

# USAREUR employee receives LATINA Style Meritorious Service Award

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By **U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs**

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HEIDELBERG, Germany -- The Department of the Army recently announced that U.S. Army Europe employee Vera Garcia, the deputy director for the Civilian Personnel Directorate in G1, is one of two recipients of the 2012 LATINA Style Meritorious Service Award.

The award recognizes military and Department of Defense civilian personnel who through their service have enhanced the role of Latinas in their organization and distinguish themselves by making significant contributions in the area of equal opportunity, civil rights programs and public service to their local community.

As the daughter of a founding member of an organization called the Mexican American Business and Professional Women's Club, a "laboratory for leadership" for Hispanic women, Garcia benefited from its mission of mentorship and later became its vice president. Garcia later developed an award-winning, six-month leader development program for its members and a national award winning program designed to keep the Hispanic women of the club informed on political issues and processes.

During Garcia's first position with the Department of Defense, she organized an educational volunteer program where co-workers volunteered an hour per week to read to grade school children. The program grew from 350 to 1,000 volunteers and won a commendation from President George H.W. Bush for community service.

Recently, Garcia was instrumental in the success of students from all levels of education assigned to the Department of Defense Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities. She is also regularly asked to speak Women's History Month events.

On September 6, Garcia will be presented her award at the 9th Annual National LATINA Symposium in Washington D.C.

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