

# Making Waves



With family members who had attained decorated military careers and a childhood

spent in San Diego, California, Midshipman Nick Palid is no stranger to military life. Out of high school he knew that he wanted to join the military, specifically; the Navy. Palid states, "I have a lot of family in the military but not the U.S. Navy so I want to pave my own path." The decision was partially influenced by where he lived in San Diego and his familiarity with the ocean. When Palid graduated high school during the Covid-19 lockdown, he was unable able to visit universities in the area, so choosing any school was a shot in the dark.

Despite this, he was not worried about what school he attended because, "I make the best out of every situation I'm in." However; the University of Idaho appealed to him through the affordable tuition costs and the beneficial UI Naval ROTC program. The leap of faith paid off. "I have definitely learned a lot of good skills and how to take care of people."

Midshipman Palid looks fondly upon his years in the UI Naval ROTC program and the many things he learned during his time here,

"Understanding people from different backgrounds and how to lead them differently. How you must use different leadership styles for different people." He also learned just as much out of the classroom as he did in it and looks forward to applying what he's learned to his military career. Within five months of graduation, he will be attending Flight School in Pensacola, Florida. He hopes to use the intervening months to focus on studying aviation to be well prepared for the years ahead. Once at flight school, he plans to excel and be selected to fly fighter jets or ospreys. Along with flying, Relationships and community are very important to Palid and his love of serving and leading others drives him in what he does, "I love taking care of people; people underneath me and



**Military & Veteran Services**  
Bruce Pitman Center 139  
875 Perimeter Drive MS 4259  
Moscow ID 83844-4259





above me. It really motivates me to show up every day and give my best effort. It makes me want to do better, to push myself." He grew up with a large family of aunts, uncles, and cousins who have inspired him to have a family of his own someday.

Palid is constantly looking for ways to improve himself, whether to be in combat sports, relational or leadership skills, or in everyday living. He looks forward to what he will accomplish and is motivated towards the next thing. "The job is not finished," he says, knowing that this time at University of Idaho has prepared him for the life that is in front of him.

*Article by Rachel G Nelson*

*Photography provided by Nick Palid and used with permission.*

*Published December 2025*