



**For Immediate Release
Sept. 18, 2007**

**Contact: Carrie Shaw
(425) 344-1787**

**USO Puget Sound Selected for National Reading Event
One of three USO affiliates to participate in "Read for the Record"
Elementary children on McChord AFB join over 150k nationwide for reading event**

SEATTLE – The USO Puget Sound Area will host a Jumpstart "Read for the Record" event as part of a nationwide reading day to raise awareness on the importance of developing early literacy skills in children. The USO Puget Sound is one of only three USO affiliates selected nationwide to host a reading event. The Read for the Record takes place Thursday, Sept. 20 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Carter Lake Elementary school library on the McChord Air Force Base.

Tom Hinman, president and executive director of the USO Puget Sound Area (USOPSA) said that the USO Puget Sound affiliate was selected due to "our child-friendly USO centers, and efforts to support military families throughout the region." "We have thousands of families that feel the reality of troop deployments. That means separation from loved-ones, spouses, and children being separated from a parent. It makes community support for these families even more important," Hinman said.

The national reading event kicks-off with Matt Lauer of the NBC "Today" Show, Eastern time. Events around the country feature reading of this year's official book, "The Story of Ferdinand." Last year's Read for the Record included over 150,000 children and adults participating throughout the day making it the single largest reading event of its kind. This year, organizers hope to exceed that number.

The Pearson Foundation is providing special edition books of "Ferdinand" to all children whom participate in an official Jumpstart event. Tracye Kakely, USO McChord Center manager, will lead the children at Carter Lake Elementary in reading the story while encouraging literary and language skills.

Schedule of events for Jumpstart's Read for the Record:

**Thursday, Sept. 20:
9:30 to 10:10 a.m. and 11:50 to 12:30 p.m. Carter Lake Elementary school library,
McChord AFB, Tacoma**

For more information go to www.readfortherecord.org

###

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. The USO works to connect individuals, civic groups and businesses in service to the region's military community.