



Until Every One Comes Home®

USO in a Box



“Every day over here is like Groundhog Day. But when the USO in a Box arrived, it was like Christmas.”



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“It was like a gift dropped from the sky.” That’s how one soldier described a USO in a Box that was helicoptered to his outpost in Afghanistan. Less than an hour after it descended, a USO center was open for business, powered by its own generator. Finally, after several long months, the troops had a gathering place, a place to unwind.

USO in a Box is a portable, two-room USO center that can be trucked or flown almost anywhere. It’s a place where troops who are days away from a base are suddenly able to log onto the Internet, phone folks back home and relax with movies and video games. It’s a place where troops can get out of the heat of scorching temperatures or the cold of frigid climes. As one soldier said when he sent us a small donation from his own tight budget, “You can definitely see the effects when soldiers assemble in a ‘safe haven.’”

With USO in a Box, we found a creative, practical way to transport state-of-the-art equipment for easy set-up and operation in harsh conditions. In some cases, troops have gone out in the field on patrol and returned to see their own little USO center up and running. What a difference that “box” makes! Instead of the tedium of more of the same, they have the genuine break that they need and deserve.

Perhaps the most important thing that comes inside a USO in a Box isn’t the video games or other equipment, as welcome and well used as they are. “Work and sand, sand and work,” said one soldier. “When the USO came, we felt like we were connected back with the rest of the world, and we were not forgotten.”



This program is one of the many ways that the USO fulfills its mission to lift the spirits of U.S. troops and their families. Through special programs, targeted services, entertainment tours and in more than 140 USO centers around the world, this private, nonprofit organization continually seeks ways to build morale and express appreciation to active duty military personnel and their families.