



Ready Now!



Capt. Gary Hetzel, commander of Navy Region Northwest Reserve Component Command, speaks to local employers as part of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program at Naval Station Everett.

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Honoring Employers

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Shipmates,

As Navy Reserve Sailors, we know that our service impacts not only our families but also our employers. Many of these businesses and government agencies go above and beyond, offering tremendous support to service members and their families during deployments. By their actions, they are supporting our mission and our families. Together, let us all thank them for their patriotism and selflessness.

There are many ways to say thank you. One is to nominate your employer for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award <http://www.freedomaward.mil/>. This is the highest recognition the U.S. Government awards employers for their support. Another opportunity to honor your employer is through the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award. To learn about this nomination process go to www.ESGR.mil/PA. Employers can also be nominated for the Above and Beyond Award or the Pro Patria award. For further information about these awards go to <http://www.esgr.mil/site/Programs.aspx>.

When you say "thank you," please take time to tell your employer what you and the Navy Reserve are accomplishing. Your employer and co-workers need to know that when you are deployed or are on annual training orders, you are engaged in meaningful work that makes you a better educated, trained, and skilled employee. Also take a moment to point out the government programs that are available to employers who are looking to hire and retain veterans. A great resource to mention is the Employment Initiative Program website <http://www.esgr.mil/site/eip.aspx>.

A new tax incentive is one example of a program that is now available to employers who hire veterans. The incentive provides employers a tax credit of as much as \$6,240 for hiring a disabled veteran or a \$3,640 credit for any veteran who has been out of work for more than six months. This law allows a short-term tax credit of up to \$2,400 for veterans who are unemployed for at least four weeks and a long-term tax credit for veterans who have been unemployed for more than six months. The current Wounded Warrior tax credit for veterans with service-connected disabilities is \$4,800 and \$9,600 for those who have been unemployed more than six months.

These recognition programs and tax credits represent how we as a nation are saying thank to you our employers. Together let us honor their service and support of the Navy Reserve.

VADM Dirk Debbink
Chief of Navy Reserve

FORCM (AW) Chris Wheeler
Navy Reserve Force Master Chief

