

Name: James Miller
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- 1) What branch and unit were you in? *Marines 1986-1992; MACS-2 (Marine Air Control Squadron), Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; H&HS-38 (Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron), El Toro. 7236 TAC Air Defense Controller for pilots in air-to-air operations, guiding them to intercepts.*
- 2) What was your highest rank? *Staff Sgt, E6.*
- 3) Are you still enlisted as a reservist or National Guard? *No. Was in for 3 yrs and got honorable discharge.*
- 4) Why did you join the service? *Marine recruiter caught me at just the right time when I was thinking about getting out and exploring the world after High School. I'm a Type-A personality, so the adrenaline took over and the Marines sounded great to me.*
- 5) What did you like the most about being in? *Made me very responsible. Gave me a greater sense of owning my destiny. Taught me how to achieve objectives. Helped me to mature and I also liked the camaraderie.*
- 6) What did you like the least? *I outgrew it after awhile, didn't like being told what to do by someone who wasn't qualified to be over me.*
- 7) What moment most defined your military experience? *Being in the service made me more service oriented, like helping people with floods over in Hawaii when I was based there.*
- 8) What made you choose firefighting as a career? *My passion was in helping people. At 33, I wanted to do something beyond myself that had the camaraderie and the teamwork of the military, and also caring for people in a crisis. A friend who was a firefighter in Redondo Beach showed me how to get in.*
- 9) What do you like the most about firefighting? *I like that I'm waking up and not having that 'going to a job' feeling, there's so much variety it keeps it interesting. Even though we work in a company structure, there's a lot of autonomy.*
- 10) What do you like least about firefighting? *We send out strike teams to all these wildland fires, so being a single dad away from my two young children puts an extra burden on me trying to get childcare while I'm gone.*