



## USO - Making A Difference

*MSG Corine Lombardo, 42nd ID*

Most people conjure up images of Bob Hope and dancing girls when they envision the USO.

What many don't realize is that while the United Services Organization continues to bring enjoyment to thousands of US troops around the world, it also brings a myriad of other services that help reduce the burden faced by Soldiers and family members serving their country.

Over sixty years later, the USO focus has been on providing entertainment shows, free of charge, to active-duty U.S. military and their families overseas. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001, the New York Army National Guard has benefited from many services not previously offered to Guard members. Thousands of Soldiers, including members of the 42nd Infantry Division were treated to Broadway shows, high profile sports events, studio tours, hot meals and hotel discounts for visiting families.

Rainbow Soldiers were providing perimeter security at ground zero within hours of the World Trade Center attack. After a month of grueling 15-18 hour shifts, troops were allocated brief periods of time off to enjoy some of the many events coordinated by the USO. "The USO made a tremendous difference to the morale of Soldiers who spent countless hours supporting the citizens of NYC," said SGM Charles White from the division headquarters. White volunteered for months as the MWR liaison to the USO and ensured Soldiers on duty received numerous opportunities.

Over 200 Soldiers from the New York Army National Guard also benefited from the USO's efforts. "Just the opportunity to put the horror out of their minds for a little while, renewed their spirit" said MAJ Anthony Carrabis, former Commander of Headquarters Company, 427th Support Bn. "Soldiers working in midtown Manhattan found USO facilities' doors opened, as safe havens for

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## Better Training Aids Make for Better Training Opportunities

*By Dennis Haynes,  
42nd ID Training Aids, Devices and Simulations Facilitator*



The Guard Unit Army Device Full-crew Interactive Simulations Trainer, also known as GUARDFIST II 1:4 enables field artillery forward observer and FIST teams to enhance their mission skills while practicing calling for accurate and predicted indirect fire in a highly realistic, interactive battle environment.

It can also be used to give all soldiers the necessary training to call for, and adjust indirect fire. This is a 20 level CTT task, but is important for every soldier to be familiar with the procedures. So in this light we are all Forward Observers.

The GUARDFIST II is a transportable training system that provides simulated battlefield scenarios for the training of Field Artillery Forward Observers (FOs) tasks. This version comprises one instructor station physically connected to the four FO stations. In this version, one instructor can train four students. The instructor station will generate, monitor, and control training scenarios, record FO performance and maintain a library of training exercises. The FO stations will provide or simulate the physical tools required by a FO to accomplish sustainment training. These tools include the maps, protractors and special binoculars that are made to be used with the close in projection screen. The scenario will present a view of actual terrain that corresponds with the map and a variety of possible targets. The student acts as the FO and the instructor as the fire direction center (FDC). The FO will call in his call for fire, and the FDC will process it. The FDC will advise the FO when rounds are on the way, then its up to the FO to adjust them on target.

If your Rainbow unit is at Fort Drum or Fort Dix and would like further information on this and other Training Aids available to enhance your unit training, please contact Dennis Haynes, the 42nd Infantry Divisions Training Aids, Devices and Simulations facilitator at [DMHaynes@Anteon.com](mailto:DMHaynes@Anteon.com) or [dennis.haynes@us.army.mil](mailto:dennis.haynes@us.army.mil) or cell phone at (518) 859-6231.

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a few minutes of down time and a place to take their minds off the stressful duty they were performing," added Carrabis.

"We did our best to provide a small amount of normalcy to replace the sights and sounds of disaster the Soldiers were dealing with on a daily basis," said Hazel Cathers, Director of the USO's NYC office, located at the Douglas MacArthur Memorial Center at the Port Authority building in Manhattan.

Once again Rainbow Soldiers will have the opportunity to enjoy entertainment provided by the USO, this time at Fort Drum as Soldiers continue training for deployment to Iraq. "We are working closely with the USO to set up a show for sometime in September," said Rainbow Division CSM Richard Fearnside.

Originating in 1941, the USO continues its efforts to support all service members. It serves as the backbone to overseas deployment centers, providing refreshments and personal items during a service member's transition to the Middle East. They provide emergency funds for food, hotel, airfare expenses and childcare services when a family member must travel overseas in the event of injury or death to a service member. In cooperation with several corporations, the USO continues its popular Operation Phone Home program, sending pre-paid AT & T phone cards to service members deployed overseas and most recently the USO partnered with Ray-Ban to send thousands of pairs of donated sunglasses for distribution to military personnel deployed to Afghanistan, Djibouti, Iraq and Kuwait.

As more NYARNG Soldiers are being called up in response to the global war on terrorism, they will find the USO stepping forward to lend a hand. In addition to establishing Video e-mail stations throughout the area of operations so Soldiers can receive photographs of family members, the USO is reaching out to the families left behind by providing referral services as well as household and toiletry items. "Whether deployed overseas or defending homeland security, I urge all Soldiers to seek out the locations and take advantage of the services the USO offers, added SGM White.

"We do what we can to support the families of National Guard Soldiers. Their active duty counterparts are situated where their families are prepared and have all service support activities available to them on base. The Guard is different and we do our best to support any number of requests from families with special needs, said Hazel Cathers.

Although endorsed by the President of the United States and the Department of Defense, the USO is chartered by the Congress as a nonprofit, charitable corporation and is not a part of the United States Government. The USO operates in 20 states and 10 countries.

The USO relies solely on the generosity of the general public. More than 12,000 members in the USO international corps of volunteers provide an estimated 450,000 hours of service annually, a worldwide personal contribution of over \$3 million. It is expected, at least 20 entertainment tours will take place this year, reaching tens of thousands of service members overseas.

## 46K take eArmyU courses online

More than 46,000 Soldiers have been able to continue their education by taking online classes through eArmyU, including many of the Soldiers deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Army launched eArmyU in 2001, to offer eligible enlisted Soldiers the opportunity to work toward a college degree or certificate anytime, anywhere.

Soldiers who have been deployed continue to be able to work on their degrees from Afghanistan and Iraq. Of the 6,984 eArmyU Soldiers deployed in those theaters, 2,098 are now enrolled in eArmyU classes.

eArmyU brings together a unique collaboration of colleges and universities offering a broad range of educational opportunities. eArmyU offers approximately 160 programs from 29 different educational institutions. Through eArmyU, Soldiers have the opportunity to earn a certificate, associate, bachelor or master's degree from a home institution while taking courses from multiple colleges

eArmyU offers unique flexibility to Soldiers. Web-based courses can be completed anytime and anywhere, allowing Soldiers to study at times that are most convenient for them – wherever they are stationed.

eArmyU provides Soldiers with the tools they need to succeed in the online environment. Once enrolled, Soldiers receive up to 100% funding for tuition, books and course fees, as well as a personal laptop, email account and an Internet Service Provider account. Soldier-students are responsible for obtaining and paying for their own local telephone service which includes any per-minute charges that apply in some overseas locations. In addition to 24-hour technical support, eArmyU provides Soldiers with assistance in determining a program of study, registering for courses and transferring credits.

Rainbow Soldiers interested in more information on eArmyU opportunities should contact the Ft. Drum Education Center at (315) 772-4964.

## RAINBOW CHAPLAIN

"Comfort my people, says our God. "Comfort them!

Encourage the people of Jerusalem. Tell them they have suffered long enough and their sins are now forgiven.

I have punished them in full for all their sins."

A voice cries out, "Prepare in the wilderness a road for the Lord!

Clear the way in the desert for our God!

Fill every valley; level every mountain. The hills will become a plain, and the rough country will be made smooth.

Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it.

The Lord himself promised this."

A voice cries out, "Proclaim a message!"

"What message shall I proclaim?" I ask.

Proclaim that all human beings are like grass; They last no longer than wild flowers.

Isaiah 40:1-6

*RAINBOW READY NEWS is a Command Information product of the 42<sup>nd</sup> ID (M) PAO for division's post-mobilization training program.*

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