

The USO Insider

1 February 2007

Inside This Issue

- 1 A Note From the President, Honoring
 Mic Dinsmore
- 2 Boeing Renews Support for USO
 Puget Sound
- 3 February Birthdays, Comments from
 Our Clients, & Regional Office Report
- 4 McChord, Mobile Canteen, & SeaTac
 Updates
- 5 Ways to "Adopt-A-Soldier"
- 6 Mobile Canteen Rolls with USS Stennis



23 Jan 07 – USOPSA President Tom Hinman recognizes Port of Seattle CEO Mic Dinsmore. Departing CEO of the Port of Seattle Mic Dinsmore was recognized by the USO at the beginning of a Port Commission meeting held at SeaTac. USO Board member Captain Jeff Paradee, USNR, introduced Tom Hinman who presented Mr. Dinsmore with a silver eagle statue on behalf of the USO and those served during the 15 years of Mic's tenure at the Port.
(Continued on bottom of page 2...)

A Note from the President

You probably realize that the USO Puget Sound Area is an Affiliate of the worldwide USO headquartered in Arlington, VA. What does this really mean? It means that the USO Charter sets standards for our operations as an Affiliate and validates our non-profit status. In return, we make regular reports to World Headquarters (WHQ) and model our operations and training on their broad experience.

We are in the process of updating the USOPSA Volunteer Manual to include additional WHQ items and to incorporate new regional developments, like addition of the USO Mobile Canteen to our capabilities. Watch for a new version of the Manual as volunteer training and orientation programs take place in the near future. The updates are important, relatively minor and help align us with WHQ guidelines. Items on food handling, etc elsewhere in this newsletter are part of this process.

WHQ has two new programs of particular interest. One is a Standards of Excellence program that WHQ will use to gauge the performance of all USOs. Outstanding Centers will get wide recognition for their service to the troops. I am confident that the USO Puget Sound Area will be competitive for the top Five Star ranking once this WHQ program is implemented. The other new program covers Volunteer Recognition. Beginning this Spring nominations will be accepted from throughout the worldwide USO system. I have volunteered to serve on the program development and selection committee with a few other Presidents of USO Affiliates. Stand by for information on both of these programs.

Thanks again for all you do for those that serve our nation.

Regards,

Tom

Boeing Renews Support to USO Puget Sound Area

The Boeing Company wants to ensure that there will be a bevy of egg and tuna sandwiches, hot coffee and doughnuts and plenty of warm bunks, hot showers and comfy accommodations for military personnel and their families when they find themselves in transition at SeaTac International Airport.

That's one of many reasons Boeing's Bob Watt, vice president of Government Relations and Global Corporate Citizenship, joined other Boeing representatives Monday afternoon to present a \$50,000 donation to USO Puget Sound Area, Inc., a nonprofit volunteer organization designed to benefit the Admiral James S. Russell USO Center and the Armed Forces it serves.

Rear Admiral Herb Bridge, USNR (Ret) and USO chairman emeritus, accepted the check from Boeing, a longtime corporate donor to USO Puget Sound, and thanked the global aerospace leader for the company's steadfast support and encouragement. "We are grateful for the generosity of The Boeing Company," Bridge said. "Through sponsorships like this, the SeaTac USO has been able to operate around the clock for more than 40 years in an effort to make the lives of our service personnel a little more comfortable as they travel to and from their duty stations. It also enables the USO to expand our programs throughout the Puget Sound military community."

Watt praised USO Puget Sound for providing essential services that improve the lives of military members and their families.

"The Boeing Company is proud to provide resources that enable the many USO volunteers to assist our young men and women on active duty from the Puget Sound," Watt said. "We salute their commitment and dedicated service."

With USO Centers at SeaTac International Airport and McChord Air Force Base, the USO served more than 120,000 military members and their families in 2006. In 2007, the USO Mobile Canteen will begin operations extending USO services to troops in the field and the community at large. To learn more about the USO Puget Sound, visit their web site at www.usopsa.org.



Boeing sponsorship donation Jan. 2007: (L-R) The Boeing Company's Bob Kiga, deputy director, Customer Relations, Puget Sound Region, Integrated Defense Systems (IDS); Gordon McHenry, director, NW Region Global Corporate Citizenship; Boeing Commercial Airplanes (BCA); USO Chairman of the Board George Cargill; RADM Herb Bridge, USNR/Ret, USO chairman emeritus; Boeing's Vice President of Government Relations and Global Corporate Citizenship Bob Watt, BCA; Marcia McCraw, immediate past chair of USO of Puget Sound Area; Tom Hinman, CDR USN (Ret), USO president/executive director; Boeing's Howard "Foot" Ingersoll, USO board member and director of Field Services IPT, C-17 Product Support, IDS and Michael E. O'Byrne, former chairman, USO of Puget Sound. *Photo by Jim Anderson*



USO Board members, staff and volunteers join Boeing representatives at the January 22 presentation ceremony.

(Continued from page 1....)

Mr. Dinsmore and Commission President John Creighton voiced their support for the job the USO has provided over the last 40 years.

Commissioner Larry Hara, with over 20 years in the military added, "The SeaTac USO is one of the nation's best. When I travel, I hear compliments from around the world about the quality of our USO. Clearly, the staff and volunteers are doing an outstanding job that we can all be proud of."

*They stand on the wall for our freedom;
we must honor them.*

SeaTac & McChord Birthdays

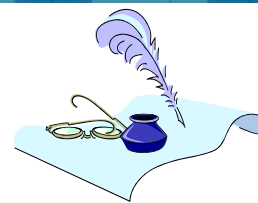
February

Vicki Tinkler	February 02
Ruth Barker	February 04
Phillip Bursett	February 10
Gail DeBolt	February 10
Frank Steenerson	February 10
Don Booth	February 12
Michael J. Fisch	February 15
Duncan Manning	February 20
Carol Nyseth	February 27
Anna Shetlin	February 28



Please welcome the following new volunteers:

<u>McChord</u>	<u>SeaTac</u>
Angela Swinehart	Beau Burriola
Robert Talbot	Nels Enquist
	Suzanne Giftai
	Nancy Gundmundson
	Steve Meadows
	Mary Nance
	Shawn Quigley
	Mike Ryan
	Cindy Shephard
	Joyce Simmons
	Shannon Steed



COMMENTS FROM OUR CLIENTS

The best and one of the most friendly USOs we've ever been to. Thank you!

Airman 1st Class Johnson

Best service I've seen at any USO. Thanks for the support you provide to military members. It is beyond par!

Master Sergeant Arnold

Thanks! The best USO in the world! Thanks for all the support. You are the only reason we don't mind being delayed, not to mention the free food. We love you!

HM(FMF) Vang Mu

Thank you! It's nice to have somewhere to go when you're traveling alone all the time. You guys are the best!

PFC Pastelero

If we did not have the USO I would have had nowhere to sleep last night. This place is wonderful and I thank everyone who participates and volunteers to keep this place up.

P. Marlow

REGIONAL OFFICE REPORT

USO Mini-Grants

For the last month of 2006, we were able to support three more projects with our mini-grants program. The first program funded was the Coast Guard's Enlisted Person of the Year Banquet. These funds will assist in allaying banquet costs and ensure a successful event. The second program funded was wrestling equipment for SK3 Joe Czerwiec a USCG, from the Integrated Support Command, for his upcoming participation with the US Navy Wrestling Team. We are hoping to have pictures of his participation on the team in a future issue. Finally, we were able to use remaining budgeted funds to further support Bangor's Marine Corps Security Force's Shupe Library and Lounge renovation. All in all we were able to provide support in excess of \$15,000 in 2006 and assist with a variety of events and help over 13,800 members of the military and their families. Special thanks go to the members of Programs Committee: Board Member Capt. Jeff Paradee, USNR; Board Member Lynn Castle; Community Member Maureen Arroyo, USAF; President/ED CDR Tom Hinman, USN (Ret); and Office Manager Kelly Carey.

McChord & Mobile Canteen Updates

Attention All McChord USO Volunteers:

The McChord AFB 62d Medical Group Public Health Department will be partnering with the McChord USO Manager, Tracye Kakely, to set up a date in February 2007 for mandatory training for all McChord USO volunteers, covering personal hygiene, hand-washing, cleaning and sanitation, preventing cross-contamination, and avoiding time and temperature abuse. Keep an eye out for this important date and time!

McChord & Mobile News:

Jan 2nd - McChord USO provided Welcome Home Packages for the 508th Military Police Battalion after their year-long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Jan 11th - McChord Center Manager, Tracye Kakely and Board Member, Joan Shalikashvili, did a "year in review" interview with Al Knight of KLAY Radio. The show reflected on the USO's overall mission, community grant program, and the Mobile Canteen.

Jan 16th - The Mobile USO supported the deployment of the USS Stennis in Bremerton. Many thanks to volunteers Wayne Jackson, Mac McDaniel, and Josie Sappington, who joined Tom Hinman & Sylvia Key in the snow to see off our sailors!

Jan 18th - Congratulations to our McChord Center Manager and Volunteers who were honored with a Certificate of Achievement from the 508th Military Police Battalion for providing Welcome Home Packages after their year-long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Jan 19th - McChord USO provided cookies for the Single Airman Chili Dinner which was held at their Cyber Café.

McChord Volunteer Assistance Requested:

Volunteers needed for the Mobile Canteen. Please contact Tracye Kakely, McChord Center Manager at 253-589-8772 or tracye@usopsa.org

Volunteers needed for the United Reading Program. Contact Tracye Kakely, McChord Center Manager for more information at 253-589-8772 or tracye@usopsa.org

Upcoming McChord USO Events:

Friday, February 9, 2007 - The Grand Opening of the McChord USO United Reading Program from 11am-2pm.

Volunteers needed.

Saturday, February 24, 2007 - Operation Heart to Heart with SAAF and Harborstone Credit Union. **Volunteers needed.**

SeaTac Updates

John Shin, RS of the Kent Public Health Department made his yearly inspection at the USO Puget Sound Area Center. I am very happy to report that we passed with flying colors. Everything was being done as he had requested. He did say that anyone who handles food must get a Food Handler's Permit. I have put a sheet of information about where you need to go to get a permit inside each volunteer binder (where you get your voucher). The cost is \$10.00 and the USO will reimburse you for the fee.

I have made a copy of the "Food Safety Is Everybody's Business" for you to read. It will be placed at the Reception Desk.
PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE IT.

Thank you all for doing such a good job keeping the Center in good shape. We appreciate all your hard work.

SeaTac Volunteer Update

I am happy to report that Mike Gazarek came through his surgery OK and is now on his way to recovery. It will be another 4 weeks before he will be able to volunteer again.

ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS:

Do we have your e-mail address?

We would love to send you updates and information on USO volunteering, as well as the newsletter - but we need your e-mail address. If you're receiving this newsletter by mail, you can reduce our costs by receiving the newsletter via email, as well as ensure you receive all bulletins and information updates. **Please provide us with your e-mail address by sending a message to:**

info@usopsa.org

with 'Volunteer Email' as the subject line. You can also call Kelly at 206-246-1908 ext 1 and give it to her over the phone.

Want to “Adopt-A-Soldier”? Let Us Show You How!

By Tracy Early, USOPSA Volunteer

Here at the USO, we're surrounded by people, particularly our wonderful volunteers, who show their commitment to those in uniform every day. In fact, if we didn't feel such a need to express our support in some tangible way, it's doubtful that any of us would be involved with the USO. The dedication shown by our volunteers at both the McChord and SeaTac Center locations is evident in a million different ways.

But during times such as we're in today, with so many of our military serving overseas and in harm's way, is there even more we could be doing? You bet!

Consider adopting a soldier - or sailor, Marine, airman, Coast Guardsman - even an entire platoon! The following list of Web links is a beginning guide to a number of different organizations which are dedicated to supporting our deployed military personnel. From kids' cards to letters of support to traditional care packages to books and other materials to help pass the time, these organizations exist solely to show our men and women in uniform that we on the homefront care, and value their service. Many sites also offer forums, enabling volunteers to connect with each other in order to exchange information and share useful tips. Some are based locally, but many have found their communities via the Internet. The common thread for each is that these groups are devoted to our deployed military, just as you are, and all are fueled by the commitment of a legion of volunteers, such as yourselves.

So take a look through some of these sites and see if any would suit your interest for support. And please, tell your friends, your family and your neighbors about them, as well. Or consider organizing your local community group, such as your church or civic group, to get involved on a larger scale. With so many of our military overseas today - and in the year to come, with more troops scheduled for deployment from our own Ft. Lewis and other area bases - soldier adoption is one way in which we can even better serve those who serve us.

Coming next month: Ways in which to give extra support to military families.

As always, thank you for all that you do!

Soldiers' Angels: <http://www.soldiersangels.org/>

- Begun by a so-called “ordinary mother” of an active-duty soldier, Soldiers' Angels' motto is “May No Soldier Go Unloved”. This is a very popular and well-regarded site, with active membership and a well-organized mentoring system.

Operation Soldier Assist: <http://www.soldierassist.com/>

- Founded and operated by a citizen simply looking to help those deployed overseas, Operation Soldier Assist is a good place to start for someone interested in adopting “any” soldier.

Any Soldier®: <http://www.anysoldier.com/>

- Looking to find extra support for his soldiers, Any Soldier® was begun rather modestly in 2003 by a sergeant deployed to Iraq. Today, Any Soldier® is one of the most popular soldier-support organizations around. The Index page can also direct you to AnyMarine, AnySailor, AnyAirman or AnyCoastGuard, respectively, in order to support the military branch of your choice.

Books For Soldiers:

<http://www.booksforsoldiers.com/index.php>

- This not-for-profit corporation harkens back to the Gulf War of 1991, when the friend of a few reservist-soldiers deployed to the Gulf began sending care packages of books to help them pass the inevitable down-time. As of today, Books For Soldiers has nearly 36,000 active members, ready and willing to send boxes of books, DVDs, and letters of support to our deployed military. Their motto? “Care Packages For The Brain”.

AdoptaPlatoon: <http://www.adoptaplatoon.org/>

- Founded in 1998 by the mother of a soldier who was then serving in Bosnia, this organization's mission is not only to support our military with letters and care packages, but also to promote awareness of their service and patriotism in schools and community organizations.

Stars & Stripes Online – “Servicemember Support Organizations” page:

<http://stripes.com/webpages.asp?id=53>

- For an exhaustive, but by no means complete, list of support organizations, visit *Stars & Stripes Online* for a page of links.

MOBILE CANTEN ROLLS FOR SAILING OF USS *STENNIS*



Aircraft Carrier USS *Stennis* (CVN-74) dwarfs the USO Mobile Canteen. The crew had already boarded by daybreak.

On January 16th it was quite a sight to see the USO Mobile Canteen emerge out of the snow and pre-dawn darkness with a police escort to pier side (flashing lights and all), followed by the media trucks. (The TV crews came to our side of the street for coffee but after they had already done their broadcast.) The photos do not do justice to the wet and snowy conditions since they were taken after the sun had come up and the thaw had started...like about 8am once everyone was aboard. We had been on station for 3 hours by that time.

Many thanks to our McChord volunteers who left for Bremerton in the snow at 3am. Braving the elements were Wayne Jackson, our driver with big rig experience in Alaska; Mac, and Josie plus Sylvia and Tom from Seattle. The sailors appreciated it - I think everybody was amazed that we showed up - and, best of all, the Canteen made it safely both ways. The CO and XO of *Stennis* are looking forward to seeing us pier side at their homecoming from the Persian Gulf.



CDR Marc Hitchcock, Executive Officer of the USS *Stennis* joins Tom & Sylvia in the snow for coffee and a photo op after the mobile arrived.



McChord Volunteers Josie Sappington and Wayne Jackson join Sylvia Key in manning the mobile support table