



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: November 5, 2004

Contact: Bob Borden, (415) 744-1961

Release Number: 04-06

Internet Address: www.sba.gov/news/

State SCORE Chapters Ready to Offer Business Assistance to Activated California National Guard, Reservists

SAN FRANCISCO - With Veterans Day less than a week away, the U.S. Small Business Administration's key resource partner, SCORE (Senior Corps of Retired Executives), is offering free business counseling to small business owners who are members of the California National Guard and Reservists called to active duty. SCORE chapters throughout California are providing their business counseling services through the California National Guard Website. By going to www.calguard.ca.gov, the soldier clicks on "Soldier and Civilian Resources," and then clicks on the word SCORE to reach the link to SCORE services in the state.

There are currently 21,000 uniformed members of the California National Guard. One-quarter are on active duty and 11,000 members have served on active duty throughout the world since 9/11. About 3,000 California National Guard members are currently serving in Iraq. The U.S. military hasn't relied so heavily on part-time soldiers serving lengthy active duty tours since World War II.

SCORE has over 400 experienced and trained volunteers available to counsel the National Guard and Reservists in California. Business counseling can be conducted by e-mail, telephone or in person. "At SCORE, we understand how the recent deployments of Army Reservists and National Guard members have caused extreme difficulty to those who are actively involved in the operation of a small business," says Bill Morland, SCORE's California project coordinator. "It's hard to own a business and keep it operating successfully when you're not there. That's why, in working cooperatively with the California National Guard, we created this business counseling program designed to ensure that the small business owners who are bravely serving our country have a business to come home to when their deployment ends."

SCORE business counseling for California National Guard members and Reservists ranges from formal business planning and business succession planning to buying and selling a business, various financial and marketing subjects, to assistance in obtaining financing for a small business.

#

For more information on the California SCORE/National Guard program, call Bill Morland at (949) 488-0888 or Jim Boylson at (408) 262-2255.