

November 2017



MATTHEW BYRNES

GAINS IN THE EDUCATION OF
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ALUMNI

I am a seventh-grade student. One day, I want to become a dermatologist.

WORDS OF ADVICE

Listen to your teachers and mentors.

I didn't initially realize all of the cool, fun stuff often part of the job for military civilian scientists and engineers.

BEST THINGS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Several activities stand out. I liked the robotics activity where we programmed our robots, which we had designed, ourselves, to navigate a maze. There was a lot of trial and error to determine how to program the robot to get through the maze successfully.

We also went to the climate chambers, where we got to experience the cold and learn how scientists test the degree of cold a machine can sustain and still work properly.

We also developed our own egg storage containers to protect an egg from a 50-foot drop. After we designed our containers, we dropped them from different heights to test whether or not the egg inside broke. It was exciting when I opened my storage container to find my egg still intact.

HOW PARTICIPATING IN AEOP INSPIRED YOU TO ADVANCE IN STEM

I have always had a love for science, particularly chemistry, and would like to go into a science field. My AEOP experience made me more excited about the military.

I didn't initially realize all of the cool, fun stuff often part of the job for military civilian scientists and engineers.

I also learned that not all members of the military go out in the field for combat. I could see myself working for the military as a civilian, possibly in labs where scientists test equipment and machinery.