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## **Military Families Receive Fresh Christmas Tree Thanks to the Trees for Troops®**

St. Louis, MO, December 21, 2023 — For the 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Christmas Spirit Foundation partnered with FedEx Freight to implement the Trees for Troops® program. Between November 27 and December 8, FedEx Freight picked up 16,252 fresh-cut Christmas trees from 56 locations and delivered them in varying amounts to 93 total military bases in the U.S. across six branches of service and one National Guard training center. The trees were donated by tree farms, tree retailers, community groups and individuals.

The program has now provided a total of 309,644 free Christmas trees to military members and families since starting in 2005. A special ceremony presenting the 300,000<sup>th</sup> Christmas tree was held on December 1 at Fort Liberty in North Carolina.

Fresh cut Christmas trees are gathered together at designated farms and retail locations and then picked up by FedEx Freight. They then route them through their distribution centers and deliver them to bases. Once the trees are at the base and unloaded, each base determines how/when to distribute the trees to their personnel.

Every tree has a special tag attached that includes a personal note of thanks from donors, suppliers or supporters. “That personalized note on the tree lets the recipients know that lots of people are involved in getting them a fresh tree to raise their spirit,” said Rick Dungey, Executive Director of the Christmas Spirit Foundation. “It lets them know that they are supported.”

Trees for Troops counts on donations from the public to make this program succeed year after year. You can support Trees for Troops through your tax-deductible donation or by becoming a sponsor. The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Your tax-deductible charitable contribution will help those in service to their country and their families receive a fresh Christmas Tree and keep the spirit of a traditional Christmas celebration alive.

### **About the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation and Trees for Troops**

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The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization that works to recognize and support the true spirit of Christmas through programs like Trees for Troops®. The foundation was established in 2005 and is among fewer than five percent of U.S. charities to be awarded the “Best in America” seal of excellence by Independent Charities of America. To learn more visit [www.christmasspiritfoundation.org](http://www.christmasspiritfoundation.org).

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