

DEFENSE CONTRACTING · IT · OCONUS



CLEARANCE TO WEALTH

How To Break Into Defense Contracting, Work Overseas,
And Build Real Wealth In IT

It is not easy. But it is simple.

clearancetowealth.com

1. The Opportunity

Before the how, you need the **why**. The work in this guide is not hard to understand. It is hard to sustain, and nobody sustains anything without a reason.

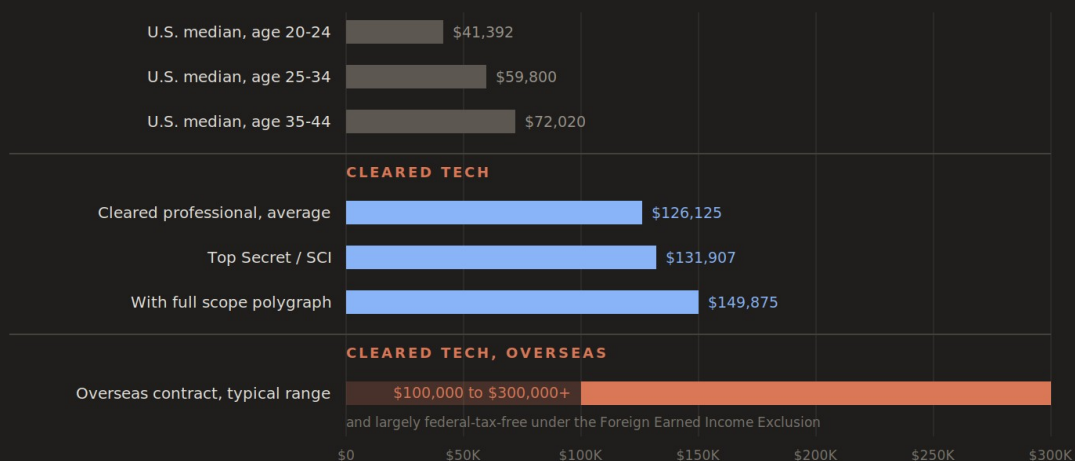
So let me show you the reason in numbers.

Where you stand right now

Start with what ordinary work actually pays in America, because most people have never seen these figures laid out and assume everyone else is doing better than they are.

What People Actually Earn

Median U.S. full-time earnings vs. average cleared tech compensation



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2026 | ClearanceJobs 2026 Security Clearance Compensation Report

There are two destinations on that chart, and both of them are real.

Read it carefully, because most people only notice one of them.

The first is that a cleared technology professional averages roughly double the national median. Not overseas. Not on a hardship contract. Just holding a clearance and working in the United States. That is the entire domestic opportunity in one line, and it is available in every state.

The second is the coral bar at the bottom. That is the same career with the location changed, and it is where the arithmetic stops being a raise and becomes a different category of outcome.

BOTH OF THESE ARE REAL DESTINATIONS

If you never leave the country, you can still easily double the median American income doing this work, in a city you chose, with a comfortable life. That is a genuinely excellent outcome and most people reading this would take it in a heartbeat.

Overseas is the accelerator on top. It is optional, and it is covered in Section Two.

It is not only about the paycheck

The money is what gets people to read a guide like this. It is usually not what keeps them in the industry a decade later. Here is what the job actually comes with.

What You Actually Get

The paycheck is the headline. These are the reasons people stay.

The Money

Roughly double the national median domestically. Two to four times it overseas, with most expenses and most of the federal tax removed.

Recession Proof

The government will always need cleared technology people. These jobs do not simply go away when the economy turns.

Real Work Life Balance

The work does not follow you home. If the contract says forty hours, you work forty, and then your evening is your own.

Real Benefits

Strong PTO, solid 401k matching, real health insurance, and funded training and certifications on the company dime. Some contracts even build fitness time into the duty day, which means being paid to stay in shape.

Worldly Experiences

You get paid to live in and travel through countries most people only read about. South Korea, Japan, Italy, Guam, Hawaii, the Marshall Islands. You will see parts of the world you would never have seen otherwise.

THE ONE THAT MATTERS MOST

Once you are in this industry with a clearance and real technical skills, you stop worrying about whether there will be a job for you. There always is. That security changes how you make every other decision in your life.

A few of those are worth expanding on, because they are the ones people underestimate until they have lived them.

- **You stop competing with the entire planet.** In the commercial world you are up against every applicant worldwide, and the process is an automated screen that discards you before a person ever reads the page. Cleared roles require citizenship and a clearance, which removes almost everyone. You are competing in a very small room.
- **Your evenings belong to you.** A large share of this work physically cannot leave the facility. There is no laptop in bed at eleven at night because a manager pinged you. When the shift ends, it ends.
- **Some contracts pay you to stay in shape.** Fitness time built into the duty day is common, particularly overseas. It sounds minor and it changes your life.
- **You will see places most people never will.** South Korea. The Marshall Islands. Japan. Italy. Alaska. Guam. Hawaii. Contractors end up in genuinely remarkable locations,

END OF CHAPTER ONE

There are 15 more.

Chapter 1 was the case. The rest of the book is the execution — the certification stack in the order that actually works, the resume that gets past the ATS, the interview questions that actually get asked, the negotiation script for the offer letter, the tax and domicile positioning, and the exit strategy that turns the paycheck into real assets.

WHAT COMES NEXT

GETTING IN

- The Opportunity
- Two Ways In
- The Clearance
- Certification Stack
- Finding The Job
- The Resume
- The Interview

WHERE THE MONEY IS

- Career Stateside
- Overseas Pay Math
- Where The Jobs Are
- Life Overseas
- Case Study
- Two More People

BUILDING WEALTH

- It Is Not What You Make
- Assets, Not Liabilities
- Your Exit Strategy

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