

NSA Recruitment Video Transcript

NARRATOR VOICEOVER -- AMIR

The world is a dangerous place. Every day, we are faced with new threats to our Nation's security. Our adversaries do their best to keep their plans, capabilities and identities a secret. At the National Security Agency, we uncover those secrets. And keep our own secrets safe.

As the world becomes more and more technologically advanced, this mission becomes more challenging.

That is why NSA employs only the most intelligent people in the country.

Today, I would like to introduce myself and others who work at NSA. By listening to our stories, you will learn about the importance of the work we do, and how you can put your intelligence to work for the safety of our future.

CAROLINE VOICEOVER

All my life I've been pushing myself to go a little faster, be a little smarter. Thinking back, I clearly remember the point in time I decided to join NSA.

INFO GRAPHIC: Caroline Schaffer, Computer Scientist, Age 30, Ft. Meade, MD

TERRANCE VOICEOVER

I always wanted to work in International Relations. I really enjoy debating global affairs and thinking critically about the world in which we live.

INFO GRAPHIC: Terrance Wilson, Intelligence Analyst, Age 43, Ft. Meade, MD

AMIR VOICEOVER

For me, I definitely remember a distinct turning point in my life. When I was a child, my family and I moved to the United States, looking for freedom and opportunity.

INFO GRAPHIC: Amir Ghafour, Language Analyst, Age 28, Augusta, GA

JULIE VOICEOVER

Math always fascinated me. As a kid, I was obsessed with puzzles, and mystery stories, too. But it wasn't until high school that I saw the connection, and started to realize that there were other kids out there like me.

INFO GRAPHIC: Julie Quan, Mathematician, Age 26, Ft. Meade, MD

CAROLINE VOICEOVER

Back in school, I wasn't really focused on a long-term career - I just had my mind set on computer science.

CAROLINE

I imagined myself running projects within some serious, high-tech environment using technology that's so advanced it wouldn't be in the market for years. I just wasn't sure, "Where?" to put my time and energy.

CAROLINE VOICEOVER

I graduated college. The dot-com boom was hot. So, I headed to Silicon Valley. The hours were endless. But I was single then and could handle the crazy lifestyle. Then, the bubble burst. Dot-com's were crashing by the hour and I was left without a job.

CAROLINE VOICEOVER

While talking to an old friend from school, she reminded me about NSA and how it uses cutting-edge technology. I visited their Web site to see what they had to offer.

INFO GRAPHIC: NSA conducts one of the U.S. government's leading research and development programs.

CAROLINE

It was all there: hardware and software development, network security, a *stable* environment, and the chance to contribute to the safety of our Nation.

CAROLINE VOICEOVER

Those last two things – a stable job and a safer world – are what really drew me in, and they're even more important now- now that I have my daughters to take care of.

INFO GRAPHIC: Learn about NSA Technology Advancements at www.NSA.gov.

TERRANCE

Maybe "epiphany" is too strong a word, but when I heard about NSA, I knew I could make a serious impact on the world.

I was already a member of the Reserves, but what I really thrive on is finding solutions to really challenging problems. I knew I could really put my intelligence to work at NSA.

TERRANCE VOICEOVER

What really appealed to me was that NSA is the only intelligence agency that has an Intelligence Analyst Development Program. So people like myself, that are changing careers or don't have a lot of experience, can be properly trained.

INFO GRAPHIC: Military personnel can transfer accrued benefits.

JULIE

I was lucky. I went to a school that participated in the Sonia Kovalevsky High School Mathematics Day events that NSA helps to sponsor ... and, later on, I connected with the NSA Mathematics Summer Employment Program.

JULIE

I discovered that there was a whole network of people, all over the country, who love math as much as I do.

JULIE

So it gradually dawned on me: Cracking foreign codes ... what a cool idea!

INFO GRAPHIC: NSA offers numerous internships and student programs.

AMIR VOICEOVER

When I was a child, I experienced first-hand the turbulent way of life in the Middle East and I was so anxious to become a U.S. citizen.

AMIR VOICEOVER

Once in the U.S., I had the freedom to do whatever I wanted for a career. I didn't know what path to take. I went to college, and had some great opportunities, but I never felt completely fulfilled.

AMIR

Then it happened... the September 11 attacks.

AMIR

That changed everything - for every American. That's when I knew. As a U.S. citizen, I wanted to help my country. I heard about NSA - The National Security Agency. I looked into it and found that I could use my knowledge of Arabic to help fight terrorism.

INFO GRAPHIC: NSA Language Analysts receive signing bonuses.

TERRANCE

My team takes intercepted signals, puts them into context, draws conclusions, and provides concise intelligence reports to U.S. policy makers and military leaders.

Very often, terrorism is part of the mix.

TERRANCE

Almost always, the ramifications are global, whether we're supporting military operations, analyzing foreign intel or preventing breaches in the U.S. information infrastructure.

TERRANCE

Critical thinking and pattern recognition are what we're good at, and when I say good, I mean *GOOD*.

INFO GRAPHIC: NSA produces foreign signals intelligence and protects U.S. government information systems.

JULIE

Some of the toughest problems facing the Nation come through NSA. Just look around, wherever there is international conflict, terrorist threats, or drug trafficking, we are the ones getting the intelligence about it.

AMIR

We have an impact on the future of the world...

I think about my nephew's future...that's my motivation. But, then, I've always liked to delve into other cultures, too. Translating and analyzing what people are saying, feeling and thinking – that's the exciting part of this work. You know, I can see the potential impact I would have on world events.

CAROLINE

Well, I'm a computer scientist, so one of the primary attractions is that NSA has always been *THE* high-technology intelligence agency. Today, right at my fingertips, I have access to technology that is years away from commercial release.

CAROLINE VOICEOVER

I spend my time solving problems, testing approaches, researching solutions, and creating new intelligence gathering tools. At NSA, you have the opportunity to maximize your knowledge and your ability to be imaginative. They're even helping me get my Masters degree through the After Hours College Program.

INFO GRAPHIC: NSA offers a variety of educational and training programs.

CAROLINE

The other thing is the people.

The people I work with are incredibly smart. Early on I connected with a mentor who really helped me to concentrate on excelling at my job -- and staying balanced as a human being.

AMIR VOICEOVER

As a Language Analyst, I give U.S. policy makers, the military, and people in the Intelligence Community the understanding they need to do their jobs here and abroad by researching, translating, and analyzing material.

AMIR

Arabic is *my* specialty, but NSA needs people who know many other languages too. The great thing about working for NSA is that it gives us the training to *build* our language skills.

INFO GRAPHICS: Learn new languages through NSA's Language Enhancement Program.

JULIE VOICEOVER

I'm a mathematician at NSA - and I love it! During the day, I get to work with a team of the finest minds in the country analyzing real data, writing code, and running code tests. We apply number theory, group theory, finite field theory, probability theory... linear algebra... statistics... combinatorics... you name it. Whatever it takes to sort out signals, break cyphers and come up with secure algorithms. We take on the most challenging problems you can imagine.

INFO GRAPHIC: NSA is the nation's largest employer of mathematicians.

JULIE

I'm also working toward my Ph.D., under the NSA 20/20 program. I go to school in the evening, and NSA pays for my classes. My hours are flexible, so I never have to miss a class.

INFO GRAPHIC: Enjoy flexible work hours.

TERRANCE

(And) the pay and benefits here are a lot better than what most people think. My first year, I already had 36 paid days off. More importantly though, I am excited to come to work - everyday presents a new challenging problem to solve!

INFO GRAPHIC: Get up to 36 paid days off in your first year.

CAROLINE

You can work in technology anywhere. But when you work in technology at NSA, you're protecting the future of our country. No exaggeration. That's something that we're all proud of.

INFO GRAPHIC: Work with the finest minds in the country.

TERRANCE

Every time I solve a new challenge, I know I've found a place at NSA.

JULIE

I'm part of a team of brilliant people with a clearly vital mission. What I do is extremely gratifying because I know I am making a difference - sometimes small - sometimes history making.

INFO GRAPHIC: Your work can make a difference.

AMIR

With NSA, I'm using my language skills and intelligence to contribute to the Nation's security. And there's no better reward than knowing that your work can actually save lives.

AMIR VOICEOVER

Now is your chance to make a difference and put your intelligence to work. Visit the NSA Web site at www.NSA.gov/Careers for more information and to apply online.

INFO GRAPHIC: Where Intelligence Goes to Work www.NSA.gov/Careers