Create a World of Difference...

with a career as a

Computer Specialist

Ask Michael Henderson to describe what it's like to be a computer specialist at the Corps of Engineers and he says, "The Corps gives me the opportunity to be a power user. They provide as big a machine as possible with as much memory and hard disk space as is obtainable by current industry standards. Then I challenge myself to stretch the machine's boundaries."

Since joining the Corps of Engineers in 1985, Michael has had the opportunity to stretch not only the boundaries of many computers, but also the boundaries of his skills. Today he provides both operational and staff support to the local area network,or LAN (on the COMPAQ Systempro 24 MB RAM 486/33 MHz 1.6 GB Novell) within the Directory of Information Management, a gigantic repository for data elements in the Corps-wide computer system. He maintains a network inventory and problem log, assists with installation of LAN hardware and software, and helps other Corps employees to access and retrieve information. Michael is also the System Administrator to both the Corps' Data Encyclopedia and Natural Language Query.

Michael attributes his love of computers to his innate sense of logic and ability to program. "Programming is an unforgiving language. You can write a program in a dozen ways, but you must have the syntax absolutely, positively correct. Completing a program requires a logical progression which I find enjoyable."

He also appreciates the commitment the Corps has made to train and reward employees. "Technical training has never been a problem here," says Michael. "We use leading edge machines and software, plus the organization presents worldwide opportunities. Every week I hear on the television or radio about a Corps project that's making a difference here in the states or overseas. I'm glad to do my small part to keep all of us connected."

"I came to the Corps of Engineers because I knew that it had leading-edge computer systems and that I would never have to work in an obsolete environment. The bonus was that the Corps also provided a family environment."

Michael Henderson
Computer Specialist

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