

SBA Signs Statement of Support with NJ Employer Support of Guard and Reserve

The U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) New Jersey District Office is leading the way by encouraging the small business community to support the nearly 3,000 Guard and Reserve service members from New Jersey, who have left their civilian jobs to serve the nation at a time of war.

With the signing of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Statement of Support the SBA hopes to encourage and bring awareness to small business owners who employ National Guard and Reserve members.

At the signing Mike Pappas, SBA Regional Administrator and James A. Kocsi, SBA New Jersey District Director were joined by Col. Dennis Dougherty (Ret.) NJ-ESGR Military Service Coordinator and ESGR Co-Ombudsman Director, John H. Shackelford.

To date, more than 700 Garden State businesses of all sizes along with governmental agencies have signed an ESGR Statement of Support. The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense organization of dedicated volunteers who maintain employer support and educate the business community on the laws in place to protect the deployed Guardsmen or Reservist in the civilian workplace.



Sign us up!!!---James A. Kocsi, SBA New Jersey District Director, (left) is presented a plaque from Col. Dennis J. Dougherty (Ret.) of the New Jersey ESGR, after signing a Statement of Support with ESGR. Joining in the presentation are SBA's Regional Administrator Michael Pappas and ESGR's Co-Ombudsman Director, John H. Shackelford.

“The SBA New Jersey District Office signed this Statement of Support with the Employer Support of The Guard and Reserve, so that we can educate the thousands of small business owners who employ Guardsmen and Reservists in workplace about the Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), said Kocsi.”

USERRA is a federal law that protects the jobs of Citizen Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard members when they are called to active duty.

“With Reserves accounting for 48 percent of our total available military manpower, there will be a time when a small business owner will be faced with a key employee leaving for active duty,” said SBA Regional Administrator Michael Pappas. “We just want to make certain they are aware of USERRA and that they do right by our Guard and Reserves.”

For a summary of the law, please visit the following Web site: www.esgr.org/userra.asp?p=summary For more information on the ESGR New Jersey State Committee, call 609-562-0156 or visit their Web site: <http://www.njesgr.org/index.html>.

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