



The first thing you notice about PFC Andrew Thompson is his engaging smile. It lights up his face and enhances his energetic personality. Andrew came to the Job Connection Education Program (JCEP) after seeking employment for several months.

Thompson was living at home and wondering if he would ever be able to move out of his parents' home and become independent. He is a recent high school

graduate who has been planning for his future. Joining the Texas Army National Guard was the first step towards that independent lifestyle. He laughingly shared, "Who knew that dating a girl whose brother is in the Guard would get me here. I think everyone should join!"

Previously, he had worked in the fast food industry and wanted to find employment that utilized his military training and skills. When asked, "How did you hear about JCEP?" Thompson replied, "Online! I was looking for National Guard jobs and found the link." He went on to share, "The National Guard puts you on the right track, but you have to take advantage of the benefits and resources. JCEP is an excellent benefit!"

When asking Thompson, "What about JCEP made the biggest impression on you?" He emphatically stated, "Resume! Working on my resume got me the job." He further commented, "Without a good resume you can't get anywhere. Now I have a really good resume."

Currently, Thompson is working for a local car rental company. He loves the trust that is given him on a daily basis by the owner. As an Assistant Manager, he is in charge of assisting customers, balancing the cash receipts, and utilizing his problem solving skills. He shared, "I love my job because it's hard work and all the responsibility is on me to do a good job."

When asking about his future goals, excitedly Andrew shared that he is beginning college next month at Kaplan University pursuing an Associate's of Applied Science degree. Upon completing that he will further his education with a Criminal Justice degree. Thompson's ultimate goal is to work for the Houston Police Department.

There was one final question presented to PFC Andrew Thompson, "What do you want other TXARNG Soldiers to know about JCEP?" "JCEP can definitely help get you a job! They [the Soldiers] have to be willing to work with JCEP to get where they want to be. But, JCEP will get you there."