

My internship for Fall 2004 was with the 96<sup>th</sup> Security Forces on Eglin, AFB, at the Security Forces Office of Investigations (SFOI). This internship allowed me to gain a much better perception of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) especially along the lines of the Federal system. The internship allowed me to acquire new skills and techniques that I will be able to apply in my future career.

While I was interning with SFOI, I was able to learn the duties of an investigator with the United States Air Force. I was able improve my communication skills and writing skills that will be pertinent in the Criminal Justice Field. I learned various techniques the investigators use in interviews and dealing with victims and offenders. I got the chance to use various tools in the forensic aspect. The investigators taught me how to dust for fingerprints and how to lift a print. I also got the chance to use a superglue fumer, and learn how the machine works. I got the chance to work the camera on several cases, by taking pictures of evidence. This can be seen in the bonus material of my portfolio. Learning about the different tools used in investigations was specifically interesting to me because during this semester I was also taking Forensic science and was learning about all the tools I got the chance to use.

When I began my internship I went in with an open-mind and the eagerness to learn. The investigators welcomed me in, and taught me so much about policing, investigating, and the different aspect of being on a military base. My expectation of the internship was to get a better idea of the investigation process. I thought my primary duty would be working on paperwork for cases. I was completely wrong. The investigators allowed me to work on every case they received while I was there. I got the chance to go out on location, and learned how to assess the scene of a crime. I also got the chance to

learn interview techniques. I learned the various body languages to look for while interviewing an alleged offender, which could help in deciding whether he or she was guilty or innocent. For example, if an individual is direct and defensive these are signs of innocence. I also got a better knowledge of the many different statutes that applied in the cases we worked on. From a personal view I believe I have acquired an enormous amount of knowledge that pertains to the CJS. Not only did I get the chance to observe investigators I got the chance to work along side them.

This internship benefited me in many ways. It was a great learning experience and it opened the door to many different job fields in the Criminal Justice Field. I was able to get the perception of a policing department with an investigations unit, which allowed me to compare the unit with an agency that is directed specifically at investigations only, like OSI. I got the chance to work with OSI on numerous cases, which allowed me to see how OSI works. This benefited me because I eventually would like to become an OSI agent. The internship gave me the chance to find out if policing and investigations is what I really want to do with my life. The more I got involved with cases I realized how much I was interested in the field, and knew for sure that this is what I want to do with my life.

This internship experience was one of the best decisions I made. I got to work on so many different cases, and get a better idea of investigations and what investigators really do. While working a night shift with the investigators I got the chance to see how a D.U.I sobriety test is administered. The driver of the vehicle was not drinking but we were able to bust the passenger for drinking under age, which ultimately prevented the offender from taking the chance of driving while under the influence later on that night. Another case I worked on with the investigators was a "suspicious substance". We were

called to the scene of a random search at the gate of the base. While the police officer was randomly searching the vehicle she came across a green substance she believed was marijuana. She called the investigators who are in charge of any drug activity on base. We arrived to the scene where we then took the "suspicious substance" and tested it. The substance did test positive for marijuana and the juvenile offender was taken into custody. Pictures of this case can be seen in the bonus material of my portfolio. Another case I got the chance to work on was a destruction of government property case. The case was on a railing that had been ripped out of the ground at the dorms. This case started out very petty but evolved into falsifying information and integrity issues. The alleged offender lied in several interviews and was ultimately given an Article 15 because of his dishonesty. If the individual would have just told the truth from the beginning he most likely would have received a Letter of Counseling (LOC), which is a minor punishment compared to the Article 15. These are just a few of the many cases I got the chance to work on while I was at this internship. I also got the chance to go see the K-9 unit on base and compare the military K-9 unit with the civilian K-9 unit. I also go to see a demonstration of one of the K-9 units which was very interesting.

I would recommend this program to any Criminal Justice student. The internship program allows the student to get a hands on experience with the Criminal Justice Field, and allows them to apply what they are studying to the internship itself. The student will also acquire a vast amount of new knowledge and different techniques that can be applied in their future jobs. I am definitely looking forward to my internship next semester at the Sheriff's department. I am looking forward to the chance of learning new information and techniques that I will be able to use in my future career.