

Organization Benefits

The organization that trains a PAQ employee benefits as well. In particular, the employee's time and training for the two- or three-year internship is paid for by the Air Force's central salary account. In other words, there is no cost to the local organization that is responsible for training and developing the participant. Another big benefit is that the participants are highly motivated, innovative, and dynamic scientists and engineers.

What Participants Say

Patrick Warren, who earned his master's degree from Ohio State University through the program in March, and who is also an engineer in the Aeronautical System Center Engineering Directorate, says that the benefits of the PAQ program were just too good to pass up.

Anthony Spohn, who is on course to attend Ohio State in the fall to pursue a graduate degree in Aerospace Engineering, has not seen anything like this program before. He says, "Other than the government, I've never seen a program like this

anywhere. Boeing, Lockheed, yeah, they'll reimburse you after you go to class, but they aren't going to pay your salary while you're gone. They aren't going to pay for your education and books while you are going to class. I don't have to spend any money out of pocket, and I get a salary. You don't get this anywhere else that I've seen."

The opportunities for education and training were especially important to Spohn. "It was the ultimate driver in my job seeking."

Conclusion

The U.S. Air Force employs more than 15,000 civilian scientists and engineers working in laboratories, test centers, system development offices, and depots. Many engineers directly support pilots, crewmembers, aircraft, spacecraft, and weapons systems. As a civilian engineer in the Air Force, I have found the opportunities in my workplace to be just as challenging and rewarding as those I had when working for a defense contractor. I am proud to be associated with the PAQ program and hope that other Air

Force managers will see the value in this program as well as engineering students soon to make a career decision. ♦

Additional Information

For more information or for an application to the PAQ program, please contact the PAQ administrator at Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center, Civilian Career Management Directorate at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

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Reference

1. Air Force Instruction-AFI 36-602 Personnel Civilian Intern Programs, July 25, 1994.

About the Author



Tracy Stauder is a technical program manager for the Air Force's Software Technology Support Center (STSC) at Hill AFB. She supports the STSC in its efforts of publishing CROSSTALK, hosting the annual Software Technology Conference, and offering hands-on consulting. She has a master's and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, from Southern Illinois University. She has worked for the Software Engineering Division at Hill AFB in Utah for the past eight years. She has also worked as an avionics engineer at McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis for eight years.

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W e b S i t e s

Software Technology Support Center

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The STSC is the command focus for proactive application of software technology in weapon, command and control, intelligence and mission-critical systems. It helps organizations identify, evaluate, and adopt technologies that improve software product quality, production efficiency, and predictability.

Test and Measurement World

www.tmworld.com

This is the on-line version of Test & Measurement World and Test & Measurement Europe, which cover the electronics testing industry, providing how-to information for engineers who test, measure, and inspect electronic devices, components, and systems.

Software Engineering Institute

www.sei.cmu.edu

The SEI is a federally funded research and development center sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense to provide leader-

ship in advancing the state of the practice of software engineering to improve software quality. The SEI staff has extensive technical and managerial experience from government, industry, and academia.

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

www.ieee.org

The IEEE promotes the engineering process of creating, developing, integrating, sharing, and applying knowledge about electrical and information technologies and sciences. IEEE provides technical publications, conferences, career development assistance, financial services and more.

American Society for Quality

www.asq.org

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