It’s just another day under the Nevada sun when I hop into an Internally Transportable Vehicle (ITV) to take it for mobility testing in the mud. As an intern at the Nevada Automotive Test Center (NATC), I was privileged enough to learn about an assortment of military vehicles. Many of these vehicles I was allowed to ride in and even drive.

For 14 weeks, I spent the summer coordinating a military vehicle redesign project. I was responsible for identifying root causes for vehicle subsystem failures, proposing potential solutions for these failures, and testing the effectiveness of these potential solutions for the ITV. Though my time at NATC was short, it solidified my passion for engineering, and transferred theoretical concepts I had learned in school to tangible objects in industry.

JFK once said, “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.” United States soldiers who devote their lives to defending their country, countrymen, and the Constitution deserve the best technology that engineers can provide them with. My research, calculations, designs, and implementable solutions on the ITV project would directly affect US Troops. Through this internship, I realized the direct effect my work can have on my country. I have decided that by pursuing my interests in the defense industry I can do my part to protect our troops and our country.