

BNSF Receives ESGR Award

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BNSF was recognized last Friday, Nov. 18, for going "Above and Beyond" in support of employees who are members of the National Guard and Reserve. The award was presented at a banquet hosted by the Missouri Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) at the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City, Mo.

The award is presented annually by each of the 55 ESGR committees and is designed to recognize employers who have gone above and beyond the legal requirements for granting leave for military duty. BNSF policy provides both enhanced and extended benefits for employees called to active duty with the National Guard and Reserve in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Representing BNSF at the awards banquet were Shawn Chrystal, safety manager, California Division; Gary Gaumer, manager, Signals; Cathy McGee, regional director, Human Resources; and Connie McLendon, manager, Military Staffing.

Chrystal nominated BNSF for the award when he was a signal supervisor in Jonesboro, Ark., and following his tour of duty with the Tennessee Air National Guard in 2002 during Operation Enduring Freedom. His letter was picked out of hundreds received from reservists.

"Our company supports its military members 110 percent when called upon by the military," Chrystal wrote in his nomination. "You know beyond a shadow of a doubt you will be welcomed with open arms upon your return from active duty."



From left: Bill Lawson, vice chairman of the Missouri ESGR Committee, Gary Gaumer, BNSF signal manager, Shawn Chrystal, BNSF safety manager, Brigadier General Mike Brandt, commander of the Missouri Air National Guard, and Brigadier General King Sidwell the adjutant general of Missouri. The "Above and Beyond" award was presented Friday, Nov. 18.

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