

REFLECTIVE JOURNAL 1

I began my internship on May 15th. My internship is 10 weeks long and will fulfill 6 credit hours, so I intend to write one each two weeks to keep the time frame of these journal entries even.

My first week was tough in the sense of getting to work- I did not yet have a laptop nor an account. Since my research contains classified information relevant to the Navy and its network, I needed a work-specific laptop with a CAC card slot to act as my sign in method complete with a PIN. Unfortunately, we found difficulties with this as my command, NSWC Corona, had not yet made my account, were all the way in California, and the NMCI network I'd need to connect to sign on to my laptop, was down. So, I spent my first week *quite literally* shadowing my mentor, Roman.

The days start at 7 am, which is not too difficult for me, and are spotted with meetings, some back-to-back. I do not provide any useful information to anyone yet, but one of my tasks is to sit in on those meeting in Microsoft Teams and listen to get a sense of the work we do at NSWC Corona.

This past week I finally acquired my laptop and got my own cubicle, complete with a missing monitor that I may never get, as everyone has two. Nonetheless, I made do. My main objective is to write a white paper on becoming a subject matter expert in the following three topics: Cyber Threat Hunting, Incident Response Policy/Planning, and System Information Event Management (SIEM) systems. So far, I have written at least 10 pages of a summarization of important policy documents Roman has supplied me with, like the NIST SP 800-37 revision 2 of the Risk Management Framework (RMF) and our internal Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan.

All in all, I would say so far, the most difficult thing is understanding the management structure of my organization, as they are in the process of transitioning to becoming one big enterprise from just being dozens of ranges scattered across the US and in other countries such as Japan. That and the roles people have and the RMF process we utilize to achieve our mission objectives. The people I work with have been more than kind to me and are more than happy to answer any questions I have or inform me of anything useful to my project- perks to being the only intern on the east coast!