

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Shaun Lowry – Kings Park High School Class of 2002
(HVAC)**

Shaun Lowry graduated from Kings Park High School and completed the Wilson Technological Center's two-year HVAC program in 2002, but this *Where Are They Now* is going to be a little different. Instead of highlighting our student's journey to a career that's built on his education at Tech, in honor of Armed Forces Day, this month's student is one who did not pursue HVAC but instead entered the United States Marine Corps.

Although Shaun enjoyed his education and graduated with the technical skills needed to find employment in the field, he quickly learned he did not want to make HVAC his lifelong career. He tried working alongside his father, a Local 52 NY Carpenters/Shop Craft Union member who worked on movie, television and commercial sets. For various reasons Shaun did not want to pursue this profession. Instead, he joined the United States Marine Corps.

Although he went into the military thinking he was better than everyone and had an advantage, Shaun quickly learned humility. One of the first things the Marine Corps taught him was that Marines work as a team; that everyone works together for mission accomplishment. He learned this right away at boot camp in South Carolina where he trained rigorously for nearly four months. Afterwards he was sent to North Carolina for Marine Combat Training where recruits learn the skills and techniques needed for survival.

After completion, he was sent to train as a Motor Transport Driver in Missouri. He trained for two months and was then stationed in San Diego, his home base for the last three years. All his training and preparation became essential as Shaun was sent to Iraq for almost eight months in late 2008. He served on the Incident Response Team and was in charge of all military trucks. After a long, intense and exhausting tour, Shaun returned home safely only a couple of weeks ago and is planning his return to San Diego next week.

He has about five months left of his four year enlistment and will then have to decide whether to re-enlist or to pursue his dream of becoming a police officer. According to Shaun, the opportunity to join the military police is available, but as much as he loves the military, there is "nothing like being home." Therefore, Shaun plans to take all the New York police tests available to him when he returns to Kings Park on Nov. 14.

Shaun recently came back to Wilson Tech to visit his favorite teacher Mr. Fred Castro who, along with all Western Suffolk BOCES staff, are very proud of what Shaun has accomplished. Shaun and his family are grateful for the quality education he received at Western Suffolk BOCES.