

Many Backgrounds
Many Stories
One American Spirit

It's high noon and the sun beats down on your body with the crushing weight equal to that of a ton of bricks. Your sweat beads down your forehead and into your eyes and you close them from the stinging pain. Your muscles burn from the heavy burden of sorting and carrying boxes of apricots all day. The pay is \$1.65 an hour and you are thankful.

In farming this is the daily slog. No one thanks you and you are expected to come back, day after day, season after season. You have to go back because your family needs you. Some will give up and succumb to the hammer of labor and anvil of the earth but a few will emerge with an unwavering determination.

This is no fiction. It is the life of most farm workers in California. It is the kind of life that [John Steinbeck](#) won literary awards for merely writing about it, and, it was once the life of Maj. Gen. Eldon P. Regua. In his teens he picked apricots in the San Jose orchards and now he serves as The Deputy Commanding General/Chief of Staff (Wartime), 8th United States Army in Yongsan, South Korea.

On Friday Sept. 30 MG Regua spoke to a small gathering at the Parks Reserve Forces Training Area Chapel to celebrate Hispanic American Heritage month. From Sept 15 to Oct 15 the Army celebrates the diversity and contributions of Hispanic Americans from all over the world.

"I continue to serve today because of the great opportunities this nation has afforded me" said MG Regua, "...The Army has afforded me to continue to serve and lead this nations sons and daughters in the general office rank for which I am very honored and humbled. I have grown professionally, personally and emotionally by serving with our nations finest."

During Hispanic American Heritage Month, we emphasize the value the Army places on diversity. We are Army Strong because we not only place great value in having different perspectives, approaches, and skills but also because we value having ethnic and cultural diversity. The Army has always recognized the commitment and effort of its Hispanic Soldiers. Soldiers like Sergeant First Class Leroy Petry, a Hispanic American, an Army Ranger, and a Medal of Honor recipient is an example of one who was recently honored for his courage and selfless sacrifice by saving the lives of his comrades.

Hispanic Americans play a vital role in the Army of today they are leaders: officers, non-commissioned officers, and civil service leaders they are doctors, pilots, mechanics, military police officers, engineers, and senior managers.

Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have made sacrifices for our nation above their own. They have proven that when freedom is threatened, they are equal to any task...and when their country calls, they respond.



Parks Reserve Forces Training Area Celebrates
Hispanic Heritage Month
Sept. 30 2011

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