



Summer 2010

Utah



Message from the State Chairman

Reflecting on the Utah ESGR Committee's spring and summer activities, I am amazed at the time and talents that have been generously given by our committee members, command leadership and employers of our state.



Bart Davis

One example of this busy season is the recent completion of our third Boss Lift in 2010.

A Boss Lift is a trip hosted by the ESGR Committee for employers of men and women who are training at active-duty mobilization stations prior to deploying overseas.

For each Boss Lift we travel to the active-duty installation via a Utah Air Guard KC-135 aircraft and spend a very busy 48 hours accompanying Servicemembers as they train. The benefits are a much-improved relationship between employees and employers. It also demonstrates to service members our appreciation for the sacrifices they make to serve the community, state, and nation.

Approximately 2,500 volunteer hours are expended with each Boss Lift. In addition, considering the visits and briefings by committee members to armories and reserve centers, committee meetings, and visits to employers to

provide training or present awards, literally thousands of hours have been donated this year to support the efforts of our men and women in uniform, their families and their employers.

It is a privilege to be part of this patriotic organization. To see and feel the dedication of our Guard and Reserve forces as they leave their families and employment to serve in a foreign land is humbling. It is a great incentive to work harder to be worthy of their trust that we will take care of their interests here at home until they return.

Thank you all for your efforts in supporting this cause.

Event Calendar

- Sept. 8 - Executive Committee Planning Meeting
- Sept. 21 - Military Advisory Council Meeting
- Sept. 24-25 - Year-End Training Conference
- Nov. 1-5 - ESGR National Support Staff Conference
- March 25-26 - Annual Planning/Awards Conference

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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.

Employers of Utah Guard's 141st Military Intelligence Battalion Soldiers Travel to Fort Lewis

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — Civilian employers of members of the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion, Utah National Guard, traveled to Fort Lewis, Wash., July 10-12 to meet and observe their Soldier-Employees preparing for deployment to Iraq.



This 'Boss Lift,' sponsored by the Utah Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, is part of a national ESGR program that gives civilian employers of Guard and Reserve members an up-close look at what their employees are going through as they prepare to deploy.

The 36 employers from local Utah businesses and government agencies boarded a Utah Air National Guard KC-135R Stratotanker bound for McChord Air Force Base, adjacent to Fort Lewis.

En route to McChord, the KC-135 crew refueled a handful of F-16 fighters from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, as employers descended into the pod to observe the refueling operation over the shoulders of the boom operator.

"It was amazing to be a part of something that you only see in the movies, said Danae Fowers, general merchandise manager at ShopKo in Logan. "It was a neat opportunity to experience that."

Once on the ground at Fort Lewis, employers received a briefing from leaders of the 1st Joint Mobilization Brigade and 191st Training Brigade, the units charged with readying the 141st for its combat

mission to provide intelligence support to Coalition forces in Iraq.

Later in the evening, employers spent time with officer and enlisted leaders of the 141st at a formal dinner, where MG Brian Tarbet explained what the visitors would see the next day when they observed their Soldiers in the field.

"By tomorrow night you will be changed by what you see," said Tarbet. "These are extraordinary Soldiers. When this battalion shows up, that's when the 'A' team gets there."

The following day, employers ate all three meals with their Soldiers in the field dining facility, donned combat gear like their employees wear, toured the barracks, lunched on MREs and saw trainers from the 191st Training Brigade run Soldiers through a variety of classes and scenarios to prepare them for the dangerous environment they will face overseas.

"One of the biggest threats we see in Iraq and Afghanistan is the IED (Improvised Explosive Device)," said LTC Silas Martinez, commander of 3rd Engineer Battalion of the 191st. "The three-day, IED-defeat program we give to units that come through here really provides them that baseline knowledge to make them aware of the threat."



Returning from the field, Soldiers and employers lined up to enjoy a traditional American barbecue dinner complete with hot dogs, hamburgers, grilled chicken and ribs. Many bosses delivered care packages from home and spent some all-too-brief time with their Soldiers before they had to return to duty.

Fort Lewis Boss Lift (continued)

Staff Sergeant Angel Lopez, of Tremonton, a counterintelligence agent with the 141st and an unloader at Wal-Mart Distribution Center, enjoyed the visit from his boss, Travis Rose.

"I thought it was awesome that [Travis] got to experience a little bit of everything of what we do," said Lopez. "He got to see the things that we do, how we work, all the 'suck' we have to go through sometimes."

"[A trip like this] gives you some insight—especially if you have never served in them military," added Rose. "I've always had respect for our Armed Services, but this really opens my eyes."

Sergeant Randy Smith, of Logan, appreciated time with his ShopKo supervisor, Danae Fowers.

"It's a pretty good experience to have the support," said Smith. "My manager is pretty good about stuff. She has been helpful and willing to facilitate whatever the Army needs from me."



In return, Fowers gets an employee who, due to his Army experience, "doesn't question things if he knows that something just needs to be done," she said. "He sees the bigger picture of what's important. There is a maturity level when you have someone in the military."

"[And being here], you get to see what their 'other life' is," added Fowers. "These are people, not employees."

By the end of the trip, as General Tarbet predicted, Soldiers' bosses saw their Soldier-Employees differently.

"I had several employers come up to me and say, 'We can't describe this,' said LTC Matt Price, commander of the 141st. "That's how moved they were."

"I appreciated how kind and thoughtful these bosses were, bringing gifts and stuff from their families," Price added. "That's just a great boss. It's a pleasure to work for that kind of people."

**118th Sapper Company Visited at Fort McCoy by Employers**

FORT McCOY, Wis. — Twenty-two employers of Utah National Guard Soldiers left their businesses and homes to travel to Fort McCoy, Wis., to visit their Soldier-employees serving with the 118th Sapper Company, 1457th Engineer Battalion, while they prepared for deployment to Afghanistan.

Employers reunited with their Soldiers and watched them train to gain an understanding of what National Guard Soldiers do. They watched a night live-fire exercise, convoy training, and spent an evening with their employees.

"It's amazing to see," said Renea Neiderman, of Brigham Young University, about the dedication of these Citizen-Soldiers. "Everyone thinks it's a part-time commitment when they commit fully."

The first night, employers got a chance to meet their Soldiers for the first time in training, as well as to have a close look at some of the equipment and weapons Soldiers would be using on the night course. They climbed aboard up-armored

Boss Lifts

Fort McCoy Boss Lift (continued)

Humvees to take in a view from the gunner's position and got some hands-on instruction on the weapons at the range. As night fell, a handful of night-vision goggles were passed around while Soldiers mounted up and ran through the nighttime course, lighting up targets with a tracer mix from both the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, or light machine gun, and the M2 .50 caliber heavy machine gun.

"It was awesome," said Chad Hanks from Aspen Ranch, a center for troubled teens near Loa, Utah. "It's a great experience for an employer, and for the five [no-shows] who didn't come, they missed out."



On Day 2 employers watched a convoy live-fire exercise, with a few bosses riding in Mine Resistant, Ambush-Protected (MRAP) vehicles, following behind the Soldiers. After the exercise, they met with their Soldiers again for an MRE lunch and an off-road training course.

"It's a good program," said Sgt. Thad Fitzsimmons, 118th Sapper Company, about the Boss Lift. "It gives our employers an idea of what our jobs are going to be."

In the evening employers ate with their Soldiers at the Fort McCoy dining facility and listened to speeches from Brig. Gen. Michael Liechty, the Utah Guard's land component commander; Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Summers, Utah's senior enlisted leader; Capt. Blake Bingham, commander of the 118th; and 1st Sgt. Charles Barkey, senior enlisted leader of the unit.



Included in the dinner event was an awards ceremony, where officials from the Utah Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve presented Patriot Awards to Chad Hanks, of Aspen Ranch; Jason Houghton, Barnes Bullets; and, Ed Rhoads, of Heber City Police Department. Coins were given to selected Soldiers of the 118th for outstanding performance in their duties.

After the formalities, Soldiers and employers had time to mingle. Gary Behrendt, of Energy Solutions in Moab, Utah, presented Spc. Joshua Stocks, a member of 1st Platoon, 118th Sappers, with a card signed by his fellow employees. Other employers tossed around a football with Soldiers and talked.

"Their heritage is the men at Lexington and Concord who put down their plows, locked up their stores and picked up their muskets to fight the British," said retired Col. Kim Watts of ESGR Utah, during his remarks at the dinner. "That's who they are. It's the tradition of the Minuteman."





Photo courtesy of Morty Jenkins

Jonathan and Sherry Badger, SGT Richard Cardon, Jarad McDonald and Morty Jenkins pose for a Patriot Award presentation at Lee's Marketplace.

LOGAN — Owners Jonathan and Sherry Badger and manager Jarad McDonald received the Patriot Award June 10 from SGT Richard Cardon and ESGR Region I representative Morty Jenkins..

“Lee’s has been very accommodating [of] my service and has never been negative,” wrote Cardon in his nomination.



Photo courtesy of Kay Hargis

FESGR Utah’s Kay Hargis, left, presents Patriot Award to Travis Bates, Home Depot manager in Riverdale.

RIVERDALE — Kay Hargis, ESGR Utah committee member, represented Region I in presenting the Patriot Award June 7 to Travis Bates, manager of the Riverdale Home Depot.

“Travis is very supportive of my Guard service and keeps in touch with my family,” wrote Home Depot employee SPC Chelsea Smith, a member of the Utah Guard’s 19th Special Forces Group.



Photo courtesy of Mark Harrison

Mark Harrison, Tim Hoj, CMC Gregory Lassache, Henning Hoj, and CDR Erik Ostrum at the Navy Operational Support Center July 27.

SALT LAKE CITY — Naval Operations Center Salt Lake City held an event July 27 where ESGR Utah officials briefed Naval Reservists and their employers.

The evening included a brief on the NOSC, its support functions and the roles its tenant units. Following the NOSC brief, ESGR Utah’s Mark Harrison showed an ESGR video and briefed employers on their employees’ reemployment rights.



Photo courtesy of Morty Jenkins

Morty Jenkins, left, of ESGR Utah Region I, and 2LT Shawn Kramer, right, present a Patriot Award to Kris Glad at Schreiber Foods.

LOGAN — 2LT Shawn Kramer, a member of the Utah Guard’s 141st Military Intelligence Battalion, is an employee of Schreiber Foods.

“I have always had a job to go back to after my training assignments,” wrote Kramer. “This company has always been extremely patriotic.”

Out and About



Photo courtesy of Wes Peterson
Chris Brown, right, of Brian Head ski resort, receives the Patriot Award from ESGR Utah's Wes Peterson.

CEDAR CITY — Chris Brown, of Brian Head Ski Resort, received the Patriot Award Aug. 7, for his support of employee SPC Somsak Hendricks of the Utah National Guard's 118th Sapper Company.



Photo courtesy of Wes Peterson
SGT Derrick Veater, left, and Wes Peterson, right, present Carrie Armbruster, Juvenile Justice Services, with a Patriot Award June 2.

CEDAR CITY — Wes Peterson, ESGR Utah committee member, represented ESGR Utah Committee Region 4 in presenting the Patriot Award June 2 to Juvenile Justice Services' Carrie Armbruster for her support of employee SGT Derrick Veater, of the 213th Forward Support Company, Utah National Guard.

"Carrie is very supportive when it comes to training," wrote Veater. "She has always been willing to help [Guardmembers] with getting shifts covered so the Soldier can continue training and work his job."



Photos courtesy of ESGR Utah
Utah employers get the experience of a lifetime as they see the Utah Air National Guard refuel the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels.

SALT LAKE CITY — Employers of Utah Air National Guardmembers rode aboard a Utah Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker Aug. 9 to see their Airmen-Employees perform their military duties. During the flight, the aircrew refueled the world-famous U.S. Navy's Blue Angels team.



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

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.