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## **Engineering student works as MCRP intern at Anniston Munitions Center**

by Miranda Myrick, Anniston Army Depot Public Affairs Office

ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT, Ala.—Though college senior Delicia Peoples has studied chemical engineering since her freshman year at Tuskegee University, her internship with Anniston Munitions Center here and the Army's Joint Munitions Command has little to do with her field of study.

Peoples, an intern with the Army's Minority College Relations Program, has taken on a couple of projects at ANMC that will help the organization improve processes relating to new employee orientation and the receipt of ammunition.

"I guess you could say that I'm a student of many things," said Peoples.

The MCRP is an Army Equal Employment Opportunity program that formulates and maintains educational partnerships and collaborations with minority institutions and helps establish faculty and student employment and exchange programs. Peoples has worked on depot with ANMC since January and is expected to complete her internship April 17 in preparation for her college graduation.

The internship is facilitated by contractor Vista Science Corporation, the company hired by the Army to administer the MCRP.

"We're extremely pleased with the relationship we've grown with the Minority College Relations Program. It's a great program for the participating interns to experience first-hand the challenging opportunities available in government service," said ANMC Commander Lt. Col. Duncan MacMullen.

Peoples saw the internship job posting at the TU career placement office during the fall 2008 semester and said she was attracted to the unknown. "I like to find different things I might enjoy doing and then give it a try," she said.

That sentiment is the same now as it was in high school when she joined many civic and academic clubs. A 2004 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School in Tuskegee, she was the first African American to have held a judicial position in the State of Alabama's YMCA Youth and Government program. She also took part in Student Government Association, Future Business Leaders of America, science club, math club and even contributed to prep sports on the basketball court and track field.

"In college I became just as active because I always had to have a say in something," said Peoples, who served as college sophomore class president, among other offices in academic societies and clubs.

It was at BTWHS where she found her passion for chemistry. Before that, though, she considered civil law--even architecture--as a career.

"I thought I would be a lawyer because I like to debate, but then there was chemistry. It made sense, so I started researching that field and found that chemical engineering is like the chemistry we study in high school, but on a much larger scale because you can design the equipment used in mixing the chemicals," she said.

As a college freshman, she jumped on the fast track program at TU, taking classes in various engineering disciplines and visiting with leaders in the industry who would host or visit the classroom to show their interest in the school's program.

Before enrolling she mulled over out-of-state colleges with similar engineering programs because she wasn't quite sold on attending college so close to home. But, she later appreciated all that TU had to offer.

Aside from a “well-rounded group of peers” in the engineering department, the location of TU added to her college experience. “It was like I was out of town because I didn’t go home unless I needed to, and I was still able to be there when my family needed me,” said Peoples, who credits her parents and her sisters for the success she’s achieved.

And, she was able to use her parents’ house--rather than disturbing her on-campus roommates--when she needed to stay up all night to complete projects.

The projects she’s accomplished within ANMC have not only helped her adjust to a professional setting outside of academia, they’ve given the host organization an upper hand in business.

“Ms. Peoples’ work ethic, professionalism and dedication has been a great contribution to ADMC,” said Cassandra Howard, a production controller who has worked closely with Peoples at ANMC headquarters.

Peoples conducted research and developed checklists for a new employee sponsorship program that ANMC is looking to implement. She looked at the Total Army Sponsorship Program and the Army’s guidelines to pull into her plans what was required and what methods would work best ANMC.

Under the sponsorship program, each arriving employee is assigned a sponsor to help with in-processing and helping the newcomer to become familiar with the organization’s structure and mission.

“I also looked at what private industry was doing and talked to current Ammo employees to help with the development of the in-processing checklist,” she said.

A separate project at ANMC has allowed Peoples to learn about the widely known concepts of LSS, or Lean and Six Sigma, the first a production practice that reduces waste in the procedures and the latter a quality improvement process. The LSS project involved the receipt of ammunition into the receiving division of ANMC.

She worked with the receiving operations supervisor to learn what goes on in the field so she could gather data and evaluate best and worst practices. With that, she produced briefing slides for the results presentation and was able to learn just how much LSS is already engrained in work processes everywhere.

“I’ve thought seriously about a career with the government, especially now that I’ve worked here,” said Peoples. She said the people at ANMC and in the Anniston community have helped make this a positive experience for her. She’s even attended church worship services with a few co-workers and volunteered at the local YMCA.

“We’re very fortunate to have had Ms. Peoples as part of the ADMC Team. She’s truly one of the bright, young minds any quality organization would like to attract,” said MacMullen.

While residing in Anniston, she’s only taken the two-hour trip home to Tuskegee a few times to work with students in the public school system there. “When I go home in a few weeks, I’m going to pick back up where I left off by volunteering in the schools, advising students in the Youth and Government program,” said Peoples.

“When the door of opportunity opens, why not take it and hopefully make a difference where you can,” she said.



Photo by Miranda Myrick

*Delicia Peoples, second from right, meets with Anniston Munitions Commander Lt. Col. Duncan MacMullen, Deputy to the Commander Anthony Burdell, Production Management Division Chief Patricia Page (far left) and Cassandra Howard, production controller. Peoples is working at ANMC as an intern with the Army’s Minority College Relations Program.*