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From: Midshipman 2/C Rhett N. Petrenko

To: Colonel J. C. Cantergiani, United States Air Force retired

Subj: ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS SCHOLARSHIP

1. For one to be able to define leadership with one single definition is like comprehending the in-comprehensible. There are so many different types of ways that one can lead, and to narrow leadership down to one all inclusive definition is not practical. I have been in the University of New Mexico's Naval Reserve Officer Training program for three years now. Throughout these years I have learned many lessons, both good and bad. The lessons that we learn here are the ones that us Midshipmen need to take with us to the fleet. I have wanted to become a United States Marine my whole life. It did not matter what MOS I got; I just knew that I was determined enough to become a United States Marine. With that being said, ever since I joined the program I knew that I belonged to the grunt side of the Marine Corps. To be an infantry Marine is an exhausting job, both mentally and physically. Intelligence officers are the heart and soul of the military today. Without them, we would not have missions, information, and most of all the sight of our enemy at all times. To be an intelligence officer is very hard work, and the job should not be taken lightly. I think that the infantry community will give me great preparation on the hard work ethic that I will need to possess; moreover, I will also know what it is like to operate in the field when I am working on intelligence reports.

2. Academic preparation is a must when it comes to applying to a field such as this. I am currently enrolled in the Anderson School of Management at the University of New Mexico. Anderson is accredited by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Only twenty percent of the nation's business schools have been awarded this prestigious ranking. I currently have a semester grade point average of 3.86, and a cumulative grade point average of 3.61. Without constantly challenging the mind, we as human's will become exhausted, and we will not know how to critically solve problems anymore. Society today is so used to instant answers, and I believe that we need to take a step back to learn all of the ways in order to get that answer.

3. Practical preparation is one in which we must complete in our daily lives. If all we do is research we will never find out how, or if our research is right or wrong. For practically preparing to become an intelligence officer, I have done a handful of tasks. The first practical preparation that I would like to talk about is my three years of learning the French culture. I took two years of French in high school, and one semester of French on the collegiate level. With this, I have learned that when studying another country that culture comes first. If we do not respect the culture and the capabilities of our enemy we will never win. When the United States conducts combat operations in places like Afghanistan or Iraq, we must win the hearts and the minds of the people. We absolutely cannot do that if we do not respect the culture, the language, or the customs and courtesies. The most previous practical application that I have experienced for the intelligence field was my prior semester to this one, Fall 2014. During this semester I took the Amphibious Warfare class with my Marine officer instructor (MOI) Captain Rodriguez. We were assigned at the end of our term for the final to make an operation brief. We were given the location of the mission, some background, and we were to come up with the rest for our brief.

During the preparation for this brief we had to think like the enemy, analyze how they would set up defensive positions, and then come up with our own plan of execution. We printed out reports for what the enemy was like, we made a scaled model of the area of operation, and then we briefed our commanding officer, and our MOI on the operation.

4. Intelligence is an integral part of the military community. Without the intelligence community we could not perform the tasks that we need to conduct. With the intelligence community we have eyes on the enemy, we have set our superiority, and we are ahead of the enemy by two steps at all times. I believe that with my future infantry background and my academic preparations, I will be one of the most competitive candidates for the intelligence field. I will be an exceptional intelligence officer when offered the chance because of my work ethic, and the knowledge of that we have to respect the enemy as much as we respect ourselves. We have to do this because without that substantiated respect, and knowledge of the culture, we will not be able to establish the superiority that we always do. The intelligence community is a very important asset to this military, and I believe that when given the chance, I will uphold its standard to the fullest extent.

5. Contact Information:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rhett N. Petrenko', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R. N. Petrenko