



# News Release

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## **USO Opens Permanent Home in Newly-Opened Terminal at San José Airport** *Ribbon cutting celebrates new quarters for traveling military personnel*

**San José, CA ---** After many years of operating out of a variety of temporary buildings, the USO at Mineta San José International Airport (SJC) celebrated its final move into a new comfortable and spacious home in the new Terminal B Concourse today.

Its new permanent facilities include a lounge, computers, kitchen, secure bag storage, library, and restrooms in 2,060 square feet of space serving approximately 11,000 military personnel and their families traveling through the airport each year. Staffed entirely by volunteers, the USO has operated at SJC since July 1991.

“We know it’s important to provide a touch of home for our men and women in the armed forces as they travel through our airport,” said San José Mayor Chuck Reed.



“San Jose Councilmember Ash Kalra, SJC USO Director Catherine Baumann, Command Sergeant Major Albert Davidson from Fort Hunter Liggett, and San Jose Vice Mayor Judy Chirco cut the ribbon to open the new permanent home of the USO in the Terminal B Concourse.”

*Photo by Frank Sweeney*

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“As we commemorate Veterans Day tomorrow, we’re proud to carry on San José’s long partnership with USO and offer our continued support for our military personnel.”

Originally housed within Terminal C itself, the USO has operated out of several temporary locations at the airport over the years to accommodate road and facility construction projects and changing space requirements, including the current comprehensive modernization program.

“This beautiful space is a tribute to the wonderful generosity of the City of San José and the Airport to our people in the military and their families,” said Catherine Baumann, director of the USO at SJC. “I’ve been tremendously impressed by the city’s staff and leadership who have helped to make this USO center one of the best in the nation.”

The new street-level location in the Terminal B Concourse puts the USO conveniently between Terminal A and the new Terminal B scheduled to open in June 2010. The USO pays \$1.00 per year to the Airport for using the space in the new building, which would be valued at more than \$500,000 in annual market rental rates.

“The airport’s modernization program gave us a unique opportunity to include the USO in our planning and create a first-class center for troops in the heart of our new terminal buildings,” said Bill Sherry, SJC director. “We expect this new home now will serve the USO for many decades.”

As the nearest major commercial airport to the US Army’s training center at Fort Hunter Liggett in southern Monterey County, SJC serves as the “home airport” for troops traveling to and from training exercises.

### **About the USO**

Since 1941 the USO ([www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org)) has delivered comfort, morale and recreational services to American military personnel at 135 centers around the world, including many airports. The USO is a congressionally chartered, private non-profit organization that relies on contributions from individuals and corporations for support. The original intent of Congress and the ongoing approach by the USO delivery is to represent the American people by extending a touch of home to the military. Service members and their families visit USO centers more than 6.9 million times each year.

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**About the SJC Terminal Area Improvement Program**

SJC's \$1.3 billion [terminal area improvement program](#) involves the modernization and replacement of the airport's terminal facilities, including the construction of a new Terminal B and Terminal B Concourse that will take the place of Terminal C, originally built in 1965. The program also includes upgrades and expansion of Terminal A to provide more spacious and comfortable waiting areas, new ticketing area, and faster security check-in systems.

The current program also includes a new 3,350-space rental car and public parking garage directly in front of Terminal B; expanded space for more options for quality food, beverage, and retail services; an extensive public art program; and improved roadways serving the airport for more convenient access.

The overall modernization program remains on-schedule and on-budget for completion by the end of 2010, and Terminal B is scheduled to open for service in June 2010.

**About Mineta San José International Airport**

Mineta San José International Airport, a self-supporting enterprise, is owned and operated by the City of San José. SJC served 9.7 million passengers and handled approximately 162 million pounds of air cargo in 2008. SJC has approximately 140 daily departures on 13 domestic and international carriers to 27 nonstop destinations.

Mineta San José International Airport is located in San José, California's third largest city and the nation's tenth largest city (population 1,007,000). For more airport information, visit [www.flysanjose.com](http://www.flysanjose.com).

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