year.

This letter reproduces the arguments that the Executive Committee wanted you to consider in support of its petition. The arguments are divided into: general considerations, the specific services rendered by Fort Buchanan to military personnel, and other considerations.

General considerations

1. The presence of the U.S. in what was once called the American Mediterranean is now reduced to Fort Buchanan and Guantánamo, both of them with a limited though essential mission to military and political aims of the Nation. The elimination of the Vieques and Roosevelt Roads bases during the past year effectively left Fort Buchanan, established in 1903, as the only Defense installation in Puerto Rico.
2. Retrenchment/redeployment left the Caribbean exposed to the pincer movement of a threat unlike the German presence in the late 1800 until WWII: the Castro-Chavez axis. Venezuela has substituted the USSR as the principal ally and source of funds for Cuba.
3. There are over two hundred Bolivarian revolutionary cells sponsored by Chavez with the support of Castro in Mexico and the Caribbean Basin according to Vice Admiral Mario I. Carratú-Molina (Venezuela). Nine of them are in Puerto Rico and actively supported the successful drive to force the Navy out of Puerto Rico.

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4. The Castro-Chavez axis successfully courted the drug/guerrilla cartel in Colombia, the *mansas* (youth gangs) in Central America, and the Mexican drug mafia and has given respite to Ortega in Nicaragua and other "liberation" movements in Central America, effectively laying political siege to Puerto Rico and the Caribbean nations.
5. The Caribbean basin, including Mexico, is the principal source of illegal immigrants to the Nation, a problem that we had not been able to stem before the organization of the new axis. It will prove to be intractable if we complete retrenchment or give the illusion of retrenchment.

Fort Buchanan is a symbolic element in the political chessboard of the Caribbean and can become a key in guarding the southern flank of the U.S. since the U.S. Army South will be effectively absent from the Caribbean (it is now in San Antonio, Texas).

Service considerations

1. Fort Buchanan is the only U.S. Power Support base in the Caribbean and South America. With the loss of Vieques and Roosevelt Roads, it is the only support area for military activities similar to Grenada, Dominican Republic and Haiti in the recent past.
2. As an Army Reserve Post it is particularly important in its support to Reserve units in the Caribbean and to the Army since the new theaters of action have been forced to draw not only on Reserves but on National Guards to carry out Defense missions. Currently there are 825 Puerto Ricans from reserve and National Guard units in Iraq (Two dozen have already fallen in the Middle East).
3. Close to 2,600 Puerto Rico National Guard volunteers, and US Army Reserve soldiers were mobilized for Desert Storm. Fort Buchanan is the service center for them.
4. The survivors of the 65,034 Puerto Ricans, including 200 Puerto Rican women, that served in the Armed Forces during World War II look to Fort Buchanan as a center for services. Most of the 61,000 Puerto Ricans that served in the Korean War and the 48,000 that served in Vietnam also depend on the services provided by Fort Buchanan.
5. Fort Buchanan provides support to 104,081 individuals including 90 military personnel, 1754 tenants and 137 civilian employees as well as Federal employees from various agencies. Partial or full base privileges are provided to U.S. Army Reserves and National guardsmen.

Puerto Ricans have served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces of the United States in all wars and conflicts since 1917 to this day, where 3,400 of our men and women are active in our Nation's war on terrorism.

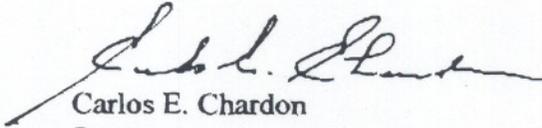
Puerto Ricans have always responded to the call of defending our Nation, and have had no qualms in shedding their blood on the battlefields to defend the cause of liberty. Yet, unlike other citizens who have voting Congressmen and Senators, they do not have equivalent representation in Congress, thus depend on the members of BRAC to defend their rights.

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Other considerations

Currently, Puerto Rico's government has a \$1.6 billion deficit partly as a result of a loss of approximately \$2 billion in the economy previously generated by Federal and private activity before the loss of Vieques and Roosevelt Roads. Buchanan could add as much as \$21 billion in economic losses to the Metropolitan area.

On behalf of the Executive Committee,



Carlos E. Chardon
Secretary