



Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore

# MISSION: MAIL CALL

*Keeping our military community & friends of USO-Metro connected across the National Capital Region*

## XMAS DAY PACK FOR TROOPS CAPS WEEK OF MILITARY BOWL

**C**hristmas Day is one to spend with family. But when it falls mid-NCAA Bowl Week in winter 2021, things tend to look a bit different.

Christmas Saturday before a Monday kickoff, **Boston College** and **Eastern Carolina University** football teams were busy preparing for the **2021 Military Bowl Presented by Peraton**. But amid game film and calls home, players and coaches still found time to say Thank You to our heroes.

The teams collectively packed over **2,000 care packages** with handwritten letters, snacks, and special items from our host, **Capital Area Hilton hotels**, for troops deploying from our local airports. These packages will bring a taste of home to those that have truly learned what it means to sacrifice your Holidays in pursuit of service.

While the 2021 Military Bowl game was unfortunately cancelled due to health and safety concerns, we are incredibly thankful for the players and staff, as well as the Military Bowl organization who worked tirelessly all year to put together an incredible slate of events **benefitting the USO**.



### UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

## STAR-STUDDERD 2021 ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER BRINGS IN RECORD \$1.5 MILLION

**T**he USO welcomed celebrity guests, sponsors, and active duty honorees to the **MGM National Harbor** for this year's **Annual Awards Dinner** saluting military medical heroes and hosted by **Monte Durham**. Attendees were treated to a beautifully-curated menu and a special selection of performances featuring a rendition of **Old Glory** by **Vann Morris the Orator** and a **musical performance by country star Kellie Pickler**.

Introduced by **General Mark A. Milley**, the **USO Special Salute to Military Medicine** recognized one member from each branch for their extraordinary commitment to the care of others in service to our nation. Thank you to our **Presenting Sponsor, the Boeing Company**, and all our sponsors, supporters, and guests who made AAD 2021 incredible!

### DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

## PROJECT USO ELF FILLS WISH LISTS OF OVER 1500 ACTIVE DUTY CHILDREN

**T**he USO successfully completed yet another season of holiday programs for our military families, capped off by **Project USO Elf**, a **wish list matching** program which this year paired corporate donors with the Christmas lists of **1,550 active duty kids**.

2021 Elves **BAE Systems, GDIT, Lockheed Martin, Leidos, SAIC, The Ripon Society, Franklin Center, ServiceNow, and GEICO** worked tirelessly to get gifts purchased and packed, with special distribution workshops at USO centers across the region.

We owe an ever-growing debt of gratitude to our corporate sponsors. The impact of these programs on our local area military is life-long, and truly limitless.

