

PERSONAL AWARD
RECOMMENDATION

FROM: (Title and Address) Marine Forces North 2000 Opelousas Ave, New Orleans LA 70114		TO: (Awarding Authority) DEP COMMARFORNORTH MARFORRES (R/U)		
		14. EXP. OF ACTIVE DUTY: 09/30/2018	IF RETIREMENT, NUMBER OF YEARS:	
1. SOCIAL SECURITY #: [REDACTED] 4258	2. DESIG/NEC/MOS: 0621	15. EST. DETACHMENT DATE: 09/18/2018 <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Leave <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Impact Award		
3. NAME (Last,first,MI): GARCIA, RAFAEL J		4. COMPONENT (USN,USMC,etc.): USMCR		
		16. NEW DUTY STATION (Home address if separation anticipated): 14THMAR 4TH MARDIV(Seal Beach, CA)		
5. GRADE/RANK: SGT	17. UNIT AT TIME OF ACTION/SERVICE: MARFORNORTHCOM		18. DUTY ASSIGNMENT: TSC SCTM	
6. WARFARE DESIGNATOR (Navy Only):		7. RUC: 20016	19. PREVIOUS PERSONAL DECORATIONS AND PERIOD RECOGNIZED:	
8. RECOMMENDED AWARD: NA - NAVY AND MC ACHIEVEMENT		9. SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENT: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
10. TYPE: <input type="checkbox"/> Heroic <input type="checkbox"/> Heroic Posthumous <input type="checkbox"/> MIA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meritorious <input type="checkbox"/> Meritorious Posthumous				
11. NUMBER OF AWARD OF RECOMMENDED MEDAL: 1		20. PERSONAL AWARDS RECOMMENDED-NOT YET APPROVED:		
12. ACTION DATE/MERITORIOUS PERIOD: 10/06/2017 - 09/18/2018		21. OTHER PERSONNEL BEING RECOMMENDED FOR SAME ACTION:		
13. GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF ACTION/SERVICE: OCONUS				
22. I certify that the facts contained in the summary of action are <input type="checkbox"/> known to me <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a matter of record				
NAME, GRADE, TITLE OF ORIGINATOR STRINGFELLOW, ROGER, Civ G-1 Administrative Officer		SIGNATURE <i>Roger Stringfellow</i> G-1 Administrative Officer	DATE 07/26/2018	
23. FORWARDING ENDORSEMENTS BY VIA ADDRESSEE(S).				
VIA COMMAND	RECOMMENDED AWARD	COMBAT "V"	SIGNATURE & GRADE	DATE FWD
Chief of Staff MARINE FORCES NORTHERN COMMAND	NA - NAVY AND MC ACHIEVEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<i>Bradley Eugene Weisz</i> Bradley Eugene Weisz COL	08/13/2018 10:28:58
24. TO BE COMPLETED BY AWARDING AUTHORITY				
DISPOSITION OF BASIC RECOMMENDATION	COMBAT "V"	EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM	SIGNATURE, GRADE, TITLE	DATE APPROVED
NA - NAVY AND MC ACHIEVEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<i>Barrett Mason Rhodes</i> Barrett Mason Rhodes MSGT/Adjutant Chf For Rex C Mcmillian LTGEN, DEP COMMARFORNORTH	08/22/2018 18:07:35

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN THE SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES WHILE SERVING AS COMMUNICATIONS AND LOGISTICS SUPPORT NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER, THEATER SECURITY COOPERATION DETACHMENT, MARINE FORCES NORTH, FROM OCTOBER 2017 TO SEPTEMBER 2018. DURING THIS PERIOD SERGEANT GARCIA DEMONSTRATED NOTEWORTHY INITIATIVE, LEADERSHIP, AND SOLID CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS TO ENABLE EFFECTIVE TRAINING FOR PARTNER NATION FORCES IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD. IN ALL ACTIVITIES, HE SET THE STANDARD AS A NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER AND ADVISOR, SUPERVISING AMMUNITION ACCOUNTABILITY AND MANAGEMENT, COORDINATING LOGISTICS, AND OVERSEEING A PATROLLING DEMONSTRATION FOR SENIOR LEADERS. HIS EFFORTS FACILITATED DELIVERY OF CRITICAL TACTICAL INSTRUCTION TO NEARLY 500 MEXICAN MARINES AND ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE OFFICERS AND TROOPS PREPARING TO DEPLOY ON COUNTERNARCOTICS MISSIONS. SERGEANT GARCIA'S HONOR, FIDELITY AND PATRIOTISM HAVE FAITHFULLY SERVED BOTH CORPS AND COUNTRY IN TIMES OF WAR AND PEACE. SERGEANT GARCIA'S EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY, INITIATIVE, AND TOTAL DEVOTION TO DUTY REFLECTED CREDIT UPON HIM AND WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MARINE CORPS AND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL SERVICE.

Summary of Action

Sergeant Rafael Garcia is enthusiastically recommended for the award of the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for exceptional performance of duties while serving as Unit Level Training (ULT) Communications and Logistics Support Non-commissioned Officer (NCO), U.S. Marine Corps Forces North (MARFORNORTH) Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) Detachment from October 2017 to September 2018.

Mobilized under 12304b authorities in support of the critical U.S. Northern Command mission to build partner nation capacity against violent narcotraffickers along the southern approaches to the United States, Sergeant Garcia successfully completed the Marine Advisor Course program of instruction with the Marine Corps Security Cooperation Group (MCSCG) in Little Creek, VA, and then reported to MARFORNORTH for duty in November 2017.

Upon arriving in November 2017, Sergeant Garcia was integral to the rapid establishment of solid working relationships with 12 Mexican Marine and three Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) instructors as they coalesced to form the cadre overseeing one of the first TSC training engagements of fiscal year 2018 (FY18), the Junior Officer Advanced Course (JOAC), held at Camp Shelby, MS. Sergeant Garcia's noteworthy cross-cultural communications skills and his working proficiency with Spanish enabled him to rapidly forge professional bonds with other U.S. Marines and our international partners, ensuring more than 30 Mexican Marine and 10 RBDF junior officers received high-quality, immediately applicable instruction in combat marksmanship; urban tactics; tactical convoy operations; machine guns and machine gun gunnery; leadership; and operational planning for platoon commanders. This critical month-long training period in the United States laid the groundwork for follow-on training abroad, and provided a necessary foundational capability set to a generation of young officers who would rapidly find themselves on the front lines of the fight against violent illicit traffickers.

Deploying to a training site in Mexico in January 2018, Sergeant Garcia distinguished himself through tireless efforts to improve the professionalism and efficiency of the ULT programs focused on critical predeployment training for Mexican Marines destined for 'high impact' counternarcotics operations. Tasked with maintaining accountability of logistical gear and ammunition used in the pre-deployment training courses, Sergeant Garcia displayed noteworthy initiative by conducting a full inventory of Detachment assets on the site, determining maintenance and logistical requirements for sustainment, and developing a more effective process to maintain accountability of equipment used in training with international partners. During his tenure in this position, Sergeant Garcia maintained accountability for, and monitored the expenditure of, over 1.1 million rounds of ammunition, ensuring Detachment leadership and MARFORNORTH staff members were able to monitor expenditures for specific courses of fire and maintain awareness of on-hand and required ammunition quantities.

Sergeant Garcia also developed and executed a patrolling exercise with Mexican Marine students, which was presented in vignette form to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert Neller, and the Coordinator General of the Mexican Marines, Vicealmirante Rafael López Martínez during Mexico's first ever hosting of the Marine Leaders of the Americas Conference (MLAC) in March 2018. Sergeant Garcia's tireless efforts and attention to detail succeeded in showcasing to these senior leaders MARFORNORTH's uniquely robust and critical relationship with the Mexican Marines.

Throughout nearly eight months of deployed time, Sergeant Garcia demonstrated an unmatched ability to build rapport with partner nation personnel of all ranks. His linguistic and cultural skills enabled development of strong relationships with leaders and facilitators who gained a positive impression of U.S. Marines and subsequently went out of their way to support the mission. The trust established through those relationships led to improved interoperability, increased influence on planning, training and evaluations, and improved living and working conditions. Through Sergeant Garcia's efforts to coordinate logistics and serve as an interpreter for other members of his team, the quality of the training experience was greatly enhanced for both the U.S. and Mexican Marines.

Sergeant Garcia's efforts were instrumental to the delivery of high-quality, professional training to four company task forces, all of which deployed shortly after their training to combat Transnational Criminal Organizations. Mexican Marines who graduated from MARFORNORTH security cooperation training formed the backbone of the Mexican government's effort to disrupt violent cartels in a crucial and hotly contested region near the border with the United States. Sergeant Garcia facilitated mentoring and advising Mexican Marine noncommissioned officers to enable the readiness of more than 550 troops deploying to high risk areas.

Sergeant Garcia consistently delivered exceptional performance, setting a high standard and excelling well beyond his rank and military occupational specialty. His willingness to face and overcome challenges to thrive in unfamiliar conditions demonstrates his exceptional professionalism. His initiative, dedication, and commitment to excellence unquestionably merit the special recognition provided by the award of the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.