



WK DICKSON COMMUNITY Heroes

Robbie Payne

Since 1982, Robbie Payne, Construction Observer, has been involved with the U.S. Army. The first four years Robbie spent on Active Duty with the 82nd Airborne Division, and in 1983 Robbie was sent to the Island of Grenada, during Operation Urgent Fury, to rescue US Citizens and restore democracy.

In 2006, Robbie went to Iraq for 14 months where he helped trained the Iraqi Army. During this time, Robbie along with ten others lived with 3,500 Iraqis. "We were slightly outnumbered," Robbie jokes, saying "this was the most challenging time."

In January 2008, Robbie spent one year in Georgia at Fort Gillem, and most recently he completed a tour of duty at Fort Dix in New Jersey for 20 months. Today, Robbie has served a total of 28 years; 10 years Active Duty and 18 years Army Reserve.

Currently, The U.S. Army consists of over 675,000 Active Duty and Army Reserve Soldiers. As we reflect on Independence Day, there is no better tribute than to thank Robbie for protecting America's freedoms; his commitment to his county makes him a true hero.



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