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ESGR Patriot Award

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ESGR Patriot Award
John M. Dunn
May 31, 2012

- Thank you Capt. Burn, and thank you for joining us today, Capt. Ryan. Erik, you have my deep gratitude for both serving as a member of the Guard and Reserve and for taking the time after your last deployment to submit the nomination that led to this award.
- I know my name is on the award, but this as an honor intended for our entire campus. I think it singles out both those who serve in the Guard and Reserve and those who step up to help support those serving and the families they've left behind.
- Erik, I was stuck by your narrative and the way you were grateful that while you were away, your colleagues stepped up to call or send emails to your wife, just to touch base and let her know they were available to help if needed. Your concern for the impact your service had on her--when it was you who was in harm's way--really speaks volumes about the kind of person you are.
- We're proud that you are part of our campus community and proud that you made the commitment to serve. Your second job--profession--is your service to our nation, and we're all the better and safer for it.
- Thank you for serving. Thank you on behalf of all of Western Michigan University for this recognition. We will continue to do everything within our power to support our Guard and Reserve members and to continue this campus' tradition of being military friendly.