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## USO Northwest and Port of Portland Sign Lease for New USO Center at PDX Airport

**PORTLAND, OR (February 21, 2014)** – USO Northwest and Port of Portland signed the lease for a new 635-square-foot USO center opening at Portland International Airport the summer of 2014.

“We thank the men and women of the military for their selfless service to our country, and we’re pleased they will soon have a special place in Portland International Airport for themselves and their families when they are traveling,” said Bill Wyatt, Port of Portland Executive Director.

After three years of raising awareness and community support, the United Service Organizations (USO) is now returning to Oregon after an absence of 41 years. The center allows for military and their families to experience the comforts of home provided by the USO.

“Many of our Soldiers and Airmen learned the USO’s value and importance as they traveled to and from deployments overseas. The USO’s welcoming environment will be a great benefit to our service members and their families here in Portland. We could not be more thankful for the efforts of the USO, and particularly the entire team lead by Joe Williams,” said Major General Daniel R. Hokanson, The Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard.

Prior to opening the center, the USO Northwest will continue to provide support through the Mobile Canteen and send volunteers to support military events.

“We are delighted to partner with the Port of Portland in assisting our military members and their families when they are traveling in and out of PDX. We will offer snacks, drinks, videos, books, magazines, and the use of computers at no cost,” said Joe Williams, Chairman of USO Portland Board of Advisors, U.S. Army Colonel retired.

The center’s location is in the central terminal on the Mezzanine level before security. The community has been a large part of the design and construction. Nine companies such as Sharp Microelectronics, Edward Vaivoda Architecture LLC and Glen/Mar Construction, are donating items and their expertise to make the center a reality.

“We appreciate the community’s support and the Port of Portland in helping us achieve our goals so the USO Northwest can support the military personnel in Oregon and Southwest Washington,” said Don Leingang, USO Northwest Executive Director.

The USONW has raised \$199k in cash, pledges, and in-kind donations for the new 635-square-foot center. The Port of Portland provided the space for the center in the airport.

“All members of the Washington National Guard greatly appreciate the USO and the volunteers who support us, no matter where we go. We are especially thankful for the new USO Center that will soon be available to our soldiers and airmen at the Portland International Airport. On behalf of the 8,200 members of the Washington Army and Air National Guard and our families, thanks to all who have worked to make this possible, especially the USO and the Port of Portland,” said Major General Bret D. Daugherty, The Adjutant General, Washington National Guard.

To make a one-time or recurring monetary or in-kind donation in support of USO and our military, please visit [www.usonw.org](http://www.usonw.org) or call the USO Northwest office manager at (206) 246-1908 extension 3.

## About USO Northwest

USO Northwest serves more than 500,000 military and their families annually throughout Washington State, as well as portions of Oregon and Idaho, and is an important part of the USO (United Service Organizations), a historic non-profit organization lifting the spirits of America's troops and their families millions of times each year at hundreds of places worldwide.

USO Northwest provides a touch of home through its centers at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, its USONW Mobile Canteen RV, and innovative programs and services. It also provides critical support to those who need it most, including military deploying overseas and arriving home, military families, wounded warriors and their families, and the families of the fallen.

USO Northwest is not a government agency, but a private, nonprofit organization relying on the generosity of volunteers and donors. USO Northwest also is supported through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC-15348). To join us in this patriotic mission, and to learn more about USO Northwest, please visit [usonw.org](http://usonw.org).

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