



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CJ', with a small number '3' written above the final stroke.

Recently, I was informed that my request to delay my service in order to play in the NFL was denied by the Secretary of the Navy. I have spent the past week processing my emotions, as it is very difficult to have been this close to achieving a childhood dream and having it taken away from me. In 2019, President Trump endorsed a policy titled the "Directive-type Memorandum (DTM)-19-011 - Military Service Academy Graduates Seeking to Participate in Professional Sports". This policy allows academy graduates to delay their commissioning in order to pursue professional athletic opportunities. 2019 was the first year for the policy to be put into action with players such as Malcolm Perry (Navy/Dolphins) and Elijah Riley (Army/Eagles) reaping the benefits.

Currently, I have four other counterparts who have not been denied the opportunity to participate in the NFL: Jon Rhattigan (West Point/Seahawks), Nolan Laufenberg (Air Force/Broncos), George Silvanic (Air Force/Rams), and Parker Ferguson (Air Force/Jets). While I acknowledge that these men are from different branches of the armed services, it puzzles me as to why I am the only person to be denied this opportunity.

I am very aware of the commitment that I made to service when I first arrived at the United States Naval Academy. I look forward to my career as a naval officer in the information warfare community. However, I am deserving of the opportunity to live out another one of my life-long dreams before fulfilling my service requirement.

During my four years at the academy, I strove to do all things the right way. I embraced and exemplified all aspects of the academy's mission: morally, mentally and physically. I have excelled in the classroom, modeled what it is to be a midshipman and have been a vocal advocate to others interested in attending the academy. Over the past few months, I have represented the Naval Academy and the US Navy through many interviews and news articles which have brought positive attention to the academy and the football program. These moments were not just about me. It was my hope to show the value of a service academy education,

the benefits of the armed forces and how being allowed the opportunity of a professional football career while still being committed to future service was a win-win for all.

Unfortunately, due to the decision I am unable to continue playing for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. I have hopes that this situation will soon be overturned and that I can get back to competing on the field and representing the U.S. Navy. Please direct all media requests to my agent Michael De Sane via email at mdesane@divinesportsent.com or via cell at (917) 304-3528. You may also contact our President of Football, Ryan Williams-Jenkins, via email at rwilliams@divinesportsent.com or via cell at (954) 551-2027.