

FIRST SERGEANT GILBERT J. CONTRERAS

First Sergeant Contreras was born in Los Angeles. He graduated from John Glenn High School, Norwalk, CA June 1981. Between September 1981 and March 1983, he attended Pacific Union College in St. Helena, CA and Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA with aspirations of attaining a degree in Forestry, Wildlife and Wildland Fire Management.

However, on 10 March 1983, he enlisted in the Marine Corps reporting to MCRD San Diego. He graduated Company Honor Man, Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, 1st Recruit Training Regiment on 17 June 1983, being meritoriously promoted to the rank of Private First Class.

Between June 1983 and August 2004, First Sergeant Contreras attained the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) Military Police, Special Reaction Team Member, Basic Parachutist, Marine Security Guard and First Sergeant of Marines. He has served as a Military Policeman, which are not all inclusive, Patrolman, Desk Sergeant, Watch Commander, Special Reaction Team Leader/Commander, Instructor, and Training Chief. As a Marine Security Guard, he was a Watch Stander, Assistant Detachment Commander. He was assigned duties at the 3rd Marine Division Schools where he was the primary instructor for the Evasive Driving Course, Terrorism Counter Action Course, Combat Squad Leader and Battle Skills Schools.

On 31 August 2004, First Sergeant Contreras retired after 21 years 5 months and 8 days of honest and faithful service as a United States Marine. He visited 30+ countries, held numerous duty stations where he was involved in terrorist activities, armed conflicts, humanitarian and noncombatant evacuation operations around the world.

Upon retirement from the Corps, Gil worked for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, where he was assigned duties as a Nuclear Security Officer and Armorer.

He transferred to the corporate office at Arizona Public Service, where he was assigned duties as a Security Coordinator responsible for safeguarding