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Dear STARBASE Warner Robins,

I would like to personally give insight on how important DoD STARBASE was for the eventual development of my career path. I attended a local school in Macon, GA and went to DoD STARBASE once a day for about five weeks when I was in the 5th grade (1999-2000). While there, I remember learning about concepts of lift and drag and how it affects the aerodynamics of a wing. In addition to lectures, there were numerous times in which we were able to apply concepts into practical applications. The lessons supplemented the experiments, but also made you think. Critical thinking skills were important to accomplish tasks. One of the many experiments conducted was the creation of an ESTES rocket over the course of a couple of weeks and then firing it off at the completion of the course. I cannot explain how great it felt to be able to design and build something and watch it in action.

DoD STARBASE allowed for the development of my critical thinking, time management, and teamwork skills. The most important point of DoD STARBASE though, was first-hand insight on the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) field.

In 2008, I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps as an “engineer and electrical equipment systems technician”. During my four-year enlistment, I was stationed in North Carolina and Okinawa, Japan and deployed to the Philippines and Thailand. During my deployment in the Philippines, we were hit with a super-typhoon, known as Megi. It was during this incident, I assisted and provided for the Filipinos with water and electricity.

In 2011, mainland Japan was hit by a typhoon and we had nuclear reactors go down. As a result, I was a part of the relief effort to aid the Japanese and received a Humanitarian Service Medal for services. Later in 2011, while stationed in North Carolina, I was once again, assisting in the relief of communities when Hurricane Sandy landed. The skills I learned at DoD STARBASE lead to my ability to be so successful with these cases.

Since leaving the military in 2012, I have completed a cooperative education program with Georgia Transmission Corporation, an electrical transmission corporation that deals with high voltage transmission from generation to distribution. I am also currently an intern at Proterra, an all-electric bus manufacturing company. I currently go to school at Clemson University and major in Electrical Engineering.

Learning about STEM and STEM-related fields is of the utmost importance and must be instilled in young individuals. DoD STARBASE allows for students to learn more about fields that they may not have had an interest in prior. DoD STARBASE provides opportunities to students that they may not have.

Respectfully,

David Shawn Canady



[1]

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