Subject: Most Difficult Job
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 07 Jul 2006 15:18:47 GMT
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I am wondering what is the most demanding and difficult carreer. The one way of making a living that requires the most of a persons abilities and capabilities. I thought about a set of criteria and came up with these basic requirements for entry to the Most Difficult Profession list.1. Intellectual involvement. By this I mean the amount/level of difficulty/and consistent demand for improvement of your educational needs as well as how much of your capability must be used on a daily basis.2. Personal Risk. How much you and your health and safety are compromised by the performance of your work. This could encompass anything from dealing with extremes of physical demands to working odd shifts and all hours. Or working outside vs inside.3. Stress Levels. This is a concrete and serious aspect of a job. If you are working as a producer in Network live television; your stress level will be considerably higher than if you are selling real estate.4. Level of Dedication required to perform your work. Say you are a Preist and must comfort the sick and dying regularly; you had better be dedicated. I use these four very broad outlines but inside each proscription is numerous and finely judged aspects of work.So as an example I would offer the job of Coast Guard Search and rescue. This has to be in the running for most difficult and demanding.Or maybe high tension powerline repair. Undercover narcotics agent. Small list; it would be interesting to see if anyone has anything to add.Then there could be a category for everyday jobs like Policeman or Architect. I hear the Architect requirements are much more demanding than taking the LSAT'S or the CPA exam.Even office work could have it's difficulty rating; or even tech work.

Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by Damir on Fri, 07 Jul 2006 19:58:50 GMT
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As I wrote once, I have a friend who is a minefield-cleaner. He drives more then 100km every day to his work in one direction, a few days ago he had the car accident. Or, if the minefield is at larger distance, he must sleep in some motel, for weeks. It is a manual, hard-working field job, mostly on bushes. These days the temperature was over 35°C, and he had a dehidration "blackout".One mistake - and bye-bye, and four kids at home. Plus the responsibility - he must signs that his route is clean of mines.His sallary is low and always late.But, when we asked him is his work too hard - he said, "no - I like that, being in some office or the store is much worse - IMO."Go figure...

Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 07 Jul 2006 23:22:51 GMT
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Yes that is the point. Many jobs like that are held by guys who love what they do; the danger and difficulty is part of the appeal.I wonder if it is true as they say that everyone thinks their job is the most difficult. I remmember back in the day when my good friend was a troubleshooter for Con-Ed. We would be at a party in January somewhere at 3 O'Clock in the AM and a snowstorm and boom; he would get a phone call; gotta go in, theres trouble. Now back then we partied well and hearty; so he would be driving into the city loaded after being up for 30 hours already to work outside in the snow and ice up on the high power lines drunk as a lord. Sometimes they would keep him for around the clock shifts. He'd come home to the apt looking like death warmed over. Thats a demanding job. So when I would hear someone complain about their boss in some office; or some deadline was so frantic; I would have to laugh.

Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by wunhuanglo on Sun, 09 Jul 2006 01:29:42 GMT
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How about skunk wrangler?I read about a guy who has that job - he was born without a sense of smell so it doesn't bother him. The weird thing is he has a wife who (somehow)manages to put up with it.

Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 09 Jul 2006 10:52:59 GMT
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Is he the guy with the Jack-A-Lope ranch? Or a lawyer?

Subject: Neither
Posted by wunhuanglo on Sun, 09 Jul 2006 11:27:23 GMT
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The Real Deal
The man who can't smell

Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by Bill Martinelli on Sun, 09 Jul 2006 11:50:17 GMT
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I was just thinking; every president of modern time has a before and after picture that makes them look 20 years older in a 4-8 year stint.

Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 09 Jul 2006 12:10:17 GMT
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Why were you thinkin' that? Now I have to look at my before and after. I hate mirrors.

Subject: Re: Neither
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 09 Jul 2006 12:12:35 GMT
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He loves skunks; can't smell and his name is Dragoo? Pretty wild stuff. Remmember the college dorm days? We had no sense of smell.

Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by Thermionic on Sun, 09 Jul 2006 18:18:05 GMT
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Many military jobs are pretty tough as far as intellectual involvement, personal risk, stress levels, and level of required dedication. Everyone thinks of fighter pilots or infantrymen, but how about Navy submarine crews? They are an all-volunteer group, and must undergo very stringent mental and physical testing in the selection process. Many are culled out. Only sound physical specimens with absolute nerves of steel and off-the-scale intelligence make it. Think about it. Basically, you are locked in a tin can with a nuclear reactor, high voltage equipment, dozens of explosive torpedos, and enough nuclear warheads to destroy several small nations. Then, they sink you in 500 feet of salt water ON PURPOSE. Satellites, surface ships, aircraft, and other subs are searching for you. There is no place to take cover. Taking a direct hit in an attack means a certain, violent death, with little to no chance of your body ever being recovered and given a decent burial. You have a responsibility to do your job perfectly, without error. Many times, even the simplest mistake could mean death for you and your comrades. Both individually and collectively, you have a tremendous responsibilty. Talk about stress!Your entire personal space consists of a tiny locker and the rack you sleep in, which has a privacy curtain. There is no view, no sunlight, and no stepping ouside for some fresh air when off duty. You must step lightly and close doors gently, so as not to give away your sub's position. There is no telephone or mail as on a surface ship. Radio silence must be maintained always. You have no active communication with your family. Their

only communication to you consists of a "family-gram" transmitted once every five weeks, which must be 50 words or less. Actually, your name must be the first word, and their name the last, so it's really only 48 words. Naval Intelligence checks it for crypto and hidden code, and if your wife says something like, "Aunt Suzy isn't feeling well," they'll call her and ask how close you are to Aunt Suzy. If they think it'll cause you any stress or worry, they'll delete it from the message.Your only luxury is the food, which is the best in the entire military. You eat things like prime rib, lobster, and filet mignon, all expertly prepared. Submarine cooks receive special culinary training, and some have went on to be staff chefs at the White House. I learned this from a friend who was one of my high school classmates. She married a submariner a few years after graduation, and he remained in the Navy for 5 more years afterwards. She said it was very tough, but they made it. But, many *don't* make it. Submariners are the highest divorce rate in the military.Thermionic

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Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 16 Jul 2006 19:02:57 GMT
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Listen T; my brother-in-law did eight years in subs. He said the whole culinary thing is BS. What really happened was they would re-supply in port then set off on their run which was classified and unknown to anyone except the captain. Three days out from shore the fresh supplies would begin to run out. By the end of the second week it was powdered milk and eggs and frozen dinners. That whole filet Mignon thing is made up.The worst part is they have really no medical staff on board. Just a corpsman who is trained in emergency medicine and first aid. They aren't allowed to surface for any reason. So if you had a serious illness like burst appendix you were in hot water.He eventually was asked to disembark due to a prohibition on gambling on board. Since there wasn't anything to do they would play cards. Guys would lose an entire three months of wages and return from sea broke to their very upset wives and families. He did well though and managed to sock some cash away for a rainy day.

Subject: Family Counselor
Posted by SteveBrown on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 17:00:54 GMT
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Only half kidding. I did this for several years before reentering the corporate world. Requires a lot of education, licensing, on-going education, etc. Requires personal risk (been physically threatened many times). Reqiures courage and high stress - try talking someone through suicide attempt at 2:00 in the morning. And takes tons of dedication since most people you see have already decided they want out, and are only there to prove they're "dedicated to the relatioinship".. right. At any rate, I toss in my prior career as a candidate for consideration.

Subject: Re: Family Counselor
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 19:57:34 GMT
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I agree. That kind of work requires extreme insight; ability to think on your feet; the ability to modify your judgements without prejudice; the ability to empathize and to adopt significant personal responsibility for other peoples emotional baggage.The stress and the 24 hour nature of the work is draining and can draw the strength right out of you.Not for everyone; and most couldn't do it if they wanted too. (At least not in any proffessional capacity.) They get very little respect for their devotion; and the guys out there on the golf course doing business; or the guys in the technical fields doing their 9-5 probably would evacuate in their draws if they ever had to do this work.Kudo's to you for giving it the years you did. You know anyone can be trained to do a job. Not many can be educated to learn and adapt to constantly fluctuating working paradigm's.

Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by akhilesh on Thu, 20 Jul 2006 15:48:59 GMT
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THe one you, the employee, hates the most.

Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by Manualblock on Thu, 20 Jul 2006 17:20:27 GMT
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Why's That? What if the job is very demanding but you love it; like Nuerosurgury or Formula 1 race car driver?

Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by akhilesh on Thu, 20 Jul 2006 20:00:44 GMT
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Then it;s not difficult! It;s easy. -akhilesh

Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job

Posted by Manualblock on Thu, 20 Jul 2006 21:46:55 GMT
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Funny way to approach this whole concept. Do you really suggest that doing a very difficult job becomes easy because you like it? How exactly does that work?I mean I would understand it if you mean't that because you enjoy the work it is not a burden to you even though it is really demanding; but that still doesn't make it easy. It is just as hard as if you didn't like it, you just feel better doing it.But it's still hard.

Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by akhilesh on Fri, 21 Jul 2006 12:41:11 GMT
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HI John,Definition of difficult:dif·fi·cult Audio pronunciation of "difficult" (P) Pronunciation Key (df-klt, -klt)adj. 1. Hard to do or accomplish; demanding considerable effort or skill; arduous: “To entertain is far more difficult than to enlighten” (Anthony Burgess). See Synonyms at hard. 2. Hard to endure; trying: fell upon difficult times. 3. Hard to comprehend or solve: a difficult puzzle. 4. Hard to please, satisfy, or manage: a difficult child. 5. Hard to persuade or convince; stubborn.----------YOu are going by definition 1, I am going by definition 2. Therein lies the argument. BTW, the example in definition 1, very apt, no?-akhilesh

Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 21 Jul 2006 13:05:14 GMT
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Hi AK; Definition 2 says "Hard to endure", that looks like it re-inforces what I said, no?Anthony Burgess is a really bright guy; I liked "Clockwork Orange" myself. He invented a whole language with grammatical rules and structure for that film.But we digress; what is your definition of a difficult job; and I already heard the answer; "The one you are doing now."I admire those who toil in really trying circumstances on a daily basis; I don't think they get enough recognition for their efforts. So I start this little thread to give people a chance to vent.

Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by akhilesh on Sat, 22 Jul 2006 02:33:12 GMT
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"Definition 2 says "Hard to endure", that looks like it re-inforces what I said"Actually, I thought you

meant defn one. one could have a challenging job that one likes, and which is hence not difficult to endure (or tolerate). Which takes us back to what I said. Hence my assertion: I am talking about defn 2, and you are talking about defn 1. -akhileshPS I liked CLockwork Orange. It;s interesting, though very very bleeding heart liberal.

Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 22 Jul 2006 12:01:53 GMT
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"What we have here is a failure to communicate", Boss to Paul Newman in "Cool Hand Luke."I lost you on Def 1 and 2 theory.Have you ever had to do something difficult?

Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by Celeste on Fri, 28 Jul 2006 01:57:55 GMT
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The GAO (government accounting office) says by far it is auto mechanic. It is interdisciplinary , constantly changing educational target. Capitalization is very high when compared to the median income also.Celeste

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Subject: Re: Most Difficult Job
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 29 Jul 2006 12:09:23 GMT
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Yes if you decide to work for one of the big guns it requires a lot of hustle and pressure. You have the flat-rate manual and if you don't beat that or if you get to many come-backs you are held accountable. Like a lot of jobs that require hustle it works for the guys who love it and are good at it; even they can get stressed at the unrelenting get 'em out demands. And the constant educational demands are difficult especially when you get older. But yes they can make a good buck at it now.
