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SUBJ/SOLICITATION FOR FREEDOM AWARD NOMINATIONS//

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POC/COMNAVRESFOR/NORFOLK VA/CTR/LEON HILL/757-322-6582/

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RMKS/1. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense (DoD) agency, encourages all National Guard and Reserve members to nominate supportive employers for the 2015 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the DoDs highest honor for civilian employers, recognizing those companies and agencies that provide extraordinary support for their military employees service. The award provides National Guard and Reserve members an opportunity to show their appreciation for their employers tremendous backing.

2. More than 2,800 Guardsmen and Reservists submitted nominations during the 2014 Freedom Award nomination season. Moreover, 261 of those nominations came from Navy Reserve members. The nomination process is easy to complete and family members may also submit nominations on a service members behalf. Employers of every size and industry are eligible. ESGR will accept nominations at www.FreedomAward.mil, through 19 January 2015.

3. The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996, under the auspices of ESGR, to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. In the years since, 205 employers have been honored. Recipients of the 2014 Freedom Award included diverse employers from many different industries to include banking, public service, public schools, healthcare and the food industry.

4. The 2015 Freedom Award recipients will be announced in early summer and honored in Washington, DC, during a ceremony next fall. All Selected Reserve Sailors are highly encouraged to nominate deserving employers for this important recognition.

5. Released by VADM R. R. Braun, Commander, Navy Reserve Force.//

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