



USO of Indiana moves to new, larger airport space this Saturday

Move to room in Baggage Claim is twice the size of former area near Civic Plaza

INDIANAPOLIS— The Indianapolis Airport Authority (IAA) and USO of Indiana are providing a more spacious area for military personnel traveling through Indianapolis International Airport.

Since 2008, the USO's Airport Center has been located in the ticketing hall near Guest Services. This Saturday, it will move down to room 10T.109 in Baggage Claim. The room is located on the east wall near Bag Carousel 3. The space being vacated will be reconfigured by the airport as a meeting room available for public rental.

"Having additional space will allow us to expand the services we offer military personnel and their families," explains Larry Muncie, president & CEO of the USO of Indiana. "In 2009, we served more than 17,000 visitors at the Indianapolis airport. We believe that number would have been even higher if we had had physical room. With the move Saturday, we expect to accommodate many more U.S. service men and women in the future."

In fact, Muncie estimates the number of military personnel served in 2010 will exceed 25,000— compared to under 7,000 in 2006. He credits increased utilization of Camp Atterbury and the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center for bringing larger numbers of military personnel to Indiana for training and deployments around the globe.

The USO Airport Center offers amenities to traveling military personnel including Internet access, a video gaming area, TV viewing, comfortable lounge seating, and a canteen with complimentary snacks and soft drinks. The USO Indiana is totally supported by private contributions.

Mike Medvescek, chief operating officer for the Indianapolis Airport Authority, says the authority is happy to support the move.

"The USO of Indiana is a valued partner in serving the flying public here in Indianapolis. Not only do they help us create a more positive travel experience for active military personnel but, in recent years, they helped us welcome several large groups of veterans, many of whom were in frail health, traveling on private charter flights to Washington, DC. Their volunteers are an important part of our overall customer service program," Medvescek notes.

The USO's Airport Center is open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week, 365 days a year. "That is quite an undertaking for an all-volunteer workforce," Muncie added. "But we're honored to have the opportunity to offer them a friendly smile and make their travel a little easier."

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