**Navy Recruits** Steve Chaffee chaffeesteve@yahoo.com

the calculus is simple

eighteen-year-olds

tired of school

bored with home life

possess few skills, minimal prospects

it's always been that way

nineteen-year-olds join the military

most any mother’s son will do

a free ticket to somewhere

*to protect and defend against all enemies*

*foreign and domestic*

get hurt or killed?

I'm nineteen, invincible

it's always been that way

boot camp

first morning rude awakening

glaring overhead lights

large, metal trash cans crashing

on the deck

*you got three minutes to get your sorry*

*butts outside*, *form up*

welcome to boot camp

you screw-up

*give me fifty push-ups*

*that was only forty-one, numb-nuts*

*give me fifty more*

don't follow directions, you pay

bunk not perfectly made, rip it up

do it again

head not down on the firing line,

suffer an ear-twisting

it's always been that way

navy recruits

follow orders

work as a team

missions accomplished

it's always been that way