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## **USO Puget Sound Area Announces New Director**

Seattle – The USO Puget Sound Area (USOPSA) today announced the hiring of new executive director, Don Leingang, Commander USN (Ret.) to oversee USO operations and events at the Sea-Tac USO Center, McChord AFB, and volunteer support efforts throughout the Puget Sound region.

George Cargill, USOPSA Board Chairman, and Northwest Market Vice President for TriWest Healthcare Alliance, called Leingang, “The ideal leader for the USO.” “We’re at a strategic growth stage in our services and community efforts,” Cargill added, “The Puget Sound region continues to be a major hub for our Armed Forces. It is crucial to support the growing needs of our military members and families. Don has both the leadership qualities and northwest roots to help steer this organization’s future growth.”

Commander Leingang is a northwest native from Tacoma and recently retired as the Executive Officer at the Naval Station Everett. A helicopter pilot and former Commanding Officer of Navy Recruiting District Seattle, his distinguished 24-year Naval career includes leadership positions at the U.S. Naval Academy, Director of Air Warfare, Washington, D.C., and as the Operations Officer at Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (3), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (6), and the Navy Achievement Medal. He is a graduate of the Naval War College and Oregon State University.

“I am extremely proud to be a part of such a respected organization,” said Leingang. “When I retired from military service, my goal was to continue serving our men and women in uniform. The USO always provided a home away from home for me and my family, now I get to return the favor and help continue the USO’s long tradition of support.”

The USOPSA served over 150,000 members of the military in 2007. Through their “army of gratitude” of over 250 volunteers and 25,000 volunteer hours, the USOPSA provided around-the-clock services and support at the Sea-Tac USO Center, McChord USO Center, the USO Mobile Canteen, and special programs throughout the Puget Sound region.

For more background on the work of the USOPSA and information on the 2008 USO Puget Sound Red, White and Blue Gala, go to [www.usopsa.org](http://www.usopsa.org)

*Nationally recognized, the USO Puget Sound Area has served over 3 million of America’s men and women in uniform and their families for over 40 years. The mission of USO Puget Sound Area is to provide a “home away from home,” family support, and recreation opportunities to the members and families of our Armed Forces. We connect individuals, civic groups and businesses with the region’s military community.*