

Colonel Marisol Chalas

FIRST LATINA NATIONAL GUARD BLACK HAWK HELICOPTER PILOT



BACKGROUND

Born in Bani, Dominican Republic, Marisol Chalas immigrated to Massachusetts when she was nine, seeking a better life in the United States where she later became a naturalized citizen.

No stranger to challenges, Chalas joined the National Guard in 1990 and went on to receive her commission as an officer from the Officer Candidate School in 2021. She distinguished herself as a trailblazer in the military, overcoming numerous obstacles as a woman and immigrant.

CAREER

Colonel Chalas is one of only a few Latinas to command at multiple levels in the military and shattered barriers by becoming the first Latina of Dominican ancestry to become Colonel in the military. She served as Commander of 1-158th Aviation Regiment FT Hood, TX (Blackhawk unit) and as Garrison Commander, Parks Reserve Training Area, Dublin, CA. Col. Chalas has deployed overseas and served as the Congressional Liaison for the 37th Vice Chief of the Army. She has served as a fellow on Capitol Hill and the Office of Chief Legislative Liaison in the Pentagon.

IMPACT

First Latina National Guard Black Hawk Helicopter pilot.
First female Colonel of Dominican heritage in the military.
Cleared the skies for future American Latino pilots.

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