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Science, technology, engineering, math. Four parts of a whole, similar yet different. Each important on their own, even more so when together. These four forces rule the world. This is STEM, a whole world of creativity, ingenuity, ambition, and determination.

When American won the Space Race, it changed the course of humanity. They revolutionized the world. People could call each other from halfway around the world. Weathermen could predict natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and tsunamis. The medical, and technological fields, in particular, grew rapidly. Calculations and coding proved to be valuable assets. Information has become easier and easier to gain, especially with the help of special devices - namely, a smart electronic tag.

This device, connected to a seal, can record "depth, temperature, light, and whether it's wet or dry." Each and every tag is attached by a professional who tags them in "a way that doesn't harm or bother the seal in any way." Information from the seals is beamed up to satellites every once in a while, then back down to the Navy, for a team of people to analyze.

This might seem useless; what use would seals have to the Navy? However, seal tracking contributes a treasure trove of information to the Navy. First of all, the data marks the seal's recovery from being endangered. Because humans were the ones to almost eliminate their species, they have an ethical responsibility to help seals recover. Also, since humans depend on the coast for various things - shipping boats, fishing piers, military patrols - the way seals expand and recover impacts humans.

In addition, seals can sense things that humans cannot. For example, a change in their habits, territory, and diet could help identify potential problems. Likewise, if a hurricane or tsunami approaches, seals are more likely to sense it than any human technology. This data could help save lives.

One of the scientists to work on this project is Monica DeAngelis. Since a child, DeAngelis lived around sea creatures on Rhode Island. She grew an interest in marine creatures in high school and wanted to help understand how they influenced the world. "Marine mammals weren't something that only existed far away out at sea...they're actually all around us." Instead of finding a job that only she could benefit from, DeAngelis decided to undertake a path that helped many people around the globe.

With so many problems on the planet, people need to come together and help fix our Earth. Monica DeAngelis chose to study seals and help them, instead of taking the easier path and ignoring them. I want to have as much drive and determination. Choosing to be selfless is not an easy task, but in the end, it reaps benefits for everybody. There are homeless people starving in the streets, children orphaned by war, people struggling to survive for one more day; yet there is no concentrated effort to help them. People need to band together and start making a concentrated effort towards being selfless and kind. Monica DeAngelis could do it; why can't everybody else?

To do this, we must look towards the future. For instance, if we wanted to stop deforestation, where would we get building material? And what would happen to the loggers, and their cumulative effect on the economy? Removing one thing collapses another; there needs to be something new to prop it up.

One component that will be especially successful is living biology. Inanimate objects can only do so much; a living organism can constantly grow, adapt, and change, according to its surroundings. A bacteria that can eat greenhouse gases, a microbe that can purify water, an organism that can absorb pollution - these are all options that could be enormously successful in the future.

In addition, coding, science, technology, and engineering will continue to expand. Robotics and technology will become prominent features of life, just like the Internet was. Artificial intelligence (AI), in particular, could be extremely useful. It can absorb infinite information, generate detailed predictions, and run through millions of simulations. For instance, AI could predict when a ship could cross a strait using weather reports, information about the speed, model, and type of the ship, the speed of the current, and calculate the most likely possibility in under a single second. In fact, AI like this is already around us. Online maps can predict when you arrive at your destination; weather reports collect data from all around the world. AI is already a prominent feature in life. It could be so much more in the future.

Also, an unexplored area that could harvest benefits: 3-D printing. One current problem is the disposal of plastic, which takes thousands of years to decompose. It clogs up rivers, kills animals, and is bad for the environment. A solution could be to collect the plastic and turn it into filament for a 3-D printer. If a large enough 3-D printer could be constructed, it could build ships, complicated devices, and other costly things. 3-D printing could even build organs or replace lost limbs. 3-D printing has the ability to make anything that can be imagined.

The future has thousands of possibilities, millions of ideas, made possible by a team of talented people: the Navy and the Marine Corps. It is made up of many people: scientists, coders, soldiers, engineers - yet they all have something in common: the intense determination and drive to help make something in the world better. With each step that they take, all the amazing people at the Navy and Marine Corps help make the world a better place.