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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Christmas Tree Growers Help Deliver Christmas Spirit to Troop Families**

For the second consecutive year, the Trees for Troops program will deliver Real Christmas Trees to the families of troops serving in the military. Christmas Tree growers and retailers nationwide are donating the trees for the program, which is sponsored by the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation and FedEx Corp.

This holiday season, Trees for Troops is expected to collect and deliver more than 11,000 Real Christmas Trees from 27 states to military families across the United States, as well as to soldiers serving overseas.

“Our military and their families have been providing a real service to our country,” says Beth Walterscheidt, president of the National Christmas Tree Association and a Christmas Tree farmer from Elgin, Texas. “And, as Christmas Tree farmers, we want them to be able to experience a traditional Christmas with a Real Tree.”

The Trees for Troops program was first implemented in 2005, and with the help of FedEx Corp., delivered more than 4,300 Christmas Trees to five U.S. military bases, as well as an overseas shipment to the Middle East.

“Trees for Troops was a huge success,” says Christmas SPIRIT Foundation chairman Nigel Manley, a Christmas Tree grower in Bethlehem, N.H. “It really resonated with our industry and the military.”

This year’s program kicks off on Nov. 14, with international shipments leaving from Ohio and Indiana and going to soldiers in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Middle East and the 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet in the Gulf.

The collection and delivery of trees will take place from the end of November through December. Consumers may make contributions to support the program and the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation at [www.ChristmasSPIRITFoundation.org](http://www.ChristmasSPIRITFoundation.org). More information is also available at [www.TreesforTroops.org](http://www.TreesforTroops.org).

#### About the Christmas Spirit Foundation

The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation – based in Chesterfield, Mo, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit foundation that advances the Christmas spirit for children, families and the environment. Trees for Troops is just one of its projects. For more details, go to [www.ChristmasSpiritFoundation.org](http://www.ChristmasSpiritFoundation.org).

#### About the National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA)

NCTA is the professional organization representing nearly 5,000 farms and retailers engaged in growing and selling Real Christmas Trees to nearly 30 million consumers. Based in Chesterfield, Mo., NCTA’s mission is to promote the use of Real Christmas Trees and support the industry that provides them. For more information, go to [www.realchristmastrees.org](http://www.realchristmastrees.org).