

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

Sergeant Major Carlos A. Ruiz

Sergeant Major Ruiz assumed his current post as the 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps on August 10, 2023. A native of Sonora, Mexico, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on November 2, 1993, out of Buckeye, Arizona. After graduating from recruit training at MCRD San Diego and completing Marine Combat Training, he was assigned the military occupational specialty of Supply Warehouse Clerk.

In his early career, Sergeant Major Ruiz served with the 3d Force Service Support Group in Okinawa, Japan, and at the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Barstow, California. He then attended Recruiting School and was assigned to Recruiting Station Los Angeles. In January 2003, he deployed to Al Anbar Province, Iraq, with Combat Service Support Group-12 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In 2004, Sergeant Major Ruiz reported to Drill Instructor School at MCRD San Diego, graduating as the class Honor Graduate and recipient of the Leadership Award. He served with 3rd Recruit Training Battalion before returning to the Drill Instructor School staff, where he held the billets of Drill Master, Physical Training Instructor, and ultimately the School's Chief Instructor.

Following this, he reported to 3d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, as the Company First Sergeant, deploying twice to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. After a tour as an Inspector-Instructor First Sergeant in Sacramento, California, he was selected for Sergeant Major in September 2013.

As a Sergeant Major, he served in a variety of key leadership roles, including as the Battalion Landing Team Sergeant Major for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and as the Sergeant Major for 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. He later served as Sergeant Major for the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, and the 4th Marine Logistics Group. In February 2021, he assumed the duties of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve Sergeant Major and later served concurrently as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader for U.S. Marine Corps Forces South.

Sergeant Major Ruiz's personal awards include the Legion of Merit with a gold star, the Bronze Star Medal with combat distinguishing device, the Meritorious Service Medal with a gold star, and the Combat Action Ribbon with a gold star. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management from the University of Arizona Global Campus.