



MEDIA RELEASE

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National Guard group launches “Angel Soldiers”

SMYRNA, Tenn. – For many years, “Toys for Tots” and “Angel Tree” have become familiar names during the Christmas Season. This year, Family Assistance Coordinators of the Tennessee National Guard launched their own program, “Angel Soldiers,” to provide toys and Christmas presents to some Guard families.

Tennessee National Guard State Youth Coordinator Dorothy Russell began receiving calls in October from organizations and individuals desiring to make this Christmas season a special one for service members' children. Working closely with the National Guard Family Assistance Coordinators throughout the state, needs were validated and the “Christmas List” was finalized.

No names were used, only numbers, to identify the gender, age, sizes and any special "something" the child might need or want. Packages were assembled at the Family Readiness Headquarters in Smyrna, picked up by the Family Assistance Coordinators and delivered to the families.

Each package contained a note saying, “Your family has been blessed this holiday season by” and listed the organization and address.

Dorothy Russell beams when she talks about the program. “I just hope that through the generosity of these individuals and organizations we're able to make the holiday season brighter for some of our Guard families,” Russell said.

CUTLINES:

Spearheading the National Guard Angel Soldiers program, from left: Amy Dixon, Toy Drive Coordinator; Dorothy Russell, State Youth Coordinator; and National Guard Chaplain Capt. Mark Russell.

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