

Cielee Hollon

Over the summer, I had the opportunity to earn my private pilot's license through the military. This program and the process involved is what sparked my interest for aviation. Without it, the Navy wouldn't be able to progress in the world of engineering. When thinking of Naval Aviation, it is most interesting to me because of the combination it provides with my interest in aviation and international naval affairs. The Navy, in my opinion, has more opportunities for the field that I'm interested in in order to progress my career. Mechanical engineering, more specifically, is tremendously important to the Navy. Without it, the Navy wouldn't be able to progress in the world of engineering. With designing and innovating new technologies, products, aircraft, and more, the Navy and Marine Corps of today are able to increase the caliber of their affairs domestically, foreignly, and even in space. When thinking on the subject of engineering aircraft, parachutes, and other types of mechanical engineering, it makes me think of the missions and exciting innovations and creations that the Navy have pursued in the past 10-20 years. With living in a country who puts such an emphasis on research and progression for our military, it's no surprise that the technologies of the Navy continue to expand beyond boundaries that other countries and naval operations couldn't even dream of.

Considering the Navy and the new and improved technologies they create, they are dependent on engineers in the Navy. Those engineers have a significant responsibility to not only innovate, but to create new technologies in order to cause the United States to progress and grow as much as possible within Naval affairs. Individuals such as Lily Stewart, Mitch Jorgenson, and Annie Dunigan are living examples of those ground-breaking engineers. The most interesting engineer in the videos provided was Annie Dunigan. She is pursuing the field that I plan to in the upcoming years and it is inspiring to see another woman completing that goal. Because of her, and many other women within the STEM field and the Navy who are conquering their field, I am able to view those same goals as attainable and achievable because they paved the way through that field for girls like myself.

In the next 15-20 years, I expect for there to be much more female minorities representing the STEM field within the Navy and just in general. Minorities have been making large strides to progress and grow within those more challenging professions and I believe they will soon be a majority of their field. The rigor that women show within their workplaces also shouldn't be overlooked. It is important to recognize (for themselves) that not everything is always handed out. Working towards a goal that might not be as possible as another individual takes grit and determination. Because of this grit, determination, and resistance that minority women show, I believe that there will be exponentially greater innovations for the Naval Aviation field within the Navy. There are so many more improvements that could be made such as increasing the amount of high-performance aircraft that are able to land on aircraft carriers by decreasing their landing and takeoff distances significantly. Among the other options of advancing the technology within the field, there are also improvements that could be made for aircraft that might be within the more minute areas that are often overthought. Topics such as surveillance, radio, navigation aids, and more, can and should, always be improved upon to provide the most accurate representations possible during the endeavors of aviation. These advancements will change the lives in the year 2040 because our military will be more competitive within international affairs in order to secure national welfare and security. Through the international affairs skills that the

Navy has to offer, there are many more opportunities that are available to improve the communications and relationships between the United States and other countries. These goals can be achieved through the engineers of the Navy and Marine Corps today, which is why mechanical engineering and aeronautical engineering are so vital and timeless for the affairs of the Navy and Marine Corps in 2021.