



**Senior Chief Petty Officer Ralph E. Chavez  
United States Navy**



Senior Chief Petty Officer Ralph Chavez is an eighteen year veteran of the United States Navy and is currently serving as part of the *Why We Serve* speakers program. He has recently returned from an assignment in Afghanistan and is speaking to groups around the country about his personal experiences serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In February 2007 Chavez returned from a deployment to Afghanistan, after volunteering for a 545-day Individual Augmentation (IA) assignment. Chavez deployed with the 405<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion as a Civil Affairs Team Sergeant to Forward Operating Base Gardez, Afghanistan early in 2006. His Battalion supported the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division's Third Brigade Combat Team and their reconstruction and nation-building efforts in the Paktiya and Logar Provinces.

Upon his return from deployment, he advanced to Senior Chief Petty Officer and was selected for a Joint assignment and reported to Commander, United States Pacific Command, Hawaii, where he serves as the Program Manager for the Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve.

Senior Chief Chavez was raised in San Antonio, TX. He enlisted in the United States Navy on 24 August 1989 and completed recruit training at RTC Orlando, Florida. Chavez holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio and is presently working towards his Master's Degree in Business and Organizational Security from Webster University in Missouri.

Chavez's decorations include the Bronze Star Medal; Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4); the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3); the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon; Navy "E" Ribbon (2); the Good Conduct Medal (5); the National Defense Medal (2); the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the Afghan Campaign Medal; the Naval Reserve Sea Service Ribbon; the Navy Overseas Service Ribbon; Armed Force Reserve Medal (Bronze Hour Glass & M devices); the NATO Medal; the Expert Rifleman Medal; and the Expert Pistol Shot Medal.