



MEDIA RELEASE

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Ohio Department of Public Safety • Henry Guzmán, Director
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 EDUCATION • SERVICE • PROTECTION
Ted Strickland, Governor

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ODPS RECEIVES HIGHEST U.S. GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION TO EMPLOYERS FOR SUPPORT OF MILITARY EMPLOYEES

- DIRECTOR GUZMÁN TO RECEIVE 2009 FREEDOM AWARD IN WASHINGTON D.C. -

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is one of 15 employers nationally that will be recognized for its outstanding support of employees serving in the National Guard and Reserves during ceremonies next week in Washington, D.C.

On Sept. 17, ODPS Director Henry Guzmán will accept the U.S. Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award - the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their outstanding support of their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve - during a series of events in the nation's capitol, including a scheduled meeting for all Freedom Award recipients with President Barack Obama.

Established in 1996 under the guidance of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the Freedom Award recognizes exceptional support from the employer community. More than 3,000 National Guard and Reserve members nominated their supportive employers for this year's award.

“On behalf of Governor Ted Strickland and our state government partners, the Ohio Department of Public Safety is honored to accept this prestigious national award,” said ODPS Director Henry Guzmán. “I, along with the entire department, extend heartfelt gratitude to the military personnel who have and continue to gallantly fight for our freedom here and abroad.”

Through the leadership of Director Guzmán, an Army combat veteran and recipient of the Bronze Star of Valor as well as the Purple Heart, ODPS established a Military Committee to focus on meeting the needs of active duty soldiers, veterans and their families. The committee focuses on ways to improve the quality of life for departmental citizen soldiers, airmen, sailors, marines, coast guardsmen and their families during times of peace, pre-deployment, deployment and post-deployment.

ODPS previously received numerous ESGR state awards for their support of National Guard and Reserve employees including the Above and Beyond Award and Pro Patria Award. For more information about the Freedom Award, visit www.FreedomAward.mil.

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