

DROPPING BOMBS DROPPING BEATS

DJ REN

STORY BY MCSN KELSEY TRINH

By day, he is AOCS Rahareden Miranda, the weapons department G-3 LCPO, but some nights he transforms into DJ Ren. Sailors can often catch him DJing step classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the hangar bay or during steel beach picnics and beer days.

Music has always been a part of Miranda's life.

"I got into music when I was 5," said Miranda. "My uncle had his own DJ company, and I was always the kid who tagged along. I would press the lights because back in the day, they didn't have automatic lights. I would just press buttons as a kid and was just amazed! Ever since then, I've been hooked."

By the time Miranda was 16, he said he had saved up enough money to buy his own DJ equipment. Miranda picked up DJing thinking it would be just another hobby, but now he is addicted to it.

"Music has always been a part of my life because it tells a story," said Miranda. "No matter what you are feeling, whether you are feeling happy, sad, heartbroken, or in love, there's always a song about it. I love all music. It depends on how I'm feeling at that moment. If I'm happy and listening to a

certain song that makes me happy, that's my favorite song in that moment."

Miranda is often asked to perform at a variety of Truman events, including MWR events, steel beach picnics, step class and recently LIFT's Wild'n'Out.

"Anything that builds morale, especially with our situation out here, I just love doing it," said Miranda. "Seeing Sailors dance or sing along with the music, it feels good inside knowing that I can help build up someone's morale and help them out a little bit."

The logistical side of DJing does take some planning, explained Miranda.

"Making a set list can depend on the beats per minute," said Miranda. "For example, step class is a high intensity training, so you want to play something upbeat. You need the music to stay in step, and because the class is quick, you can't play anything slow."

With Miranda performing at a variety of ship events, Sailors approach him about DJing and what equipment they should buy, even for a lesson here and there.

"AOCS Miranda would come to hangar deck control to ask for space to set up his equipment for the step classes," said ABHC

David Gore, the air department V-3 hangar deck LCPO. "I saw that he was the DJ for the music, and eventually I would go out and watch some of his techniques."

Gore, who has had an interest in DJing for a few years, said he purchased his own equipment while underway.

According to Gore, his favorite part of DJing is watching the crowd go crazy to good music.

"That's a great feeling, being able to share that skill with someone," said Miranda.

Miranda believes that music and DJing is a passion, but it's also an art. There's no instruction on how to DJ, he described. It's how someone does it.

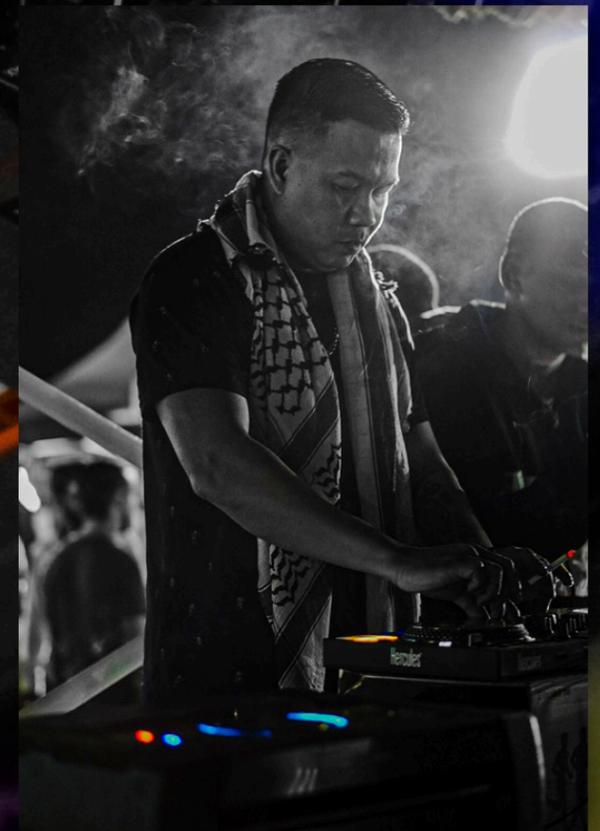
"What sounds good to one person may not sound good to someone else," said Miranda.

Miranda advises those who are passionate about something they want to just go out there and chase it.

"I want to start a DJ business after the Navy and just do the thing I love after the military, being able to provide music and entertainment for the community," said Miranda.

Miranda said he never thought he would be doing this for over 20 years. It all really started when he was in high school, thinking it was just going to be a hobby.

"I got stuck on it," said Miranda. "I'm addicted to music."



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY AOCS MIRANDA