



Utah



Message from the State Chairman

It's hard to believe, but in six short months we will be reviewing the goals, achievements, and challenges of Fiscal Year 2010!



Bart Davis

We continue to plan for and support deployments of the men and women in Utah's Reserve and National Guard units to overseas combat theaters.

This year is proving to be very challenging for Servicemembers, families, and employers. Communications with employees deployed

overseas continue to be routine items on business-meeting agendas throughout Utah. Families continue to mark off days on refrigerator calendars until husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters land in the good old USA, and everyone can breathe a deep sigh of relief.

Service support organizations such as ESGR, Yellow Ribbon teams, Family Support offices, Family Wellness counselors, and many others are all in place and working hard to fill the void and assist Servicemembers, families, and employers.

We have just completed a six-month period that is not much different than the last eight years except that in most cases we are no longer just talking about what needs to be done, we are actually

providing information, education, and support in numerous ways.

Thousands of our fellow Utahns have benefited from the unselfish efforts of caring volunteers and other patriots throughout our state.

We all look forward to the day that these services are no longer needed, but for now I thank all of you for your dedication and service in these most important endeavors.

Event Calendar

- June 8 - Military Advisory Council Meeting
- June 9 - Executive Committee Meeting
- July 15 - Deadline for Summer 2010 Newsletter

Key ESGR Utah Staff

- Bart Davis, State Chairman, (801) 432-4937
- Kim Watts, Executive Director, (801) 432-4492
- Bill Rappleye, Employer Outreach, (801) 550-9578
- Dennis Johnson, Military Outreach, (801) 652-8897

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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.

Annual Planning and Awards Conference

Awards

ESGR Utah held its Annual Planning and Awards conference March 26-27 in Salt Lake City. Major General Brian L. Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, was keynote speaker at banquet and assisted the Utah committee in presenting the following awards to employers, supporters, and ESGR volunteers:



- **'Pro Patria' Award** - For outstanding service to national defense through support of the Guard and Reserve:
 - MonaVie, West Valley City
- **Seven Seals Award** - For meritorious leadership and initiative in support of the Guard and Reserve:
 - Frank Clawson, LDS Church Military Relations
 - Cdr. Eric Ostrum, U.S. Navy Reserve
 - Annette Barnes, Utah Guard Family Programs
- **Golden Spike Award** - In appreciation for dedicated service to ESGR:
 - MG Brian Tarbet, Utah National Guard



Training

As important as awards and distinguished visitors are to any organization, the most important aspect of the ESGR Utah annual conference was the chance to receive training in the various components of ESGR.

In an all-day session on Saturday, volunteers met together under the direction of executive director Kim Watts to hear from the experts about how to better serve Servicemembers and employers.

LTC Hank McIntire, Public Affairs director for ESGR Utah, presented some tips on how members of the committee can more effectively tell the ESGR story and publicize committee events:

- Encourage your local newspaper, radio, or television station to sign a Statement of Support. Once they know what an SOS is, they will be more likely to respond when you invite them to cover other SOS signings.
- When you send in photos of an ESGR event, please include names and titles of each person in the photo, the name of the photographer, and a description of the event.
- Provide advance notice to ESGR Utah Public Affairs so that we notify the local press of your event.
- ESGR Utah now has a photo-gallery page on flickr. Go to www.flickr.com/photos/esgr-utah/sets to see photos of recent committee events, presentations, and conferences.



Contact Us

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

Out and About



*Photo courtesy of Amber Middlebrook
Linda Higgins, center, joins Kay Christofferson, right, and Doug Griffiths
at a Patriot Award and Statement of Support signing for Sunroc*

OREM — Doug Griffiths, of Sunroc, was recognized with the Patriot Award April 6, for his support of employee SPC John Middlebrook, 489th Brigade Support Battalion, Utah National Guard.

“My employer goes out of his way to show how grateful they are for my service and supports my duties to the fullest in the National Guard,” wrote Middlebrook.



*Photo courtesy of Frank Maughan
Frank Maughan, left, of ESGR Utah, presents the
Patriot Award to Jim Heyward of Brenntag Pacific*

OGDEN — Frank Maughan, ESGR Utah committee member, represented ESGR Utah Committee Region I in presenting the Patriot Award Feb. 16 to Jim Heyward of Brenntag Pacific for his support of his employees who are members of the Guard and Reserve.



*Photo by Stan Poulson
Sufco Mine employees show the ESGR awards
their company received in a presentation Feb. 8.*

RICHFIELD — Canyon Fuel’s Sufco Mine received the ESGR Patriot Award Feb. 8 for its support of its employees who are in the military.

“During the past 18 months, my employer has shown nothing but support for me and the National Guard,” wrote Sufco employee David Roberts in nominating his supervisor, Ken May, for the award.



*Photo courtesy of Jim Kopecky
Jim Kopecky, center, of ESGR Utah Region I,
presents a Patriot Award to employees of Citi Group*

LAYTON — Trinady Hutchins, right, a member of the Utah Guard’s 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, is a corporate service specialist with Citi Group. She nominated supervisor Kevin Brown, far right, for the ESGR Patriot Award, which was presented to him and his company April 2 for their support of Hutchins in fulfilling her military duties.

Utah Guard Soldier Employers Get a 'Lift' to Fort Lewis

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — Twenty-nine civilian employers of members of the Utah Guard's 144th Area Support Medical Company hopped aboard a 'Boss Lift' April 1-3 to Fort Lewis, Wash., to see their Soldiers in action as they prepared for a 12-month deployment to Afghanistan.

Boss Lifts, sponsored by the Utah Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, are part of a national ESGR program which gives civilian employers of Guard members an on-the-ground taste of what their Employee-Soldiers are going through during their preparations to deploy.

The Camp Williams-based 144th consists of 80 Soldiers with the mission to treat patients in a hospital/clinic setting and provide medevac and



ambulance support in a combat environment at Bagram Air Base and forward locations in Afghanistan.

En route from Salt Lake City to Fort Lewis on a Utah Air National Guard KC-135R Stratotanker, by luck of the draw—literally—a few passengers had the rare chance to sit in the cockpit's jump seat for takeoff and landing.

"That was really cool!" said Justin Withers, of Questar Gas, of his few minutes in the cockpit. He was on the trip to see employee SPC Tom Munford. "I tried to soak it in and enjoy all of it. It was exciting and a lot of fun."

Employers also got an up-close look at a midair refueling as a group of A-10 Thunderbolts—better known as Warthogs—from Mountain Home Air

Force Base, Idaho, sidled up one by one to the boom at the rear of the KC-135.

Passengers did a bit of sidling as well as they peeked over boom operator MSgt Jason Blood's



shoulders while each A-10 received its share of the KC-135's liquid payload: 8,000 pounds of fuel dispensed in just three minutes flat.

Once on the ground at Fort Lewis, employers received a briefing from leaders of the 191st Infantry Brigade, the unit responsible for training the Soldiers of the 144th for their mission in Afghanistan.

"It's important for employers to see the quality of training that the Armed forces provide their workers, who will come back to them after a year in Afghanistan," said COL Jay Gordon Flowers, commander of the 191st. "It's also important for Soldiers to see that they will have a job on the other side of this deployment."



To experience what their employees go through each day, after the briefing employers received and assembled the same personal-protection gear their

Fort Lewis Boss Lift (continued)

Soldiers wear to include helmet, goggles and flak jacket.

After checking into the Rainer Inn, the hotel at Fort Lewis, employers rested for a few hours from their early-morning start before being bused to a formal dinner and social with senior officers and enlisted members of the 144th.

“The training is going well, and my Soldiers are very motivated,” CPT David Stefl, commander of the 144th, told employers. “We’ve had nothing but praise since we’ve been here. It’s the Soldiers who make that happen.”

“You’ll gain a greater respect for the person wearing this green suit during the training tomorrow,” Stefl promised.

“We’ve been pretty punishing on you employers over the last decade,” added MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, during



his remarks at the dinner. “In the National Guard and Reserve, we don’t do business without you.”

“You see someone leave your ranks, it affects your bottom line,” he continued, acknowledging the sacrifice required to support their Employee-Soldiers. “It’s money out of your pocket. It’s a challenge for co-workers to cover. We’re aware of that.”

“As you will see tomorrow, your Soldiers aren’t out on a lark,” Tarbet concluded. “These medical people have performed miracles. Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Sailors are alive today because of what these guys do.”

As Tarbet predicted, the following day proved to

far from a lark, with the cold, rainy weather that Fort Lewis is famous for.

Employers reported at 0545 (5:45 a.m.) for a bus ride to enjoy an Army breakfast of eggs, sausage and all the trimmings with their Soldiers at the dining facility.



Bosses and employers chatted excitedly in a modern version of the mess tent seen on the sitcom *M*A*S*H*, catching up after saying goodbye March 20 when the 144th left Utah for this first leg of their deployment.

Wendell Winegar, owner of an RV park in Island Park, Idaho, sat with his employee, ILT Jeremiah Davies, who also happens to be his grandson.

“I’ve seen a lot of growth, mentally and physically,” said Winegar, recalling his impressions of Davies and his fellow Soldiers. “You see them and they are compassionate with people. They are a tribute to the Service.”



Davies, of Plain City, a platoon leader with the 144th, was touched and surprised to see his grandfather, who not only signs his paycheck, but as a

Fort Lewis Boss Lift (continued)

retired Army officer also administered the oath to him when Davies joined the military.

“I just filled out the paper to give him an award,” said Davies of his employer-grandfather. “I didn’t know they were going to fly him out here. He supported me all through college and when I commissioned he swore me in.”

Winegar also spent time with another grandson, PFC Michael Winegar, 151st Signal Battalion, who happens to be stationed at Fort Lewis, preparing to deploy in October.

“It was really nice to see him,” said Michael. “I haven’t seen him since I left for Basic.”

Another duo reunited on this trip had even more in common than Winegar and Davies. Leland Slaughter, a civilian employee with the Utah Guard’s



Survivor Outreach Services, met up with PFC Leland Slaughter, a medic with the 144th, employed with Provo City’s water department.

“This was pretty cool—I didn’t expect it,” said Leland, Jr. “It’s been nice having him around. It’s made a difference.”

The senior Slaughter, while thrilled to spend a few hours with his Soldier son, saw how this trip will make him a more effective resource to military families back home.

“This gives me a better understanding of what they are going through,” said Leland, Sr. “I think it will help me in talking with the families and help me relate better to their Soldiers’ experiences.”

After breakfast, Soldiers of the 144th left for the day’s training and employers broke out their “snivel

gear,” as Soldiers call it, to stay warm and dry. They had a hands-on tour of the Mine-Resistant, Ambushed-Protected (MRAP) vehicle, the planned



replacement for the humvee, and walked through the IED (improvised explosive device) “petting zoo” to see real examples of the deadly tactics and weapons the enemy uses against Coalition forces in Afghanistan.

Rounding out the morning, employers observed their Soldiers run through an exercise that required them to move a convoy through a danger area en route to a meeting with a tribal elder in a built-to-scale Afghan village complete with shops, huts, mosque, and native roleplayers chattering in Pashto.

Employers watched in the rain from a distance and monitored the event on portable radios, hearing them successfully navigate the hazardous route to the village. They also saw them learn some tough lessons as their encounter in the village turned “deadly” with the “loss” of a handful of Soldiers when one of the women roleplayers detonated an explosive device hidden under her clothes.



Fort Lewis Boss Lift (continued)

“I learned today that it’s hard,” said a wet and cold Withers after the exercise. “Sometimes in the civilian world [we] have it a lot easier. [Soldiers] don’t stop if the weather’s bad. If it’s a rainy or snowy day, we [civilians] can slow down a little bit, but these guys don’t have that opportunity.”

Employers and Soldiers returned to the mess tent and lunched on the Army’s version of fast food, the infamous MRE (Meal Ready to Eat). At table after table Soldiers gave impromptu classes to their bosses on how to use the heaters that come in every package to bring the food to a palatable temperature.

As Soldiers continued with their training for the day, employers returned to the main garrison for a tour of the Medical Simulation Training Center to see how each Soldier is trained and prepared to provide basic emergency medical aid.



After a chance to clean up at the hotel, employers moved to the Allen Reserve Center to prepare for a barbecue dinner with their employees, many carrying the care packages brought from home or the office.

As members of the 144th entered the hall, spontaneous applause erupted from employers. Soldiers were visibly moved by the tribute as they formed a line around the perimeter of the room.

Soldiers needed little coaxing to move through the food line manned by Utah Guard leaders and Fort Lewis staff serving up barbecued ribs, chicken, hot dogs, and hamburgers in the closest thing to a home-cooked meal they would have for a long time.

Bosses and employees sat together to eat, chat, and share their packages. Employers looked like parents on Christmas morning as they watched their “children” open the gifts they had brought.



This final opportunity to spend time with their employees was the highlight of the trip for many employers. Angelo Aguilar, of Honeywell International, is a supervisor to SPC Benjamin Carr at Hill Air Force Base.

“Ben brings a level of maturity to the job,” said Aguilar, a retired Marine, believing that Carr’s military service enhances his work performance. “He helps train people; he stays on task. He knows how to communicate with me.”

“And he is in the [military] brotherhood,” added Aguilar. “That’s why I’m here supporting Ben, because he is in the Club.”

Carr, of Roy, knows that with Aguilar’s Marine background, his boss understands what it takes to be a Citizen-Soldier, and he’s glad that Boss Lifts help educate those who haven’t fully seen the light.



Fort Lewis Boss Lift (continued)

"It gives them a better appreciation for what we do out here and how we get ready for what we're going to do," said Carr. "Some employers don't really get what we do in the Guard. This is a really a good chance to understand completely what we do. Instead of sitting back and saying, 'Oh, you just get to play Army,' well, they come out and see our training and see if we're really 'playing' or not."

"It's nice for them to see what they let us have our time off to do," added SSG Rachael Kotter, of Taylorsville, a medic with the 144th. In civilian life she is a phlebotomist with Intermountain Medical Center in Murray, Utah.



Kotter is thankful that her boss, Shannon Atkinson, also "gets it."

"They hired me knowing that there was a possibility of my deploying," explained Kotter.

"I have a deeper respect for what these people go through," said Atkinson. "Getting to see her in her uniform just puts it into context. I see that when she is not at work, this is what she is doing. They deserve our support and respect. What they are doing is an honorable thing."

"What an honor to be invited here," Atkinson continued. "If [employers] have the opportunity, it's a chance of a lifetime to spend these last few days with their Soldier. It's inspiring."

Other Soldiers take comfort in knowing that their employment is secure and will be waiting for them when they return.

"I know my job is there when I get back, and I can step right back into my old shoes and pick up where

I left off," said SPC Tom Munford, of Brigham City. "Other people, you can see the concern in their eyes," he continued. "They're not as sure as I am."



Even my family was concerned about my job at Questar. I told them, 'It'll be there. I know they will support me.'"

Unit commander Stefl, a Farmington resident and physician's assistant with Mountain Orthopedics in Bountiful, also knows what it means to have a supportive employer in Dr. Pepper Murray.

"I had a difficult time the last time I deployed, but Dr. Murray has been great," Stefl said. "I've worked for Pepper for three years. It's been quite a contrast from my last deployment. Night and day."

Stefl hopes that civilian employers truly understand how much they can contribute to the success of the Guard and Reserve.

"They are serving their country by letting their Soldiers serve in the Guard, making sure our freedoms are protected," he said. "It's important that we make sure they have a way to come home and take care of their families."

