



Master Gunnery Sergeant Julius D. Spain Sr.
Senior Enlisted Legislative Advisor
United States Marine Corps Office of Legislative
Affairs, Pentagon



Master Gunnery Sergeant Julius D. Spain Sr., entered the United States Marine Corps in August 1990, and is a native of Conway, South Carolina. He has continually served in a variety of progressively responsible leadership positions at every echelon of the Marine Corps. His assignments have been coupled with significant international, interagency, diplomatic, and joint service leadership experience. He also served as a Department of Defense Congressional Fellow in the United States Senate.

In November 1990, then Private First Class Spain, completed recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina. Private First Class Spain then attended Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, North Carolina and completed Personnel and Administration School in March 1991 at Camp Johnson, North Carolina. After completion of occupational special school, Private First Class Spain received orders to 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, Twenty-nine Palms, California, where he served in a variety of billets. While assigned, then Lance Corporal Spain participated in the Unit Deployment Program to Okinawa, Japan, Cobra Gold 92', Operation Restore Hope- Mogadishu, Somalia and completed Jungle Operations Training at Fort Sherman, Panama.

In June 1993, then Corporal Spain was reassigned to 1st Tank Battalion, Twenty-nine Palms, California, for duty with the S-1. In March 1994, Corporal Spain received orders and reported to Headquarters, United States Marine Corps Forces Europe, Stuttgart, Germany, for duty administratively supporting over 250 Marines located in 24 countries and 48 locations throughout Europe.

In June 1997, then Sergeant Spain received orders and reported to Inspector & Instructor Staff, Houston, Texas, for assignment as a Test Administrator with the Houston Military Entrance Processing Station. Most notable during this assignment was Sergeant Spain's selection as the Calendar Year 1998, Houston Military Entrance Processing Station Joint Military Member of the Year. He was also a recipient of the 700 Mile Award for his athletic achievement in the command's "Run for Your Life Program."

In June 1999, Sergeant Spain received orders for special duty assignment to Drill Instructor School, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina. Upon completion of Drill Instructor School, he was assigned to Company K, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, as a Drill Instructor and Senior Drill Instructor. During this tour he also served as a Marine Corps Martial Arts Instructor, 1st Degree Black Belt, and the Recruit Training Regiment Logistics Chief.

In July 2002, then Staff Sergeant Spain, reported to II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Staff Sergeant Spain was assigned to the Group Personnel & Administration Center where he

served as a Personnel Chief supporting over 2000 Marines assigned to II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group which was comprised of 2nd Intelligence Battalion, 8th Communications Battalion, 2nd Radio Battalion and 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion. Additionally, Staff Sergeant Spain served as a Command Inspector for the II Marine Expeditionary Force, Commanding General Inspector team and was the Headquarters Group Unit Martial Arts Program Coordinator.

In December 2002, Staff Sergeant Spain was selected to serve as Staff Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge for the Consolidated Administration Section with 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade and deployed to combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom -1 (Kuwait/Iraq) as a member of Task Force Tarawa. During this time he also served aboard two Wasp-class LHD-3 amphibious assault ships, the USS Bataan and USS Kearsarge.

In October 2004, then Gunnery Sergeant Spain was selected to serve on a special duty diplomatic assignment. In December 2004, Gunnery Sergeant Spain reported to the United States Delegation to the North Military Committee, Joint Staff, NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium to administratively support two (US 3-Star) posts. During this tour, Gunnery Sergeant Spain directly supported the United States Military Representative to NATO and Deputy Chairman to the NATO Military Committee, International Military Staff. As a diplomatic representative for the United States Mission to NATO (US Department of State), he served at many high-level proceedings and NATO Ministerials throughout Europe providing direct administrative and operational support for the US Ambassador to NATO, US Secretary of State, US Secretary of Defense and the President of the United States. Additionally, Gunnery Sergeant Spain served as the Navy/Marine Corps Senior Enlisted Advisor and Personnel & Security Representative.

On 1 August 2008, Gunnery Sergeant Spain was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant and received orders to Marine Corps National Capital Region Command, Headquarters, United States Marine Corps, Henderson Hall, Arlington, VA for duty. He reported in February 2009 and served as the Battalion Adjutant Chief for over 1800 Marines and civilian personnel assigned within the Nation Capital Region.

In March 2010, Master Sergeant Spain was competitively selected as one of two Staff Non-Commissioned Officers in the Marine Corps to participate in the 2011 Congressional Fellowship Program on Capitol Hill. In January 2011, Master Sergeant Spain began a 12- month Fellowship in the United States Senate serving as the Defense Legislative Fellow for United States Senator Johnny Isakson from the State of Georgia.

In October 2011, Master Sergeant Spain was selected for promotion to the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant. In January 2012, Master Sergeant Spain was assigned to the United States Marine Corps, Office of Legislative Affairs, Pentagon for duty as a Legislative Action Officer. In June 2012, Master Sergeant Spain was selected as "Honorable Mention" for the Military Times Magazine, 2012 Marine of the Year Award. Master Gunnery Sergeant Spain was frocked to his current rank on 26 July 2012.

In August 2012, Master Gunnery Sergeant Spain assumed duties as the Senior Enlisted Legislative Advisor for the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs. As a senior advisor and administrator, he provides the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (O-7), and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps with perspectives on the Commandant of the Marine Corps legislative priorities, requirements, strategic vision, goals and objectives, and leads the office on enlisted professional development. He also serves as the program manager for the Marine Corps Staff Non-Commissioned Officer and Wounded Warrior Fellowship programs.

From October 2012 through February 2012, Master Gunnery Sergeant Spain was selected to serve on temporary assignment supporting the 57th Presidential Inauguration Committee at Joint Task Force, Military District Washington, Fort McNair, Washington, District of Columbia. During this time, Master Gunnery Sergeant Spain served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for Joint Team Special Events.

On January 16, 2013, Master Gunnery Sergeant Spain was honored by the State of South Carolina 120th General Assembly with House Concurrent Resolution 3314 recognizing him for his outstanding military service in the Marine Corps.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Spain possesses a traditional Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from the University of Maryland-University College. He is a graduate of the NATO School Senior-NCO Orientation Course (Resident), the Joint Forces Staff College Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education Course, Distinguished Graduate of the Marine Corps Senior Enlisted Professional Military Education Course (Resident), Naval Justice School Senior Enlisted Leader Course (Resident), Naval Security Manager Course, Marine Corps Manpower Officer Course (Resident), and a host of military and civilian education courses to include advanced legislative courses from the Government Affairs Institute of Georgetown University.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Spain's numerous personal awards, decorations, and achievements include but are not limited to the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal –with oak leaf cluster, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal - gold star in lieu of second award, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal - gold star in lieu of second award, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, the Drill Instructor Ribbon, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Spain is married to the former Adriana Contreras of Houston, Texas. Adriana is a Marine Corps veteran and employee with the US Department of State. They have three children, a daughter Monique (age 19), a son Julius (age 18) and a daughter, Leana (age 14).