



Juan Hernandez

Staff Sergeant, SSG Hernandez enlisted into the US Army in February 2005 as an infantryman. After completing basic training in Fort Benning, Georgia, SSG Hernandez was assigned to the 187th Infantry Regiment Rakkasans, 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagles. In September of the same year, SSG Hernandez had to say goodbye to his wife and 10th month old son Marcus and embark on a year-long deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After returning home for a short period of time, SSG Hernandez would have to miss the birth of his second child Christian and deployed to Iraq for a second time in September 2007. In what turned out to be a 15-month deployment, making it so that he spent two birthdays away, SSG Hernandez would be rewarded for his service by becoming a US Citizen and sworn-in in a combat zone. After back to back yearlong deployments, SSG Hernandez was assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Black Horse at Fort Irwin, California. There he was assigned to support training operations for Army units scheduled to deploy worldwide. In April 2011, SSG Hernandez was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division, 3rd Brigade Spartans. After a month, SSG Hernandez was on his way to his 3rd and final deployment in support of operations in Afghanistan, which included taking part in air assault raids designed to capture high value targets. After his return from Afghanistan, SSG Hernandez was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 85th Mountain Infantry Regiment Warrior Transition Unit (WTU), in support of the medical care and recovery of soldiers' combat injuries, as well as those stationed throughout the North Eastern part of the country. After completing over 9 years of service SSG Hernandez decided to return to Tustin, to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology and live a peaceful life with his family.

