

JFK Leadership

Jennifer N. Barragan
Sector Advisor

USMEPC - HQ

Years of Service: 2



Summary:

Ms. Barragan is nominated for her outstanding leadership skills throughout the 2020 calendar year, in which she effectively leveraged her own and others' talents to recruit, hire, and train over 10 local and remote-located employees of varying backgrounds while accomplishing daily duties despite an unprecedented lack of resources and new and evolving constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She independently researched and organized various onboarding and training resources, using innovative ideas to increase collaboration, overcome technology barriers, and ensure new employees received top-notch support and guidance during a time when physical staffing reach critical minimum levels within the headquarters.

Description: The 2020 year was challenging for many of our workforce, but key leaders rose to the occasion to power through innumerable challenges and changes to solidify mission success. Ms. Barragan was one such leader, taking point with several new remote managers to provide invaluable training and guidance to close vacancies and skill gaps. Utilizing new web conferencing and chat applications, unconventional meeting spaces and venues, Ms. Barragan was able to provide immediate support and live demonstrations to remote managers struggling to navigate government systems and understand procedures, and to employees completing new-hire requirements. She remained creative and flexible, adapting schedules, training timelines and resources to fit unique needs of managers and employees. For example, due to COVID-19 restrictions some employees faced daily childcare and other scheduling challenges, which Ms. Barragan seamlessly evaluated and created timely solutions to overcome without sacrificing critical work time and resources. This included constant assessment, prioritization, and reorganizing training needs to fit managers and employees' goals. Through continuous adaptation and perseverance she ensured the successful training of all managers and new employees in her scope, and empowered managers to make informed hiring and personnel management decisions. Knowing the workplace would remain at minimum in-person staffing levels for the foreseeable future, she recognized the need for new employees to quickly develop a sense of culture-fit and belonging, in order to cultivate their confidence and followership within the newly dispersed headquarters. In response, she implemented incremental networking sessions throughout new-hire trainings enabling employees to share and collaborate work, but also to get to know each other and the leadership they often could not meet or see, which facilitated new employees' deeper understanding of individual and organizational challenges throughout the pandemic. Ms. Barragan took on the responsibility of engaging new managers and employees as a role-model and mentor, exemplifying the outstanding skills and qualities of a top-tier leader at USMEPCOM. She took on these roles and responsibilities without hesitation or direction, taking full ownership of the process and results and excelled to meet milestones and desired outcomes. While these achievements occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, other noteworthy events Ms. Barragan worked through to accomplish her goals include: administratively supporting a large Directorate re-organization initiative, numerous hiring timeline setbacks beyond headquarters' control, assisting with existing position description revisions and updates, sudden loss of manpower in key roles, planning and executing her own transition to a new position within the headquarters. Even after Ms. Barragan's transition to her new role, she continued her mission of training and integrating by shifting her focus to incoming and newly appointed military managers in the new scope, providing real-time support and personalized solutions to dispersed military managers across the United States as an Advisor on general operations, human resources and people management, and administrative processes. Ms. Barragan's unwavering dedication to her leadership and peers, and to this Command is evident, honorable, and measurable. Without doubt, her efforts instill in others a sense of duty, pride, and camaraderie that will benefit USMEPCOM for years to come.