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CYSE368 Internship: ODU PD

Reflection 1

So It Begins

## **BLUF**

The following reflection covers 50 hours from January 5, 2024, to February 9, 2024. During this period, I met and collaborated with the detectives at ODU PD. During this period, the complexity of a criminal case and the plethora of computer software and hardware used to solve crimes were shown to me. I inquired about the different stages of investigation and the importance of technological devices in acquiring evidence. Most importantly, I learned firsthand about the people within ODUPD and how they keep everyone safe.

## **So It Begins**

Before joining Old Dominion University Police Department (ODUPD), the image of a police officer in my head was screwed. In my head, every single police officer was self-absorbed and not interested in the actual community. Within the media, I was being fed the idea that cops were undertrained, undisciplined, and out-of-touch with the people around them. ODUPD does not fit this description. The department contains individuals certified and capable of protecting the students, faculty, staff, and residents in proximity to the university. During my first month with the department, I was assigned to the investigations unit

The investigations unit at ODUPD is fully equipped with digital tools and resources to solve crime on campus. I was introduced to Detective Godwin, the current cellphone examiner at ODUPD. With him, I learned about the tools ODUPD uses for cellular devices and the importance of collecting, analyzing, and maintaining digital evidence. Detective Godwin allowed me to use, strictly for recreational purposes, Cellebrite. Cellebrite is a digital forensics tool that can extract information from cellular devices. I compared the interface between Cellebrite and other open-source digital forensics software, primarily Ubuntu Paladin. Working with Detective Godwin allowed me to understand the intersectionality between cybersecurity and policing.

The other detectives within the unit were also extremely knowledgeable and resourceful. Detective Williams is another member of ODUPD and specializes in particular crimes. During my conversations with Detective Williams, I gained insight into the investigative process and understood the importance of technology regarding exceptional cases. A pivotal question I asked Detective Williams is, "Considering your job, what role does technology play in gathering evidence, and what role could it play?" To paraphrase, there wasn't much more technology could do in special cases. Due to the complexity of the crime, evidence is often scarce. That answer put

into perspective the scope of crime in Virginia and the need to authenticate and validate evidence.

### **Conclusion**

Nonetheless, this month with ODUPD has opened my eyes to the reality of crime in Virginia. Witnessing a cellphone data extraction for Detective Godwin firsthand allowed me to. Overall, my first month with the ODUPD was terrific, and I knew there was so much more in store for me.

## Work(s) Cited