

US Navy intelligence analyst earns associate degree in military studies

Anthony Konrad balanced coursework, research and military service — while earning a 4.25 GPA

By Sona Patel Srinarayana, ASU News
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Editor's note: This story is part of a series of profiles of notable [fall 2025 graduates](#).

U.S. Navy reservist Anthony Konrad of Easley, South Carolina, paused his studies a few times for active-duty obligations; however, he never lost sight of his goal — finishing a degree with top marks.

Konrad earned his ASU Online degree through a [partnership with Arizona State University and the United States Naval Community College](#) (USNCC), which enables active-duty enlisted service members to complete a college degree.

He thrived in the [military studies associate degree program](#), earning a 4.25 GPA, and was nominated for a Dean's Medalist Award by the [Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement](#) in the [College of Integrative Sciences and Arts](#) at ASU.

"Anthony's journey demonstrates remarkable perseverance and purpose," said retired Col. [Wanda Wright](#), the inaugural Peter M. and Michelle H. Wilver director of the Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement. "He is known for his humility, professionalism and mentorship of fellow military-affiliated students and contributes thoughtfully to discussions of veteran identity, leadership and ethical responsibility."

Konrad, who is also a U.S. Navy terrorism analyst and volunteer firefighter, explored these passions through research in his military studies capstone project.

"I employed the 'just war theory' in my research to critically analyze the United States' support for Ukraine," Konrad said.

Grateful for the academic support he received through his GI Bill and ASU's Military Active Duty and Reservist Scholarship, he plans to further his education after graduating. Konrad also wants to pursue a commission in the U.S. Navy, where he hopes to make an impact in the military and national security sectors.

Question: What was your “aha” moment when you realized you wanted to study the field you majored in?

Answer: During my time in the Mediterranean Sea, I was captivated by the intricate ways in which the U.S. Navy interacts with nations around the globe. My interest in political science and history blossomed as I explored various corners of the world, particularly during our port visits to several Eastern European countries amid the early stages of the war in Ukraine. These eye-opening experiences ignited a profound curiosity in me, inspiring me to delve deeper into the conflict between Russia and Ukraine through multiple academic lenses.

Q: What’s something you learned while at ASU — in the classroom or otherwise — that surprised you or changed your perspective?

A: Surprisingly, the most transformative insights I've gained during my time at ASU have come from general studies courses rather than my major. To fulfill the “scientific thinking in natural sciences” requirement, I enrolled in both Introduction to Environmental Science and Introduction to Physical Geography. These courses offered a comprehensive exploration of climate change, detailing how human activities are damaging the delicate ecosystems of our planet. Through this learning, I have become acutely aware of my own contributions to environmental degradation, resulting in significant changes to my personal habits and behaviors.

Q: Why did you choose ASU?

A: I was initially attracted to the opportunity to pursue an associate degree in military studies through the United States Naval Community College in partnership with ASU. This unique program design aligned closely with my academic interests, unlike the other available options. Despite the fact that I would be an online student, I longed for the vibrant atmosphere of a school with a strong identity and spirited community. I take immense pride in being a Sun Devil, a connection that I will cherish throughout my life!

Q: Did you work while completing your degree? If so, how did you balance your time, and how did you maintain your motivation to do both?

A: I continue to serve in the U.S. Navy in a reserve capacity, balancing my responsibilities with drill weekends, annual trainings and my involvement in the Funeral Honors program. I feel fortunate to have the flexibility to work just enough to meet my financial needs, which has left me ample time and energy to excel academically. Prioritizing my commitments has been relatively straightforward; my education always takes precedence.

Q: What’s the best piece of advice you’d give to those still in school?

A: View college as a powerful launchpad for your future, rather than a mere finish line. While earning your degree holds significant importance, it's the daily habits you cultivate, the meaningful relationships you forge, and the resilient mindset you develop that will propel you much further than any single credential ever could. Embrace the journey, as these experiences will shape not

just your career, but your entire life.

This story originally appeared on [ASU News](#).

Main image



Returning student Anthony Konrad earned his ASU Online military studies associate degree, starting his degree while deployed in the Mediterranean. Courtesy photo