

Pfc. Candyce M. Haynes

BPAS-W 100-06

Features 9

## COOK

Picture this: a sketch of a vibrant blue and white streaked sky with an F-16 caught motionless in the tranquil scene. A burst of flames extend from the engine into the indigo atmosphere. Missiles suspended from both wings of the aircraft stand ready to launch at a moments notice as the mission continues on.

Marine Sgt. Robert B. Cook, a Basic Multimedia Instructor is the Military Graphic Artist of the Year who won the competition in three categories that consisted of Digital Art, Web Design, and a honorable mention in Illustration.

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COOK/2-2-2

Cook said, “We’ve evolved in layout and design. If you look at the old layout and design verses the new layout and design programs there is no comparison. The old layout and design was done by hand, and it wasn’t as technical as it is now,” he said.

“Design got more and more simplistic with technology and time, but by the same token, design has become more professional and trimly,” said Cook.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Brendan F. Kavanaugh, a Basic Multimedia instructor, said his relationship with Cook is a constant learning relationship.

“I have been in the service for 15 years and he has been in for nine years so our different styles complement each other,” said Kavanaugh.

Kavanaugh said that Cook is very knowledgeable.

“He blows me away and he can still get it down to the basic level so that the student understands. He is constantly educating himself. It’s not just design or computer graphics that he furthers his knowledge in. He also takes it upon himself to learn as much as possible,” he said.

“When you talk about Robert Cook you talk passion, especially when it comes to teaching,” said Kavanaugh.

“Beside the fact that Cook is an outstanding graphic designer and a great instructor, he is also a character it has been my good fortune to work with him,” said Kavanaugh.

Marine Sgt. Stevie N. Hawkins said Cook is very energetic and outgoing, particularly when it comes to graphic design.

“He is full of knowledge. He taught me a lot to help me improve my job skills and to better my skills in multimedia and design,” said Hawkins.

Hawkins remembers working with Cook last year on flyers for the Marine Corps Birthday Ball, he said.

“There is a computer program that allows you to easily place names on individual name cards. Cook showed me the different programs to help make my job easier. This allowed me to become more efficient, work faster, and produce a high quality product,” said Hawkins.

In addition to his full of life character Cook is a very religious man.

“My faith has played a major part in my life,” said Cook. “I feel that my creativity and gifts come from my strong faith.”

Cook grew up with his mother, father and younger brother in Dallas, said Cook. His father was a Baptist minister and his upbringing was built on togetherness, he said.

Cook uses his faith in his work and everything he does, he said.

His personality is reflected in his artistic renderings while his skills in graphic design raise the bar for incoming multimedia designers. As he passes on to the next generation the skills they need to know, they will stand ready to launch at a moments notice and confidently accomplish any mission.