



# It Has Never Been Easier to Support our Troops and their Families

*The Department of Defense is grateful for the expressions of support provided to our troops and their families, especially during the Holidays.*

**“The courage of our soldiers and their families show the spirit of this country in great adversity. And many citizens are showing their appreciation by helping military families here at home. . . Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to every member of the United States military, and to their families.”** President George W. Bush

**Below are some ways YOU can show your support for our troops and their families:**

**America Supports You.** Join the Team by sharing your stories of support with the nation and the troops. Military members can go on the web and learn about America's support for their commitment and their service. The website includes a list of additional ways in which people can show their support. Go online at <http://americasupportsyou.mil> and tell us what you are doing for our troops.

**Help Our Troops Call Home and “Gifts from the Homefront”.** Purchase prepaid phone cards by calling 800-527-2345 and gift certificates by calling 1-877-770-4438 or log on to any of the following Web sites: <http://www.aafes.com>, <http://www.navy-nex.com>, <http://www.usmc-mccs.org>, <http://www.commissaries.com>.

**Operation Dear Abby.** Send e-mail messages to deployed troops of any Service from your home via: <http://anyservicemember.navy.mil>.

**Defend America.** Sign an online “thank you” card for troops at: <http://defendamerica.mil/nmam.html>.

**Operation USO Care Package.** Contribute to the purchase of a care package with such items as sunscreen, disposable cameras, prepaid calling cards and toiletries via: <http://www.usocares.org> or call 1-571-261-1465 for more information.

Donate to one of the **military relief societies**: Army Emergency Relief, Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society, Air Force Aid Society, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance. Contact information on reverse side.

Support the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services. (See reverse side).

Support families whose loved ones are being treated at military and Veterans Affairs hospitals through a donation to **The Fisher House**. Log on to <http://www.fisherhouse.org> for more information.

Donate your frequent flyer air miles to <http://www.heromiles.org>. These miles provide tickets for Service members on emergency leave and for family members to visit wounded Service members at military hospitals.

**USA Freedom Corps’ “On the Home Front”** Log onto <http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov> or call 1-877-USA-CORPS for ways you can offer your help to **military families** who may need extra help in meeting basic home and family needs during the deployment of a loved one.

**Contact your local chapter** of one or more of the many community service organizations that provide ways for volunteers to help local military families. List of suggested organizations on reverse side.

**Volunteers** can also help families with specialized skills like major repairs, financial planning or legal services. Several community service organizations also help by taking care of children after school and on the weekends, for families of deployed service members. Log on to <http://www.naccrra.org> or call 1-800-424-2460 for more information.

**Individuals** can make a difference at home by reaching out to share their time and compassion with veterans to say "thank you" for their service to our country and by volunteering at a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital or other facility. Log on to <http://www1.va.gov/volunteers> or call

**Corporations** can partner with one or more of several relief organizations that provide support for our troops and families in need. A list is at [http://www.defendamerica.mil/support\\_troops.html](http://www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html).



## It Has Never Been Easier to Support our Troops and their Families

*Listed below are several organizations that provide support for our troops and families in need.* This list may not be complete and does not constitute an endorsement of any particular organization. All of the organizations listed below are "501(c)(3)" nonprofit organizations under the Internal Revenue Code.

### **The Army Emergency Relief (AER) Society**

(Make check payable to: "Army Emergency Relief")

Send checks to: AER, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0600

Contact: Colonel Greg Mason at (703) 325-0463

Internet web site: <http://www.aerhq.org>

### **The Navy & Marine Corps Relief Society**

Send checks to: P.O. Box 791297, Baltimore, MD 21279-1297

Contact: Mr. John Alexander at (703) 696-4904

Internet web site: <http://www.nmcrs.org>

### **The Air Force Aid Society**

1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 202

Arlington, VA 22202

Contact: (703) 607-3135

Internet web site: <http://www.afas.org>

### **Coast Guard Mutual Assistance**

Send checks to: 4200 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 610, Arlington, VA 22203-1804

Contact: (202) 493-6621

Internet web site: [www.cgmahq.org](http://www.cgmahq.org)

### **Armed Services YMCA of the USA**

6359 Walker Lane, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22310

Phone: (703) 313-9600

FAX: (703) 313-9668

Internet web site: <http://www.asymca.org/>

### **American Red Cross**

Armed Forces Emergency Services

Contact: Ms. Stacey Grissom, (202) 639-3310

Internet web site: [www.redcross.org/services/afes/](http://www.redcross.org/services/afes/)

### **United Service Organizations (USO)**

Make check payable to "The USO"

1008 Eberle Place, SE, Suite 301, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-5096

Contact: 1-800-876-7469

Internet web site: <http://www.uso.org>

### **Veterans of Foreign Wars**

406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> St.

Kansas City, MO 64111

Contact: (816) 968-1102

Internet web site: [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

Also, you can **contact your local chapter** of the American Legion, American Red Cross, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the USA, Camp Fire USA, National 4-H Council, National Fraternal Congress of America, The Salvation Army, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of the USA for more information on how you can volunteer to help local military families.