When I first came to ODU it was a big culture shock for me being just over 900 miles away from home and being fully reliant on myself. It was even harder to make friends since everyone seemed to have cliques until I started ROTC fully in the first week after moving in. Before I even came to college I used to pride myself on being dedicated because I was a part of track, weightlifting, JROTC raiders captain, and JROTC drone captain. I was well known in my school for the most part because I was competing or just hanging out everywhere. Then when I came to college I realized really fast that college was going to be a whole different experience because I felt stuck with ROTC and having one group that I would hang out with. Throughout the first year I started seeing myself feel really lonely and I've never really felt that way before. Then I was not fully understanding what I wanted my major to be and on a whim I selected computer science and later that year I realized that I wanted to go cybersecurity.Overall, I was all over the place and still trying to get a grip of college life which took me a while to adjust to.

The main courses that shaped my growth throughout college so far were calculus 1 and 2, physics 1 and 2, ethical hacking and penetration, and Linux. The calculus and physics classes helped me get out of my shell and stop thinking that asking for help makes me a burden to other people and that marked the start of when I actually learned how to study and put in extra effort in my classes. Ethical hacking and penetration and linux helped me understand the kali environment, metasploit, and understanding for the most part first hand on how attackers think and how they actually exploit systems. These only benefitted me the most because these were some of the harder classes I've taken and I had a lot of preparation. The one that challenged me the most though was physics 2 because I was about to fail that class. While I was taking my exams my best friend was hit by a car and had a TBI and I was visiting the hospital everyday while he was in a coma for over a month and rescheduling my exams for physics 2 and sometimes not even studying. That was the absolute hardest semester I have ever had while trying to balance all of my leadership roles, being a good friend, and classes. Throughout college I would say that the skills I have developed a lot are empathy, humility, integrity, leadership, and communication. I've gained empathy and communication through making closer friendships in college and having a tight knit friend group and people I actually care about because I used to be cut off in the past even though I was with many friends groups in high school. I developed humility, integrity, leadership, and communication skills by mainly being in ROTC and an executive board member for my fraternity.

Some of the themes that I see as a pattern in my artifacts and reflections in my ePortfolio are that I love to talk about leadership. Even though I talk about leadership a lot I do believe that it is a part of my character. I've always thrived to lead in some type of way because I want to make a difference in life and not just cruise. Even though I think leading is important to me I don't think it is the most important because I also just care about everybody's well being and I like to be the person that can build a bond with people. Another pattern that I see in my ePortfolio is that I talk about things being difficult for me and some might see that as a weakness but I believe that you can only become great if you struggle and learn from your mistakes or flaws. The biggest turning point for my learning is that when I changed my major from computer science to cybersecurity and I have to change a 4 year degree completion plan and then later down the line when I was in my calc and physics courses and I was struggling and didn't know if I was going to pass, I was terrified. I had all of these thoughts about if I failed I might lose my ROTC scholarship, the presidential scholarship, potentially having to drop out, etc. because I never had a class that was as hard as calc and physics for me.

I now have a full career plan and the skills that I have learned in college through different organizations and overall experiences will have made me come out of it mentally stronger. When I commission into the navy I will be going in as a SWO but when I have enough time I might be able to go over to intel and actually use my cybersecurity degree skills. The main skills that I talk about which are leadership, humility, integrity, and communication will be transferred over to my job when I have to talk to

enlisted members about what the chain of command needs, having a good head on my shoulders to make decisions based on what is right, and keeping myself accountable so I can be someone that people can look up to. I don’t know how long my navy career might be but if it does last and if I go through with 20 years then I will further my education and get a masters in either computer science or cybersecurity based on how I feel at the time. I think that this ePortfolio has helped me see what I have been through and made it out of in the past and it’s a great reminder of how far I have come. I plan on updating this whenever I get back to port and just reflect on the things that I have accomplished in the future.

Throughout the ePortfolio process some things I was able to portfolio were that I made one in general but mainly I focused on the look of my site because I love the experiences that I have gone through. Since I am going through the military and I haven't had a job I don’t know how professional it is right now, but I will definitely be updating it in the future when I have real experience and can make myself look better for jobs when I get out. It definitely does give me a sense of hope knowing how much effort I am able to put in and see what has come from my experiences in college and prior in life. Some things I recommend other people do when they make an ePortfolio is to not compare your experiences to others and make it about yourself and reflect on all of the things you have done in life so far and look forward to what is in store for you in the future. Definitely work on setting up internships though if you don’t have a set path like me already. In the beginning of my career a lot of my experiences will be directly involved with leadership, but if I am able to go to intelligence then I will have a lot more personal experiences in the field I would like to go to and having clearances to protect really sensitive information. I am not fully sure what my experiences might be mainly because they are all pretty much secret already.

