

# GABLES

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Cover photo provided  
by Francisco Reyes

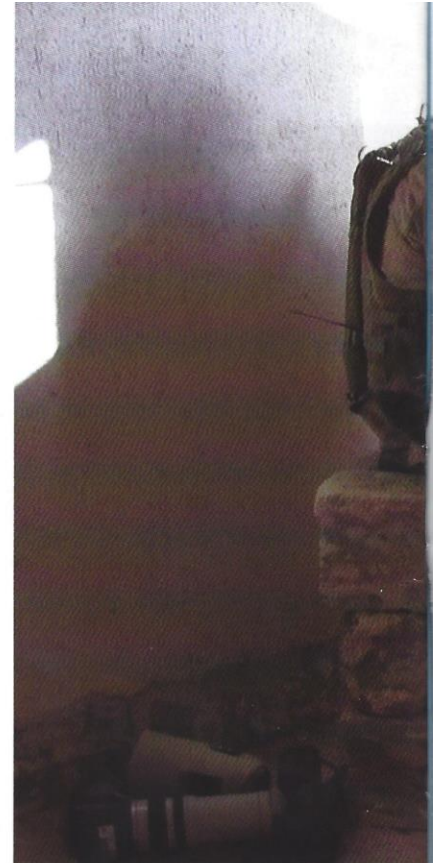
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Meet Lt. Colonel  
Francisco Reyes



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## **MEET LT. COLONEL FRANCISCO REYES**

# How a Soul of Excellence Led to a Life of Service

Miami seems to have something in the air which permeates through all of its residents in the form of outstanding levels of greatness. This month's resident feature has worn many hats throughout his tribulations, and is embarking on a new venture for life during his retirement years. Lt. Colonel Francisco Javier Reyes is a true Coral Gables to his core, and is directly responsible for the betterment of ALL of our lives. Widely accomplished with 31 years of military service, 12 years of SWAT law enforcement, and 9 years of law service with the U.S. Department of State under his belt, it is a wonder how LtCol Reyes has the wherewithal to start entrepreneurship at this point

in his life. Let's peel back the layers to really learn about this incredibly inspiring and uplifting man.

Having lived his childhood and transformative, teenage years in Peru during a tumultuous time riddled with crime, terrorism, and violent narco-trafficking, Francisco Reyes made it a point to uplift the areas around him. Seeing the devastation that these events can bring to a community was a wake up call for him, and he has used those memories as fuel for the continued benevolence that he continuously strives to provide. "I made a promise to myself to pursue professional paths that would provide the opportunity to protect the most vulnerable, and, in some way, enhance oth-

er people's lives." He might not have been here at the time, but Lt. Colonel Francisco Reyes embodied the South Floridian spirit long, long ago.

His journey of service began in 1992 when he had enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps at Paris Island. The rigorous training he endured there tested his mind, body and soul for the challenges ahead of his impactful life. After completing Infantry School, Francisco volunteered for reconnaissance training and successfully joined the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion. He continued his upward trajectory throughout his early career, picking up more and more responsibilities as he marched forward through the ranks within various reconnaissance teams.

Francisco decided to pursue a college education in 1998, transitioning to the reserves. Throughout this schooling, Francisco remained active in the reserves, even joining the 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company and eventually becoming a team leader. On top of that, Francisco also took part in specialized training in Airborne High Altitude High Opening Operations; Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Training; and Scout Sniper School. And then he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology - does he ever stop!?. Francisco is a walking beacon of achievement and excellence, guided by the idea that his life was meant for something greater than himself. It's learning about people like him that inspires me each and every day to pursue greatness in every form, and I am sure that this ethos of excellence transpires through every pore of our beautiful Coral Gables community.

Francisco volunteered for a



combat tour in Iraq in 2004, as a Team Leader with the 1st Force Reconnaissance Company, 7th Platoon. He led his team through a myriad of missions against insurgent forces, eventually leading to the neutralization and capture of several high-value targets, earning him the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat Valor device and Combat Action Ribbon. Francisco - if you are

reading this - on behalf of all Americans, thank you for your service. We wouldn't have the opportunity to live in a country this beautiful if it weren't for the men and women like you who put their lives on the line for the betterment of ours.

Seeing how Francisco's list of accomplishments and achievements are too extensive to fit in this magazine, I



The President of Colombia personally awarding Francisco for his service.

can only summarize his time after Iraq as follows: Francisco spent the following 10 years traveling the world to serve various teams and missions in leadership roles to accomplish each mission he took on. He blazed through the ranks, and became a force to be reckoned with.

Throughout all of this, Francisco was a SWAT law enforcement officer from 1998 to 2003 for Coral Gables, The City Beautiful. During his tenure there, he earned the esteemed Coral Gables Officer of the Year award in 2001. In 2003, he transferred to the West Palm Police Department for another 10 years of selfless

service. It's astonishing this man's list of achievements!

In 2014, Francisco finally completed earning his law degree, opening a vaster array of doors for him to succeed in. After passing the Bar exam, Francisco began his career with the U.S. Department of State Foreign Service, where he had overseas tours in Nicaragua and Colombia, and earned various recognitions, including being personally honored by the President of Colombia.

Francisco seems to have an endless stream of energy, passion, and motivation for life, but the fact of the matter is that he is driven and inspired



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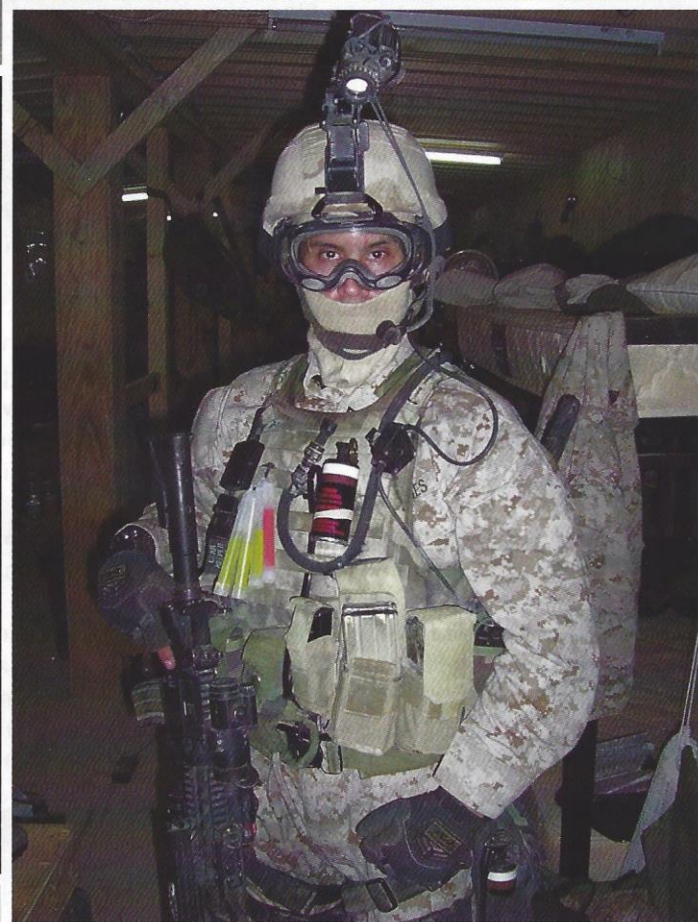
Between the careers and the families, the kids and the pets, things start piling up. And that's where we come in! **With unmatched industry experience, DoodyCalls is the leading provider in pet waste pick up.** Sign up today and enjoy a clean, safe, and completely pet-waste free yard all year round with no contracts and 100% satisfaction guarantee.





by the love he has for his family. "I could not have been more blessed to have such an amazing wife and children. Watching our children grow each day into amazing human beings has given me so much hope for humanity during the uncertain times that we live in." The goals for his life are simple, yet powerful ones. He is a firm believer in the idea that each and every one of us have a personal responsibility to be the absolute best version of ourselves that we can be, and that we should in turn, be the type of people who also strive to see the best in others. He prefers to engage in activities that will empower others to embody their own image of greatness, and uplift them into eternal glory. It's quite obvious that he is a manifestation of this very spirit, and we are extremely lucky to have someone of this caliber as a neighbor.

Francisco has led an extraordinary life of adventure and service dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of all Americans.



Francisco is taking part in a new chapter of his life, embarking on a journey of entrepreneurship with his lifelong best friend and business partner. DoodyCalls is a pet waste removal franchise, relieving residents and communities of the inconvenience of picking up dogs' poop. He will be opening the very first one of these franchises to service Coral Gables, and the whole of Miami-Dade county. This new path of life will give him more opportunities to connect with the Coral Gables community, learn more about how businesses operate, and ultimately enhance the quality of life for each and every resident of Coral Gables. Will literally have the chance to make The City Beautiful even more beautiful by turning brown to green - how neat is that?!

His love for his city is more than superficial. Lt. Colonel Francisco is thankful for this city to give him the opportunity to fulfill his lifelong dream of being a law enforcement officer. He enjoys the sheer beauty of the areas that we live in, the safety of the community, and the neighborly feeling that he experiences with everyone he encounters. The gentle, and kind dispositions from every Coral Gabler he encounters is more than enough reason to stay here, and thrive here. Let's continue providing men and women like Francisco with our fullest hearts and ultimate respect, for if it weren't for people like him, there would be no such thing as The City Beautiful!



If you would like to learn more about Francisco, or even connect with him, feel free to let me know!