

Name: Jorge Padilla
Position: Firefighter II
Fire Department: Riverside County Fire/CDF, CA
Email: ffpadilla@hotmail.com

- 1) What branch and unit were you in? *Marines – MWSS 473 (Marine Wing Support Squadron) ARFF (Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting) at MCAS Miramar in San Diego. Provide fire suppression and prevention at EAF (Expeditionary Air Fields) that move along with the ground troops.*
- 2) What was your highest rank? *Sergeant.*
- 3) Are you still enlisted as a reservist or National Guard? *Reservist since 2001.*
- 4) Why did you join the service? *Family tradition in the Marines and also for the life experience, travel, and various benefits (VA, educational).*
- 5) What did you like the most about being in? *Camaraderie. It's like a second family. I would like to be able to deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan for the experience.*
- 6) What did you like the least? *Nothing in particular.*
- 7) What moment most defined your military experience? *Mobilization experience in 2003, where I experienced what it was like to be a Marine 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, like my Active Duty counterparts. Even though I'm in the Reserves, I only do active duty for two days out of a month.*
- 8) What made you choose firefighting as a career? *Impressions as a kid of wanting to be a firefighter that stuck with me.*
- 9) What do you like the most about firefighting? *Like all other firefighters, I have the honor of making a difference in others people's lives.*
- 10) What do you like least about firefighting? *Being presented with a situation where I can't produce a positive outcome even though I gave my best effort. There are times when we, my colleagues and I, give it our best, but we can't get the outcome we had hoped for.*