



*This month's Love.Protect.Adopt features  
US Marine veteran and VBAS volunteer,  
**Erik Reyes***



Erik Reyes enlisted into the Marines in December 2003, started basic training in June 2004, and was honorably discharged in June 2012. After basic training, Reyes reported to Camp Pendleton School of Infantry (SOI) for machine gun training. After training, Reyes received orders to report to Hawaii to 1st battalion 3rd marines division.

In 2005, Reyes was deployed to Asadabad, Afghanistan. Reyes was there for 7 months and it is where he experienced his first fire fight defending his country. In 2006, Reyes was deployed to Haditha, Iraq; during that tour, Reyes was assigned to the Personal Security Detail (PSD) for the Battalion Commander. Reyes was in Iraq for 8 months, which would turn out to be his longest deployment. In Iraq, Erik Reyes was promoted to the rank of corporal and reenlisted for another 4 years.

Reyes was sent back to Camp Pendleton to report to Weapons and Field Training Battalion, he was there for 2 years training recruits in the fundamentals of rifle marksmanship. It was at Camp Pendleton where Erik Reyes was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Erik Reyes is a proud military veteran, now that he is out, he is back in school and supporting many veteran programs like the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Reyes also spends his free time working to socialize and bathe dogs at the Burbank Animal Shelter. You can often catch Reyes taking some of the strongest dogs up the trail on our Sunday morning Happy Tails Hikes. When asked about his experience in the military Erik Reyes said:

"I proudly served 8 years in our Arm Forces with many great people. I built bonds that will never be broken and I have lost a few friends that will never be forgotten... Semper Fi"

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