

Master Sergeant Abiud Montes, USMC

Biographic Notes

Master Sergeant Montes enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on September 11, 1989. He then attended Marine Combat Training and School of Infantry in Camp Geiger, North Carolina. In 1990 he was deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for Combat Operations in Operation Desert Storm where he served as a Tow Gunner with 8th Tank Battalion (Anti-Tank) TOW Company.

Shortly after the war he transferred back to the Selected Marine Corps Reserve and in 1994 was hired as a Firefighter for the City of Hollywood. Because of his experience as a Marine and knowledge of military Honor Guard protocol he was later selected as an Honor Guard member to represent the City of Hollywood Fire Department in New York for the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony to Honor the fallen firefighters of the New York City Fire Department.

In 2003 then, Staff Sergeant Montes was activated for combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served as a Vehicle Commander for 1st Marine Division, Regimental Combat Team (RCT 5), 2nd Tank Battalion, Scout Platoon. He was part of the main combat element to Baghdad.

From 2009 -2012, he served as Operation Chief for the Force Readiness Assistance and Assessment Program (FRAAP). The purpose of the FRAAP is to provide the Marine Forces Reserve Commander with a more accurate picture of unit readiness and to aid in providing necessary instruction and training to improve unit readiness. In May-June of 2010 Gunnery Sergeant Montes was the Operations Chief and Company Gunnery for African Lion in Agadir, Morocco, a Joint Task Force Operation with the Moroccan Military. Now, Master Sergeant Montes is currently the Military Advisor to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-Two. NMCB-22's mission is to provide and maintain a trained, ready, and immediately available reserve battalion, meeting the requirements of the Naval Construction Force for employment as directed by the Chief of Naval Operations in the event of war, natural emergency, or when otherwise authorized by law.

Master Sergeant Montes is also very active in his community and church. He is currently 3rd Vice-President of the Navy League Fort Lauderdale Council and Vice-President of Youth Education for the Freedom Foundation Broward County Chapter. Eleven years ago he got the Fire Department involved with Marines Toys for Tots toy drive, which was very successful for the Marines and the City of Hollywood. From 2000 – 2008 he was a mentor at a local elementary schools for students that don't have fathers. He continues to be involved in career days at local schools in the area. He selflessly sacrifices so much in order to help the children of our future.

He understands that education is important and strives to better himself by recently graduating from St. Thomas University with a Master's of Professional Studies in Executive Management. He is a member of Kappa Gamma Pi, the National Catholic College Graduate Honor Society based on a commitment to Faith, Service and Leadership.

Master Sergeant Montes's decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon with a Gold Star in lieu of 2nd award, the Presidential Unit Citation Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal with a silver star in lieu of 6th award, National Defense Service Medal with a star in lieu of 2nd award, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with a star in lieu of 2nd award, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hour glass device in lieu of 2nd award, Kuwait Liberation Medal (from Saudi Arabia), and the Kuwait Liberation Medal (from Kuwait). On the civilian side he was awarded the 2011 George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge.

Master Sergeant Montes is 42 years old and married to Lina Montes and has two children Naia Marie Montes who is 7 years old and Austin Vidas Montes who is 2 years old. Master Sergeant Montes currently resides in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.