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Two SRNS Employees Receive Department of Defense Patriot Award

AIKEN, S.C., October 7, 2020 – Ebony Patterson-Harvey, Program Manager for Continuous Improvement, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, wanted to join the U.S. military when she was in high school, but life circumstances always seemed to stand in the way — until one day three years ago.

“At that time, on a dare, I took my oldest son and nephew to the U.S. Armed Forces recruitment office, in Augusta, Georgia, believing this would be a good career move for both of them,” said Patterson-Harvey. “I told them, ‘Let’s all go sign up together.’ However, the result of my efforts — then and later — didn’t work. As it turned out, I was the only one to enlist and that was about a year ago.”

Patterson-Harvey explained that while the Army offered the most appealing incentives, her heart belonged to the Air Force Reserve. After nearly six months of basic training, technical school and seasonal training, she was ready to serve her country.

At the Savannah River Site (SRS), hundreds of SRNS employees can relate to the rigors and trials of training to become a military reservist or National Guard member.



(left) P.K. Hightower, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Interface Management and Continuous Improvement Manager, recently received the U.S. Department of Defense Patriot Award.



(right) Terri Williams, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Project Controls Manager with Environmental Management Operations, displays a certificate in honor of the U.S. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award she received.

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“Though I was committed to the necessity of leaving my family during weeks of training each year, I was concerned that my management team may feel otherwise,” said Patterson-Harvey. “In fact, when I was initially away for six months for training, I couldn’t help but worry, ‘Would I have a job when I returned?’”

Patterson-Harvey continued, “I was so relieved and thankful when both Terri Williams, and later, P.K. Hightower not only agreed to this ongoing commitment but expressed their complete approval. And they were pleased to show me just how much they care about me and my family. I’m extremely grateful to them and the SRNS leadership team who demonstrated their full support as well.”

Both Hightower and Williams, managers within the SRNS Business Services organization, have continued to support a commitment to reservists such as Patterson-Harvey.

To show her appreciation, Patterson-Harvey nominated both Hightower and Williams for the U.S. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award. And both were awarded it during a special onsite ceremony.

“I am humbled that Ebony took the time to nominate me for the award; however, I do not feel that I should be honored for doing what is right for employees who are serving in the Reserve or active duty military,” said Hightower, Interface Management and Continuous Improvement Manager. “Our company has a long history of supporting those who defend our freedoms and expect those in leadership to carry on that tradition of support, not just because it’s company policy, because it’s the right thing to do.”

Terri Williams, a Project Controls Manager with Environmental Management Operations, also expressed her gratitude.

“I appreciate the commitment that our troops make when they join the armed services. It was my privilege to help and support any of my people who are involved with the military,” Williams said.

The ESGR believes that employer support enhances retention rates in the Armed Forces and strengthens national security. To recognize employers who support employees in the National Guard and Reserves, ESGR grants a series of Department of Defense awards. These awards honor employer sacrifices that strengthen relationships between service members and their managers.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor-led company with Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina. Visit us on the web at www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com

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