

Fall  
2012

# New Mexico



## Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

# Job Fair Draws Employers, Job Seekers at Hotel Albuquerque

Jobs and people -- there were hundreds of the first and a thousand of the second at the fourth annual Job Fair sponsored by New

Mexico Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Held at the Hotel Albuquerque near Old Town, the event drew a wide range of businesses and educational institutions as well as many job seekers including Guard, Reserve and retired military.

The job seekers were male and female, ranged in age from young to senior citizens, and appeared to come from a wide variety of walks of life.

The opening ceremony was

held outdoors and featured New Mexico Department of Veterans Services Secretary Tim Hale; New Mexico Work Force Solutions Secretary Celina Bussey; TAG Andrew Salas; BGen Judy Griego; Roger Newbill from Mayor Richard Berry's office; and New Mexico ESGR Field Chair Ray Battaglini.

The ceremony was brief so people could head into the large room where more than a hundred businesses and educational institutions were available.

Secretary Hale said, "Today is  
*Continued on page 10*



*ESGR volunteers wait to help people at the August Job Fair held at the Hotel Albuquerque.*

# New Adjutant General Supports ESGR

"My role is to ensure a militarily supportive relationship for New Mexico ESGR because employers are such an integral part of the three-legged stool that is so important for our military readiness," says Andrew Salas, New Mexico's recently appointed Adjutant General (TAG).

Salas, 53, was named to the post July 24 by New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez. He succeeds Maj Gen Kenny Montoya who resigned in April.

The other parts of the three-legged stool are family and the guardsmen/women and reservists themselves.

"I want to be a good will am-

bassador to our employers as TAG because I want them to know how important they are to our military readiness," said Salas in an interview.

As TAG, Salas commands nearly 4,000 troops across the state of New Mexico — 3,000 Army National Guard and 1,000 Air National Guard.

In his new position Salas wants to attend as many New Mexico ESGR events as possible and to showcase New Mexico's armories as well as the soldiers at those armories.

Salas joined the Air Guard in 1980 as an enlisted person. He was recruited by Gary Kaiser, now the program support technician for



*The Adjutant General Andrew Salas New Mexico ESGR.*

"I worked my way up," said

*Continued on page 2*

# *New Adjutant General ... continued from page 1*

Salas proudly. "And I was swept up by good leaders. The guard gave me the opportunity to enhance my civilian education. The guard helped me with my credentials and helped me land a civilian job."

Other lessons Salas said he learned thanks to the guard are:

- Development of the ability to lead and make decisions.
- How to lead a principled life.
- How to be successful as a leader which the guard taught by promoting Salas through the ranks.

Salas said it took him time, but he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in electronics technology from Chapman College. That degree helped him land a job as an engineer at Honeywell in Albuquerque. He has a Master of Science in International Studies and Civil-Military Relations from the Naval Post-Graduate School.

His long military career has resulted in Salas meeting many other people in the military including his wife, Martha, who spent 11 years in the Air National Guard. The Salases have five children, the youngest attending high school. Martha and Andrew Salas live in Bernardo, a small community south of Belen.

What are some of Salas's other thoughts about the Guard and ESGR? He points out that it has become clear that the National Guard is now and will continue to be in demand on several military fronts. This takes soldiers away from their employers.

"It's important to recognize employers who help and to also recognize the value of employees," said Salas who adds that he believes that no guard or reserve member should be unemployed. These people should be in school or employed and ESGR's employment initiative will help in that effort.

Most recently Salas served as the Assistant Adjutant General for Air, New Mexico Air National Guard. His responsibilities included ensuring the 150th Wing is staffed, equipped and trained to prevail along the full spectrum of combat and emergency or disaster response.

He previously served at Headquarters Air Force as Chief of Ground Safety and Acting Vice-Commander. He developed and oversaw ground safety policy, plans,



*When State Senator Eric Griego signed a Statement of Support at the April Freedom Award luncheon then-Col Andrew Salas, now TAG Salas, was among the NM ESGR supporters attending. Pictured above are, left to right, Salas; BGen John "Jay" Bledsoe, Acting TAG; Col Timothy Paul, Acting Chief of Staff, Army National Guard; BGen Judy Griego, Chief of Staff Air National Guard; New Mexico Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Timothy Hale; NM ESGR Field Chair Ray Battaglini; New Mexico Governor Susans Martinez; and Sen. Eric Griego.*

programs and standards for over 680,000 military and civilian Air Force personnel worldwide.

Concurrently, he was Director of Support, Joint Force Headquarters, New Mexico National Guard, assigned as the J-1 to oversee personnel and manpower accession, training, assignment, availability and accountability of soldiers and airmen serving joint duty.

As Vice-Commander of the 150th Fighter Wing, New Mexico Air National Guard, he ensured the Wing had the manpower, facilities, equipment and training to provide air dominance in wartime and to protect the public in times of emergency and disaster upon the call of the Governor. He was the National Guard's representative to the 377th Air Base Wing and the NM ESGR.

Prior assignments include Director of Staff of the New Mexico Air National Guard and Commander, 150th Mission Support Group, with oversight of the Wing's Civil Engineer Squadron, Logistics Readiness

*Continued on page 10*

# Two New Mexico Employers Make National's Top 30, Top 10 In Category

Don Gorman Electric LLC of Santa Fe and Sandia National Laboratories of Albuquerque were finalists for the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. Both were named to the top ten list for their category — Sandia National Laboratories for large business and Don Gorman Electric LLC for small business.

## ***Don Gorman Electric LLC***

Don Gorman, the owner of Don Gorman Electric LLC, served in the New Mexico Air National Guard for 14 years, and understands the service and sacrifices his Air National Guard employee and nominator faces.

Gorman allows paid time off to attend military support meetings, homecomings of fellow Air National Guardsmen, and funerals for fallen veterans. Gorman also personally emails deployed members, and provides home repairs, vehicle maintenance, and other items needed by their families free of charge.

## ***Sandia National Laboratories***

Sandia National Laboratories, nominated by an employee serving in the Air Force Reserve, established a Military Support Committee to assist guard and reserve employees.

The committee organizes “Warrior Welcomes” for homecomings, maintains an online Military Veterans Wall to recognize employees for their service, and trains Guard and Reserve members to help incorporate them into the company.

## ***The Freedom Award***

The Freedom Award is the Department of Defense’s highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees. A review board this year, comprised of military and civilian leaders, selected 30 finalists from the 3,236 nominations received from Guard and Reserve service members, or family members acting on their behalf.

Only 160 employers have received the Freedom Award since it was established in 1996. Employers named as finalists for the award distinguish themselves not only for adhering to the employment and reemployment rights of Guard and Reserve members, but for actively creating opportunities to assist and



**New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez and ESGR Field Chair Ray Battaglini proudly stand with representatives of Don Gorman Electric of Santa Fe. Jay Gorman is at left and Don Gorman at right. A picture of Sandia National Laboratories personnel receiving the New Mexico Freedom Award is on page 12.**

support the service of Guard and Reserve employees and their families.

“The 2012 Freedom Award finalists demonstrate that outstanding support of Guard and Reserve members is not limited by an employer’s size, industry, or region of the nation. These 30 finalists span the diversity of America’s workforce and prove every employer can go above and beyond for our Citizen Warriors,” said ESGR National Chair James G. Rebholz.

Established as a Department of Defense agency 40 years ago, ESGR develops and maintains 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 guard and reserve members who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.

# Purple Heart Award Highlights Roswell Banquet

U.S. Congressman Steve Pearce, R-N.M., presented a Purple Heart to Bert Eldridge during the 24th annual Guard and Reserve Appreciation banquet hosted by the Roswell ESGR Committee.

Eldridge joined the U.S. Army when he was 17, serving as an infantryman in Vietnam from 1967 to 1970. He orchestrated the drive to establish a veterans cemetery in Roswell.

At the banquet a deed to 20 acres of land to be used for a new cemetery was presented to Roswell Mayor Del Jurney. The cemetery will hold more than 2,000 plots for veterans and their spouses.

Chesapeake Energy received a Patriot Award at the banquet and employee Eric Cindric spoke about his transition to the company after returning from active duty.



*Steve Henderson with his Spirit of Volunteerism award*

Other businesses recognized with the Patriot Award included Roswell Job Corps, the Social Security Administration, Roswell Police Department, New Mexico Youth Challenge, New Mexico State Police, Competitive Car Care, Schlumberger Well Services and the NM Workforce Connection. The Histor-



*Purple Heart recipient Bert Eldridge, right, with U.S. Congressman Steve Pearce at Roswell banquet.*

ical Society of Southeastern New Mexico received a Certificate of Appreciation.

Former Roswell ESGR Committee Chair Steve Henderson received the Spirit of Volunteerism Award from the state committee and the award was presented again at the banquet. Henderson now serves on the Roswell City Council.

After the dinner, Vietnam War helicopter pilots Tom Baca of Albuquerque and Jack Swickard of Roswell described the 1967 rescue of 120 soldiers who had been surrounded by more than 600 North Vietnam Army and Viet Cong soldiers.

## New Mexico ESGR Committee Contacts

<u>State Chair</u>	<u>Ombudsman</u>	<u>Military Outreach</u>	<u>Las Vegas Chair</u>
Ray Battaglini	<u>Coordinator</u>	Allan Ludi	Vacant
<u>Program Support</u>	Charles W. Clark	<u>Albuquerque Chair</u>	<u>Los Alamos Chair</u>
<u>Technician</u>	<u>Employment Initiative</u>	Doris Budris	Michael Wismer
Gary D. Kaiser	<u>Director</u>	<u>Carlsbad Chair</u>	<u>Roswell Chair</u>
<u>Program Support</u>	Tracey Fria	Jose Antonio	Gary Smith
<u>Specialist</u>	<u>Employer Outreach</u>	(Tony) Renteria	<u>Santa Fe Chair</u>
Todd Kontny	Velton "Steve" R.	<u>Cibola/McKinley</u>	Jay Gorman
<u>Administrative Support</u>	Stevens	<u>Counties</u>	<u>Southwest Chair</u>
<u>Technician</u>	<u>Military Services</u>	Dale Maki	Richard Lutz
Ernest D. Rodriguez	<u>Director</u>	<u>Clovis Chair</u>	<u>Northeast Chair</u>
<u>Employment Tran-</u>	Vacant	John Montano	Don Day
<u>sition Coordinator</u>	<u>State Public Affairs</u>	<u>Farmington Chair</u>	<u>Valencia County Chair</u>
<u>(ETC).</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	Tom Smith	Charles W. Clark
Lloyd Calderon	Sandy M. Schauer	<u>Hobbs Chair</u>	
		Paul P. Roybal (Phillip)	

# Bernalillo County Supporters Honored

Jay D. Rosenblum and the law firm Sutin Thayer & Browne, APC, Albuquerque received a Patriot Award from NM ESGR. Sutin Thayer & Browne employee Christopher Holland is a Lt Colonel in the New Mexico Army National Guard and submitted Rosenblum for the award. Rosenblum signed a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.



The employees of FedEx store #4506 in Albuquerque earned a Seven Seals Award from NM ESGR by ensuring the safe overnight delivery of over 8,000 drug tests in FY 2011 and over 2,000 shipments in the current year. Left to right above are manager James Arrington, SFC Crystal Romero, Arlis Silversmith, and Alan West. Arrington signed a Statement of Support.

Evawn Velasquez from FedEx received a Seven Seals Award for supporting the New Mexico Joint Substance Abuse Program. The mission is to maintain soldier readiness by ensuring a drug free National Guard.



Velasquez

Velasquez ensured the prompt and safe pickup and delivery of over 8,000 drug tests in FY 2011 and over 2,000 shipments in the current year.



Karin Tarter from APS Graphics Productions & District Services was presented a Patriot Award. Employee Jeremy Jensen is a Sergeant in the Army National Guard and submitted her for the Award.

Pat Valdez from Jones Lang LaSalle in Rio Rancho received a Patriot Award for supporting her employee Ronnie Atencio, a member of the New Mexico Army National Guard. He appreciates her support of his military training and commitments. Valdez signed a Statement of Support.



Dr. Reuben Gutierrez was presented a Patriot Award after his employee Cristale Apodaca submitted him for that honor. Cristale is in the New Mexico Army National Guard and very appreciative of his support. Gutierrez also signed a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.



Angela Aldrich of Ambulatory Care Pharmacy in Albuquerque signs a Statement of Supports after receiving a Patriot Award. Her employee, Ronald W. Scott, is a member of the New Mexico Army National Guard, 111th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. He appreciates her support of his commitments.

# Bataan Memorial Death March Draws Thousands, ESGR Commended

The 2012 Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range east of Las Cruces was a total success.

This year was the 23<sup>rd</sup> march and was held on the 70th anniversary of the tragic event.

More than 7,000 participants passed the ESGR booth. Thanks to Las Cruces ESGR volunteers and Pat Kuykendall from California and his volunteers, the ESGR booth featuring H2H.jobs was a total hit.

Visitors included U. S, Representative Steve Pearce, R- NM, who personally tried out the H2H kiosk and was so impressed he asked for the link to place it on his own home page and New Mexico Secretary of Veteran Services Tim Hale.

Visitors and participants in the event seemed to come from every state and many countries around the globe.

A special recognition plaque was presented to Len Boulas, NM ESGR Southwest area chair, and Lt Col Bill Shuert, 150th Fighter Wing, New Mexico Air National Guard and a former NM ESGR Program Support Specialist with the NM Committee.

Lt Col Shuert ran the marathon and finished in just over 6 hours and 30 minutes — not bad for an “old” timer.

This year people were invited to sign ESGR flags which are hung by the NM ESGR office at the National Guard Armory on Wyoming in Albuquerque and at the offices of the National Committee ESGR.

Remember it’s never too early to start training for the 2013 Bataan Memorial Death March.



*NM ESGR Field Chair Ray Battaglini invites people to sign the ESGR flags at the Bataan Memorial Death March. Note the flag at right.*



*NM ESGR Southwest Area Chair Len Boulas, left and Lt Col Bill Shuert, former NM ESGR Program Support Specialist, show off the special recognition plaque presented to them during the Bataan Memorial Death March.*

## **Roswell Member Lancaster Completes Ombudsman Training**

Tom Lancaster, Roswell ESGR Committee Member, has completed the Basic Ombudsman Training workshop.

The workshop focused on basic ombudsman principles and mediation services. It helps the volunteers and staff sharpen their skills for the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA).

Lancaster, who has been involved in ESGR events for a number of years, joined the Roswell Committee in 2004.

He looks forward to putting his training to use assisting employers and service members in resolving employment issues.



*Tom Lancaster*

**Heroes 2 Hired**  
*Try It!* **H2H.jobs** *Try It!*

# Still More Bernalillo County Patriots



*Jan English from Starbucks at 1624 Juan Tabo in Albuquerque signs a State of Support after receiving a Patriot Award. Her employee Leif Watkins is a member in the New Mexico Army National Guard and appreciates her support with his military training and commitments.*



*Ken Willis from Reliable Chevrolet on Coors in Albuquerque displays his Patriot Award. His employee Daniel J. Hawes is a Sergeant in the New Mexico Army National Guard. Willis signed a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.*

*Holly Porter with Chartwells / UNM, in Albuquerque holds the Patriot Award given to her for support of employee Christopher Vargas, a member of the New Mexico Army National Guard. She signed a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.*



*Alan Nunez from the Federal Aviation Administration in Albuquerque received a Patriot Award for supporting employee Leonard Chavez, a member of the New Mexico Air National Guard. Nunez also signed a Statement of Support.*



*Jeff Covert from DKD Electric in Albuquerque displays the Patriot Award given to him for his support of employee Mathew Alley, a member of the United States Marine Corp Reserve, 4th Reconnaissance Bn "D" Company. Covert also signed a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.*

## NM ESGR Volunteers Give Over 36,683 Hours

New Mexico ESGR volunteers have given over 36,683 hours of their time working with and assisting our Guard and Reserve members before, during and after their deployments, reports Allen Ludi.

Many ESGR volunteers have been presented with the President's Volunteer Service Award as a way to thank and honor their commitment and inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

The President's Volunteer Service Awards recognizes individuals and groups that have achieved a certain standard – measured by the number of hours service over a 12-month period or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime.

The President's Volunteer Service Award honors

New Mexico ESGR volunteers and their commitment to our Armed Forces who proudly serve our country. Allen Ludi presented the following Volunteer Service Awards at the April APAC meeting:

Lifetime Award: Budgie Green and Len Boulas.

Gold: Don Barlett; Dorothy Canon; Gary Smith; Ray Battaglini; Robert Jay Lloyd; and Sandy Schauer.

Silver: Bill Schatzman; Charles Clark; Chris Howell; J.R. Romero; Tom Lancaster; and Steve ReVeal.

Bronze: Bill Grotefeud; Carmen M. Rodriguez; Cynthia Estrada; Daniel Williams; Don Bratton; Eloise Blake; Jim Burke; Jose A. (Tony) Renteria; Karen Martin; Linda Gillen; Nick Pazuros; Perry Williams; Raymond Padilla; Richard Lutz; and Steve Henderson.

# Bernalillo County Patriots Honored



*Katrina Morgan stands with staff from the Lovelace Westside Hospital as she holds a Patriot Award given to her for supporting employee Amy Johnson who is the spouse of Lt Mathue Johnson. The Johnsons appreciate Morgan's support when Mathue performs his military commitments.*



*Mark Rosen from South-west Convenience Stores holds the award given to him for supporting his employee Robert Garcia, a member of the New Mexico Army National Guard. Rosen signed a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.*

*David Beining of the Multi Media Development Department at the University of New Mexico received a Patriot Award for his support of employee Jonathan Strawn, a member of the New Mexico Air National Guard, 150th Intelligence Squadron.*



*Erin Riley of the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center holds the Patriot Award presented to her for supporting employee Wayne D. Flowers, a member of the New Mexico Army National Guard. Standing with Riley is Chief of Corrections Ramon C. Rustin.*

*Rana Cordova from the Wesley Kids Childcare and Preschool in Albuquerque signs a Statement of Support after receiving a Patriot Award for supporting employee Antonio L. Lopez, a member of the New Mexico Army National Guard, 171st Aviation.*



# ESGR Participates in Pearce Job Fair in Los Lunas



*U.S. Congressman Steve Pearce, R-NM, above top right, hosted a job fair in Los Lunas where many businesses/organizations provided information/employment applications to job seekers. New Mexico ESGR participants Ernie Rodriguez, top left, Rose Gherkin, bottom left, and Tom McCalmont answered questions and helped people.*

# Home Depot Supports NM ESGR



*Alvino Madueno from Home Depot on Eubank Boulevard in Albuquerque (shown at left) was presented a Patriot Award for his support of employee John A. Sanchez, a member of the New Mexico Army National Guard, 720th Transportation Det S. Madueno signed a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.*

# All Female Boss Lift Participants Rappel, Fight, Tour New Santa Fe Aviation Facility

New Mexico ESGR's second All Female Bosslift, held the beginning of June, was a hit with participants and allowed several female guard members and reservists to show off their talents.

Participants came from a variety of companies including APD, Calibers, Intel, Sandia National Laboratories, and Los Alamos Police Department, as well as across the state.

The women gathered in front of the Armory on Wyoming in Albuquerque, in front because the event was held only a day after a fire occurred at the armory and there was limited access.

Soon they were all on a bus (driven by a female Airman with the Air National Guard) which took them to the New Mexico National Guard 515th Regional Training Institute south of Santa Fe. The group was welcomed by BG Gen Judy Griego, NM ESGR Field Chair Ray Battaglini, and several female officers.

After the welcome, the women experienced a variety of activities at the institute including rappelling, and flying in a helicopter.

During a delicious lunch held at the new \$37.5 million Army Aviation Support Facility near the Santa Fe airport, participants heard about ESGR and its mission as well as the mission of other Guard and Reserve units. An extensive tour was held of the new facility which serves as the home to various aircraft.

A session on the Universal Fight System used by soldiers dominated the afternoon's events as the women learned how to protect themselves in many dangerous circumstances.

On the trip back to the armory in Albuquerque the women talked about what they learned and decided the day's events had been worthwhile as they learned about what the citizen soldier does.



*Participants listen avidly to the instructor talk about how to defend one's self against an attack during the all female boss lift.*



*An extensive safety briefing is held before taking off in a helicopter during the all female boss list at the Regional Training Institute.*

## Kevin's Photography Given Award

Kevin Dooley from Kevin's Photography in Albuquerque received a Patriot Award from New Mexico ESGR because of Dooley's support for his employee, Eric J. Martinez.

Martinez is a member of the New Mexico Army National Guard, 1/200th Infantry Battalion. He appreciates Dooley's support of his military training and commitments.

Dooley signed a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.



*Kevin and Trish Dooley hold the Patriot Award presented to Kevin's Photography for supporting employee Eric J. Martinez.*



## *Patriot Award for 7-11 in Albuquerque*

*Nick Brehmer of 7-Eleven on San Antonio in Albuquerque received a Patriot Award. His employee Robert Garcia is a member of the New Mexico Army National Guard and appreciates Brehmer's support of Garcia's military training and school obligations.*

# Services Held in Carlsbad for ESGR Supporter

Services were held in Carlsbad in August for longtime ESGR supporter and committee chair BG (Ret) Stanley W. Johnston who died August 16, 2012.

Johnston was born March 26, 1921, and raised on a ranch near Clayton in Union County. He attended New Mexico State University where he earned a Master's Degree in education. He taught vocational agriculture in the Carlsbad Municipal School System from 1952 to 1982 and was an active member of the community there.

He served in the European Theater during World War II where he earned the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge and a Bronze Star. He was an active member of the New Mexico National Guard for 30 years, Commander of the 111th Brigade, and Assistant Adjutant General of the NM National Guard; and a member of the State Committee of NM ESGR and chaired the local committee.

Stanley is survived by his wife of 69 years, Betty. He is also survived by five children, 13 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and a host of friends.

## Former ESGR . . . . . Continued from page 11

be around to toast ESGR at its 50th anniversary. Keep that in mind as the organization helps employers help their employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.

## Job Fair . . . . . Continued from page 1

the day you are taking the right step. Thanks to the employers who are stepping up to the plate for hiring our veterans."

Bussey said, "The employers here recognize the value you bring to the table. Thanks to the employers for being here."

"It's a tough time for industry and business," said TAG Salas. "The captains of industry need to have every tool to be a success. The employee is the most important tool."

## New National Deputy Director

New Mexico field Chair Ray Battaglini, right, welcomes new National Committee ESGR Regional Deputy Director Commander Brian Smith as Smith attends an ESGR State Committee meeting and the Job Fair in August.



A tail hook naval aviator by trade, Smith most recently served as the Officer-in-Charge of Executive Transport Detachment, PACIFIC. New Mexico is among the states Smith will be working with in his position.



**Stanley and Betty Johnston stand by the Purple Heart Memorial dedicated in Carlsbad on Veterans Day, 2007, at the POW-MIA Park. Stanley's name is on the memorial as he received a Purple Heart after serving in the European Theater during World War II**

## New TAG . . . . . Continued from page 2

Squadron, Security Forces Squadron, Mission Support Flight, Services Flight, Communications Flight as well as the Contracting and Bio Environmental functions.

Duty as a commissioned officer included Chief of Field (Aircraft) Maintenance, Communications Flight Commander, Mission Support Flight Commander, State Equal Employment Manager, Joint Task Force Counterdrug Coordinator, and additional duty legislative liaison.

Under Salas's watch, the 150th Communications Flight went from marginal inspection ratings to outstanding, the 150th Mission Support Flight was selected as the U.S. Air Force Mission Support Flight of the Year, and the New Mexico National Guard received the first-ever Department of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award.

Salas led New Mexico's first Joint Army and Air Task Force with ground and air components to conduct supply and demand reduction operations in support of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies as well as educational and community-based organizations. He worked with the Civil Air Patrol to develop a model mentor program for at-risk middle school youth.

Salas oversaw the mobilization, deployment, sustainment and return of Air Guard forces deployed to assist the recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He commanded the 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, Balad Air Base, Iraq, in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

# Happy Birthday to Us!

## Former ESGR Field Chair Recalls Early Years

ESGR is celebrating its 40th birthday this year both nationally and in New Mexico.

The National Committee ESGR pegged the official anniversary date as June 22. To celebrate the 40th, the National Committee created ads using service members from different branches which featured the 40th Anniversary banner; oversaw the insertion of a 16-page tabloid in *The Stars and Stripes*; hosted a 40th anniversary event in the Pentagon; and scheduled national Statement of Support signings.

National held other events as did state ESGR Committees. And what about New Mexico? Well, among the ways New Mexico commemorated the 40th anniversary was continuing to support employers and working on the August 2012 job fair.

Does the New Mexico ESGR date back to 1972? Absolutely, says former state chair Tom Taylor who started with NM ESGR at the beginning and remains as active as his health allows him to.



**Tom Taylor**

Taylor remembers that the very first National Committee chair, James M. Roche, a General Motors executive, visited New Mexico to drum up interest in a state committee in the Land of Enchantment.

The New Mexico committee focused on Albuquerque at first, holding a meeting at the Hilton Inn on University Boulevard and focusing on the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce to create interest. Many Albuquerque businessmen and bankers turned down being chair of the first New Mexico ESGR Committee until finally General Don Doan accepted.

Doan served until Dean Irwin took over. "Dean was a fantastic chair," said Taylor. "He visited cities across New Mexico to get local ESGR Committees started." This, said Taylor, despite New Mexico having no formal ESGR organization except a state chair.

Taylor served as Dean Irwin's deputy. While Irwin chaired meetings, Taylor sent out meeting notices and



*Since the very first National Committee ESGR Director came to New Mexico, national directors have been visiting the state. In the late 1990s, NC ESGR Director Ken Jordan, second from left, met with a group of ESGR supporters from Roswell.*

kept the minutes as well as performing other logistical work. Irwin was chair for many years because the organization had no term limits (now a chair may serve two three-year terms) and because Irwin enjoyed the job and was good at it.

Following Erwin as chair were Sylvia Chavez Long (briefly) and Steve ReVeal, now an active member of the Southwestern New Mexico ESGR Committee.

Then Tom Taylor served for six years. Thanks to his more than 20 years experience with ESGR, Taylor felt comfortable in the position and enjoyed his tenure.

Four New Mexico field chairs have followed Taylor — Norm Churchill, Velton 'Steve' Stevens, Crawford

'Budgie' Green and the current field chair Ray Battaglini. Each has done things to mold, and perhaps change, New Mexico ESGR along the way.

Forty years is a long time in some ways and yet just a blink of the earth's eye. Perhaps some of us will  
*Continued on page 10*



**Dean Erwin**

# *New Mexico Employers Honored at Freedom Award Luncheon for Support of Guard/Reserve*

Employers from across New Mexico were honored at the 2012 Freedom Awards luncheon held at the National Guard Armory on Wyoming Northeast in Albuquerque this April.

Special guest at the luncheon was New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez who spoke about her and the state's support of the National Guard and Reserve. She also helped present the awards.

Awards were presented to the three entities that went on to compete nationally for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award which is the highest recognition given by the U.S. government for support of employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

Those three were New Mexico State Police, Public Sector; Sandia National Laboratories, Large Employer; and Don Gorman Electric LLC, small employer. (Editor's Note: Gorman and Sandia were in the top 30 who competed for the top national award, see story page 3).

Other businesses honored at the luncheon were Alamogordo Public Schools; Albertsons; Albuquerque Ambulance; Albuquerque Service Center, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Aramark; Chesapeake Energy.

Also, Choice Hotels; City of Farmington Fire Department; Event Merchandise Inc.; G4S Secure Solutions; Gallup Indian Medical Center; Intel Corporation; Joint Technical Services LLC.

Also, Los Alamos Police Department; Pojoaque Valley School; Public Service Company of New Mexico; Sandoval County Detention Center; Snappy Mart; US Border Academy; and University of New Mexico Hospitals.

The luncheon was catered by El Pinto of Albuquerque's North Valley. Master of ceremonies was Matt Woodcock of the Albuquerque ESGR Committee.



*New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez and ESGR Field Chair Ray Battaglini proudly stand with representatives of the New Mexico State Police (above) and Sandia National Laboratories of Albuquerque (below). Both organizations received state Freedom Awards. Sandia National Laboratories went on to be named in the top 30 for the National Secretary of Defense Freedom Award (see story page 3).*



# Belen School Supervisor Receives Patriot Award

Belen Consolidated Schools Supervisor Patricia Castillo was presented with a My Boss is a Patriot Award thanks to New Mexico National Guard Specialist First Class Jerry Moya.

Moya was deployed to Afghanistan for one year with the NMNG 1-117 GSAB. Moya's words in the award say it all about Castillo and the school staff that supported Moya during his deployment.

"During my year-long deployment to Afghanistan Patsy involved the staff bringing in items to be sent in care packages. She sent me cards signed by the staff offering their thanks an encouragement. Both Patsy and her husband sent me care packages. She e-mailed with news and sent me music and movie DVD's. She contacted my wife and offered any assistance she needed.

"Patsy assured me that my job was waiting for me when the deployment was over.

"Upon my return the staff made me a welcome home banner. They posted any news about the deployment when it came out."

Belen Schools Superintendent Ron Marquez assisted Moya in presenting the award. Castillo gave her



*New Mexico Air National Guard Specialist First Class Jerry Moya, second from right, with front row, left to right, Belen Schools Superintendent Ron Marquez, Patricia Castillo, Christy Sanchez, and NMANG Sgt. Y. Somers. Charles Clark, Valencia County ESGR Chair, in the back row.*

Teacher Resource Center staff equal praise in supporting Moya's military service. Several employees were not able to attend the award due to vacation periods.

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## *Patriot Award Presented*



*Lori Berry and David Huard from the HQ Air Force Safety Center (AFSEC) at Kirtland Air Force Base hold the Patriot Awards presented to them for supporting employees TSgt Gianni McClain-Manzo and TSgt Bridget Brzoza. Both are members of the New Mexico Air National Guard and have been encouraged to attend Financial Management Training courses that benefit them in both their AFSEC full-time positions as well as in their Air National Guard careers.*

## *Los Alamos Police Honored*



*Los Alamos Police Chief Wayne Torpy, center, and Deputy Police Chief Kevin Purtymun, left, accept the Department of Defense recognition as a Patriotic Employer award for the Los Alamos Police Department. The award was presented by County Councilor Michael Wismer at a County Council meeting.*

*Photo by Carol A. Clark/ladaily.com*

# SW NM ESGR Committee Happenings



*At left SW NM ESGR Committee member Cynthia Estrada, the local family Support Coordinator, holds her President's Volunteer Service Award Certificate.*



*New Mexico ESGR Program Support Technician Gary Kaiser, left, and SW ESGR Committee member Jay Lloyd visit with the southern New Mexico TV Channel 9 mascot at the White Sands Missile Range Bataan Memorial Death March registration.*



*SW NM Committee members enjoy time with former committee member George Dilworth at a party hosted by Jay Lloyd for Dilworth who lives in Arizona. Pictured at the party in Las Cruces are Cynthia Estrada of Family Support, Richard Lutz and Steve and Diane ReVeal as well as Dilworth.*



*SW NM ESGR Committee Member Richard Lutz with the ESGR Information Table set up at the Spring 2012 Congressman Steve Pearce Job Fair at the Convention Center in Las Cruces.*



*The SW ESGR Committee hosted a lunch for the Leadership Las Cruces Class held at White Sands Missile Range. Pictured at left are participants listening to Richard Lutz.*

# ESGR Supporters in Santa Fe Honored

Larry Campos holds his "Outstanding Performance" certificate given to him by Carmen M. Rodriguez (right) and the Santa Fe ESGR committee. He has played a big role in building and supporting the Santa Fe committee. He has provided a meeting space and refreshments for volunteers to hold their monthly meetings and manpower for ESGR events.



Olga Santamaria of The Club at Las Campanas in Santa Fe signed a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve on July 25. The Club at Las Campanas appreciates the values, leadership and unique skills our service members bring to the workforce. Club members continually recognize and support our country's service members and their families during peace, crisis and war time.



Joe Montoya from M&M Garage Door and Gates in Santa Fe received a Patriot Award from the Santa Fe ESGR Committee in July. His employee Mark Marquez is a sergeant in the New Mexico Army National Guard, 1/200th Infantry, Alpha Company. At right Montoya signs a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.



## SW Committee in Alamogordo



Southwest ESGR Committee member Jay Lloyd, right, talks with the chairman of the Alamogordo E-9 Retired Association at the March Job Fair in Alamogordo. The job fair was sponsored by Congressman Steven Pearce. Lloyd and SW Committee Chair Len Boulas passed out information about the H2H program. Lloyd and Boulas also made contacts in Alamogordo creating an ESGR Committee in the area. In the afternoon an ESGR/USERRA Training Session for staff members of the Human Resources Department of the Federal Credit Union was conducted by Lloyd and Boulas.

Andrew Caperones from Santa Fe BMW, received a Patriot Award from the Santa Fe ESGR Committee. His employee, Eric Stuart, is a Sergeant in the New Mexico Army National Guard, 1/200th Infantry, Alpha Company. He is very appreciative of the company's support with his military training and commitments. Caperones signed a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.

Dr. David Lyman from Concentra Medical Centers in Albuquerque received a Patriot Award for his support of employee Thaddeus D. Ritch de Herrera, who is a Captain in the United States Army Reserve and submitted him for this Award. Lyman also signed a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.



## ***McCormack Honored for ESGR Support***

Albuquerque ESGR Committee Chair Doris Budris, left, congratulates Vikki McCormack for her great work supporting ESGR by delivering and presenting over 30 Patriot Awards and Statements of Supports this year. Vikki has been a great asset getting these awards out to employers in the greater Albuquerque area.



Budris presented McCormack with a New Mexico National Guard Honorary Membership certificate, an ESGR coffee mug and a mini pocket ESGR pen. See the pictures of many of these award recipients in this newsletter

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

**JOB FAIR A SUCCESS**

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**NEW TAG SUPPORTS NM ESGR**

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**BERNALILLO COUNTY SUPPORTERS**

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**PURPLE HEART GIVEN IN ROSWELL**

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**BATAAN MARCH DRAWS MANY**

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**FREEDOM AWARD WINNERS**

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**AND SO MUCH MORE!**



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