



USO WORLD HEADQUARTERS
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Mr. O'Reilly,

In a recent AP article, you asserted that the USO "doesn't put anybody out there (in Afghanistan)" and that you and Toby Keith were the only famous people to visit the troops in Afghanistan this year. The facts simply do not support these assertions and I believe the 169 members of our bi-partisan Congressional Caucus would agree.

In 2006 we produced 58 tours with 328 individual entertainment events (requiring 2 million miles of travel) that directly touched more than 184,000 service members and their families in 26 countries. This includes 12 acts (including the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders, Gary Sinise, Al Franken and Darryl Worley) that we took to Afghanistan alone.

Just through September of this year, we produced 37 overseas tours with 241 performances for 98,000 troops in 14 countries, 9 stateside tours, 15 celebrity education events for military dependents, and 48 celebrity visits to military hospitals. We strive to serve the troops wherever they serve throughout the year and, knowing that the holidays are an especially stressful time to be away from home, we work hard to bring them even more of a taste of home this time of year. Right now, John Ondrasik of Five For Fighting, comedians Scott Kennedy and Graham Elwood, and PGA golfers David Feherty, Butch Harmon, Joe Inman, Tom Lehman, Howard Twitty and Tom Watson are all on tour. What's more 8 more tours with 20 celebrities (plus the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders) are scheduled to deploy within the next month. For 2007, we expect to take approximately 19 celebrities to Afghanistan and more than 35 to Iraq. Putting together each of these tours is complex and requires a match between the troops' interests, celebrity availability, and the military's ability to provide logistics and security (we work very hard to minimize our footprint and the additional burden we place on the military in Southwest Asia).

Although our USO entertainment program is very robust, it represents only about 20 percent of our efforts to support the troops and their families. We operate 132 centers around the world that provide service members with a place to rest and relax; free refreshments, phone and Internet access; movies and video games; and many other services. While you were at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, I hope you took the time to visit the Pat Tillman Memorial USO, sponsored by the NFL. You also might be interested to know that we have seven centers supporting U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf region and are opening the first center in Iraq. Additionally, we recently broke ground on a new USO center at Fort Carson to support the 4th Infantry Division's move and opened centers at Fort Bliss, on Guam and at Incheon International Airport in Seoul. We have done major renovations on the centers supporting Fort Hood and Fort Drum, and are building the largest USO center in the world in South Korea to support major troop relocations around Seoul. We also operate a fleet of Mobile Canteens, one of which provided direct support to sailors, Marines, and their families who were evacuated from their base housing during the recent wildfires in southern California. During 2006, service members and their families made more than 5 million visits to USO facilities.

In addition to the USO centers, we have many programs and services to provide our unique brand of support to our soldiers. We have sent more than 1.3 million Operation USO Care Packages to deployed troops and provided more than 2 million free phone cards via USO Operation Phone Home to help them stay connected with their loved ones at home. United Through Reading provides service members with a way to read a book to their children on video, have the video and book sent to the child, and have video of the child reading along with the parent's video sent back to the deployed parent. Operation Enduring Care provides a wide range of services specifically for wounded troops and their families to help them through the recuperation process. These services include lounge areas at military hospitals and medical facilities, duffle bags filled with clothing and toiletries for wounded troops coming directly from the battlefield, DVD players and movies, CDs, video games and other entertainment items that can be checked out, day trips to local sporting events and concerts, and emergency funding and grants programs to provide financial assistance for service members and their families to cover transportation, hotel and travel accommodations as they care for their loved ones.

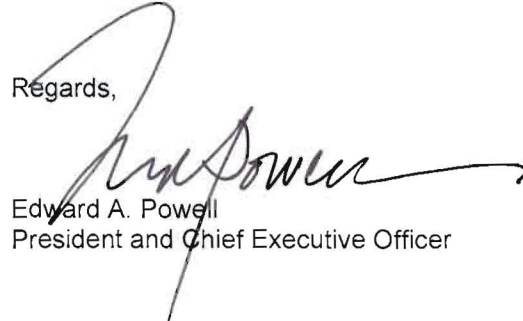
To support our troops deployed to remote, hard-to-reach sites, such as many of the fire bases in Afghanistan, we've recently developed a "USO in a box" program to bring a taste of home to those troops farthest removed from home. Based on input from these troops, we filled these kits with everything from toiletries and snacks to game tables, video game systems with a variety of games, DVDs, mp3 players, footballs, phone cards, and much more. Eleven of these USO-in-a-box kits have already gone to forward operating bases in the Persian Gulf.

This is just a sample of the support the USO provides for America's 2.6 million troops and their families. What is especially remarkable is that we have a paid staff of only about 300 people worldwide and, therefore, it is our dedicated corps of more than 26,000 volunteers who make these programs and services possible. Because we rely on the generosity of the American people to fund these programs, we are truly a grassroots support effort for the nation's military. For the past 66 years, the USO has been the way to support the troops.

If you really want to support America's service men and women and their families, please set the record straight (both on your show and with the AP) on the work the USO is doing right now on behalf of the nation's troops and encourage your viewers to support the USO.

Log on to www.uso.org to find out how you can help.

Regards,



Edward A. Powell
President and Chief Executive Officer