

## Meet Our Newest Police Officer, Carlos Sanchez



Carlos was born in Caguas, Puerto Rico and was the youngest in his family, with one older brother and sister. When he was one year old, his family moved to Miami, Florida where he spent his childhood. He loved fishing and riding his Grizzly all-terrain vehicle (ATV) in the marsh. He especially enjoyed plowing through the mud holes and he came home covered in mud from head to toe. Carlos graduated from Braddock High School in Miami-Dade County, Florida in 2003. He explored various jobs in the Miami area and then decided to make a career of the Military. He had seen his brother proudly serve his country and he wanted to do his part.

Carlos joined the Army and his first job was in the infantry, which was his first choice. He completed his infantry basic training in Fort Benning, Ga. He completed a 14 week training which taught him discipline and helped prepare him for his next assignment where he studied chemical weapons at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. He then returned to Fort Benning to complete Air Born School. He learned to jump out of airplanes, which he has done about 23 times in his career. After completing Air Born School he was transferred to the 82nd Airborne in Fort Bragg, NC in 2009. He arrived on a Friday and left for Iraq on the following Sunday.

Carlos remarked that "being in Iraq was like putting your life on pause. There was no cell service, no television, and little to no internet...so you were essentially on hold and totally focused on the mission." He was located in Iraq for one year where he served on personal security details and conducted patrols. He has said that his service was definitely a life changing experience and he found an inner strength that helped him during this difficult time.

Carlos completed his military service in 2012 and returned to Miami. He saw the growth of the city and decided to relocate to Fort Meyers, Florida. This is where he met the love of his life, Alexandria. She was a 5th grade school teacher and after he met her he said, "everything went right." He worked as a Medical Technician and also worked for Coca-Cola before entering the Police Academy in 2016. After experiencing yet another hurricane, (Hurricane Irma) Carlos and Alexandria decided to seek higher ground. They relocated to Hendersonville, NC in 2018 and Carlos attended the Police Academy at Blue Ridge Community College. He was pleased to be selected as a Police Officer in the Lake Lure Police Department. He says, "I look forward to coming to work every day!"

Police Chief Sean Humphries remarked that "Officer Sanchez has been a wonderful addition to our Police Force. He completed a vigorous orientation and has performed well during his short tenure here. He brings a strong work ethic and a great attitude to his work in the Town. We are very pleased to have him on our team."

Now that Carlos has become settled in his career path and has the job of his dreams, he asked Alexandria to marry him. She said "yes" and they were married on October 12, 2019.