

Spotlight on People: Monica Lynch, OJA

ROOM E2081 – A large sign proclaiming “DANGER, Keep Back!” and its Arabic translation are the first things you see when stepping in to Monica Ojeda Lynch’s office on the second floor of the U.S. Army Garrison-Miami building.

While the Operation Iraqi Freedom souvenir might give the Garrison attorney and mother of two the time to assess clients and visitors, it is wholly misleading with regards to her welcoming personality and customer-service attitude.

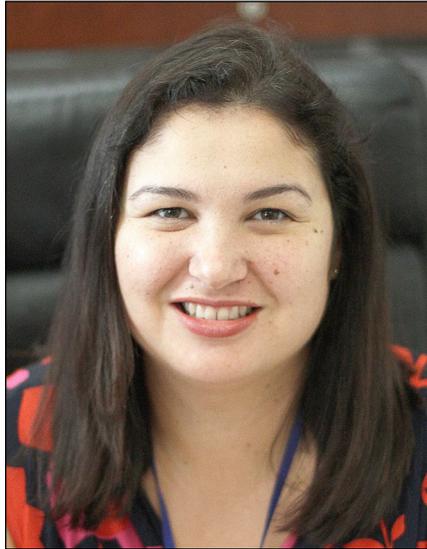
“I have a job where I feel fulfilled, I’m helping people in tough situations and helping organizations comply with the law,” she said. “If you want to feel good about what you are doing, that is a great place to be.”

Her tasks here are numerous: to provide legal advice in the areas of administrative law, ethics, contract and environmental law to ensure the Garrison is in compliance with laws and regulations; to provide labor and employment advice and agency representation for the Garrison, SOUTHCOM, and SOC-SOUTH, and to provide legal assistance to service members, retirees, and family members.

Monica’s legal career began after graduating from The George Washington University Law School; building on a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Florida International University. But the thought of billable hours and “living my life in 6-minute increments and chasing the dollar” left her feeling empty. So she joined the Army and entered the Judge Advocate General Corps.

“It changed the course of my life,” Lynch said. “I love the JAG Corps experience, and I was stationed at Fort Hood and Army South, so I learned about SOUTHCOM.”

She deployed to Iraq for a year, as a 28-year-old Captain, where she was given responsibility far above what she would encounter in civilian life.



“The JAG Corps places a lot of faith in young officers,” she said. “I was chief of client services and in charge of foreign claims in my area. At the two year mark in a regular law firm I would have been in the library writing memos, and had no contact with clients,” Lynch said.

While in Iraq, locals would come and make claims against the government for damages, which she would adjudicate. “In the JAG Corps, I was managing clients from the very beginning, it was really interesting.”

Monica comes to Miami by way of Hawaii, which was her first civil service assignment after leaving the military. “I applied for a job in Hawaii, got it, and moved there with my then-fiancée, Scott. He is a tree-hugger, so he loved it,” she said. The biggest difference between Florida and Hawaii? “In Hawaii, people don’t honk. They are all much more laid back.”

Miami, however, is where family is. After three years, Monica applied to work here, and two years ago moved to let the kids be closer to their grandparents. “This is the first time I am home since high school,” which is where she met her husband, Scott. It took him 17 years to ask her out.

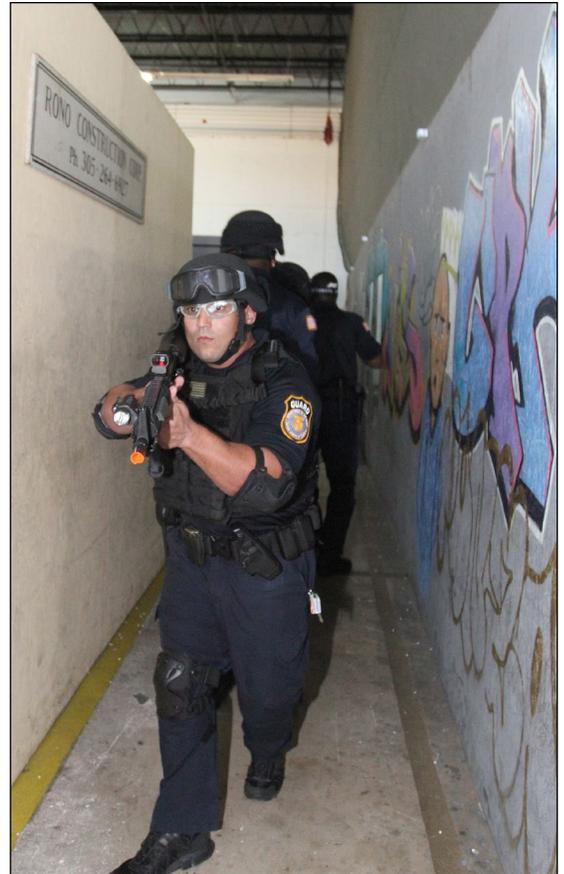
“You can escape the friend zone,” she said with a smile. They have a 3-year-old and a 1-year-old.

During free time, she loves hanging out with her kids, cooking, reading, watching Netflix, and riding her bike. “I am very lucky, because my husband can stay with the kids during the week. And when he does work outside of the home, my mother-in-law takes care of them.”

Picking a favorite movie, according to Monica, would be like picking a favorite child. “Growing up my favorite movie was *Labyrinth* and the *Sound of Music*,” she said. “Now, it’s *The Long Kiss Goodnight*, and of course, *A Few Good Men*.”

DES Does “Live Fire” Training in Hialeah

AirSoft training hailed as “realistic and safe” by Guards



Construction moves forward on new Miramar Readiness Center



Florida National Guard PAO

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – The future of the National Guard in South Florida became more apparent recently, as construction moved forward on a new multi-million dollar readiness center north of Miami.

A “notice to proceed” for construction was issued on Jan. 21 for the 104,000-square-foot Miramar Readiness Center, located on the Snake Creek Training Site in Southern Broward County.

Florida National Guard Construction and Facility Management Officer Lt. Col. Mark Wid-

ener said that site work has begun on the facility, and is scheduled for completion in late 2015.

The \$19.9 million project is funded with Military Construction (MILCON) funds for Fiscal Year 2013.

When completed, the two-story building will include traditional National Guard facility features like an assembly hall, storage spaces, platoon areas, and offices. The design will also be highly energy efficient and meet the “Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design” (LEED) Silver certification rating set by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The four units that will call the Miramar Readiness Center their new home are three units from the 1st Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment (Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Charlie Company, and the Forward Support Company) and the 13th Army Band.

Widener pointed out that the new Miramar Readiness Center will alleviate overcrowding issues these units face in their current facilities, especially for the infantry units that were based in the Robert A. Ballard Armory in Miami. He also said the new center would give the Florida National Guard a greater footprint in south Broward County and north Miami-Dade County.

“Strategically this puts a major facility on the northern fringes of Miami-Dade,” Widener explained. “This puts us in a better posture to handle any type of emergencies that would happen in the Miami-Dade area... This site could be vital as a Logistics Staging Area if you had a hurricane go through.”

The new facility will be constructed on approximately 30 acres of the southern portion of the 322-acre Snake Creek Training Site.

ASIST Saves Lives

The Army Substance Abuse Program at U.S. Army Garrison-Miami sponsored an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training this February. Twenty-one people from all over the United States attended, including 11 from USAG-Miami.

LivingWorks, the company who provides the training and their Headquarters, are located in Canada. LivingWorks program provides caregivers and other helpers with awareness and skills that help to save lives. The program is part of national, regional and organizational suicide prevention strategies around the world.

ASIST is a two day interactive workshop that prepares caregivers to provide suicide life assisting, first aid intervention. Small group discussions and skills practice are based on adult learning principles. ASIST teaches Pathways for Assisting Life (PAL), a practical guide to doing suicide interventions.

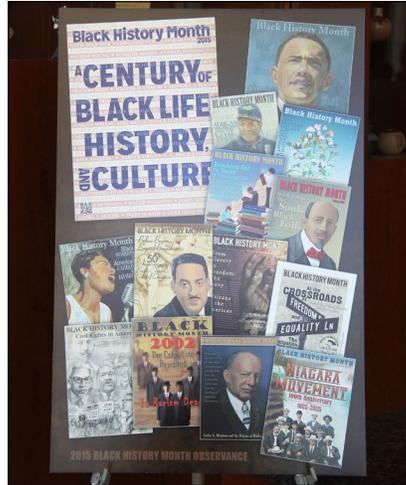
To attend this class candidates may be a caregiver formally or not, adults and youth 16 and older.

If you would like to send Personnel to the class please contact the Suicide Prevention Program Manager, Cheryl Davis at 305-437-2932 or email at Cheryl.a.davis10.civ@mail.mil or the Prevention Coordinator (PC), Carmen Rivera at 305-437-3076 or email at Carmen.i.riveramartinez.ctr@mail.mil

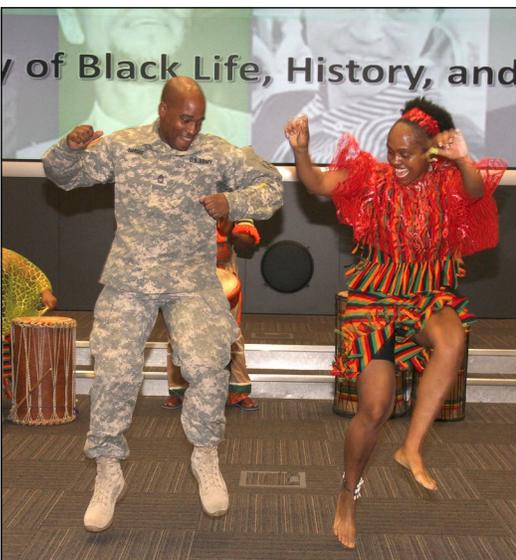
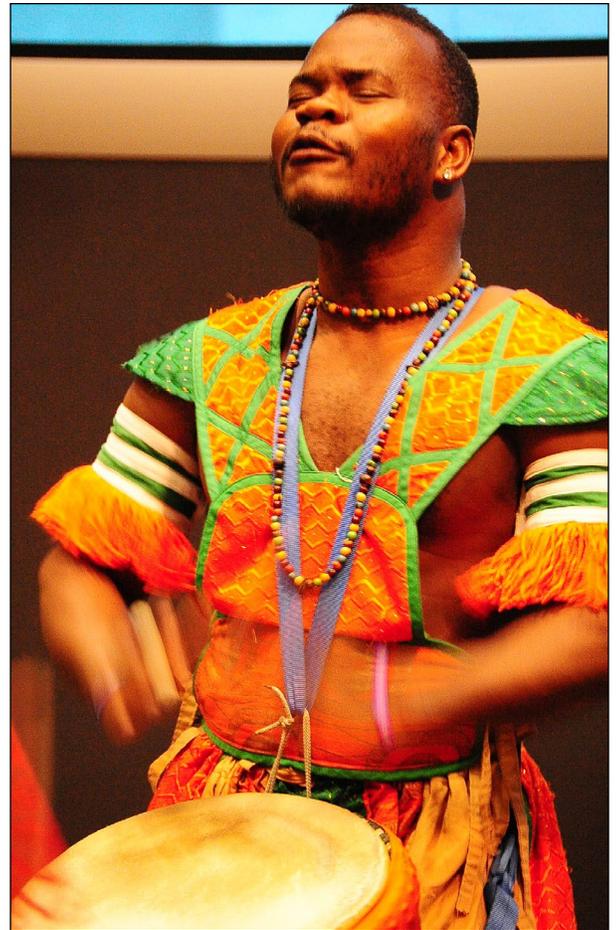
Special Emphasis Program Black History Month Event



The MLK/Black History Month Observance held Feb. 12 at the Conference Center of the Americas was hosted by the noncommissioned officers of SOUTHCOM's J2 and J3. It included the Sasa



African Dance Theater, and Master Drummer Sadiou Ba of the National Ballet of Guinea, performing a rousing live dance routine. Founder and dancer Sheila McCray (in green) said it was "intimidating and exhilarating" to perform -- for the first time -- for members of the military.



SCENE AROUND SOUTH FLORIDA



Tech. Sgt. Lakisha A. Croley

TOP LEFT: Garrison Manager Andy Bird signs his donation ticket for Military Emergency Relief at the kickoff, held in conjunction with the FMWR visit by the Miami Marlins Feb. 19. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Bird (r) and Joyce Kennedy, School Liaison (middle); meet with Broward Schools Superintendent Robert W. Runcie (2d from right), Lt. Col. Kenneth Green (l), and Lucia Romero, (2d from left) **TOP RIGHT:** Lt. Gen. Kenneth Tovo receives Marlins memorabilia from catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia **BELOW:** Volunteers from SOUTHCOM participate during the Miami Beach Bowl at Marlins Park. Maj. Delmayca Kramer, SOUTHCOM J1, sang the National Anthem.

Cell Phone Exception to Policy Granted for USAG-M

Alex Martinez
Information Management Officer

There is a lot of relief and excitement as recently the Garrison was approved an Exception To Policy from the SOUTHCOM Wireless Policy 07-13.

This means that cell phones

can be used inside the entire USAG-Miami services building with the exception of those areas where SIPR work stations exist.

You must leave your cell phones outside of any room that has a SIPR work station.

You also may not use your phone as a "hotspot" to enable yourself or anyone the ability to

use WiFi internet via your phone.

Tablets, Laptops, iPods with WiFi and all other items listed in the policy are still not allowed.

Please refer to the SC Policy 07-13 if you have any questions concerning these items.

You can also contact me at x1431 for any further questions or concerns.

Internet Explorer 11 Upgrade awareness

Gladys York
525th Signal Company

As we roll out the 64-bit baseline to user's computers we are also rolling out Internet Explorer 11. Be advised that, although the Internet has moved on to IE11, many of the GOV and MIL sites are still dependent on IE9.

Until they catch up, if you have issues with a site, you have to options:

1) Add the site to IE11's Compatibility View (while on the site, select TOOLS, COMPATIBILITY VIEW, and add the site). However this does not always work.

2) If Compatibility View does not work, use Firefox as an alternative.

Farewell to Ivania

The Garrison said goodbye to an essential member of the Command team today. Ivania Chavarria-Montero will be finishing her education and staying in the Miami area, to start her own business Keiki Nest.

Keiki Nest will be a consulting and education firm, helping parents with educational resources to better raise their children. She said many tearful goodbyes, thanking her co-workers for their support, advice and ears.

Her happy children then cut the cake and began feeding the assembled crowd to the strains of 80's dance music.



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