

Arlo Lopez
Hannah Philpott
Period 2

John Sanchez
United States Navy
4 years of Service

John Sanchez

In the United States of America many men and women join military to protect the rights and liberty of the people. From soldiers of the battlefield to engineers working in the bases each service man or woman risk their lives to protect the freedom and liberty of each and every American. No matter jobs big or small each veteran has a part for serving their country. Petty Officer 3rd class John Sanchez served his country as an ordnance-man during the Vietnam war from 1965 to 1969. Each person helps make a difference serving their country. John Sanchez helped move bombs and aircraft ordnances to squadrons on a carrier flight deck, then after the bombs were put on the aircraft they were sent to the battlefield.

John Sanchez was born in Taos, New Mexico but moved to Cheyenne Wyoming where he spent most of his early life until the age of 17. Mr. Sanchez grew up with four brothers and two sisters, his father served in the U.S Army during the second world war. Before Mr. Sanchez's service in the military he attended East High School. Mr. Sanchez worked at the Holiday Inn as a busboy. Before the 10th grade Mr. Sanchez was heading in a wrong direction, he always used to get in trouble. Mr. Sanchez wanted to change so he decided to get away and join the military. At first he wanted to join the United States Marine Corps but he decided to join the Navy instead. It was the age of 17 in the year 1965 that John Sanchez enlisted into the Navy right before his

deployment Mr. Sanchez was sent to basic training. Basic training was a scary experience for John Sanchez. During the 1960s officer would get away with anything they did to the enlisted and not everybody wasn't good in boot camp. There was one one good officer, Chief petty officer tree huger treated the enlisted with respect. During boot camp Mr. Sanchez was able to writes letters to his girlfriend, also during boot camp people had to earn the radio. Using the radio was a privilege during basic training. Right after basic training Mr.Sanchez was deployed into the navy

In 1965 John Sanchez was shipped off and assigned to be a ordnance-man on the aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga CV-14.At the same time Mr. Sanchez was sent to the USS Ticonderoga the United states entered a war with Vietnam in 1965. A aviation ordnance-man job was to move the aircraft ordnance like bombs and napalm to the aircraft squadron where they take care of putting the ordnance on the aircraft. Working on a aircraft carrier is a vey dangerous jobs. It involves moving explosives. Most of the time accidents occur, sometime they have to do control barricade where they put a barrier to stop the plane thus saving the plane and pilot. Being a ordnance-man is serious job and were only given a 30 min of down time. During those down time ordnance-man would smoke a cigarette or drink some coffee. Sometime they would get some food . What people ate in the navy was powder milk and eggs, officer would eat first and if a politician came on board maybe they would get good food. Most of the time during the service people like Mr.Sanchez mostly work on the carrier. On of the benefits for being in the navy for John Sanchez is to deal with people.

In the navy John Sanchez did more than moving ordnance on a flight deck, he was able to travel to four different countries. He has visit Singapore, Japan, Philippines, and Hong Kong. His experience wad different, some people are friendly and some people are not. Sometimes where

he was stationed he would deal with rivalry from different divisions. John also has a best friend during his service. They work together in the same division, they usually get 2 days on leave, on the first day they would take pictures and the next day they go to parties. Today Mr. Sanchez's best friend Russ lives in Florida and once a month Mr. Sanchez calls Russ to stay in touch. For entertainment in the navy Mr. Sanchez would see USO shows, sometime Bob Hope would star in these shows. Sometime people would do boxing or do a talent show. But most of the time it was mostly work. The people in the navy were like the people in high school. Mr. Sanchez also had siblings in the military, 1 in marine, 2 in army, and one in army 82nd airborne then marine. Mr. Sanchez's service in the navy as an ordnance-man was paid \$69 a month, \$55 during combat on the carrier deck.

Right before John Sanchez retires from the navy John met his wife Clara in a party in Pomona, CA. Clara wanted to join the navy too but eventually they got married and a year later Mr. Sanchez retired, he thought of reenlisting but decided not to. During his honorable discharge he made sure he has all of his uniform, then received his ribbon and DD-215. When he left the military the people in the US were badly treating the veterans like Mr. Sanchez badly because of the war in Vietnam. After his discharge Mr. Sanchez went to find a job. Mr. Sanchez's work moving pipes at 42.25/hr, then later ran a warehouse, working with trucks was one of his first jobs. Today John Sanchez lives in Moreno Valley CA with his wife. Mr. Sanchez and his wife Clara are for over 46 years and they like to travel and sometime they like to watch movies and football. Each and different veteran has a different viewpoint of their service in the military. Many people have reasons why they join the military, John Sanchez joined the military to serve for his country.

