

(Neb.)-Forests & Grasslands Receive National Guard Award

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(Chadron)- Tim Burkirk presented Jane Darnell and the Nebraska National Forests & Grasslands (NNFG) this week with the Patriotic Employer Award on behalf of the National Committee for Employer Support of America's National Guard & Reserve Force (ESGR).

According to Buskirk, "This award is to recognize leaders and employers' who have shown long term support to their employees who are members of the National Guard and Reserve. Whether it was training, state emergency response, or my year-long deployment to Iraq, all of the supervisors I've had here on the Nebraska National Forest have been fully supportive of my career in the Nebraska National Guard."

Darnell, Forest Supervisor said, "The Nebraska National Forests & Grasslands has a long and honorable tradition of supporting employees that are members of the National Guard while they simultaneously serve our nation. We also recognize the benefits that these Servicemen and women bring to our organization. Our Forest & Grassland has proudly supported three active service members in the most recent five years, including Tim."

Buskirk, Bessey District Ranger for the NNFG has been a member of the Nebraska Army National Guard since 1998 and worked for the Forest Service since 2001. He was deployed to Iraq with the 1057th Transportation Company in 2003 for a 15 month tour to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. He currently serves as the Commander of the 1057th Transportation Company, headquartered in Scottsbluff with detachments in Chadron and Sidney.