

## **A Day in the Life of an Army Auditor** ***Auditor, St. Louis, MO***

To describe a typical day in the life of an Army auditor is simply, there is none. Every day brings new challenges and opportunities. I've been with the agency a little over two years now working out of the St. Louis field office. The position I accepted here was my first job after graduating college. I didn't know what to expect and to be honest, I was slightly intimidated. I found it hard to visualize what a job would be like working for one of the most advanced institutions in the world. Needless to say, it wasn't what I expected.

My first few months at the Agency consisted of constant learning and discovery. I worked closely with my audit team and quickly learned the basics from the pros. My new team members were very helpful and willing to provide me the training I desired. While the basic auditor training class was a wonderful experience, the majority of my training occurred within my new audit team. While it's hard to portray a typical day, I can say that most of my days at this point included meeting with my team, writing working papers, and communicating with clients.

As time went on, my reliance on my team members decreased. While working closely with team members is always an important dynamic to an effective team, my growing independence gave me confidence in my audit abilities. I now had the discretion to do what was necessary to audit my assigned area. A typical day included staying on top of client communication through email or phone, updating my Senior Auditor, changing the audit program to reflect the path of the audit, analyzing data, or recording my findings in working papers. On a more non-typical day, I might prepare briefing slides, or actually hold briefings with our clients or our management. While these activities consumed much of my days, sitting at the office is only part of the life of an auditor.

Sometimes, communicating with our clients is not feasible through just email or phone. As such, we must hop on a plane or jump in a car to travel to our client location. These trips can last from a couple of days, to a couple of weeks. During our visits, we get to know our clients to build rapport. Being on site also makes obtaining evidence much more effective, as nothing can replace that in-person interview. Also, some data can only be feasibly obtained through site visits. A typical day in this setting includes conducting interviews, taking tours, extracting data, browsing through files, or writing memorandums to capture these activities.

While working with the audit team comprises the majority of my time, there are other opportunities available to break the routine. There is something for everybody and I found there is flexibility to dive into these at your own pace. For some, it's being a LAN administrator, for others it's recruiting, and for others it's event planning. To cap it off, there is nothing like heading out downtown for some fine dining, or barbeque in the park, for what call employee appreciation day.