



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 26th, 2008

SECURITY-CLEARED DEFENSE INDUSTRY WORKERS REPORT **6% INCREASE IN AVERAGE SALARIES**

Salaries jump in metro Washington, D.C. and Massachusetts; Cleared candidates earning 22% more on average than closest equivalent non-cleared counterparts

DES MOINES, Iowa, March 26, 2008 -- ClearanceJobs.com, the leading Internet-based job board for professionals with active U.S. government security clearances, today announced the results of its annual Security Clearance Jobs Salary Survey. According to the survey, cleared defense industry workers reported average nationwide salaries of \$72,803, 6 percent higher than the 2007 published results of \$68,139.

Average salaries in the largest area for security-cleared employment, metropolitan Washington, D.C., continue to be the highest, at \$80,380, and saw a 2 percent gain from the previous survey in 2007. Within that area, though, are some of the largest salary gains for any region in the country. Crystal City, Virginia, with its close proximity to the Pentagon, had a 19 percent increase in reported salaries in the past year, the largest gain in the area. Arlington county gained 10 percent, the second largest gain. Massachusetts, which has experienced a rapid influx of defense-related jobs, had a 9.7 percent increase, the largest of any single state.

Candidates with Top Secret and higher clearances earned, as expected, the highest average salaries, with gains of approximately 6 percent. However, candidates with lower levels of security clearances reported a 12 percent jump in salary indicating their viability in the market.

Security clearance jobs continue to pay better than their closest equivalent non-cleared counterparts. Among the 20 highest paid job categories, security-cleared candidates earn an average of \$19,138, or 22 percent, more than their closest non-cleared peers.

"This is a job seekers market. With the quantity of qualified candidates in much shorter supply than the number of open jobs, wages for cleared candidates are expected to continue rising," said Evan Lesser, Director and founder of ClearanceJobs.com. "Salaries increased for other reasons as well, including the shift of workers to higher-paying areas geographically as a result of the government's Base Realignment and Closure Act as well as the ongoing backlog of candidates awaiting clearance."

Other key findings of the survey include:

- Government contractors are earning an average of 22 percent higher salaries than their government employee counterparts.
- Security-cleared jobs provide more equitable pay between men and women than non-security-cleared jobs. Women with security clearances earn about 89 cents to every dollar cleared men earn compared to non-cleared women who earn 77 cents to every dollar non-cleared men earn.

- Cleared candidates who have passed Polygraph exams earn approximately 15 percent more per year on average than cleared candidates who have not.
- Cleared candidates' job satisfaction remains mostly high, primarily due to optimism about growth of the U.S. defense industry and relative confidence in job security.

Users can visit <http://ClearanceJobs.com/salary> for the full survey results, including reports and analysis on salaries by location, clearance level, polygraph level, industry, gender and salary satisfaction. Data for the Security Clearance Jobs Salary Survey Report was collected from more than 4,200 security-cleared professionals registered on ClearanceJobs.com between March 20, 2007 and February 20, 2008.

About ClearanceJobs.com

ClearanceJobs, a Dice Holdings, Inc. company, is the leading Internet-based job board dedicated to matching job seekers who hold an active security clearance with the best hiring companies searching for new employees. Authorized U.S. government contractors and their representatives utilize the secure service to quickly and easily locate candidates with specific security clearance requirements to fill open jobs. For more information, please visit www.ClearanceJobs.com.

About Dice Holdings, Inc.

Dice Holdings, Inc. is a leading provider of specialized career websites for professional communities, including technology and engineering, capital markets and financial services, accounting and finance, and security clearance. Our mission is to help our customers source and hire the most qualified professionals in select and highly skilled occupations, and to help those professionals find the best job opportunities in their respective fields and further their careers. For more than 17 years, we have built our company by providing our customers with quick and easy access to high-quality, unique professional communities and offering those communities access to highly relevant career opportunities and information. Today, we serve multiple markets in North America, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Australia.

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