

16. APPLICANT'S MOTIVATIONAL STATEMENT (Limited to the visible area.)

Growing up, I've been quite exposed to the idea of serving in the United States Military, and it has been fairly and consistently present in my head. My father is currently a technical sergeant in the Air Force, my grandfather was an electrical engineer in the Army, and my great grandfather was a bombardier during World War II. The only variation has been what branch I've wanted to join. I've gone from wanting to be a pilot in the Air Force to being a Navy SEAL. However, coming to college, my passions have truly surfaced and showed me what I've been gifted with. Upon undertaking a civil engineering course load I've discovered that I have a passion for construction, and therefore, I am heavily drawn to being an officer in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps.

Throughout high school, I was a part of my high school's AFJROTC unit. This exposed me to military ideas and instruction outside of what I had learned within my family. Both of the instructors were retired Air Force; one was a Lt. Col., the other was a SMSGT. In all they did, they demonstrated a pride in what they were able to do in the military. Beyond that, I was able to get my first taste of leadership as part of the AFJROTC unit. During my sophomore year, I was the commander of the Sabre Team, and, during my junior year, I was a flight commander, where I was eventually, promoted to squadron commander. During my senior year, I had the pleasure of being the AFJROTC detachment group commander, where I learned a great deal on the principal of executive leadership and management. Outside of AFJROTC, I was the vice president of my high school's chapter of National Honor Society, and I was on the swim team and cross country team. During my junior year, I was also a waiter at a local pizza buffet. Through all of this, I learned a lot about time management and multitasking, because my grades were obviously what needed to take precedence, and involvement in many organizations made it a challenge to stay focused.

Here at Texas A&M University, I am a junior in the Corps of Cadets, Company . In my outfit, I undertake the roles of chaplain and scholastics sergeant. This passed year, I was the finance manager and a fire team leader. In O.R. Simpson Corps Honor Society, I will also be the Public Relations and Personnel Sergeant. The Corps has given me an immense amount of experience with military-esque and business-esque environments. In addition to the Corps, I have a passion for Christian ministry, which shows in the additional organizations I choose to be a part of. I am a member of the non-profit organization, The Wells Project, which seeks to build water wells in impoverished countries that don't have access to clean water. I am also a counselor with a Christian-based camp for incoming A&M freshmen, called Impact.

My passion for service and the military is also accompanied by a passion for civil engineering and construction. In high school, I noticed that I was far more apt than most of my peers to take higher level math and science courses. I, unlike most of my classmates, took at least one math class every year. For example, my high school didn't have a program for AP-Calculus II, so I was the only student in the school to take it online. This class, alone, helped me learn how to teach myself advanced concepts, which shows through in my studies here in university. When I enrolled in classes, I originally planned on attaining a major in electrical engineering, but I quickly realized that I was far more fascinated by mechanics and structures, which is what I'm getting to work with as a civil engineer.

My passion for building and civil engineering, combined with my desire to serve in the military, makes the Navy Civil Engineer Corps a dream job. I had the privilege of getting lunch with a current CEC officer, LCDR who enlightened me on the details of it. Ever since then, I've been sold on attaining a commission with the Civil Engineer Corps. The immense pride of the organization and the professionalism of the work it does make it very appealing, and I would feel honored and privileged to serve the United States Navy as a Civil Engineer Corps officer.

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Throughout the past 21 years, as I have developed and molded my character as a young man, the overarching theme that has driven my academic, community, and personal involvement has been selfless service. As one of the four central values that cadets at Texas A&M swear on-oath to uphold and live by, the notion of service above self has enabled me to reach this point in confidently applying to the Civil Engineer Corps as a Naval officer candidate. Honor, Integrity, and Discipline represent the remaining core values that drive my decisions as a leader of character through any and all obstacles. The last four years as a student and a cadet have represented the pinnacle of my leadership and character development as a young professional thus far. Continuing the development of myself and of those around me has been the motivational fuel to seek the opportunity of serving my nation as a Naval officer.

Several events have led to this and enabled me to stand as the man of integrity and discipline that I am today. The values that drive my decisions as a leader of character first took form at a younger age as I studied the Japanese Karate style of Kunami Ryu. The obstacles and struggles of staying committed to this daily study for over eight years are somewhat obvious. My goal of earning the designation of black belt was met by a high level of pressure from my instructors and peers. The desire to take the easy path came regularly, but it was the support from my parents and lessons I learned from them in diligence and perseverance that enabled me to push myself to meet the expectations and goals that I had set.

The same can be said about the development of my team-member and team-leading skills through my time as a collegiate athlete and student-coach on the cadet baseball team as well as through the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M. Being able to regularly lead a team of athletes as the field captain on and off the field prepared me to step into peer leadership within the Corps of Cadets. Rising from the ranks of Squad Leader as a sophomore to cadet Sergeant Major as a junior and finally as the Deputy Corps Commander as a senior has revealed to me the passion and determination that I have for using my skills to effectively lead and serve those around me. Leading an organization of over 2,000 cadets as second-in-command has stretched me in every area and forced me to grow as a dynamic individual, exposing my joy in achieving results and pushing a large group of people towards complex goals in a diverse environment.

My role in the Corps afforded me the opportunity to attend Texas A&M's Student Conference on National Affairs recently as a sponsored delegate. The topic of the conference was the strategic shift to the East in United States foreign policy. Having been chosen a year earlier to spend 10 days in the Philippine Islands as one of 20 cadets sent by the Corps through the Corps Excursion cultural exposure program, this topic paired well with what I had seen and learned while overseas. During the conference, the delegates participated in round-table discussions in a policy making exercise concerning more specific topics. My academic desire to use my skills and knowledge of civil engineering in a way that can tangibly provide life-supporting essentials to those in need came into effect at the "Building Bridges: Aid in Asia" round-table group. Being fortunate enough to sit in a private discussion with U.S. Representative _____, LtGen (Ret) _____, RADM (Ret) _____, former USMACV Commander ADM (Ret) _____, and five of my student peers opened my eyes to the opportunity civil engineers have to serve their nation and the world with the skills learned while obtaining an engineering degree. Admiral _____ spoke of some of his memories as USMACV Commander right after the events of 9/11 and how resulting tensions affected our military member's ability to accomplish their humanitarian mission in Southeast Asia. The examples of how Civil Engineer Corps officers and their Seabees were able to serve as physical reminders of U.S. support, security, and stability in that region solidified my inspiration to become a Naval officer.

The desire to represent my state as an officer in the United States Navy has been intrinsically displayed through my academic pursuits and leadership involvement. The legacy and history of Aggies that have gone before me have been an inspiration to pursue this tradition of service. I am committed to carry the pride and determination to defend, guard, and promote our freedoms and liberties just as my ancestors did when they and their fellow Texans declared themselves independent from Santa Anna's Mexico. I will continue the same defense of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that our United States service men and women have become so passionately renowned for by using the skills and talents that God has blessed me with in support of America's Global Force for Good.

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Growing up, I had never realized how truly blessed I was. I took everything I grew up with for granted: food, school, T.V., sports, fun, and pretty much everything. It was not until I started traveling at the age of 8 to Nicaragua, where my parents are from, that I finally faced reality.

For the first time I saw how it was to live in poverty and hunger. My own family lived in such conditions. Once I got older, I also witnessed the ever increasing oppression from a corrupt government on the masses. During my senior year in high school and college years I decided to take an active part and contribute back to my heritage. I started working for Misión Para Cristo, a Christian mission that aids the surrounding rural community with construction projects, medical aid, and spiritual guidance. I started as a construction worker with the American volunteer group and eventually moved up to start working as an intern. I translated between the locals and Americans, aided in manual labor for the construction projects, set up a water-well project, assisted doctors in medical brigades, and assisted in managing the American groups during their stay.

The summers I worked for the mission changed my life. I began volunteering around my university with Young Life, a Christian outreach organization. I mentored at-risk youth at a local high school of 150 students. This alternative school was the last chance for the students who had been expelled from their respective public schools. I eventually got hired on as an intern to dedicate more time to my students. I began to realize that poverty, hunger, and countless other problems are rampant even here in the United States. My students ended up impacting me just as much as I tried to make a difference in their lives. I knew I could no longer be satisfied with a mainstream career were all I would be worried about is making money. I knew I must become a part of something bigger.

I switched majors and began a pursuit in a career as a civil engineering. I transferred to Texas A&M University and decided to follow this path because civil engineers are directly involved in improving people's quality of life. I got involved with the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers to help me with my goal. I got invaluable career guidance and began to get involved with some community service activities through a local high school in Bryan, TX. SHPE helps the students by tutoring in any subject the student needs as well as encouraging these students to pursue higher education in a STEM field.

In the same semester I transferred, I became a brother of Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Inc. Currently, I am cultural awareness chair, where I set up events to promote Hispanic culture around campus and the surrounding community. Our brotherhood participates in various service activities and projects for the community the whole year through clothes drives, can food drives, participating in events through the local Boys and Girls Club, local toy drives for Christmas, and much more. This newfound drive toward my goal and service to others kept me going, but even then I soon felt a desire to go even further than the traditional path as a civil engineer. At this past SHPE National Conference, I was not content with going to endless career fairs to try to get hired with a big company. I would then just begin a lifelong struggle to climb the ladder of corporate America. Luckily, I found a great opportunity at the same career fair.

After talking to the officers at the Navy booth, I knew that this was the path destined for me. In my endeavor to help others in any way, what better way to start after graduation than protecting your country? It only makes sense after years of taking for granted the blessings and opportunities others have sacrificed so much to bestow unto me. My father's encouragement throughout my high school and college careers hit with a newfound meaning. His involvement in the military in Nicaragua gave him a sense of pride and made him into a better man. I am ready to feel a much deeper pride in my country and home than I have now. I am confident that my abilities and experience to excel as an officer in the U.S. Navy.

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There is no greater honor than to lead a life of service. I am proud to have the ability to say I strive to resemble the meaning in this statement. The honor that I carry for serving my God and my country helps me to keep my head up with confidence as I stride through life. Having been honorably discharged in order to start the long road to a Civil Engineering degree has been a remarkable journey; however, this has only been intended to be a speed bump in my desire to serve a lifelong commitment to my country at a higher capacity. My intention is to bring as much energy and experience to the table as I can muster to ensure the safety and maneuverability of our armed forces and government contractors using efficient and cost effective designs. I am always looking for a challenge to improve my abilities and further my reliability. The Navy has shown to be a proving ground, where you get out of it what you are willing to put into it, and if you are willing to work hard and play by the rules you can achieve greatness. I greatly desire the ability to continue my journey through this life as a leading member of the armed forces.

When I served as a lead petty officer I was able to demonstrate my proficiency of administration within a workspace and a leadership position for crew training of firearms. I am pleased to say, after successfully training the majority of the crew, during a pre commissioned state, our ship was force protection qualified before the ship was taken over by the Navy; a remarkable and rare achievement. Following commissioning through maintaining records and qualifications of the crew, the watch bills were always able to be filled by qualified sentries leading to the ability to maintain a six section watch bill on a crew of around 350. This diligent work did not detract from my ability to lead a well maintained workspace with the pms completed on time and excellent performance by my seaman in terms of spot checks. As well I was also able to maintain many other collateral duties. I believe I can continue to bring this energy to a ~~wardrobe~~ ^{wardroom}, and learn from the other officers with greater experience, to serve the needs of the Navy at that higher capacity in which I desire.

I have continued my leadership while attending college. I have held leadership positions in clubs and in the community. I served as a Sunday School President where I organized teaching schedules and rotated called teachers and volunteer teachers to maintain a healthy and diverse learning environment. I then participated at Santa Rosa Junior College in The Engineering Club (TEC) where, shortly after, the club body unanimously elected me for my desire to lead and my knowledge and experience. TEC is at Santa Rosa Junior College where the membership is very diverse not only in heritage but also in age. We were able to have many entertaining and educational team building projects: such as, catapult construction and building a small scale vertical wind turbine. When we were not working on a project or in class we spent our time playing ultimate frisbee to clear our minds and get some sun. As club membership increased the fellow elected officers were able to branch off to lead mini projects within the organization. After a year as the club's president I graduated with an Associates degree and transferred to Texas A&M (Civil Engineering department) in College Station, TX. I left the club in very competent hands and have been able to see it grow via our Facebook group. After moving to Texas, I found myself being offered another leadership position in my new church family rather quickly. I am currently the President of our branch mission plans. In this calling I set goals and follow up with the members called to serve as part of the mission. There has been a great increase in the branch since my family's arrival, of about twenty-five percent. I believe these experiences, and the many others previous to the Navy, have been presented to me in order to keep me growing and help me prepare for my time as a Naval Officer. I know the Navy is the best place for me to excel with experience on projects where urgency and accuracy are a must. The Navy is also the best place to be well prepared for life as a Professional Engineer, in which I am highly motivated to acquire a license. I know the Navy deserves the best, and I will always strive to be well qualified to be known as the best man for the job.

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