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Agency News

Veterans employment initiatives help increase CO hires

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice has a long history of supporting our veterans and the agency continues to offer many benefits to employees who have served in our nation's armed forces. This commitment includes providing veterans with information and assistance to complete the application process and ease the transition from the military to employment with TDCJ.

Since April 2015 the agency has exempted veterans from the pre-employment testing for correctional officer positions and allowed them to schedule a convenient job interview using a CO pre-employment test calendar available on the agency's website. Through coordination with Texas Veterans Commission, military bases and other resources, TDCJ continues to attend as many veterans recruiting events as possible, and by the close of FY 2016 agency representatives had attended 82 veterans job fairs and/or career days.

The agency named Paula Gilbert as the official TDCJ veteran's liaison in September of 2015. The liaison assists veterans with the re-



Sgt. LaShaunda Stafford discusses employment options with military personnel stationed at Fort Hood Army base. TDCJ representatives attend veterans recruiting events throughout the state.

cruitment process and operates from TDCJ's Human Resources Headquarters in Huntsville. The veteran's liaison can be reached by calling (936) 437-4060 or by email at paula.gilbert@tdcj.texas.gov.

These hiring initiatives have helped veterans obtain employment and helped reduce the number of correctional officer vacancies:

during fiscal year 2016 TDCJ hired 1,477 veterans, a 38 percent increase from the 1,071 hired in FY 2015. ●