One year, seven veterans, and a number of recognitions under its belt, Savannah River Remediation’s Veteran Cooperative Program is still going strong.

The Veteran Cooperative Program, which began in October 2014, is designed to aid veterans transitioning into full-time employment with mentoring, training, and allowing college credit toward a degree while working at Savannah River Remediation (SRR).

SRR, the liquid waste contractor at the Savannah River Site (SRS), which is owned by the Department of Energy (DOE), currently employs seven veterans in part-time positions through this Cooperative Program. The Co-Op students, many of whom started as interns over the summer, hold positions in Science, Math, Engineering, Technology (STEM) fields and non-STEM fields, each related to their degree of study. These part-time jobs could result in full-time employment.

Scott Brown, the Program’s manager and retired Army lieutenant colonel, said this program is an educational opportunity that not only provides a competitive pay rate, but also provides marketable job experience.

“The SRR Veteran Cooperative Program has been a unique opportunity for veterans in our area,” Brown said. “Participants are in school, earning a degree, building their workplace experience, and, most of all, gaining confidence in their skills outside of the military.”

Because the Program has seen such great success, SRR has plans to grow the Program on a corporate-wide level, Brown said.

“SRR has communicated our program to other sites in the DOE Complex and to our parent and partner companies as well,” he said.

Veterans are an important and beneficial asset to our workforce at SRR, said Stuart MacVean, SRR President and Project Manager.

“Savannah River Remediation is working to give back to those veterans who have already given so much to our country,” MacVean said. “We hire veterans because of their motivation and the experience they bring into the workforce.”

Even before the Program began, SRR had a track-record of supporting veterans.

In February 2014, SRR was certified as a Palmetto Military Employer, recognized by Operation Palmetto Employment and Gov. Haley.


Ashley Demberger, a U.S. Army veteran, is the most recent student to join Savannah River Remediation’s Veteran Cooperative Program. She is working part time in Public Affairs and pursuing a marketing degree at Augusta University.
Brandon Twite is an inspiring example that limitations don’t have to impede people from pursuing their goals.

Brandon is a part-time employee at Savannah River Remediation (SRR) through the Veteran Cooperative Program, an educational program providing qualifying veterans part-time paid developmental jobs in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Prior to coming to SRR, Brandon spent six years in the U.S. Navy.

Brandon knew from an early age that he wanted to join the Navy right out of high school. He wanted to follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. Yet Brandon also knew his options in the military would be narrowed because he is color blind.

“I remember entering the Navy recruiter’s office one afternoon and looking at a 400-page binder of military job options,” Brandon said. “Those options narrowed to about six job opportunities open to me.”

Brandon seized the job option he knew would interest him most and opened the doors to a rewarding and fulfilling military career. Brandon became a linguist, translating the Persian language, Farsi, into English for the military.

Brandon’s language training took him to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, where he learned a new language, made lasting friendships, and took up a hobby.

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