

# {WIN•tern•ships!}

*First Place*

## Empowerment through law enforcement

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It was a sunny morning. Blue skies, humidity was high, and the cold breeze was hitting my face as I found myself with D.C. Harbor Patrol units running up and down the Anacostia river in Washington D.C. As we glided before the Pentagon I watched up above me Marine One flying out the city carrying the President of the United States. To the men and women patrolling the river- looking for anyone who might compromise or disrupt the security of the President- this was just another P.O.T.U.S security detail; to me this propelled my drive to be part of safekeeping matters affecting our country.

In the fall of 2012, I had the pleasure to intern with the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). I was granted the opportunity to learn about the comprehensive planning that goes into a Presidential Inauguration.

For months, I watched as agents of the Department of Homeland Security, Secret Service, FBI, CIA, military officials and many other constituents walked in and out the police headquarters to discuss national security operations for the Inaugural of President Barack Obama. Subsequently, I was allowed access to several operations centers and was able to speak to lead planners and top ranking officials tasked with the responsibility and implantation of this national security event.

Looking back, the time I spent working for MPD was always exciting and unlike anything I had done before and likely everything I would like to do in the future. This internship experience fundamentally shaped the way I think about and respond to concepts of defense, community and professional responsibility. My aspirations is to become a part of the federal law enforcement community and help combat today's threats against our country. My internship empowered me to one day perform these responsibilities in a manner that is responsive to the needs of the public and our nation.