



MEDIA ALERT

Christmas Trees Being Sent to Troops Stationed Overseas

WHAT: Trees for Troops® – along with FedEx – will kick off its seventh year of delivering fresh farm-grown Christmas trees to the troops and their families. Members of the Ohio Christmas Tree Association will donate and help box the trees for this international shipment through a program known as **Operation Evergreen**, which is in its 17th year of sending trees to troops overseas. November 10 is the day for the collection, packaging, loading and departure of approximately 300 Ohio-grown Christmas trees.

These trees are the first of an estimated 17,000 that will be provided to military families stationed at more than 60 bases in the U.S. and overseas. **Trees for Troops** is expected to reach an impressive milestone this year by topping 100,000 trees delivered since the program began in 2005. Operation Evergreen has been providing trees to the military since 1995 and has delivered an estimated 3,000 trees so far.

WHO:

- **Trees for Troops** – An official program of the Christmas Spirit Foundation, which is the 501(c)(3) charitable branch of the National Christmas Tree Association.
- **Ohio Christmas Tree Association /Operation Evergreen** – An association of Christmas Tree growers donating trees to the troops
- **Ohio Department of Ag** – Providing inspections and phytosanitary certificates
- **FedEx** – Transportation carrier for Trees for Troops, donating shipping for all of the Christmas Trees delivered by the Trees for Troops program

WHEN: Thursday, November 10, 2011
11:30 am – 2:00 pm

WHERE: Ohio Department of Agriculture
8995 E. Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

PHOTO/VIDEO OPS:

- Christmas trees being inspected, baled, boxed and loaded onto FedEx trucks
- Local school kids helping to sort ornaments and pack them with the trees
- Interview opportunities with spokespeople from Christmas SPIRIT Foundation (Trees 4 Troops Coordinator), Operation Evergreen, and Ohio Department of Ag and FedEx.

CONTACTS:

Christmas SPIRIT Foundation/ Trees for Troops:

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