



Building Homes for Heroes

USMC Staff Sergeant Scott Nicholas



Tampa, Florida



SSgt Scott Nicholas

Hero Story



Staff Sergeant Scott Nicholas joined the United States Marine Corps in 1994 in the Delayed Entry Program (DEP) under the Marine Corps College Fund program. The DEP is a program under which an individual may enlist in a Reserve or Inactive Component of a military service and specify a future reporting date. In December of 1994, Nicholas arrived in Parris Island, South Carolina and was placed in Platoon 2069, Hotel Company, 2d Recruit Training Battalion for boot camp.

After graduating boot camp, PFC Nicholas was sent to Marine Combat Training (MCT) at Camp Geiger, North Carolina, and then to the Automotive Organizational Maintenance Course at Camp Johnson, North Carolina. While stationed there, he was promoted to Lance Corporal (LCpl) and deployed to Thailand for Cobra Gold/Freedom Banner 96. LCpl Nicholas returned to the states in October 1996. He was stationed with 2d Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2d Marine Division in Courthouse Bay, Camp Lejeune. During this time, he was promoted to corporal and sergeant. After serving as a motor transport mechanic, Sgt. Nicholas made a lateral move to geospatial intelligence. From April to November 1999, he was stationed at Fort Belvoir, VA, at the Defense Mapping School, before transferring back to Camp Lejeune where he was stationed with 2d Intelligence Battalion, 2d Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) Headquarters Group (MHG).

Nicholas was there from November 1999 to June 2003. He deployed with 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) - Special Operations Capability (SOC). During this time, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant (SSgt). He then re-deployed with Task Force Tarawa in 2003 for the initial push into Iraq. He was with that unit from January 2003 to June 2003. From July 2003 to June 2006, he was stationed with the Defense Intelligence Agency. From August 2006 to 2009, Nicholas was assigned to Korea numerous times with the 3d Intelligence Battalion, and from July 2009 to November 2010 with the 2d Intelligence Battalion. He was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Award in 2006, Joint Service Achievement Award in 2006, Marine Corps Good Conduct Award (1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009), and the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Award in 2009.

In November of 2010, SSgt Nicholas was paralyzed from the shoulders down in a motorcycle accident in Jacksonville, North Carolina. For the past year, his wife Yolanda and children Katessa, Alexis, and Scott, Jr. have been at his side while he has gone through rehabilitation and recovery. SSgt Nicholas is currently receiving therapy at the Tampa Veterans Administration hospital.





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SSgt Scott Nicholas in Iraq.





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SSgt Scott Nicholas with United States Army Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez and others at a Defense Intelligence Agency event.





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SSgt Scott Nicholas and son Scott, Jr.





SSgt Scott Nicholas

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SSgt Scott Nicholas with his son and daughter at Disney World.





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Scott and Yolanda Nicholas.

