



Utah

INSIDE

Chairman's Message 1
 In the News 2
 Grad Thanks Professors... 4
 Out and About 5
 Tips and Info..... 8

CALENDAR

MARCH 12

- ESGR Utah Executive Committee Meeting

MARCH 25

- Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair - Sandy

APRIL 25-26

- ESGR Utah's Annual Planning, Awards, and Training Conference

ON THE WEB

NEWS

- <http://bit.ly/O6dClv>

NEWSLETTERS

- <http://bit.ly/r46EvV>

FLICKR

- <http://bit.ly/eQooPP>

TWITTER

- @UT_ESGR

Message from ESGR Utah Chairman Bart Davis

A Key Ingredient in Our Success: You



Bart Davis

The Christmas decorations are all down and put away. The New Year's resolutions have been forgotten and most of us have returned to the realities of everyday life. For us at ESGR Utah, that means serving those great men and women who have honorably worn the uniforms of our nation.

As we are well into the first part of our fiscal year, we have already conducted two very successful 'Hiring Our Heroes' job fairs, visited many armories and bases, briefed hundreds of servicemembers, and assisted in resolving a few work-related concerns.

ESGR and Hero2Hired's association with the Utah Veterans and Military Employment Coalition continues to result in thousands of veteran jobseekers' having a chance to meet veteran-friendly employers. Hundreds of careers have been launched as a result of this partnership.

Our low, low rate of employer problems is a direct result of committee members' good work in educating military members and employers of their responsibilities to each other. The volunteer spirit and common love for what makes this nation great is

the distinguishing quality that allows us to continue to provide this invaluable service.

Everyone receiving this letter is in some way a key ingredient in our success. We have an exciting year planned with several employment, military, and social events' being finalized, so keep an eye on the calendar!

I look forward to our continued successes and enjoyable relationships.

Warmest Regards,

As of March 3, 2014

Activation Numbers

At any given time, services may activate some units and individuals while deactivating others, making it possible for figures to either increase or decrease. The total number currently on active duty from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 28,443; Navy Reserve, 3,973; Marine Corps Reserve, 1,687; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 7,327; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 402.

This brings the total National Guard and reserve personnel who have been activated to 41,832, including both units and individual augmentees.

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. Its mission is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflicts through mediation.

ESGR Utah In the News

Staff Sgt. Nate Simper, left, and Garrett Whatcott, right, are members of both the Utah National Guard and the Naples Police force. Whatcott presented the Patriot Award to Chief Mark Watkins, second from right, in a ceremony Feb. 27.



Naples Police Department and Employees Support the Troops

NAPLES, Utah — Just days into his Naples City Police Department job, Officer Garrett Whatcott faced a scheduled two-week deployment with the Army National Guard.

It was a dilemma that could have cost him and his family dearly as a new employee.

"My deployment wasn't covered by leave to sustain my insurance or benefits," Whatcott said.

That's when his employer Naples City and Chief Mark Watkins went to bat for the citizen-soldier.

Watkins brought a proposition before the city council to support 80 hours of military leave for employee-guardsmen who have drill leave or deployment.

Watkins was successful in crafting the policy and the council backed him up.

"With [Mark's] support, being there and making things work for me, I didn't have to worry about back here," Whatcott said.

Upon return Whatcott submitted Watkins' name to the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve for the Patriot Award.

Patriotic employers deserve respect says Whatcott and ESGR agrees, offering a way for reservists and guardsmen to say 'thank you.'

Watkins and the Naples City Police Department received their recognition on Thursday, Feb. 27, on behalf of the grateful employee-guardsmen and their families.

Naples Police Department has seven officers, two of which are guardsmen: Garrett Whatcott and Nate Simper.

The ESGR Patriot Award cites flexible schedules, time off for deployment, preserving jobs and granting leave as some of the measures employers take to help guardsmen.

"You and the Naples City Police Department were nominated for an award through ESGR as cru-

cial to a healthy troop force and their families," said Marandy Massey, Family Program Director with the local National Guard.

Massey said that support of the troops means everything to their families.

"I know, if we have a soldier who has a solid job and an employer who really encourages them in their guard duties, then the family is stronger as well," she said.

Officers say that while their job is hard, it takes some of the pressure off to leave on drill or deployment, if they know their job is safe. Naples Chief Watkins said it takes the whole force to support guard soldiers, but it's a sacrifice they are willing to make.

— Mary Bernard, *Vernal Express*, March 4, 2014

Click [here](#) for a large version of this flier.



More ESGR Utah In the News

Employers came ready to hire qualified candidates at the Jan. 23 'Hiring Our Heroes' job fair in St. George. Of the 200-plus veterans and spouses in attendance, 32 received job offers at the fair.

"[Military members] have soft skills that they get from the military: dedication, teamwork, how to be on time and how to work under pressure," said Mark Harrison. *Photo by Jud Burkett.*

Hiring Our Heroes St. George Job Fair Has Solid Turnout

ST. GEORGE, Utah — In search of employment, more than 100 veterans, active-duty military personnel and members of the National Guard and Reserve attended the Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair at the Dixie Center Jan. 23.

The third annual St. George fair hosted more than 30 employers and eight military agencies available to answer military-benefit questions.

"[Military members] have what we call soft skills that they get from the military: dedication, teamwork, how to be on time and how to work under pressure," said Mark Harrison, employment support specialist for the Utah Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. "They have other skills, too, that they may have received from the military that would work right over into the civilian market.

Each of the employers that are here have jobs available today."

Last Memorial Day, Walmart started a veterans initiative, where it will hire 500,000 vets over the next 10 years.

"We're attending these job fairs and seeking veterans for their skill levels they bring from the military to incorporate that into our business," said Walmart Human Resources director, Tim Wright.

James Emery, a veterans employment representative with the Department of Workforce Services, said active military and veterans make "pretty quick studies," but they have to find ways to set themselves apart in order to get the jobs they want.

"By the time that job is advertised, there can be anywhere between 150 to 300 people applying for it," Emery said. "I also teach them to research the company they're wanting to work for."

Emery said individuals should not wait until they are

destitute to ask the DWS for help.

"Sometimes veterans are like that because they're a pretty tough bunch," Emery said.

Harrison said more than 600 individuals found jobs in the last three years from Hiring Our Heroes job fairs.

"We feel very good about what we do," he said.

U.S. Army veteran Justin Behunin was one of the fair's participants looking for a job Thursday.

"I got a postcard in the mail, and employment is hard to find, so I came here to look for jobs," Behunin said. "It's informative."

Harrison said the fair was put together by the Utah Veterans and Military Employment Coalition, which is made up of ESGR Utah, the Utah DWS, the State Department of Veterans Affairs and several Utah chambers of commerce.

— Casi Forbes

St. George Spectrum, Jan. 24, 2014

**UNIV. OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNI-
CATION**

SALT LAKE CITY

Lt. Col. Hank McIntire, Utah National Guard, center, presented Professors Sean Lawson, left, and David Vergobbi the Patriot Award Feb. 13 for their support of McIntire during his two deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



**Patriot Award
Guard Soldier/Grad
Student Recognizes
Professors' Support**

SALT LAKE CITY — Professors Sean Lawson and David Vergobbi, of the University of Utah's Department of Communication, received the Patriot Award in a ceremony Feb. 13, 2014.

Lt. Col. Hank McIntire, of the Utah National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters, also a Ph.D. student at the university, nominated Lawson and

Vergobbi for their support of his military service.

Vergobbi arranged for independent-study courses for McIntire during his two deployments in 2004-2005 and 2011-2012 to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the Horn of Africa, respectively. Vergobbi also provided flexibility to McIntire, allowing him to continue enrollment in Vergobbi's Free Speech in Society class when McIntire deployed in the middle of Fall Semester 2011.

Lawson allowed McIntire to enroll in his class while McIntire was deployed to the Horn of Africa during Spring Semester 2012. Lawson set up a video link from the class, taught at 6 p.m. on Wednesday evenings, which McIntire

"attended" at 3 a.m. Thursday, local time in Djibouti from his quarters via his laptop computer.

McIntire pinned an ESGR lapel pin on his professors and thanked both profusely at the ceremony.

"I could not have continued my studies and my deployed military service at the same time without the support and flexibility you offered me," he told Vergobbi and Lawson.





Out & About

BONNEVILLE MORTGAGE SALT LAKE CITY

Mike Thomas, third from left, CFO for Bonneville Mortgage, received the Patriot Award Feb. 27 from ESGR Utah's Jeff Tiede, third from right. 2nd Lt. Lauren MacGregor, 489th Brigade Support Battalion, Utah Army National Guard, second from right, nominated Thomas for the award.



UTAH NEURO-PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE SALT LAKE CITY

Capt. Juliann Jeppsen, 144th Area Support Medical Company, Utah Army National Guard, nominated her employers for the Patriot Award. Receiving recognition Jan. 13 were, left to right, Barry Rose, Katy Halverson, Don Fennimore and Mary Talboys.

More Out & About



DIXIE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

ST. GEORGE

Reuben Evans, second from right, received the Patriot Award Dec. 22 from employee and Staff Sgt. David Foisy, center, Alpha Battery, 2-222nd Field Artillery, Utah Army National Guard for his support of Foisy in his military duties. ESGR Utah's Dallin Nielsen, second from left, was also on hand for the presentation.

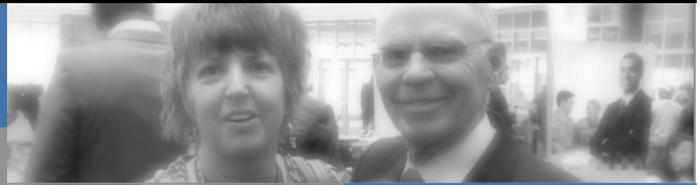
DOMINOS PIZZA

LOGAN

Kevin Nielsen, left, and Scott Nielsen, right, Dominos Pizza franchise owners in Logan, received the Patriot Award Dec. 20 from ESGR Utah's Kenneth Wade (not pictured). Employee and Sgt. Matthew Johnson, Alpha Battery, 1-145th Field Artillery, Utah Army National Guard, nominated the Niensens for the award.



More Out & About



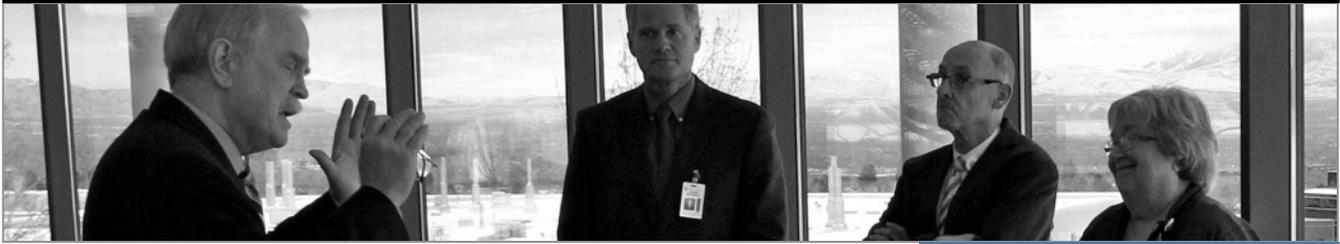
SPORTS AUTHORITY CEDAR CITY

Kirk Christiansen, second from right, received the Patriot Award Feb. 24 from ESGR Utah's Wes Peterson, right; nominator Pfc. Doug Davis, Charlie Company, Recruit Sustainment Program, Utah Army National Guard, second from left; and Maj. Adam Ashworth, Utah National Guard.

ESGR UTAH SAYS THANKS

At right you will see logos of many of our employers who have been so supportive of our ESGR efforts over the last few years. We thank each one and many others not identified here for being there for our women and men in uniform.





Tips & Info

Reservists Can Apply for SBA Loans

Small businesses that suffered economic losses when the owner or a key employee was called up to active duty are eligible to apply for a low interest loan of up to \$2 million from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Small businesses can apply for a Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan (MREIDL) any time from the date of notice of expected call-up and ending one year after the date of discharge or release. The program was created to enable eligible small businesses to pay operating expenses it could have covered if the owner or key employee hadn't been called to active duty.

"The absence of just one employee whose expertise is critical to the success of the company can pose significant challenges for a small business," said SBA Acting Administrator Jeanne Hult.

"These Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loans provide funds that will help these small businesses cover operating expenses. This way our brave men and women in uniform don't have to choose between serving their country and growing their businesses."

The MREIDL is a direct working capital loan, managed by SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance. The interest rate on these working capital loans is 4 percent, with terms up to a maximum of 30 years. In general, no collateral is required to secure an MREIDL of \$50,000 or less. The loan cannot be used to replace lost income or profits, refinance long-term debt or to expand the business.

Businesses can apply online at <http://go.usa.gov/BcuA>. To get an application by mail, or for other questions about the loan program, contact SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

In addition to the MREIDL program, the SBA supports veterans starting and growing their businesses through its 68 local SBA district offices, 15 Veterans Business Outreach Centers nationwide, its partnership with 63 Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) with over 900 outreach locations, and 12,000 SCORE volunteers.

Each year SBA helps more than 200,000 veterans, service-disabled veterans and reservists. To learn more about additional opportunities for veterans available through the SBA, please visit the website at www.sba.gov/veterans.

KEY CONTACTS

ESGR NATIONAL

Phone - (800) 336-4590

Web - www.esgr.mil

ESGR UTAH

Bart Davis

State Chairman - (801) 432-4937

Kim Watts

Chief of Staff - (801) 432-4492

Mark Harrison

Military Support - (801) 432-4536

Chris Willden

Employer Support - (801) 245-2610

Jerry Acton

Military Outreach - (801) 369-6381

Chuck Rackham

Hero2Hired (H2H) - (801) 432-4242

Morty Jenkins

Region 1 Chair - (801) 560-0721

Richard DeWolf

Region 2 Chair - (801) 282-9922

Sid Cardon

Region 3 Chair - (801) 472-2146

Dallin Nielsen

Region 4 Chair - (801) 372-9612

Hank McIntire

Public Affairs - (801) 420-4778

Newsletter Submissions

Please send articles and photos to hank.mcintire@gmail.com.