

USAF RESERVIST & TREE CO. SUPERINTENDENT RECEIVES CALL TO ACTIVE DUTY

January 23, 2003 ~ Technical Sergeant Salvador (Sal) R. Ponce, Jr., U.S. Air Force Reserve, was called to active duty this month and is waiting word on possible deployment to the Persian Gulf. Called to March Air Reserve Base, 452nd Air Mobility Wing in Riverside, CA, Sal won't know where his final duty station will be or how long he will be gone.

Sal has been an USAF reservist for 8 years since completing 8 years of active duty. In 2001, Sal received a Certificate of Recognition for Expeditionary Operational Readiness excellence from the Air Mobility Command Inspector General team. In civilian life, Sal has been with Tree Co. for 10 years and oversees some of the company's large tree relocation projects as a senior level superintendent for the Specimen Division in San Fernando. A second-generation employee, Sal is the son of Salvadore Ponce Sr., who at more than 40 years is one of the longest tenured employees in company history.

At a time when military service again carries an element of uncertainty and risk, he is proud of his commitment and has the support of his family in Palmdale and his team at Valley Crest Tree Co. The enthusiasm of the Reserve component soldiers—men and women who choose to voluntarily serve in these and other military units is extraordinary, and we salute Sal and other reservist employees who dedicate their time to support our nation's defense strategy.

Currently, nationwide there are approximately 51-thousand citizen soldiers on duty in the U.S. and 50 countries around the world.

