



*At RNDC and Young's Market Company, we are committed to attracting, developing, and retaining military veterans. In keeping with our core value of family and caring for the well-being of our community, RNDC recognizes and supports associates who are active duty or veterans of the U.S. military.*

**Name:** Gilbert Garcia  
**Title:** Off Premise Sales Representative  
**Location:** Santa Monica, California

**Military Branch:** United States Marine Corps  
**Military Rank:** Sergeant  
**Service Dates:** 2000-2009



**Please share details about your assignments and/or deployment(s) while serving.**

On July 17, 2000, I arrived at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, and I was assigned to Second Recruit Training Battalion, Fox Company, Platoon 2081 for 13 weeks of boot camp. I graduated in October 2000, and was assigned to Recruiting Station Orange, Recruiting Sub-Station Norwalk. After that, I was assigned to the School of Infantry at Camp Pendleton to undergo Marine Combat Training (MCT). After completing MCT I was given orders to my Military Occupational School (MOS) as a 3381 Food Service Specialist at Fort Lee, Virginia, from November 2000 to February 2001.



Once I graduated from the Food Service Course, I was given orders to my first duty station at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego (MCRD). I was assigned to Headquarters and Service Battalion and worked at the Recruit Messhall. This is the largest dining facility in the Marine Corps, serving more than 7,000 recruits and Drill Instructors daily. I was stationed at MCRD from February 2001 until April 2003. In April 2003, I was attached to Headquarters and Service Battalion, Alpha Company, Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan.

In December 2003 while serving in Japan I was promoted to Sergeant and awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal as well as numerous accolades from Certificates of

Appreciation to Certificates of Commendation for various volunteer work around the community of Okinawa. While serving in Japan I also was given the opportunity to attend the Non-Commissioned Officers Culinary Course in Fort Lee, Virginia, and was given Temporary Duty orders to attend. While attending the course and prior to going back to Okinawa, I was interviewed and selected to work for General Peter Pace, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to serve at his home aboard Camp Myers. During my time in Washington D.C. I was able to go to the Pentagon as well as participate in setting dinner events for high ranking officials. I also was able to be a part of the Sunset Parade over at 8<sup>th</sup> and I Street Marine Barracks. Upon my completion of my additional duty assignment in June 2004, I went back to Okinawa until April 2005.

In April 2005 I was given orders to 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Logistics Group (1stMLG) Combat Logistics Regiment-17 (CLR-17) where I served as Platoon Sergeant. In November 2005, I was augmented and attached to 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force (IMEF) MEF Headquarters Group (MHG) set to deploy to Camp Fallujah, Iraq as a Convoy Commander. I attended Rear Area Security Course (RAS), Convoy Commanders Course (CCC) and Radio Communications Course (RCC) prior to our deployment. In February 2006, I deployed with the MEF to Iraq where I was assigned to Platoon Sergeant overseeing the security and safety of the two dining facilities aboard Camp Fallujah. Considering the aftermath that took place in Mosul when a local national detonated himself inside of the dining facility it was imperative that security of all entering to dine was mandated. My Marines and I were to search all local nationals, Third Country Nationals (TCN) and any non-American citizen who worked on base prior to walking into the dining facility to eat and to check for weapons, IED's, and cell phones. In February 2007 we left Iraq and I returned to Camp Pendleton where I would finish out my time, I was discharged in 2009.



**Personal awards and achievements include:**

- Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
- Army Achievement Medal
- Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon with bronze star in lieu of 2<sup>nd</sup> award
- Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon
- Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal with bronze star in lieu of 2<sup>nd</sup> award
- National Defense Service Medal
- Iraqi Freedom Medal with 2 campaign stars
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Navy and Marine Corps Sea Service Deployment Ribbon
- Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon with 2 bronze stars in lieu of 3<sup>rd</sup> award



## What was your proudest moment, recognition, or accomplishment?

Being able to serve my country in the “finest” military branch the world has ever seen and serving with some of the greatest warriors. I also was led by great leaders, their leadership made me into the person that I am today. It is something I will never forget.

## What was the most valuable experience you gained from your service? How has it helped you in your post-military career?

I learned that I can accomplish anything. There is always a way to improvise, overcome, and adapt to any situation. I am able to assess certain problems by utilizing critical thinking skills to finish the mission at hand to the best of my abilities, this attitude has helped me to navigate in my post-military career.



## What do you enjoy most about working at RNDC/Young's?

I enjoy being able to be interactive with my customers that I see on a daily basis and knowing that I represent a great legacy that RNDC/Young's Market Company holds – there is history.



## Share one or two FUN FACTS about yourself.

I currently serve as a Police Chaplain with the Long Beach Police Department during my off time. The need and ability to serve has not diminished; it has only changed scenery and I get to serve God now.

I also am a Chaplain with the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team. We're called up on to respond to natural disasters throughout the country and the world, taking a message of hope and providing comfort in the midst of tragedy.