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PORT OF OPPORTUNITY

Airport Press Release

Airport Celebrates Military Comfort Center Volunteers

Contact: Gen Grosse - 726-5882 December 10, 2024

Yuma, Arizona: The Yuma County Airport Authority will hold its annual 'Thank You Celebration' for the dedicated Military Comfort Center (MCC) and Airport Ambassadors volunteers on Tuesday, December 10th at 2:30 in the airport's west upper mezzanine.

The MCC was opened in July 2010 to provide a comfortable atmosphere for military guests travelling though the airport each day. Gladys Brown, Airport Director said "While the MCC is furnished with comfortable furniture and refreshments, our most important asset is our volunteers from the community who simply enjoy giving back to those who defend our way of life every single day."

"Each year, the Military Comfort Center has grown in popularity with servicemen and women, veterans and their families." Brown reported. "Since opening the MCC at Yuma International Airport, our dedicated volunteers devoted a record 68,807 hours of service entertaining over 57,282 military guests. This is a testament that the military really appreciates having a place of their own to relax prior to their next destination."

Yuma International Airport began the Airport Ambassador Program in March 2015. The volunteer ambassadors help passengers and terminal guests with general questions and guide them to businesses within the airport terminal. Since the beginning of this program, airport ambassadors have volunteered over 7,392 hours of their time.

The annual "Thank You Celebration" started in December 2010 so the airport's Board of Directors and military dignitaries had an opportunity to personally thank each volunteer for their dedication to our guests and for being a positive reflection of the Yuma community.

"Our volunteers are here every day of the week, even on holidays to make sure that not a single service member is alone," said Janice Senderling, airport volunteer coordinator. "Our volunteers really enjoy themselves and share their experiences at the airport with their friends, who then sign up to be a volunteer, so you know they are having a great time doing something they love – giving back to our military and community."

"Our volunteers are the best, and we cherish them deeply – they are like family," said Brown.