



USS VINCENNES



LUIS NIEVES



DARON COOPER



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Alaska State Trooper since 2006
U.S. Navy (1988-1992)
U.S. Coast Guard (1995-2006)

After graduating from high school in Brooklyn, N.Y., Nieves joined the Navy and served as an operations specialist aboard the Aegis cruiser USS Vincennes. While serving aboard the Vincennes, Nieves deployed throughout the Western Pacific and the Persian Gulf in support of national security, the United Nations, and maritime interdiction missions. He ended his first military obligation in 1992 and spent a few years working security in San Diego until joining the Coast Guard in 1995. While in the Coast Guard, he served as a search and rescue boat operator as a small boat coxswain; a maritime interdiction boat operator aboard the 38-foot Fountain Interceptor; a law enforcement boarding officer; deployable team leader; maritime law enforcement instructor; Explorer post supervisor and founder of first U.S. Coast Guard Explorer post; training petty officer; and boatswains mate chief petty officer. During his time in the Coast Guard, he served aboard U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Vigilant at Cape Canaveral, Fla.; Coast Guard Station at South Padre Island, Texas; Pacific Tactical Law Enforcement Team at San Diego; and Maritime Safety and Security Team 91111 in Anchorage. His military and law enforcement duties required numerous deployments. He averaged approximately 270 days a year away from home. As a fluent Spanish speaker, Nieves was tasked with providing training in Spanish for law enforcement, most notably the Mexican Federal Police. At the time, the training was the Mexican government's response to wide spread corruption among its state police departments. He also provided training to foreign maritime interdiction organizations, in support of U. S. Embassy interests and operations. This training was provided within Panama and Mexico. After 16 years of active duty service, he left the Coast Guard in 2006 to become an Alaska State Trooper.



DARON COOPER

Alaska State Trooper since 2007
U.S. Coast Guard (2003-2007)

After going to college in Utah, Cooper looked to the military as a way to expand his knowledge. He considered a few other branches before “stumbling across the U.S. Coast Guard,” which at the time he, like many people, didn't realize was a military branch. After doing some research and speaking with a recruiter multiple times, he joined in 2003. He chose the Coast Guard because of its law enforcement mission. After the Sept. 11 attacks, Congress mandated that the Coast Guard create the Maritime Safety and Security Teams and placed 12 of these teams around the country, including Anchorage. His goal at the time was to eventually work for a law enforcement agency. After completing his gunners mate technical school, the Alaskan team was his top pick. What made this team unique was its number of potential deployments. He was assigned to a 14-person Law Enforcement/Force Protection team within the unit and in participated in multiple deployments and missions during his four year tour. He worked with then Petty Officer Nieves, who became a Trooper the year before Cooper. Knowing his contract in the military was soon ending, he looked into the Alaska State Troopers and was fortunate enough to get a job offer. He left the Coast Guard Aug. 2, 2007 and was at the Public Safety Academy in Sitka three days later. “I had just enough time to get everything on my pack list and head right back out of the door,” Cooper said. “Being in the military was an awesome experience and I thank those who have served and who continue to serve our country.”

