

“How your disability shaped your decision to study the program you chose”

My name is Axel Zarebski Hegewisch; I am 25 years old and just recently left the Navy. I served two years in the reserves and five years in the regular force.

I got tinnitus at 23 because we were never given proper gear and chronic migraines from an untreated concussion I suffered in basic training. That is without mentioning broken bones from deployments abroad and local operations.

My hearing condition may seem simple but it's quite debilitating. It started because my cabin (mess) was located above the engine of a frigate, which is incredibly noisy (everything is always vibrating and even if you were to throw a wrench into the deck no one would hear it). Turns out that hearing a “Brum Brum Brum” that loud while you fall asleep is also terrible for you. I slept like that for about six months so now (apart from some hearing loss almost everyone gets due to gun fire and the fact you never get ear protection) I am always hearing noises. My brain is looking for the engine (as a doctor explained it) and when there is no engine it simply replicates the noise, it's extremely frustrating.

Now the main issue is that you can't sleep without constant noise, otherwise the fake noise is too much to sleep. And when you sleep with constant noise, you don't really sleep and therefore you are always tired. And with that comes depression, anxiety, mood changes, etc. That's how bad tinnitus can be.

The military gave me some money for it, but no treatment. So, I decided I wasn't going to sit around and wait for them to help me. I have a dead-end job as a security guard because that mostly what you can get with military experience (even with a degree), so I decided to get off my butt and do a masters to get an actual job that will allow me to pay for a better life style and for me to get help.

I studied history but that doesn't really pay enough for me to find help so I took to a career advisor, and he recommended me going into a masters that will complement my work experience in the military and increase my chances of getting a well paid job. So I went into Intelligence Analysis at the American Military University.

Funny enough the man at Veterans Affairs Canada mentioned I couldn't apply for a Veterans scholarship since I am missing 30 days of service (2166 days out of 2190 needed) to get my full tuition paid. Still, that won't stop me finding the money.

Proof of graduating high school in 2023

CERTIFICADO DE GRADUACIÓN VALIDADO/APOSTILLADO POR ESPAÑA (ORIGINAL)	
<p>CONSULADO GENERAL DE ESPAÑA EN TORONTO - CANADA LEGALIZACIONES Visto Bueno para legalizar la firma y/o sello de D. ETIENNE PHOLO NSIMBA por ser, al parecer, la suya, sin prejuzgar la veracidad del contenido del documento ni ulterior destino que pueda dársele.</p> <p>Toronto, 28 JUL 2022 <i>Alfreda Sánchez Olaya</i> Canciller A12 0118410</p>	<p>Province of British Columbia Ministry of Education</p> <p><i>This is to certify that</i></p> <p><b>AXEL ZAREBSKI HEGEWISCH</b></p> <p>has satisfied the Graduation requirements of the British Columbia School System.</p> <p>Accordingly, this British Columbia Certificate of Graduation is issued under the authority of the Minister of Education</p>
<p>THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT CANADA HAS DULY AUTHENTICATED SIGNATURE, AFFIXED ON THE UNDERLYING DOCUMENT, OF: <i>P. Fahlbender</i></p> <p>LE MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES, COMMERCE ET DEVELOPPEMENT CANADA A DUMENT AUTHÉNTIFIÉ LA SIGNATURE, APPOSÉE SUR LE DOCUMENT SOUS-JACENT, DE: <i>P. Fahlbender</i></p> <p>FOR THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS/POUR LE SOUS-MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES <i>Etienne Pholo Nsimba</i> DATE: JUN 27 2022 OTTAWA, CANADA</p>	<p><i>[Signature]</i> Minister of Education</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> Principal</p> <p>WEST VANCOUVER SECONDARY School</p> <p>JUNE 2015 Date</p>

Proof of Fall 2023 acceptance to an accredited post-secondary institution

## **American Public University System**

American Military University | American Public University

111 West Congress Street  
Charles Town, WV 25414  
Tel 877-468-6268  
[www.apus.edu](http://www.apus.edu)

December 7, 2022

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### **Admission to the AMU School of Security & Global Studies**

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Axel Z. Hegewisch has applied to American Military University and has been successfully admitted to the AMU School of Security & Global Studies – Master of Arts in Intelligence Studies program.

Per our Student Handbook, American Military University reserves the right to deny or revoke admission to any applicant or student if it is determined that the application or admission forms, documents, or materials contain false, fraudulent, or incomplete statements.

Best regards,

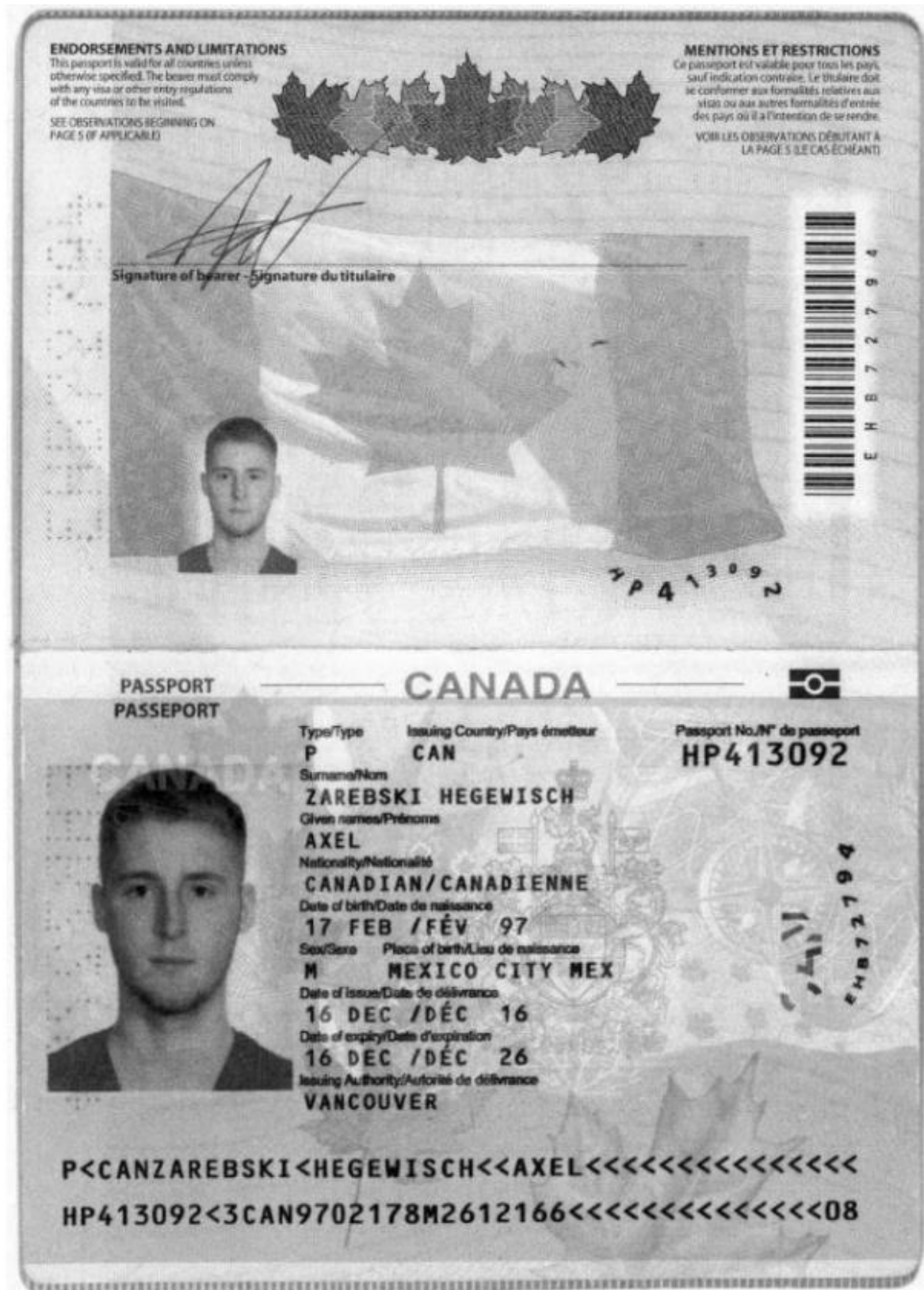
Linnea Meyer | Admissions Representative

**American Public University System**

American Military University | American Public University

[www.apus.edu](http://www.apus.edu)

## Proof of Canadian citizenship



## Documented proof of disability



Veterans Affairs  
Canada

Anciens Combattants  
Canada

**Protected B**

File Number 8369464  
CSDN ID 500009748296

6 May 2022

AXEL ZAREBSKI-HEGEWISCH  
303-1155 BEACH AVE  
VANCOUVER BC V6E1V2

Dear AXEL ZAREBSKI-HEGEWISCH:

### **Subject: Disability Benefit Decision, First Application**

We are pleased to inform you that you have been granted disability entitlement for the following condition(s):

- Tinnitus

Further details regarding this decision are set out below:

### **Tinnitus - Decision Details**

- We have concluded that your Tinnitus arose out of your Regular Force service.
- Granted, under Section 45 of the *Veterans Well-being Act*, Regular Force service.
- Assessment is 4%, effective May 1, 2021, under subsection 51(1) of the above Act.
- Your assessment was calculated using a medical impairment rating of 3 from Table 9.3 in the 2006 Table of Disabilities and a quality of life rating of 1.

### **Please Note**

As full disability entitlement for Tinnitus has been granted to your Regular Force service, no further entitlement can be considered with respect to your Reserve Force service.

## **Review and Appeal Options**

You may ask the Department to review this decision if you have new evidence. If you do not agree with this decision, you may appeal to the Veterans Review and Appeal Board. The Board is the arm's-length tribunal that operates independently from the Department to provide a fair appeal process for disability benefits decisions.

For advice on your options, you may contact:

- a lawyer, free of charge, at the Bureau of Pensions Advocates at 1-877-228-2250 (toll-free) or, when calling from outside Canada:
  - United States: 1-888-996-2242 (toll-free)
  - United Kingdom, Germany, France, or Belgium: 00-800-996-22421 (toll-free)
  - any other country: 1-613-996-2242 (collect);
- a representative, free of charge, from a Veterans' organization;
- a representative of your choice, at your own expense.

Sincerely,

E. MacKinnon  
Benefits Program Officer