

## Employers Have Your Back—Support for the Guard and Reserve

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is an office of the Department of Defense that promotes employer support for both National Guard and Reserve service members and veterans. ESGR hosts a variety of events across the country each year, such as job fairs to link employers and service members, as well as educational programs to inform service members and civilian employers of their legal rights and responsibilities.

One of ESGR's main projects is the Statement of Support Program, which encourages employers to act as advocates for employee participation in the military by signing a Statement of Support. Through this, employers pledge that they value the skills brought to the workforce by service members and will continually support service members and their families. A list of more than 8,000 firms in North Carolina that have signed the Statement of Support can be found [here](#).

The North Carolina ESGR has recently recognized multiple individuals and firms for their support of service members as well. Supervisors at CARQUEST in Raleigh, Quintiles in RTP, and Bank of America in Charlotte were awarded the Patriot Award for their outstanding support of individual service members. The NC ESGR has a [website](#) and Twitter account ([@NC ESGR](#)) that are frequently updated with upcoming events for employers and service members in the state as well as NC companies that are demonstrating their support for service members.