Science, Technology and Weapons Analysts

The Directorate of Intelligence (DI) seeks engineers and scientists to analyze challenging national security issues, such as foreign weapons development, weapons proliferation, cyberwarfare and emerging technologies. These engineers and scientists will serve as professional intelligence officers, applying their scientific and technical knowledge to solve complex intelligence problems, and present their assessments to senior policymakers. This work demands initiative, creativity, analytic skills and technical expertise.

HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON UNITED STATES POLICY
As a Science, Technology and Weapons (STW) Analyst, you will work closely with regional specialists, military analysts, collection officers and other Intelligence Community professionals to provide accurate, all-source estimates of foreign intentions and capabilities to senior policymakers. STW Analysts do not design, build or perform “wet-bench” laboratory work. Some STW Analysts utilize “reverse engineering”, drawing upon their technical expertise, computer modeling and simulations to determine how a weapon or technology works and if it threatens US interests. They use a variety of data sources to perform their analysis, most of which is conducted at CIA Headquarters, near Washington, DC.

The job of an STW Analyst is much like solving a puzzle. First, you gather all the clues. This may require coming up with a collection plan to fill any information gaps. Next, you determine which puzzle pieces fit together and whether any remaining pieces are part of the same puzzle. Rarely will you have all the pieces to complete the puzzle, requiring you to apply your analytic skills, technical expertise and initiative to bridge information gaps and come up with a defensible theory on what the complete picture represents. Finally, you provide your analytic assessment through papers, memos or briefings to senior policymakers to support the development of US policy.

EXPERTISE NEEDED IN A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS
STW Analysts hold a bachelor’s degree or higher in many engineering and hard science disciplines (e.g., physics, chemistry and mathematics) with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale. Although not required for most positions, additional coursework in international relations, foreign affairs, area studies or knowledge of foreign languages will make you more competitive. STW Analysts work in one or more of the following areas:

- **Technology Analysts** follow emerging and potentially disruptive technologies that could impact national or economic security. They use a variety of sources to determine possible uses and compliance with technology export policies. Technology Analysts often are electrical, chemical, biotechnology, microbiology, nuclear or materials engineers, as well as physicists and technology policy experts.

- **Information Operations Analysts** evaluate foreign threats to US computer systems, particularly those that support critical infrastructures. Analysts with this focus typically have degrees in computer science, computer engineering or electrical engineering.

- **Geospatial Analysts** support weapons, counterproliferation, counternarcotics and counterterrorism analysis. These analysts typically have degrees in geology, geography or physical sciences with some academic work in GIS or remote sensing.
Proliferation Analysts follow weapons and technology proliferation to prevent the transfer of critical technologies and weapons of mass destruction. Analysts use data from a variety of sources to provide warning of pending sales and identify risks from exports. Analysts with this focus may be engineers (typically nuclear, chemical, biological or aerospace) or scientists. Military Analysts having degrees in economics, national security studies or international relations may also cover or collaborate with STW Analysts on proliferation issues.

Denial and Deception Analysts help identify foreign efforts to manipulate and impede US intelligence collection and analysis. Denial and Deception Analysts have degrees in engineering, physical sciences or national security studies.

Energy Security Analysts follow developments that could affect US energy security, or the stability of international financial markets, or cause an economic downturn in countries of concern. Such analysts may have degrees in petroleum engineering or other technical fields, but may also be economists.

Arms Control and Proliferation Regime Monitoring Analysts use data from a variety of sources to monitor compliance with arms control and proliferation agreements. These analysts have degrees in a variety of backgrounds, including area studies, engineering, political science, international relations and international finance.

Strategic Assessments Analysts perform long-term analysis using modeling, gaming and simulation techniques. Analysts in this field have degrees in a variety of technical disciplines, as well as economics, political science and area studies.

BUILDING UPON YOUR KNOWLEDGE BASE
STW Analysts have many opportunities to further develop their expertise through training, technical conferences and travel. These opportunities can include an overseas assignment, a temporary assignment on a different substantive area, or language or academic training. New analysts also receive training in analytic tradecraft methods and may serve on temporary assignments on a task force or in the Agency’s 24/7 Operations Center during their first two years. If you are looking for a nontraditional engineering or scientific career, an STW position is the job for you.

Given the CIA’s critical role in national security, all applicants must be US citizens, and must successfully complete a thorough medical and psychological exam, a polygraph interview and an extensive background investigation before becoming CIA employees.