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**Army Officers Super Bowl Rivalry to Support the USO**

ARLINGTON, Va. – The NFL and the USO proudly announce “Operation Touchdown II,” a fundraising campaign challenging NFL fans to donate money to the USO in support of either the Chicago Bears or Indianapolis Colts. Donations will be collected at [www.uso.org/superbowl](http://www.uso.org/superbowl) from Jan. 29 through Feb. 4, 2007 -- the date of Super Bowl XLI. Fans of each team are challenged to be the first to raise \$100,000 for the USO. The USO and the NFL will announce which team’s fans donated the most on Feb. 5.

Operation Touchdown II grew from a 2003 rivalry between Army Reserve Major David Seiter and his supervisor, Army Col. (ret.) Ted Cox, avid fans of the Indianapolis Colts and New Orleans Saints, respectively. Both were stationed in Iraq at the time and worked with the NFL, Indianapolis Colts and New Orleans Saints to support a day-long clinic introducing Iraqi children to American football. The NFL donated child-sized NFL merchandise, which preceded a nationally televised Sunday night game between the Colts and Saints. The Colts’ success this year spurred Seiter to challenge his Army Reserve unit’s public affairs officer, Lt. Col. Paula Jones, an Illinois resident and avid fan of the Bears.

“Since I returned from Iraq, I am often asked how individuals can support the troops while our country is at war,” said Seiter. “The USO provides so many benefits to members of all military branches. I am grateful to the USO not only for the entertainment they provided while I served overseas, but my family and I also have benefited from USO airport centers stateside and abroad. I have been impressed with the dedication and helpfulness of every USO volunteer I have ever met.”

Edward A. Powell, USO president and CEO, said: “Last year, we celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our partnership with the NFL. This year, we are proud to work with the NFL as the beneficiary of ‘Operation Touchdown II.’ We are grateful to Major Seiter and Colonel Jones for their service, sacrifice and support of the USO.”

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