

NATIONAL GUARD

JOB CONNECTION EDUCATION PROGRAM

JCEP Goes To The Field

Monday, July 30, 2012
Houston, Texas



The JCEP-Houston team deployed to Fort Bliss, Texas to join the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) during their Annual Training (AT) last week. When LTC Barrow, 72nd IBCT Commander, asked the JCEP team to come to Fort Bliss and reach out to his soldiers, JCEP suited up and moved out. With more than 2,500 72nd IBCT soldiers dispersed throughout the Fort Bliss training areas, it was truly a unique experience for JCEP to see many of their participants in action. The JCEP-Houston team set up base operations at Donna Ana Training Area, located north of Fort Bliss and near White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. JCEP was able to meet with soldiers on point at their Forward Operating Base (FOB), as well as at Donna Ana. JCEP set up to provide direct program support at Donna Ana Training Area during the final week of AT. The Donna Ana Training Area is an area that the 72nd IBCT reconstituted the brigade and prepared for movement back to home stations throughout Texas. JCEP Counselors were able to go to where the soldiers train and bivouac to speak with them about JCEP. We had some great one-on-one and group discussions and came away with a good understanding of the challenges facing soldiers and employment. JCEP Counselors met with company, platoon, and squad level leaders of the 72nd who expressed concern for soldiers who may return home from AT without jobs. Many of the 72nd IBCT soldiers were both surprised and appreciative of our visit to the field. Texas Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major Richard L. Milford visited the troops and JCEP spoke with soldiers following CSM Milford's comments. CSM Milford mentioned JCEP specifically during his talks with soldiers, and that we could help them with employment. He also commended JCEP for achieving 1,000 placements in Texas since its inception. Overall, it was a great visit and an opportunity to see JCEP Participants in the field doing what soldiers do.

JCEP Staff



Donna Ana Training Area



Soldiers at Donna Ana



JCEP Participant El Grecio Gregory and fellow 72nd soldiers



JCEP Participant Emeke Ekezie and fellow 72nd soldier



72nd Bivouac Site



FOB Maple Leaf



JCEP Participant Nathan Lee and fellow 72nd soldiers