



## **Francis Manning**

### **B.S. – Geographic Information System**

#### **About Me:**

My name is Francis Manning and I am working towards my B.S. in Geographic Information System as part of the College of Applied and Natural Sciences here at Louisiana Tech. I am a native of Upstate New York, raised on a mid-size Holstein dairy farm. I joined the Marine Corps in 2010 and served as a Topographic Marine until the end of my enlistment in 2015. During that time, I took part in three deployments attaching to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 7<sup>th</sup> Marines, the British Royal Engineers, and two Joint-Task Force units. After leaving the Marine Corps I decided to further my GIS experience by attaining a degree. I had decided on Louisiana Tech and Georgia Tech, so I would live closer to my daughter Emily Elise or “Lou Lou” for short. After driving across country and making a stop in Ruston to check out the campus, I decided Louisiana Tech. So I found a house to rent in Dubach, LA and four days later started my first quarter in the Winter of 2015-2016.

#### **Why GIS?**

When the Marine Corps and reminding branches began increasing the use of GIS analysts to cover remote sensing and change detection analysts in Afghanistan, IED casualties for coalition forces made a significant drop. In late 2011, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency released the GIS work that had gone into planning the mission that concluded the story of Bin Laden. After witnessing first hand just how GIS and technology have shaped the battlefields across the world, I wanted to experience what else GIS could be shaping. After attending an ESRI conference in San Diego and my first year at Tech it is becoming evident that before action takes place in many industries; leaders and planners are looking toward GIS as a source of not only information but also answers to everyday problems. GIS is an opportunity to take part in and shape the future of America.

#### **My Future Plans:**

I hope to continue with the following quarters here at Tech on the President’s list and expanding my knowledge base. Upon graduation in a couple years I would like to continue my education and complete a Master’s program in the field of GIS while working. When I first started at Tech I had plans after graduation to work for the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency so that I could continue deploying with the military around the globe. Spending more time with my beautiful daughter and being exposed to GIS within the field of Natural Resources and Agriculture has expended my interest and changed my decisions for after graduation in couple years. So I will just have to wait and take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves.