

TREVOR PENERO, Veterans Specialist

tpenero@laspositascollege.edu

925.424.1571

I grew up in Stockton, CA, and at age 18 enlisted in the U.S. Army as an Airborne Infantryman assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. I spent three years at Fort Bragg, NC, but was lucky in that I participated in jungle training in Panama, Arctic wilderness training in Alaska, desert training at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, CA, and force on force training at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, LA. I conducted day and night airborne operations in support of major exercises, and I even landed in the trees on my last night jump in Division.

After being honorably discharged, I enrolled in and graduated from Las Positas College, and then went on to California State University, Sacramento, where I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and walked across the stage as part of the Criminal Justice Honors Society. After graduation, I re-enlisted in the U.S. Army National Guard, this time in the intelligence career track. I attended the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA for Russian, graduated intelligence school, and then immediately deployed to Kosovo, where I ran investigations on anything that impeded freedom of movement throughout the country or threatened a safe and secure environment.

When I returned from deployment, I began teaching analysis and collection for military. I then switched jobs, which began my analytical career. For the next 10 years I conducted analysis in several capacities. I first started as a targeting analyst for the U.S. Cyber Command, then did criminal intelligence analysis for California's Counterdrug Program, then went onto intelligence analysis for the Federal Bureau of Investigations in Washington, DC, and then finally ended my career as political / military intelligence analyst for the Department of Defense.

Along the way, I enrolled in and graduated from the American Military University with a Master of Arts in International Relations. But what I am most proud of is my time at the National Intelligence University in Bethesda, MD where I graduated with the Master of Science in Strategic Intelligence. I was selected as part of a cohort of military servicemen and women to have the opportunity to attend this great academic institution, overseen by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. The institution is the only institution in America given in a classified setting. My 90-page thesis was even classified. I graduated at the top of my class with a 4.0 GPA, which stands as a testament to my dedication to academic rigor, and my perspective that I am a consummate student.

After retiring from the military—and for almost a year now—I have been a case manager for a non-profit in Oakland, CA serving homeless veterans. I ensured those who were on the verge of eviction received housing assistance in the form of back rent payments, and I helped literally homeless veterans gain access to new apartments. I was able to provide homeless veterans with household goods and furniture and pay for their apartments for up to a year. It was one of the most rewarding jobs I could have ask to be a part of. Now, as a veteran's specialist, I hope to serve the veterans of Las Positas College with their education goals, benefits, and certifications. I am glad to be coming onboard such as well-known and established team, and I look forward to making a lasting impact on the next generation of college students here in the greater Bay Area.