

# VTNG Family Readiness News

January 2007

## Guardsmen, Reservists and their family members encouraged to nominate their employers for the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards at ESGR website

ARLINGTON, Va. – The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense, announced nominations will be accepted at the ESGR website for the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards.

**The nomination process opens on January 8, 2007 and will conclude on February 28, 2007.** The goal of 5,000 nominations is a relatively small number, as ESGR estimates over 200,000 employers in America employ National Guardsmen and Reservists.

To nominate their employers, National Guardsmen, Reservists, or their family members should visit the ESGR website at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) and complete the 2007 Freedom Award nomination form. ESGR Field Committees will review the nominations and have the option to present three nominations per committee for

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## Scholarships for the Military

### *New VSAC Scholarship*

WINOOSKI — Robert and Cynthia Hoehl and the Hoehl Family Foundation of South Burlington have donated \$1 million to establish a scholarship fund for children of Vermont residents who have served with the U.S. military in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) will administer the fund, which will provide up to 15 new awards each year, ranging from \$3,500 to \$7,000 per year and renewable for up to four years of school. The program will begin with students entering college in 2007-08 and conclude with those entering in 2010-11. For their children to be eligible, parents must have served in the armed forces or National Guard in the Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom campaigns.

“VSAC has administered a variety of scholarships for many years, but it’s only been in the last few that we’ve had a development office that can focus on raising significant sums for this vital student resource,” said VSAC President and CEO Don Vickers. “The Hoehls’ gift is incredibly generous, and we couldn’t be more pleased.”

The charitable gift was the brainchild of Cynthia Hoehl, a mother of six and former school teacher. “I wanted to honor the patriotism, moral fiber, and commitment to peace that these men and women demonstrate through their service to America and its citizens,” she said.

First Lt. Joe Colantoni, education officer for the Vermont National Guard, said the timing of the scholarship couldn’t have been better. “There is no scholarship funding available for children of our soldiers, sailors, or airmen,” he said. “Like most Vermont families, they too are struggling with the cost

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review by the National Selection Board, which will select up to 15 recipients.

In 1996, Secretary of Defense William Perry instituted the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award under the auspices of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR). The award publicly recognizes employers nominated by their employees, who voluntarily serve in the National Guard and Reserve, for exceptional support above the requirements of the USERRA Law. This prestigious award is the highest in a series of Department of Defense employer support awards that include the Patriot Award, the ESGR Above and Beyond Award and the Pro Patria Award.

"I am encouraging all National Guardsmen and Reservists worldwide, and their family members, to visit the ESGR website at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) to nominate their employers for the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This prestigious national award recognizes supportive employers who provide exemplarily support above the USERRA Law requirements for their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve," said Bob Hollingsworth, ESGR Executive Director.

Previous recipients have included Starbucks, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Sears, General Electric, DuPont, Verizon, and United Parcel Service. State and local governments and a number of America's small businesses, who are the majority of National Guard and Reserve employers, have also been recipients.

When asked about the impact of employee military service on small business, Hollingsworth said, "At no time in our recent history have the small businesses of America been asked to give so much in our nation's defense."

"Today, in support of the war on terrorism and the ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, an essential alliance has been formed. Many of America's employers have become inextricably linked to the nation's defense by sharing their most precious asset, their employees," added Hollingsworth.

In the current environment of continuous mobilizations of National Guardsmen and Reservists, ESGR has recognized that more employers are impacted by the loss of key employees. The Secretary of Defense

Employer Support Freedom Award was expanded in 2004 from five recipients to now recognize up to 15 outstanding employers annually.

The 2007 recipients will be honored in Washington, D.C. at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony hosted by ESGR on September 12, 2007.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. The mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve. ESGR volunteers provide free education, consultation, and if necessary mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees.

As the 1.2 million members of the National Guard and Reserve continue to perform an increasing number of unique missions that require extraordinary actions on the part of everyday citizens, ESGR will continue to be the informational agency for the employers of America's new Minutemen. More information about ESGR Employer Outreach Programs and volunteer opportunities are available at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil), or by calling the National Committee Office at (800) 336-4590.

## Free H&R TaxCut for Military Families

Free tax help! Effective January 15, Military OneSource offers free access to H&R Block's TaxCut Basic Online software. Visit [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) to find out more.

## 2007 Annual Spring Formal

The National Guard Association Presents the 2007 Annual Spring Formal. April 14, 2007 at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Burlington, VT. Open to all Ranks. Save the date for Dinner, Dancing and Fun!

## LENDING LIBRARY

We have some new additions to our lending library. If your interested in borrowing any of these books, please contact Tamra Augustino at 338-3164.

How to Get Out of Debt: Get an A Credit Rating for Free Using the System I've Used Successfully with Thousands of Clients by Harrine Freeman

Credit Card Debt: Reduce Your Financial Burden in Three Easy Steps by Alexander Daskaloff

Relationship Rescue: A Seven-Step Strategy for Reconnecting with Your Partner by Phil McGraw

Life Strategies: Doing What Works, Doing What Matters by Phil McGraw

Daily Life Strategies for Teens by Jay McGraw

Relationship Rescue: A Seven-Step Strategy for Reconnecting with Your Partner by Phil McGraw

Life Strategies for Teens Workbook: Exercises and Self-Tests to Help You Change Your Life by Jay McGraw

Closing the Gap: A Strategy for Bringing Parents and Teens Together by Jay McGraw

When God Says War Is Right: The Christian's Perspective on when and how to Fight by Darrell Cole

Courage after Fire: Coping Strategies for Returning Soldiers and Their Families by Keith Armstrong, Suzanne Best, Paula Domenici, Foreword by Bob Dole

Everything Budgeting by Tere Drenth

7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey

Your Neighbor Went to War: Reality and the War on Terror by B. Diggs Brown

The O'Reilly Factor for Kids: A Survival Guide for America's Families by Bill O'Reilly, Charles Flowers

The Great Book of Family Games by Chicca Albertini

Clutter Control!: Useful Tips for Getting Rid of the Mess by Susan Wright

of a higher education. In my mind, Bob and Cindy Hoehl epitomize what America stands for: taking care of our own people and taking care of the people who are protecting our freedom.”

VSAC awards more than \$5.5 million annually to about 2,500 Vermonters through 150 mostly private scholarship programs. As with all VSAC scholarships, the Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom Scholarship will be awarded through a competitive process. Students must submit an application, essay, letters of recommendation, and specific documentation confirming their parents' service in addition to meeting financial need requirements. Preference will be given to children whose parents were killed, wounded, or permanently disabled as a result of their service.

Students wishing to apply should contact VSAC at 800-798-8722 or visit [www.vsac.org](http://www.vsac.org). For more information about charitable giving opportunities through VSAC, contact Mary Welz, director of development for VSAC and its charitable affiliate, The Vermont Scholarship Fund.



### More Scholarships Available

Gas prices are biting into the family budget, interest rates are rising, and college tuition is outpacing inflation. At least some relief is in sight for military families as the Scholarships for Military Children program opens for 2007. Applications for the \$1,500 scholarships are available at 264 commissaries worldwide, or can be downloaded through links at <http://www.commissaries.com>, <http://www.militaryscholar.org>, or <http://www.dodea.edu>.

## VTANG WINTER CARNIVAL



Sunday, February 4, 2007

1:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: VTANG Hanger 3

Horse Wagon Rides  
Sliding – bring your sleds!  
Snowshoes  
Winter Crafts  
Obstacle Course  
Mocktails  
Home Depot Workstation  
M-16 Trainer Course  
Food – popcorn, soup, hot dogs, drinks  
Chocolate Fountain

Please RSVP to Kelli Langlois at (802) 660-5210 x. 5617 (kelli.langlois@vtburl.ang.af.mil) or Tamra Augustino at (802) 338-3164 (tamra.augustino@us.army.mil) if you plan on attending.

## W-2's Now Available

Tax statements for 2006 available on myPay as follows: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

- Retiree 1099R
- Annuitant 1099R
- Army, Navy, and Air Force Reserve W2
- Marine Corps Active Duty and Reserves W2
- Civilian W2
- NAF W2
- Student Loan Repayment Plan W2
- Savings Deposit 1099INT:
- Army, Navy and Air Force Active Duty W2



### Calendar of Events

#### January:

6, 3pm, Financial Planning Seminar, VTANG

6, Task Force Guardian Potluck

21, 1pm, TAG Brief for Task Force Hunter (131st Engineers) Elks Club Burlington

#### February:

4, Winter Carnival Vermont Air National Guard (for Army and Air Families)

7, 6pm, Marriage Enrichment/Relationship Enhancement Refresher Course, Rutland Armory

9-11, Marriage Enrichment/Relationship Enhancement Retreat, DoubleTree Hotel, South Burlington

#### March:

14, 6pm, Marriage Enrichment/Relationship Enhancement Refresher Course, Swanton Armory

17, Benefit Hockey Game - Vermont Guard Defenders vs. Vermont Law Enforcers, Essex High School Ice Rink

#### April:

11, 6pm, Marriage Enrichment/Relationship Enhancement Refresher Course, Berlin Armory

14, Spring Formal, Sheraton Hotel

#### DISCOUNT

Sea World is once again offering FREE admittance to Military Personnel and their Immediate Families. Visit Sea World at <http://www.seaworld.com>

