

More information about The “Patriotic Employer” Award

There are some key points asked on the submission form as well as a spot for a narrative. The key points listed are:

- Maintains benefits
- Recognizes me for military service
- Maintains salary
- Keeps in touch
- Hires fill-in when I am gone
- Shows support

The main criterion for a higher level award is the narrative. This is the spot to state how the employer/manager/supervisor is showing support for their military member employee. Here are some examples of items listed in narratives that could lead to a higher level award for the manager/supervisor/company:

- They sent me a care package valued at over \$200 plus approximately 3000 minutes worth of phone cards that I could use to stay in touch with my family.
- The company has recognized me in their newsletter and put together care packages for me.
- At the time of employment, my manager added 2 weeks of paid vacation to my benefits for the purpose of Guard Annual Training. He has also allowed me to leave work early when necessary to travel to a drill site some distance away, with full pay.

I have had 3 military leaves of absence during one year of employment. My company was very cooperative to extend my leave when my school was extended three days. They also granted me extra time off to assist an aviation unit during their annual training and an additional 15 days off to attend new equipment training in St. Louis and California. During my three years with the company, they have granted me additional time off to attend various schools that would enhance my military career.

- The company recognizes the importance of the military mission. The department works closely with its military members to ensure they are able to attend all scheduled military training and schools without a loss of pay or benefits and without problems due to work scheduling.

I have only been employed with the company for six months when I was activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom. They offered to continue my health benefits for my family. They have also continued my holiday pay and bonuses. When I received notice that my duty would be extended, the company sent my wife a letter and check for \$2500 to help with things while I was gone.