

Army veteran brings jobs to community

By MICHAEL SPENCE
Sun Special Writer

While many people seek to contribute to the community in their spare time, Brent Case has made a career of it.

As Director of Technology and Business Development for the CMU Research Corporation, Case has the opportunity to recruit companies to move into the central Michigan area.

Once a company moves into the community, Case makes sure that it is a seamless transition, both for the

community and for the company.

"I connect people with resources," Case said. "If a company needs money, I connect them. I either help them directly or I direct them to someone who is qualified."

In his three years at the research corporation Case has worked with 75 companies.

Case said he only recruits companies that will positively benefit the community. In particular, he looks for com-

(See Case, Page 2A)

TWENTY under 40

A look at 20 people under age 40 who are making a difference in central Michigan

Sunday: Todd Bennett

Today: Brent Case

Tuesday: Amy Hopkins

Brent Case

- Age: 35
- Occupation: Director of Technology and Business Development, CMU Research Corp.
- Activities: CMU alumni activities, spending time on the lake with family and friends
- Quote: "It's rewarding to contribute to the economic growth and diversity of the community."



Sun photograph by VICTOR FITZSIMONS

Brent Case, director of technology and business development at the Central Michigan University Research Corp., attracts and coordinates high-tech business in the Mt. Pleasant community. Case graduated from CMU after spending time in the Army, including service during Operation Desert Storm.

(Continued from Page 1A)

panies that will create jobs that are high-wage and high-tech. Case said that as the result of attracting high-tech employment to the community, Nature Magazine has identified Mt. Pleasant as a national hot-spot for biotechnology.

"Bring those companies here and it will create an economic ripple in the community's economy," he said.

Four of the companies that Case has helped attract; Dendritic Nano-Technologies of Ann Arbor, MultiGen Diagnostics of Canada, Coastal Technologies of Florida and Artificial Cell Technologies of Louisiana; have brought about 30 jobs to the community that have average salaries between \$40,000 and \$60,000.

Case and the research corporation are also responsible for bringing federal money to the area.

The corporation has brought \$5.3 million from the Army Research Labs as well as \$2.2 million from the Economic Development Administration and \$750,000 from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

"Our organization is one of the first at the university to bring state and federal dollars to Mt. Pleasant," he said. "We're making progress in spite of being a small town."

After graduating from Chippewa Hills in 1988, Case joined the Army as a paratrooper stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C.

During the Persian Gulf war, Case served eight months in active duty.

"I would say that was one of the most beneficial experiences I've had," he said. "After you've jumped out of planes and been through a war, anything seems possible."

It is the broad view of the world resulting from his military experience that Case said gives him the motivation to serve the community.

"Having been outside of the country, I realize that we take so many things for granted," he said.

After his service, Case attended CMU where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Management and a Master of Arts in Industrial Technology.

In addition to his work at the research corporation, Case serves on the advisory board for the LaBelle Entrepreneurial Center, a department that provides a major and minor within the College of Business at CMU, and on the Zoning Board of Appeals at Lake Isabella.

Case has also served as an ambassador for the Chamber of Commerce and as a Big Brother in the Big Brothers-Big Sisters organization.