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**CONTACT: Beth Sherman**  
**571-372-0705**

## **President Obama Salutes Guardsmen and Reservists with Proclamation for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week**

**ARLINGTON, Va.** – Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency, announced President Barack Obama has signed a proclamation declaring September 16 – 22, 2012 as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. The President said the employers of citizen warriors are taking care of those who serve in the nation's military by "hiring and retaining members of the Guard and Reserve, and by creating a culture of military support in the workplace."

The proclamation sets aside the week to honor the service and sacrifice of Guard and Reserve members, give thanks to their employers, and reaffirm the commitment to giving them, their families, and all veterans the opportunities and support they have earned.

"Let us pay tribute to the brave men and women who keep our Nation safe and celebrate their devoted employers, whose support is vital to the strength of our military," proclaimed President Obama. "I also call on State and local officials, private organizations, and all military commanders, to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities," added the President.

The Department of Defense will recognize 15 of the nation's most supportive employers of members of the Reserve Forces at the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony on September 20. The Freedom Award is DoD's highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of their employees serving in the Guard and Reserve. The 15 employers stood out from a field of 3,236 nominations submitted by Guardsmen and Reservists.

Freedom Award recipients distinguish themselves by going to extraordinary lengths to support their military employees. These employers exceed what is required by law, putting into place formal and informal initiatives that include providing the difference between military and civilian salary during deployments, continuing full benefits, sending care packages and providing personal support to the families of employees called away from home.

**The Presidential Proclamation can be read at: [HERE](#)**

### **About ESGR:**

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972 to develop and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service. ESGR advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of applicable laws, and resolves conflict between service members and employers. Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.

For questions or interviews regarding the Proclamation, please contact Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at 571-372-0705 or by email at [ESGR-PA@osd.mil](mailto:ESGR-PA@osd.mil).