

Interns gain lifetime experience at JMC and ASC

By Veronica Espinoza
JMC MCRP Intern

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill.-- A college student's life is a compilation of choices: choosing a good college, classes to take, a career, and after graduation, choosing who they want to work for.

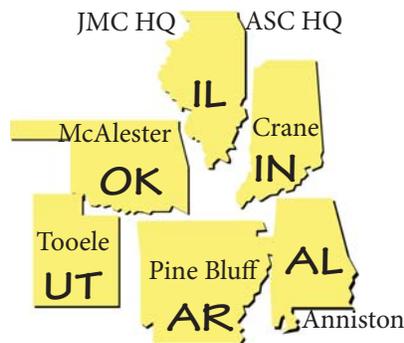
Whether a freshman, sophomore, junior, senior or recent graduate, all college students should consider the option of interning with the federal government.

The federal government offers a wide variety of internship opportunities. However, as part of an Executive Order signed in 1996, the Army Sustainment Command and Joint Munitions Command implemented their Minority College Relations Program (MCRP).

The objective of this program is to develop and promote partnerships and relationships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges, Hispanic Serving Institutions and other minority serving institutions while enhancing the Army's future readiness.

Some of the current interns heard about MCRP through their university's career development center while others through an e-mail stating their qualification for the program. Numerous students applied but only 20 of them were selected.

By mid-December 2008, students had taken their final exams and some others were still celebrating their graduation. Those who applied for MCRP were waiting for an acceptance or rejection. On Dec. 17 a name list was released; anxiety was over. Some students were notified by phone and some others by e-mail; but despite the communication means, the feeling of joy and happiness was the same.



Closer Than You Think

The 2009 Winter MCRP matched 20 college students with internships in 6 states.



U.S. Army photo by Darryl Howlett

2009 MCRP JMC & ASC Interns From Bottom Row up, Left to Right: Roxanne Rivas & Perla Gomez; **Row Two:** Veronica Espinoza & Jason Casey; **Row Three:** Marcus Lanier & Adeola Odutola; **Row Four:** Autumn Martin & LaQuita Barfield

All the interns were sent miles from home because in that specific Army site they would be able to gain invaluable professional experience.

"(The internship) helps you become more diverse in your field and not only in your major. Even though I am majoring in electrical engineering I have touched every type of engineering since I've been here," said Andre Davidson, an Alabama A&M University senior electrical engineering major with a minor in computer science.

Besides diversity, the MCRP program covers other professional aspect that's reinforced in today's workforce such as networking and career exposure.

"I do consider (the internship) as a milestone opportunity because it exposes me to the way the government works and it also allows me to network within my co-workers and also with different visitors who come out to the plant," said Brandon King, junior mathematics major at Alabama A&M University.

"I consider this internship as an opportunity to learn government functions, great networking opportunities, and

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At Tooele, dream job becomes reality

By Ely Trapp
Tooele Public Affairs

TOOELE, Utah --Tooele Army Depot welcomed its new deputy to the commander in early February after working at Joint Munitions Command at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., for more than 13 years.

In 1984, Nesbitt came to the depot from Illinois as an intern with the Ammunition Managers Intern Program and worked as an ammuni-

tion planner.

"I knew from first the time I was out here that my dream job was coming back as the deputy," said Nesbitt.

"It is absolutely fantastic to be back. I have always loved the Tooele area."

Nesbitt has held various positions at Tooele Army Depot, Deseret Chemical Depot (Utah) and Rock Island Arsenal (Ill.), most recently Chief of the Joint Munitions Command Inte-

grated Logistics Transportation Division.

After a month at Tooele, he is still making efforts to meet with employees and understand their needs while deciding how to accomplish the numerous requirements placed on the depot.

He is also very interested in helping shape the goals of the depot, supporting initiatives within JMC, the Army and DoD. ^{JM}_C



Rick Nesbitt

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a possible way to enter the federal government full time," said Marcus Lanier a December 2008 graduate of North Carolina A&T State University, who majored in business marketing.

But while some students consider this internship as a springboard to be hired, others believe the program is a milestone in their life.

"I've had plenty of milestones in my life with the help of the Lord, but I just consider this opportunity a stepping stone for a more rewarding career" said senior Shewunikki Moton, computer engineering major at Jackson State University, Jackson, Miss.

Out of the 20 MCRP intern, two have been previously exposed to government activities or functions.

Jason Casey from the University of Texas at El Paso is a veteran and member of the 82nd Airborne Association (a non-profit organization of people who are/have been Airborne/Glider qualified) and Moton is an Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom veteran.

The rest with non-government exposure are not discouraged and are climbing the ladder of being overloaded with government jargon, policies, regulations and procedures.

"I consider working for the government will look really well in my resume... Having government experience is a plus because it teaches you responsibility and discipline which many companies look at when hiring students," said Adeola

Odutola, junior electrical engineering major, Alabama A&M University.

"The most challenging thing I've faced is getting up at four in the morning every work day and drive to work (Crane Army Ammunition Activity) for an hour on a winding road that was sometimes in hazardous conditions due to the weather," said Frederick Robinson, a biology graduate from the University of Texas at El Paso.

For some MCRP interns this might be their first internship or real full-time job experience. Whichever the case might be, the fact is that this program has the capability of broadening a student career scope, work skill levels and aptitudes.

But besides the work lessons this program has taught

interns, there are those personal challenges that need to be overcome on a daily basis.

"The biggest challenge for me is being away from home for such a long period of time," said Autumn Martin, December 2008 graduate of Alabama A&M University with a degree in biology.

"I now feel more comfortable going back home knowing that I have 15 weeks of experience working with the government," said Roxanne Rivas, senior double major at the University of Texas at El Paso, studying English and Psychology.

The truth is, all of them will share something: the lifetime experience and satisfaction of being a Minority College Relations intern. ^{JM}_C