

## Biographical Essay

For the past three years, I have also been a graduate student in the Business Information Technology department at Virginia Tech. As a researcher in the field of Decision Science, I have studied the importance of reducing information overload to improve decision making quality. Recommender systems are a practical method of reducing or eliminating information overload. My doctoral thesis work involves identifying methods to measure and evaluate the effectiveness, implementation, decision quality, and computational complexity of recommender systems.

For the past two years, I have been an Intelligence Analyst in U.S. Army Reserve. During this time, I have become well aware of the processes and needs of the intelligence community. As an all source intelligence analyst, the problem of information overload has become painstakingly clear to me because it makes creating intelligence products difficult and time consuming. This reduces our nation's intelligence capabilities and can lead to oversights, failures, and missed opportunities. I have come to realize that recommender systems can be implemented to address the problem of information overload within the intelligence community.

Before going back to school to pursue a Ph.D., I worked in industry for three years as a project manager and as a software developer in both business and government. However, despite having a high paying salary, the work was uninteresting and unrewarding. My desire to make more of a difference in the world led me to going back to school and to join the Army Reserves. I also hold a Masters and Bachelors degrees in Business Management.

I strongly believe that there is no profession more noble than serving one's country in the military or as a civilian in the national security field. After finishing my Ph.D., I intend to work as a researcher for either the Army or the Department of Defense. I would like to see my ideas for improving the intelligence community and reducing information overload come into fruition one day as this would strengthen the security of our nation and be personally rewarding.

I request this essay to be published on the Lint Center for National Security Studies, Inc website with my name published.