



### **Border Agency to Hire More Army Reservists**

The Army Reserve and US Customs and Border Protection signed an agreement to create a partnership aimed at filling some of the growing federal agency's 11,000 job openings with Army reservists.

The border agency is the first federal entity to join the Army Reserve's Employer Partnership Initiative, a collaborative project established last year aimed at placing reservists with a host of employers in the public and private sectors. Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, the chief of the Army Reserve, said he is seeking similar agreements that will start more reservists on careers with the government.

The Army Reserve, which numbers about 206,000, has about 10,000 soldiers trained in law enforcement, nearly one-fourth of the Army's total military police force. About 12,500 Army reservists are deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait, and heavy demand probably will be made of the reserve for years to come.

Some reservists, fresh from school, did not have jobs when they left, and others do not want to return to the same job. "Soldiers who deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan come back and say, 'You know, I can do better. I had responsibility over there. I don't want to go back to what I was doing before,'" Stultz said.

For the entire report, visit:  
<http://ebird.osd.mil/ebfiles/e20090421671819.html>

### **Exchange Online Mall Now Taking Vacation Reservations**

The Exchange Service's Exchange Online Mall has partnered with the U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation to help troops take a break without going broke.

Authorized exchange shoppers can log on to the Exchange Online Mall and book a vacation, including 7-night Alaskan Cruises from \$399, Cozumel from \$28 per night and an 11-day European Dream vacation, through FMWRC's Government Vacation Rewards program.

Beyond convenience, the partnership makes it possible for military shoppers to book vacations using the Exchange Service's proprietary Military Star® card or Military Star® Rewards MasterCard®.

Government Vacation Rewards offers access to special military pricing on thou-

Photo by Tim Hipps, FMWRC Public Affairs



*All-Army boxer Pfc. Sidney Williams, a Reservist from Kentucky, delivers a right jab to the head of Navy SK Abdullah Johnson en route to a 19-17 victory in the 165-pound division of the 2009 Armed Forces Boxing Championships May 1 at Barnes Field House on Fort Huachuca, Ariz.*

sands of cruises, tours, vacation packages, resorts, hotels, air travel and cars.

Currently, military shoppers who log on to the site through the Exchange Online Mall can use a Military Star® card to book any package while à la carte offerings, such as hotel, airline and car rental services, can be made using a major credit card.

### **Commissary Case Lot Sales for July and August**

On-site Sales are open to all authorized patrons.

**July 10 – 11:** Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, OR

**July 11 – 12:** Army National Guard, Ruston, LA

**July 18 – 19:** Army National Guard, Northport, AL

**July 30 – 31:** Ellington Field, Houston, TX

**July 31:** Camp Mabry, Austin, TX; 94th ARW, Dobbins ARB, GA; Bowling Green National Guard Armory; Fort AP Hill, VA; Guard and Reserve, Otis, MA; Oregon Air National Guard, Portland, OR

**August 1:** Bowling Green National Guard Armory, Fort AP Hill, VA; Fort Douglas, Salt Lake City, UT

**August 1 – 2:** Camp Mabry, Austin, TX; 94th ARW, Dobbins ARB, GA; Fresno National Guard, Fresno, CA; Ellington Field, Houston, TX; Guard and Reserve, Otis, MA; Oregon Air National Guard, Portland, OR; West Virginia National

Guard, Fairmont, WV

**August 7 – 8:** Illinois National Guard, Peoria, IL

**August 7 – 11:** Maine National Guard, Augusta, ME

**August 14 – 15:** Camp San Luis, San Luis Obispo, CA

**August 14 – 16:** Tulsa ANG, Tulsa, OK

**August 15:** Guard and Reserve, Youngstown, OH

**August 16:** Lincoln Housing, Coleville, NV

**August 28 – 29:** Donald Reserve Center, Greenville, SC

**August 29 – 30:** Texas National Guard, Lubbock, TX

### **FRA Offers Free Guide to Communicating With Congress**

The Fleet Reserve Association is offering a free guide called Communicate With Your Elected Officials to help members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard and their families participate in the legislative process.

The guide offers a directory of the 111th Congress and includes helpful tips on effectively expressing concerns to members of Congress.

"Many service members believe their annual pay raises are automatic or that Congress is obligated to fund existing benefit programs," explains FRA's National Executive Director Joe Barnes, "but there is no law that protects military pay and benefits. In the current economic climate, there is tremendous pressure to reduce government costs across the board and military benefit programs are often the first target of opportunity when it comes to cutting the budget."

FRA's urges all current and former members of the military to support the Association's legislative advocacy efforts by communicating their views to their elected officials and participating in the legislative process. To order a free "Communicate With Your Elected Officials," please send an email request to [bethw@fra.org](mailto:bethw@fra.org) with your name, mailing address, rank and branch of service or call 1-800-FRA-1924.

In addition to Communicate With Your Elected Officials, FRA offers an online Action Center at [www.fra.org](http://www.fra.org) that

# PLAN TO ATTEND....

## THE ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES 38th GENERAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

AUGUST 9 - 12, 2009  
(EXHIBIT DATES: 8/9-11)  
MAYO CIVIC CENTER  
ROCHESTER, MN

For conference details: [www.eangus.org](http://www.eangus.org)  
For exhibit information: Exhibit Promotions Plus, Inc  
[eangus@epponline.com](mailto:eangus@epponline.com) 410/997-0763 [www.epponline.com](http://www.epponline.com)



allows visitors to send prewritten messages (or visitors can draft their own) to their members of Congress, urging their support or opposition on proposals that impact current and former service personnel.

FRA is a congressionally chartered, non-profit organization representing the interests of current and former enlisted members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

In addition to its advocacy work on Capitol Hill in support of enlisted personnel, FRA aids its members with career issues by maintaining close relationships with government agencies and by educating lawmakers about the challenges facing those who serve in the armed forces.

The Association also awards annual scholarships totaling more than \$100,000, sponsors a national essay contest, and assists its members with disaster relief grants.

### CAC-Enabled Kiosks

#### Coming to Armories, Reserve Centers

Information security has become an increasing concern in the military. Hackers attempt to crack into the

Department of Defense global information grid daily.

While the active-duty military responds with new security measures, such as the requirement to log in to government computers with a Common Access Card (CAC), traditional Guardmembers with no CAC reader find themselves locked out and unable to do their jobs.

Army National Guard officials began rectifying this situation last year by installing thousands of CAC-enabled kiosks at armories and reserve centers in all 54 states and territories.

More than \$3.5 million has been allocated for about 8,400 kiosks. "These (kiosks) are spread across units in an armory that may only have one computer," said Lt. Col. Rodney Swann, chief of network engineering operations for the Army National Guard. "When you have units that are drilling in that armory, they have no capability to do their work."

The National Guard Bureau provides an integrated CAC reader and keyboard, said Swann. It also provides monitors for 75 percent of the kiosks fielded and the states have extra monitors for the remaining 25 percent, he added.

"Generally, it's been received very pos-

itively by the (traditional) force that before didn't have anything," said Col. Bret Slater, chief of information technology plans, programs and policy for the Army National Guard.

The kiosks will also be helpful during Soldier Readiness Processing drills. Guardmembers will be able to access Army and Guard Knowledge Online and other Web sites to identify personnel issues before jumping into line.

They can also fill out their periodic health assessment online to expedite the process of seeing a health provider.

"They know what issues they have and know what they need to do to get things working," said Swann.

Swann said the kiosks complement, but do not replace, the Distance Learning classrooms currently available in many armories.

"The Distance Learning computers are all personal computers that are put into a specific area that serve a different purpose," said Swann.

The main difference between the two, he said, is that the kiosks will not be equipped with word processing or spreadsheet programs - they are intended for use as an Internet portal.