



Raquel Ruiz

Office of Nuclear Smuggling Detection and Deterrence (NA-213)

NNSA Headquarters | Virtual

Overview

I supported a team who led an on-site training workshop for operators in Singapore, using the equipment and functionalities of the Singapore Customs team to evaluate their response and readiness to unannounced incidents. This was the first drill in the world done in partnership with NA-213 implementing limited and no-notice testing. Additionally, I partnered with another NA-213 intern, conducting research to provide a basis for NA-213 activities and partnership within the SE Asia region. I specifically researched the alignment between multilateral organizations in SE Asia and NA-213 missions, goals, and objectives. Together, we presented our project at a Sustainability Weekly Meeting with country managers.



Raquel at Pasir Panjang Export Inspection Station with Singapore customs officers, and NA-213 Singapore Sustainability Manager and subject-matter experts

“Interning with NA-213 and staff from Y-12 has been such an incredible experience – seeing drills in-country first-hand helped me better understand the work and the importance of the work being done within NA-213. This internship widened my scope of compelling, impactful career opportunities with the federal government.”

Outcomes

NA-213’s vision is a world with a layered counter-smuggling infrastructure to prevent adversary acquisition of nuclear and radiological (R/N) materials. Its mission is to build the capacity of partner countries to detect, disrupt, and investigate smuggling R/N materials that could be used in acts of terrorism. I observed first-hand a successful milestone of this mission, allowing me to synthesize a holistic understanding of everything I learned about strategy, policy, and technical skill within NA-213.

NA-213 works closely with partner countries, other offices within NNSA, DOE, and the federal government, and with other members of their internal team. Because of their mission, goals, and objectives, NA-213 is skilled at teamwork and collaboration, both internally and externally. I learned from the incredible skills of the staff how to collaborate with partner countries to simultaneously advance the office’s mission and adhere to the priorities and capabilities of each partner country.



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Bachelor of Arts, International Studies, Minors in Chinese, Comparative Cultural Studies International, Texas A&M University