

Airman Pursues Passion for IT

VFW's Help A Hero scholarship helps pay veterans' tuition as he works toward a doctorate

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Nathaniel Juarez, 27, of Greensboro, N.C., was recently awarded the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship." The funds will help pay his tuition as Juarez works toward his Doctorate in Information Technology.

After enlisting and completing basic training at the age of 17, Juarez served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Jordan, Kuwait and Qatar. He worked in both Special Forces Communications and Base Communications.



His passion for technology and communication led him to the Information Technology field, and inspired his decision to pursue a degree in Intelligence Studies.

"Information Technology is an ever-changing field that presents new threats every day," Juarez related. "I am what some call an ArcMap – Geographical Information System (GIS) guru. I believe Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) is one of the most dangerous threats in today's world considering how easily social media profiles are made and shared."

Juarez is still serving active duty. He recently moved from Korea for a three-year tour in Germany with his wife, Amelia and 1-year-old daughter, Carolina.

He said, "I'm looking forward to traveling with my family and trying more German food. I also plan on visiting local VFW chapters here in Europe."

Juarez joined the VFW when he was stationed at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. He emphasized the incredible support the VFW has shown in helping him complete his education, and offered wise advice to other military members looking to go back to school:

"Time management is essential to success. You can do anything you set your mind to if you're willing to work hard."

The deadline for the 2018 spring semester of VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program is Nov. 15. [Learn more about eligibility requirements](#) and apply for a scholarship today.