

American Legion Auxiliary  
National Security  
April Bulletin  
2022

**How to Collaborate with the USO**

The American Legion Auxiliary's Plan of Action encourages collaboration with the USO. This guide is designed for units and departments that have chosen to collaborate with the USO objective in the National Security Plan of Action. There are 2 ways to donate and that is with your physical time or with in-kind or monetary donations directed to benefit service members and families.

**1. Participation with USO Centers:** USO Centers are located on bases, in airports and U.S. military installations in various countries around the world. Services offered vary by location, but often include a childcare area, computers, library, phones, showers, sleeping area, snacks, video gaming and Wi-Fi. These services are free to servicemembers and their families. Centers additionally offer servicemembers snacks or meals, rounds of games (like softball or volleyball) and birthday celebrations.

**2. Operation USO Care Package:** The USO distributes care packages to servicemembers at USO Centers, special send-off celebrations for military personnel deploying overseas and to troops returning to overseas locations from leave.

**3. Military Family Care Package:** The Military Family Care Package program allows a deploying servicemember to send a care package back to their loved ones with a note about them, a journal, camera, prepaid calling card, restaurant cards, etc. USO secures care package items from product manufacturers and is unable to accept individual donations of items.

**4. United Through Reading's Military Program:** The United Through Reading's Military Program allows a deployed parent to be videotaped reading a book to their child. The DVD and the book are then sent to the child(ren).

**5. With You All The Way:** The USO has partnered with The Trevor Romain Foundation to develop a program for military children ages 6 to 18 years old. Using innovative, inspiring and humorous stories, children discuss the difficulties of having a parent serving away from home. Live performances at schools as well as a DVD series help with deployment issues, self-esteem, reintegrating the family when the parent comes home and a memory box kit when the parent does not come home.

**6. Holiday Boxes:** The Holiday Box program brings holiday cheer and a touch of home during major U.S. holidays throughout the year to servicemembers serving in dangerous and harsh conditions during major U.S. holidays throughout the year.

**7. USO2GO:** USO2GO provides servicemembers in remote and restricted areas a suite of recreational, morale and family support equipment and supplies tailored to the interests of the servicemembers.

The first step is to find a USO center in your area. You can visit [www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org). In the "USO CENTERS" drop down menu, search for your ZIP code. If you would like to donate your time and volunteer at a local USO center, you can visit [www.usovolunteer.org](http://www.usovolunteer.org). Click on "Volunteer at a USO Center." Select your region of interest. From there you can fill out an interest form and the USO center will contact you. If you are making a monetary or in-kind donation, you can contact USO's Relationship Manager of Clubs and Organizations:

USO, Inc.  
Chad Hartman, Vice President Development & Corporate Alliances  
2111 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1200  
Arlington, VA 22201  
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## USO FAST FACTS

The mission of the USO is to lift the spirits of America's troops and their families.

USO stands for the United Service Organization and it is a private, nonprofit and non-partisan organization.

The USO relies on donations from individuals, organizations and corporations to support its programs and services.

The USO supports those who need us most, including wounded, ill and injured troops, their families and caregivers, families of the fallen, deployed troops and military families.

The USO has more than 160 locations worldwide – including locations in Europe, the Pacific, stateside, and Southwest Asia, including 9 centers in Afghanistan visited nearly 150,000 times a month.

In 2011, more than 24,000 volunteers provided 1.26 million hours of service around the world.

USO Centers are visited by troops and their families more than 8 million times per year.

In 2011, it costs \$1.4 million to run a USO center in Bagram, Afghanistan.

The USO spends approximately 90% of its resources on program related activities.

Additional information about the USO may be found at [www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org)

Our relationship with the USO is a perfect symbiotic relationship it is no wonder we encourage this cooperation. To learn more about helping the USO and how the USO can help the ALA, this information and more can be found at: [https://member.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/ALA\\_USO\\_Action\\_Guide.pdf](https://member.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/ALA_USO_Action_Guide.pdf)

Respectfully submitted,  
Holly Heatly  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Southern Division National Security Chair  
2021-2022