

Ella Portillo

Kele Kent

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Steve Jacobs

Steve Jacobs grew up in Whittier California. He was raised in a 5 person family which includes a mother, father, twin brother, and sister. He was brought up being raised by a very strict father who was in the military himself. He had never thought of what he wanted to do after high school. He told us he really never thought of what he wanted to do because he didn't really have any special skills. When he turned 18 his dad had basically told him "you either pay rent or you move out." That happened to be an extra push towards his decision of joining the military. Jacobs had decided to join the military right out of high school, he was 17 ½ .(1983) Jacobs loved to travel, so that was another push towards his military decision. Jacobs wanted to take the safest branch. During his evaluation test he happened to score very high in mechanics, so he was moved to that area when in the air force. During his days in Boot Camp he told us they were very stressful. Everyone there was very serious and he said "It was designed to weed out the weaklings both physically and mentally". They were very strict on rules and everything had to be done to their standards. His boot camp was located in Texas, and it was 6 weeks of them teaching you your craft. He said that on his first day of boot camp he was the first person to get in trouble. He was still in his civilian clothes and everyone was lined up facing the front picking up and setting down there luggage when something happened that make him turn his head, the sergeant caught him and yelled at him for a while. Jacobs would often stay in touch with his family, they would exchange letters, His Grandma would send him bright yellow colored envelopes during his time in Boot Camp and he said it was embarrassing! His 2 other siblings

were also in the military. He and his twin brother Doug, were both in the Air Force together but at separate places. His first base was located at R.A.F. Mildenhall, England his second base was in Las Vegas Nellis AFB. One scary time for him was where he was transporting equipment and he had forgotten to safely secure the safety piece, when he had driven away the piece had fallen out of his car! He was so terrified and he thought he was going to get kicked out but luckily he only had to repair the damage. This was 3 years into his service. That was when he realized he probably should not be a mechanic. So he became a radio and television broadcaster for the Air Force. He was moved to Turkey where where he lived for 2 years. His last base was in Maxwell AFB in montgomery, Alabama. He loved radio and broadcasting, but one thing he loved more was traveling. He told us he would travel anywhere on his free days. He was explaining to us that since he was in the military he was able to get tickets to go any place for 10\$! The military gives you 30 vacation days and he would travel on those days, while most people would go home. He had the heart for seeing and experiencing new things, that's why he loved to travel and no one else in the Air Force would travel with him so he would hop on a plane and leave alone. A few places he listed was Scotland, Stonehenge, and Belgium for only 27\$! When he wasn't traveling he was working on base. One day he was taking a class at broadcasting school and he met a woman named Jordana, they didn't know it yet but they would be husband and wife later in life. They met each other in the Air Force and they were really good friends. He said he had chased her all over the world until one day he said enough, he was tired of being away from her, he wanted them to be together so he asked her to marry him. In order for them to be able to stay together one of them had to get out of the military, they decided it was going to be him. When we asked him what made him decide that, he gave us this beautiful answer "you find love when you're not looking for it, I know love is better than any job out there, I really wanted to be with

my wife.” He thought, what would make him more happy? His job, or his wife. He chose his wife. When he was asked about his last day on the job he said it was very uneventful, he doesn’t really remember. He had got out of the military in 1991 completing a total of eight years. Once he had settled in with a new job, his wife called him and said “Do you like sushi?” He was very confused and said yes and she replied saying “good because we are moving to Japan!” His wife ended up getting deployed to Japan and since they were married he was able to go along with her. During his time in Japan he had decided to go back to school and get his bachelor's degree. It had taken him 13 years to complete it. He had also worked part time in marketing while he was there. He discovered his love for photography and loved capturing sunrises and sunsets when he would travel around an island he was stationed at off the coast of Portugal, in Azores, and take pictures of the beauty he saw. He told us jokingly that he was the “housewife” because his wife was the sole “breadwinner.” He was in charge of the house work, cooking and cleaning. Sometimes he would have to go 8 to 9 months without seeing his wife because of the training she needed to complete. He was often by himself and he had learned to really master photography. His favorite type of pictures to take were black and white. He knew he could teach people photography and make money from it so he decided to teach classes. When him and his wife moved back to the U.S. he stated he was able to get a job instantly. He had become an interviewer, and he still remembers his first time interviewing a news anchor, he was very shaky and nervous! He believes his second job broadcasting was more important because that taught him the “people skills” writing and speaking. He said “When you have a job you love it feels like you are not working, you are just having fun all day.” Mr. Jacobs believed that joining the Air Force was such a positive experience, he was able to get jobs, and he met the love of his life there. When his wife decided to retire her last base was March Air Force base. When you

retire from the military they will move you to wherever you want to live, him and his wife had decided to stay in the Moreno Valley/ Riverside area because he had already had a good job in Moreno Valley. They moved to Riverside in May 1999. He jokingly told us that this is the longest place the two of them have ever lived because the military moves you around about every 4 years. He told us a really good point his father had made to him, "If you save 10% of what you make you will never be poor." He had taken that advice with him and he was able to use his money for traveling with his wife around different parts of the world, he was also able to buy a car in cash because of this. His military experiences were very positive and he said he was able to learn and experience many things from joining. He and his wife now live in Riverside California with him having a job in Marketing, they have 2 cats and he still loves photography. He left off with telling us joining the military is worth it because there's many benefits and many positive experiences that came from it.