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ADOPT-A-SOLDIER PLATOON JOINS THE *AMERICA SUPPORTS YOU* TEAM **Local group adds their support for the troops to Department of Defense effort**

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 22, 2008 — Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon, Inc. (AaSP), announced today that it has officially joined *America Supports You*, an ongoing, nationwide Department of Defense program to showcase and communicate America's support for the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families. Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon is an organization dedicated to improving the morale of American military personnel deployed in harms way.

“We are thrilled to welcome Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon to the *America Supports You* team,” said Allison Barber, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. “Their dedication to our service members is truly inspiring, and we are so happy to have them on the team.”

Since April 2003, AaSP has been supporting U.S. military units in the Middle East. Past projects include: sending 25,000 blank DVDs with camcorders to enable the “Day in the Life of a Soldier” project at Camp Anaconda in Iraq; partnering with Microsoft and MTV Games to launch the first I-Roq Band Tournament; shipping nearly 100 XBoxes, games and accessories to adoptee units; outfitting local Iraqi soccer teams through a Civil Affairs Airborne unit; sending laptops and exercise mats to the biggest U.S. military hospital in Baghdad; collecting NFL souvenirs for three Super Bowl parties; and improving the welfare of staff and patients at military hospitals in Kuwait, Afghanistan, Iraq and Germany. Working with *America Supports You* in the future, Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon hopes to increase awareness of its programs more broadly and develop its Special Friends program to enable deeper support from Americans across the country.

“We are proud to become a member of *America Supports You*,” said Alan Krutchkoff, president of AaSP. “It’s like getting the Good Housekeeping seal of approval for what we do. Having *America Supports You* behind us will enable us to have a greater impact on our troops and open the door for more Americans to feel connected to these brave men and women through our projects.”

Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon is now one of more than 300 non-profit, grassroots groups that have joined *America Supports You* to enhance their local services to our active duty

military members, veterans and their families. *America Supports You* provides a forum for team members to network and communicate with one another in order to share information and pool their resources.

About America Supports You

America Supports You is an ongoing, nationwide program organized by the Department of Defense to showcase Americans' support for the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families. Since its launch in November of 2004, *America Supports You* has welcomed more than 300 homefront organizations and more than 35 corporations to the program. Many *America Supports You* homefront groups demonstrate their support for the troops through letter writing, care packages, helping the wounded when they return home, assisting military families, sending an email or kind gesture—to learn more about how you can support military personnel please visit www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil.

About Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon

Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon adopted its first soldier, a SGT in the 82d Airborne, in April 2003. Since then, thousands of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen have benefited from its support. Besides sending care cartons on a regular basis, AaSP engages in special projects, all designed to improve the morale of military personnel deployed in harm's way. AaSP currently supports U.S. military hospitals in Afghanistan, Germany, Iraq and Kuwait, a veterinary unit in Iraq, four K-9 units, the MWR unit at the largest American base in Iraq and local National Guard units from CT and NJ. Its Operation NJ Home Front is designed to support the largest deployment of NJ troops since World War II. To learn more about AaSP, visit www.AdoptaSoldierPlatoon.org.

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