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CYSE 368

Reflection Paper #1

Only one month before taking my cybersecurity internship course and two months before officially separating from the Navy, in April of 2022 I accepted a position as a government contractor to fill the role of a Communications Engineer for Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII). I scoured the internet for weeks searching and applying to hundreds of jobs before I was contacted by a recruiter. Of all the positions I have come across, this job is one of the most interesting and comprehensive IT positions I have ever encountered. While being shown around the building on my first day, my lead made the joke that your knowledge for the job needs to be an inch deep and a mile wide. While it means that I likely will not become a subject matter expert on any one topic, I will be able to expand on and keep relevant the skills that I've gained while working as an IT in the Navy.

My responsibility as a communications engineer for HII is to provide engineering, installation, and troubleshooting support for radio and computer systems designed for military simulation training. This means that I must be familiar with RF radios, antennas, electrical wire and cable standards and other RF related concepts and theories. I must be familiar with networking and security concepts and have experience in using a variety of operating systems, such as Windows, Linux, and Cisco. Moreover, I need to become familiar with project management as I'll be responsible for coordinating with stakeholders on projects, ordering parts and materials if necessary, and traveling throughout the country to install the radio and computer systems requested by the site.

As I continue to become more familiar with the company and its objectives, my greatest focus is completing Navy required trainings, completing continuous education units (CEUs) in order to maintain

my certifications, and shadowing my coworkers in order to get a better understanding of the job and its responsibilities. My greatest challenge at this time is just becoming accustomed to the number of meetings that I'm required to attend and learning what it means to be a project manager. Nevertheless, I am incredibly grateful and excited about my new job.