

Heyward

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"I'm kinda leaning toward jets... right now," Alex Heyward said when pressed on the subject. Those joining the Navy don't exactly get to pick what they'd like to do while serving – "it comes down to the needs of the Navy," his father says – but they can have some say.

"As long as I'm flying, I guess that's all that matters," Alex said.

But, right now at least, that's still a long ways off. First comes his stint at the U.S. Naval Academy, where he'll spend four years learning what it takes to serve his country and finding out if he has the goods. The experience is sure to be a tough one; so tough that some realize once getting there that their future lies outside the armed forces.

But this recruit has an inside track.

"I've always tried to express upon him that it's a place you definitely have to want to go to," his father, who goes by Sandy, said. "If you have any hesitation, I'd definitely discourage him. He's going to be put in some challenging situations. It's physically and mentally demanding."

But the academy also will give 18-year-old Alex a lot of different opportunities, as well as a new family that will be right by his side no matter what.

"The guys you hang out with will be your brothers ... your closest friends for life," Sandy Heyward said. And he should know. The guy in the room next to his at the academy turned out to be his future brother-in-law, while the roommate he met the first day in Annapolis, Md., was

the best man at his wedding.

Sandy Heyward said he never tried too hard to push his son toward the academy, before quickly being reminded by his wife, Doreen, that the couple had young Alex up in Annapolis for a ball game at the age of 1. But, considering the fact that he's grown up around successful Navy products, odds were good in the academy's favor that they'd be getting another Heyward down the road. And Alex may not be the last, as his sister Annalise has already started expressing interest in going, despite being a recent graduate of the seventh grade.

But getting in isn't easy, even if you

have a ton of ex-grads willing to write you a reference. You've got to have the grades, not to mention a congressional recommendation.

Alex got his from U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick, after sitting down for an interview with her and others in her staff. But it's worth the effort, and the proud parents couldn't be happier about their son's accomplishment.

"I think the biggest feeling I had when I found out he was accepted was pride," Doreen Heyward said. "It's such an incredible honor."

She also knows it's a lot of work.

"You're voluntarily giving up those

college years to do this," she said. "There's no partying and doing what you want to do when you want to do it."

As for Alex, he's not deterred by recent unrest in the Middle East, and what serving in the Navy could mean when he graduates from the academy in four years. He knows he'll owe his country five years of service, wherever they want those five years to be.

"It's definitely not deterring me from doing what I've wanted to do for such a long time," Alex said. "It comes down to serving our country. And I'm willing to go wherever the Navy and this country needs me." □

Avastin

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"It's so demoralizing," he said from his home in the SouthPark area. "I'm so mad at my country right now."

Morgan said he has appealed to U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan and U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick for help. After six months, Hagan sent a polite thank-you note and nothing else. Myrick issued a statement voicing her concerns about the Food and Drug Administration's decision and promised to raise the issue in a House committee hearing.

But Myrick "has disappeared" since then, and Pat Morgan is still trying to get an appointment with U.S. Sen. Richard Burr.

At the hearing, Pat Morgan said his wife will try to personally convince federal officials of the difference Avastin has made in her life. She continues to work at Marsh USA, an international insurance brokerage, a job that she's held for more than 30 years. She cared for her parents, both of whom died within a short time this year, Pat Morgan said.

For his part at the hearing, "I'm going to be the bad cop," Shannon's husband said. "Why has this seemingly been a miracle treatment in Europe? Why take it away from breast cancer patients but leave it for other cancers?"

The patient and her doctor should decide to use – or not use – Avastin, he said. "This is not the America I grew up in." □



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*Timing: January 2010 to December 2010