

20th NATIONAL
Anniversary **LATINA** *Symposium*
Distinguished Military Service Awards



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September 21, 2023

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20th NATIONAL Anniversary **LATINA** *Symposium*

Who we are, What we do

LATINA *Style*, Inc. broke new ground in 1994 when Anna Maria Arias launched the first national magazine dedicated to the needs and concerns of the Latina professional workingwoman and the Latina business owner in the United States. Since then, *LATINA Style* Magazine has become the most influential publication reaching the professional Hispanic working woman in the nation. The culturally sensitive editorial environment of the magazine showcases Latina achievements in all areas of endeavor, including business, corporate America, science, education, civic and political affairs, and the military, to name a few. In addition to the critical information the magazine provides to its readers, *LATINA Style*, Inc. produces four of the most respected programs in the nation: the ***LATINA Style 50 Awards and Diversity Leaders Conference***, the ***LATINA Style Business Series***, and the ***National LATINA Symposium***. All programs are designed to highlight and profile Latina achievement and build a bridge with the general market.



Behind the 20th Annual National *LATINA Symposium*

The *LATINA Style* Distinguished Military Service Awards recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of women in the military, Department of Defense civilian workforce, and Service Academies who have enhanced the role of Latinas in their organization, DoD and Academy. Launched in 2004, the National *LATINA Symposium* brings together the largest gathering of Latina military leaders in the nation. The Symposium ascertains through panel discussions, in-depth surveys and commentaries and the status of the Latina working woman in the United States. Among the issues discussed are career development, business opportunities, family issues, health and wellness, cultural sensitivity, political, civic responsibility, and military career. The National *LATINA Symposium* is a one-day event that convenes Latinas from coast to coast to address the most pressing issues affecting their lives. The highlight of the National *LATINA Symposium* is the Distinguished Military Service Awards Luncheon honoring Latinas serving in the Armed Forces. Two other notable recognitions that are given at the National *LATINA Symposium* are the Corporate Veteran ERG of the Year and the Veteran of the Year Award.

20th NATIONAL Anniversary **LATINA** Symposium



NLS through the years...





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20th NATIONAL Anniversary **LATINA** Symposium

WELCOME

Welcome to the 20th Annual National LATINA Symposium: Celebrating Latina Excellence in the Military!



Lupita Colmenero
Chief Operating Officer
LATINA Style, Inc.

We are thrilled to have you join us in honoring and celebrating the remarkable accomplishments and empowerment of Latinas in our armed forces. For over two decades, the NLS has been a beacon of recognition and inspiration, highlighting the incredible stories of LATINAS who have gone above and beyond in their service. Since our inception in 2004, we have proudly recognized 278 Hispanic women, four men, and 21 academy cadets for their unwavering dedication and exemplary record in the service of our great nation. Their stories of courage and determination continue to inspire and motivate us all. These extraordinary individuals are bestowed with the prestigious Distinguished Military Service Award.

We are honored to bring you the powerful narratives of Latina service members and a series of workshops filled with invaluable insights. No matter your field – whether you're in politics, corporate America, business, or an entrepreneur – our lineup of speakers will address topics on leadership, nurturing Latina success, and transitioning from active military service to civilian careers.

The crown jewel of our Symposium is, without a doubt, the **Distinguished Military Service Awards** ceremony. In 2023, we take immense pride in honoring 26 exceptional Latinas from various branches of the Armed Forces, both active duty and civilian-military service. We are especially excited to present the title of **Veteran of the Year** to Colonel Lisa Carrington Firmin, USAF (ret), a Bronze Star Award recipient Latina who has transitioned into an accomplished author and lecturer. The Military Corporate ERG of the Year is Accenture. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to The Honorable Christine Wormuth, Secretary of the United States Army, RDML Maria Aguayo of the United States Navy, and Dr. Donna Navarro, Sr. Advisor to the U.S. Coast Guard, for their support and participation. We also recognize two outstanding men, Lt Col Jose L. Montalvan, USMC, and Mr. Danny Vargas, founder of the American Latino Veterans Association (ALVA), for their unwavering support of women in the military and veterans.

We must express our profound gratitude to our long-standing partner, the Association of Naval Services Officers (ANSO), and its leadership, including U.S. Navy CPT (Ret) Roy Love and LCDR Rolando Machado Jr., U.S. Navy. Their enduring support and leadership have been instrumental in making this conference possible. We are delighted to present a special panel focusing on Latinas in the Intelligence Agencies and the Secret Service. Their journeys are quite unique and inspirational. Together, let's make this year's conference the most unforgettable yet! To all our esteemed panelists and participants, we extend our warmest thanks for contributing to the success of this unique conference.

In closing, our deepest thanks to our corporate partners, Walmart, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, SAIC, and to all the women and men serving our country, particularly those in distant and perilous lands. Your courage and dedication are our pride, and we eagerly await your safe return. You are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Warm Regards,
Lupita Colmenero



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PROGRAM AGENDA

- 8:00 am** *****Opening Ceremony*****
Welcome Remarks: Robert E. Bard, President & CEO, LATINA Style, Inc.
Mistress of Ceremony: SMSgt Christian Johnson, US Air Force
Title Sponsor Remarks: Odalys Fajardo Guerrero, VP of Global Investigations, Walmart
Sponsor Remarks: Mark Elliott, Managing Director & Global Head of Military & Veteran Affairs, JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Sponsor Remarks: Marlo Kankel, HR Executive and Army Veteran, Wells Fargo
- *Special Recognition to the 2023 Corporate Veteran ERG's**
***Special Recognition to the 2023 Veteran of the Year**
- 9:10 am** **Session 1 – Powerful Leadership Lessons... Leading by Example**
Moderator: CAPT Judy T. Malana, United States Navy
Panelist: LT Col Angelica M. S. Heiderich, United States Air Force
Panelist: RDML Maria “Lore” Aguayo, United States Navy
Panelist: COL Maria McMillen, United States Marine Corps
Panelist: CAPT Monique Roebuck, United States Coast Guard
- 10:10 am** **Session 2 – Nurturing Latina Success (Award Recipients Panel)**
Moderator: MAJ Lidilia Garcia, United States Army
Panelist: LTC Maribel M. Lee, United States Army
Panelist: CPT Anna Alicia Zamora, United States National Guard
Panelist: CPT Frances Castillo, United States Air Force
Panelist: LtCol Vanesa E. Sigala, United States Marine Corps
Panelist: LTCOL Natasha I. Peeples, United States Space Force
- 11:15 am** **Session 3 – Successfully Transitioning from Active Military Service to Civilian & Corporate Careers**
Intro: Lourdes Tiglao, Executive Director, Center for Women Veterans, Dept. Veteran Affairs
Moderator: Catherine Hernandez-Blades, SVP of Marketing and Communications, SAIC
Panelist: Jeyben Castro, Deputy Director Office of D&I at U.S. House of Representatives
Panelist: Jennifer Powell, Senior Manager, Corporate Affairs, Walmart
Panelist: Brian Armstrong, Head of Military Recruitment, Wells Fargo
Panelist: Latoya Roberts, Vice President, Careers & Skills, Military & Veteran Affairs, JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- 12:10 pm** **Session 4 – Latina Leadership in our Nation's Intelligence Agencies and the Secret Service**
Moderator: Ilka Rodriguez, President, I. Rodriguez & Associates
Panelist: Stephanie La Rue, Chief of Diversity Equite & Inclusion, Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Panelist: Darnelly De Jesus, Deputy Assistant Director, United States Secret Service
Panelist: Arlene Gaylord, Executive Assistant Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation



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PROGRAM AGENDA

DISTINGUISHED MILITARY SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTATION LUNCHEON

Special Guest Speaker

Dr. Donna (Mischell) Navarro, Senior Executive Service, Senior Advisor for Diversity and Inclusion, U.S. Coast Guard

Special Guest Speaker

Sergeant Major Carlos A. Ruiz, United States Marine Corps

Keynote Speaker

Secretary of the Army Honorable Christine Wormuth

PRESIDENT'S AWARD PRESENTATION

Impact Award

Danny Vargas, American Latino Veterans Association (ALVA)

Excellence Award

LtCol Jose L. Montalvan, United States Marine Corps

DISTINGUISHED MILITARY SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTATION

Mistress of Ceremony

SMSgt Christian Johnson, United States Air Force

Presentation of the Colors

Armed Forces Color Guard

National Anthem

Chief Musician Susan L. Kavinski, United States Navy

Salute to Fallen Heroes

AWARDS PRESENTATION

United States Army

LTC Maribel Munoz Lee
CW2 Angelic Leyna Smith
SSG Martha Erosa
MS. Isabel Diaz Goode
Cadet Julia N. Rodriguez
Cadet Olivia N. Shackleton
Cadet Ashely Garcia

United States Marine Corps

COL Maria Mcmillen
Major Vanessa E. Sigala
GYSGT Frances L. Leon
Corporal Ana Paola Rincones Urbina

United States Navy

LT Lake C. Coreth
IS2 Caroline Pagan
MS. Norma Domingo
MIDN Ivette Ayala

United States Air Force

CPT Frances Castillo
CPT Nahira Figueroa
SSGT Cassandra Caballero
MS. Susana A. June
Cadet 1st. Class Angie Maravi Campos

United States Space Force

LT COL Natasha I. Peeples
MS. Andrea Aguirre

United States Coast Guard

LTJG Melanie Arroyave
MST2 Roa Gomes Gavidia
IS1 Monserrat Lazaro Rivera

United States National Guard

CPT Anna Alicia Zamora

Honorable Mention Recipients

Closing Remarks

Robert Bard, President & CEO, LATINA Style, Inc.

Program Concludes



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2023 Veteran of the Year

Lisa Carrington Firmin, Colonel, Ret., USAF



Lisa Carrington Firmin
Colonel, Ret., USAF

Lisa Carrington Firmin is a Latina, combat vet, writer, award winning author, and poet. Founder/CEO of Carrington Firmin LLC providing writing and consulting services in Leadership, Veterans, Transitions, Military Sexual Trauma (MST) and Diversity and Inclusion. Her poetry is an intimate reflection into the invisible wounds of MST, PTSD, trauma, combat, and life's challenges. Featured on various media to include documentary regarding her poetry, leadership, advocacy for underrepresented populations in addition to her book, *Stories from the Front: Pain, Betrayal, and Resilience on the MST Battlefield*. Coming in November 2023 is *Latina Warrior*, a unique collaborative autobiography with poems, prose, and art.

Carrington Firmin retired from the United States Air Force as its most senior ranking Latina officer, after leading The University of Texas at San Antonio's (UTSA) AF ROTC program to the best in the nation. Awarded a Bronze Star Medal for efforts in combat as an Expeditionary Mission Support Group Commander in Iraq's Sunni Triangle. Has received many honors and accolades such as the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, UTSA's President's Distinguished Diversity Award, United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce National Latina Leader award, Governor of Texas' Yellow Rose award, National Diversity Council's Trailblazer and Most Powerful and Influential Women in Texas awards, Texas Diversity Council's Greater San Antonio LGBT Ally Award, Hispanic Women's Network of Texas Trailblazer Award, Distinguished Alumni Award from Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Community Service Award from National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and a Military Writers Society of America book award.

In 2023, one of her poems was featured by the Department of Veterans Affairs in their new motto unveiling. She published articles in *Military Officer* and *Latina Style* magazines and led a Writing to Heal session during South Texas' Veterans Health Care System's Mental Health Summit. In 2022, she was featured in *Hispanic Executive Magazine*, was a participating artist in *Uniting US's From Conflict to Creativity* at the Library of Congress, and keynoted events across the country. In 2021, two of her poems were featured in a national art exhibit at the Military Women's Memorial in Washington, DC.

As founder of the Veteran and Military Affairs department at UTSA, she consolidated all veteran support services on campus, started priority registration and a tailored veteran orientation program, instituted scholarships for military affiliated students and created case studies and a Veteran Culture Competence training module. Previously as Associate Provost for Faculty/Student Diversity & Recruitment, she founded the UTSA Top Scholar and the Presidential Distinguished Diversity awards programs and led the addition of Gender Identity/Gender Expression to the university's nondiscrimination policy.

Carrington Firmin serves as a member of the inaugural Department of Defense Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (DACODAI), the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans (ACMV), a member of the Texas A&M University-Kingsville University's Foundation Board of Trustees, the first woman board member of the Hispanic Veterans Leadership Alliance, the Military Officers Association of America, the Military Writing Society of America and is a life member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Women Veterans Alliance. She holds the National Diversity Council's Certified Diversity Professional designation and is a Certified True Colors® Facilitator. To learn more, please go to <https://www.lisacarringtonfirmin.com/>



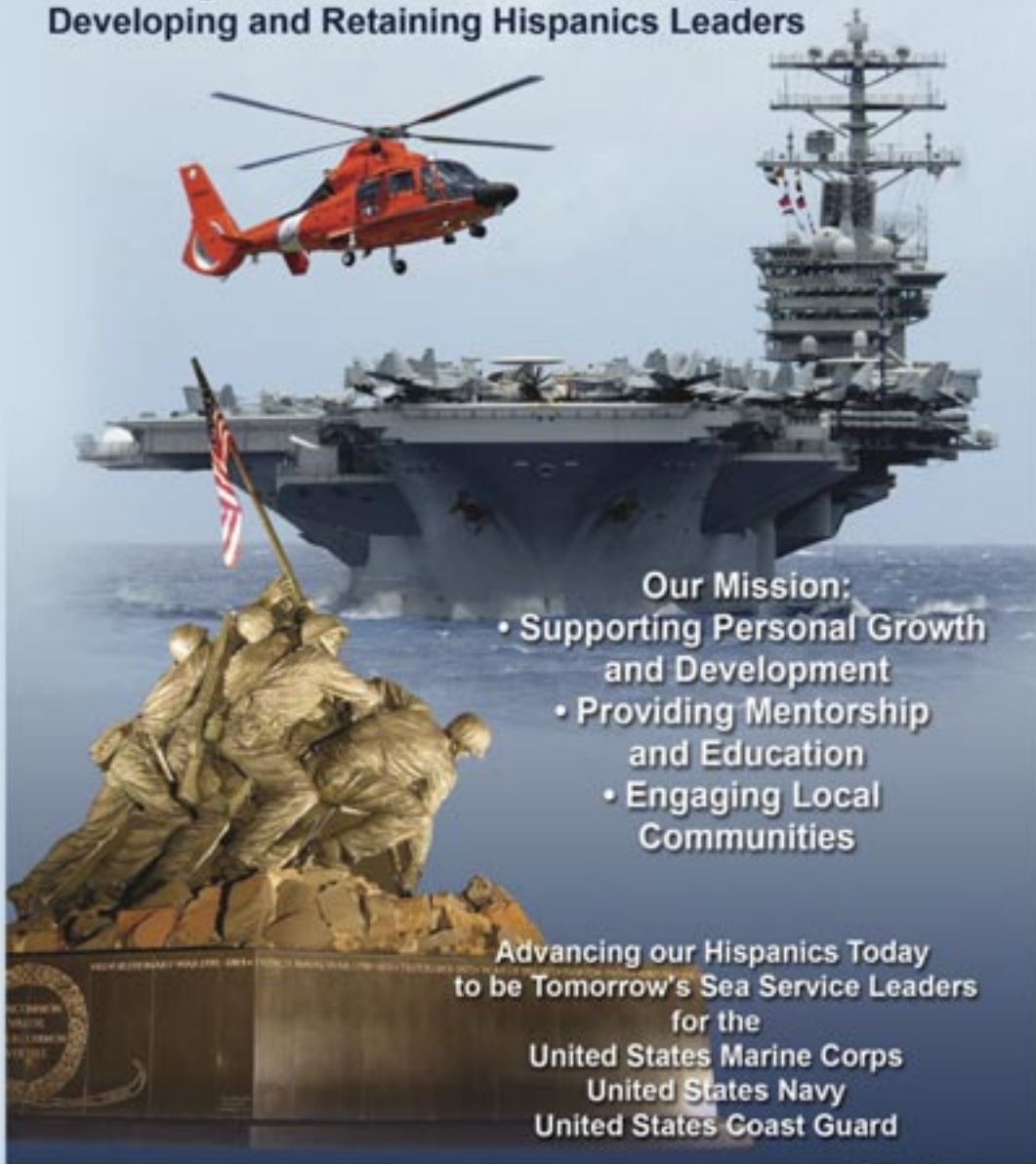
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2023 Western Region Symposium 5-7 December 2023, San Diego, California

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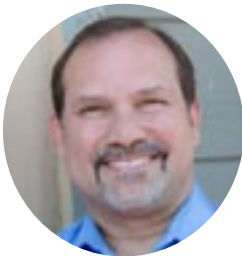
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2023 Impact Award

*Raul “Danny” Vargas, American Latino Veterans Association
(ALVA)*



Raul “Danny” Vargas
Founder/President
ALVA

Raul "Danny" Vargas is an award-winning noted business and community leader, accomplished media commentator, and marketing/public relations professional. Named “101 Most Influential Latinos” in America in 2020 and 2021 by Latino Leaders Magazine, he is a product of the mean streets of New York City, he has created opportunities, overcome challenges, and beaten the odds all his life. He has made a mark not only in business but in the community as well. Danny is a proud US Air Force intelligence veteran, serving seven years on active duty (including nearly five years in Panama) in important national security missions and later in similar roles with Raytheon.

Danny has long advocated for commonsense solutions for a variety of causes including, diversity, equity & inclusion, workforce development, veterans support, energy, economic development, health IT, immigration reform, transportation and more. A sought-after public speaker, Mr. Vargas is committed to keeping his community and our nation vibrant, thriving, and strong.

The American Latino Veterans Association (ALVA) is a registered 501c3 that exists to help American Latino veterans. Thrive after their military service, access the benefits they have earned, and enhance recognition of Latino contributions to our nation’s defense since before its inception. The Mission of ALVA is to help Latino veterans thrive and recognize their indispensable contributions.



ALVA is committed to being impactful, innovate, and responsive. In order to meet that commitment, ALVA will

- Respectfully honor the service and sacrifice of our members and all Latino veterans throughout our history.
- Engage with our key stakeholders and carefully listen to their needs and suggestions.
- Conduct ourselves with integrity and ethics in all we do.
- Celebrate the diversity of our community and embrace all perspectives.

2023 Excellence Award

LtCol Jose L. Montalvan
United States Marine Corps



Lieutenant Colonel (LtCol) Jose L. Montalvan, originally from Nicaragua, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1995 from his adopted home of Hialeah, FL. He graduated from the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training Program in 2000. Upon graduation, he was selected to the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program. LtCol Montalvan attended Florida State University, as part of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps, where he obtained his Bachelor of Science in Criminology. LtCol Montalvan was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 2002.

LtCol Jose L. Montalvan

United States
Marine Corps

As a company grade officer, LtCol Montalvan served as the Motor Transport and Assistant Logistics Officer for 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines where he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He subsequently served as the Executive and Operations Officer for Recruiting Station Albuquerque, NM. His follow-on assignments included Assistant Logistics Officer for the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit where he deployed in support of Western Pacific 11-2 and Support Branch Officer-In-Charge for I Special Operations Training Group; later renamed to I Expeditionary Operations Training Group.

As a field grade officer, LtCol Montalvan served as the Expeditionary Branch Officer-In-Charge at Marine Corps Logistics Operations Group. He then completed his Joint tour at Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, United States Strategic Command; where he served as an Integrated Missile Defense Watch Commander and later as the Global Ballistic Missile Defense Training, Education, and Exercise Director. Upon completion of his Jointed tour, LtCol Montalvan served as the 6th Marine Corps District Recruiting Operations Officer. Currently, LtCol Montalvan is a student at the National War College.

LtCol Montalvan is a graduate of the Expeditionary Warfare School and the Marine Corps Command and Staff Non-Resident program. His personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with a Gold Star in lieu of Second Award, Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star in lieu of Second Award, Navy and Marine Corps achievement medal with Gold star in lieu of Second Award, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal with Bronze Star, and Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal with Bronze Star.

LtCol Montalvan resides in Alexandria, Virginia with his family.

2023 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients



LTC Maribel Munoz Lee
United States Army

LTC Lee was born in Dominican Republic. She attended Telecommunication Arts and Technology High School, where she became the News Paper Editor and a Member of the Debate Team. LTC Lee was placed in the foster care system and transferred to Newtown HS where she graduated with Honors. LTC Lee attended Hofstra University and joined the Army before graduating. In March 1999, She joined the Army as a Private First class, 92A (Automated Logistic Specialist). She left active duty four years later to finish her degree. LTC Lee's military education and certification include Ordnance Officer Basic Course, Logistic Captain Career Course, Command and General Staff Course, Theater Logistic Planning Course, Demonstrated Master Logistician, Support Operations Officer Course, Joint Operational Planner Course. LTC Lee Military awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Humanitarian Service Medal, NATO Service Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon. LTC Lee is a devoted mother to Penelope 24 and Joseph 11.



CW2 Angelic Leyna Smith
United States Army

CW2 Angelic Leyna Smith, an esteemed Chief Warrant Officer Two and Geospatial Engineer, has exemplified exceptional dedication and expertise in her military career. Having earned her AA in General Studies from Central Texas Community College and a BS in Geography from Park University, CW2 Smith possesses a strong educational foundation. Her commitment to continuous growth led her to complete the Carnegie Mellon University Army Fellowship Artificial Intelligence Technician course, further enhancing her knowledge and skills in the field. She holds certifications in CompTIA Cloud Essentials, PCEP (Certified Entry-Level Python Programmer), ITIL (IT Infrastructure Library), AZ-900 (Azure Fundamentals), and Google User Experience. Born into a military family at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, CW2 Smith carries on the proud tradition. Her father, a retired SGM who joined the Army from Puerto Rico, instilled in her a deep sense of service. Alongside her husband, she enlisted in the Army in 2006. Tragically, her husband passed away unexpectedly in May 2023, leaving behind three sons, Izaiah (22), Adrian (18), and Keith III (10). Despite this profound loss, CW2 Smith continues to serve with unwavering dedication. CW2 Smith remains committed to her personal and professional growth. In the fall of 2023, she will pursue a Master's degree in User Experience, further enhancing her expertise in the field. Her continuous pursuit of knowledge and certifications underscores her determination to support her current role as an Artificial Intelligence Technician. CW2 Angelic Leyna Smith's exceptional achievements, unwavering dedication, and commitment to excellence have distinguished her as an invaluable asset to the Army. She is highly respected by her superiors, peers, and community leaders, and she represents the Hispanic community with dignity and pride.

2023 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients



SSG Martha Erosa
United States Army

SSG Erosa was born in Los Angeles CA. She enlisted in the US Army in Dec 2014. She attended Basic Combat Training at Ft. Sill OK and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Sam Houston, TX. Upon completion of training, she was awarded the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 68F, Physical Therapy Specialist. SSG Erosa grew up in Yucatan, Mexico, until she joined the Army in SSG Erosa graduated from Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan with bachelor's degree on Physical Therapy, and she is currently studying a master's degree in Exercise Science with a major on Fitness and Human Performance at American Military University. Her military education includes Basic Leader Course, Mobile Retention Training, Master Fitness Trainer Course, Master Resilience Trainer Course Levels I & II, Advanced Leaders Course, Honor Guard Training, SHARP Foundation Course, Cadre Resilience Course and WTB Cadre Course. SSG Erosa's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon with numeral 2, Army Service Ribbon, and Multinational Force and Observers Medal.



Ms. Isabel Diaz Goode
United States Army

Ms. Isabel Goode is currently the Chief of the Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) Division with DEVCOM Analysis Center (DAC). Prior to this developmental assignment, she served as a Branch Chief in DAC's Cyber Experimentation and Analysis Division (CEAD). Ms. Goode returned to ARL in 2016 as a Branch Chief with Cyber Electronic Protection Division. In addition to her Branch Chief duties with CEAD, she leads Talent Management initiatives and champions the Cyber Center for Analysis and Assessment, a partnership established with The University of Texas at El Paso, that serves as a talent pipeline for high-demand cybersecurity professionals. This work involves a successful year-round internship program, sponsorship of Senior Capstone Projects, and a variety of outreach events for K-12 and college students. Ms. Goode has also served as the Contracting Officer Representative for three multimillion-dollar contracts with UTEP, New Mexico State University's Physical Science Laboratory, and SUGPIAT Defense Group. Ms. Goode's awards include:

- Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Award Corporation (HENAAC) Award for Military/ Professional Achievement (2004)
- Commander's Award for Civilian Service (2008)
- Achievement Medal for Civilian Service (2010)

Ms. Goode received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from The University of Texas at El Paso. She is a member of the Army Acquisition Corps and is Level III Certified in Test and Evaluation. She lives in El Paso with her children: James (22) and Jocelyn (17).

2023 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients



Cadet Julia N. Rodriguez
United States Army

CDT Rodriguez attended Military Police OSUT while assigned to Charlie Company, 795th Military Police Battalion, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO in October 2013. Following graduation, her initial assignment, in April 2014, was to 300th Military Police Company, 97th Military Police Battalion, Ft. Riley, KS. She served as a Military Police Officer and Team Leader. She performed law enforcement duties and supervised Military Police Soldiers in support of the Military community. Her next assignment was in March 2017 as a Squad Leader and Arms Room NCOIC with 188th Military Police Company, 94th Military Police Battalion at Camp Walker, South Korea. She maintained operational readiness across three theater level exercises. She was selected as a Sergeant Audie Murphy Member earning her the Sergeant Audie Murphy Award. CDT Rodriguez's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3rd award), Army Achievement Medal (9th award), Army Good Conduct Medal (3rd Award), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (numeral 2), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, the Drill Sergeant Badge, and the Parachutist Badge, Sergeant Audie Murphy Award and the Order of the Saint Maurice. CDT Rodriguez's goals consist of attaining her doctoral degree in leadership, retiring as a LTC, and positively impacting women in the Army.



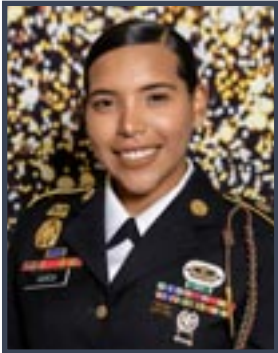
Cadet Olivia N. Shackleton
United States Army

Cadet Shackleton is a motivated cadet dedicated to serving her fellow Soldier and being a passionate advocate for all Cadets and Soldiers in the program. She Choose to enlist in the Army after graduating from high school, with a goal of eventually serving as an officer, and commissioning through Army ROTC while simultaneously earning her college degree. She put her education on hold to serve a tour in Iraq from August 2020 to July 2021, where Cadet Shackleton served with honor and used her native Spanish speaking skills to help her unit work alongside Spanish Armed forces, proving herself as a combat multiplier not only through her ability to competently communicate, but to understand and communicate cultural differences between Spanish and US forces.

Decorations, Service Medals, and Badges:

- Army Commendation Medal w/ "C" Device Army Achievement Medal
- Army Service Ribbon
- Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal National Defense Service Ribbon
- Global y.lar On Terrorism Service Medal Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/ "M" device
- Army Overseas Service Ribbon
- Inherent Resolve Campaign medal with campaign star

2023 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients



Cadet Ashley Garcia
United States Army

As a University of Central Florida Student, Ashley is part of the Health Service Administration Student Association club, where she builds upon the knowledge associated with her current studies in Bachelor in Health Services Administration with a minor in Military Science. She volunteers with Latin non-profit organizations such as Venezolanos in Orlando, Ponte En Sus Zapatos, and Mi Familia Vota, which support and aid Latin families across Central Florida. She is also member of Journey Church and serve as a small group leader mentoring young adults, and volunteer with her local Boys and Girls Club. As a UCF Army ROTC Cadet, Ashley is part of the Ranger Challenge Team, where she enjoys building upon her skill set and interpersonal tact. She is the primary team member for weapons assembly, disassembly, and radio communication. She was part of the university's Ranger Challenge that advanced to and competed in the regional Brigade competition, where they qualified for the United States Military Academy Sandhurst competition at West Point, NY. In the program, she has participated in various training events, including the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge for military proficiency (GAFPB), in which she earned a Gold badge. She has been able to serve her

program by volunteering in community service events, recruiting events, social media outreach, and as the Cadet lead planner for the military ball.



Col Maria McMillen
United States Marine Corps

Col Maria McMillen is from Craig, Colorado. She attended the United States Naval Academy and was commissioned in 1993. She attended Logistics Officer's Course at Little Creek, VA and was subsequently assigned as the Operations Officer and Executive Officer for Beach and Terminal Operations Company, 1st Landing Support Battalion. While there she deployed in support of OPERATION VIGILANT WARRIOR. She was then assigned to MEU Service Support Group 15 as the Embarkation Officer, and on the following deployment she was the Landing Support Detachment Commander and the Landing Force Support Party Commander. In 2009 she was assigned as the Combat Logistics Regiment-35 Executive Officer, and subsequently deployed to Afghanistan as the 1st Marine Division, G-3, Civil Military Operations, Operations Officer and Deputy, once back in Okinawa she served as the 3d Marine Logistics Group AC/S G-4 and Inspector General.

In 2012 she reported to Marine Corps University to serve as the School of Advanced Warfighting, Deputy Director. In 2014 she assumed command of and re-activated 3D Transportation Support Battalion. In 2016 she reported to 1st Marine Air Wing as the AC/S G-5. Beginning in 2018 she represented the United States as the Land Planner for the Military Delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels, Belgium.

Most recently she served as the Force Design Officer at Marine Corps Installations Command – Pacific. Currently she is the 3d Marine Logistics Group AC/S G-9 in charge of Force Design 2030 and Defense Policy Review Initiative - and their impacts on the logistics community in the Western Pacific.

2023 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients



Major Vanesa E. Sigala
United States Marine Corps

Major Sigala is a native of Los Angeles, California. She attended Long Island University and commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Class program, attending Officer Candidates School in 2003 and 2005. She commissioned in 2007 as a law contract and began attending law school the same year, graduating with a juris doctorate and licensing as an attorney in the state of New York in 2010. In May 2014, Major Sigala reported to Recruiting Station Atlanta. During her recruiting tour, she served as the Recruiting Station Operations Officer, managing enlisted recruiting operations for two years. She completed her last year as the Recruiting Station Executive Officer. She was selected on the Commandant's Career Level Education Board and reported to The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, Charlottesville, Virginia in July of 2020, where she earned a Masters of Law in Military Justice. In July of 2021, Major Sigala returned to The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia where she has served as the Command Judge Advocate. She currently advises the Commanding Officer and staff of The Basic School on all legal and ethical matters.

Major Sigala is married to Charles Boozer of Ball Ground, Georgia and has two children: Thomas (5) and Penny (3). Major Sigala's personal decorations include a Meritorious Service Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (x2).



GYSGT Frances L. Leon
United States Marine Corps

Gunnery Sergeant Leon was born on 1 June, 1990 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and grew up in San Juan, Puerto Rico. On 23 August, 2010 she enlisted into the Marine Corps. She attended Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island, South Carolina, followed by Marine Combat Training, and Supply Warehouse School in Camp Johnson, North Carolina, where she served as the class leader and received the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 3051 Supply Warehousemen. In June of 2017, Staff Sergeant Leon received orders to Marine Wing Support Squadron 24 where she served as the Detachment Logistics Chief. In May of 2018, Staff Sergeant Leon received orders to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, where she served as the Logistics Chief.

In February of 2019, Gunnery Sergeant Leon deployed to South Korea, where she served as the Logistics Chief for three squadrons, which included operations in Okinawa, Japan, Subic Bay, Philippines, and Guam. In December of 2019, Gunnery Sergeant Leon received orders to First Reconnaissance Battalion in Camp Pendleton, California where she served as the Battalion Logistics Chief. In June of 2021, Gunnery Sergeant Leon checked in to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323 where she currently serves as the Squadron Logistics Chief, the assistant Substance Abuse Control Officer, and the Equal Opportunity Representative. In 2022 Gunnery Sergeant Leon deployed to Europe in support of NATO contingency operations, which included Powidz, Poland, Fetesti, Romania, and Aviano, Italy.

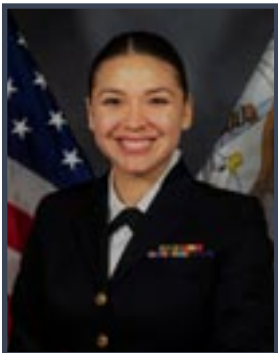
2023 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients



**Corporal Ana Paola
Rincones Urbina**

United States Marine Corps

Corporal Ana Paola Rincones Urbina was born and raised in Margarita Island, Venezuela, and immigrated to the United States in 2018. She enlisted in the Marine Corps in April 2020. In November 2020, she reported to Oscar Company, 4th Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina. Upon completion of recruit training in March 2021, Private First Class Rincones attended Marine Combat Training, School of Infantry at Camp Geiger, North Carolina. In May 2021, she was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal. In October 2021, she completed naturalization and became a U.S. Citizen. In November 2022, she was promoted to her current rank of Corporal. She currently serves as the Group Commander for the Woodwind Section, Flute Section Leader, and Public Affairs Office Clerk. Her personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. In May of 2023, she was the recipient of the 2023 Major McClung Leadership Award presented by Headquarters Marine Corps. Corporal Rincones holds a Bachelor of Music in Performance from the National University of the Arts and a Master of Music in Performance from Simon Bolivar University in Venezuela. In her personal time, she is an award-winning recording artist, educator, and philanthropist whose efforts support various non-profit organizations. She is married to Yonathan Gavidia who is also a professional percussion player, music producer, and recording artist.



LT Lake C. Coreth
United States Navy

LT Lake C. Coreth is a trial attorney serving with Region Legal Service Office Europe, Africa, Central and stationed in Rota, Spain. She commissioned through the Navy JAG Corps' Student Program after earning her juris doctorate degree with honors from Harvard Law School in 2016. While serving at RLSO EURAFCENT, she was recognized as Trial Counsel of the Year for 2021, Junior Officer of the Quarter Q3 FY 2022, and Junior Officer of the Year FY 2022. From June 2019 to August 2020, LT Coreth served at Defense Service Office West. She was recognized as the Junior Officer of the Quarter Q1 FY 2020 and was awarded a Navy Achievement Medal for her contributions to working groups of the JAGC Comprehensive Review.

From January 2019 to June 2019, LT Coreth served as Staff Judge Advocate for Commander, Destroyer Squadron One in support of Pacific Partnership 2019. As the primary legal adviser to the Mission Commander, she managed all civil, military justice, and discipline matters while executing humanitarian mission assignments in the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, and Timor Leste, earning her a Navy Achievement Medal. LT Coreth reported to Region Legal Service Office Southwest for her command services

and legal assistance rotations after graduating from Naval Justice School in April 2018 and Officer Development School in November 2017.

Prior to her active duty service, LT Coreth worked for the Honorable Gonzalo P. Curiel of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California from August 2016 to September 2017. She also served in Argentina as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar in 2012 after graduating from Boston College in 2011 with a bachelor of arts degree in both history and hispanic studies.

2023 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients



IS2 Caroline Pagan
United States Navy

IS2 Caroline Pagán was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She completed her bachelor's degree in Public Communication (Magna Cum Laude), specializing in Advertising & Public Relations, at the University of Puerto Rico. Additionally, she a master's degree in Communication, majoring in Public Relations, at the University of Sacred Heart, and a master's degree in Business Administration, with a focus on Human Resources, from National University College (NUC) University of Puerto Rico. She is also currently pursuing a master's in Business Administration, specializing in Digital Marketing, at NUC University. In 2023, she volunteered to serve as the Public Affairs Officer for the Association of Naval Services Officers (ANSO) D.C. Chapter, playing a vital role in the reactivation of the Chapter following three years of dormancy. In this capacity, she produced five exceptional newsletters, directly contributing to a 29% increase in membership, a 270% increase in revenue growth, and more than doubling the membership engagement and email click rate. Pagán possesses a wide range of personal interests. She is an avid reader, always eager to expand her knowledge and stay informed about industry trends. Photography is another passion of hers, as it allows her to capture and share meaningful moments. Traveling holds great significance in her life, as it exposes her to diverse cultures and perspectives. She actively engages in community service, dedicating her time to giving back and making a positive impact.



Ms. Norma Domingo
United States Navy

Ms. Norma Domingo is a first generation Mexican-American from El Paso, Texas. She joined the United States Navy as an airplane mechanic in 2007. After serving over four years and receiving multiple awards, including two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, she transitioned out of the Navy to attend college. She graduated from the University Of Washington Foster School Of Business in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Finance and Human Resources.

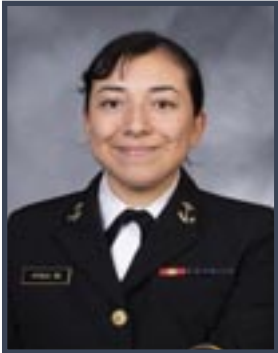
Ms. Domingo joined the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division, Keyport in August 2015 as a Financial Management Analyst in the Comptroller Department. She obtained her DoD Financial Management and her Continuous Process Improvement Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Certifications.

A passionate advocate for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion she serves as the Hispanic Employee Program (HEP) Special Emphasis Program Manager and is an active member of the Federal Women's Program at the Command and served a term as a Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Inclusion and Engagement Council Member.

During her time at NUWC Division, Keyport her efforts have been recognized with the Department of the Navy Civilian Service Achievement Medal, Warfare Centers John C. Mickey Collaboration Award, Command Making a Difference Award, and various performance and Special Act awards.

Ms. Domingo resides in the city of Poulsbo in Kitsap County, WA with her adorable Golden Retriever, Mamba!

2023 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients



MIDN Ivette Ayala
United States Navy

Midshipman 3/C Ivette Ayala is a native of Ontario, California where she attended Citrus Community College and received three Associates of Science degrees in Pre-Engineering, Physics, and Math. Upon completion, she enlisted in the Navy Reserves on January 28, 2019 and went on to complete Recruit Training in Great Lakes, Illinois. She attended Intelligence Specialist "A" School in Virginia Beach, Virginia, graduating on March 11, 2022. From April 2020 to June 2021, her first and only assignment was to Navy Reserve Commander, Naval Forces Korea Headquarters (CNFK HQ) in Ventura County, California. At CNFK HQ, she served as Intelligence Specialist 2nd Class to provide intelligence support for the headquarters command and eight detachments. IS2 Ayala was responsible for providing open source intelligence briefs to the entire CNFK organization supporting the Rear Area Tactical Operations Center and major theater training events. With the support of her Chain of Command, she applied and was accepted to the United States Naval Academy (USNA) in June 2021. In June 2021, she reported to USNA in Annapolis, Maryland for Plebe Summer Indoctrination. She is now in her second year at USNA pursuing a double major in Robotics Control Engineering and Applied Mathematics. She aspires to commission as a Navy Officer and rejoin the Intelligence Community. While at USNA she has joined the Powerlifting Team, Mariachi Marineros, Midshipmen Action Group, Latin American Studies Club, and participates in Mathematic independent research.



CPT Frances Castillo
United States Air Force

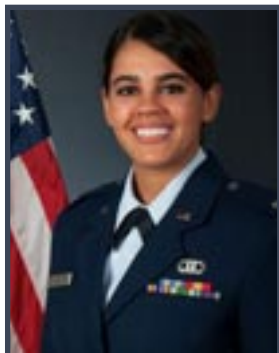
Capt Frances Castillo serves as Flight Commander and Intelligence Officer at the 41st Intelligence Squadron, Fort George G. Meade, MD. In this capacity, she leads three Flights totaling over 60 cryptologic Airmen supporting various national intelligence missions.

Capt Castillo is also a leader in the Department of the Air Force Women's Initiatives Team, a barriers analysis working group charged with identifying female-centric barriers and providing policy recommendations to senior leaders. In this capacity, she oversees more than 600 volunteers and 52 lines of effort to effectively integrate women the military.

Capt Castillo was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She enlisted as a Logistics Planner in January 2006 in the rank of Airman Basic and commissioned through Officer Training School in 2015. She has held operational and staff officer positions, including KC-135 flying unit Intel support and a deployment to Qatar as an all-source Intelligence Officer assigned to the Combined Joint Operations Center-Afghanistan during the 2020 Intra-Afghan negotiations. She also completed deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kyrgyzstan as a Logisticians. Prior to her current position, Capt Castillo was Current Operations Branch Chief at the Air Force Cryptologic Office, 16th Air Force

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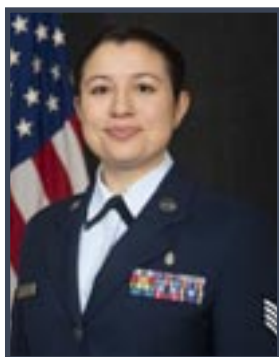
2023 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients



CPT Nahira Figueroa
United States Air Force

Capt Nahira N. Figueroa Otero is an Airfield Operations Officer (13M) at 612th Air Base Squadron at Soto Cano air Base, Honduras. As an Operations Flight Commander, she leads a 45-member flight responsible for Air Traffic Control Tower, Weather, Airfield Management, and Radar, Airfield, and Weather Systems (RAWS) Maintenance. Capt Figueroa is also part of the Language Enabled Airman Program and has travelled to countries like Chile and Honduras to enhance her bilingual capabilities. Captain Figueroa has taken part in various large-scale exercises and operations like COPE NORTH, Valiant Shield and PAC IRON. Prior to her current position, Captain Figueroa was the Operations officer at the 36th Contingency Response Squadron, Andersen AFB, Guam. She was the lead Landing Zone Safety Officer on Guam's Pacific Regional Training Center's dual Landing Zones and adjacent islands like Palau, Tinian, and Wake Island. Her team had multiple firsts with 5th generation aircraft, and she obtained various qualifications to include Contingency Response mission planner and Drop Zone Controller. During operations, they provided air traffic, aerial transportation and refueling services to a variety of platforms (F-15, F-16, F-22, F-35, C-17, C-130, KC-46, UH-60, and partner nations aircraft). Captain Figueroa was also the lead surveyor for Landing Zones, Drop Zones, and airports in multiple countries like the Philippines, Thailand, and Taiwan. Wearing multiple hats, she has supported POTUS and VPOTUS missions as the

operations officer for units deployed to Cambodia and Thailand.



SSGT Cassandra Caballero
United States Air Force

Staff Sergeant Cassandra A. Caballero is a Diagnostic Imaging Technologist assigned to the 71st Healthcare Operations Squadron, Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. She is 28 years old and was born in Harlingen, Texas, on 22 July 1994. Sergeant Caballero attended Hillcrest High School in Dallas, Texas, graduating in June 2012. After graduation, she attended Brookhaven Community College and worked at a local cantina. She subsequently enlisted in the Air Force and arrived at Lackland AFB, Texas in August 2013 for Basic Military Training. Upon graduation, she attended the Medical Education and Training Campus for the Radiologic Technologist program, and graduated Phase I in March of 2014. Sergeant Caballero then attended Phase II at Nellis AFB, Nevada, where she graduated in December of 2014. She then proceeded to her first duty station in January of 2015 to Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, where she performed duties as a Diagnostic Imaging apprentice. While stationed there, she performed as the interim Non-Commissioned Office in Charge for the 366th Surgical Operations Squadron. In January of 2020, she deployed to the 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron at Al Udiid Air Base, Qatar in support of OPERATIONS INHERENT RESOLVE and FREEDOM'S SENTINEL. Then in January 2021, she arrived to Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma and assumed her current position as a Diagnostic

Imaging Technologist. Her military awards include the 2022 Air Force Medical Service Diagnostic Imaging Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, Air and Space Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal with one Service Star, Air and Space Expeditionary Service Ribbon, and the United States Air Force Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon. She currently attends Weber State University pursuing her certification with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. She is married to Zachary A. McMasters of Beaverdale, Pennsylvania, and they have two dogs: Gatsby and Archer.

2023 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients



Ms. Susana A. June
United States Air Force

Ms. Susana A. June is the Branch Chief of the Emerging Capabilities Branch for the Directorate of Communications, Headquarters United States Air Forces Europe and Air Forces Africa. She leads a team of project managers in the support of main operating bases and geographically separated units in the modernization of communications infrastructures to increase transactional paths in effort to improve connectivity and data processing. Her team is also responsible for bringing enduring communications capabilities to the war fighter in effort to reduce the burden on Combat Communications Squadrons at forward operating locations. Ms. Susana June began her career with the Air Force as an enlisted active-duty member (2006) and later became a member of the Air Force reserves (2010) where both assignments were at Hill AFB, Utah. In 2012 she was recruited into the Palace Acquire Intern Program for a three-year internship. After graduating the program Ms. June was assigned to the Air Force Research Laboratories in the Space Vehicles Directorate (2015) at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. In 2021 Ms. June accepted a project management position working for the Communications Directorate at Headquarters, Ramstein, Germany and would later accept the position of the Branch Chief of the Emerging Capabilities Branch. Ms. June has worked for three major commands, three squadrons, and a research and development organization.



Cadet 1st Class
Angie Maravi Campos
United States Air Force

Cadet First Class Angie Maravi Campos holds multiple leadership roles at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She serves as the Cadet Wing Diversity and Inclusion Officer, representing various organizations including the USAF Academy's Hispanic Heritage Club, Secular Cadet Alliance, Spectrum, and Drone Racing Team. Additionally, she holds the position of Vice-President in the RATTEX Club.

In her role as the Wing Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Cadet Maravi Campos plays a vital role in developing and implementing the D&I curriculum at USAFA. Her efforts focus on facilitating critical conversations and fostering the growth of inclusive leaders within the academy. As an Aeronautical Engineering major with a minor in French, Cadet Maravi Campos is engaged in research related to designing a driver insert for the USAFA Shock Tube. Her objective is to mitigate the pressure increase caused by an induced shock wave, showcasing her dedication to academic pursuits and innovative problem-solving.

Cadet Maravi Campos's journey began in Lima, Peru, where she was born and raised. On October 25, 2015, she came to the United States and commenced her studies at Irving High School. She graduated third in a class of 1000 with a perfect GPA of 4.0 and GPA of 4.0, she exhibited exceptional academic prowess. Her accomplishments led her to be elected as a cadet at the Air Force Academy Class of 2024 during her senior year of high school. Cadet First Class Angie Maravi Campos exemplifies leadership, academic excellence, and a commitment to diversity and inclusion at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Her multifaceted contributions and achievements make her a role model for her peers and an asset to the academy community.

2023 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients



LT COL Natasha I. Peeples
United States Space Force

Maj Natasha Isabel Peeples serves as the Satellite Communicates Mission Architecture Lead, Architecture Directorate, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration, Pentagon, Washington District of Columbia. She is the focal point to the Secretary of the Air Force for oversight of the integration and management across requirements, capabilities and gaps over select space portfolios by identifying and coordinating key future budgeting pivots, as well as assessing the current and future architecture to Congress, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Headquarters Air Force, other Services, Major Combatant Commands, international partners and media. Maj Peeples commissioned as a Distinguished Graduate into the Air Force in 2008 from Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas with a full Air Force scholarship for Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering. In her first assignment, she served as a program manager on satellite bus subsystems and then as vehicle manager for the first set of Space-Based Infrared System GEO-synchronous satellites, as well as the first launch campaign and early orbit checkout at Los Angeles Air Force Base, El Segundo, California. In her next assignment, she led the Systems Engineering flight, integrating first of a kind missions to the weapon system at the National Reconnaissance Aerospace Data Facility Southwest, Las Cruces, New Mexico. She is married to her best friend, USSF Major Michael (Scott) Peeples, who is also currently serving in SAF/SQ. They welcomed their

first son, Tristan, in February 2021.



Ms. Andrea Aguirre
United States Air Force

Ms. Andrea Aguirre is a Public Health Professional in the Department of Defense (DoD) currently serving as a Resilience & Wellbeing Program Manager with the United States Space Force Headquarters. In this role, Ms. Aguirre oversees planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of quality-of-life programs across the Space Force. As a wellness expert and certified health educator, Andrea is also charged with developing the education component of the Space Force's Holistic Health Approach (HHA) to bring health knowledge and skill-building opportunities to Guardians and their families. Andrea is from a military family and is passionate about enhancing the health and wellness of service members. Naturally, the focus of her work lies in translating research into practice by using the scientific evidence-base to tailor programs and services to the military community. Andrea engages partnerships and collaboration to leverage her work and ensure service member's needs are identified and supported. Ms. Aguirre previously served as the Marine Corps Headquarters Health Promotion Program Manager where she oversaw health education, advocacy, and outreach initiatives across a diverse set of wellness programs. She holds Urban Planning and Ethnic Studies Bachelor's of Arts degrees from the University of California San Diego and a Master of Public Health degree from San Diego State University.

Andrea is also in the last months of her Doctorate in Public Health degree with the University of Illinois at Chicago, where her dissertation focuses on the DoD's strategy execution for the prevention of adverse sexual health outcomes among military members. Andrea is a lifelong learner and is currently contributing to space research as she explores the intersection of the space domain and public health.

2023 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients



LTJG Melanie Arroyave
United States Coast Guard

Lieutenant Junior Grade Melanie Arroyave reported to Sector Virginia's Incident Management Division in December 2021. She serves as a Pollution Responder, Boat Crew Member, and ICS Division lead and is breaking in as Federal on Scene Coordinator Representative, Boarding Team Member are in progress. She supervises 5 E4-E6. Directs incident management operations and pollution response across 3,300 sq. nm Sector AOR. Coordinates joint responses with OGAs and maritime stakeholders to all-hazard incidents in East Coast's 2nd largest commercial port with the world's largest naval base and fleet. Collaterals include assistant station, awards, procurement manager, Norfolk State University Liaison, and Women's Leadership Initiative Executive Board member. LTJG Arroyave was recently appointed to serve as an Executive Member to the CG Women's Advisory Board, one of 15 members selected nationwide, to enhance recruitment, retention, and policy improvements before Congress. LTJG Arroyave's personal military service awards include an Achievement Medal, CG Good Conduct Medal and DHS Outstanding Unit Award. Her educational accomplishments include earning the Leadership Certificate from Institute for Women's Leadership. She received the Facing History and Ourselves Student Upstander Award for her work with Holocaust survivors and Andean natives of Colombia. She is a recipient of the Equal Opportunity Fund and the Hispanic Fund Scholarships. As a Lloyd C. Gardner Fellow, Melanie conducted a comparative analysis

of the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights in New York and New Jersey. A native of Jersey City, NJ, and a proud Colombian-American, she is an active member of ANSO and NNOA.



MST2 Rosa Gomes Gavidia
United States Coast Guard

Born and raised in El Sereno, California, MST2 Rosa Gomes Gavidia was instilled with a determined independence and deep pride in her Latina roots by her Salvadorian born single mother, Martha. Rosa was raised alongside her brother, Herbert, and sister, Nadia in a Spanish speaking household. Rosa completed basic training in May 2016 and reported to the USCGC POLAR STAR as a fireman, where she was assigned as a member of the auxiliary machinery team. While on board, she served on Operation Deep Freeze and earned her Antarctica Service Medal while on patrol to several foreign countries and Antarctica. After a year onboard, Rosa seized the opportunity to support Patrol Forces – Southwest Asia and deployed to Bahrain as an Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection watch stander. While based in Bahrain, she also supported operations in Kuwait, Oman and Dubai and earned the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for service in the war against terrorism while on foreign shores. Following her tour in Southwest Asia, she attended specialization training to become a Marine Science Technician and advanced to E-4, beginning her career as a petty officer in Juneau, AK. While in Juneau, Rosa obtained several qualifications including pollution response, facility inspector, container inspector, and explosive shipment supervisor. In addition to basic duties, she also certified as a Spanish translator, Command Financial Specialist, sexual assault Victim Advocate, and as an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) trainer.

As one of less than 100 active duty USCG ASIST trainers, she has been active in supporting the District Commander's Campaign to Connect initiative, training and certifying dozens of Coast Guard members to recognize suicide behaviors and intervene to save lives. Her tour in Juneau saw her receive multiple honors and awards, including multiple nominations for enlisted person of the quarter, an advancement to E5. Rosa was selected to attend Officer Candidate School in April of 2023 and will depart for training in January of 2024.

2023 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients



IS1 Monserrat Lazaro Rivera
United States Coast Guard

Petty Officer Lazaro Rivera was born in Mexico City, Mexico, in 1998. At the age of three, she migrated to the United States alongside her mother and two brothers. Her father later supported their family through work sponsorship, which enabled her immediate family to obtain legal status. She grew up in West Virginia, where she overcame great adversity. In school, Petty Officer Lazaro Rivera often encountered challenges due to Spanish being the primary language spoken at home. Her work ethic became evident in high school, where she worked nearly full-time, played varsity sports, and excelled academically. Thankful for her opportunities in the United States, she felt that enlisting into the U.S. Armed Forces was the best way to give back to her country. She became a U.S. naturalized citizen at 17 years old and enlisted into the USCG delayed entry program. Her hard work and dedication paid off in May 2017, when she graduated Summa Cum Laude from Martinsburg High School. Three weeks after high school graduation, she attended USCG Basic Training and graduated in August 2017. Furthermore, she was uncertain of the possibility of becoming an Intelligence Specialist (IS) because of her foreign background. She was selected for the USCG Academy Scholars Program, and after six months of being a cadet, she received her required security clearance to be an IS. Her career goal was to be an IS, thus decided to lateral back to enlisted. In 2020, she graduated from A school and received orders to Sector St. Petersburg. Lastly,

in May 2023, she graduated with a Bachelor's in Intelligence and Information Operations from the University of Arizona. Petty Officer Lazaro Rivera's unwavering commitment to service for her country has been evident throughout her Coast Guard career and will serve as a trailblazer for future women daring to make the commitment of becoming a member of the world's best Coast Guard.



CPT Anna Alicia Zamora
United States National Guard

Captain (CPT) Anna A. Zamora was born in Azores, Portugal and raised all over the United States, before finally settling in Ohio during her later adolescence. She enlisted in the Ohio National Guard on February 26th, 2010. She attended Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, where she was awarded the MOS of 42F Human Resources Information Systems Management Specialist. She contracted with the Wright State University ROTC and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant (2LT) on June 12th, 2013. CPT Zamora is currently assigned as the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) & Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) Program Manager for the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Virginia. Her enlisted assignment was a Human Resources Information Systems Management Specialist at the HHC, 371st Sustainment Brigade in the Ohio Army National Guard. CPT Zamora's military education includes AMEDD Basic Officer Leader Course, Master Fitness Trainer, Medical Logistics Officer Course, AMEDD Captains Career Course, Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC), Health Svcs Plans, Oprs, Intel, Sec & Training course, How the Army Runs Course, Academia Industry Military Hybrid Innovations Course (AIM-HI) and Security Forces Assistance Advisor Course. She has earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and Sports Science from Wright State University. She has also earned a Master of

Science in Sports Management from the University of Connecticut. Her awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (2nd Award), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service ribbon, Ohio National Guard Award of Merit, Ohio National Guard Basic Training Service ribbon.

CPT Zamora currently resides in Arlington, Virginia with her handsome rescue dog from Tijuana, named Odie. She is the loving tia to her niece Elianna, who resides in Grattis, Ohio with CPT Zamora's brother, Jose.

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