

## Molly Brown, Part Two

(As published in The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking column the week of October 24, 2022)

Less than two decades since her 2004 Oak Ridge High School (ORHS) graduation, Molly Brown now serves in an important leadership role concerning our national security. It was her teenage age dream for her future to be involved in government work and living in Washington, DC. She is currently a Deputy Program Manager within the U.S. Navy Strategic Systems Programs command. A partial snapshot of her numerous responsibilities include: to research and analyze issues involving strategic arms control treaty implementation and compliances, to manage aspects of the U.S. Navy's responsibilities under the New START Treaty, and to represent the U.S. Navy Strategic Systems Program as a technical advisor to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Molly's Northwestern University undergraduate degrees in Political Science and International Studies were followed by her first assignment as a National Security Analyst for the Computer Science Corporation in Alexandria, VA. This job introduced her to her future, specialized career path.

I asked Molly to give an overview of her career journey. She wrote, "I stumbled upon the arms control treaties and agreement world with my first job and have stayed in the niche field since. I started working on chemical and biological treaties, eventually working my way to the Compliance Assessment Group who were responsible for ensuring all Navy activities are compliant with those international laws as well as the domestic laws requiring compliance. I found myself the Deputy of a Safety Working Group for a new weapon system that is still under development. While executing that role, I demonstrated my ability to work with people and manage large scale processes which led to being offered the New START Treaty Deputy Program Manager position which I still hold."

The New START Treaty, an agreement signed by the United States and Russian Federation in 2011, places limits on strategic offensive arms with the requirement to maintain those limits as long as the treaty is in effect. Currently, New START has been extended until February 4, 2026. Per the New START Treaty text, the U.S. and Russia meet within the Bilateral Consultative Commission in Geneva to discuss issues of implementation. Molly said, "In my role with the Navy, I have attended as technical advisor to the Joint Staff."

Molly's employment with the U.S. Navy began in 2012 where she first served as a Program Analyst. She advanced to the position of Deputy Program Manager in 2018, one month before earning a Master of Policy Management degree from Georgetown University. I asked Molly for advice for high school students who might want to pursue a similar career path. Molly answered, "I would recommend a strong liberal arts background with excellent communications skills. You need to be able to process complex problems, develop solutions, and effectively communicate those to your target audience."

During Covid restrictions, Molly worked from home fulltime for two months. Now her work schedule is hybrid, meaning virtual work from home combined with in-person office work and travel for necessary mission support. Covid confinement prompted Molly to adopt a mini-golden doodle, named Jane, who she confesses is a very spoiled dog.

Her work involves traveling, most recently to Switzerland in October 2021 for the Bilateral Consultative Commission where meetings with Russian delegates were held. She described other work-related travels. "I ensure Navy facilities are prepared to execute inspections per the New START Treaty including attending training events throughout the year. I greatly enjoy getting to go to our Navy bases and meeting sailors on our Ohio Class Submarines who are protecting our nation and the world on a day-to-day basis. Nuclear deterrence is a critical component to ensuring Americans can live their lives without constant fear of foreign aggression." Ohio Class Submarines are nuclear powered warships described as having "virtually undetectable undersea launch platforms of intercontinental missiles."

<https://www.navy.mil/Resources/Fact-Files/Display-FactFiles/Article/2169580/fleet-ballistic-missile-submarines-ssbn/>

Molly said she has developed a love of traveling: "Rome and Rio are the favorite cities I have visited. They are so unique. Rome for all the history around every corner, and Rio for how nature feels like a built-in, main part of the city." Molly often returns to her Tennessee family. She mentioned a June 2022 trip to a reunion of the Crozier and Hopper families. The weekend activities, attended by some 200 relatives, included a visit to the Hopper family homestead in Oliver Springs.

Molly is passionate about her service with the Darryl Chappell Foundation where she is a co-chair of the Board of Directors. This opportunity has offered an ethnic and artistic element in Molly's social life. She wrote, "The Darryl Chappell Foundation seeks to enable Afrodescendant visual artists to achieve their highest potential. We accomplish this by

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sponsoring artist-in-residence programs, by facilitating an Artists Talk series, by issuing unrestricted funding for visual artists, and by curating an online Artists Marketplace featuring artists and their work commission-free."

Molly desires to continue her work in the US Navy's Strategic Systems Program. She wrote, "I plan to continue government service, a job where I feel like my work is helping to maintain global stability." I asked her to comment on the importance of civil service workers in government. She effused over the many people she has worked with in what she called "the Department of Defense world," civilian service workers whom she was sure could earn much more money in the private sector. She said, "Their sense of duty and patriotism is exemplary. They are selflessly dedicated to securing and maintaining the nation's position in the world and to keeping Americans safe."

Molly's job has international impact, and so I asked her about international relationships and the effect on her work. She answered, "I am not directly involved, but I will feel the effects of world geopolitics in my job as well as different Presidential administrations having different goals when it comes to arms control. As the New START Treaty is between the U. S. and Russia, it's impossible not to pay attention to what is happening in the world."

Molly is an ORHS alumna whose talents quietly and powerfully contribute to a vitally important national mission. Thus, she makes not only her large local family proud but also the local community who is honored to claim her. I, for one, will rest better knowing that she is where she is and that she is committed to and vigilantly pursuing our national wellbeing. Thank you, Molly, for your service.

Per official government guidelines: The views presented for this story are those of Molly Brown and do not necessarily represent the views of the Department of Defense or its components.

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Thanks, Benita for another exceptional story of an Oak Ridge Schools graduate who has gone on to contribute greatly to our world.

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Molly Brown enjoying the snow

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Molly Brown and her dog