Separation or retirement from military service can be rewarding, exciting, challenging and sometimes frustrating. For many, the biggest challenge is deciding what they want to do and where they want to go in their second career. For others, it is simply how to get there. All military personnel transitioning out of the service go through the fundamental stages of self-assessment, exploration, skills development, job search, job selection and support.

In addition to discussions of some of the primary resources available to military personnel making the transition from service to civilian careers, this article will also examine nondestructive testing (NDT) in the private sector with topics such as the differences between employer-based and third party certification, Veterans Administration and GI Bill reimbursement for certification exams, the importance of obtaining and maintaining NDT training and experience records and ways for NDT job applicants to connect with potential employers.

Transition Assistance Program

Many useful resources are available to help the service member navigate through the transition into the civilian world. Primary among these is the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). A collaborative effort developed by the U.S. Departments of Defense (DoD), Labor (DOL) and Veterans Affairs (VA), TAP provides professional guidance and counseling, workshops, publications, automated resources, information and educational programs along with referrals to potential employers.

Service members taking advantage of TAP have the easiest time finding employment and getting established in the civilian world. Those who go it alone usually end up taking much longer to find suitable employment, miss out on opportunities and benefits and in general have a tougher time making the transition. The transition process begins with a visit to the installation's TAP office. At this meeting, TAP counselors will assist in developing an individual needs assessment, identify helpful resources, offer immediate and long-range career guidance, provide benefits.

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counseling and make referrals to other service providers for additional assistance. In most cases, the TAP office is located inside the installation's family center. Pre-separation counseling appointments may be scheduled any time within a year before the planned separation date and it is strongly recommended they be scheduled no later than 180 days prior to separation date.

TAP Workshops. TAP counselors will also schedule you to attend comprehensive three-to-four day workshops. These are held at most military installations with more than 500 active duty personnel. The workshops provide employment and training information to separating or retiring armed forces members and eligible spouses within one year of separation or two years prior to retirement from the military. Facilitators from state employment services, military family support services, Department of Labor contractors, or Veterans employment and training service staff provide attendees with information covering job searches, career decision-making, current occupational and labor market conditions, resume/cover letter preparation, and interviewing techniques. Participants are also provided with an evaluation of their employability relative to the job market and receive information on the most current veterans’ benefits.

TurboTAP. TurboTAP www.turbotap.org is the interactive web interface for the Transition Assistance Program that provides information and support to transitioning military service members (active duty, guard and reserve) and their families. It is intended to supplement the services offered by the Transition Assistance offices and other groups.

Occupational Information Network

Sponsored by the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor, the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) is the primary source of occupational information for the United States. Central to the project is the online database that contains information on hundreds of standardized and occupation-specific descriptors. Continually updated by surveying a broad range of workers from each occupation, the information from the database forms the heart of O*NET OnLine, an interactive application for exploring and searching occupations. O-Net OnLine also provides a skills translator called Crosswalk Search that is very useful in converting the Military Occupational Code (MOC, Rating, MOS or AFSC) military jargon you may have used on the job into civilian words and phrases that potential employers will understand.

FROM THE EDITOR

Today's job market makes it increasingly difficult for military personnel transitioning out of service to find jobs. There are many federal and state programs in place to aid in the process but our “Focus” article, “Service to Civilian: Transferring Military NDT Training and Experience to NDT Careers in Private Industry” points out the importance of having good documentation of the NDT training and experience obtained in the military for finding an NDT job in the private sector.

“Angle of View” discusses what constitutes the correct viewing angle for visual testing and some of the parameters that affect it.

Don Meyers is the subject of our “Practitioner Profile.” He takes us inside a busy NDT lab to describe his work in penetrant testing.

Hollis Humphries, TNT Editor
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INBOX

Q: I am working for a company in Norway as a Level III. All my certificates (Level III in MT, PT, ET, RT and UT) are in accordance with EN 473/Nortest. What do I need to do to get my certificates in accordance with SNT-TC-1A? P.B.

A: The only central certification program that ASNT has that is similar to an EN 473-based certification program is the ASNT Central Certification Program (ACCP) and unfortunately, personnel that are certified per EN 473 are required to examine to gain ACCP certification. However, if your inquiry is being made because you need to meet a code or specification that asks for certification in accordance with ASNT Recommended Practice No. SNT-TC-1A, your company can set up an in-house certification program to do that. SNT-TC-1A guidelines permit employers to accept outside training and examination services (paragraphs 7.4 and 8.1.5, respectively), so if

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www.onetonline.org/crosswalk. This is a great tool for use in developing resumes, cover letters and interview preparation. Enter the code or title for your military job in the search field for Military. The search results will break down the common elements of your military job into civilian equivalents in the following categories: tasks, tools and technology used, knowledge, skills, abilities, work activities, work context, work styles, work values and related civilian occupations. General information on wages and employment trends at both state and national levels are also provided.

Verification of Military Experience and Training

The Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) document (DD form 2586) is an “all services” integrated form that lists your military experience and training which may have application to your military records. It will provide dates and official titles of all formal training you attended while in the military. The form displays demographics, training, and experience information that is retrieved from your military records.

The VMET document should be used as a tool to prepare resumes and job applications, in concert with evaluation reports, training certificates, awards, transcripts, and other pertinent documents. It is not an official transcript for purposes of granting college credit, but it can be used to support your having met training and/or course requirements to qualify for civilian occupations, certificates, licenses, or programs of study. Note that the U.S. Coast Guard operates under the Department of Homeland Security and not the U.S. Department of Defense. For this reason, DD form 2586 is not available to U.S. Coast Guard personnel.

Additional Resources

Military.com & Monster. Military.com and Monster have collaborated to form a database for military job search at www.military.com/veteran-jobs. Here you can also find dates and locations for military community job fairs offered by most military installations. These venues are always free to job-seekers and are usually free or at minimal cost to recruiters.

Additional websites offering NDT employment opportunities can be found by conducting an online search using the keywords “NDT inspection jobs.”

NDT in the Civilian Sector

In-house Certification. Most civilian NDT certification in the United States is employer-based. NDT companies certify their own NDT personnel in-house in accordance with the ASNT Recommended Practice No. SNT-TC-1A, which lists the guidelines recommended for the training, qualification and certification of NDT personnel. Job candidates must take Level II examinations through the prospective employer. Because these are employer-issued certifications, certification terminates when the employee leaves the company. That employee will then have to retest using a prospective new employer's examinations. For transitioning military personnel, this means they must take a prospective employer's Level II examination for each applicable test method to become certified with that company.

Third-party Certification. Third party certification can be obtained through the ASNT Central Certification Program (ACCP) in five methods, MT, PT, RT, UT and VT. ACCP certification is transportable. That is to say, it does not expire when you change employers and can be accepted by employers without additional testing. ACCP is administered by ASNT and meets the requirements of SNT-TC-1A. It is valid for 5 years. To gain ACCP certification, candidates must take the ACCP Level II general and specific written examinations and hands-on practical exams for each applicable test method. (This includes writing a work instruction for each applicable test method.) Candidates can determine eligibility by comparing current training and experience records with those at www.asnt.org/certification/levelii/accpqualifications.htm. If the candidate meets or exceeds these requirements, they are eligible to apply for ACCP Level II certification. More information on ACCP certification can be found at www.asnt.org/certification/levelii/index.htm.

It should be noted that many civilian aviation/aerospace companies prefer to have their NDT personnel certified in accordance with the Aerospace Industry Association's National Aerospace Standard 410 (NAS 410), which is an employer-based standard. Veterans should check with potential employers regarding which certification system would best meet their needs.

VAVGI Bill Reimbursement

The ASNT NDT Level III, ASNT PdM Level III and IRRSP certification exams were approved for reimbursement in 2001 by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs under the GI Bill. To see the list of approved examinations and

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reimbursement amounts, go to http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weams/pub/buildSearchLCCriteria.do. On that page, leave the field for "L&C Name" blank, select "Certification" from the drop down menu for "LAC Category Type" and then click on the state of Ohio on the map. The search results will show you a list of items. Click on Non Destructive Testing NDT Level III to see a list of ASNT NDT Level III exams; ASNT Predictive Maintenance (PDM) Level III to see the PdM exams; and Industrial Radiography Radiation Safety Personnel to see the IRRSP exams. To apply for benefits, go to www.gibill.va.gov/apply-for-benefits/.

**Importance of Obtaining and Maintaining Records**

It is essential that transitioning military personnel have copies of their military NDT training records and documentation of their NDT work experience. No matter where you go in the NDT field, you will be required to document your military training and experience. You are strongly encouraged to get copies of any training and certification documents before you leave the service. It can be very hard to get copies of these documents after you separate from military service. Instructors often change duty stations or rotate to other assignments and can be hard to track down and records may go to permanent storage, making them even harder to access.

**What records do you need?** In addition to copies of your general NDT certificate(s) stating the test methods you were trained and certified in (for example, U.S. Navy C-603-3191/708Z or U.S. Air Force J3ABP732 000), you should also try to obtain documentation such as training course outlines that show the specific number of hours of training for each individual NDT test method. For experience you should be able to use copies of your annual or semi-annual fitness reports from your NDT job supervisors. Most of your military certification documentation, such as NDT training courses, hours of training and NDT certificates should be in your personnel file. Copies of these may be in your separation packet. If they aren’t, check with personnel and ask for copies now. Don’t be concerned that you may end up with too much paperwork. You can always pitch what you don’t need later.

You may also want to ask your current supervisor or commanding officer if they will write a "to whom it may concern" letter stating that you have been performing NDT (NDI/NDE) work equivalent to that done by an ASNT NDT Level II as follows:

An NDT Level II individual should be qualified to set up and calibrate equipment and to interpret and evaluate results with respect to applicable codes, standards, and specifications, should be thoroughly familiar with the scope and limitations of the applicable methods and should be able to organize and report the results of NDT tests.

Ask that they list the NDT test methods for which you were qualified. If your experience is documented in such a letter and you have copies of your FITREPS (fitness reports), that should be more than sufficient to document your military NDT experience.

**Connecting Job Applicants with Potential Employers**

**ASNT Positions Wanted.** As a free service to members, ASNT provides a Positions Wanted list on the ASNT website and in Materials Evaluation (M.E.). Listings are posted online for 90 days and appear in M.E. for 60 days. To preserve privacy, each member posting a Position Wanted ad receives an anonymous department number. Interested employers may contact the Assistant Editor of M.E. to reply to the Position Wanted postings on the website or in the journal. The Assistant Editor will forward the employer’s contact information to the member who placed the Position Wanted listing.

For more information, contact M.E. Assistant Editor Toni Kervina at tkervina@asnt.org or (800) 222-2768 X205. Annual dues for current members of the military rank E-5 or lower are $30 per year.

**PQNDT.com.** Personnel for Quality and NDT, Inc. (PQNDT) www.pqndt.com is one of the largest NDT recruiters in the U.S. with more than forty years of experience connecting NDT job candidates and potential employers. Most significant to NDT job candidates, PQNDT conducts an annual salary survey that can be downloaded in PDF format from the PQNDT website. Results of the salary survey are broken down by:

- full-time or contract employment,
- certification level,
- industry and
- region.

Dedicated solely to the NDT/quality field, the online service is free to job candidates. PQNDT offers assistance to employers and candidates across a wide range of industries that includes aerospace, petrochemical, defense, construction and utilities.
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Direct visual testing is a technique of the visual testing method of nondestructive testing. Direct visual testing differs from indirect techniques, sometimes called remote visual testing, because the direct inspector is in the presence of the test object and has an unmediated view of the test surface, even if he looks through a device such as a magnifier or camera. In indirect techniques, the inspector uses a borescope or remotely controlled camera to view surfaces otherwise inaccessible.

**Viewing Angle**

The eye muscles can manipulate the eye to align the image on the lens axis. The angle may change the quality and quantity of the light energy reaching the retina. Even variations in color and contrast affect depth perception.

The angle of view is very important during visual testing. The viewer should try to observe the target “dead on,” along the center axis of the eye. Figure 1 shows how the eye perceives an object from several angles and how the object appears to change size or to move with a change in viewing angle.

The angle of view should vary ideally not more than 45 degrees from normal, and a recommended viewing distance and angle for visual testing is to have the eye within 600 mm (24 in.) of the object and positioned at an angle not less than 30 degrees to the inspection surface, as shown in Fig. 2.

The same principle applies to objects viewed through accessories such as mirrors or borescopes. The field of view should be maintained much as it is when viewed directly. If the test surface is immovable and situated so that the eye cannot be placed within this region, suitable visual aids, such as mirrors, must be used.

In peripheral vision, you may notice something “from the corner of your eye” without focusing on it. The angle of peripheral vision is not critical when performing detailed visual tests. It is of value under certain inspection conditions such as when surveying large areas for a discontinuity indication that has high contrast with the background and is observed to one side. The inspector’s attention is drawn to this area, and it can then be scrutinized by focusing the eyes on it.

**Mirrors**

Mirrors are common inspection aids. Easy to use, mirrors make inspection possible inside pipes and apertures and inside or behind objects obstructing the inspector’s view. Mirrors can also give the inspector a good angle of view (Fig. 3).

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† PMC Machining and Manufacturing, Inc.; 17801 N. Black Canyon Highway; Phoenix, AZ 85023; (623) 582-2233 X26; greg.sayler@pmcmfg.com.
Several precautions must be remembered in interpreting mirror images. Curved mirrors can distort the apparent shape and size of an object. A mirror image is reversed, so an object on the right appears on the left and one on the left appears right. The inspection distance is equal to the distance from the area being inspected to the mirror plus the distance from the mirror to the inspector’s eye. These factors can mislead the inspector.

**Illumination Angle**

It is important to weigh the effects of illuminance on the detection and assessment of significant indications. Discontinuity detectability is greatly affected by the angle of incidence of the illumination.

When light strikes the test surface from an oblique angle, small variations in surface roughness and contour cast tiny shadows that can help in the detection of depth and form. Local lighting increases illuminance so that shadows enhance contrast and reveal indications. In some cases, the inspector can move a lamp or test object to make indication shadows appear and disappear (Fig. 4).

Local general lighting provides uniform illumination to the test surface, and lamps can be directed to provide optimum illumination if inspection is performed in a single area. During visual inspection in the field, however, it can be difficult to get enough light. Digital cameras adjust automatically to dim illumination, and subsequent image processing may salvage a dark photograph. For direct viewing in the shop or field, however, the inspector may need an artificial light source, even one as simple as a flashlight.

A portable flood lamp or camera flash may remedy dim lighting for a test, but if lights are too bright, they may cause eye strain. Light from incandescent lamps can reflect into the inspector’s eyes and cause eye fatigue or create artifacts — glints and glare that mask or distract from indications. Indirect lighting and overhead illumination from fluorescent lamps help minimize this problem.

**Angles of View with Borescopes**

In optical systems such as borescopes, the angle of view is constrained by the instrument’s field of view. The field of view is the entire area that can be seen through an optical system as light is received from the source.

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**Figure 2.** Good and poor angles of view.

(a) Poor viewing angle
(b) Good viewing angle
(c) Non-critical angle of view

**Figure 3.** Angle of view: (a) poor; (b) good with mirror.

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**Figure 4.** Angle of illumination: (a) no indication shadows; (b) indication shadows (c) photo of silver with shadow.
conical angle covered by the system’s optics. An astronomical telescope’s field of view is the area of the sky that can be seen with a given eyepiece. Theoretically, a field of view is three-dimensional, like a room, and not two-dimensional, like a wall. The area of interest in a field of view, however, is often a flat surface.

Different lenses can be attached to an instrument to achieve different fields of view. Figure 5 shows the field of view of an ordinary rigid borescope. This instrument has a field of view with a range of 60 degrees.

For different lenses, the shape of each side results in desired features: closeup, close focus and high magnification; or short focus, wide angle views and high magnification.

Factors affecting visual tests with borescopes may be in conflict, and compromise is often needed. For example, a wide field of view reduces magnification (Fig. 6). With zoom, a narrow field of view produces higher magnification but surveys a smaller area.

Interaction of these effects must be considered in determining the optimum setup for detection and evaluation of discontinuities in the test object.

Object depth affects focusing. If portions of the test surface are in different planes, then the borescope must have sufficient focus adjustment or depth of field to visualize these different planes sharply. Direction of view determines positioning of borescopes.

The need for focus in getting a sharp image is critical for optical instruments such as borescopes and cameras, but is not covered by the present discussions. In most visual tests, the inspector will move his or her body, head, lamp, mirror, optical instrument, or the test object itself to get a good look at the test surface. A good-quality, qualitative assessment takes advantage of the inspector’s experience and conscientious judgment.

Across

1. In room lighting, ceiling lamps that direct 90 to 100 percent of their output downward will produce high illuminance in the ________ direction but can also produce shadows, glare and veiling reflections.

3. _______ in the inspection area can be controlled by a horizontal light source with a large surface area or by reflection from luminant walls.

5. Area or room lighting can be direct, semidirect or _______.

7. Flat, convex or concave, mirrors change the direction of light by __________.

10. When interpreting mirror images, the inspection distance is equal to the distance from the area being inspected to the mirror ______ the distance from the mirror to the inspector's eye.

11. Portable and inexpensive, these useful instruments allow the inspector to direct light onto shaded and interior surfaces.

12. _______ mirrors make objects look larger or closer to the viewer.

14. Local lighting (desk lamps and other portable lighting equipment) produces very high ________ that is useful for shadow formation to enhance contrast.

17. Luminance contrast is the difference in _________ of reflected light between the discontinuity and its background.

18. The purpose of lighting in a visual inspection area is to provide adequate ________ so that relevant objects or discontinuities are detected.

19. A recommended viewing distance and angle for visual testing is to have the eye within 600 mm (24 in.) of the object and positioned at an angle not less than ______ degrees to the inspection surface.

20. The angle of ________ of light impinging on a test surface greatly affects the detectability of the tiny shadows cast by small variations in surface roughness and contour.

21. Direct visual testing differs from indirect techniques (sometimes called remote visual testing) because the direct inspector is in the ________ of the test object and has an unmediated view of the test surface, even if he looks through a device such as a magnifier or camera.

22. A mirror image is ________ and this may affect documentation such as photographs or descriptions in inspection reports.

Down

2. On _______ backgrounds, a viewing angle that is off normal (but not beyond 45 degrees) should be maintained so that the light reflected off the surface is not directed toward the eyes, reducing the contrast image of the surface itself.

4. To prevent eye fatigue due to constant eye ________, general room lighting should provide at least 20 to 30 percent of total illumination.

6. Common inspection aids, _______ make inspection possible inside pipes and apertures and inside or behind objects obstructing the inspector's view.

8. Direct visual testing is a ________ of the visual testing method of nondestructive testing.

9. Commonly cited as optimum, the included angle of _______ minutes of arc is the average in which an individual sees a sharp image.

13. Because the angle of view is very important during visual testing, the viewer should in all cases attempt to observe the target on the ________ axis of the eye.

15. Directing light upward, downward and sideways, _______ lighting is diffuse, providing good brightness relationships throughout the room with horizontal illuminance that softens shadows and produces minimal glare.

16. _______ mirrors make objects look smaller or farther away.


Answers on page 12.
Donald E. Meyers

Don Meyers was recommended as the subject for this “Practitioner Profile” by several members of ASNT’s Greater Philadelphia Section. Don is an active participant in Section activities and says they regularly demonstrate to him just how large and interconnected the world of NDT is. He thinks Section membership is a great way to get the “big picture” of NDT.

Q: How did you first become involved in nondestructive testing?
A: I was looking to see what else was out there. I was working for a tubing company and taking courses in plumbing and electrical at a community college. The welding and metrology course actually touched on the testing of metals and materials and part of that was NDT. We did some magnetic particle and penetrant testing and a little overview on UT. I really liked it so I continued taking the welding course. I got the idea to donate free hours with a company nearby that did NDT using X-ray just so I could educate myself and actually get some hands-on experience. So, I called them up and talked with the owner. He said they couldn’t do that but he referred me to a company that he knew was hiring. I made an appointment and went in for an interview. The person that interviewed me called later on that day and said, “You’re hired.” That was back in 1994.

Q: What is the service that your company provides?
A: We test materials for aerospace and the military — and the nuclear power industry — principally metals for these industries. A company will manufacture a piece and bring it to us for testing. It can be a forging, a casting or wrought material. Typically, we’re almost at the tail end of the production process. However, the parts can be finish machined or before machining or in various stages. We will test the piece to see if there are any defects before it’s processed further. In some cases we do an exploratory for a customer. They might have a problem with the material during machining; they’re processing the part but getting lots of rejects. So, they partially machine it and bring it to us to find out at what stage it’s happening.

Q: Are your testing procedures generated in house or prescribed by the customer?
A: It’s both. The customer is working to a specific code or specification and issues what they want and what the procedure needs to say. Our Level III looks through the specifications, writes the procedure for that particular order or part number stating the guidelines for testing and then it goes back to the customer for approval.

Q: Can you describe a typical day for us?
A: I start with my daily checks to make sure the system is operating properly. I have manufactured defect panels — TAM panels with cracks of various sizes. The panel takes the place of a part but with a known defect; a different panel for each penetrant. I have to find so many of those cracks when I use that material. Following my procedures, I take the panels out and evaporate them and then check them to make sure they’re not contaminated from the last time they were run. Once that’s done, I run the panel through and treat it like a part — dwell time, wash-off, drying time, developing time — it finally makes it down to the inspection room. At this point, I have photos that I compare the panel to. They have to match. If they don’t, I have to go through and try to figure out what went wrong. Penetrant is not an instant thing. There’s a lot of dwell.

You have to be comfortable in the decision you make.
time in between so I use that time to look at the daily work schedule to see what needs to be done. I check the paperwork to make sure that I have all the correct information and the correct material properly stamped. Then I start precleaning and getting the material ready. That way, when my daily checks are finished, I can actually start running the parts. My work requires a lot of attention to detail. There are a lot of things that could go wrong and if I run a part through, it’s my name that goes on it saying that it’s good. There’s also paperwork involved. In addition to hardcopy, I log my work into the computer system. That information has to be correct. It certifies the work and that certification is going to follow the material. A copy also goes to the customer so that, whatever the next test is, our customer can show it to his customer saying this test has been done and the material is good.

**Q: Do you work independently or with others?**

**A:** I work with one other person on first shift and there’s a third person working the second shift. We’re kind of independent but I’m responsible for my department to make sure that things run efficiently and get done on time. A lot of our work also includes testing done by other departments. Prompt scheduling of testing is vital to minimize any delays in the customer’s results.

**Q: Do you work directly with customers?**

**A:** I do and that’s enjoyable. I like meeting and talking with people. Some of the customers are very knowledgeable and some have a basic overview. Sometimes, I can educate them a bit. Sometimes they are asking for my opinion. For example, the parts for one customer were just sheet metal bent in a certain way. That’s all that they were but they were looking for no defects whatsoever. So, anything that I found was going to be relevant. So, I ran the parts through and then brought them down underneath the black light. With sheet metal, if you process the parts properly, you’ll have a nice purple background underneath the black light — which I did on one side. But, after flipping them over to the opposite side, I could see that all the pieces consistently had little pits. The indications looked like a whole bunch of stars — little green dots all over the place. The customer was undecided about reworking those pieces and running the test again. So, they were asking my opinion. I told them that as they were, those pieces were not acceptable but, if reworking or retouching the surface could make them acceptable, the cost to retest them was minimal.

**Q: What are the characteristics of a good NDT technician?**

**A:** You have to be willing to learn and sometimes to think outside the box. For example, some of the parts that we test are huge, three to four thousand pounds each. In one case, the parts were bars that were 18 to 20 in. in diameter. They were here for pretesting before being cut up and machined. My job was to figure out how to do an effective test without endangering anyone’s safety in the process. Some specs give me latitude in picking the type and the method that I’m able to run. So, for those bars — even though green is a more sensitive test — based on the size and the difficulty, I went with a solvent removable red dye. I put the bars up on blocks of wood long enough so that I could roll them. I tested half the bar without having to move it. Once that was done, I cleaned it off, rolled it and then cleaned the area that I hadn’t been able to get to. Then I did the rest of the test. I didn’t have to move the bar that much, I didn’t put anyone’s safety in danger and I still did an effective test according to what the spec allowed. You do have to use your imagination sometimes.

**Q: What’s the most rewarding aspect of your work**

**A:** I think it’s the company that I work for. My employer reinvests in their employees and in the company itself.

**Q: What’s the most difficult part of NDT?**

**A:** I would have to say that sometimes it’s the interpretation of defects. It’s not always so black and white. For instance, sand castings are probably one of your more difficult things to read. Some of the defects that occur are within limits. Certain things are allowed but you have to make sure that you are on top of what that includes. If something is borderline, you don’t want to reject the part just because you are afraid but you also don’t want to accept a part that may be defective. That’s where good training comes in. You have to be comfortable in the decision you make.

Contact Don Meyers at dmeyers@labtesting.com.
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your employer’s written practice includes wording to that effect and all other SNT-TC-1A guidelines are met, then you could be certified based on the EN 473 training and examinations you have already taken.

Q: Which college degree would benefit me most in the NDT field? D.H.

A: That would depend on what you wish to do within the NDT field. Many NDT technicians performing shop and field inspections are not degreed, though some do hold a two year associate’s degree in applied science (AAS) in NDT. Personnel with higher degrees in science or engineering tend to go into fields associated with their degree program, though NDT or NDT management may be a part of their work. For a listing of schools that provide NDT courses, go to www.asnt.org/links/educational.htm on the ASNT website or to www.ndt-ed.org/EducationResources/EducationalOps/educationalops.htm on the NDT Resource website maintained by Iowa State University.

Respectfully,
James W. Houf
Senior Manager, ASNT Technical Services Department

E-mail, fax or phone questions for the “Inbox” to the Editor:
humphries@asnt.org, fax (614) 274-6899, phone (800) 222-2768 X206.