

ESGR accepting Freedom, Patriot Award nominations

BY STAFF SGT. HEATHER SKINKLE
419th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is currently accepting nominations for two awards that recognize employers for outstanding support of the National Guard and Reserve members they employ.

The 2010 Secretary of Defense Freedom Award and Patriot Awards recognize civilian employers

who uphold exceptional guidelines that benefit military members.

The Freedom Award is the highest honor given by the U.S. government to employers of guardsmen and reservists. Nominations will be accepted online at <http://www.freedomaward.mil> from Nov. 1, 2010 to Jan. 17, 2011.

"The 15 winners of the 2010 Secretary of Defense Freedom Award attend a Department of Defense-hosted dinner, tour the

White House and even meet the president," said Kim Watts, ESGR executive director for Utah.

Since its inception in 1996, the ESGR award committee has recognized more than 100 employers. The program is broken into three categories: big business, small business and the public sector. Last year's recipients included CEOs from seven large American corporations, a governor, a mayor, a state police director, the chan-

cellor of a university, and four small business owners.

The Patriot Award is a less formal way of acknowledging employers' assistance to members. Patriot Award nominations are accepted year round at <http://www.ESGR.org/PA>. This year, spouses of reservists may also nominate their supervisor or employer for the award.

Patriot Award winners receive a pin, certificate and photo posted on the

ESGR Web site.

"Besides complying with the law, publicity is a good incentive for employers to continue to support their military employees," Watts said. "Everyone wants to be known as a

good patriot."

The ESGR, a DOD agency established in 1972, aims to expand on and preserve employer trust by recognizing their support through these awards.

AF pilot program is speeding up re-enlistments at deployed locations

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas - A program designed to speed the re-enlistment process at deployed locations began this month.

The Deployed Re-enlistment Pilot Program, developed at the Air Force Personnel Center and U.S. Air Forces Central Command, is being tested at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. If successful, officials could implement the program throughout the AFCENT area of responsibility by next summer. The

new program was a result of a process improvement for deployed Airmen aimed at saving time so they can focus on their mission, said Senior Master Sgt. Deron Warman, superintendent of enlisted skills management at AFPC.

Currently, re-enlistments in the AOR can take as long as 30 days due to transmitting documents to and from deployed areas and home stations. Under the pilot program, Airmen will request re-enlistment and then Total Force Service Center representatives will complete all the documents as well as update the

military personnel system.

TFSC representatives will also obtain home-station commander concurrence. Officials say the program may reduce the process by 50 percent.

"With the Air Force moving toward web-based programs and using the TFSC for personnel actions, it makes sense to look at the deployed area for process improvement," Warman said.

The Air Force will use the Deployed Re-enlistment Pilot Program for instances where eligible Airmen made the decision to re-enlist after arrival at

the deployed location and had not hand carried re-enlistment documents.

For more information, contact your local military personnel section. Deployed Airmen can contact their Personnel Support for Contingency Operations Team or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102 or DSN 565-5000.

Hill Exchange revs up the rewards for safe bikers

AAFES Public Affairs

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 80 percent of reported motorcycle crashes result in injury or death, compared to just 20 percent for automobiles.

Because of this increased danger, the Hill Air Force Base Exchange is supporting the military's mission to reduce motorcycle-related injuries and deaths among service members by offering a one-time, 20 percent dis-

count off of one Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) item to cyclists that successfully complete their locally required motorcycle safety riding course.

"Through this initiative, the Hill AFB Exchange is playing a large role in ensuring the safety and well-being of service men and women," said Steve Collier, general manager.

The Exchange PPE program was first tested at Ft. Hood, Ft. Campbell and Eglin AFB in the spring of

2009. The test was so successful that the program was expanded throughout the United States, Pacific and Europe in 2010.

The Exchange now sells motorcycle PPE, to include helmets, gloves, protective eyewear and body armor, in 136 facilities worldwide as well as online at www.shopmyexchange.com. Products sold through this program meet the highest safety standards to include all military specs and European and Pacific testing standards.

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