



**2025 KDVA & KUSAF Honorees**  
**Honors Category: U.S. Service Member**  
**Master Gunnery Sergeant Veronica Soto**

**PURPOSE:** KDVA & KUSAF Honors recognize outstanding members for their contributions to the ROK-U.S. Alliance and to inspire making a difference for the Alliance's future.

**CRITERIA:**

**Accomplishments or support for the ROK-U.S. Alliance:**

I am honored to nominate Master Gunnery Sergeant Veronica Soto for the KDVA Honors Service Member recognition. Her unwavering dedication to the ROK-U.S. Alliance is evident in both professional achievements and personal volunteer efforts. From professional supporting alliance planning conferences to supporting transitioning veterans, MGySgt Soto has shown selfless service and a profound passion for the Alliance. She consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that the legacy of cooperation and mutual respect between our nations is preserved and strengthened. I believe that receiving this Honor will further empower MGySgt Soto to expand outreach efforts, mentor emerging leaders, and continue advocating for veteran welfare and alliance solidarity. She is not only deserving of this recognition but will use it as a platform to deepen impact and inspire others.



**Volunteer efforts:**

Master Gunnery Sergeant Veronica Soto volunteers for ANSO (Association of Naval Services Officers), which is a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to the recruitment, retention and promotion of Hispanics and Latinos across all ranks of the United States Sea Services. Beyond formal duties, she actively volunteered in community outreach for orphanages in Korea.

**Short biography (less than 250 words):**

Master Gunnery Sergeant Veronica Soto is a dedicated professional with a distinguished record of service in support of the Republic of Korea–United States Alliance. With over 20 years of military and/or civilian service, she consistently demonstrated integrity, leadership, and a deep commitment to strengthening bilateral ties. From 2003-2004, MGySgt Soto served as the Marine Corps Forces, Korea G5 NCOIC to advance combined planning, operations, cultural exchange, and strategic cooperation between the ROK and U.S. forces. A person of sound character, MGySgt Soto embodies the values of honor, respect, and service, and continues to be a guiding force in fostering mutual understanding and enduring friendship between the two nations.

**Statement from the nominator about the nominee's qualities: selfless service, passion for the Alliance and Veterans, and how the nominee might use this Honor to contribute further to the Alliance:**

Master Gunnery Sergeant Soto exemplifies the highest ideals of selfless service, driven by an unwavering commitment to the Republic of Korea–United States Alliance and the well-being of veterans. Her career reflects a deep-rooted passion for fostering unity, mutual respect, and enduring cooperation between allied forces, especially through her advocacy and mentorship within military communities. Her dedication to the ROK–US Alliance is not just professional—it's personal. She has consistently gone beyond the call of duty to strengthen bilateral ties, whether through joint training initiatives, cultural exchange programs, or veteran outreach. Her efforts have helped bridge generational and national divides, reinforcing the shared values of freedom, democracy, and mutual defense. Being recognized by the Korea Defense Veterans Association (KDVA) is a platform to amplify her voice and expand her influence. She advocates for veteran support programs that span both nations, ensuring that those who served in Korea receive the recognition and care they deserve. MGySgt Soto promotes educational initiatives that highlight the historical and strategic importance of the ROK–US Alliance to younger service members and civilians. Her active participation in the Association of Naval Service Officers (ANSO) further equips her to be a force multiplier. Her experience with ANSO uniquely positions her to build cross-service coalitions that support the Alliance's goals. By mentoring emerging leaders, she will carry forward the legacy of cooperation between Korea and the United States and elevate new voices in defense dialogues to ensure a holistic approach to alliance-building. MGySgt Soto's journey is a testament to the power of purpose-driven leadership. With the KDVA honor and her ANSO foundation, she is not only celebrating past achievements—she's preparing to shape the future of the ROK–US Alliance.