

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The American Legion and Army Reserve Leaders

Form Partnership

INDIANAPOLIS (January 5, 2007) - With "Service to America" as a common bond between them, the National Commander of The American Legion, Paul A. Morin, and the Chief of the Army Reserve, Lieutenant General Jack C. Stultz, initiated a partnership between their organizations in a signing ceremony today that will bring both organizations even closer as they provide service to the nation, our veterans, their families and their communities.

"With over 14,000 American Legion posts located across America, we certainly have the infrastructure in place to assist the Army Reserve's goal of ongoing interaction with communities and organizations while providing support to the Reservists being called to active duty and their families," said Morin.

"We want the Army Reserve to know they have a friend in The American Legion," Morin said.

According to Morin, The American Legion's membership and standing in the local area can assist the Army Reserve in establishing contact with key "centers of influence" in each community.

"I applaud The American Legion for what they are doing," Gen. Stultz said. "The reserve component is a community based organization and we depend upon the community for support. That is why the support of The American Legion is critical to our success to sustain our armed forces."

The American Legion has provided service to veterans, their families and their communities since 1919. The U.S. Army Reserve is rooted in the tradition of the American Colonists to serve, protect and defend this country whenever and wherever it is needed. Since 1908, the men and women of the Army Reserve have responded whenever called upon to support American military operations, including peacekeeping and humanitarian missions.

Under the MOU, The American Legion will:

Encourage advocacy and support of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Ombudsman program that works to provide mediation services to employers and members of the Army Reserve.

Encourage Legionnaires to cross train with Army Reservists to enhance the volunteer base in support of Army Reserve soldiers and families.

Encourage The American Legion posts to open their facilities for families of service members to gather for socialization or organized meetings.

The Army Reserve will:

Inform Army Reserve Family Coordinators to include volunteers from The American Legion as appropriate in Family Program Training events to foster the building of a stronger volunteer base.

Inform Army Reserve soldiers and families of the opportunity to make use of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary Volunteers, and The American Legion Service Officers during Soldier Readiness events.

Provide The American Legion an updated list of Regional Readiness Sustainment Commands (RRSCs) and Family Programs staff.

Morin encourages all members of The American Legion family to take advantage of this opportunity to further enhance their working relationship with the Army Reserve units in their communities.

"It's a win-win situation for America," Morin said.

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