



PUGET SOUND AREA

**For Immediate Release
Sept. 5, 2007**

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**Operation USO Care Package Exceeds Major Goals
National Goodwill Tour by Waddell & Reed rolls into Western Wash.
Tour events with Puget Sound USO set for Seattle, Bellevue, and Tacoma**

SEATTLE – As part of a national goodwill tour to celebrate the company's 70th anniversary, Waddell & Reed in partnership with the United Services Organization (USO), continues a 70-city tour with "Operation USO Care Package" and events scheduled for Seattle, Bellevue, and Tacoma. Efforts to provide troop care packages for service members stationed overseas has far exceeded the company's original goal of 10,000 with 14,000 troop care packages purchased so far and just 70 percent of the national tour completed.

Tom Hinman, president and executive director of the USO Puget Sound Area (USOPSA) is grateful to see the region included as part of Waddell & Reed's national tour and plans volunteer outreach and hospitality at the events. "We have over 300,000 military members and their families living in the Puget Sound region and thousands more have been deployed from here," said Hinman, "so these events are a huge morale boost for our service members and especially for the troops deployed in harms way."

Hinman says that Waddell & Reed's 18-wheeler "big rig" that provides information kiosks and family-oriented activities during the tour, "has been a big hit around the country with other USO affiliates and in the communities that they visit, and is a great way to draw people in to participating in the troop care package program."

The USO's Operation Care Package is the only care package program endorsed by the Department of Defense. The nationally funded effort is supported by a variety of corporate sponsors and provides USO Centers throughout the United States with care packages for troops bound for Iraq and Afghanistan. Within the past year alone, the USO Puget Sound has distributed nearly 10,000 care packages during troop deployments from the USO Center at McChord Air Force Base.

Schedule of events for Operation USO Care Packages:

**Bellevue, Friday, Sept. 7 "Big Rig" Noon to 7p.m. at Crossroads Mall
Contact: Ray Higgins (425) 455-4020**

Seattle, Sunday, Sept., 9 "Big Rig" 10a.m. to 7p.m. Pyramid Breweries Parking lot across from Safeco Field. Contact: Boris Desancic (206)-283-6661

Tacoma, Wednesday, Sept. 12, "Big Rig" 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. across from Tacoma Mall on Steele Street. Contact: Jim Scott (253) 474-9555)

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