



Utah



Summer 2009

Message from the State Chairman

To Utah Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen,
Marines, Service Families, and Employers:



Bart Davis

It is extremely fortunate for the 8,000-plus National Guard members and Reservists in Utah to have three full-time professionals and a dedicated force of 68 volunteers to serve them. Literally thousands of volunteer hours are devoted each quarter to

ensuring those that serve this nation (everyone who deploys, waits at home, or fills the void at the office or in the warehouse) are recognized, appreciated, and assisted as much as possible.

For over 13 years I have watched ESGR Utah grow. Before 9/11 it was a worthwhile and well-meaning organization that visited armories, gave out awards, and tried to assist wherever they could. Weekend drills and two-week Annual Trainings didn't create a lot of employer conflict.

Today, however, with Guardsmen/women and Reservists deploying for their second and third combat tours, the ESGR mission has changed

considerably. The sacrifice of everyone concerned is significant and goes well beyond inconvenience. Lives are changed forever—the lives of those who deploy, those who wait at home and those in the workplace.

I am so very proud and appreciative to be a member of this organization as we try to assist in making these inevitable changes as minimal and as positive as possible.

Please accept my sincere appreciation for all that you do.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- August 15 - Army Reserve Yellow Ribbon Event
- August 27 - UTNG TAG VIP Blackhawk Flight
- September 9 - Executive Committee Meeting
- September 19 - UTNG Governor's Day
- September 25-26 - Committee Training

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) 432-4300

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.

'Pro Patria' Recipient, Associated Food Stores, Continues Its Winning Ways

After being honored by ESGR Utah, Salt Lake City-based Associated Food Stores continues to receive national recognition for their trucks and trailers. The most recent recognition comes from the National Private Truck Council's Private Fleet Graphics Contest.

The recently created patriotic trailers were the focus of the award submission. Members of the Associated Food Stores; service team group attended a recent conference in Nashville, Tenn., to accept the award.

"It's great to work for a company where departments can come together to create such fantastic work," said Hayden Caffey, team services generalist. "It was such a team effort and we appreciate everyone who was involved in the success."



Photo courtesy of Associated Food Stores
One of Associated Food's many tractor-trailers with a graphic-design tribute to our military and families.

The award recognizes fleets for their "creative and conspicuous" graphic design, color schemes and general appearance. The patriotic graphics were created in-house by the Creative Services department. Team members pictured on the trailers are Guard and Reserve Servicemembers employed by Associated Food Stores.

"We appreciate the opportunity to help," said Jim Macedon, graphic design supervisor, Creative Services. "It is reward to assist the transportation team and exciting to see our work so prominently displayed."



In addition to being the ESGR Utah Committee's "Pro Patria" award winner for 2008, Associated Food Stores' was also Utah's nominee for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.



Photo by Ray Carsey
Associated Food's CEO Richard Parkinson, second from left, and Senior Master Sergeant Chad Christensen, second from right, at a July ESGR Utah Patriot Award presentation.

Contact Us

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



Tooele County Sheriff Frank Park signs an ESGR Statement of Support in July, pledging to continue to support his officers who serve in the Guard and Reserve. Park and his staff were nominated for the award by one of their employees, Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Miller, currently deployed with the Wyoming National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery.



Central and Southern Utah employers of Soldiers of the Utah Guard's 222nd Field Artillery attend an open house at Camp Williams in June. These visitors saw their Soldiers during their Annual Training and gained a greater appreciation for their military duties.



ESGR Public Affairs volunteers from 12 states and Guam gathered in Baltimore, Md., in May. Lieutenant Col. Hank McIntire; below, center; of ESGR Utah, was among those who received training in the latest best practices and techniques for telling the ESGR story.



President of the Utah Fire Chiefs Association and West Jordan Fire Chief Brad Wardle, center, signed a Statement of Support in May in support of his employees who are members of the Guard and Reserve.



Nominated by ESGR New Mexico, Capt. Wayne Lee, Utah Air National Guard (pictured at left), receives the Seven Seals Award in July from Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard.

Lee deployed to New Mexico for Operation Jump Start in 2007-2008 as a public affairs officer. He was instrumental in arranging more than a dozen tours and Boss Lifts for commanders and civilian employers of National Guard members from throughout the nation as they visited the U.S.-Mexico border area to observe their employees performing their military duties.

"A lot of employers didn't know what their military employees did," said Lee. "They gained a greater respect for their employees."