



by Arthur Street
Staff Reporter

All around us, everyday, whether we notice it or not, Veterans live with us, in our communities and our hearts. So this Veteran's day, keep those who have fought for our country who are either retired or currently serving overseas, and those who have fought and died in the name of freedom in our memories and close to our hearts.

Certainly nobody ever said that being in the military is easy, which is why most of the branches have rigorous training involved in becoming one of the best, and one of the many whom has served in the armed forces gave his input on just how arduous of a task physical training is. Eric Thompson, English 10 teacher, served in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) from 1988-94, and judging by his description of his basic 12 week training, the word "Arduous" is a bit of an under statement. When asked what was a Marine's physical training like, Thompson said "We had to constantly run drills....there wasn't much downtime either," said Thompson.

Life after Physical Training was just as tedious as during, but it was much more laid back when not on a mission and when you are not yet deployed. Thompson added that he was deployed to over 21 different countries in the course of just over 3 or 4 years, and while in those countries, he takes part in many peace and aid missions, while also learning from the locals, their own stories. However during deployment in these countries, typical daily life is not just laid back, "You always had to find something to do, even if you had completed all of your chores for the day," also said Thompson.

Thompson's time in the military he sees things from a different perspective. "I feel like he sees things from a different perspective. He has seen people struggle way worse than people in America, he has a greater appreciation of life than most people." says Hailey Lux ('19) she says when asked about thompson's time in the military. The same question was asked to Tonia Bowers ('19), and she also says "It has made his view points different".



Thompson's time in the military also reflects his work in school. "I feel like he sees things from a different perspective. He has seen people struggle way worse than people in America, he has a greater appreciation of life than most people." says Hailey Lux ('19) she says when asked about thompson's time in the military. The same question was asked to Tonia Bowers ('19), and she also says "It has made his view points different".

As with any branch of the military, the USMC have their own specific set of beliefs, such as "Honor, God, Country, Corp" and "Semper Fidelis" which is Latin for 'Always Faithful'. These strict beliefs were held with the utmost dignity and courage "From 1775 all the way to today, the USMC has help secure and protect the freedom and rights of every U.S. Citizen", Thompson added. Veterans, no matter what branch have fought for the american way for over 200 years, and whether they are past, or present members of the military, they should all be celebrated on this and every Veteran's Day.



