



**ODOT's Buffalo Office Receives Patriot Award
for Support of The National Guard and Reserves**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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In recognition of outstanding support to the National Guard and military reserve forces, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Division 6 office in Buffalo was presented with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award Friday, October 31.

ESGR State Chairman, retired Brig. Gen. Gary Bray, presented the Patriot Award, designed to recognize employers for enacting policies and practices that support their employees' participation in the National Guard and Reserve, to the ODOT Buffalo office during a short presentation. The event also included a ceremonial signing of a statement of support for the Guard and Reserve by ODOT Division Engineer Robert Ward.

"We deeply appreciate the support given to our reserve members by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. We are solidifying that relationship by signing the statement of support between ODOT and ESGR this morning," Bray said.

ODOT's Buffalo office was nominated by Sergeant Austin Turner. A member of the United States Army Reserve's 129th Transportation Company and a transportation equipment operator II on ODOT's Division 6 Division Wide Maintenance Crew, Turner has worked for ODOT since 2005 and his wife, Megan, who works on the same crew, has been an ODOT employee since 2007. Turner was placed on military leave in April 2008 and is currently serving overseas.

"We are honored to receive this award and to be recognized," Ward said. "Our employees are very important to us and we feel privileged to support their dedication to the service of our country."

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, established in 1972, is a national organization of volunteers working in conjunction with the Department of Defense to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees by recognizing outstanding support. For more information on the program, visit the ESGR website www.esgr.org or call ESGR State Executive Director Walt Cross at 405-475-1333.

ODOT's Division 6 includes Major, Alfalfa, Woods, Woodward, Ellis, Harper, Beaver, Texas, and Cimarron counties and is headquartered in Buffalo.

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(Editors and News Directors: For details on the event, please call the ODOT Media & Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000. For information on the ESGR program contact Walt Cross at 405-475-1333)

INFORMATION RELEASE

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Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve State Chairman, retired Brig. Gen. Gary Bray (right), presents the Patriot Award to ODOT Division 6 Division Engineer Robert Ward as part of a ceremony October 31. The Patriot Award, given to ODOT's Buffalo office, is designed to recognize employers for enacting policies and practices that support their employees' participation in the National Guard and Reserve.