



## **Command Senior Enlisted Leader**

### **Gunnery Sergeant Mercedes R. Ortiz**

In September 2009, then Private First Class Ortiz, completed recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina. Private First Class Ortiz then attended Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, North Carolina and completed Personnel and Administration School in December 2009 at Camp Johnson, North Carolina. After completion of occupational special school, Private First Class Ortiz received orders to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365, Jacksonville, North Carolina, where she served as an Administrative Clerk. While assigned, she was then promoted to Lance Corporal Ortiz.

In May 2010, then Lance Corporal Ortiz was reassigned to the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training, Jacksonville, North Carolina as an Administrative Clerk, Limited Duty Coordinator, Assistant Legal Chief and Defense Travel System Coordinator for over 700 Marines. During this time she was promoted to Corporal Ortiz.

Shortly after promotion Corporal Ortiz conducted a lateral move to the Intelligence field and graduated from the Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Course. By August 2012 she graduated and was assigned the 0231 Intelligence Specialist MOS. Before departure from CNATT, Corporal Ortiz was awarded with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

By August 2013 Corporal Ortiz was transferred to Marine Aircraft Group 29 as an Intelligence Analyst. By May 2014 Corporal Ortiz was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. By July 2014 Sergeant Ortiz was transferred to Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 464 as the Intelligence Chief. Before departure Sergeant Ortiz was awarded with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star in lieu of second award.

In August of 2015, Sergeant Ortiz reported to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One, where she served as the Analysis Chief and Academic Chief for the Intelligence section at MAWTS-1 Weapons and Tactics Instructor. She was promoted to Staff Sergeant in May of 2017. During this time Staff Sergeant Ortiz taught over 120 Intelligence personnel from August 2015 to August 2018. At the end of her tour, Staff Sergeant Ortiz was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.



In August of 2018, Staff Sergeant Ortiz reported to II Marine Expeditionary Force, G2. Staff Sergeant Ortiz worked as the Current Operations Chief for the G2. In 2019, Staff Sergeant Ortiz was accepted into Arizona State University and is currently working towards her Bachelors of Science in Forensic Psychology. In December 2020, Staff Sergeant Ortiz transferred into the II Marine Expeditionary Force, MAGTF Intelligence Center. Staff Sergeant Ortiz then served as the Production Chief until her departure in mid- July 2021. In March, 2021, Staff Sergeant Ortiz graduated from the MAGTF Intelligence Analyst Course in Virginia Beach, VA. In April 2021, Staff Sergeant Ortiz was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant.

Gunnery Sergeant Ortiz now serves as the Ground Intelligence Analyst and US Senior Enlisted Leader at STRIKFORNATO.

Her decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star in lieu of second award and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star in lieu of second award.

Gunnery Sergeant Ortiz is married to her husband Carlos Ortiz with whom they share three children, Carlos (14) and John Dominic (12), and Abraham Benicio (1).