

Delonta Johnson

CYSE368 Internship: ODU PD

Reflection 3

IT & Law Enforcement

## **BLUF**

The following reflection covers 50 hours from March 18th, 2024, to April 19th, 2024.

During this period, I was able to deepen my relationship with the officers within the department at ODU PD and obtain first-hand experience and knowledge from the department's ITS personnel. The ITS at ODUPD is responsible for ensuring that the information that is stored, processed, and transmitted is up to standards. The head of the ITS within the department provided the opportunity to explore ODUPD's network and its configuration. My experience during this time emphasized my passion for technology in policing.

## **IT & Law Enforcement**

So far, my experience with ODUPD has been excellent. For the remainder of March, I could talk with the dispatch manager and department at ODUPD. The dispatch manager for ODUPD is Brian Hancock. Brian spent 21 years at a Xerox dealership and another eight years as an Arizona Game and Fish Department dispatcher. In 2015 Brian moved to Virginia and has been an ODU dispatcher since. One question that I was able to ask Brian was, "What is the most frustrating aspect of your job?" Brian replied to me and stated that the most challenging aspect of his job is that "Not all calls are concise, and some people do not relay information precisely." With this answer, I learned that communication devices utilized by ODUPD and any police department play a significant role in the investigative process. ITS configures devices and software used by dispatch.

I could not wait to meet ITS. Aaron Edwards, the head of the ITS department, provided me with valuable information and resources that allowed me to determine the appropriate road map for obtaining my career goals. Through Aaron, I learned that all computer networks within police departments comply with the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) security policy. This policy ensures all data is appropriately secured within the network and only authorized users can see them. The VGCI is Virginia's crime database. From there, officers have access to anyone's criminal history in Virginia. Most importantly, Aaron and I talked about my potential career roadmap. I told him I wanted to use my technological skills to solve crimes. I asked him, which certifications would best prepare me for a career in such. Aaron emphasized the importance of networking in achieving my goal. Aaron recommended that I get my CCNA at the CompTIA Network +. Aaron explained that these certifications are foundational and will provide me with the necessary skills to understand network intrusion, security, and detection.

## **Conclusion**

My time during ODUPD has fueled my desire to enter law enforcement. I learned the potential avenues I could take to develop my career at the professional level. I could also engage in meaningful conversations with individuals who genuinely care about my career. Undoubtedly, ODU has changed not only my perspective on my career but also my perspective on policing as a whole.

## Work(s) Cited