



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission  
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# Virginia Employment Commission assists Virginia National Guard 237<sup>th</sup> Engineering Company

**Richmond**—In support of new direction from the Department of Defense to improve and standardize pre and post deployment services to Virginia National Guard Members, a team of Veteran Representatives from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) traveled to Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin, to personally welcome home fellow Virginians from Iraq and provide guidance, local contacts, and job services.

David Silcox, Harrisonburg, and Travis Grim, Norfolk, Local Veterans' Representatives, were selected to represent the VEC and accomplish the tasks of establishing communication, points of contact, arranging transportation, lodging, computer support, and designing a referral request form to be e-mailed to the local Veterans Representative for follow-up upon their return home.

The VEC was given a list of 42 members of the 237<sup>th</sup> who had previously indicated a need for employment services. The VEC communicated with these members, gathered information to prepare for the trip, and requested that these members register for the VEC's job services. Those who were unable to register in advance were assisted in registering on-site.

On behalf of Governor Tim Kaine and the VEC, representatives Silcox and Grim welcomed the guardsmen home, thanked them for their service, and started the process to assist in finding employment. Referrals were made to a local veterans representative in Virginia so that each member could quickly be assessed as to their plans and employment on their return home. Those needing services will be evaluated one-on-one and provided a plan. Service was provided to some members from other states.

The trip was very successful. Virginia Veterans were afforded a personal touch as they returned from serving their country. Within two days of the Unit's return, responses have been received from most veterans' representatives who are providing follow-up to these soldiers.

The VEC is planning additional programs to assist our returning men and women in the armed forces.

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