Bio  Jay Roberts is a Senior Strategy Consultant working in the National Security Sector with a distinct focus in the Intelligence community. After serving in the United States Navy, using his various experiences Jay focused his analytical skill set to continue to serve the United States in the Intelligence community. From construction management, to corporate sales, to banking professional, to research physicist, then to naval officer Jay developed a problem solving skill set with a solid background in risk management, project management, and strategic planning that he currently uses in the Military and National Intelligence community. Jay specializes in analyzing data and business processes, identifying service and performance gaps, and developing corrective action plans that drive efficiency and system effectiveness. He currently serves as a trusted adviser and subject matter expert in intelligence community business processes and operational management. Jay was medically retired as Nuclear Submarine Warfare Officer after completing his last duty at the Defense POW/MIA Account Agency. Prior to this he served as the Pacific Submarine Command’s Special Security Officer, Submarine Squadron 1 Assistant Operations Officer, and did a tour aboard the USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723). In addition to his professional career Jay has competed in the National DOD Warrior Games on Team Navy, the international Invictus Games on Team USA, and represented the USA at various professional and athletic events for wounded veterans. Jay holds a Master of Science in Applied Physics from UNC Charlotte.

Abstract

As a Department of Physics and Optical Science alumni, I will discuss how my research at UNCC lead to me joining the nuclear navy. This research experience afforded me options to direct my career that entailed serving in the Navy as an officer, and learning the reality of what serving in the military is about. My talks to veteran organizations and other groups of people is about "Embrace the Unexpected," since rarely does life happen according to plans. In all cases, going from a salesman to physicist to nuclear warfare officer to protocol officer to intelligence consultant was the result of unexpected circumstances. I will describe opportunities that can make use of a physics background, sharing my thoughts about how physics training can be leveraged in the workforce outside of academia.

Embrace the Unexpected
Salesperson to Physicist to Navy Officer to Intelligence Consultant