

The Colorado District office for the United States Small Business Administration is proud to announce that Antonio Colón, CEO of Combat Training Solutions, has been named the 2010 Colorado Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). This annual award recognizes small business owners in each state who demonstrate entrepreneurial spirit and honor their commitment to the community.

The nominees are judged by an independent panel of small business leaders on a variety of criteria, including staying power, growth in number of employees, increase in sales, current and past financial reports, innovativeness of product or service, response to adversity, evidence of contributions to community-oriented projects, and small business advocacy.

Antonio Colón will represent Colorado at the 2010 National Small Business Week convention in Washington, D.C., May 23-25. Sponsored by the SBA, National Small Business Week recognizes exceptional small business owners for their personal achievement and contributions to the US economy. During the event, a National Business Person of the Year will be selected from the state-level winners.

"It is a great honor to represent the state of Colorado as its Small Business Person of the Year," said Colón. "Small business growth is essential if we are going to see our economy rebound within the next few years, and it is exciting to be a part of that growth and success."

Colón founded Combat Training Solutions in 2005 and immediately began fulfilling a wartime acquisition by the U.S. Department of Defense for non-pyrotechnic Improvised Explosive Device (IED) simulators and training devices to help combat the growing use of IED's in Iraq and Afghanistan. These were the first American-made simulators to enable direct contact training and enhance training realism for soldiers which resulted in significantly improved counter-IED reactionary skills.

Since then, the company has continued to deliver on its mission to design, manufacture and integrate the safest and most advanced battlefield effects available today. Colón was also instrumental in bringing these innovative designs to allied troops and peacekeepers around the world including those in Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Spain and the United Kingdom. As a US Air Force veteran and long-time Colorado resident, he has made it his personal mission to aid the local military and law enforcement community through corporate service, hands on training and advocacy.

"Antonio Colón embodies what a small business entrepreneur is all about," said SBA District Director Greg Lopez. "Not only does he run a successful company in a competitive field during difficult times, but he advocates on behalf of Warfighters, believing that proper training for our soldiers better prepares them for wartime and helps bring them back home safely to our communities."

About Combat Training Solutions

Combat Training Solutions is a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned and HUBZone Certified Small Business providing non-pyrotechnic battlefield simulation devices and training aids for military and security organizations around the world. The company designs, manufactures and integrates Battlefield Special Effects that provide the safest and most realistic effects available for direct contact training. These highly effective and versatile simulators produce sustainable performance improvements and ensure that Warfighters are better prepared to combat evolving terrorist threats. For more information on Combat Training Solutions' non-pyrotechnic products and training services, call **(719) 380-1527 Ext.1** or visit www.CombatTrainingSolutions.com.

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