

# NATIONAL GUARD

## JOB CONNECTION EDUCATION PROGRAM

### One Step Closer to his Goal!!!!

April 30, 2012

Camp Dodge, Johnson, Iowa

Sergeant Justin Stewart

Early this spring the Iowa Job Connection Program (JCEP) began working with Command Sergeant Major John Breitsprecker; the Iowa National Guard's Senior Enlisted Advisor on engaging our Soldiers assigned to the Warrior Transition Units (WTU)'s. While out visiting soldiers CSM Breitsprecker found several Soldiers at the WTU's who needed assistance with employment when returning home to Iowa and the Iowa National Guard. Sergeant (SGT) Justin Stewart, a Chaplains Assistant assigned to Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion / 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was one of these Warriors that could use employment assistance; he was assigned to the Fort Riley WTU when he contacted Iowa JCEP during the end of February and registered for the program.



SGT Stewart deployed with the Iowa National Guard's 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (BCT) / 34<sup>h</sup> Infantry Division's 2010 - 2011 deployment to Afghanistan. Prior to his second and most recent deployment to Afghanistan, Mr. Justin Stewart worked as a Yellow Ribbon Support Specialist (a military contractor) for the Iowa National Guard planning and coordinating Yellow Ribbon Events for Soldiers and family members before, during and after deployment. While still assigned to the WTU, Justin learned his position was being cut from the budget in spring of 2012.

*"I sent them (JCEP) my resume I had and provided my military information. When I got back home, JCEP took what I gave them and provided me with a resume that made me very marketable"*

**SGT Justin Stewart**  
**JCEP Participant**

SGT Justin Stewart always wanted to go in to Law Enforcement. He attended Liberty University and Des Moines Community College pursuing an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice prior to his deployments. Now he may be able to make his goal reality; a position in Law Enforcement. SGT Stewart and JCEP started working together in March, first building him a resume he could use when he came home to Iowa. After seven months being assigned to the WTU, Sergeant Justin Stewart was released from the WTU returning to Iowa and beginning his employment search.

In April, Justin and JCEP attended the Des Moines Area Community College's (DMACC) Iowa Veterans Career Retreat; he attended many of the Veteran transition sessions networking throughout the day. After considering many different options, Justin applied for a Security Officer position at Des Moines Area Community College in May; in the beginning of June he started his new position as a DMACC Security Officer. Sergeant Justin Stewart now has the opportunity to gain valuable experience while he continues working toward his Associates degree in Criminal Justice. From his deployments, being assigned to the WTU, to now becoming a Security Officer, he is now one step closer to his goal of a career in Law Enforcement. Congratulations Justin!!!!

– Iowa JCEP Staff