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DSS ARTICLES

BY DSS PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST ERIC WEINER

APRIL 14, 2025



Detachment Commander Staff Sgt. Maurice Armour (reading award) presents DSS Special Agent Philip Nice with the United States Navy Civilian Service Achievement Medal alongside Consul General Erik Martini (far right), U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil, Ecuador, April 3, 2025. (U.S.

DSS Special Agent Philip “PJ” Nice serves as the Regional Security Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil, Ecuador where he manages the U.S. Marine Security Guards (MSGs) and the physical, technical, cyber, and personnel security programs that keep the consulate safe.

Nice was recently recognized for his outstanding support of the MSGs under his supervision who the U.S. Marine Corps recognized as Detachment of the Year in 2023 (Region 4) and Detachment Commander of the Year (Global) in 2024.

Consul General Erik Martini and Detachment Commander Staff Sgt. Maurice Armour presented Nice with the United States Navy Civilian Service Achievement Medal at the U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil, Ecuador on April 3, 2025. Signed by the U.S. Marine Corps Region 4 Commander, Lt. Col. Chad Bonecutter, it recognized Nice for “superior leadership skills, enthusiasm, sound judgment, attention to detail, and commitment to excellence... keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and Department of State.”

The Navy Civilian Service Achievement Medal is awarded by the Department of the Navy and U.S. Marine Corps to civilians who, while serving in a capacity with the Navy or Marine Corps, are recognized for sustained performance or specific achievement at the equivalent level of the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal awarded to military personnel.

“Marines have been my friends, colleagues and teammates, first as a dependent of Foreign Service parents, and today as the DSS Regional Security Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil,” said Nice. “I’m proud to work with and support the Marines and am deeply grateful to receive such incredible recognition – thank you Marines!”



DSS Special Agent Philip Nice is awarded the Navy Civilian Service Achievement Medal for his outstanding support of the U.S. Marine Security Guards under his supervision as the Regional Security Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil, Ecuador, April 3, 2025. (U.S. Department of State photo)



Detachment Commander Staff Sgt. Maurice Armour pins the United States Navy Civilian Service Achievement Medal on the lapel of DSS Special Agent Philip Nice as Consul General Erik Martini looks on (far left), U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil, Ecuador, April 3, 2025. (U.S. Department of State photo)

DSS Special Agent Philip Nice displays his award, flanked by Consul General Erik Martini and the U.S. Marine Security Guard Detachment at the U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil, Ecuador, April 3, 2025. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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