

Name: Dave Navarro
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- 1) What branch and unit were you in? *Marines (27 years), MAG-46 (Reserves), 3rd Marine Brigade, HI, 5 yrs active*
- 2) What was your highest rank? *Master Sergeant, E-8*
- 3) Are you still enlisted as a reservist or National Guard? *Retired 4 years ago*
- 4) Why did you join the service? *Went in with a couple of buddies. They did their three years, then got out.*
- 5) What did you like the most about being in? *Everything! Really liked to go on hikes (in infantry first four years), pretty motivated out of boot camp, liked doing land navigation, tactical stuff, being independent.*
- 6) What did you like the least? *Cleaning and inspection portion. Lots of 'Dear John' letters to my men when I was active duty.*
- 7) What moment most defined your military experience? *As a Drill Instructor for a little over 14 months. I enjoyed it. I was going to get out for 6 months, went back in as a Reservist, but didn't do DI job anymore, which was kind of a disappointment.*
- 8) What made you choose firefighting as a career? *One brother who were already in LAFD (there are three now). I was working at the post office, which was okay, but kind of boring. I had one brother who'd been with LAFD for four years. I got hired about a year after I applied. One of them is a captain already and two are on the captain's list right now.*
- 9) What do you like the most about firefighting? *Almost the same as the Marine Corps, like the USAR part – going over a cliff for a rescue, going into confined spaces. Made it on national TV one time in Pacoima when a guy was stuck underground for 8 hours. My in-laws in Texas called my wife, who's a CHP dispatcher, and told her 'Hey, Dave's on the news!' My picture even made it into a USAR magazine. The variety. Even though I'm 49, I can still do the physical stuff and I really love it. We had smoke on the 20th floor and all the other guys were still five floors below me, even though I was bagging stuff. I credit humping over the hills in the Marines for helping with this. It's comparable in regards to camaraderie to the Marine Corps. I've got one friend of 20 years here at LAFD who is as close as my brothers.*
- 10) What do you like least about firefighting? *Politics.*