

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Protecting Critical Infrastructure

Security Guard, Grand Coulee Dam

[music]

Dustin Busse: Our specific job is security here on project. The critical functions, I mean the bare bones is protection in the dam. The really critical stuff that we need make sure is safe and secure gets checked on a couple times a shift at least. Grand Coulee Dam is one of the nation's critical infrastructures. If somebody really bad wanted to come in and really do something then our job's going to get really exciting real fast, so that's the perspective that we have to keep all the time.

On Radio: Delta ten handheld radio check.

Dustin: I have a Maritime Law Enforcement background from the Coast Guard. I really enjoyed doing law enforcement while I was on active duty. A lot of the people that we have working here have military and law enforcement backgrounds so it puts me in a job where I continue to be challenged and feel that I'm doing some good.

[music]

You know, everybody working for Reclamation, in Grand Coulee at least, is kind of under our protection as we're standing our posts and doing our rove patrols. A big part of the job is checking IDs, but it's also suspicious activity... you know, people trying to get on project. If somebody's coming in to do something they're not supposed to that's going to come directly to us. It's easy to kind of get to the monotony mindset of just daily routine where nothing really big happens, but if something happens you need to be moving.

[music]

Our PT tests that we do are required annually. Most of us do it quarterly. When that annual requirement comes around... if you're not ready for it then you're putting yourself at some jeopardy at work. It doesn't sound like too much if you're saying, you know, run a mile and a half or do push-ups and sit-ups, but when you consider running that same mile and a half with all your gear, ammo, weapons, helmet... it gets heavy, it gets heavy fast.

[music]

Every shift, we get an opportunity to go and workout.

[man exhales]

Most of us will do weights, cardio, or both, and then for some of the checks we do a lot of us will opt to put our gear on ahead of time and then we'll run through our checks so your body and your mind really get a sense of what it's going to be like to respond with all your gear on.

[water flows]

Grand Coulee Dam, at least for a while, was the biggest concrete structure in the world. It's mind-boggling how big that dam is, and to consider that I get paid to work on it, to go through it, and all this stuff whereas a lot of the public is really not permitted to go down there. It's an exciting job. It's fun to do. I get paid to work out. I get paid to carry and to shoot guns on a pretty regular basis.

[music]

[gunfire]

We have to make sure that we're getting enough so that we're not losing our skill-set with firearms.

[gunfire]

You know, when you're up there training, you're training for something significant. We're not just up there target-practicing. It's a little bit separated from military service, but it's still federal service. It's service for my country. You know... critical infrastructure. It's one of the most important assets in America and you feel like you have responsibility in your work.

[music]