

Name: Mark Torres
Position: Firefighter/Paramedic
Fire Department: Los Angeles County Fire Department
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- 1) What branch and unit were you in? *Joined in 1996, originally as a Navy Corpsman with a Combat Search and Rescue unit, transferred to the Air Force as a Flight Medic when the SAR unit disbanded.*
- 2) What was your highest rank? *Senior Airman.*
- 3) Are you still enlisted as a reservist or National Guard? *Reserves, just re-enlisted for another 6 years.*
- 4) Why did you join the service? *Felt it was my duty. Wanted to have an edge in hiring on as a firefighter. Went into medical jobs in the military because 80% of the firefighter's job is medically related.*
- 5) What did you like the most about being in? *The fact that being in a military career would enhance my chances of getting the firefighting job I wanted. Travel was also enjoyable.*
- 6) What did you like the least? *Politics within the administration that keeps the salaries and benefits too low. Reserves don't get the attention that active duty forces do. We have the best military in the world with or without the administration's support. I support the men and women currently serving.*
- 7) What moment most defined your military experience? *Two tours in Iraq.*
- 8) What made you choose firefighting as a career? *Came here from Puerto Rico in 1985 to go to college for a fire science degree. Worked at Northrop-Grumman as an aircraft mechanic so could pay for fire science courses and also to enhance my resume for eventually hiring on as a firefighter.*
- 9) What do you like the most about firefighting? *Took me 15 years to get to my dream employer, LA County Fire with the ultimate aim of becoming a paramedic with the guys at Air Ops.*
- 10) What do you like least about firefighting? *Nothing I can think of. I can't wait to get to work when I get up in the morning.*