



# Utah

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## CALENDAR

### APRIL 17

- Governor's Veteran Summit/Job Fair

### APRIL 26

- ESGR Utah Annual Awards Banquet

### APRIL 27

- ESGR Utah Planning & Sustainment Training

## 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

## ESGR Utah Has a Successful FY2012

As I write this short message I am reflecting on this month's events. I and several members of our committee will soon meet with the command leadership of the National Guard and Reserve forces of the various services from throughout the state. We meet periodically to share information and seek opportunities to better support each other and our members.

Mr. Chuck Rackham, our new Hero 2 Hired (H2H) employment transition coordinator, will be meeting with the Salt Lake chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management at their monthly professional-development business meeting. He will have with him six Servicemembers or veterans who are seeking employment.

These Servicemembers will have an opportunity to present themselves to the group during lunch; it is an enormous opportunity. This program is the result of a great relationship that has developed between our two organizations and has resulted in several careers being offered to our veterans and servicemen and women.

The full-time staff is busy preparing for our quarterly Executive Committee Meeting, also scheduled for this month.

We will be reviewing the first-quarter efforts of our Utah committee and we will be planning several significant spring events.

We are expecting a battalion-sized unit, the 1-211th Aviation, to return home from overseas in January and are looking forward to helping them get adjusted back to civilian life.

We continue to enjoy almost universal support from the business community for those who wear the uniform of our country in our behalf. I express my heartfelt appreciation for the sacrifices of businesses large and small and their other employees that make the National Guard and Reserve system in this country possible.

As we start the new year I am confident that our state committee with its strong cadre of volunteers, its professional full-time staff, and our thousands of supporters and friends throughout the state will continue to be a tremendous asset to our National Guard and Reserve, their individual members and families.

Wishing you all a very happy and successful new year.

*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.*



## HIRING OUR HEROES

### SANDY

Martin Walsh, left, a member of the ESGR Utah committee, speaks with a jobseeker about opportunities with a national company Nov. 8 at the 'Hiring Our Heroes' job fair, sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. At the Sandy event more than 600 interviews took place, and nearly 100 applicants received job offers.

### Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair Helps Utah Veterans and Spouses

By Lt. Col. Hank McIntire

SANDY and ST. GEORGE – Nearly 140 employers and more than 800 jobseekers gathered at the South Towne Expo Center for the second annual 'Hiring Our Heroes' job fair Nov. 8.

The focus of the fair was to assist veterans and their spouses to find or upgrade their employment.

Sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the event was a combined effort of several organizations to include the Utah Veterans and Military Employment Coalition, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, Utah Department of Veterans Affairs and Utah

Department of Workforce Services.

"The people who have served in the Armed forces have been trained in leadership and understand what it takes to be a team member and continue to deliver every day in everything they do," said Lane Beattie, president of the Salt Lake Chamber at the opening ceremony.

"We have 85,000 people unemployed in Utah," continued Beattie. "We continue to say to our businesses, '[Hire] just one more.'"

"As many of you saw throughout the elections the main priorities of our candidates at the national, state, and local levels was the economy and jobs," said Brig. Gen. Dallen Attack, assistant adjutant general of the Utah National Guard. "Some of the

people who made these freedoms available to all of us are here today, and they are the ones looking for these jobs."

Rudy Mena, of Riverton, found his current job at the 'Hiring Our Heroes' job fair in Sandy last year, and he is back to see if he can upgrade his current employment.

As a military veteran, Mena knows that he and his counterparts have a great deal to offer potential employers.

"We are reliable, always on time and we are mission-oriented," said Mena. "Once we take an assignment, we finish it and the employer is happy. We served proudly and we continue to work proudly."

Krista Kirkeide was at the fair as an employer, representing Zero Manufacturing, a company that specializes in transit and storage containers, carrying cases and

and custom-made equipment enclosures.

Kirkeide is impressed with the dedication and hard work that veterans bring to the table, which makes them attractive to potential employers.

"This is a great career fair," she said. "We do a lot of custom-end design for the military. We like to support the military and want to bring them on board and put them to work."

This year's fair in Sandy saw 633 interviews between employers and jobseekers, resulting in 29 firm job offers and another 70 provisional offers of employment.

Officials estimate that more than 800 applicants will ultimately be hired as a result of this year's fair, a significant increase over last year's results.

The Utah Veterans and Military Employment Coalition hosted a second 'Hiring Our Heroes' job fair Jan. 24 at the Dixie Center in St. George.

Sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and supported by Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs and the Utah Department of Workforce Services, the event brought together job-seeking veterans or spouses and potential employers.

The mix of employers and jobseekers in St. George reflected a much different demographic than the Sandy job fair. Many small businesses and firms that flourish in a more rural environment, such as Circle 4 Farms, Wells Dairy, and the Bureau of Land Management were among those looking for people to hire for their companies.

As for jobseekers, the average age was significantly older than at the Sandy fair, with many more military retirees than currently serving Guardmembers and Reservists. The presence of representatives from the Veterans Administration, Department of

Workforce Services, and ESGR provided much-needed information about rights and benefits for these older veterans.

With just over 100 jobseekers and about 25 employers in attendance, the numbers were a bit lower than in Sandy, but this provided more opportunities for one-on-one exchanges between applicants and employers.

Chuck Rackham, employment transition coordinator for Hero2-Hired (H2H), a Department of Defense program to help reserve-component Servicemembers to find jobs with military-friendly companies, taught resume classes in Cedar City and St. George in the days before the job fair. He saw many of his students from the class the next day at the event.

"We taught them how to write a resume and then they used those skills to talk to employers," he said. "Everybody I talked to said they had a better insight on what to say to employers, and they were appreciative of the job fair."



## HIRING OUR HEROES

### ST. GEORGE

Chuck Rackham, right, speaks to a military jobseeker at the 'Hiring Our Heroes' job fair held in St. George Jan. 24. More than 100 applicants attended the fair, along with more than 20 employers.

# Out & About



## **DAW TECHNOLOGIES SALT LAKE CITY**

Jim Collings, center, of Daw Technologies, receives the Patriot Award from ESGR Utah's Jeff Tiede, right, for his support of Pfc. Krais Tolley, 624th Engineer Company, currently deployed to Afghanistan. Collings' support of Krais included gifting a laptop, GPS unit, and care packages. Craig Tolley, left, father of Krais, was on hand for the ceremony Sept. 12.

## **AIRGAS INTER-MOUNTAIN LOGAN**

ESGR Utah chairman Bart Davis, center, presented the Above and Beyond Award Nov. 9 to Airgas Intermountain president Doug Jones, right, and Glen Austin, second from right, Airgas area vice president, for their exceptional support of their employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.





# More Out & About

## COLONIAL FLAG SANDY

Paul Swenson, center, and Elizabeth Swenson, second from right, received the Seven Seals award Nov. 9 during a Veterans Day ceremony at the University of Utah. The award is presented to individuals who demonstrate significant achievement and initiative in supporting the mission of ESGR.



## ARCO ELECTRIC SANDY

Leesa Clark-Millerberg, center, of Arco Electric, was nominated for the Patriot Award by Spc. Jamie Spendlove, of the 2-211th Aviation, Utah Army National Guard, for her support of him as an employee and her concern for his family. Richard DeWolf, right, represented ESGR Utah at the ceremony Jan. 16.

# More Out & About



## **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SALT LAKE CITY**

Staff Sgt. John Flores, right, of the U.S. Army Reserve's 5th Civil Affairs Battalion, nominated Anamarie Gold, center, of the Bureau of Reclamation for the Patriot Award. ESGR Utah's Richard DeWolf presented the award Nov. 6 to Gold.

## **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SALT LAKE CITY**

ESGR Utah's Richard DeWolf, left, presented Brent Rhees, center, of the Bureau of Reclamation, with the Patriot Award Nov. 6 for his support of his employee, Staff Sgt. John Flores, right, of the U.S. Army Reserve's 5th Civil Affairs Battalion.





# More Out & About

## PARK CITY FIRE DISTRICT PARK CITY

Master Gunnery Sgt. Dustin Sexton, of the 2/223rd U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, nominated the entire Park City Fire District for the Patriot Award. Richard DeWolf, of ESGR Utah, presented the award to representatives of the fire district during a ceremony Jan. 19.



## BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SALT LAKE CITY

Annie Lambert, center, of the Bureau of Reclamation, received the Patriot Award Nov. 6 from ESGR Utah's Richard DeWolf. Lambert was nominated by Staff Sgt. John Flores, of the 5th Civil Affairs Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, for her support of Flores in fulfilling his military duties.



# Tips & Info

## Statement of Support

The Statement of Support program is the cornerstone of ESGR's effort to gain and maintain employer support for the Guard and Reserve. The intent of the program is to increase employer support by encouraging employers to act as advocates for employee participation in the military. Supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's Guard and Reserve units.

The first Statement of Support was signed in 1972 in the Office of the Secretary of Defense by the Chairman of the Board of General Motors. President Nixon was the first president to sign a Statement of Support, and in 2005 every federal Cabinet secretary and all federal agencies signed a Statement of Support to signify their continuing efforts to be model employers. Since its inception, hundreds of thousands of employers have signed Statements of Support, pledging their support to Guard and Reserve employees.

Employers signing a Statement of Support make the following commitments to their employees:

- We fully recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).
- Our managers and supervisors will have the tools they need to

effectively manage those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.

- We appreciate the values, leadership and unique skills service members bring to the workforce and will encourage opportunities to hire Guardsmen, Reservists and Veterans.
- We will continually recognize and support our country's Servicemembers and their families in peace, in crisis and in war.

Join thousands of employers by signing a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve and display it prominently for all your employees and visitors to see. To participate, please complete our [Statement of Support form](#).

## Be an ESGR Volunteer

Our dedicated volunteers come from all walks of life: business executives, civic leaders and patriotic citizens. Some volunteer activities include Employer Outreach, Ombudsman, Public Affairs, and Military Outreach.

Your involvement, in whatever capacity you choose, can improve the relationships our brave men and women have with their employers while they continually place themselves in harm's way, leave their families, and put their careers on hold.

## KEY CONTACTS

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### Newsletter Submissions

Please send articles and photos to [hank.mcintire@gmail.com](mailto:hank.mcintire@gmail.com).