



Jim Doyle, Governor
John A. Scocos, Secretary

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Wisconsin Veterans Affairs Secretary signs Statement of Support for Guard and Reserve employees

(MADISON) — Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Secretary John A. Scocos signed a "Statement of Support" symbolizing the department's commitment to its employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. The Statement of Support signing took place during a meeting of the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs held at the Maritime Museum in Manitowoc on August 18 and is part of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) initiatives that encourage positive relationships between employers and their Guard and Reserve employees. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs is being recognized for the agency's proactive policies affecting its military employees including the "Mission: Welcome Home" program, which continues successfully to reach out to all service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs supports our state's veterans and service members," said Scocos. "Signing this Statement of Support for Guard and Reserve employees sets an example of how the agency values its own employees currently serving our nation in military activations and deployments."

When an agency signs a "Statement of Support," it recognizes the National Guard and Reserve as essential to the strength of our nation and the well being of our communities. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs currently has eight National Guard and Reserve members with two currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and countless others who are now veterans and have served in both peacetime and war periods.

Members of the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs witnessed the signing by Secretary Scocos, as Chester A. McDonald, ESGR Area 1 Chair and also a local employer from Green Bay, read the Statement of Support.

"Wisconsin's Reserve and Guard members deserve the support of every segment of our society," said Jim Rebholz, Chairman of Wisconsin's ESGR Committee. "In the highest American tradition, the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve serve voluntarily in an honorable and vital profession. They train to respond to their community and their country in time of need."

(more)

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs joins other employers in pledging that:

- Employment will not be denied because of service in the National Guard and Reserve.
- Employee job and career opportunities will not be limited or reduced because of service in the National Guard and Reserve.
- Employees will be granted leaves of absence for military training and/or service in the National Guard or Reserve, consistent with existing laws, without sacrifice of vacation.
- This pledge of support and its resultant policies will be made known throughout this organization.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense volunteer organization. ESGR provides free education, consultation, and, if necessary, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR's goal is to support America's employers who share their employees with the nation to ensure our national security.

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