

Employee Profile



Erin Carlson and her “battle buddy” Sergeant Jessica Aguirre while deployed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Iraq in the summer of 2008.

Erin Carlson

Boot Camp or bust! Erin Carlson, raised right here in Plain, joined the military immediately after graduating from Cascade High School. “Joining the Marine Corp was one of the smartest things I could have done. At 18 I was really shy and the military experience helped me to be more assertive and come out of my shell. I was a Motor-T mechanic at Camp Pendleton, CA for 4-1/2 years, working primarily with men. Being in that environment made me a stronger, more confident person. I learned how to stand my ground!” she said.

There’s always a silver lining. Erin was deployed to Iraq in both 2006 and 2008. “I was really unprepared for deployment. I had no idea what to expect. I worked every day. No days off for a whole year. It was really tough and definitely an eye opener about the conditions that others less fortunate live in. It taught me to appreciate what I have in my life now. That’s for sure. Plus the landscape was so barren and desolate. But I will always remember the beautiful sunsets. That was a special treat in such a scary place,” she said.

Giving Back. After returning to Plain in June of 2009, Erin enrolled at Wenatchee Valley College while working at Just Plain Grocery. Erin received her AA degree in 2011. This fall she plans to enroll in Washington State University’s online Psychology program. Her goal is to become a psychologist and start her own private practice. According to Erin, “I hope to be able to work with military veterans as my way of “giving back.” Those working in war zone areas really need help after they get home. Many bottle up their emotions, pushing them down deep and just going on. It is not healthy. It is hard to ask for help and I get that. I want to find a way to help make that easier for them.”

Erin started working part time at the front counter and as a barista at Plain Hardware in January of 2012. She works Thursday thru Sunday. Stop in and say hi!