

LUIS GAXIOLA

Luis attended Garfield High School in Los Angeles where he was involved in the ROTC. The primary focus of the ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) is to prepare the cadets for life outside of high school by instilling self-esteem, improving their physical fitness, learn to live drug free and build a solid foundation for career development.

After graduating in 1988, he joined the Army and was sent to Ft. Jackson for basic training. Not long after that he was assigned to the 82nd Airborne. The 82nd Airborne Division is an active duty airborne infantry division of the United States Army, specializing in parachute assault operations.

The Gulf War began in 1990 and the 82nd Airborne was called to war. While there, intensive training began in anticipation of desert fighting against the heavily armored Iraqi Army. After serving for three years, Luis joined the Army Reserves. 2013 marks 25 years Luis has served in the military. He has participated in several peace keeping missions in Thailand and was deployed to Bosnia in 1997. He was deployed twice to Iraq, the last time being in 2009.

Luis is currently a Civil Affairs Instructor out of Moffett Field. When he is not playing soldier, he is a Deputy Sheriff stationed with the Santa Clarita Sheriff's Department. Luis has been fighting another battle for the last two years. He was diagnosed with histiocytic sarcoma in February 2012. This is a very rare form of cancer. The tumor was surgically removed, and then returned in June of this year. Luis is currently undergoing chemotherapy at Loma Linda Hospital, and despite all of these hardships, he continues to work between treatments.