

THOMAS J. GARCIA
COMMANDER (Ret.)

United States Navy



A native of Pasadena, CA, Commander Garcia enlisted in the United States Navy in 1987 and advanced through the rank of Electronics Technician Second Class. While enlisted, he was assigned to NAS CUBI POINT in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines as an air traffic control radar and communications technician. During this tour he was selected for the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) Program at NTC San Diego. Following successful completion of the BOOST Program in 1990 he attended the University of Arizona on a NROTC scholarship and graduated in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration – Management Information Systems.

Commander Garcia's sea duty assignments include serving as Electrical Division Officer in USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72) where he earned his Surface Warfare Officer designation; Combat Information Center Officer in USS ELLIOT (DD 967); Weapons and Combat Systems Officer in USS ANTIETAM (CG 54), and Auxiliaries Officer in USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76). During his sea tours he made six deployments to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and also took part in USS ANTIETAM's around the world deployment in 2005.

Ashore, he has served on the staff of Commander Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet as Force Combat Systems Officer (N65) and on Cruiser Class Squadron as Chief Staff Officer and Combat Systems and C4I Officer. He served overseas on the staff of Commander Naval Forces Europe-Commander Naval Forces Africa-Commander Sixth Fleet as the Global Force Management Officer for the Director, Future Operations (N35) in Naples, Italy. During this tour he was part of the Joint Forces Maritime Component Commander Operational Planning Team for Operations Odyssey Dawn, American role in the international military operation in Libya to enforce United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973 in March 2011, and Operation Jukebox Lotus, the crisis response to the events at the US Special Mission Compound in Benghazi, Libya on 11-12 September 2012.

His final active duty assignment was on the staff of Commander Naval Surface Forces/Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet as Assistant Chief of Staff for Future Requirements Officer for DDG 1000 and Littoral Combat Ship (N8B). He transitioned to Paloma Valley High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps as the Senior Naval Science Instructor on 07 October 2016 and retired from active duty on 31 December 2016.

He holds a Master of Arts Degree in National Security Affairs-Far East, Asia and the Pacific from the Naval Post Graduate School as well as completing the Naval War College Non-resident Program for Joint Professional Military Education Phase I in 2001. Currently, he is pursuing his Designated Single Subject Teaching Certification through the University of Riverside Extension with planned completion in 2019.

Commander Garcia's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (with Gold Star), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (with Four Gold Stars), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal as well as multiple unit and service awards. He is married with three sons.