

PUGET SOUND ON WATCH

Operation Cookie Drop worth half million dollars

THE USO Northwest Shali Center on Joint Base Lewis-McChord was humming with activity on Tuesday. While volunteers served those participating in a large military exercise, a half million dollars' worth of cookies from the Girl Scouts of Western Washington needed to be unloaded. The event is large enough to be fondly known as Operation Cookie Drop.

"We are so fortunate to have this fabulous partnership with the Girl Scouts of Western Washington," USONW Shali Center Manager Andrew Oczkewicz said. "The service members and families really enjoy this annual tradition, as evident by all those who showed up."

This year's donation from the Girl Scouts of Western Washington was 129,218 boxes of cookie, valued at \$574,472.

Representatives from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, both military and spouses, arrived at the USONW Shali Center early in the morning to load their cars with cases of cookies for their units. Over 2,600 cases were packed into waiting cars. Distributing cookies to the units the day of delivery helped reduce the amount of storage space usually taken.

"I think this year's delivery went well despite the challenges we had," USONW Volunteer Herb Schmeling said. "We were confined in maneuver space but we made the best of it."

The base exercise going on required the use of

the driveway the USONW usually uses during Operation Cookie Drop. USONW volunteers and military volunteers organized by Senior

arrived to pick up cookies for the Oso troops." Savannah, of Troop 43534, was on site to help the USONW distribute cookies and stack them in the storage space.

"Through Operation Cookie Drop, our girls learn the importance of giving back to their community and, in a small way, thank our military personnel," Director of Retail Operations Christine Alflen, with the Girl Scouts of Western Washington, said.

USONW Volunteer Marina Baker said she was impressed with how well Savannah kept up with the troops and didn't complain while moving the thousands of boxes.

"She was even



Over 20 military volunteers stack 129,218 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies being unloaded from semi-trucks outside the Troop Holding Area building next to the USO Northwest Shali Center on Joint Base Lewis-McChord on April 1, 2014.

Master Sergeant Angela Fernandez of the 62nd Aerial Port Squadron were required to unload faster than usual. They often needed to switch sides of the building to load as the driveway was claimed by the military exercise.

"Our first delivery in 2008 was about 14,000 boxes and they fit nicely into the cookie room," Herb said. "They got larger each year."

He has volunteered at each Operation Cookie Drop since 2008. A highlight for the USONW was when representatives from the Washington Army National Guard J9 unit arrived.

"I had been thinking all morning about how nice it would be if some of the cookies could go to the National Guard troops helping out at the Oso Landslide," Herb said. "So I was truly delighted when representatives of the WANG J9

bummed when her mom said it was time for a quick lunch break. Her reply was "Seriously Mom? Now?". She was currently in the assembly line taking boxes from soldiers," Marina said.

The Girl Scout cookies will be distributed throughout the Northwest region. The USONW Mobile Canteen will have them available at events throughout the year and boxes will be sent to the center in Portland, Oregon, opening in July.

"My 7 year-old granddaughter is in her second year of Girl Scouts and I tell her often, how important Operation Cookie Drop is to the troops," Herb said. "A box of cookies no matter if it is consumed here in the states or in the hills and plains of

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Manager hired for new Portland Int'l Airport Center

AFTER a 41 year absence in Portland, the USO Northwest is ready to support the local military and their families once again. With a new center opening July 1, and over 80 volunteers ready to serve, the only thing missing was a center manager.

The USO Northwest is proud to announce Christine Vu will manage the new center at the Portland International Airport.

"I am delighted in our selection of Christine to become our USONW PDX Center Manager," Chairman of Portland USO Board of Advisors Joe Williams said. "There is no doubt in my mind Christine will be hugely successful in running our day-to-day operations involving not

only our center at PDX, but with all of our outreach activities in Oregon and Southwest Washington."

Christine started as a volunteer, assisting Joe with campaigning for community support for the new USO center. Christine's many hours within the community and with service members further increased her desire to provide USO services to the military, she said. In 2013, she was announced USO Northwest's Volunteer of the Year for Oregon.

"I am so grateful for such an amazing opportunity, not only to work for a great organization, but to be the first manager of a



Continued on Page 4 Christine Vu, the USO Northwest PDX Center Manager.

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Order your USO Northwest bottle today!
Shop the Karma Collection
and choose from 3 different styles.



From the cockpit of the Executive Director

USO Northwest Supporters -

I would like to dedicate this letter to our incredible volunteers who wear the blue shirts of courage. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff, I want to thank each and every one of you for all the amazing things you do on behalf of the USO Northwest.

As I read the 2014 tea leaves, this will be an historic year for USO Northwest! Not only will we “cut the red ribbon” at new Center at Portland International Airport on July 1st and the Sea-Tac Airport this winter, but we will also expand our Mobile Fleet by adding one vehicle through a grant from Seattle Rotary.

Additionally, our Joint Base Lewis McChord volunteers will continue to provide the same excellent service which earned them the recognition as “Top Domestic Large Installation Center” last year.

All total, our volunteers will give over 20,000 volunteer hours of their time to make a difference in the lives of our military guests and their family members.

Each year since I have been Executive Director, USO Northwest has set the standard for other USOs to emulate. Collectively, you are the first to “welcome our guests” and can always be counted on to set the standard in customer service.

Hearing the phrase “this is the best USO I have ever visited” is voiced all the time in each of our Centers, and this is because of your selfless dedication. As I have said on numerous occasions – I am proud to serve with each and every one of our 24 dedicated Board Members, 300 caring Volunteers and exceptional Staff Members.

USO Northwest would not exist without the collective efforts of each one of you.

Thank you for what you year round. With summer just over the horizon, I wish you all a great start to the summer and hope we all have a truly wonderful and successful summer season serving our military and their families.

Cheers!
Don Leingang



Representatives from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, arrived at the USO Northwest Shali Center early in the morning to load their cars with cases of cookies for their units. Over 2,600 cases were packed into waiting vehicles.

Continued from Page 1 Afghanistan is a personal piece of home. For at least a moment, that little box takes one’s mind off what they are doing and reminds them of home!”

The USO Northwest is grateful for all who buy boxes of cookies for Operation Cookie Drop, USONW Executive Director Don Leingang said.

The Girl Scouts of Western Washington will also be purchasing another 14,400 boxes of Thin Mints to be delivered directly to the USO Northwest on April 23, Christine said.

Wish list of items needed for centers

- Mobile Canteen**
Items: Hot cocoa mix, individual snacks, bananas, hot dogs and buns, cases of juice boxes, hand warmers, toe warmers, and Gift Cards for gasoline (please!)
- Sea-Tac Center**
Items: Trial size toothpaste, disposable razors, shaving cream packets, deodorant, snack items such as granola bars, apple sauce, packets of crackers, Pop Tarts, individually packaged chips, baby food, etc.

Shali Center at McChord Field
Items: Large cans of tuna, sliced ham, sliced bologna, sliced turkey, paper towels, cases of bottled water, paper plates, and individually packaged chips.



Special screening of Lone Survivor held to raise money for PDX Center



(Left to right) Robert Perkins, owner of Act V Theaters, Russell Browner, former SEAL, Commander Heath Epaloose, and Christine Vu, PDX Center Manager, were present for the Lone Survivor screening at Act V Theater –Cornelius.

THE Act V Theater – Cornelius hosted a special screening of the film *Lone Survivor* to raise money for the USO Northwest. On January 18 at 2 p.m., attendees viewed the film as well as attended the Navy Special Warfare Q&A afterwards.

“Cornelius Cinemas was honored to host the Lone Survivor event benefiting the USONW and those that proudly serve and have served,” Robert H. Perkins III, Act V Theaters President, said.

The tickets were sold at \$10 a person, with a portion of the proceeds going to the construction of the USONW’s Portland Center. The event raised \$359.18 for the center.

The 635 square foot center at the Portland International Airport (PDX) will be ready to host military and their families by July 1, 2014.

Lone Survivor was held in the THX certified Big Screen auditorium, featuring 4K digital projection, Dolby 7.1 digital audio and a 53’ wide screen with full stadium seating.

The film follows four members of SEAL

Team 10 in their failed June 28, 2005 mission “Operation Red Wings”.

Daniel J. Cabel, of the Navy Special Warfare community, had seen the film and gives Hollywood the United States Navy’s famous compliment –bravo zulu.

“Bravo Zulu to Marcus and the team for a job well done in providing insight into a real world event of Brothers working together in adverse conditions, an unfortunate situation, and perseverance in doing the right thing. It is an honor to be a part of the Naval Special Warfare Brotherhood. Hooyah!” Daniel said.

Representatives from the Navy Special Warfare were present to answer any questions the audience may have after the film.

“We are very grateful for Act V Theaters’ support in building the center at PDX,” Joe Williams, Chairman of Portland USO Board of Advisors, said. “As well as for the representatives with Navy Special Warfare who volunteered their time to help us make this a memorable screening.”

New commission for WWII battleship USS Colorado

THE USS Colorado (BB-45), decommissioned and sold for scrap decades ago, has a new home at the USO Northwest SeaTac Center. The new center’s entry floor will be the teak decking of the battleship. Donated by Boeing, the flooring arrived at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport on Friday, February 7.

“The Boeing Company has been the guardian of this precious USS Colorado teak decking for the last 54 years. We are overjoyed to transfer the guardianship to the USO for the next 50+ years. We honor the USS Colorado sailors and marines by never forgetting their sacrifice on behalf of our country and our freedom,” Pamela Valdez, Boeing KC-46A Tanker Support & Training IPT and USONW Board Member, said.

United States Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William McKenna carried the ceremonial piece of teak decking from the Boeing Development Center to the location of the new USONW SeaTac Center on the airport’s mezzanine level.

“We are very excited the Boeing Company has chosen the USO Northwest to be the recipient of this great piece of history,” Executive Director Don Leingang said. “Our organization truly understands the

significance of this donation and is honored to be the new caretaker of this teakwood planking for as long as the USO exists at SeaTac Airport.”

The decking and McKenna was escorted by Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Color Guard through a flag line provided by the Patriot Guard Riders, active-duty service members and USONW volunteers.

“I am in awe of the fact thousands of guests every year will be able to stand on the same decking used by WWII sailors fighting for our country on the high seas,” SeaTac Center Manager Bill Baker said.

Two years after the USS Colorado had been sold for scrap; Boeing purchased the teak decking, then installed it on cafeteria walls in 1961. Upon completion of the new USO Northwest Center, the decking will cover 1,500 square feet.

Among the spectators at the ceremony were two WWII crewmembers of the USS Colorado, and family members as well: Whittaker ‘Moose’ Hernion, Larry Clements with his wife Marjory and son Ron, and Sherri Lee daughter of a crewmember. Crewmember Frank Weber was also going to attend, but the icy conditions prevented his travel from Oregon.

WWII crewmembers stand on teak decking for last time



WEATHERED, slightly bowed, and carrying battle scars from World War II. This description goes hand in hand with the sailors of the USS Colorado (BB-45) and the teak decking they served upon.

Fourteen veterans and their families came to the USO Northwest SeaTac Center on April 11 to stand upon the teak decking which once made up their mighty battleship.

“We witnessed living history when the veterans of the USS Colorado stood on their deck, many for the last time, on the weekend of the decommissioning of their association,” USONW SeaTac Center Manager Bill Baker said.

The veterans arrived via bus at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and were then escorted by USONW volunteers to the site of the new SeaTac Center.

“I felt honored to be in their presence,” USONW Volunteer Lonnie Stevenson said. “The veteran I escorted, David Jones, from Oklahoma, with the black cowboy hat, was a real character.”

David Jones, 91-years-old, said he could walk but not for long distances. He did get out of his

wheel chair to walk across the decking to the podium where he received a square piece of the decking.

USONW Volunteer Diane Belanger said her favorite moment was being able to personally hand a piece of the decking to the veterans.

“It was just an incredibly lovely and thoughtful gesture,” she said. “Looking into the eyes of that ship’s survivors and conversing with them was an experience like no other.”

The teak decking, donated to the USONW by Boeing, will be used for the entry way of the new SeaTac Center.

“I originally thought the teak would be too old or fragile to be walked on, but after learning how they cleaned it – ‘holy stone the deck’ it was called – teak is hardy wood for life,” Lonnie said.

The decking has been through climactic changes, daily scrubbing, and multiple relocations. It has been through kamikaze attacks.

“Some of the wood is brittle or warped, making it difficult to install using the tongue and groove system,” Project Engineer W.T. Sermeus, of PCL Construction, said. “Creating a flat subsurface below, we are confident the teak

flooring from the USS Colorado will sit proud for many years to come.”

The various pieces, edges, short and long pieces, will take extra coordination and planning to provide a uniform layout, Project Manager Jason Stordahl said.

“We need to take extra precautions when handling and installing,” he said. “We won’t have the luxury of ordering more.”

The USS Colorado was decommissioned January 7, 1947 and on July 23, 1959 was sold for scrap. W.T. was present during the veterans’ visit to stand on the decking.

“It added a value to the project you cannot put a dollar sign on,” he said. “It really hit home, showing us how important this is to folks out there.”

Seeing the community support for the new SeaTac Center, from the Port of Seattle to various sponsor to contractors, is what sets this project apart from others Jason has worked on, he said.

“We feel an enhanced sense of responsibility to give the troops and their families a high quality space to relax and call home in between trips,” W.T. said.

Continued from Page 1 brand new USONW center,” Christine said. “I’m so excited to be able to reach out further to the military community in Oregon and Southwest Washington, and honored for the chance to give back to a community that has sacrificed so much!”

The new center she will be managing is 635 square feet of space on the mezzanine level of PDX. The center will be open from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. seven days a week, 365 days a year. A soft opening for the center will be held May 8.

“I hope to quickly figure out all of the best, most efficient ways to run the center with the support of our great volunteers,” Christine said. “I know I will have to rely on them when challenges come up along the way.”

One challenge Christine anticipates is figuring out the correct policies and procedures to implement with the center, being as the airport has never had a USO center before.

“I’m really looking forward to seeing our volunteers interact with our military guests and their families,” Christine said. The volunteers have been signed up for months, waiting for the opportunity to support our guests coming through the center, and they are so passionate about providing as much help as possible.”

Christine’s boundless energy, tremendous enthusiasm and attention to detail, coupled with her dedication to serving the military and their families, will help her be a great manager and solidifies why she is the perfect choice for the new center, Joe said.

“The USO Northwest has been looking forward to supporting our service members and their families in Oregon and Southwest Washington with a center, as well as other forms of outreach,” USONW Executive Director Don Leingang said. “We know Christine takes our mission to heart and will ensure we are always by the side of our military personnel.”

Lease signed, construction underway for PDX

USO Northwest and Port of Portland signed the lease for a new 635-squarefoot USO center opening at Portland International Airport the summer of 2014, on February 21.

“We thank the men and women of the military for their selfless service to our country, and we’re pleased they will soon have a special place in Portland International Airport for themselves and their families when they are traveling,” Bill Wyatt, Port of Portland Executive Director, said.

After three years of raising awareness and community support, the United Service Organizations (USO) is now returning to Oregon after an absence of 41 years. The center allows for military and their families to experience the comforts of home provided by the USO.

"Many of our Soldiers and Airmen learned the USO's value and importance as they traveled to and from deployments overseas. The USO's welcoming environment will be a great benefit to our service members and their families here in Portland. We could not be more thankful for

the efforts of the USO, and particularly the entire team lead by Joe Williams,” Major General Daniel R. Hokanson, The Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard, said.

Prior to opening the center, the USO Northwest will continue to provide support through the Mobile Canteen and send volunteers to support military events.

“We are delighted to partner with the Port of Portland in assisting our military members and their families when they are traveling in and out of PDX. We will offer snacks, drinks, videos, books, magazines, and the use of computers at no cost,” Joe Williams, Chairman of USO Portland Board of Advisors and U.S. Army Colonel retired, said.

The center’s location is in the central terminal on the Mezzanine level before security.

The community has been a large part of the design and construction. Nine companies such as Sharp Microelectronics, Edward Vaivoda Architecture LLC and Glen/Mar Construction, are donating items and their expertise to make the center a reality.

“We appreciate the community’s support and the Port of Portland in helping us achieve our goals so the USO Northwest can support the military personnel in Oregon and Southwest Washington,” USONW Executive Director Don Leingang said.

The USONW has raised \$199k in cash, pledges, and in-kind donations for the new 635-square-foot center. The Port of Portland provided the space for the center in the airport.

“All members of the Washington National Guard greatly appreciate the USO and the volunteers who support us, no matter where we go. We are especially thankful for the new USO Center that will soon be available to our soldiers and airmen at the Portland International Airport. On behalf of the 8,200 members of the Washington Army and Air National Guard and our families, thanks to all who have worked to make this possible, especially the USO and the Port of Portland,” Major General Bret D. Daugherty, The Adjutant General, Washington National Guard, said.



Introducing the famous Ric James, not the singer

List three words that describe you.

Believer. Encourager. Creative. One more, server.

Is there a motto you live by?

You can't manage what you don't measure, you can't measure what you don't value, you can't value what you don't love!

What did you do in the Army?

Operations Manager/Medical Laboratory.

What did you enjoy most about your time in the Army?

The ability to serve as a Drill Sergeant and also as a Medical Laboratory Technician. Each position provided me an opportunity to serve, love and develop volunteers differently and to do something they valued.

When/what was your first encounter with the USO?

Returning from Iraq in December 2011, we stopped in New England and there were a group of beautiful little wise women standing in the terminal at 3:00 a.m. It was cold and gloomy and we all were exhausted. Stepping off the airplane to the welcoming voices and a borage 'wet kisses' brought life back in to my tired bones.

Now that you have some events under your tires, what do you think about the Mobile Canteen program?

The mobile program is a very effective program providing 90% of the services located at the stationary centers (SeaTac, Shali, PDX). You have to be very flexible, patient, and organized. Most importantly you must have a big heart for our Service Men and Women and their Family Members. The reward is the smiles and laughter during the events.

What challenges have you faced so far?

The only challenge is adjusting to randomly scheduled events. After 21 years of structure in the Army, the challenge is serving 98% of the random requests received. With the help of our infamous volunteers this is managed through their consistent servant hearts and dedication to our Military.

Is there an event that you would say was your favorite to work?

Charlie Company 2-1 IN/2-2 (SBCT) "Centurion" & The Polar Star Homecoming & all of the Trident Lakes Park Easter Egg Hunts. If you are judging my grammar...I really can't pick a true favorite because they all come with different flavors and interesting perks. It's just simply FUN!

Of the events already scheduled for the year, which one are you looking forward to?

I would say the Sesame Street Tour coming up in mid-July. I have little children so having them experience this event as well as serving our Service Men & Women and their Families would have to be an exciting venture to prepare for.

Do people honk and wave at the Mobile passing by on the road?

Yes, all the time. Especially heading up toward Bremerton.

What has surprised you most about this job?

The biggest surprise is the overwhelming welcome I have received from various volunteers and the men from the Lions Club in Bremerton. Every time I come to Shali, SeaTac, or while out on events, I am welcomed with big hugs. I know I have big shoes to fill from the Beautiful Samantha Lingad. I hear it ALL the time. Some people would probably take that in a negative manner, however, I respect the work Samantha put into the program. She really made it easier for me to transition in to her "Big Shoes". Even with 4 days of training, she simplified and covered everything needed for success. She gets all the credit, and I will just continue filling her "Big Shoes". Thank you Samantha!! :) The Staff has also been very supportive and eager to provide assistance when needed. Don, Bill, Andrew, Pam, Meaghan, Tracy...Thanks!!

What of the Mobile vehicle would you like to change/repair?

I would love to change the gas tank. Bertha drinks Big! I would also love to update the image of the mobile with a modern design with our Country and USO colors!

Is there anything you would like to ask the community for?

Please continue to donate and support our program. There are so many troops in rural locations we would love to reach out to and make their training, deployments, redeployments, and family days more like home.

What goals have you set for yourself and the Mobile?

To partner with multiple partners in the northwest, to support our program monetarily or through in-kind donations. Remove the nick-name "Hot Dog" Truck and replace it with Mobile Support Vehicle, because we are more than just a "Hot Dog Truck"!

What's your favorite Girl Scout Cookie? Trefoils Baby!

Is there anything else you would like to add?

The USO Mobile Canteen Team WANTS YOU! If you would like to serve with our Loving & Exciting Team, please go to: www.usovolunteer.org.

I am overwhelmed with how God has an ability to keep us all connected to what we have been called to do. I believe I have been called to Serve, Love, and Grow people in ever facet of life as we all grow together.



Richard James became the USO Northwest's Mobile Canteen Manager at the end of February.



SeaTac Center: A Marathon Not a Sprint

By Bill Baker

If you’ve been watching the news lately, you may have noticed our time over in Afghanistan is coming to an end. This means we are going to see a great many of our troops finally come home and out of harm’s way.

Unlike our outstanding USO Shali Center on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the SeaTac Center doesn’t usually get to be the last ones to say good-bye when troops deploy to war or welcome them home after being away from their families for months.

Although we do get to host the occasional homecoming, our mission is more of the day-to-day operations of troops and families coming to our center to rest up before or after a flight.

Or is it?
In my 18 months as the manager I’d like to propose something completely radical; we deploy troops to war three days a week and welcome others home on those same three days.

For a brief history lesson, ask yourself if the Korean War has ended. The answer is “no”. Although never a declared war, a cease fire was signed in July 1953 putting an end to active engagements.

However, for the last 60 years America has been sending thousands of military men, women and families over to bases in the Pacific to protect against a very real threat in North Korea.

A large percentage of those troops and families

flew to their bases from SeaTac International Airport. And since 1966 many of them were guests at the USO. Providing the most basic of comfort needs such as light food, a place to rest, and a sense of safe community has been the hallmark of our volunteer service to uplift the spirits of our troops.

Nothing flashy, just consistently great hospitality. The SeaTac Center can be described as the marathon runners of the USO Northwest because we’ve been sustaining our mission of sending troops to the Pacific bases for almost 50 years. We are in a rhythm here in which we know pretty well when it’s going to be busy and when it’s going to be a ghost town.

This is not to say we don’t have some bumps in the road of our run. There are times 50 soldiers will show up out of the blue, completely changing the dynamic of our humble 3,200 square foot center. But our marathon isn’t ending soon.

In a matter of time our race shifts to a new area of the airport; a 7,500 square foot state-of-the-art center with the capacity to hold over 180 guests.

Thanks to outstanding donor support from the local community, this new center with a lease lasting 20 years will be the centerpiece of the airport, both literally and figuratively.

And thanks to over 200 dedicated volunteers, in my opinion, this new center will be preeminent USO airport center on the entire planet; a worthy prize for staying the course and running the race.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers –

I have exciting news to share with you. This June, I will be traveling to Normandy, France to report on the 70th Anniversary of D-Day.

While I may be in another time zone, I will be posting photos and stories on our social media channels. My goal is to share with you the experiences I am having through the USO lens.

Recently, I interviewed a 90-year-old woman who served in the Women’s Army Corps and had been a USO volunteer. She landed at Omaha Beach a few weeks after D-Day and stayed there briefly before moving to Paris to work the switch boards connecting General Eisenhower to the front lines.

As a USO volunteer she danced with service members and sang to lift their spirits. Bob Hope would have been proud of her when she was suddenly volunteered to sing on the troop ship carrying her to Omaha’s shores, she said. She belted out familiar songs, knowing many of the men on the ship needed to be calmed and may never make it back.

The goosebumps form on my arms as I think of how my perspective of D-Day, the beaches, and the American Cemetery have already changed from this one hour interview.

I asked Muriel if there was anything I could do for her while I am in France. She has not been back since the war and due to the cost of travel will not be able to go this year for the anniversary. She requested, “I’d like a picture of the beach and the cemetery. And if you could say a prayer at the crosses of all those who died... That’s what I would do if I went.”

The stories of WWII are still being uncovered. In the United States we are fortunate to never fully understand the experiences individuals like Muriel went through. For five years in England, she lived through daily bombings, having to sleep in shelters during the night. As she said, “I’ve been hardened to war. I am no shrinking violet.”

I am honored to go to Normandy with her memories tucked away in my soul and notebook.



All the best,
Meaghan Cox
Communications
and IT



On April 16, 2014, the Shali Center hosted a “No Dough Dinner” for the 42nd Military Police Brigade. The free meal consisted of salad, clam chowder, grilled salmon, and ice cream sundaes. Funding for the program is raised at the USONW Gala every year.

Mark, circle, scribble, the events are here

Seattle Mariners Salute to Armed Forces

April 26, 6:30PM, Safeco Field. Our volunteers will be at the stadium with information booths on each level and a silent auction happening on the first.

Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser

April 30, All Day, All Western Washington BWW’s. Buffalo Wild Wings will be donating 10% of all food sales to the USO Northwest for the new SeaTac Center. Mention “USO Northwest” before you order!

Heroes Half Marathon

April 27, 7:30AM-1:30PM, Yellow Ribbon Hwy, Everett. The Mobile Canteen will be there to cheer on participants and provide snacks. Visit heroeshalf.com to register.

Seattle Sounders Military Appreciation Night

May 17, 7:00PM, The Mobile Canteen will be sharing information at CenturyLink.

Red, White, and Blue Golf Classic

June 19, 10:00AM-9:00PM, The Golf Club at Newcastle. Register at usonw.org/golf.

Visit **USO Northwest** at www.usonw.org for more information



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Supplies sent to National Guard at Oso

APRIL 22 marks the one month anniversary of the mudslide disaster in Oso, Washington. With 39 dead and more still missing, the wounds from this day are slow to heal.

The loss of Navy Commander John Regelbrugge III of the USS John C. Stennis and Chief Petty Officer Billy L. Spillers stationed at Naval Station Everett brought the mudslide to the military community’s doorstep.

Service members rallied to assist the recovery team and National Guard.

Though the terrain was too rough for the USO Northwest Mobile Canteen to traverse in order to serve food and coffee; the USONW’s SeaTac Center and Shali Center sent much needed supplies to uplift the spirits of those helping with the recovery.

On April 1, Girl Scout Cookies stored at the Shali Center were loaded into vehicles for the Washington Army National Guard J9 unit.



Above: National Guardsmen stand next to their vehicle loaded with Girl Scout Cookies. Below: Volunteers Robin Schmidt and Kelly Tortorice, and service members, cart supplies to be delivered to the National Guard at Oso.



USONW Volunteer Herb Schmelling said he was glad to fill the vehicles of the WANG J9. The recovery efforts being made by the National Guard troops had been on his mind all morning, he said.

When military representatives arrived at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport to pick up families of those affected, the SeaTac Center covered their parking fees.

Recently the SeaTac Center donated ten 25 pound bags of coffee, 21 boxes of energy bars and 1,000 candy bars to the National Guard assisting in the recovery.

Service members visiting the SeaTac Center helped load USONW Volunteer Robin Schmidt’s truck with the supplies. The supplies were then wrapped in tarps to prevent the famous Washington rain from damaging the

donations.

“We will continue to help the recovery team and our military community with anything they need,” SeaTac Center Manager Bill Baker said.

Part of the Team bottles competition with USOs

AS THE Seattle Seahawks prepared to take on the Denver Broncos in the Super Bowl, the USO Northwest and USO Denver were in a battle all their own.

Liberty Bottleworks, based in Union Gap, Wash., created custom aluminum bottles for the two USOs to promote. Which ever bottle sold the most would win the Super Bottle Battle.

The Part of the Team bottles sporting Seahawks colors, the number 12, and the sound record established by fans in the fall, won.

The USO Northwest will be awarded \$1,530 from Liberty Bottleworks who promised \$2 from every corresponding bottle sold to the winner.



Part of the Team bottle from Liberty Bottleworks for USONW.

USO Northwest CFC # 15348

Every dollar donated through the Combined Federal Campaign to the USO Northwest goes towards our Helping Hands Grant. The grant provides cash awards for recreation and events for all military commands.

Race For A Soldier

September 28, 2014 - Gig Harbor, Wash.