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★ ARMED FORCES ★

Special Edition

Recruit Finishes Basic Training

Navy Seaman Recruit Dylan S. Cumbo, a 2008 graduate of Franklin High School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the 8-week program, Cumbo completed a variety of

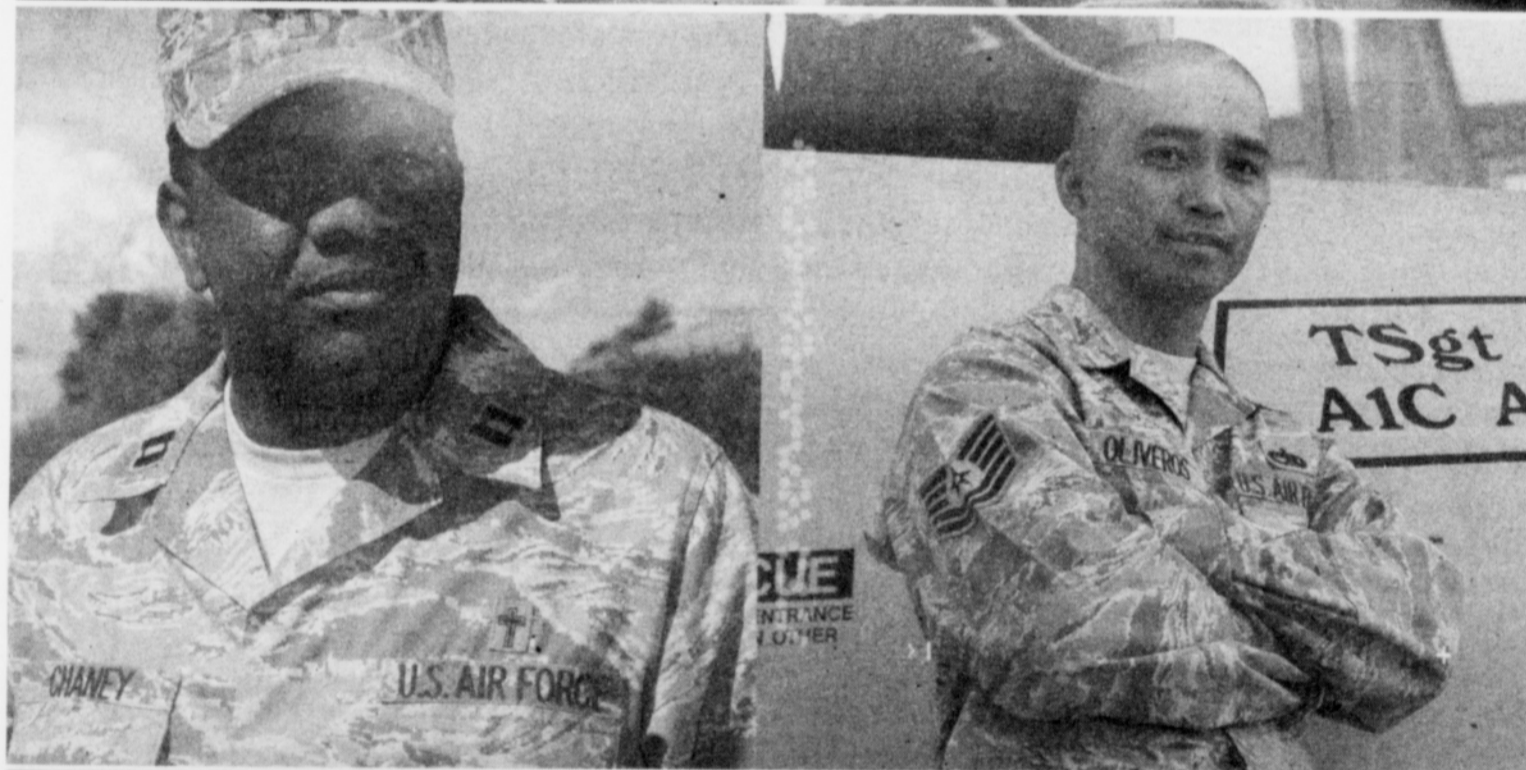
training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations." This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to

succeed in the fleet. The instruction is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of honor, courage and commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor.



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School Board OKs STARBASE contract

continued **▲** from front

Jaquiss said that the program's hands-on math and science education helps the budget-strapped district, and revealed that his students showed a 59 percent improvement from pre- to post-science trip scores.

Many community members spoke out against the program, saying it was a means to recruit impressionable and economically vulnerable youth into joining the military. Most of the schools participating in the program are Title I schools, with high percentages of minority students, and high poverty rates.

Anne Trudeau, a PPS parent, spoke in opposition to the program, pointing out that photos from the STARBASE site — showing students being instructed by teachers in uniform and students climbing on a tank — are means in which the military is targeting low-income or at-risk youth under the guise of education. Those photos, she said, are in contradiction to what board members claim happens on the base.

"It has happened. It is recruitment," Trudeau told the board.

She also inquired about alternative curricula for parents who opt-out their child, and requested that equal school time be given to other

career options, since STARBASE is defined as a "career program."

Board member Dilafruz Williams also expressed concern over alternative education for opt-out students, and said more steps needed to be taken to ensure equal opportunities are available.

The board confirmed that parents were sent home documentation in both English and Spanish about STARBASE's location on the Portland National Guard Air Base. Member Bobbie Regan also related her trip last school term to the base, saying it allies closely with PPS's outdoor school program.

Student representative Dina Yazdani repeated past students' testimony about their enjoyment of STARBASE, mentioning that they said they "had no idea" that the program took place on a base. She was encouraged by these statements, as she — and several board members — also spoke out about the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. However, she was concerned that a former teacher at the base did say that he was interested in recruiting students.

Board members Williams and Ruth Atkins voted no, with student representative Yazdani unofficially voting yes, and member Martin Gonzalez not present.

Marine Learns Engineering

Marine Corps Pfc. Nigel L. Bliss, a 2006 graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School, recently completed the Basic Engineer Equipment Electrical Systems Technician course.

During the classroom instruction and practical application at Marine Corps Engineer School, Marine Corps Base, Camp

Lejeune, N.C., Bliss received training on the operation, maintenance and repair of field power generating equipment.

He also studied electrical theory, operating principles of alternating and direct current generators and control devices.

Bliss joined the Marine Corps Reserve in January.