



Fast Facts

1. USO stands for the United Service Organizations. It is a private, nonprofit and non-partisan organization. The mission: "The USO strengthens America's military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country, throughout their service to the nation."
2. In September, the USO launched [Force Behind the Forces](#), a brand awareness campaign encouraging Americans to stand behind "The Force," as a community of supporters committed to connecting service members to the things they hold dear. Being a Force Behind the Forces means you pledge to demonstrate your appreciation of those who selflessly serve our nation. The campaign underscores USO's historic mission to connect service members to family, home and country, and simultaneously aims to address the [civilian-military drift](#) – a natural disconnect and lack of understanding between those who have served in the military and those who have never served. It encourages a united American "force" driven to meet the needs of service members and their families, further connecting them to those they protect.
3. The USO supports our forward-deployed; wounded, ill and injured service members, their families and caregivers and service members in transition, military families and families of the fallen.
4. For 75 years, the USO has been a leading military support organization serving the men and women in the U.S. military and their families throughout their service, from the moment they join, through their deployment and as they transition back to their communities.
5. The USO has more than 180 locations worldwide – including locations in Europe, the Pacific, stateside and Southwest Asia. Two centers in Kuwait are visited more than 48,000 times a month. In 2015, these centers hosted nearly 10 million total service instances.
6. Mobile USOs act as USO centers on wheels offering service members the same kinds of support the USO provides in an airport or installation location. These large mobile vehicles travel to big events and military exercises to provide a place for service members to relax during downtime, provide USO service and support to areas without a USO center and support the community in times of crisis.
7. Including all USO locations around the world, the USO has 30,000 volunteers who gave 1.5 million hours of time in 2015 to support service members and their families. It has fewer than 700 paid staff globally.
8. Since its 2015 launch, the USO Transition 360 Alliance is leveraging the USO's global reach and the expertise of five nonprofit partners specializing in military-to-civilian transition and providing key services to help service member and military families make a successful transition. The USO Transition 360 Alliance partners are: RP/6, Hire Heroes USA, Hiring Our Heroes, Stronger Families and Comfort Crew for Military Kids.
9. The USO has distributed more than 3.2 million prepaid international calling card to deployed service members since 2003.
10. Operation Phone Home® is one of the most frequently requested services from our forward-deployed service members. At our centers located in combat zones, service members use the USO's private phone network to make free phone calls home, access computers with free high-speed Internet bandwidth and free wireless Internet for use with their own computers. Expectant fathers frequently use this free internet access to virtually accompany their wives in the delivery room for the birth of their children. In 2015, more than 778,462 calls were placed by deployed service members through the USO's Operation Phone Home program – that is more than 7.4 million minutes of free talk time for service members to reconnect with their families.

11. The Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families, the USO's first-ever traveling tour designed specifically for families and the USO's longest-running tour. Between its launch in July 2008 and September 20, 2016, the tour has taken its message to 578,140 service members and military families and performed 1,154 shows on 150 military installations in 33 states and 11 countries. By its conclusion, the 2016 tour is scheduled to perform 162 shows at 50 military bases in 25 states.
12. In August 2013, the USO launched a partnership with the What to Expect Foundation to host baby showers for military moms-to-be around the globe. Each shower includes a question and answer session with Heidi Murkoff, the best-selling author of the "What to Expect" book series and features traditional baby shower activities. Since launching, the program has supported more than 3,600 military spouses and expectant active-duty mothers. To date this year, 14 Special Delivery events – 10 showers and four reunions – have been hosted by Murkoff in collaboration with a USO center.
13. As of September 20, 2016, the USO deployed 46 celebrity entertainers on 21 tours to 12 countries and 25 states, and entertained more than 85,244 service members and military families. Four of these tours were to a combat zone.
14. USO, Inc. meets all 20 Better Business Bureau Standards for Charity Accountability and is a Gold-level GuideStar Exchange participant, demonstrating its commitment to transparency.
15. Designed to send much-needed electronic gaming, sports/musical equipment and personal care items to service members in remote locations, USO2GO was launched in 2008. This year, we have delivered USO2GO kits to 28 countries where they have served nearly 13,000 service members.
16. To learn more about the USO and how we serve our service members and their families, visit us at:
 - USO.org
 - USO.org/FORCE
 - USOwishbook.org
 - [Facebook.com/theUSO](https://www.facebook.com/theUSO)
 - [Twitter.com/the_USO](https://twitter.com/the_USO)
 - [Instagram.com/theuso](https://www.instagram.com/theuso)
 - [Plus.google.com/+theuso](https://plus.google.com/+theuso)
 - [YouTube.com/theuso](https://www.youtube.com/theuso)
 - [Flickr.com/photos/theuso](https://www.flickr.com/photos/theuso)
 - [Pinterest.com/theuso](https://www.pinterest.com/theuso)
 - Snapchat: the_uso
17. There are more than 2.4 million military personnel.* That number includes DoD Active Duty military personnel (more than 1,365,727 million), DHS' Active Duty Coast Guard members (39,454), plus DoD Ready Reserve and DHS Coast Guard Reserve members (1,101,939). The breakdown by service branch, selected reserve and National Guard component is:
 - Active Duty: (1.365m)
 - Army Active Duty- 504,330
 - Air Force Active Duty- 312,453
 - Marine Corps Active Duty- 187,891
 - Coast Guard Active Duty- 39,454
 - Selected Reserve and National Guard: (1.1m)
 - Army National Guard- 356,220
 - Army Reserve- 306,912
 - Air National Guard- 106,380
 - Air Force Reserve- 106,257
 - Navy Reserve- 107,355
 - Marine Corps Reserve- 109,811
 - Coast Guard Reserve- 9,004
18. Across the DoD Active Duty and Selected Reserve population, there are 2,150,651 military personnel and 2,875,977 family members, including spouses, children, and adult dependents. Of the 1,819,659 total military children in 2014, the largest percentage are between birth and 5 years of age (37.4%).*

*2014 Demographics Report (<http://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2014-Demographics-Report.pdf>) These numbers will be updated when the new report is available.