

To: All GACP Members
From: GACP's Military Affairs Chairman, COL Ronnie Alton, USA (Retired)
Re: Support of Our Troops
Date: November 5, 2009

The Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP) has two initiatives that support our returning military veterans from service overseas. Your GACP Executive Board approved the second initiative on October 20, 2009, whereas the first initiative has been an ongoing program of GACP for the last 5 years. The Board's hope is that this second initiative will further show GACP's commitment to our armed services veterans who serve two masters: law enforcement and the US Military.

First Initiative:

This recognition program was started five years ago by GACP to honor our returning veterans from operations overseas who returned as or became a police officer in the state of Georgia. If a returning military veteran served honorably in any of the operations overseas and then joined or rejoined a Georgia city police force, then they would be eligible for a Certificate of Recognition from GACP. They would also be presented with a lapel pin that could be worn on the police uniform to indicate dedicated service and bravery in these various overseas operations. These operations include Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Police Chiefs, after verifying honorable service, can request these certificates and pins from the GACP Executive Director for local presentation to the officers.

Second Initiative being a new program:

The GACP Executive Board has recently endorsed and strongly supports the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program. This worthwhile program insures that returning veterans, after serving honorably, will be eligible to return to their jobs. ESGR is an agency of the Department of Defense and organized as part of the ESGR's Ombudsman service. Its mission is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve services by recognizing outstanding support and increasing awareness of the law. ESGR promotes cooperation between reserve members and their civilian employers regarding their previous job position and assists in the resolution of any conflicts through mediation. If your law enforcement agency elects to enter into accord with the ESGR, you will be provided with a signed, framed "Statement of Support" from the Federal Department of Reserve Affairs. This framed document is suitable to be hung in the lobby of any law enforcement agency so that your sworn and civilian employees can see that you are committed to safeguarding not only the citizens of Georgia, but also all Americans. For guidance and/or questions contact the National Office of Employer Support of the Guard (ESGR) at 800-336-4590 or visit www.esgr.mil.

Questions about either one of these initiatives can be directed to the office of the GACP Executive Director, Frank Vincent Rotondo 770.495.9650.