

A Day in the Life of an Army Auditor

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"At the risk of sounding overly cliché, describing a "typical day" as an Army Audit Agency employee proves to be a difficult task. Many professions boast a similar claim: "There is no typical day at our agency because of the diverse nature of the job." While many claim of such on-the-job task variety, few professions actually offer it. The U.S. Army Audit Agency is one organization which proudly presents a wide degree of daily assignments that ensure both a challenging and rewarding experience.

The factors which contribute to the difficulty describing a "typical day" are the same factors which make a career at Army Audit an exciting opportunity: rapidly-escalating job responsibility and ever-increasing autonomy. While helpful supervision is both required and necessary to fully realize one's potential as an auditor, the nature of the tasks that are undertaken during a "typical day" depend primarily on how one chooses to manage his or her time in meeting assigned deadlines and in preparing end-products. An example helps clarify:

Each Monday morning at one's office brings to the table a new challenge. A day's work the previous week might have entailed a contribution to audit planning: perhaps a day performing a great deal of survey work to become familiar with one's audit topic as well as to understand Army processes and systems, or a day spent identifying prior reports, audit guides, and online research that will provide valuable information applicable to one's audit. One's contribution through these actions helps result in the preparation of an audit guide which will provide focus and direction throughout the course of one's audit. This Monday morning might present the opportunity to execute fieldwork for the audit: contacting representatives in one's functional area to schedule and conduct interviews, gather documentation, apply data analysis techniques to examine data, and writing workpapers that outline the substance of one's findings. Equipped with the knowledge that the following Monday's work week will require one to brief their superiors on their findings and audit leads, one must display initiative in determining the most efficient and effective practices for completing such fieldwork. While the utilization of word-processing, spreadsheet, and presentation applications remains constant, the content at the heart of such assignments fluctuates on a daily basis.

A recurring theme present in the previous example is that the nature of one's work coincides with transitions from one stage of an audit to the next. Additionally, each audit brings with it unique challenges that were previously absent in one's former audit. Lastly, the means by which one accomplishes their audit objectives vary considerably from audit to audit: one audit may require a multitude of telephone conferences and online research while the next may require extensive travel and the collection of documentation. Outlining a "typical day" as an Army Audit Agency employee is a complex assignment due to the invariable shifts in requirements as audits develop, and this proves to be one of the most compelling and desirable features of starting a career with this organization."