

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

I was not born with the innate conviction to be an officer in the United States Navy or any other career path. But my experiences growing up ideally prepared me for a future as a Naval Officer. Beginning in junior high, I came to realize that my classmates would do as I did, and would listen when I spoke. While in Mexico on a mission trip in 2005, I embraced this new-found attribute and led my friends in word and example as we built a house for an impoverished family in just one week. The same leadership attitude would exude each summer that followed, only in a different geographic location. I finally discovered a potential career path in the summer of 2008 at Texas Boys State. Following a riveting speech from retired CIA agent Jim Olson, wherein he highlighted his challenging career in intelligence and his beginnings as a Surface Warfare Officer, I knew my leadership skills had a future. Now graduating from college, my desire to lead others defending the United States combined with experiences in my past has brought me to pursue a fulfilling career as a Naval Officer.

I began my studies as a freshman Business major at Texas A&M University with the thought process that such a degree would help me land a profitable job upon graduation. But after just a few months, I found what I was learning and working towards to be so unfulfilling that I changed my major. Once I switched to International Studies, and refocused my attention to the world instead of on myself, everything seemed to make sense. My GPA skyrocketed to a 3.71 and I have since made the Dean's List. In addition to my studies I have kept busy working in the community for profit and not for profit. During my junior and senior years I have worked at a textbook store, volunteered as a tutor for struggling third grade students at a local elementary school and led a team of workers at the largest student-run service project in the nation, The Big Event.

For recreation and exercise at school, I am a member of the Texas A&M Men's Ultimate Frisbee club team. I was one of two freshman to make the team, and by the end of the year, in a physically demanding sport where fitness is the foundation of success, I was an example of what can result from work and dedication I broke through to the regular playing rotation. In addition to playing on the traveling club team at school, I also began playing for a traveling club team based out of Houston, which I still play for. In my second year on the team at Texas A&M I took on the leadership position of Safety Officer. In this role I served as an intermediate between the team and Texas A&M Recreation Sports. In this role I prepared travel itineraries prior to tournaments and was responsible for the team's compliance with the Recreation Sports Office. During my time as Safety Officer, the team was never sanctioned or suspended as had occurred in previous years. Balancing training, practice, and travel to tournaments as far away as Georgia, while maintaining my GPA, has taught me the importance of self-discipline and time management. These acquired and polished skills were especially beneficial this past semester as I embarked on the experience of my life.

In January 2012 I departed Texas for an academic semester abroad in Granada, Spain that lasted until May. I chose Granada because, as a smaller Spanish city, there are very few English speakers that I could talk to, thus forcing me to develop my Spanish. This was undoubtedly the hardest academic semester of my life as four of my classes were Spanish speaking and writing only. In addition to the language barrier, I went to Granada with a group of strangers, requiring me to go out and socialize in Spanish. In an unexpected pairing, I got that opportunity when I joined a local Ultimate Frisbee team in Granada. Speaking Spanish in a fast paced, athletic setting, was very important to the growth of my language ability and I made many new friends and traveled across the country playing in tournaments. As the most dynamic athlete on the team, I became an unofficial team captain and led the team to it's best-ever finish at the tournament in Madrid. While in Spain I also took advantage of travel opportunities and planned international trips to Italy, France, and Morocco. In between trips I volunteered with the reforestation of the "Generalife" Meadow in Granada to plant new trees after a destructive wildfire. My semester abroad took me farther out of my comfort zone than I had ever been, but I returned from it with a new understanding of myself and the knowledge that I could survive, and even flourish, while taking twelve credit hours in a foreign language, thousands of miles from home, while knowing no one.

One of the most unexpectedly formative experiences of my life was working as a counselor at Camp Ozark for two consecutive summers. As a Christian sports camp for kids ages 7-17, this was one of the fastest paced job environments imaginable. Camp Ozark is one of the largest summer camps in the nation, and to run effectively it needs a clearly defined and obeyed chain of command. This is especially important because with high powered boats, shooting ranges, and high wire ropes courses where I worked, failure to follow orders can result in the death of a child. In my first summer I was recognized as the SWAT Team member of the first session of camp as the outstanding service member of the session. During my second summer I was recognized as the first male Order of the Arrow winner of the summer as the counselor who best displayed maximum effort, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship. Both of these were important leadership roles, but both were ultimately less important than the hardest task at camp: serving as a full-time role model to young boys and teenagers in a high stress environment. Working as a cabin counselor for twelve year old boys at Camp Ozark showed me the true meaning of having full responsibility of something that is truly valuable and how to excel working in a twenty-four hour, seven days a week job atmosphere.

Despite not being born into a military family, through my life experiences I have come to the conclusion that a military career as a Naval Officer is the best way to use my acquired knowledge and talents for the benefit of the United States. I have a natural inclination to help others and serve the community around me, wherever in the world that may be. In my experiences, I have grown as a leader of others and acquired valuable skills such as time management, self-discipline, and public service to compliment my already imbedded sense of commitment to serve my country as a United States Naval Officer.

I certify that all statements made in this application and any additional statements pertaining thereto are entirely true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that failure to answer any correspondence accurately or promptly, or failure to accept an appointment tendered to me will subject my application or appointment to cancellation without further notice.

17. Applicant's Name [REDACTED]	18. Applicant's Signature [REDACTED]	19. Applicant's Tele. Number [REDACTED]	20. Date 2012 Aug 26
Applicant's Email [REDACTED]			

** Selected for SWO ** AQR: 6 OAR: 53
 PEAR: 6
 FOFAR: 5