

## **SGT MATTHEW T. MARTINEZ**

**2016 Recipient**

### **CSM Doug Russell Award for Excellence in Military Intelligence**



SGT Matthew Martinez enlisted into the US Army as a Human Intelligence (HUMINT) Collector (35M) in August 2010. After completing Basic Combat Training and the Basic HUMINT Collectors Course, he was assigned as a HUMINT Collector to Alpha Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Troops Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. As a Private First Class, he deployed to Kandahar Province in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM from July 2011 to May 2012. While deployed, he served in a Noncommissioned Officer position as a reports officer for an Operational Management Team and as a HUMINT Collector on a HUMINT Collection Team. After the deployment, SGT Martinez attended the Basic Leaders Course, serving as his class's Platoon Sergeant and earning the Commandant's List.

After completing his assignment with 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, SGT Martinez reenlisted for Airborne School, with a follow-on assignment as a Human Intelligence Collector in the MI Company, 54<sup>th</sup> Brigade Engineer Battalion (Airborne), 173<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne). In May 2013, SGT Martinez became a Team Leader and Squad Leader and led HUMINT Collectors in exercises in Germany, Slovenia, Italy, and Spain. He completed the Source Operations Course at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, in 2014, and then graduated from Ranger School in January 2015, the first Noncommissioned Officer from his MI Company to earn the coveted Ranger tab.

In April 2015, SGT Martinez was chosen to initiate the first ever HUMINT mission of its kind in Ukraine. As a graduate of the Source Operations Course, he led his HUMINT Collection Team to overwhelming success, providing US and NATO commanders with pertinent information about the Ukrainian conflict with Russian and Russian-led Separatist Forces.

Simultaneously, as part of a multi-national training force, SGT Martinez worked closely with the 1-91<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment (Airborne) S2 to facilitate interoperability between US, Ukrainian, Canadian, Lithuanian, and British forces. He provided advice on the best training methods and assisted in developing the first doctrine and training aids for Ukrainian counter-Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) training. His efforts undoubtedly contributed to the survivability of Ukrainian National Guard Soldiers.

After returning from Ukraine and graduating the Defense Strategic Debriefing Course, SGT Martinez developed and provided training on tactical questioning and detainee operations for the Soldiers of the 2-503<sup>rd</sup> Infantry (A), 173<sup>rd</sup> IBCT (A). Finally, at the end of 2015, SGT Martinez was selected to support the Joint Military Training Group—Ukraine with training the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense Army and to forge new ground for HUMINT operations in Ukraine. SGT Martinez's dedicated service in 2015 not only contributed to the success of his unit's mission, but also furthered the objectives of the European theater and the strategic mission of the US Army as a whole.