

Staff Sergeant Jerry Lin

Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Jerry Lin was born and raised in China. He moved to the United States in 2004 with his father. As an immigrant, he had to overcome many challenges and difficulties. One of his biggest challenges was learning to speak English while having to adapt to American culture. Growing up in Gaithersburg, Maryland, learning English was very fast-paced because he was surrounded by native English speakers. It took him approximately three years before he was able to speak fluently.

Upon moving to the U.S., SSgt Lin and his father were faced with financial hardships that come with starting over. College was a mere dream for SSgt Lin for this reason. After graduating from Quince Orchard High School in Gaithersburg, he started his career as a Full Service Technician for a major car company. After four years as an automotive technician, SSgt Lin was still working toward becoming financially stable and was living pay check to pay check. His income was inconsistent as a junior technician as his pay was dependent on his labor hours. The only thing that was consistent were his monthly bills. Between paying his rent and other monthly expenses, he was usually left with a couple hundred dollars for food. Unexpected expenses would knock SSgt Lin off his feet. Even paying for a full tank of gas was a struggle.

At the time, his options were very limited. He ended up deciding to join the military. He enlisted into the Maryland Air National Guard (MDANG) on Oct 22, 2017 as an Aircraft Mechanic. His mechanical background made it an easy choice for him to choose this career field. The MDANG offered SSgt Lin educational benefits as a benefit for his service. He was now able to pursue a Bachelor's degree (tuition free) and ended up being hired as a full-time Aircraft Mechanic for the MDANG. There are many times in life when things don't go as planned. SSgt Lin was no different, as this was better than he had planned! It has been a little over four years and he since bought his first house, is one semester from graduating with his Bachelor's in Computer Networking and Security without paying a single dime in tuition, and is only few steps away from being qualified to apply as an A-10 pilot. MDANG has paved the path towards success for SSgt Lin through all the benefits and opportunities available to him. It was SSgt Lin's ambition and determination to get better that pushed him down the path towards his success.

SSgt. Lin now works as a Benefit Representative and Production Recruiter for the MDANG. In this position, his job is to be a mentor to students and an advisor to young professionals. He is passionate about helping those in need and is determined to change people's lives the same way MDANG changed his.

"Let me help you take your first step towards success"

- Staff Sergeant Jerry Lin