



**Coach (Kernersville)**

Highlights:

- FINA World Swimming Championships
- FINA World Swimming Championships
- Central American and Caribbean Games
- FINA World Swimming Championships
- Pan American Games.

Current record holder:

- Cuban National Record holder in 2 events
- Central American and Caribbean Games

## Snapshot

Gunther, originally from Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, began swimming at the age of six. When he was twelve years he attended the National Swimming School Marcelo Salado Lastra. After two years of competing, Gunther was selected to be a member of the Cuban National Team. After graduating high school, he continued his education at the Higher Institute of Physical Culture Manuel Fajardo in La Havana, Cuba.

As part of the national team, he competed and trained in countries across the world including Italy, Sweden, Spain, Hong Kong, Canada, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, as well as Australia.

Gunther has competed in major events around the world, including:

- 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia
- 1997 FINA World Swimming Championships
- 1998 FINA World Swimming Championships
- 1998 Central American and Caribbean Games
- 1999 FINA World Swimming Championships
- 1999 Pan American Games.

Gunther also is the current record holder:

- Cuban National Record holder in two separate events
- Central American and Caribbean Games meet record holder.

Years after escaping Cuba, Gunther proudly joined and served in the US Marine Corps. He completed two deployments Iraq and Afghanistan. He finished basic and specialty training in 2007 deployments Iraq and Afghanistan. After quickly moving up the ranks, Gunther was meritoriously promoted.

After his last deployment to Afghanistan, he was hand-selected to be the 2-Star Commanding General of the 2D Marine Aircraft Wing enlisted aid, and served in the billet for nearly 8 months. In July 2011, Gunther was selected by a board to be one of only two Marines in the Meritorious Commissioning Program.

Gunther is a unique individual who is proud of both his Cuban heritage and his life as an American. He speaks of being most honored to be a US citizen and having served our country both home and abroad. Gunther's hobbies include swimming, road and mountain bicycling, hiking, motorcycle riding, movies, listening to audio books, lifting weights, travel, going on adventures with his wife, and cooking.