

Division helps GE celebrate 50 years

By Maj. Tracy SMITH
S-1, 7th Brigade

100th Division (IT) soldiers were present to partake in the celebration of the General Electric Company's 50th year of continuous operations in the Louisville area on May 9th, 2003. Maj. Gen. John R. Tindall, Jr., Commanding General of the 100th Division, and Col. Ronald Steensland, State Chairman of the Employer Guard and Reserve Support office were in attendance for presentation of awards acknowledging the continuous support of General Electric employees and their military service.

General Electric has held a long tradition of supporting their employees and their military obligations through a number of means. This means of support has come not only from the top down, but also through the employees themselves. In fact, when the employees discovered that the soldiers that were being mobilized out of Fort Dix, NJ had no means to watch the news on television; they initiated a fund drive and donated several televisions to be placed in the dayrooms throughout Fort Dix.

To further show support for the citizen soldiers/employees and the safety of our country, General Electric showed great patriotism and



Jeff Immelt, CEO of General Electric (right) accepts the "Pro Patriot Award" from Maj. Gen. Tindall and Col. Steensland.

100th DIV. PA

valor by sending a letter to each one of their employees that was a member of the military Reserve forces. Jim Campbell, CEO of GE Consumer Products, signed the letter, to assure each Guard and Reservist not waiver or fret about doing their duty for their country, because their jobs back at GE would be secure.

"GE has clearly gone above and beyond in their care of their employees in the Guard and Reserve." notes Col. Ron Steensland. Col. Steensland goes on to say "Jim Campbell and all the associates at Appliance Park are to be commended for their support."

They also graciously offered to extend to any mobilized soldier to offset the difference in pay, should they have one, between their civilian job and their military pay beyond their normal military pay compensation agreement for annual training. This was a follow on measure to the notice sent to employees by Jeff Immelt, CEO of General Electric, after 9-11 echoing the support of the company and the country.

The Senior Management support

didn't stop at the letter writing levels either. As Maj. Gen. Tindall noted in his speech addressing both current and former employees, "On several occasions the leadership at General Electric had been observed supporting their employees by personally attending promotion and change of command ceremonies."

Other highlights of support for the military include the company's own in-house recruiting of Active Component servicemen and servicewomen through their Junior Officer Leadership Program, assisting them in their transitions from the military to take on leadership roles within General Electric. This program has allowed many officers to continue their service to this country via the Reserve Components all the while being assured a civilian job and career.

When Jim Campbell accepted the "Above and Beyond Award" on behalf of the General Electric Company and their employees, the crowd cheered loudly knowing that GE had done all and more to deserve these two top recognition awards.