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CYSE 368

Reflection #2

For my second reflection I decided to interview my co-worker Adrian Bequette. He sits the role of a sustainment technician for our department. His job is to configure and troubleshoot the radio and computer systems that we install on military bases for the purpose of simulation training. A normal day for Adrian consists of configuring vlans, pushing group policy updates, imaging machines, testing radios, and troubleshooting system failures with the distant end. In my interview with Adrian the first question I asked him was in regard to the skills and abilities that he felt were needed for the job. In terms of soft skills he suggested having the following: great customer service skills, punctuality, integrity, and the ability to be a self-starter. For hard skills and abilities he listed the following as important: Windows and Linux administration experience, knowledge of RF theory and concepts, knowledge of cabling standards, and familiarity with project management.

I then went on to ask Adrian what he felt were the greatest challenges about his job. To this he stated the following, “Considering how much R&D (research and development) goes on around here, I would say the biggest challenge is keeping up with the new. It makes problem solving a little more difficult considering the fact that most of the problems we face aren’t something that you can simply google.”

For my next interview question, I asked Adrian the following, “What jobs do you feel would be good entry-level positions for gaining experience to become a sustainment technician?” Adrian stated that military experience with radio communication is the best entry level job in this case. He said, “Where else can you get experience with this? Maybe as a technician for a service provider like Verizon or AT&T, but even then you’ll get telecommunication experience, but not hands on experience with military radios.” I can agree with Adrian on this topic. There are not many jobs where you can gain telecommunication, or

RF experience with a focus on military radio technology. Moreover, this field of IT is not often talked about and glamorized the way other aspects of the IT field are, such as software development, information and computer analysis, or system administration.

Finally, I wanted to know what Adrian likes most about his position and our company. He stated that he loves the flexibility; “We have to work 40 hours a week, but I get to decide when I come in or when I leave as long as I work 8 hours a day.” I agree with Adrian that this is a really nice perk considering that the military often requires you to work long and sometimes unpredictable hours. Lastly, he stated that he likes the people that he works with; “Our division is the only one within the company that requires experience with military radios, which means that you were likely in the military.” Adrian is absolutely right. Most of us served in the Navy, but we have two prior marines, two airmen, and one soldier who is Adrian himself. I’m excited to continue working with and learning from Adrian, and I can’t wait to see what my future holds with Huntington Ingalls Industries.