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For Immediate Release

Associated Foods and Cache County School District Receive 'Pro Patria' Award from Utah ESGR

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee presented the 'Pro Patria' award March 27 to officials from Associated Foods, Inc., based in Salt Lake City, and Cache County School District, of North Logan, for their support of employees who are members of the National Guard and Reserve.

The 'Pro Patria' (For One's Country) award is the highest honor that a field committee, such as Utah ESGR, can bestow upon an employer. Richard Parkinson, CEO of Associated Foods; Kirk McRae, Cache County School District human resources director; and Richard Knight, a member of the Cache County School Board, accepted the award from Dr. L. Gordon Sumner, Jr., executive director of the National ESGR organization.

Associated Foods is a cooperatively owned wholesale distributor to nearly 600 independently owned supermarkets in Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Oregon, Colorado, Nevada, and Arizona. Founded in 1940, the company employs more than 1,400 people and ships more than 750 truckloads of groceries each week.

Based in Cache Valley, the Cache County School District supports 15,000 students in 23 elementary, middle, junior high and high schools. The District employs 775 education professionals and serves all of Cache County except for Logan City and focuses on academic rigor, professional development, and student achievement.

ESGR is a Department of Defense organization that seeks to promote a culture in which all American Employers support and value the military service of their employees.

The nation's Reserve components (referring to the total of all National Guard members and Reserve forces from all branches of the military) comprise approximately 48 percent of our total available military manpower. The current National Defense Strategy indicates that the National Guard and Reserve are full partners in the fully integrated Total Force.

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ESGR was established in 1972 to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflict through mediation. It is the lead DoD organization for this mission under DoD Directive 1250.1.

Today, ESGR operates through a network of more than 4,500 volunteers throughout the nation, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

For more information on Utah ESGR's mission and activities, please contact Lt. Col. Hank McIntire at (801) 432-4407.