

SPC Arron McQueen

The first thing that one notices about Arron McQueen is his height. He is extremely tall. The second thing one notices about Arron McQueen is his military look and stance. He is definitely a Soldier and carries himself in such a manner that one expects Arron to stand at attention all the time. Oh, and he is really tall.



Arron has been in the Texas Army National Guard for six years as an Infantryman. According to Arron, he absolutely loves being a Soldier. For someone who went from high school to the military, the job options are limited.

Thus, for the past four years, he has worked as a Non-Commissioned Security Guard in the civilian world making barely over minimum wage. Arron knew he wanted to be more than a Security Guard, but didn't have a clue where to begin looking for work elsewhere.

Then, one drill weekend, Arron was presented with a new program called the Job Connection Education Program, better known as JCEP. Arron decided this might be the avenue to achieving his goals of a better job and future. Subsequently, Arron attended the kick-off last March and began his journey with JCEP.

Arron attended resume writing, budgeting, and job search classes even though he worked late at night. Whenever JCEP provided training opportunities or job fairs, Arron took advantage of them. He participated in Mock Interviews which helped to prepare Arron for the actual interviews he went on and met with his Employment Counselor on a weekly basis. Arron even completed the Commissioned Officer Security Guard training to help with obtaining a pay increase at his job. Yet, he was still seeking something better, an employment opportunity that was just right for him.

That opportunity came last December through a new employer partner JCEP had obtained. MJB Wood Group, a local Dallas/Fort Worth manufacturing company was looking specifically to hire Soldiers. Even though Arron did not have experience in manufacturing, he had the one thing MJB Wood Group wanted – a can do, get the job done attitude.



Arron started his new job as a laborer, earning more money than his previous employment. Speaking with Arron a few days after he started working at MJB Wood Group, he stated, "This is hard work! I thought I was in shape, but man I'm worn out." When asked, "Do you like your new job?" Arron responded, "Yeah, I like the hard work, it's challenging and fun."

In a short period of time, Arron has learned how to operate eight new machines, with more being added to learn each week. One of the goals of the manufacturing company is cross-training so there is never a machine unmanned. When asked how long he sees himself with the company, Arron stated, "I see myself possibly being there for a long time. I have an open mind."

When asked, "What about JCEP made the biggest impression on you?" Arron emphatically stated, "You guys of course!" On a more serious note, he went on to say, "You guys are people helping people with job issues. You help find the employers. You got me the Commission training that got me a pay raise, and you taught me how to ask questions."

As the conversation wound down, Arron was asked, "What's the one thing you want others to know about JCEP?" He smiled and stated, "JCEP is heads above the rest. If you need something, go to JCEP. They will sit down with you, talk to you, and help you figure out how to solve your problem or issues." Arron went on to say, "The people at JCEP give you the personal touch. You know someone cares, because they help you out and make you stand out. That's what is special about JCEP."



When speaking with Arron McQueen, one sees this is a young man with goals and dreams. He will tell you that JCEP helped him see the possibilities. Yet, it's the can do attitude, and get the job done Soldier mentality that will help Arron be successful in whatever he chooses to do and JCEP will be there to cheer him on.