How does Employer Support of Guard and Reserve help Military Members?

ESGR works to Advocate, Recognize, Inform, and Mediate

We encourage the employment of Guardsmen and Reservists, who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.

ESGR works toward a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees, with ESGR as the principal advocate within the US Department of Defense connecting all employers and Guard and Reservists.

ADVOCATE: ESGR advocates initiatives on behalf of employers, service members and their families. We promote employer support through regular communications to military leaders and serve as a communication link between employers and the DoD.

RECOGNIZE: ESGR recognizes, with a series of DoD awards, employers with human resource personnel policies that support employee participation in the Guard and Reserve. Employers who strongly support their citizen-soldier employees begin with the Patriotic Employer Award, and can progress through higher-level awards all the way up to the Freedom Award, which is given for ongoing extraordinary support of Guard and Reserve employees and is presented in a gala annual ceremony at the Pentagon.

INFORM: ESGR briefs service members and their civilian employers on their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). Statutory authority for USERRA resides with the Department of Labor; ESGR is there to serve as a neutral, *free* resource to employers and service members. Learn more at www.ESGR.mil.

MEDIATE: Our trained ombudsmen provide information and mediation concerning the USERRA law. ESGR has hundreds of trained volunteer ombudsmen throughout the country ready to provide free mediation. Conflicts often arise through misunderstanding rather than purposeful violation of the law; ESGR can assist in resolving these issues and more.

To contact Illinois ESGR, call 1(309) 567-6111; find us on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisESGR/); or go to www.ESGR.mil.

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