
NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER VALERIE ESPINOZA

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NEWS RELEASE

Commissioner Espinoza Presents Award To Marine on Veterans Day for His Service

SANTA FE – During a special ceremony held just south of Santa Fe on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, New Mexico Public Regulation Commissioner Valerie Espinoza presented a heroes award to United States Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Konda.

Staff Sgt. Konda enlisted in the Marine Corps in June 1995. He reported for Recruit Training in June 1995 at MCRD, San Diego, Calif. Upon completion, he reported to Marine Combat Training at Camp Pendleton, Calif. He then reported to Albany, Ga., for MOS school as a 3051, Basic Warehouseman.

After completing MOS school as an honor graduate and receiving meritorious promotion to Lance Corporal, Lance Corporal Konda reported to Supply Company, Third Supply Battalion, Third FSSG, where he served as Company Training NCO, Warehouse Chief, and Legal Chief. During this time, Lance Corporal Konda deployed in support of Tandem Thrust/Freedom Banner 97 in the Shoalwater Bay training area, Queensland, Australia. After extending twice, spending his entire first enlistment in Okinawa and making the rank of Sergeant, Sgt. Konda reenlisted with lateral move request to 4067, ADA programmer, in 1999.

Sgt. Konda then reported to 29 Palms, Calif., for ADA programming school with follow on orders to DFAS, Kansas City. In May 2001, he was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. In 2002, Staff Sgt. Konda received orders to Marine Corps Base, Okinawa, Japan. In 2003, Staff Sgt. Konda received orders back to DFAS Kansas City. During this tour, computer programmers were phased out of the Marine Corps, and Staff Sgt. Konda was assigned to MOS of 0659 Data Chief. In 2006, Staff Sgt. Konda was issued orders to Data Chief Course in 29 Palms, Calif., with follow on order to Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Upon reporting to Camp Lejeune, Staff Sgt. Konda was initially assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 27 to assist in the forming of the Regimental Headquarters. In 2007, Staff Sgt. Konda was reassigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 2 in order to deploy in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Upon return from Iraq, Staff Sgt. Konda was reassigned to Second Marine Regiment as the S-6 Data Chief.

In 2010, Staff Sgt. Konda received orders to Third Marine Logistics Group, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, Okinawa, Japan. While there, Staff Sgt. Konda served as the Information Management Officer with deployment to Korea, Thailand and the Philippines.

In 2012, Staff Sgt. Konda received orders to 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, MEF Headquarters Group, Ninth Communication Battalion. Shortly after arriving, Staff Sgt. Konda deployed with Ninth Comm BN in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan. Upon return and after a short stint as Helpdesk SNCOIC Staff Sgt. Konda was sent TAD to deploy with the Georgian Liaison Team in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Konda is married to the former Stephanie Mier of Santa Fe, N.M.. As a blended family, they have two girls and three boys: Ashley (24), Amber (21), Jordan (20), Bryon (19), and Brandon (17). His personal decorations include Navy Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

“What a hero and what a story,” Commissioner Espinoza stated. “I’m so moved and touched to sponsor you with this award for your service and achievements in the United States Marine Corps. May this plaque serve

as a remembrance of gratitude and appreciation for your sacrifices. I'm honored to be alongside you and your families today. I respect and salute each one of you here and my sister, Capt. Cholene Espinoza, who served as a U2 pilot and T-37, T-38 instructor pilot in the United States Air Force. Thank you today and every day for who you are. It is also a privilege to represent you as your Public Regulation Commissioner.”

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