

The northernmost Installation Management internship experience

Staff report
Fort Wainwright

Lauren Biddle, a career program 29 intern who currently works for the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office on Fort Wainwright, said that living in Alaska and working for the Army has been both exciting and challenging.

"I never in a million years imagined living somewhere like this. Only knowing the tiny town of Newark, Delaware, I imagined Alaska to be a place with igloos and polar bear crossing signs. I was pleasantly surprised to find that Fairbanks is not only beautiful, but that it has many of the comforts from home," said Biddle. "As for working for the Army on Fort Wainwright, it's been an incredible opportunity thus far. This is my first time working for the Army though, so I'm still learning the culture and, of course, all of the acronyms."

Biddle is participating in a two-year career development program with Career Program for Installation Manage-

ment, which is known as CP-29. This intern program focuses on recent college graduates who start at a GS-7 and finish at a GS-11, if they meet all requirements.

"I interviewed for this government position because I wanted to serve and support the most deserving individuals in the world: the Soldiers that put their lives on the line to fight for our freedom and the Families who support them," said Biddle.

Before entering civil service as an intern, Biddle worked closely with the Career Services Counselors at the University of Delaware, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services with a minor in Health and Wellness. The counselors suggested that Biddle look into the Workforce Recruitment Program, which is what introduced her to CP-29.

"After submitting my application through the Workforce Recruitment Program website, I anxiously checked my email every five minutes thereafter to find out if I

would get an interview," said Biddle.

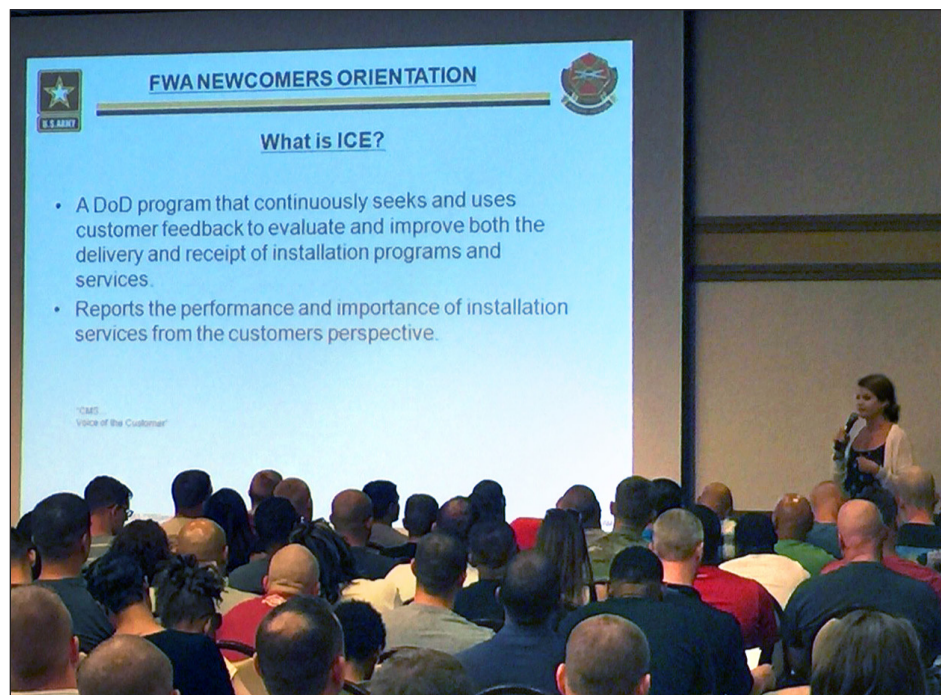
After a successful panel interview, Biddle received the CP-29 internship and signed a mobility agreement in which she would be assigned and moved at the needs of the Army.

"My eyes lit up at the possibility of moving to Fort Shafter – enjoying the warm, sandy beaches and umbrella drinks of Hawaii," Biddle said.

Instead, she was assigned to colder but just as outdoorsy Fort Wainwright where she'll work for a minimum of one year, with the second year location at the Army's discretion.

"I was sent to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for orientation and to Camp Humphreys in Yongsan, Korea, for PAIO training shortly thereafter," Biddle said. "It is unbelievable to think that not only have I moved to Alaska, but I've gotten the opportunity to explore other places as well."

The Fort Wainwright Deputy to the Garrison Commander and individuals at PAIO determined that PAIO would



Lauren Biddle, a career program 29 intern who currently works on Fort Wainwright for the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, gives an Interactive Customer Evaluation (I.C.E.) briefing at Newcomer's Orientation this summer. (Photo by James Askew)

be the best placement for her as it would give her a broad understanding of the garrison and allow her to learn more about strategic planning and customer service.

"I have so many people here that are cheering me on and encouraging me to create my own destiny," said Biddle. "One of the best aspects about this internship is that it is extremely flexible. After my six month rotation here at PAIO, I can move on to another department that best aligns with my interests, skills, and expertise."

Biddle and several other interns around the world belong to a career program that is home

to more than 25,000 civilian employees in 23 commands and organizations. CP-29 employees are an integral part of the Army's readiness team. They sustain installations that enable strong Soldiers and resilient Families for a mission-ready Army.

"The CP-29 internship is a wonderful program because each intern is exposed to a variety of trainings and departments," Biddle said. "The amount of skills I've honed in just the last five months is remarkable. Prior to this internship, I was not a fan of public speaking. But once I started giving briefings at Newcomer's

and New Employee Orientations each month, I've gotten more comfortable and have greatly improved. I've become a better event planner and overall communicator. I've seen my interpersonal skills flourish as part of this PAIO team. I cannot imagine another opportunity that would allow for so much personal growth."

For more information about Career Program 29 and its internship, visit www.imcom.army.mil/CP29.aspx or email usarmy.jbsa.imcom-hq.mbx.mycareer29@mail.mil.

Iceman in Action: Senior Airman Steven Venegas

Airman 1st Class
Cassandra Whitman
354th Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

Rank and Name: Senior Airman Steven Venegas

Duty Title: Firefighting and refueling vehicle and equipment maintenance journeyman, 354th Logistics Readiness Squadron

ness Squadron

Hometown: El Paso, Texas

Why is serving in the Air Force important to you? It gives me the opportunity to serve my country. At the same time, it allows me to learn more about myself and what I love to do.

What moment or accomplishment as a member of the Iceman Team are you most proud of and why? The moment I am most proud of is any time my flight is able to work together at a moment's notice and get the job done. I am proud to be part of a unit where everyone looks out for

one another and we are all on the same page.

What is your favorite part of your job? My favorite part is the experiences I've been through, as well as getting to learn something new each day. I love being on my toes when the time comes to think quickly because that's when I feel I do my best work.

Who inspires you and why? I get inspiration from a number of people. First and foremost is my God, but I can never go a day without thinking of my friends and family back home. My mom and dad sacrificed a lot for my brother and I growing up, it's what makes me who I am today. I also couldn't ask for a better management team. Senior Master Sgt. Robert Stewart and Tech. Sgt. Shawn Sheppard are some of the best supervisors I have worked for because they push me to surpass my limits



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Steven Venegas, a 354th Logistics Readiness Squadron firefighting and refueling vehicle and equipment maintenance journeyman, hooks up a fuel pump, Sept. 10, at Eielson Air Force Base. Venegas needs the pump put together in order to perform troubleshooting procedures while completing routine maintenance on the truck. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Cassandra Whitman)

but will not let me down if I need help. They are some of the most influential and genuine people I have ever met.

What's your favorite part about being in Alaska? My favorite part about being up here is the opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy the

summers. Although the winters are harsh, it's all part of the experience.