



## Alpha Natural Resources Honored for Support of Employees Called to Serve in the Military

ABINGDON, Va., May 24, 2006 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX News Network/ -- Alpha Natural Resources (NYSE: ANR) received the "Above and Beyond" award today from a committee of the U. S. Department of Defense for its support of employees who are called up to active duty.

Michael J. Quillen, president and CEO of Alpha Natural Resources, accepted the award on behalf of Dickenson-Russell Coal Co., one of two Alpha subsidiaries in southwest Virginia.

Also attending the award ceremony was Sgt. Scott Beverly, a Dickenson- Russell employee who nominated his employer for the support provided to him and his family while he was serving in Kuwait and Iraq as a U.S. Army Reservist.

"We believe supporting our military employees is the right thing to do for the employees, their families and our country. We made a decision that employees and their families would suffer neither loss of normal pay nor any loss of benefit coverage during the time they are away serving in the military," said Quillen.

Dickenson-Russell officials communicated with Beverly via email frequently while he was serving in Iraq and included his wife and daughter in company functions while he was serving his country, Quillen said.

"We wanted to make sure that Scott's wife and the other military spouses from our company knew that they were not alone while their family members were away from home serving our country," said Quillen.

Charlie Quillin, chairman of the Virginia Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (VaESGR), and Barry Firebaugh, employer outreach representative, presented the award, one of eight "Above and Beyond" awards presented in Virginia, during ceremonies held at Alpha's headquarters in Abingdon. More than 600 companies were nominated for the award.

Alpha Natural Resources is a leading producer of high-quality Appalachian coal. Approximately 91 percent of the company's reserve base is high Btu coal and 84 percent is low sulfur, qualities that are in high demand among electric utilities which use steam coal. Alpha is also one of the nation's largest producers and exporters of metallurgical coal, a key ingredient in steel manufacturing. Alpha and its subsidiaries currently operate mining complexes in four states, consisting of 72 mines feeding 12 coal preparation and blending plants. The company and its subsidiaries employ more than 3,700 persons.

ANRG

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