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USO Puget Sound Hosts SeaTac Homecoming for returning National Guard members from Afghanistan

SEATTLE --- There is nothing like a homecoming celebration. After a one year tour of duty in Afghanistan, citizen soldiers from the Washington Army National Guard's 81st Brigade Combat Team will rejoin their families and friends for the first time at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport Saturday, April 21. A homecoming celebration, hosted by the USO Puget Sound, is scheduled for 10:45 a.m. at the time of the guard members' arrival.

Retired Navy Cmdr, Tom Hinman, president and executive director of the USO Puget Sound Area said, "Homecomings are our most favorite event, and we have hosted more of them in the past few months, than in the past year. Words can't describe the reunion of a soldier to his or her family and friends."

Over the past year, the USO Puget Sound has played a more active role in providing homecoming celebrations and services to military members and their families. "The military recognizes our capabilities as an organization to provide a festive homecoming event," said Hinman, "Our main mission is to guarantee that every man and woman in uniform and their families know how grateful Americans are for their service."

With thousands of military members and citizen soldiers from the Washington National Guard being deployed and serving around the world, the Puget Sound region continues to be a major hub for troop activity. As a community-based service organization, the USO Puget Sound provides morale support, family support services, and the comforts of home to traveling military members and their families at the USO centers at SeaTac and McChord Air Force Base.

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For over 40 years, the USO Puget Sound has served over 3 million of America's men and women in uniform and their families. The mission of the USO is to enhance the quality of life of the U.S. Armed forces personnel and their families worldwide and to create a cooperative relationship between U.S. military communities and those involved or supporting civilian communities.