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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NJCUL and Participating CUs Provide Flight Pillows for N.J. National Guard's 23-Hour Flight to Iraq

HIGHSTOWN, N.J. – The New Jersey Credit Union League and the following N.J. credit unions—Deepwater FCU; FAA Eastern Region FCU; MidState FCU; Paragon FCU; Parlin DuPont FCU; Unilever FCU; United Teletech Financial FCU; and West Orange Municipal FCU—recently made a large donation, 167 boxes to be exact, to New Jersey National Guard troops. The donation was made in conjunction with NJCUL's and the participating credit unions' partnership with Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon.

This over \$20,000 donation provided flight pillows to every soldier in the 50th IBCT for their 23-hour flight to Iraq. Each departing soldier, over 3,000, received a pillow. The rest of the pillows were given to overseas military hospitals in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Germany. Thanks to Unilever, the pillows were delivered to the soldiers in Fort Bliss before they departed on their flight.

This is the largest deployment of N.J. civil warriors since World War II. Soldiers come from all 21 counties in New Jersey.

"The credit union philosophy is 'people helping people' and most credit unions are widely involved in the communities they serve. This project is something I personally feel very strongly about, but something that also so succinctly fits with the credit union philosophy. The support of the participating credit unions has been unbelievable and I couldn't have put together this donation without them," said NJCUL's Director of Marketing and Communications and leader of the project, Candice Areia.

Participating credit unions have rallied together for this cause. Some credit unions were able to collect funds directly in support of the pillows, others sold bracelets, raffled off bears, held "Scoops for Our Troops" events and much more to raise funds. Other credit unions have provided the soldiers with snacks and personal care items, even collected goodies for the K-9 unit dogs working with the military.

"What the NJ Credit Union League has done not only provides comfort for a very long flight, but also shows every single soldier that their well being is important to all the citizens of NJ. It was an incredible donation!" said Alan Krutchkoff, president, Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon.

For more information on how you can contribute to Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon, please visit www.adoptasoldierplatoon.org.

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.

About the New Jersey Credit Union League

Founded in 1934, the New Jersey Credit Union League is the official state trade association for credit unions and is committed to the development of the credit union movement in New Jersey. Its mission includes a full range of services, programs, products and money-saving opportunities specifically designed to satisfy a credit union's operational, financial, training, compliance and overall growth and development needs.