

Employee Finds Success Through Opportunities, Programs

By Mark Woodbury
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From the Keystone Program to Tomorrow's Leaders Initiative, and now having worked both in the U.S. and internationally, Rosa Medina, DCMA Southern Europe quality assurance specialist, has taken every opportunity to learn and grow within the agency.

Medina said that she learned early on in life how important both a willingness and desire to better oneself was to success. As a result, she looks for every opportunity to further her professional skill sets and overall agency understanding.

Coming to the agency in September 2000 through the Keystone Program, Medina said she embraced the program and looked for every opportunity afforded her through the program. "I really feel my Keystone experience gave me the foundation that I needed to tackle my early work responsibilities," she said. "In many ways it was through this experience where I gained an understanding of what opportunities were available to me as an employee of DCMA."

Medina said that, in addition to the training and experience she got through the Keystone program,

Rosa Medina, DCMA Southern Europe quality assurance specialist, inspects non-standard ammunition in a production plant in Romania recently. (DCMA photos)

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the immediate contacts established through the program have been an asset to her career. An asset she said came in handy during her first assignment with the Ground Systems and Munitions Division at the Tactical Wheeled Vehicles – St. Louis office.

According to Medina's first supervisor at the St. Louis office, Medina's desire to learn and grow within the agency remained strong throughout her time in St. Louis. "She was a real go-getter who was willing to take on any challenge or assignment," remarked Paula Brose. "She was eager to learn all that she could, and never backed away from a task."

Brose expressed that from early on she could tell Medina was going to be a great asset to the agency. Medina continued to progress and grow while working at the Tactical Wheeled Vehicles – St. Louis office, and in May 2007, her hard work, enthusiasm and natural leadership traits paid off: Medina was selected to participate in the Tomorrow's Leaders Initiative program — a milestone she was excited to accomplish.



Rosa Medina, DCMA Southern Europe quality assurance specialist, inspects the packing and marking of a 40mm grenade shipment in Bulgaria recently.

"I knew by being a part of the Tomorrow's Leaders Initiative, I would learn valuable leadership skills that would be difficult for me to get any other way," said Medina. "Through this initiative, I have come to the understanding of how important it is to appropriately lead at whatever level you are at within the organization."

Through her TLI involvement, Medina has been able to work within two separate temporary-duty assignments exposing her to

different work environments and agency processes. She said both assignments have given her a deeper understanding of how the overall agency works.

Continuing on with her desire to learn and grow, in February of this year Medina accepted an assignment with the DCMA International Division in the Southern Europe office to be a quality assurance representative supporting the non-standard ammunition and weapons programs there — an assignment that is personally rewarding for her. "The weapons and ammunition I inspect and accept are going forward to help support the Iraqi and Afghan soldiers and police," said Medina. "It is extremely rewarding to know I am a vital player in the Southern Europe office ensuring these nations have

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— Rosa Medina



Rosa Medina, DCMA Southern Europe quality assurance specialist, inspects non-standard ammunition in a production plant in Serbia (left photo). Rosa Medina, DCMA Southern Europe quality assurance specialist, inspects PKM machine gun parts during a visit of a facility in Bulgaria (right photo).

the proper manufactured equipment to perform their important missions within their countries.”

According to Dave Denzine, Medina’s current supervisor, after only a short time on the job, she has already stepped up to be a key team player. “Rosa is a knowledgeable, confident quality assurance representative,” he stated. “She has a great work ethic and a wonderful open and friendly personality that makes her a joy to be associated with. Simply, she adds life to our team.”

Bill Edwards, Medina’s current team chief, said since Medina’s schedule requires her to be on mission travel between 50 to 75 percent of the time, he is grateful for her ability

to overcome all challenges she faces while maintaining the highest level of customer engagement to ensure users are getting the right products at the right time. Edwards said he simply “wishes he could hire more employees just like her.”

Medina said her current assignment in the International Division is the best and most exciting job in DCMA. “Our office in Southern Europe supports a great variety of commodities in the quality field; as a result, we are extremely busy here,” she remarked. “Every day I learn something new within the non-standard ammo and weapons products. Most of my duties entail travelling to countries I never thought I would ever see in my

lifetime, and I am getting to know extraordinary people from great cultures — I just love my job!”

Medina said she is enjoying this job so much she would seriously consider extending her three-year assignment an additional two years.

She advised those within the agency to get to know what opportunities are available to them and then simply take advantage of those opportunities. “DCMA is an agency that offers its employees many great opportunities,” she said. “It’s all a matter of a person’s willingness, desire and self-motivation to make maximum use of them.” **C**

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For more information on the Keystone program, visit <https://home.dcma.mil/cntr-dcmac-d/keystone/index.htm>.

For more information on the Tomorrow’s Leaders Initiative, visit https://home.dcma.mil/dcma-hrw/leadership_development/index.htm.