



**For immediate release
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**Contact: Carrie Shaw
(425) 344-1787**

What does it take to make 5,000 sandwiches? USO volunteers greet nation's Army ROTC cadets for summer training

SEATTLE – Summer in the Seattle-Tacoma area means the Sea-Tac USO Center hosts 5,000 ROTC cadets representing 273 colleges from around country. The cadets are part of the U.S. Army's largest training exercise for senior cadets at Fort Lewis. Large groups of up to 400 cadets travel through the Sea-Tac USO Center several times a week from June to September on their way to Ft. Lewis, or on their way home after completing 33 days of training.

"That's a lot of sandwiches and fruit," said Sylvia Key, Sea-Tac USO Center manager, who oversees volunteer efforts at the airport. "I call it our bagged lunch brigade," said Key, "and it's all done by USO volunteers with donated food from local businesses including *Dick's Drive-In Restaurants*, contributions from the Military Officers Association of America, and logistical help from the Port of Seattle."

For 20 years the USO Puget Sound has provided lunches and hospitality to thousands of ROTC cadets from around the country traveling to Ft. Lewis for senior training. "This is part of our 'touch of home' mission," said Keys, "These college-aged cadets are far from home and represent the future leaders of our armed forces, and we just want them to know that we value their service to our country."

See how the USO Puget Sound feeds hundreds of ROTC cadets throughout the day at Sea-Tac Airport:

Sunday, July 15, between 11:00 a.m. and noon

Where: Carousel 16, baggage claim level Sea-Tac Airport

The Sea-Tac USO Center is located on the Mezzanine level of the airport (206) 433-5438

ROTC contact: Bob Rosenburgh, Public Affairs Officer, Western Region (253) 320-1933

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Nationally recognized, the USO Puget Sound 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 is to provide a "home away from home," family support, and recreation opportunities to the members and families of our Armed Forces. We work to connect individuals, civic groups and businesses in service to the region's military community.