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## **More than 16,000 Military Families Receive Fresh Christmas Tree Thanks to the Trees for Troops**

St. Louis, MO, December 17, 2020 — For the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, FedEx Freight partnered with the Christmas Spirit Foundation to implement the Trees for Troops program, despite a few challenges created by the pandemic. Between November 30 and December 11, FedEx Freight picked up 16,073 fresh-cut Christmas trees from 57 locations in 25 different states and delivered them in varying amounts to 79 total military bases in the U.S. across all five branches of service, as well as some guard units. The trees were donated by tree farms, tree retailers and individuals.

The program has now provided a total of 262,265 free Christmas trees to military members and families. Fresh cut Christmas trees are gathered together at farms and retail lots 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.

Some adjustments had to be made in 2020. “Honestly, I’m just glad we were able to still do the program this year,” said Rick Dungey, Executive Director of the Christmas Spirit Foundation. “When we started contacting bases last summer, nobody knew what was going to happen in December in terms of restrictions and protocols. But the enthusiasm and commitment to the program has never wavered.”

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 Real Christmas Tree and keep the spirit of a traditional Christmas celebration alive.

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

The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization that works to recognize and support the true spirit of Christmas for U.S. troops through the Trees for Troops® program. 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. <https://treesfortroops.org/>

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