The National Guard and military reserves are vital to the security or our nation. But as many reserve or guard soldiers will tell you, it can be tricky to schedule your day job around military service weekends. Sometimes those weekends can last 4 days; sometimes you can get called to active duty for a month or more. Understandably, this can make scheduling difficult for employers as well.

You might be thinking, “Isn’t it the law to allow employees to serve and isn’t their job protected?” The short answer to these questions is yes and yes. However, allowing and supporting do not mean the same thing. An employer that proactively supports the dedication of citizen soldiers is greatly appreciated.

James (Jim) Maltby, Director of Health, Safety, Security & Environment (HSSE) at Lynden Incorporated, the parent company over all the Lynden companies, is one such employer. Jim was recently recognized by the Office of the Secretary of Defense as a Patriotic Employer. This award recognizes employers that give high levels of support to their employees who are part of America’s National Guard or military reserves.

Jim was nominated for the award by Gregg Bergstrom, the Safety Director of Lynden Air Freight Inc. Gregg is in the Army Reserves and said he appreciates the times when he had last minute or unexpected orders and Jim’s willingness to work with him on those. Gregg said, “Jim always asks what he can do to help and goes out of his way to support you so that you don’t have to worry about your regular work when you are gone.”

As a veteran of the Air Force with 12 years of service, Jim believes former military to be some of the best trained and hardest workers out there. He and the Lynden family of companies encourage former military to become truck drivers through the Troops to Truckers program and stay involved in events that support the troops.

Thank you Jim for your support of your employees’ service in the armed forces.