

US Army Reserve takes Command

Colonel Mildred S. Rodriguez

**Commander, 369th Combat Support Hospital
Capitan Euripides Rubio USAR Center
Puerto Nuevo, Puerto Rico**

Colonel Mildred S. Rodriguez was born on 14 July 1950 in Santurce, Puerto Rico. In 1971 she obtained a Bachelors Degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Puerto Rico and in 1979 earned a Masters Degree in Public Health Education and completed post-graduate courses on Gerontology from the School of Public Health, Medical Science Campus, University of Puerto Rico.

COL Rodriguez began her career in the US Army Reserves in 1976 as a Specialist Four assigned to the 820th Station Hospital in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. On 30 September 1979 she received a direct commission as a Captain in the Army Medical Specialist Corps and was assigned to the 369th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) as a Physical Therapist. Subsequent assignments include: Chief, Physical Therapy, 369th CSH, Public Affairs Officer, 65th US Army Regional Support Command during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and Media Liaison Officer, 65th US Army Regional Support Command during Operations Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom

On 7 March 2003 Col. Rodriguez was designated Commander of the 369th CSH, CPT Euripides Rubio USAR Center, Puerto Nuevo, Puerto Rico. A hospital of over 600 Soldiers and with 296-bed capability. COL Rodriguez is the first female to command at the O-6 level in the 65th Regional Support Command establishing a historical precedent and one of the few to break the 200 year old tradition of male command in the Army.

Her military education includes the Army Medical Department's Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Army Command and General Staff College, and the Battalion/Brigade Pre-Command Course.

Among her decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal and the Medal for Voluntary Services.

She is currently the President of her own Company, BG Enterprises, which produces educational programs and entertainment festivals for Puerto Rico and international audiences. She has worked as a Physical Therapist in "Centro de Rehabilitacion Vocacional" of Mayaguez anad Rio Piedras. She also worked as a volunteer with sports medicine and was co founder of the Wheelchair Sports in Puerto Rico. COL Rodriguez was a founder of the Help Lines of AIDS, Regional

Director of the Institute of Services to the Community and Director of Press and Education for the Department of Natural Resources. She was the recipient of the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board, *Citizen of the Year Award* after working for a campaign towards improving the environment.

COL Rodriguez is a member of the "Asociacion Puertorriquena de Terapia Fisica", American Association of Physical Therapy, Asociacion of Educadores en Salud de Puerto Rico and is a Life Member of the Reserve Officer Association, Association of the United States Army and Military Officers Association of America.

A resident of San Juan, Puerto Rico, COL Rodriguez has a daughter named Mildred Evenie.