



Utah



Fall 2010 - Winter 2011



Message from the State Chairman

As we approach the holiday season—the season of reflection, gratitude, and giving—I am grateful for many things, but the blessing of being able to serve the valiant men and women in our Armed Forces, their families, and those employers and fellow employees that fill the void at home, is something of great value to me.



Bart Davis

I am continually told by our volunteers, as they visit businesses and military units, of the pride and satisfaction they feel as appreciation is expressed to them for their efforts in recognizing the sacrifices of others.

ESGR Utah volunteers have delivered hundreds of Patriot Awards to employers on behalf of Servicemembers. Presentations have been made on the tops of Utah’s scenic mountains, in luxurious boardrooms, and in warehouse breakrooms. In every instance the sentiment is the same: How grateful we are to have the freedoms afforded us by our fellow citizens serving in the many capacities that make this country great and such a privilege to be part of.

As everyone enjoys the upcoming holidays, I hope we all take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices being made on our behalf and consider what we

individually might do in the coming year to be better citizens and provide additional assistance to those sacrificing on our behalf.

ESGR Utah is always looking for and would welcome patriots from throughout our state who would like to join us. The commitment is small, but the rewards are life-changing.

My Best Wishes,

Event Calendar 2012

- Jan. 11 - Military Advisory Council Meeting
- March 9 - Executive Committee Planning Meeting
- March 25-26 - Annual Planning/Awards Conference
- March 29-30 - ESGR West Regional Conference
- May 10 - Military Advisory Council Meeting
- June 8 - Executive Committee Planning Meeting
- Sept. 13 - Military Advisory Council Meeting
- Sept. 14 - Executive Committee Planning Meeting

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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.

Patriot Awards for Utah County Employers Supporting Soldiers

SPANISH FORK — The Utah National Guard has awarded 58 Patriot Awards to Utah County businesses for their support of Guard Soldiers. Part of that support is the guarantee Soldiers have a job when they return.

"We've got a very supportive employer base out there," said Mark Harrison, member of the Utah Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Utah National Guard soldiers are urged to nominate their supportive employer for Patriot Awards. Soldiers may go online to nominate their boss for their help and cooperation, Harrison said. Or the soldier can nominate their employer when they return from deployment and are going through the re-entry process.

Harrison said before 9/11, employers with Utah Guardsmen on the payroll only contended with drill and Annual Training weeks. After that, deployments of 18 months or longer created challenges for employers.

ESGR puts out printed information and has a website, www.esgr.org, to ensure information gets out, including what is expected of employers and employees. Harrison said returning Soldiers seldom have problems that require more than a telephone call to rectify.

Citizen-Soldiers are expected to keep their bosses fully informed about their Guard schedule, duties and potential for deployment.

Employers are expected to support Guard members on their staff with time off for drill and a job upon their return from deployment. ESGR will help each side negotiate the maze of requirements for a successful employee/employer relationship.

— By Lana Creer-Harris, Daily Herald, Oct. 24, 2010

Kiwanis hears from ESGR

SPANISH FORK — John-Michael Zimmerle, volunteer employer support coordinator for the Department of Defense, recently spoke to the Kiwanis Club here. The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve seeks to work with employers to support the military service of their employees.

ESGR provides information, mediation and recognition for employers. Because half of our current military is involved with the Reserve and the Guard, ESGR provides an extremely valuable service to the community and to those families of Soldiers who have been deployed.

Bob Zahrt conducted the meeting, Deloris Nelson led the music, Doug Young led the pledge, and Mark Nelson gave the prayer. Eugene Colledge introduced Zimmerle (below) to the group.

— Spanish Fork Press, Nov. 4, 2010



Home Depot Earns 'A&B' Award

RIVERDALE — Representatives of the Utah Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve presented an 'Above and Beyond' award to the Riverdale Home Depot Oct. 15.

Frank Maughan, Weber County representative on the committee, said the store was honored because it goes "the extra mile in supporting their employees as the employees are deployed to war theaters or to training in anticipation of deployment."



Federal law requires employers to hold the jobs of Guardmembers and Reservists while they are deployed, including promotions as if they were still at work.

Maughan pointed out that the Riverdale store has put up a display that includes military promotions of their employees and memorabilia, including a flag an employee flew while serving in Iraq.

— The Standard-Examiner, Oct. 12, 2010

ESGR Utah In the News

Sunset Fire Department Goes 'Above and Beyond' for Soldier

SUNSET — James Stratton might not have made it without a little help from his friends.

Stratton, 23, a volunteer firefighter with the Sunset City Fire Department and a member of the Utah National Guard, recently came home from a yearlong deployment to Iraq, a deployment that he says would have been a lot more difficult if not for his friends at the fire department.



When Stratton left for Iraq in September 2009, he left behind his wife, Malina, who has cystic fibrosis and finds it hard to move around, even to complete household chores.

"She can't really go outside a lot or work really hard by herself," Stratton said. "She can't lift heavy objects or drive, so we knew it would be tough when I left."

That's when the Sunset Fire Department stepped in.

While Stratton was in Iraq, members of the fire department basically took over all of Stratton's yard-work



duties. Firefighters mowed and edged his lawn, trimmed trees, raked leaves, shovelled snow and checked on Malina weekly.

"I kind of figured they would help because that's just the type of people they are, but I didn't have any idea how

much they would do," Stratton said. "They even cleaned up after the dog."

Assistant Fire Chief James Weston said firefighters at his station figured it was their duty to help the Strattons.



"That's just what we do," Weston said of the department's helping hand. "We would do the same for any of our other brothers and sisters in the fire department."

Weston said work was split up into shifts, and whenever the firefighters found some extra time, they headed over to the Stratton residence.

"Honestly, it wasn't that big of a deal," he said. "We just decided we would do a few things for them, and then it just became routine for us."



For their efforts, Sunset Fire was recognized with the "Above and Beyond award," which is given out annually by the Utah Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

"The fire department really bent over backwards for the Strattons," said Kim Watts, executive director of ESGR Utah. "That kind of support is so important because it eases the mind of the troops when they go out to battle. They can focus on their mission and not have to worry about who's taking care of their house when they are in a foxhole."

— By Mitch Shaw, *The Standard-Examiner*, Nov. 21, 2010

Washington County Sheriff Recognized for Support

ST. GEORGE — Sheriff Kirk Smith accepted an award Sept. 8 on behalf of the Washington County Sheriff's Office for support of the National Guard and the Military Reserve programs. The award was presented by Mel Osborn of ESGR Utah's Region 4.



ESGR is an organization which recognizes employers who endorse employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve Forces.

Throughout the last decade, the Washington County Sheriff's Office has had many of its members serve in the Middle East region and in other active-duty assignments throughout the Continental United States. The Sheriff's Office currently has two of its members on active duty in military-reserve programs.

— From *news.washeriff.net*, Sept 16, 2010

The Buckner Company Receives Patriot Award

SALT LAKE CITY — The Buckner Company's President and CEO Terry H. Buckner and Employee Benefits Sales Executive Rich Peterson received a Patriot Award Oct. 21 from ESGR Utah Executive Director Kim Watts.

Buckner employee, John Walters, who recently served for one year on active duty in Afghanistan, nominated the two for the award.

Walters, now a member of the Marine Corps Reserve, began his career as an employee benefits insurance agent with The Buckner Company just four months before being called out on active duty. He left behind his pregnant wife, knowing that his job was waiting for him

when he returned. Walters returned to his position earlier this year.

Though it is a law to hold job positions for members of the National Guard and Reserve while they are called away on active duty, Walters felt that his boss, Buckner, and mentor, Peterson, went above and beyond their duty. Buckner and Peterson reached out to Walters' wife while he was serving in Afghanistan. They made sure she was taken care of. Peterson and Walters stayed in touch through social networking Web sites during Walters' service.

"Some employers keep jobs open for deploying Servicemembers because it's the law," said Walters. "And some employers do it because it's the right thing to do. Terry definitely fits into the latter group. He told me before I left to not worry about a thing. I have felt his support all along. Rich has been my teacher and mentor since I arrived at Buckner. He has taught me just about everything I know about insurance and relationships. More than that, he has been a friend. When I was deployed he became an arm of support for my wife."

When Walters returned this past spring, he rejoined his colleagues and was able to pick up where he left off.

According to Watts, 48 percent of the men and women currently serving on active duty are National Guard and Reserve. They are our neighbors, colleagues and friends.



They give up their personal lives to serve their country. Men and women like Walters walk away from everything, hoping their jobs are still available when they return.

Founded in Ogden in 1936, The Buckner Company specializes in construction and commercial businesses, as well as personal insurance, employee benefits, and surety bonding.

— From *insurancejournal.com* and *blog.buckner.com*, Nov. 16, 2010

Out and About



Photo by LTC Hank McIntire

Joe Ford, vice president of Raytheon Oakley Systems, center, with Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Sadler, receives the Above and Beyond Award from Bart Davis.

SALT LAKE CITY — Raytheon Oakley vice president Joe Ford received the Above and Beyond Award Nov. 11 in a ceremony at the University of Utah.

Raytheon Oakley was nominated by employee Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Sadler, 19th Special Forces Group, Utah National Guard, for being fully supportive of his military obligations.



Photo courtesy of AlYardley

SPC Andrew Garrett, Chris Svedin, and AlYardley at a Patriot Award ceremony at Lowe's in Lehi Oct. 19.

LEHI — A Patriot Award was presented Oct. 19 to Chris Svedin, a manager at Lowe's in Lehi, for his support of his employees in the Guard and Reserve.

ESGR Utah Region 3 volunteer AlYardley presented the award to Svedin, nominated by Spc. Andrew Garrett, 19th Special Forces Group, Utah National Guard, for supporting him in his military training requirements, no questions asked.



Photo courtesy of David Gunn

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Church, Paul Johnson, and David Gunn at a Patriot Award ceremony in Orem Nov. 9.

OREM — Orem City Attorney Paul Johnson received the Patriot Award Nov. 9 from ESGR Utah Region 3 volunteer David Gunn.

Johnson was nominated by Lt. Col. Robert Church of the Utah Guard's 97th Troop Command. "My boss did not hesitate in allowing me to meet my military obligations during the Herriman Fire," wrote Church in his nomination of Johnson.



Photo courtesy of Kay Hargis

Kay Hargis, left, presents Patriot Award to Brenda Rehmer, who was nominated by employee Spc. Stephen Burris.

LAYTON — Specialist Stephen Burris, 2-211th Aviation, Utah Army National Guard, an employee at North Davis Hospital, nominated supervisor Brenda Rehmer for a Patriot Award.

ESGR Utah volunteer Kay Hargis presented the award to Rehmer Dec. 1 for her contribution to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting her military employees.



Photo courtesy of Morty Jenkins
 Anne Blackett, Barry Noorda, Gary Fowers, and David Kirkman receive certificates and flags from Col. Kenneth Wade, center, for their support.

LOGAN — Colonel Kenneth Wade, 144th Area Support Medical Company, Utah National Guard, presented flags and certificates to his employers at Cache Valley Women’s Center for their support during his deployment to Afghanistan.

Doctors Anne Blackett, Barry Noorda, Gary Fowers and David Kirkman received the awards Oct. 19. Wade is a physician’s assistant with the Cache Valley Women’s Center and a 30-year Veteran of the U.S. Military.



Photo courtesy of Kay Hargis
 Nedra Larsen, center right, receives spouse Patriot Award from SSG David Sandberg, Tawna Sanderg, and Kay Hargis at Flying J Dec. 3.

OGDEN — Nedra Larsen of Flying J in Ogden received the Patriot Award from Tawna Sandberg, wife of SSG David Sandberg, and Kay Hargis, ESGR Utah Committee Region I, for providing Tawna with a flexible schedule and friendly work environment.



Photo courtesy of Morty Jenkins
 Morty Jenkins, SGT Andrew Helpinstine, and Ty Measom attend a Patriot Award ceremony for Camp Chef, Inc., in Logan Nov. 2.

LOGAN — Sergeant Andrew Helpinstine, 146th Transportation Company, U.S. Army Reserve, nominated his boss, Ty Measom, president of Camp Chef, Inc., for the Patriot Award.

Morty Jenkins of ESGR Utah’s Region I presented the award to Measom.



Photo courtesy of Kay Hargis
 Kay Hargis, Steven Wilson, SSG Scott Sandberg, John Diamond, and Michael Burnham at Patriot Award presentation at ATK Systems Oct. 25.

FREEMONT CENTER — Kay Hargis, ESGR Utah committee member, represented Region I in presenting three Patriot Awards Oct. 25 to Steven Wilson, John Diamond, and Michael Burnham for their support of employee SSG David Sandberg, 420th MP Company, U.S. Army Reserve.

“He never argues the fact that I need more time off for military events, whether it be last-minute service or long-notice training events,” wrote Sandberg in his nomination of Burnham.

Out and About



*Photo courtesy of Morty Jenkins
Alan Wheeler, Dolores Wheeler, Morty Jenkins, SGT William Pedersen, and Eric Humphreys participate in a Patriot Award ceremony at Gossner Foods.*

LOGAN — Sergeant William Pedersen, 395th Finance Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, nominated CEO of Gossner Foods Dolores Wheeler and supervisor Eric Humphreys for the Patriot Award.

Morty Jenkins, presented the awards to Wheeler and Humphreys Aug. 31.



*Photo courtesy of Kim Watts
Stacy Stetner, Shawn Choate, Al Cain, Brian Johnson, Chris Healy (front row), Ryan Peterson, Kim Watts, and Chris Willden, (back row) at Statement of Support ceremony.*

LAYTON — Taking the challenge from the national organization of the Society for Human Resource Management, members of its Utah chapter signed Statements of Support for military employees at their annual Crossroads Conference Sept. 20.

ESGR Utah Executive Director Kim Watts and Deputy Director for Military Outreach Chris Willden presided at the Sept. 20 event.



*Photo by LTC Hank McIntire
Shannon Atkinson, left, of Intermountain Medical Center, speaks as an employer of Soldiers on a Veterans Day panel at the University of Utah.*

SALT LAKE CITY — The University of Utah’s Veterans Day committee sponsored a Nov. 11 panel, entitled “Deployment: From Family to Foxhole,” to highlight the challenges faced by Servicemembers, families, and employers during mobilization.

The panel included a recently returned Soldier from Afghanistan, a wife and daughter of a currently deployed Soldier, and an employer of a Soldier now serving in Afghanistan.

Shannon Atkinson, of Intermountain Medical Center, is supervisor to SSG Rachael Kotter, now serving with the 144th Area Support Medical Company in Afghanistan.

“I was amazed by the reaction of her co-workers,” said Atkinson. “It became a real source of pride in our department that we had a Soldier. Knowing where she is and what she is doing has made [her absence] bearable.”

Key ESGR Utah Staff

- Bart Davis, State Chairman, (801) 432-4937
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Contact Us

We welcome your feedback on the ESGR Utah newsletter. Please E-mail LTC Hank McIntire at hank.mcintire@us.army.mil or call (801) 432-4407.

For Employers

The National Guard and Reserve are an integral part of our military. As an employer, you are vital to enabling your employees who are members of the Guard and Reserve to serve our country. Your active support and encouragement is critical to their success. Here's how you can help:

- Learn more about the role of the National Guard and Reserve.
- Get to know your employees' military commanders and supervisors.
- Sign a Statement of Support for the National Guard and Reserve.
- Review your personnel policies to see how they accommodate the Guard and Reserve.
- Seek assistance from ESGR.
- Become an ESGR volunteer!

For Servicemembers

Most employment conflicts can be avoided by being candid with your employer about your military obligations. Don't take your employer's support for granted. Keep your boss informed about what you do in the military and when you do it. Take time to recognize their sacrifice to support you. Specifically:

- Talk to your boss. Let them know your military skills can help you in your civilian job.
- Know the laws that protect your employment and share that information with your employer.
- Give your boss advance notice for EVERY military duty that may take you away from work.
- Nominate your boss for one of many ESGR awards to show you appreciate their support.
- Use the resources from ESGR to show your boss the vital role of the Guard and Reserve.

Nominate Your Supportive Employer

2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award

Attention Guard and Reserve Service Members and Families

Nominate your supportive employer for the
Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award,
the highest award given by the U.S. Government to employers
for exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees.

Nominations
November 1, 2010 - January 17, 2011
at www.FreedomAward.mil



ESGR, a Department of Defense agency established in 1972, develops and promotes employer support for Guard and Reserve service, advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws and resolving conflict between employers and service members.

www.ESGR.mil ★ 1-800-336-4590

