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DECEMBER 18TH 2012 BY DEE LOFLIN

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*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Writer*

Dexter, Missouri – East Prairie native, Pvt. Robert Willoughby recently completed his military training to become a wheeled-vehicle mechanic for Missouri National Guard's 1221st Transportation Company located in Dexter, Mo.

"I joined the Guard because it has been my life's dream to be in the military," said Willoughby. "The Guard also had many benefits that just fit me and can help me."

He graduated from basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and advanced individual training at Fort Lee, Virginia, November 13, 2012.

Prior to his training, Mr. Willoughby served with Company E of the Recruit Sustainment Program in Cape Girardeau. Through the program, he learned basic Army skills and values and became more familiar with his role as a Soldier in the Missouri Army National Guard.

Sgt. 1st Class Doyle Wicker, recruiter in southeast Missouri, said, " Mr. Willoughby will be a successful and a valuable asset to the Missouri National Guard."

"He really excelled during basic training," said Wicker, who was also impressed with his performance during RSP. "He's dedicated, and when he starts college next fall, I know he will excel there and capably handle his education and military careers."

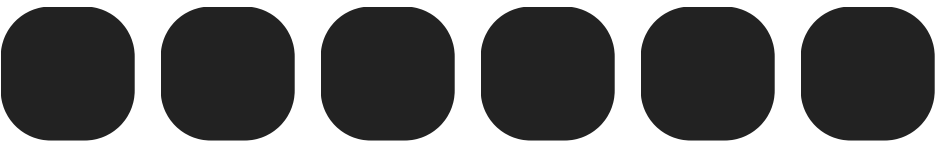
Pvt. Robert Willoughby will begin serving with his new unit in January 2013.

Robert is the son of Marty and Vicky Willoughby, of East Prairie. He is a graduate of East Prairie High School.

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