

# Congratulations to Freedom Award Winners

**T**he National Defense University Foundation recognizes the current and past winners of the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This honor is presented by the Department of Defense to employers who support the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Program.

The United States shares nearly half of its men and women in uniform with over 115,000 other “bosses,” the civilian employers of National Guardsmen and Reservists. While Federal law provides very strict protections for civilian employment, the knowledge that their civilian employer supports and appreciates their military service is a major consideration in a National Guardsman’s or Reservist’s decision to continue to serve.

In 1972, Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird established Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee’s military commitment. To thank employers whose support to employees serving in the Reserve Components went “above and beyond” what was required by Federal law, Secretary of Defense William Cohen created the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award in 1996. The Freedom Award is the Department of Defense’s most prestigious award for employer support.

ESGR only accepts nominations for the Freedom Award from National Guardsmen, Reservists, and their families. Each year, a



selection committee composed of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, the ESGR National Chairman, and representatives of the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Business, the Society for Human Resource Management, and the Reserve Components, select as many as 15 employers as recipients from over 1,000 nominations.

Recipients have demonstrated their “above and beyond” support by making up the difference in income for deployed Guardsmen and Reservists, continuing health insurance and other benefits, and providing paid military leave. Not all above and beyond support has an economic pricetag. Recipients have helped their deployed employees by sending care packages and phone cards, offering to babysit so that the deployed employee’s spouse can take care of family business, recognizing employees’ Guard and Reserve service in the workplace, and simply keeping in communication with the employees and their families during the deployment.

Freedom Award nominations can be made online at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) during January and February each year.

## FREEDOM AWARD RECIPIENTS

### 2006

AgCountry Farm Credit Services  
Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America  
Baptist Health  
BNSF Railway Company  
Cardi’s Furniture Superstores  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Computer Sciences Corporation  
DuPont  
Fred Fletemeyer Company  
MGM Mirage  
Skyline Membership Corporation  
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks  
Starbucks Corporation  
State of Vermont  
Sun Valley General Improvement District

### 2005

Alticor, Inc.  
Citizens Financial Group  
Eaton Corporation  
Enterprise Rent-A-Car  
IDACORP  
Los Angeles Police Department  
Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections  
Pioneer Financial Services, Inc.  
Ryland Homes  
Sears, Roebuck and Co.  
South Dakota State University  
State of Delaware  
Toyota Motor Sales, USA Inc.  
USAA  
Wachovia Corporation

### 2001

BAE SYSTEMS  
Electronic Data Systems (EDS)  
Southwest Airlines  
The Boeing Company  
The City of Bedford, Virginia

### 2000

American Express  
Framatome Connectors USA, Inc.  
Intel Corporation  
Midwest Express Airlines  
Technology Concepts & Design, Inc.

### 1999

British Nuclear Fuels Limited, Inc.  
General Fire and Safety Equipment Company, Inc.  
Hitchiner Manufacturing Company, Inc.  
Kaiser Permanente Northwest  
The State of Louisiana

### 1998

American Airlines  
American Family Mutual Insurance Company  
CSX Transportation  
Portland Police Bureau  
Wiremold Company

### 1997

Charles Machine Works  
East Penn Manufacturing Co., Inc.  
Entec Services, Inc.  
Fred Meyer, Inc.  
Home Depot Southeastern Division

### 1996

McDonnell-Douglas Corporation  
National Life of Vermont  
Schneider National, Inc.  
Tektronix, Inc.  
United Parcel Service, Central Florida District

### 2004

Adolph Coors Co.  
American Express Co.  
Bank One Corp.  
Coit Safety Fire & Rescue  
General Electric Co.  
Harley-Davidson, Inc.  
The Home Depot  
Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department  
The State of Minnesota  
Northrop Grumman Corp.  
Onesource Building Technologies, a subsidiary of Fisk Corp.  
Saints Memorial Medical Center  
Strategic Solutions, Inc.  
Sprint Corp.  
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

### 2003

Central Atlantic Toyota Distribution Center  
D.H. Griffin Wrecking Co., Inc.  
Miller Brewing Company  
PG&E Corporation  
Tyson Foods, Inc.

### 2002

Autoliv, Inc.  
General Dynamics Land Systems  
Public Service Co. of New Hampshire  
State of Wyoming  
United Parcel Service Airlines

