

Jamie Woolsey

U.S. Marshals Internship

I could not have asked for a more fulfilling internship experience than the one I have had the privilege of completing this semester with the U.S. Marshals. I am as committed and dedicated as ever to seeking out opportunities to learn from the people I work with before my time as an intern comes to an end. Throughout the duration of my internship, there have been specific highlights that enhanced this experience for me. I have also been exceptionally lucky to learn from people who have both extensive knowledge and experience in their field of work. They set an example for others they work with, including myself. Consistent with my initial reflection of my experiences as an intern, I have a significant amount of respect and admiration for my supervisors and for the others I have met and become friends with.

In my initial reflection, I had previously discussed a few of the events that were exciting for me during my time as an intern and that expanded my knowledge of how the Marshals operate. Since then, there have been more opportunities for me to see firsthand what they are able to accomplish as a trained team. The everyday occurrences for them on the job are still very new and impressive for me to experience as someone without law enforcement experience. Due to the level of risk some of the fugitives present, I am limited in how often I am able to join my supervisors when they work their cases. Despite that, they have worked to help me make the most of my internship by allowing me to join them when possible and by taking the time to teach me about different aspects of their job. One of the highlights I experienced recently was during a range day that I attended with one of my supervisors, Jon, and most of the task force members. I accompanied Jon with the intention of observing their shooting techniques to see what I could

learn from watching them during their drills. For that reason, I was surprised and thrilled when they asked me if I would like to join them for one of their exercises. In this particular exercise, they were firing at a small metal target that someone informed me was roughly 75 yards away, give or take. We were given a two chances each to hit the target and when it was my turn, I missed both. Jon gave me useful pointers and I took them to heart with the intent to improve on the next try. During the last round, we had one chance to hit the target. I was the last one to shoot, so I had time to think on the advice they had given me. When my turn came, I poured all of my focus into making the shot and after I pulled the trigger, I heard the bullet make contact with the target. The only thing better than actually making the shot was the cheering that ensued immediately afterwards. From the perspective of an intern aspiring to be as skilled as some of them one day, their encouragement went a long way in solidifying my commitment to work hard, take constructive criticism, and do whatever it takes to qualify as a good candidate for the Marshals Service.

On another occasion, I came into the office after hours to accompany the task force in serving a warrant on an individual who was engaging in internet crimes against children. Before this warrant, I had not been able to get very close to the action due to liability and my safety, so I observed from a distance. This time, I was able to be present from the moment the arrest occurred to the time the residence was searched and cleared. The target had exited his house and was walking out of the front gate when the task force quickly intercepted him, taking him by surprise. The timing was very convenient and I was already walking close by during the arrest since we did not expect him to be outside his home. Following the arrest, I watched them enter the house, clear out all of the residents, and proceed to search the house. I stood outside the house and observed through the open doorway as they systematically cleared each room. Being

able to observe how they operate was a very informative experience. The warrants that I have been able to witness being served have been another highlight of my internship experience because of how much I have learned from watching them do their job. It requires a well-trained team to efficiently accomplish the executive aspect of their duty to the federal courts.

One of the remaining highlights of my internship has been the opportunity to meet some amazing people that I have grown to become friends with. Throughout my time as an intern, I grew very close with some of the task force members and have made friendships with them that I will strive to maintain after my internship is over. I spent the majority of my time with my supervisors, Jon Moran and Shane Livingstone, and another deputy, Audra Bidegain. Of everyone that I have met, those three are the individuals that I admire and look up to the most. I share many similarities with Jon including interests and personality traits, but most prominent is our shared commitment to training. He is very dedicated to maintaining his skillset and sets an example for others, often taking initiative in organizing training sessions with myself and other deputies. I discussed some his distinct character traits in my previous reflection and my feelings of respect for Jon have only grown since then. I also have a significant amount of respect and admiration for my other supervisor, Shane. His ability to demonstrate extreme calm under pressure is a skill that I seek to improve and master. As a supervisor over some of his fellow task force members, Shane handles an additional level of responsibility with overseeing them. He is also involved in TOG, an organization within the Marshals Service that handles technology related investigations. His involvement in various matters keeps him occupied but he is consistently successful in accomplishing his work under pressure. I greatly admire his intelligence, composure, and strength as a leader. As a humorous and personable individual, Shane is someone whom I have enjoyed becoming friends with over the course of my internship.

Another who shares the humor and leadership skills of my supervisors is Deputy Audra Bidegain. She is the primary actor in overseeing the sex crimes unit of the task force and will soon be promoted to a supervisor position within that program. As one of the few women in the Marshals Service, Audra sets a high standard for success. She is dedicated to her work, which often requires her to attend additional meetings while balancing several cases on her own. She accomplishes all of this and more with serving warrants and making arrests. I admire Audra for many reasons but it is her strength and confidence that has left the greatest impression on me. I am both fortunate and grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such incredible people.

The time I have spent with my supervisors and the Marshals Service as a whole has been very influential to my career choice. My original plans had included graduate school with the eventual goal of joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation after I had acquired a Master's degree and reached the minimum age requirement. This plan changed early in my internship when I learned more about what the Marshals do and what kind of person it takes to accomplish what is required of them. I was able to identify the qualities and skills I possess that would potentially make me a good fit for a career as a Deputy U.S. Marshal. My interests align with those of the agency and my skillset would be paramount in ensuring my success at the academy and afterwards. My focus on maintaining an active lifestyle is a valued attribute in the Marshals Service, and I was recently able to measure my ability when I was invited to join the deputies during their biannual fit test. I completed the full test and achieved a high enough score to successfully pass. My supervisors were present for the test and were very supportive as I completed each portion. They have been observing me throughout the internship and have been influential in guiding me towards a career with the Marshals. By passing the test, I had hoped to give them the reassurance that I would be a viable candidate for the academy and that I have the

necessary abilities to be successful if selected. The test was a part of my efforts to emulate the skills that a deputy possesses, and I have made further efforts throughout my experience to demonstrate traits that would make me successful as one of them. They have also been influential to me in my career choice by being role models and examples for me to follow, which has helped me strive to demonstrate such traits. My supervisors have also been proactive in helping me enter the initial hiring process with the agency. This internship experience has provided me with supportive friends who have guided me to a career that matches my personality, skills, and expectations.

Upon completion of my internship, I had expected to finish with new knowledge and experiences but it met and exceeded my expectations. I have learned new skills and received invaluable training that will benefit me significantly in the future. Additionally, I have found friends in my mentors that I intend to keep and work with again someday. My enthusiasm and dedication to my internship has remained consistently strong throughout the semester and I continue to acquire new knowledge from my supervisors. They have been kind enough to offer me the support I need to obtain the opportunity to be recruited to the Marshals Service. I am thankful for the efforts they went to in order to ensure that I experienced everything the internship had to offer, and more. It was focal in my decision to wholeheartedly pursue a career in federal law enforcement with the Marshals after graduation from the university. From what I have observed as an intern, this career path will never cease to provide excitement, knowledge, and memorable experiences. This internship has been the highlight of my college career and the opportunity of a lifetime as a college student. I regret that my time as an intern will soon be concluding, but I am certain that it will lead to a fulfilling career with the Marshals Service.