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ODPS Nominated To Receive Employer Support of Guard and Reserve National Freedom Award

Send Us Your Stories!

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest recognition given to employers for their support of their employees who also serve in the National Guard and Reserve. Nominations must come from a Guard or Reserve member who is employed by the organization they are nominating, or a family member of the same.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is charged with planning, coordinating and executing this program. The award was created to recognize employers who provide exceptional support to their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. The award is the highest in a series of [ESGR awards](#) that include the Patriot Award, the Above and Beyond Award, and the Pro Patria Award.

The process takes into consideration support provided by an employer, including pay policies, benefits and leave policies, previous ESGR awards, supervisor training, ESGR advocacy, service member recognition, family support, deployed member support, hiring preferences, and general military support. For more information about the award, or to nominate your employer, log on to: <http://www.esgr.org/fap.asp>.

To enhance ODPS' nomination, we are looking for anecdotal information from those who have benefited from the services provided by the Department or the ODPS Military Committee. Please let us know how co-workers, supervisors, HR personnel, the ODPS Military Heroes Web site, recognition of services, the deployment manual, or other information and support provided by ODPS has made it easier for you or your family during pre-deployment, deployment or post-deployment periods. Individual or family stories are the final piece the ESGR Award Recognition committee is searching for when looking for complete programs that support employees in every way possible.

Send your stories of support to Kevin Teaford at KTeaford@dps.state.oh.us, Mandowl Nixon at MNixon@dps.state.oh.us, or Tina O'Grady at TOGrady@dps.state.oh.us by close of business Thursday Feb. 19, 2009.

ODPS' Military Committee was created to identify ways to assist active-duty military, their families and veterans within the Department. One of the Committee's first steps was to develop the Military Heroes Web site and a packet with listings of benefits and contact information that can provide this needed support prior to, during and following deployment.

The ODPS Military Committee is made up of two representatives from each of the Department's Divisions, who serve as liaisons for military employees within the Department. The Committee will continue its efforts to research and develop programs to as well as serve as an active support group for the Department's military personnel, veterans and their families.

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."

An Equal Opportunity Employer