



How to reward your employer

WASHINGTON – Recognizing the support of your civilian employer is made easy through the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Web site at www.esgr.org.

The ESGR National Committee sponsors an awards program designed to recognize employers for employment policies and practices that are supportive of their employees' participation in the National Guard and Reserve. All employer recognition and awards originate from nominations placed by individual Reservists. Depending on the degree of support, the level of recognition starts at the "Patriot Award" and rises to the "Employer Support Freedom Award," given by the Secretary of Defense.

- "Patriot Award" Certificate of Appreciation. ESGR awards this certificate and a Patriot lapel pin on behalf of DoD. All members of the National Guard and Reserve forces are eligible to nominate their employers for the "Patriot Award" certificate. This employer recognition is the most frequently presented. A certificate will be given to all employers that are nominated. This nomination is subsequently used by the local ESGR Committee as the basis for consideration to receive higher level awards.
- Local ESGR Committee Chair's Award. This award is given in limited numbers and presented annually by each ESGR Committee. It is designed to recognize those employers who have gone above and beyond the legal requirements for granting leave for military duty.
- PRO PATRIA Award. It is presented to those employers who demonstrate exceptional support for our national defense by adopting personnel policies that make it easier for employees to participate in the National Guard and Reserve. Each committee may give only one PRO PATRIA annually.
- Employer Support Freedom Awards. These awards, ESGR's most prestigious, are presented annually to an employer by the Secretary of Defense. It recognizes unique support to National Guard and Reserve employees. The nation's most supportive employers receive the awards at a ceremony held annually in November.

Employers qualify for recognition when they practice personnel policies that support employee participation in the National Guard and Reserve.

How do you nominate your employer?

The easiest way to nominate your employer is to use the Patriot award form available online at www.esgr.org. The form takes only a minute or two to complete, and by pressing the "submit" option at the bottom of the page, the nomination arrives at national ESGR headquarters within moments.

Copies of the nomination form can also be obtained from your local ESGR committee or the national ESGR headquarters. They can be reached via the toll-free number: (800) 336-4590.

However a nomination is submitted, remember, it makes your employer eligible for the higher level awards. A little extra effort to provide details helps ESGR recognize and properly award the most outstanding employers.

If an award certificate does not arrive within 45 days of the submission, contact the Odyssey Imaging Group (770) 754-9900 and ask for the ESGR awards staff to check on the status.

—[esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org)

ESGR announces 2004 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award

ARLINGTON, Va. – The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense Agency, recently announced the 2004 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award recipients.

The 2004 award recipients are:

- American Express, New York City
- Bank One Corp., Chicago
- Colt Safety Fire and Rescue, St. Louis
- Coors Brewing Co., Golden, Colo.
- General Electric, Fairfield, Conn.
- Harley-Davidson, Milwaukee
- The Home Depot, Atlanta
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Monterey Park, Calif.
- Northrop Grumman Corp., Los Angeles
- Fisk Corp./OneSource Building Technologies, Houston
- Saints Memorial Medical Center, Lowell, Mass.
- Sprint Corp., Overland Park, Kan.
- State of Minnesota, St. Paul
- Strategic Solutions, Inc., Walnut Creek, Calif.
- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Bentonville, Ark.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, a Waterford crystal eagle, was introduced in 1996 to publicly recognize the significant contributions and sacrifices made by America's employers of Guardsmen and Reservists. This year's recipients will be recognized on Sept. 21, 2004 at the Ronald Regan International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

The unique mission of ESGR is to: "gain and maintain active employer support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the Guard and Reserve as defined by demonstrated employer commitment to employee military service." To learn more about ESGR employer outreach programs and volunteer opportunities, visit their Web site at www.esgr.org or call 800-336-4590.

—ESGR News Release

redcom round-up



ADAN Lloyd F. Boleware from Seminary, Miss., mans a .50 caliber machine gun mount off the ship's flight deck, while an MH-53E Sea Dragon assigned to the "Blackhawks" of the Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron Fifteen (HM-15) Detachment 2 departs from USS George Washington (CVN 73). The Blackhawks are a Navy Reserve squadron based in Corpus Christi, Texas. The Norfolk based aircraft carrier George Washington is on a scheduled deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

Photo by PH1 Brien Aho



REDCOM Mid-Atlantic

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – The Naval Construction Force recently restructured in an effort to maximize manpower and training resources for Reserve units. The restructure efforts included a relocation of Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 202 from Groton, Conn., to Camp Lejeune. The new structure allows for valuable training coordinated with the support of Marines.

-SK2 Patricia Faris, CBMU 202 Public Affairs

WILLOW GROVE, Pa. – Bike patrols of NAS JRB Willow Grove security department recently hit the streets as one of the station's steps to improve physical security while increasing anti-terrorism presence inside the fence line. Traditionally, the station's security force has patrolled the entire 1,100 acres of the station behind the wheel of a patrol car. But after paying almost \$25,000 in maintenance and repair costs over the past two years, Willow Grove turned to bike patrols to reduce operating costs while still maintaining patrol presence.

-JOCS(SW) Doug Hummel, NAS JRB Willow Grove Public Affairs



REDCOM Mid-West

TIFFIN, Ohio – Navy Reservists from Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center Perrysburg, Ohio, recently pitched in to build a Habitat for Humanity house in Tiffin, Ohio. Sailors, armed with a good attitude and a set of tools, worked all day in the muddy construction area to place the roof trusses, apply external sheathing, lay the sub-roof and install the roofing paper. The project was the second for Perrysburg Reservists and they are already looking for another opportunity to support similar projects.

-JO2 Linda J. Andreoli, NMCRC Perrysburg



REDCOM South

FORT WORTH, Texas – REDCOM South recently welcomed Capt. Kevin R. Hempel as their new commander. Hempel reports from the staff of Commander, Naval Reserve Forces Command in New

Orleans. He succeeds RADM John A. Jackson, who will continue to serve as deputy director (Reserve) of plans and policy at U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

-Erika L. Carrillo, REDCOM South Public Affairs



REDCOM Southeast

MERIDIAN, Miss. – Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas Hall recently visited with Naval Reservists at Naval Reserve Center Meridian. Hall answered questions from the center's 240 Reservists and told them the Pentagon is currently looking at ways to make hiring a Reservist more popular to civilian employers.

-EM2 Scott Phillips, NRC Meridian



REDCOM Northwest

FORT HARRISON, Mont. – Beachmaster Unit One (BMU-1), Transportation Det 7, recently received valuable training from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 18, Det. 0618. The two units traveled to Fort Harrison to accomplish weapons familiarization and qualification on the M-16 and 9mm weapons. The effort is a big step toward the goal of having BMU-1's leading petty officers to take ownership of future marksmanship and land navigation training evolutions by planning and executing the mission.

-JO1 Diane Tehle, NRC Billings Public Affairs

EVERETT, Wash. – Afloat Training Group Pacific Northwest (ATGPNW) offered training for Reservists preparing to be instructors in the Anti-Terrorist Force Protection (ATFP) Basic Instructor Course recently at Naval Station Everett, Wash. The ATFP training teaches non-lethal techniques, such as wristlocks, pressure points, batons and pepper spray. The three-week course of classroom instruction and hands-on training tests student's knowledge. Training thus far has qualified new instructors and plans are underway to offer training to various shore commands at Everett.

-JO1 David Hayes, NRC Everett