

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

"The purpose of life is not to be happy - but to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all." This quote by Leo Rosten has always influenced me greatly, and illustrates a major reason that I want to become an officer in the Navy. I have always wanted to join the armed forces and becoming an officer is a great opportunity to see the world, to be a leader of men, to help others and to distinguish myself. Growing up around my grandfather and uncle has also influenced my desire to become an officer in the Navy very greatly. My grandfather served as a navigator, commissioning through ROTC and my uncle served as a aircraft repair technician on a carrier. Listening to their stories is always one of my favorite parts about visiting them. They became role models to me as I grew up hearing about their exciting, worthwhile and often humorous adventures and I have long wanted to emulate their example and join the Navy. As a college student, at Texas A&M University, I am part of the NROTC program and a member of the Corps of Cadets. Through NROTC I have learned about all of the different career paths and opportunities in the Navy and learned about the NUPOC program. I realized how beneficial the NUPOC program would be to me because it gives me the opportunity to see the world, realize and develop my leadership skills and to serve my country. I believe that I possess many skills and attributes that will help me succeed in the program and as an officer.

Throughout my life I have been involved in the Boy Scouts of America, rising all the way to the rank of Eagle Scout. The experiences that I have had have made me a better person and helped me to become a leader. In the Boy Scouts I held many different leadership positions such as head troop instructor, troop guide and patrol leader. The responsibilities of these positions helped to develop me as a leader, especially the head troop instructor position because I was responsible for not only teaching the younger scouts how to tie knots and all of the other skills but also the other troop instructors, making sure that they were doing their jobs correctly and planning when and what we would teach. I also had many opportunities to test myself and experience some unique situations, like going to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and backpacking through the mountains. On these treks I hiked 90 miles up and down the mountains with a heavy backpack, while carrying my own food and purifying my own water and was really able to challenge myself. I realized that I could reach higher and force myself to accomplish anything. These experiences in the Boy Scouts have inspired me to want to continue to challenge myself by becoming an officer in the Navy and the leadership and time management skills I learned will help me become a very successful Navy officer.

Throughout my high school career I was able to excel academically, while participating in many organizations. I graduated top ten percent in my class of over 600 people from [redacted]. I took many different advanced placement classes, like physics and calculus, and was involved in the Latin club, the chemistry club, the National Honor Society and the Boy Scouts. I was also a member of the school lacrosse team, playing midfield. All of these activities taught me how to manage my time and gave me opportunities to be involved and become a leader. Especially trying to balance playing lacrosse, being involved in scouting and excelling academically have taught me exceptional work ethic and how to achieve my goals.

I am currently a student at Texas A&M University, studying mechanical engineering, where I am a member of the Corps of Cadets, as well as many other organizations throughout campus. I have excelled academically throughout my time at Texas A&M; I am a member of the Engineering Scholars Program, a honors program for engineering, and have above a 3.4 GPA, all while being an active member of the Corps of Cadets and a member of the NROTC Battalion. Being in the Corps has taught me many important leadership skills and has developed me as a leader more than any other organization I have ever been a part of. In my freshman year, I learned how to be a follower and I learned that in order to be a leader you must first learn how to follow. Because I excelled as a follower, I was selected, out of many people, to become a leader in my sophomore year. I am currently holding the positions of Fire Team Leader and Scholastics corporal in my outfit and these positions have taught me so much about what it takes to be a leader. As a Fire Team Leader I am responsible for the training and management of the new freshman in our outfit and as the scholastics corporal I am responsible for helping everyone maintain good grades. These positions and the fact that I am also working very hard to excel academically have taught me extremely good time management skills, which I believe will be very beneficial to becoming a Naval officer. Outside of the Corps of Cadets, I am a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and of Class Councils, which is our student government organization that I was selected for my sophomore year. Being so successful in all of these organizations and academically have made me a very well rounded individual, with superb time management skills.

Growing up in a Christian family, I have learned to put other people before myself and to help those in need. During recent years I have participated in many service groups benefiting the homeless, I have helped at many Eagle Scout Projects and have been active in my church youth group. These activities have shown me the satisfaction of helping other people and I would like to continue this feeling and make it part of my future career. As a Naval Officer I will have the opportunity to serve and protect the country that I love.

I know that becoming a Naval Officer will be very difficult: I know that I will be forced to make sacrifices and I understand that there is a possibility of dying in the service. Despite all of these things I have always wanted to challenge myself and I believe that I can overcome these trials and distinguish myself as a Naval Officer. I believe that my past experiences, intelligence and leadership skills will help me excel as a Naval Officer and in the NUPOC program.

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My decision to apply for the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate Program began over the Christmas holiday after my first semester at Texas A&M. I enjoyed studying Calculus and Physics in high school and researched enough information to know I wanted to be an engineer when I entered college. It was difficult to decide which major was the best choice for me so I decided to look at jobs each major led to upon graduation. When I saw Nuclear Engineering I thought about how important that energy source can be when needed in the right situations and I was intrigued by the thought of so much energy from such a small source. I looked into the job field for Nuclear Engineering and saw the Navy was the largest player when it came to Nuclear Energy needs. Immediately, I went to the Navy's website and there on the front page was a link to careers involving Nuclear Energy. I read the entire article about the NUPOC program and it seemed as if everything I was searching for added up. The leadership responsibilities, the efficient and disciplined environment, and the opportunity to work with an outstanding group of trained men and women who have all volunteered to be a part of something much greater than themselves.

I have enjoyed working with other people for as long as I can remember. Whether I am leading or following, I am always keeping the team together and focused on achieving our goal. In high school, I challenged myself by taking advanced placement classes and competing on the golf team. My class work was difficult but I knew that hard work was the key to a bright future. I looked to golf as my outlet from class work and I became seriously competitive after just a few months of picking up the game. I feel that I offered a strong sense of pride and work ethic to our team during the season and after three years of hard work it resulted in the school's first ever advancement to the regional tournament. In step with success during the golf season, I was nominated into the National Honors Society resulting from exceptional display of character and competitive grades. Elections were later held for President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. I ran for Vice President and was elected over 4 running mates. During my time as Vice President our organization coordinated a fund raiser and set up peer mentoring sessions after school for those who were struggling with their school work and wanted to receive extra help. These two events taught me a great deal about what it takes to be a successful leader and also allowed me to deal with great responsibility.

I have been raised under the attitude that success requires a level of efficiency and discipline. Without discipline, boundaries are not set and things can get out of hand quickly. My parents have instilled the value of discipline and respect in me and I believe these traits have carried over and shaped me into a respectful, disciplined young man. I want to work for a team who holds me to high standards and expects positive results. I know the Navy will carry out these standards and results because of the importance they hold for the security of the United States. I am currently practicing strong levels of discipline during my studies at Texas A&M. It is imperative to stay disciplined during the semester in order to produce adequate results the university and the NUPOC program expects from its students.

I have met some extraordinary people who have been in the Navy and who are currently serving. I understand the Navy is a voluntary service and I would be honored to work with a group of men and women who have willingly devoted their lives for the greater good of our nation. The opportunity to become an officer in the United States Navy is something I have taken to heart and I believe this opportunity has been presented in front of me because it is my duty to take responsibility, express leadership, and one day be a part of the Navy's elite submarine force.

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Life is complex. We were all born the same, but at life's completion we are all very different. We make choices that will affect our lives in unforeseen ways, causing us to stray from an otherwise common path. Which path we select is unknown to us until we observe and ponder it fully – oftentimes many years after its choosing. We may find ourselves one day wishing we had done something we were too scared or nervous to – perhaps hoping we had taken a risk, tested our limits. For me, the option is a simple one. I want to be different, do something few people have ever done or will ever know. It's not about glory or fame; I want to join the United States Navy to distinguish myself from others as a leader of men, a living embodiment of character and respect.

Currently I am studying chemical engineering at the University of Texas A&M, and am aware that upon my graduation, opportunity for financial success will be within sight. However, I don't want to take a mundane desk or industrial job; I want to do something bold. I know a lot of people who barely know me may think of myself as someone who always plays it "safe," and to a certain extent they are correct. But those who really know me understand that nothing will ever satisfy my hunger to prove myself.

While in high school I enjoyed success in many facets of life, I could not have obtained them without hard work, dedication, and people who truly believed in me. There was a lot of adversity for me to reach my high school goals. I overcame a lot of personal and physical barriers of which included the Boy Scouts. I had entered as a young middle school adolescent but through the process and hardship gained invaluable leadership skills that will stay with me for the rest of my life. While in the boy scouts I obtained several leadership positions like patrol leader and troop instructor, where I would mentor the younger scouts, help facilitate their growth in the program, and really just serve as a role model. These were truly rewarding experiences that instilled in me the values of responsibility, morality, and obedience. Finally in 2012 all of the ideals the Boy Scouts instilled in me were tested during my Eagle Scout project, in which I proved to the adult leaders my transition from one who followed obediently to one who leads passionately.

Additionally, I finished in the top 10% of my high school class, played the Viola in the symphony orchestra, and was an active member in NHS and student council. On top of that, during my senior year I was chosen to lead a group of 28 middle schoolers and 7 peers through a program that fosters team-building and group camaraderie. Though my patience was tested, ideals challenged, and buttons pushed, I navigated the team through unforeseen adversity and significant obstacles. In the end my team of 35 weathered the week and came through as more cohesive, understanding individuals.

But what I am personally most proud of, and what really sums up my persona as an individual, was my rise to a starting role on the soccer team. From the onset I was perceived as almost useless. I was only kept on the varsity team because I had "played" four years in the program - and I use the word "play" lightly because really I was always a bench player, sometimes not even playing a single minute in the big JV games. They saw me as weak and simply not good enough.

I remember sitting on the bench the entire first game of my senior season, utterly humiliated. But this did not make me fold and crumple, but rather made me stronger. I used it as motivation to get better, faster, stronger, and left everything out on the practice field everyday hoping for just one opportunity. I literally was the first one out and the last one in, as being a varsity soccer player was something I had always wanted, and I was not taking no for an answer. Finally, on a cold Friday night, an opportunity presented itself. The team was trailing and the momentum was favoring the opposition. One of our starters was hurt on a viscous tackle and the coach told me to warm-up, telling me that if I could emulate what I had learned in practice, that nothing could stop me. He was right. I scored a goal within my first ten minutes of stepping onto the turf, and the rest was history. I ended up starting most every game and the team reached the state-semifinals.

Granted, this story is one based on a high school experience and may not carry weight to some people, it means a lot to me. I could have written this essay about coaching a youth soccer team, about how I am a first generation American, or maybe even about how my faith represents a unique blend of Hinduism and Buddhism. However, life is full of different paths and choices; And I believe this story of personal triumph best embodies the person that I am becoming.

In a world characterized by so many paths, my most whole hearted goal is to chose that which never deviates from my moral compass. So when asked what motivates me to become a naval officer I think of all the things that have lead me to this point – I think of all the triumphs and heartaches I have endured, and know that this is something I was meant to do. The opportunity to be a leader of men and to serve something greater than myself is simply something that I cannot pass up. I want my path to run through the navy, I want to experience things few have ever had the audacity to do. I know the path will be difficult and full of great hardships, but I also know that anything that means anything in this world is something we have to fight for, something that we must earn.

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Throughout my life, I have been surrounded by a military atmosphere: from my father being a Sergeant in the Army and my grandfather being a 1st Lieutenant in the Army to my Uncle who was a Nuclear Mechanic for the Navy. I was brought up to believe that serving in the United States Military was one of the most honorable and rewarding events a young man could do with his life. My family also instilled in me that earning a college degree was more important than any other priority. So as I started applying to college, my thoughts of serving in the military became a secondary goal to getting a good education. However, I ended up being accepted to Texas A&M, the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets and the number two Nuclear Engineering program in America. It was here that I was introduced to the NUPOC program and becoming an Officer for the greatest Navy in the world. I recognize all of the opportunities this program has to offer from the world class reactor operations to its leadership potential. I believe every leadership position, activity and school hour I have taken has prepared me to become a candidate and eventually an officer for the United States Nuclear Navy.

My high school career has had multiple achievements with my most notable being my Eagle Scout award. I have been in the scouting program from cub scouts beginning in kindergarten, and from there crossing over to Boy Scouts in 6th grade where I eventually worked my way through the scouting ranks. I soon became Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 430, and during that time I led over 80 scouts. Even though I am currently in college, I still actively participate in my troop back in Las Vegas and I also help with my cousin's troop in Dallas. As I progressed through scouting, I learned my core values and learned the importance of integrity and honor. I was dedicated to completing my Eagle Scout project which allowed me to earn the highest award in scouting. In addition to those attributes I also held a leadership role very few people get to experience, so I consider earning my Eagle Scout to be the cornerstone of my current leadership traits. I do not have any difficulty with bringing people together to accomplish a common goal due to my leadership experience in scouts. I focus on mentoring the older scouts through their Eagle Projects and I teach backpacking and camping to the younger scouts. This allows me to give back to the organization that taught me so much about life while at the same time continuing to help me learn how to communicate my ideas more effectively since I am dealing with multiple ranges of age groups. While in high school I also actively played varsity lacrosse. For my senior year I was named defensive captain, MVP of the team and was 2nd place for Scholar Athlete for the lacrosse district I played for in Las Vegas, Nevada. While playing lacrosse I was not the fastest or strongest player, but I did have the best technique. I could take command on my side of the field during games and lead practices without supervision. I worked hard to get my team to be the best they could be and pushed myself and the rest of the team to meet higher expectations. Throughout high school I cemented my values and beliefs of honor and integrity but I also formed habits such a determination, commitment and a strong work ethic which will serve me greatly in my future endeavors.

Currently attending Texas A&M, I am challenged every day, especially majoring in Nuclear Engineering which more than doubles the challenges I face daily. The traits that I have learned from my high school career have allowed me to succeed academically and in the Corps of Cadets. Throughout my entire college career, I have had one difficult semester and that was spring 2012. Due to an accumulation of events I pulled a subpar GPR which did not meet my high expectations I set for myself. However, instead of doing what many of my classmates have done which was drop out, I buckled down and fixed my problems. As a result of my determination, work ethic and time management, I earned a 3.25 with five engineering classes, two of which were nuclear engineering based. From here on out, I predict a rise in my GPR even though I am taking classes such as Reactor Theory which heavily emphasizes the transport equation. While also in college I participate the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets as well. This has taught me how to be a follower, a direct leader and an indirect leader. Currently I am learning about executive leadership. All of this has taken place in a controlled military setting, where I receive training from former military officers who have experience in similar issues. Currently I am a Cadet Master Sergeant in charge of the scholastic achievement for 400 cadets. I have had to learn how to give orders, receive orders; and probably the hardest part is instructing my own peers on how to accomplish a given assignment.

Last summer, I received an internship as an associate engineer for National Security Technologies at the Nevada National Security Site. While there I was able to demonstrate my engineering abilities but most importantly I was able to further develop my personal work ethic. Even though I was given low priority work, I was still able to find mistakes in as built engineering drawings that would have cost the company thousands of dollars to finally recognize and fix. I also learned how to discuss technical issues with responsible cognizant engineers and since many of these engineers were former Navy Nuclear Engineers, I know I learned from the best. Near the end of my internship, I was given a project to draw piping diagrams in the facility by myself with little assistance. In the end, after I taught myself the correct way to complete the project by following company engineering manuals, I had to present these drawings to the engineering team. At the end of my internship, I was offered the same engineering position when I returned to Las Vegas during my winter break and for the following summer of 2013.

Since my father and grandfather work at the Nevada Test Site, I have been exposed to the nuclear field my entire life, and for that reason I chose to obtain a Nuclear Engineering degree from Texas A&M. I am dedicated to achieving goals in the things I am passionate about which is both a career in nuclear engineering and the work opportunities offered in the nuclear Navy. More importantly though, I have learned how to recover from difficulties and work harder to excel in achieving my goals. I do not quit on any of my endeavors, and I always put forth my core values of excellence, integrity, discipline and selfless service in all things that I participate in. If I am in a leadership position as well, I work to hold others to a higher standard to obtain the expected goal. For those reasons, I believe I would make an outstanding officer in the Nuclear Propulsion Program.

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