

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

Extraordinary, that is my desire for my life. Albeit a worthy existence, I want more than just a regular nine to five job, four kids, and a picket fence to surround my suburban home. Honor, respect, dependable, hard-working, responsible are just a few of the attributes I hope to further develop. The development of such attributes will help me to have the kind of positive impact on the world I desire. The United States Navy will definitely provide me ample opportunity to grow in these areas.

From an early age, my parents have instilled in me strong moral values, including hard work, integrity, and a desire for excellence. Having served as a leader in my youth group at my local church for the majority of my childhood and during high school, I learned a lot about manhood from older role models in the church. Another area that helped shape my character was my involvement in team sports. Playing baseball, soccer and football I learned the importance working as a team to achieve our common goal of victory. Persevering in the face of adversity during competition on the gridiron helps to prove what the old proverb says "as iron sharpens iron so one person sharpens another."

While participating in team sports, I learned not only the importance of physical fitness but how to interact with others in a group setting to accomplish our objective. For example, I was expected to show leadership to the younger players when I was a senior year on the varsity baseball team. In addition, my involvement with sports has taught me the importance of discipline and maintaining a positive attitude and a desire for success in everything I do.

My desire to succeed led me to pursue a college degree. However I didn't want just any degree, I wanted to learn challenging and practical skills. Years of study and hard work paid off as I am near receiving a Bachelor's of Science in Construction Science, a technical management degree specific to the construction industry. During my college years, I assumed a variety of different leadership roles including a volunteer position at my local church, vice president for a Christian fraternity, and a treasurer for a prestigious academic organization.

During my four years at Texas A&M, I have been a member of a Christian fraternity for the duration of my time here. It has been an incredible experience, providing me with a social break from my studies and providing me with great leadership opportunities. For half of my sophomore and junior year, I served as the vice president for this fraternity. My responsibilities included planning the social events, communicating and delegating tasks, and coordinating a community-wide outreach concert that cost over twenty five thousand dollars.

Communication and preparation skills, I have learned are an important part of college and life. Both as bible study leader and vice president, I was charged with setting a vision for the group and charting a path to help us navigate successfully the challenges before us. Whether it was leading our small group in prayer or blazing a trail of excellence for the fraternity, my preparation and communication proved invaluable. Amongst the most valuable attributes I have come to appreciate is time management. Finally, I have come to appreciate that if I do not manage my time my time will manage me.

The second semester of my junior year I was honored to be selected for a coveted internship position offered through the College of Architecture of which my degree is a part. So, I moved to Austin, Texas and worked for a construction company, Harvey-Cleary, while going to Texas A&M part-time for the first seven months of 2013. During this time, I learned a lot about myself, including the development of some excellent work habits. My direct supervisor made a point to mention that I was a tireless worker pursuing my goals with tenacity and conviction and thus trusting me with even greater work responsibilities.

In the workplace, there were plenty of times when I did not know how to complete an objective given to me, so I had to figure out the correct solution to the problem. It was on this internship when I learned that I am a very task-oriented. My superiors observed that I am a quick study and demonstrated their approval by giving me additional responsibilities. I thrived in the alpha-male, high-expectation culture that encompasses the construction industry. These challenging situations I encountered on my construction internship will help me to be successful as a Naval officer.

Over the course of my lifelong journey, my experiences have helped me to develop many of the attributes that make me a strong candidate as an officer for the United States Navy. Moreover, my work ethic and tenacious nature will ensure that I achieve my goals. The opportunity to serve my country and lead sailors as an officer are the types of challenges I welcome and the reason I am applying for a commission. The mission of the United States Navy is to train, maintain and equip combat ready Naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas. This mission coincides with my desire change the world. I believe it is my destiny to become a Naval Officer and have the kind of impact most have only imagined.

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Leadership. It is the cornerstone on which all organizations are built, maintained, and improved. It is through a legacy of superior leadership that the United States Navy has established itself as the single dominant naval force in the history of the world. It is this legacy of superior leadership that I feel compelled to join. Throughout my life I have been a natural leader. Through training with the Boy Scouts as a youth, the Marine Corps as a young adult, and while working and studying as a student at Texas A&M, I have taken my natural abilities and carefully honed them through class room studies and application.

As a youth I found encouragement from my father to join the Boy Scouts. Though at first I was resistant to the program, I soon found value in the lessons I learned about citizenship, loyalty, service, and leadership from Troop 600 of the Sam Houston Area Council. Through self determination, I steadily progressed through the scout ranks; earning friends and respect along the way. As a Life Scout, I took up the mantle of Patrol Leader, making me responsible for 10 other boys. After another year, I earned the title of Eagle Scout. I attended both Junior Leader Training Camp (JLTC) and National Junior Leader Training Camp (NJLTC). After completing NJLTC I served on the staff of two JLTC programs. My first, as a Camp Quartermaster, in charge of food and supplies for all staff and campers, and my second as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader of the Camp, the equivalent of an XO. In this role I was in charge of programs and staff presentations. During this time, I was also voted to become the Senior Patrol Leader of my home Troop, and now responsible for conducting our meetings, camping trips, and setting the example for over 40 young scouts. Soon after this I was inducted into the Order of the Arrow where I learned about cheerful service to God and Country. Overall I feel that I had a very successful career as a Boy Scout and that it has prepared me very well for the many challenges yet to come in my life.

After one year of college, I found that I had no definitive direction on where I wanted to go in life. I decided at that particular time, college was not my motivation. I needed something that would allow me time to challenge myself outside of the classroom while providing the opportunity to grow personally and professionally. After careful research and planning, I decided to enlist with the Marine Corps as an aviation contract option. After arriving at MCRD San Diego and completing in-processing I classed up with India Company and began my training. After two weeks I fell ill and was transferred to a recovery platoon where I spent two months and was offered a medical discharge. I refused the discharge option and set about ensuring the return of my health and preparing for my return to training. My determination paid off with my return to a training platoon in Golf Company where I spent the majority of the rest of training as the Guide. As the Platoon Guide I provided direct leadership to my fellow recruits and lead by example. Helping my fellow recruits with studying Marine Corps Knowledge or with physical training was common place. I graduated from MCRD San Diego as the Platoon Honorman.

After completing Marine Combat Training I was then transferred to CNATT (Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training) where I graduated with exceptional marks. I was then assigned to HMLA-169 where I served as a Huey/Cobra power plant mechanic. As a Lance Corporal there was very little I could do in the way of leadership aside from encourage my peers to better themselves. I acquired my Cobra Plane Captain certification before our first deployment and my Huey Plane Captain certification shortly after our return, seven months later. I attended Corporals Course at Del Mar on Camp Pendleton where my leadership skills were further sharpened. Shortly after I earned the rank of Sergeant and was assigned eight Marines to guide as a mentor. As a Sergeant, I earned my Collateral Duty Inspector certification which allowed me to inspect and sign off maintenance performed by junior marines as correct and safe for flight. After five years with the Marine Corps my enlistment was up and I had decided that I needed to complete the college education that I started.

Returning to college after working for so long was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. Returning to college at Texas A&M was a greater challenge than I had anticipated, but not so tough that I have not excelled. While attending classes full time I also worked part time at Easterwood Airport as a line and fuel technician. Though I did not serve in any official leadership role, I made sure to set the example for junior technicians and hold them accountable for actions taken. Balancing my class load and work at the airport was difficult but rewarding, I have maintained an excellent grade point average while continueing to provide for my family.

All of these events, and others, have helped to shape me into the man I am today. Through my experiences with the Boy Scouts, the United States Marine Corps, and as a student at Texas A&M I have sharpened the natural leadership abilities that I already possessed. I am ready to continue serving my country and look forward to facing the challenges that I know I will find as a Naval officer. Being intrinsically motivated, I am certain that my drive for excellence will be a great asset as I find a place among the superior leadership that comprises the United States Navy.

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I have wanted to serve my country for as long I can remember. I have had 4 Uncles in the Navy with each of them serving in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. They have inspired me since I was very small that serving one's country is the greatest honor any man can have in his life. This country was founded on the principles of challenging freedom and spreading our freedom to the people that needed it the most. My uncles were ecstatic when I told them I am applying to join the U.S. Navy, I hope to make them proud by serving my country. One of my late great, great uncles, _____ was killed in the Battle of Cape Esperance in 1942 aboard the USS Duncan. I had another great uncle who served as the Commanding Officer of the USS Roark, _____ Before he died, he sent me several inspiring notes and memorabilia. He always told me not to give up my dream of becoming a Navy officer.

I have been in leadership positions since I was a young teen. My first leadership position was when I was the captain of my 8th grade football team which grew into being captain of my sophomore football team. Later, I started working at a YMCA camp when I was 17 and was the youngest counselor employed that summer. Within 2 weeks of being there, I was thrust into being the head lifeguard at the pool which made me in charge other counselors that were 4-5 years older than I was. This continued the next summer when I became a head counselor. My 4th summer there I became Water Front director which put me directly in charge of 25 people in and around the lake. I became the Captain of my Swim team my senior year of high school. I continued my swimming career in college and once again was chosen to be captain my junior year all the way to my senior year in college. Being a captain of the swim team, I had direct influence on my team mates. I was the liaison between the coaches and team. I mediated several conflicts and improved the relationships of the coaching staff with the team. My senior year we were Conference runner-ups in the Summit League which is a drastic improvement from coming in 5th my first year in college. I left college with 1 team record in the 800 freestyle relay and many wins.

I chose to swim for South Dakota State University because I wanted a challenging college career. Being a normal student would not have been enough for me. I wanted the competition and the team atmosphere in my life. Being a college athlete taught me numerous lessons in my 4 years. The first was time management. This is a skill that I think is crucial to being a Naval Officer and Pilot. I also learned how to network with others. I needed to be able to communicate with my professors and coaches on my swim and school schedule and what needed to be done so I can be the best student athlete. I needed to be in the best physical and mental shape while I was competing and going to class. Getting up for 5 am swim, going to class all day then back in the pool by 2 p.m. which demanded my full attention everyday. Swimming for 4 years in college gave me the life skills to be a successful and hardworking American. I can bring the skills I have already learned and improve on them in the United States Navy.

I have been flying for 3 years now and have flown with numerous Military pilots from different services plus many professional pilots with the Airlines. They have all taught me that while I seem to be "a natural" at flying, I need to constantly seek to improve my skills as a pilot.

I appreciate your consideration and would love to have the opportunity to serve in the United States Navy. This would allow me to serve my country, hone my leadership skills, improve my motivational skills and continue to fly. I believe that all of the above traits and the content of my packet make me a strong candidate to become a Naval officer. I would be honored to be considered for the United States Navy Officer Candidate Program.

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Following graduation from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, many of my fellow classmates have been perfectly content to move back home and start their careers. I on the other hand feel that there has to be more to life than just working for the next forty years in the busy suburbs of Chicago. I want to be able to proudly look back and say that I have been a part of something greater than myself. I know without a doubt that serving my country as a Naval Officer will give me that opportunity.

I grew up in a family that looked upon military service as a higher calling. My father, cousins, uncle, and grandfathers have all served this country with distinction, and I always dreamt of following in their footsteps. This seed was planted early on. One day as a young boy, I went with my mom on a visit to see my dad at Barksdale Air Force Base. I can still vividly recall looking out over the tarmac and marveling at the majesty of those big B-52s. From that moment on I knew I wanted to pursue a career in military aviation. As I grew older, I continued to feed my hunger for all things military aviation with countless books about WWII. I was particularly inspired by the story of how our Navy rose from the dark days following Pearl Harbor to soon wield, within 4 short years, the most formidable Navy the world has ever seen. It was around this point in my life that I knew that I didn't just want to be a pilot, but I wanted to be a Naval Aviator.

I have never been one to sit idly by and let life just happen to me. Whether it was in the classroom or out on the field, I saw to it that I would never shy away from making that extra effort to ensure success. I trace all this back to my parents, who instilled in me the belief that if you want something in life you must pursue it with unwavering commitment. Throughout high school I continually pushed myself to succeed academically. I eventually finished third in my class, was accepted to the nationally ranked chemistry program at the University of Illinois, and won several scholarships along the way that enabled me to graduate from college completely debt-free. I also saw some athletic success at the varsity level in football, wrestling, and baseball. Participating in high school athletics taught me many important life lessons, such as the recognition of how much more our bodies are truly capable of, as well as the necessity of teamwork. During high school I was also fortunate enough to have served in numerous leadership roles. I was elected Student Government Vice President by my peers and performed duties ranging from organizing dances to collecting money for charitable organizations. As Student Government Vice President I learned how to set aside my differences and make compromises with others for the good of the student body. An additional leadership opportunity I had while in high school was as the captain of my wrestling team during my senior year. This leadership role taught me how to motivate others to achieve what they didn't believe was possible – a very rewarding opportunity. My experiences in high school were very influential in making me the kind of person I am today. They taught me a great deal about the values of education, teamwork, and leadership – all essential qualities for becoming a successful Naval Officer.

My years at the University of Illinois were a period of further refinement for me as an individual. I continued to take on leadership roles, namely as a Resident Advisor (RA) for a private dorm on campus. As an RA I found myself learning how to manage the fine line between being friendly with residents while also being an authority figure. The lessons learned from this experience would be immensely helpful to me during a career as a Naval Officer. I also strove to apply the knowledge I was gaining in the classroom through an experience as an Undergraduate Researcher. My time as an Undergraduate Researcher made me realize that I relish opportunities to continually learn and then utilize this knowledge in a practical setting. A career in the Navy would enable me to live a lifestyle full of such opportunities. Academically things were no longer quite as easy as they had been in high school, and thus I found myself working harder than I ever had before. It was under such pressures that I learned the priceless skill of time management. Initially I had trouble adjusting to the rigorous course load, but from the second semester of my sophomore year through graduation, I saw my GPA increase each successive semester. Due to my hard work during those four years, I was fortunate enough to gain admittance to the well-regarded Materials Science and Engineering graduate program at Texas A&M University.

An integral part of my graduate studies in engineering at Texas A&M has been learning how to not just become an expert researcher in my field of study, but to also how to share this knowledge with others through presentations and papers. Due to my program here at Texas A&M being quite international, I have had to make adjustments to reach across cultural and linguistic barriers. Learning how to relate to others from different backgrounds has been an enriching experience – one that would serve me well in a career as a Naval Officer.

A career in the Navy would be the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. I realize that it will have its share of challenges to overcome, but I can think of no other lifestyle more suited for me. I am confident that the experiences I've had during high school, college, and graduate school have helped me develop the traits necessary to become a good Naval Officer. Becoming a Naval Officer would be a privilege I won't take lightly. I look forward to the opportunity to help others, develop my leadership skills, and make my country a safer place. I would be extremely honored if you will consider me for the United States Navy Officer Candidate program.

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The family has a history of patriotism reflected by my many relatives that have served in the United States Military. My grandfathers, Lt. Col. , USAF Retired, and , USAF, , USN served during World War II; both of my parents were Navy enlisted during the early 1970's; my brother, Capt. . USMC currently flies the UH-1Y Venom; and much of my extended family is or has served on active duty. It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of the family and I hope to continue my service to the United States as a commissioned officer in the Navy.

In 2003 I took full advantage of the opportunity to enlist after taking the ASVAB and talking with a Navy Recruiter. Looking back now, it was the best decision I have made in my life thus far. Basic Training taught me the importance of being part of a team and instilled in me the core values of the Navy – honor, courage, and commitment. When I joined the fleet, I drew on these values to grow personally, physically, mentally, and spiritually. This foundation will perpetually be at the forefront of my motivations.

While in the fleet, my duty station was aboard the U.S.S. Ronald Reagan (CVN-76). During my three years on board, I proved to be a vital part of the V-5 Division in the Air Department, fulfilling duties such as air operations from the primary flight control and land signal officer platform, supply petty officer, damage control petty officer, mail orderly, and general administration. I was promoted through the Command Advancement Program to E-4 and relished the opportunity to take on more responsibilities and challenges. With these responsibilities, I realized that being a mentor and leader to my younger shipmates was a part of my duty. Similarly, I observed personnel with higher rank and recognized many styles of leadership, some more than others, which warrant respect. The lessons I learned and discipline I received from my superiors ultimately furthered my personal goals and the mission of the Navy. At the end of my enlistment in 2007, I was honorably discharged and my life as a college student began.

Following my active duties, I pursued my long-term goal of graduating from Texas A&M University. I began my studies at Blinn College, and after earning two Associate degrees, I transferred to Texas A&M where I completed a Bachelor's of Science in Agriculture Systems Management. Despite the financial assistance I received through the G.I. Bill and the Texas Hazelwood Act, I maintained professional employment through my college career. This decision helped me to learn important skills such as time management, financial responsibility, goal setting, and due diligence. To build further experience, I strived to participate in the annual the Big Event, which is a campus-wide volunteer program that supports the Bryan-College Station community. I also was a member of the Agriculture Systems Management club, which allowed me to forge stronger connections with my professors and colleagues outside the classroom.

I would consider it a privilege to be a commissioned officer, serving again as a part of the Navy team. I realize that it is important to have people of integrity offering guidance and discipline for future generations. Serving our country and the Navy in this capacity would provide an invaluable opportunity to be a part of a larger cause, while serving as a mentor and leader to give back to what the Navy has given me. My experiences in life are just the beginning of what lies ahead and that I have much to learn. I also have much to offer, and hope to rise to the challenges of being a Naval Officer.

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The U. S. Navy represents the strength, the honor and the freedoms of this country. These are the personal traits of military service men and women that I admire and will obtain. I learned of these traits as a student in high school and developed a strong interest in the Navy. As I near graduation from Texas A&M University, I have developed a strong motivation to rise to challenges and my own strength and confidence have increased to the point where I believe that I will become a commissioned officer of the U. S. Navy, representing American courage and values. Courage which has met all challenges and values that has helped surpass all roadblocks of the past.

Starting my studies as a chemistry major it became apparent that the level of intelligence required to complete the studies was advanced. As I attended classes and balanced my volunteer activities, my workload required a high level of commitment and my time needed to be balanced. Each class required me to adapt my technique to solve the problems presented. As the years passed my ability to effectively solve complex questions, in the lab or classroom, increased and the time it took to apply this ability decreased. Studying as a chemistry major at Texas A&M University did not allow for me to give anything but my complete focus to the studies. Handling the course load for the major also required many hours of focused study for each class and an ability to solve the varied problems presented.

In my leadership roles I have learned that the most important quality of leadership comes from following, first and foremost. Leadership does not come from the ability to bark orders at subordinates; it comes from a desire and ability to motivate people to complete a common goal. During various mission trips, I supervised inexperienced and younger members. I developed an ability to organize and focus the different personalities and accomplish the goals of repairing a hurricane damaged roof and putting together a frame for a house. In the heat of south Texas and the island of Haiti, tempers have a short fuse and personalities tend to clash. Being able to motivate people to work also involves focusing people with different traits and skills on tasks that are most appropriate for them. With these concepts in mind, I was able to lead a combination of individuals that effectively completed multiple tasks.

Another trait important to leadership roles is the realization that sometimes those who follow you may have a better solution to a presented problem and that your own choices are not always right. As a team leader in the MiniPharma program in college, I managed people who sometimes had a better grasp on the scientific method or concept we were using at the time. Being a leader does not mean you are the smartest person in the room, but it does mean that you are accountable for the success of the organization. I also realized that these roles, given to me by elders who believed that I had potential to fulfill them, came with a motivation to continuously make personal improvements.

My grandfathers both are military veterans with one serving as a career Army officer for 30 years. Through them, I have seen all the leadership characteristics that the military builds in the Americans that serve and how leaders can be honed. I hope to be a commissioned officer with service oriented goals that are something greater than the individualized trivial pursuits that have overrun our world. In the Navy consistent physical and mental improvements in my life are obtainable goals. The U.S. Navy is a symbol that humanity does not have to become stagnant, leading to the inability to change and grow. As a U. S. Navy officer I will be part of an organization that not only demands improvement from its members, but helps to advance others and provides protection for this wonderful country and citizens of the world. As I become an officer of the United States Navy, I will have the ability to influence others and motivate them to rise to the next challenge.

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Since childhood, I have been fascinated by aircraft and spacecraft. Attending the Fort Worth Alliance air shows became an annual family activity and quickly became my favorite; watching the high maneuverability aircraft zip through the air was intoxicating. Having had my interest piqued, I spent hours upon hours learning about various aircraft.

Throughout my life, my father always tried to instill in me the importance of hard work and the value of the dollar. Despite my parents' comfortable, middle class income, they insisted that I get a job and work for what I wanted. By age fourteen I was working for a small, local electronics business. Before I turned sixteen I had saved up enough money to buy my own vehicle. I continued to work regularly throughout my high school and college years. Because of these experiences, I have developed a strong sense of drive, responsibility and work ethic. I welcome jobs and tasks I am given and take very seriously the effort and work I need to apply to stretch myself beyond what I consider my best.

During high school I developed as a leader through my time in athletics, as a math tutor, and working. I regularly coached my football teammates to work harder both in the weight room and on the field. During cross country practices, I collaborated with the team to set running goals, meeting early in the mornings to practice during the summer and motivating one another. During workouts, I frequently ran back after completing the circuit to run with anyone struggling to stay motivated. During the years I spent working in restaurants, I was often given the responsibility of training new employees since I was adept at our computer systems and considered very good at teaching and leading people. I provided tutoring services in mathematics to fellow students as community service during my junior and senior years; I even coached a young lady who was preparing for a placement exam to enter a college-level physical therapy program.

Academically, I did phenomenally well in high school. I graduated in the top 5% of my class and received top honors for having the highest SAT score in my graduating class, even while participating in athletics, tutoring and working 20+ hours a week. These high achievements provided me choices and opportunities to attend university, including Texas A&M, a competitive and prestigious school, well known for their rigorous Aerospace Engineering program. A decade after my first air show, working with advanced aircraft was and still is a primary motivator in my life. Unfortunately my beginning years at the university, I made textbook freshman mistakes and finished my first year with a much too low GPA. During the following years, I largely lost sight of my goals.

I hit the metaphorical "rock bottom" when I was twenty-two years old, during my fourth year in college. I was on a five year plan for graduation because the GPA requirements for initial entrance into upper-level classes forced me to repeat prerequisite courses. I could have viewed this time in my life as a failure, but instead I stayed focused, continued my studies and decided I needed to make changes to my goals and aspirations. I had allowed myself to become physically out of shape during those first few years as well. This failure led me to a sudden epiphanic urge to get my life back on track.

During the last three semesters of my college career at Texas A&M University, I transformed my life. I began waking up every morning before summer classes to run, bike or swim. I began sitting at the front of every class and paying close attention. I picked up extra shifts and worked more hours as a lifeguard at the university recreational center. My GPA for my last three semesters steadily improved from 3.2, to 3.4, to 3.75, all while working 25-35 hours a week and regularly working out. More important than the increase in my academic marks, however, was the palpable increase in my happiness. I had a new-found interest in my studies and my general satisfaction with life had improved by leaps and bounds. It was at that time that I learned the most important lessons of my life. One receives from life what one puts into it, and it's never too late to make changes. I now live by these beliefs.

While my time at university may have missed the stellar academic mark I once desired, it provided me opportunities for self-improvement, to learn from my mistakes, and to set rigorous expectations and goals for myself. I had to balance my time between school and jobs, but learned to sharpen my leadership skills. I worked hard and trained new people. I had numerous opportunities where I chose to take charge. I remember an incident where the manager did not show up and there was no one to open the pool. I took charge, called our director to make sure she was aware, and proceeded to run through all of the most important procedures, ensuring that lifeguards were properly distributed to each pool and the pumps were working.

I also regularly performed community service work. While in the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, I led pledge classes in a multitude of service projects including running a hospice fund-raiser, running blood drives, cleaning up a cemetery, working Big Event (a community wide project done annually in College Station), and helping some of the locals with landscaping.

During my senior design project for my degree, during which we designed an aircraft and then produced a working scaled down model, I was head safety officer and manager for my group. It was my responsibility to delegate important tasks and to ensure that all the information required was obtained and ultimately presented during our biweekly reviews. This gave me great insight to managerial leadership in the professional world, as our professor was a former test pilot for both industry and the U.S. Air Force and did his best to try to emulate that type of environment into our class curriculum.

Now that I have graduated, my desire to work with aircraft is stronger than ever. I believe my background in aeronautics could be a great boon to our country's military and would be honored to be given the opportunity to use my knowledge and drive to help defend our country. Thank you for your consideration.

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