

## 2 Dayton-area employers nominated for Defense Department award

Staff Report

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ARLINGTON, Va. Three Ohio employers, including two in the Dayton area, have been selected as semifinalists for the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award for support of National Guard and Reserve members, the Department of Defense announced.

Among the 148 national semifinalists are Miami Valley Career Technology Center of Clayton, Brilligent Solutions Inc., Fairborn, and Progressive Insurance of suburban Cleveland. Service members submitted 4,049 employer nominations this year, an increase of 64 percent from the 2010 total of nominations.

Employers are nominated for support of Guard and Reserve employees through various means, including providing the difference between military and civilian salary during deployments, continuation of full benefits, sending care packages and supporting military families while their service members are deployed.

A national review board will whittle the semifinalists group to 30 finalists for the Freedom Award. The Defense Department is to announce the finalists in May and the award recipients in early summer. The recipients are to be honored in Washington, D.C., at a ceremony on Sept. 22.

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