

BNSF Honored with ESGR's 2006 Freedom Award

2006-09-22

BNSF today, Sept. 22, announced that it was honored last night by the national committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) as the recipient of the 2006 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

BNSF joins an elite group of 15 companies selected from more than 5,000 nominations who were honored for their exceptional support of the National Guard and Reserves.

"We value our employees who choose to serve and are honored that our personnel policies have been recognized for that support," said John Lanigan, BNSF executive vice president and chief marketing officer, who accepted the honor from Adm. David Janes, ESGR National Chairman and Dr. David Chu, Under Secretary Defense for Personnel and Readiness, during the awards ceremony Thursday, Sept. 21, in Washington, D.C.

"BNSF recognizes the commitment and talent associated with U.S. military service and recognizes the values and sacrifices by those employees called to active duty," said Lanigan, who retired in 1997 from the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve with more than 20 years of active duty and reserve service. He commanded six units during his career, including a port security unit that deployed to Operation Desert Storm.

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. Their mission 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 provides free education, consultation and, if necessary, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. The organization presently has more the 1.2 million members.

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Lanigan receiving the award from Adm. David Janes, ESGR National Chairman and Under Sec. Def. for Personnel and Readiness Dr. David Chu.



From left to right: John Lanigan; Troy Campbell, conductor, Barstow, Calif.; Aaron Rossiter, management trainee, Belen, N.M.; John Shook, manager, HR; Shawn Chrystal, safety manager, Stockton, Calif.; and Michelle Parrack, supervisor,