Preface

Chief Librarian, Karen Olender, at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), created this document that provides background and reference material information for Hispanic Heritage Month 2007. This document is posted on the Internet at: https://www.deomi.org. Additionally, there are various materials on the web site that support other national observances.

The opinions expressed in this report are those of the author, and should not be construed to represent the official position of DEOMI, the military Services, or the Department of Defense.

Cover design by Mr. Pete Hemmer, Ki Corporation, contractor with the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute.

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Many sub-groups make-up the Hispanic/Latino ethnic and cultural group: Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Central and South American. Each group has its own history in the immigration story of America but they share a common bond in their language.

_The Hispanic American Almanac: A Reference Work on Hispanics in the United States_, published by Thomson Gale, provides a wealth of knowledge about Hispanics in America. Topics include emigration histories, the labor movement, Hispanic businesses, the arts, famous personalities, prominent scientists, and historic landmarks.

Hispanics have served heroically in the Armed Forces. In August 2007, PBS television stations premiered the documentary film, _The Borinqueneers_, the story of the Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment, the only all-Hispanic unit in the history of the U.S. Army. This film, narrated by Hector Elizondo, includes interviews with veterans, commanding officers, and historians. For more information see http://www.borinqueneers.com/home.php.

**REFERENCES**

**Books**

*Hispanic Cultural Influences:*


This is a fun book which asks questions (preguntas) in both English and Spanish about Hispanic culture, history, and prominent persons. Answers are compiled at the end of the book.


Two sociologists and sixteen geographers look at cultural geography, regional diversity, and community-type of Hispanic/Latino groups.


This book examines various Hispanic/Latino experiences by exploring the sub-groups that make up the Hispanic/Latino population.

Examining the history of Latino immigration, the author looks at the Puerto Rican migration to New York in the 1950’s, the Cuban migration to Miami, and the migration of Mexicans to Los Angeles.


The author, a former Latino affairs correspondent for the Los Angeles Times, captures the Latino experience through a series of vignettes of Hispanics living in different parts of the United States.

*Hispanics in the Military:*


The author spent three years in several Army hospitals recovering from wounds he received in WWII. He decided to write this book because he couldn’t find Spanish-named soldiers in the novels and motion pictures made about the war years and he wanted to tell about the exploits of Hispanic soldiers.


This book is a listing of Arizona Hispanics who served as pilots, navigators, flight engineers, gunners, and radio operators during WWII.


Son of migrant field workers, Hank Cervantes became a pilot in WWII and had a successful career in the United States Air Force.

Harris, W. W. Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Ret.). *Puerto Rico’s Fighting 65th U.S. Infantry: From San Juan to Chorwan*.

The story of the *Borinqueneers* is related by their commanding officer of two years who led his men in combat for nine months in Korea.

*Prominent Hispanics:*


The author is chairman of the Center for Equal Opportunity, a non-profit public policy research organization. This book relates Chavez’s journey from being a member of the Young People’s Socialist League to becoming a Reagan Republican and personal experiences that shaped her views.


Born in Puerto Rico in 1922, Antonia Pantoja moved to New York in 1944 and eventually became an activist. She was awarded the Medal of Freedom in 1996 in recognition of her work in organizing Puerto Ricans to overcome the barriers of poverty, increasing political awareness, and promoting economic opportunities.


This memoir by journalist and social critic, Richard Rodriguez, looks at race in American culture.


This is the story of the founder of the United Farm Workers of America who worked to prevent the exploitation of farm workers and improve their working conditions.


Julian Nava was the first Mexican-American to serve as ambassador to Mexico. He obtained a PhD in History from Harvard and served on the Los Angeles School Board during challenging times when school walkouts, desegregation, and bilingual issues confronted education administration.

**Audiovisuals**

Running time: 150 minutes

From the American Revolution through Desert Storm, this documentary explores the contributions of Hispanic Americans in the armed forces.

Running time: 35 minutes

Hispanic leaders such as: Dr. Antonio Novello, the first Hispanic woman to serve as U.S. Surgeon General; Joseph Unanue, owner of the largest Hispanic food company; and Raul Yzaguirre, advocate for justice and equality talk about work ethics and role models that made a different in their lives.

Running time: 50 minutes

This documentary narrated by Hector Elizondo explores the role of Hispanics in the armed services.

Running time: 50 minutes

This is a history of recent Hispanic immigration beginning in 1959 with Cuban exiles coming to America.

Running time: 40 minutes

Bill Moyers talks with journalist and social critic Richard Rodriguez about race, culture, class and religion.

**On-Line Magazines**


This publication presents articles, events, and information about Hispanic heritage issues.

This magazine provides a wide range of articles about entertainment, history and social issues.

This online publication profiles leaders in the Hispanic community.

**Web sites**


Information included in this Web site was taken from a print publication, *Hispanic Americans in Congress, 1822–1995*.


This Center for Military History Web site features images from the U.S. Army in Puerto Rico and a list of Hispanic Medal of Honor winners.


LULAC is the largest and oldest Hispanic Organization in the United States and has more than 700 council offices nationwide offering community-based programs.


Braceros was the name given to farm workers recruited from Mexico under the Bracero Treaty of 1942 between Mexico and the United States that allowed employment of Mexicans to alleviate the manual labor shortages resulting from the military draft of WWII.


This organization’s Web site provides news resources, publications, policy briefs and white papers on Latino civil rights and current issues.


This Web site accesses travel itineraries to locations of Hispanic American historic places.

This Web site chronicles the diverse experience of Hispanics in America and is supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts. The Pew research component conducts public opinion polls to gather Latino views on social and public policy.

*Smithsonian Latino Center.* Retrieved August 22, 2007 from [http://www.latino.si.edu](http://www.latino.si.edu)

This Smithsonian Institution features this Web site that includes Latino art collections, music collections, exhibits, museum resources, and the Latino Virtual Gallery.