



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2014

Media Contacts:

Emily Kibling

Borshoff

(317) 631-6400

Emily.Kibling@borshoff.biz

DEFENDER Direct awarded #30 spot on elite national *Training* Top 125 list
Highest ranked company in Indiana; more than 70-spot jump from last year

INDIANAPOLIS—[DEFENDER Direct](#) has attained the unprecedented honor of being ranked number 30 in *Training* magazine's Training Top 125 – the premier learning industry awards program that recognizes companies worldwide. That's an increase of 71 spots since 2013.

DEFENDER Direct's ranking is the highest of all Indiana businesses and places it in the elite company of major Fortune 500 organizations, including Wells Fargo, MasterCard Worldwide, Best Buy and Walgreens. The international Training Top 125 list ranks companies' excellence in employer-sponsored training and development programs and is the only report that ranks companies unsurpassed in harnessing human capital. The annual list was announced earlier this week at the Training 2014 Conference & Expo in San Diego, Calif.

"We are humbled to be included on such an elite list alongside some of the business community's greatest leaders. Developing leaders is an essential core value for our business, and being recognized for this effort is truly an honor," said Mike Lantz, chief learning officer for DEFENDER Direct. "We look forward to further developing our leadership and training program as we find innovative ways to help our employees grow both professionally and personally."

As part of its ongoing commitment to developing leaders, DEFENDER Direct will open its annual national leadership convention up to central Indiana business leaders for the first time in 2014, giving them a chance to hear from national leadership experts and experience the company's award-winning leadership development first hand. The convention will take place Sunday, Feb. 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in downtown Indianapolis. Guests must register in advance, and are invited to make a donation of any amount to a local charity, in lieu of a registration fee, when they register at defenderconvention.com.

"We invest substantially in our more than 2,400 employees nationwide and believe our unique approach – 'businesses don't grow, people do' – sets us apart. We look forward to sharing with, and learning alongside, others in the local business community while providing an environment for business leaders to connect with one another, exploring what it means to be a true leader," added Lantz.

The *Training* magazine Top 125 ranking is determined by assessing a range of qualitative and quantitative factors, including financial investment in employee development, the scope of development programs, and how closely such development efforts are linked to business goals and objectives. At DEFENDER Direct, 100 percent of team members participate in training sessions, book clubs and development opportunities in such subjects as personal finance, job skills and executive leadership skills. Training is delivered through traditional classrooms, webinars, custom created videos and e-learning, as well as through one-on-one coaching.

For more information, visit www.defenderdirect.com.

###

About DEFENDER Direct

Since its inception in 1998, DEFENDER Direct has emerged as a leading dealer for the home security and automation brand [ADT](#). [As a result of its unprecedented growth, the company has expanded its residential services offering to include Williams Comfort Air](#), a heating, cooling and plumbing company offering Carrier products. DEFENDER Direct employs more than 2,400 individuals in 50 states with over 140 branch offices nationwide.



About *Training* magazine

Training magazine is the leading business publication for learning and development of HR professionals. It is written for training, learning and performance professionals and has been the preeminent voice in the training industry for 50 years. Learn more at TrainingMag.com and TrainingMagEvents.com.