

## **SPC Gerardo Botello and Earl Portnoy, President of Security Reconnaissance Team Incorporated**

### **One of JCEPs First Successful Connections**

Specialist Gerardo “Jerry” Botello has been in the Army National Guard since 2007. After returning from his deployment to Iraq in 2009 he started looking for a job and found JCEP. The National Guard’s Job Connection Education Program had just opened their doors at the Sandage Armory in Fort Worth and Jerry was one of the very first to register. He attended opening day ceremonies on 28 March 2010 and originally went to work with Allied Barton, a company that has hired over 50 JCEP participants.

In September of 2010 Earl Portnoy, President of Security Reconnaissance Team Incorporated, offered to teach a security class at Redbird Armory. Jerry was one of ten JCEP participants that took advantage of the training that week. For Jerry, the class would lead to a Level 3 security guard certification and a new job working for Security Reconnaissance Team Incorporated.



Redbird Armory Security Guard Class, 13-16 September 2010

Earl Portnoy has a wonderful history of working with the National Guard. For over 18 months he voluntarily provided training for the Recruit Sustainment Program and has received a coin of excellence from MG Spurgin for providing specialized protection training for his Soldiers. He has hired four JCEP participants, has placed more than 25 other JCEP participants with different

companies, and has personally trained over 50 JCEP participants to receive their license in private security. “JCEP is a great cause with respectable, hard-working people and I have a good relationship with the staff. Jerry was one of the first I trained from the program and I’m very happy with him on my team.”



Jerry is currently working for Security Reconnaissance Team Incorporated at the Botanic Research Institute of Texas (BRIT). It is evident that Jerry has an impact on those with whom he works. Mr. Greg Gunn, BRIT Facilities Manager said, “Jerry is a good fit for this organization with a great personality”. Additionally, Ms. Judy Jones, Director of Administration smiled when she saw Jerry in his military uniform and shared how much the staff loves Jerry. The staff at BRIT couldn’t be more pleased with Jerry’s hard work and dedication.

Specialist Botello has worked for Security Reconnaissance Team Incorporated at BRIT for over a year and has excelled. Starting as a Security Officer, he was promoted after nine months to Security Supervisor and now manages other officers. As the company continues to expand, so will Jerry’s responsibilities. He will soon oversee the North Fort Worth area.

Specialist Botello is a proud father to his five-year old son Ezekiel. “I’d like to thank JCEP for not only how they have helped me, but also all the Soldiers they’ve assisted. If it wasn’t for the program, I wouldn’t be where I am right now.” – SPC Gerardo Botello



Story and recent photographs by: Jackie Tijerina