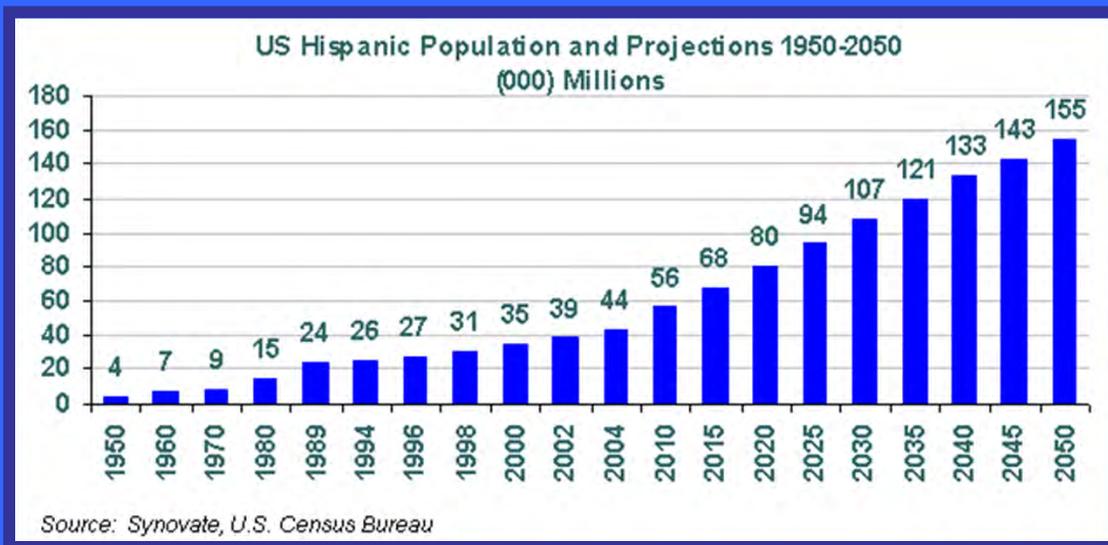


# Hispanic Americans in the United States Navy



**Former Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Mike Mullen declared diversity a “strategic imperative” for the Navy. Mullen’s successor, CNO Admiral Gary Roughead, said the Navy “must embrace the demographic changes of tomorrow, and build a Navy that always reflects our country’s makeup.”**



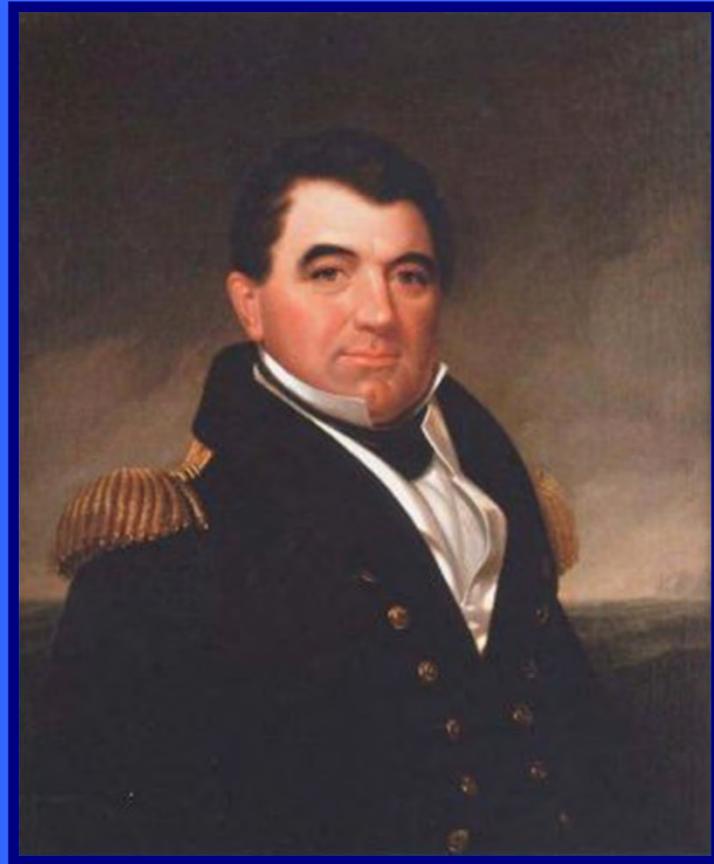
**U.S. Population by Race and Ethnicity**  
**Actual and Projected Percentage of Total**

	1960	2005	2050
<b>White</b>	85%	67%	47%
<b>Hispanic</b>	3.5%	14%	29%
<b>Black</b>	11%	13%	13%
<b>Asian</b>	0.6%	5%	9%

Hispanic Americans have served in our Navy throughout our nation's history. They have fought at sea in every American war. They have served as ordinary seamen, 4-star admirals, boatswains, corpsmen, fighter pilots, physicians, nuclear engineers, and policymakers. They have stood not on the fringes of the service, but at its center, as makers of American naval history.

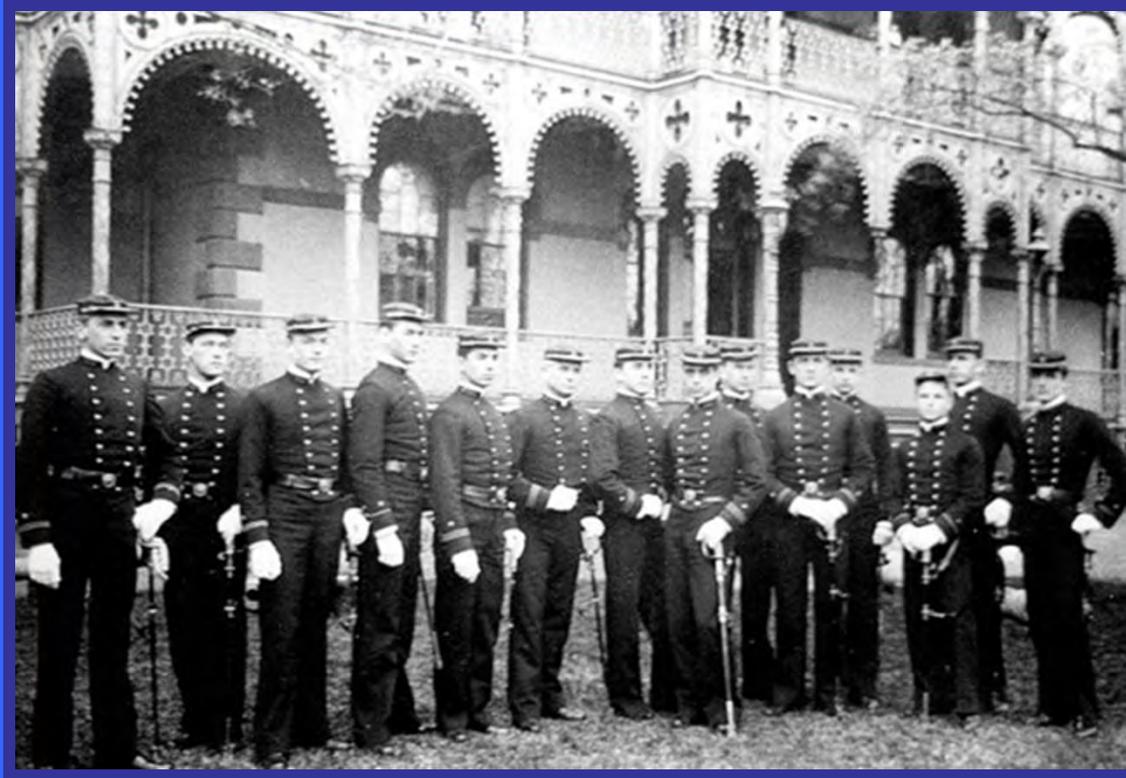


**Born on the island of  
Minorca, Jorge Anthony  
Magin Farragut fought in the  
South Carolina Navy during  
the Revolutionary War and  
served in the U.S. Navy  
during the War of 1812. He is  
the first American naval hero  
of Hispanic descent.**



**Jorge Farragut's son,  
David Glasgow  
Farragut, was the  
greatest naval officer  
of the Civil War, the  
greatest American  
naval officer of the  
nineteenth century,  
and America's first full  
admiral.**

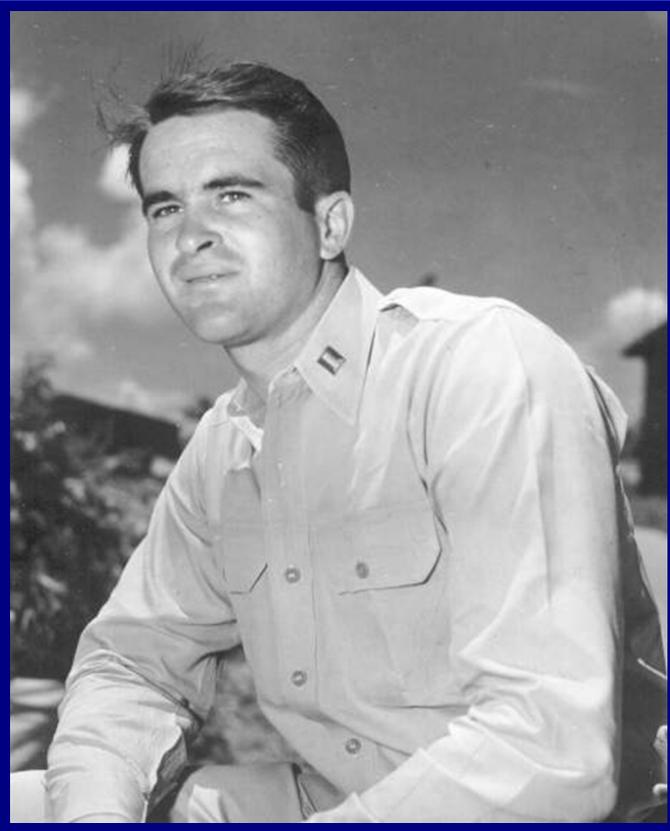




**Born in Cuba and appointed from Pennsylvania, Alberto de Ruiz became the first Hispanic Naval Academy graduate in 1875. He was a cadet engineer.**

**Born in Iowa and appointed from Tennessee, Robert F. Lopez was the Academy's second Hispanic graduate (Class of 1879) and its first Hispanic naval cadet. In 1882, the Academy abolished the distinction between cadet engineers and naval cadets in both name and training.**

**Eugene A. Valencia Jr. scored 23 victories in the Pacific during World War II flying Hellcats, led the most successful fighter plane division in American naval history, and remains the Navy's third ranking ace of all time.**



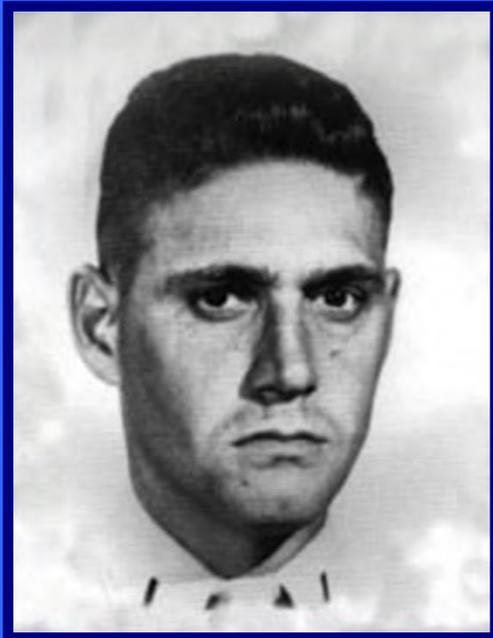
**Navy nurse Beatrice Kissinger and Navy WAVE Emma Hernandez numbered among the estimated 250,000-500,000 Hispanic Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II.**



**Commander (later Captain) Marion Frederick Ramirez de Arellano was the first Hispanic skipper of a submarine. For his actions against the Imperial Japanese Navy during World War II, he received two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star.**



**Naval Academy graduate Baldomero Lopez received the Medal of Honor for sacrificing himself to save the lives of his men in the amphibious assault on Inchon during the Korean War.**

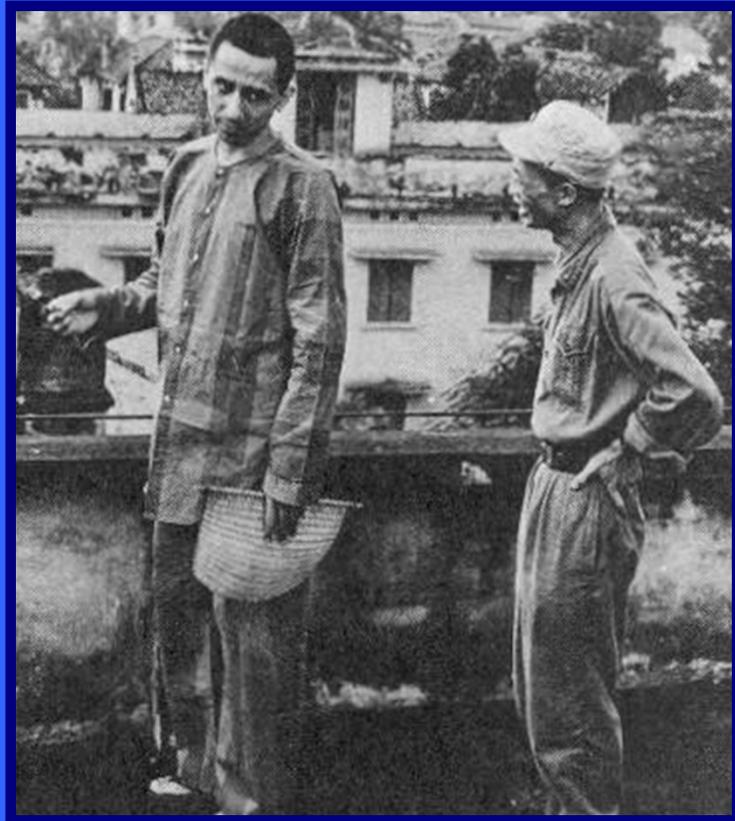


**Forty-three men of Hispanic origin received the Medal of Honor, including 21 who sacrificed their lives. Latinos are the largest single ethnic group, in proportion to the number who served, to receive this prestigious award.**



**To date, 27 Hispanic Americans have become admirals. Horacio Rivero (1910-2000) was best known for his intellect, leadership, and contributions in developing nuclear weapons. Promoted to full admiral in 1964, he later became Commander in Chief of Allied Forces, Southern Europe. Headquartered in Naples, Italy, this organization combined under one command all NATO land, air, and sea forces in Italy, Greece, Turkey, and the Mediterranean.**

**Everett Alvarez Jr. was held prisoner in North Vietnam longer than any other U.S. aviator. His ordeal began on 5 August 1964, when his A-4C Skyhawk was shot down over Han Gai harbor, and ended eight and a half years later with his release in February 1973.**

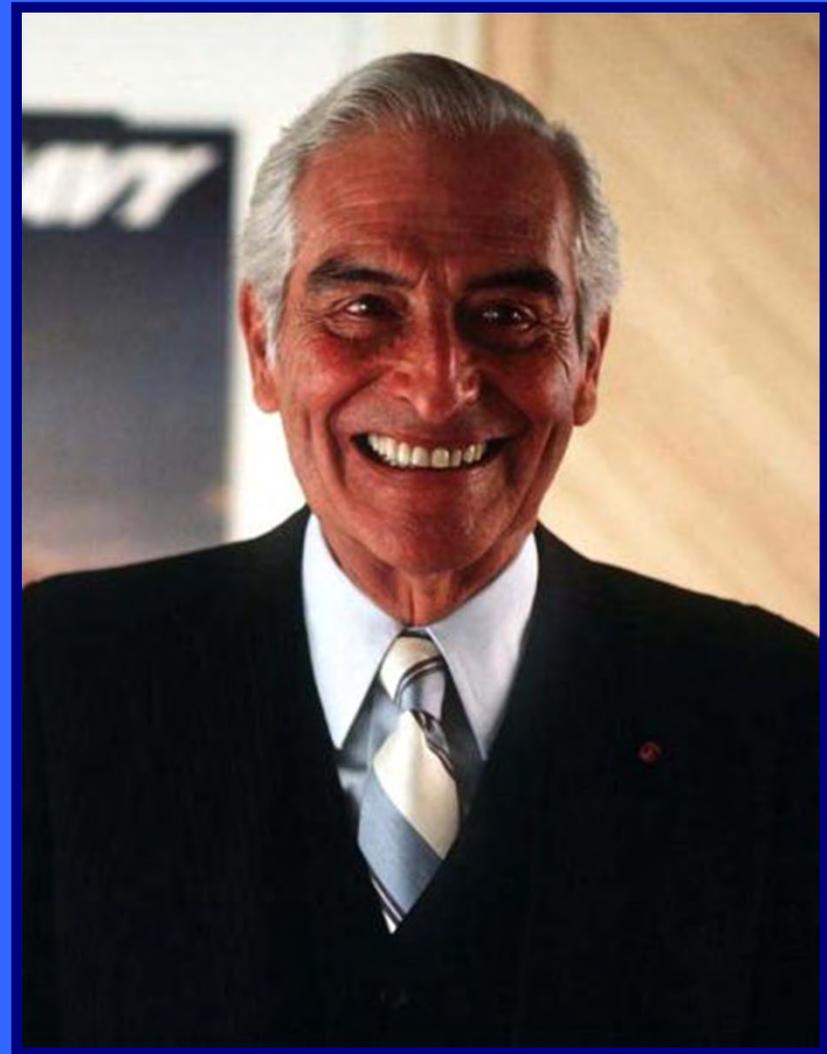




**In 1975, Lieutenant Al Cisneros became the first Latino pilot to serve with the Blue Angels, the Navy's flight demonstration squadron. The Blue Angels perform high-speed precision aerobatic maneuvers in jet fighters for audiences all over the world.**

**During the 1970s, the Navy developed an affirmative action plan that for the first time set recruiting goals for people of “Spanish heritage.”**

**In 1979, Edward Hidalgo became the first Hispanic Secretary of the Navy. One of his top priorities was recruiting more Hispanic Americans, especially as officers.**



**In 1981, Lilia Ramires from Bayshore, New York;  
Carmen Gilliland from Albuquerque, New Mexico;  
Trinoria Pinto from Louisville, Kentucky; and Ina  
Gomez from Grand Junction, Colorado, became the  
first female Hispanic Americans to graduate from the  
Naval Academy.**





**Harvard graduate Kathryn Berndt entered the Navy scholarship program to study medicine, earning an M.D. at Tufts University. Dr. Berndt has since served as the Medical Department head on board *USS Ogden* (LPD 5) and a surgical resident at Naval Medical Center San Diego. As a lieutenant commander, she was the ship's surgeon aboard *USS Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) and then *USS Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) when that carrier responded to the earthquake in Haiti in January 2010.**



**Navy surgeons Commanders Miguel A. Cubano and Eliseo E. Bautista operate on a patient at Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Florida. Commander. Cubano was named by the Puerto Rico Medical Society as “Physician of the Year” for 2003.**



**Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 2nd Class Jesus Lopez gives an “OK” signal to supervisors during diving proficiency training, February 2005.**

In 1997, Lieutenant Colonel Carlos I. Noriega, USMC, logged 221 hours in space during NASA's sixth Space Shuttle mission to dock with the Russian Space Station *Mir*.





**Hospitalman  
Apprentice Luis  
E. Fonseca Jr.  
received the  
Navy Cross for  
extraordinary  
heroism while  
serving with the  
Marines during  
the battle of An  
Nasiriyah, Iraq,  
in March 2003.**



**Rear Admiral Albert Garcia III, deputy commander of 1st Naval Construction Division, is interviewed during a Cinco de Mayo festival in Denver, Colorado. As of April 2007, 22 Hispanic Americans had reached the rank of admiral.**



**As of 2011, 27 Hispanic Americans have achieved flag rank.  
Hispanic admirals in uniform today include:**



**RADM Patrick Brady**



**RDML Samuel Perez  
III**



**RDML A.B. Cruz**



**Damage Controlman 3rd Class Matthew Villafuerte of the guided missile frigate USS *Ingraham* (FFG 61) secures a machine gun to its mount on a rigid-hull inflatable boat while being lowered from the ship, February 2008.**

**Lieutenant Alejandro Hernandez signals for an F/A-18C Hornet from Strike Fighter Squadron 131 to launch from the aircraft carrier *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69), May 2007.**





**Quartermaster  
2nd Class  
Carolina  
Castanon, a  
Sailor in Naval  
Support Activity  
Bahrain's  
Harbor Patrol  
Unit, makes her  
rounds,  
September 2003.**

**Before retiring from the Navy in 1996, Rear Admiral Marc Y. E. Pelaez served as Chief of Naval Research, managing the Navy and Marine Corps' science and technology programs. With an annual budget of \$1.5 billion, his command included the Office of Naval Research, the Naval Research Laboratory, and foreign field offices in London and Tokyo.**





**Captain Kathlene Contres, the Navy's highest ranking female Hispanic active duty line officer until her retirement in 2010, became Commandant of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute in March 2005. Educating more than 1,200 students per year, the Institute is the Defense Department's center of excellence for equal opportunity and equal employment opportunity training, education, and research.**

**U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Salgado Garcia  
awaits the go-ahead order to board a suspect vessel off the  
coast of Kodiak Island, Alaska, August 2005.**





**In July 2006, Joe Campa became the first Hispanic Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, the service's top-ranking enlisted person.**

**In 2010 Commander Yvette Marie Davids became the first female Hispanic American to skipper a surface combatant when she took command of the guided missile frigate *Curts* (FFG 39). She was selected to the rank of captain in 2011.**



**The Navy recognizes the service of nearly 70,000 Sailors and civilians of Hispanic heritage who comprise approximately 11% of our active, reserve, and civilian forces.**



**A person who is motivated and hard working, and has the honor, courage, and commitment to serve can achieve his or her dreams in the U.S. Navy, regardless of race, creed, color, or ethnic origin.**