

Our Board of Directors 2016

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We are a non-profit group of veterans and friends, men and women, supporting our armed forces serving overseas by greeting troops who arrive at Bangor International Airport.

Since we began greeting troop flights, first in 1991 and through the conflicts since then, the Maine Troop Greeters have greeted over 7417

flights with more than 1,499,277 service members and 403 military dogs.

It is our pledge that as long as there are U.S. Armed Forces serving overseas we will be here to greet them.



Maine Troop Greeters

Our Mission

The mission of the Maine Troop Greeters is to express the Nation's gratitude and appreciation to the Troops, for those going overseas for a safe return and for those returning, for a joyful homecoming and to make their (hopefully brief) stay in Bangor as comfortable and pleasant as possible.

Additionally we will honor the trust placed in us by these troops by preserving and perpetuating the donations entrusted to our care, through display, education and sharing of these collections.

Maine Troop Greeters

**Bangor International Airport
287 Godfrey Boulevard
Box 6
Bangor, Maine 04401**

www.themainetroopgreeters.org



Welcoming Troops to Bangor, Maine Since 1991



Maine Troop Greeters *A Short History...*

It all began on a winter morning in 1991, after a large and spirited group of citizens drove to Bangor International Airport to welcome home plane loads of returning Troops from Operation Desert Storm.

On that first of many days to follow, Army Sgt. Kevin Tillman with the 82nd Airborne Division, borrowed a John Bapst Memorial High School student's saxophone and delivered a spine-tingling rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" for the thousands gathered at the airport. By nightfall on March 8, 1991 Tillman's performance had been broadcast around the globe, thrusting Bangor, Maine and the volunteers, later known as the Maine Troop Greeters into the lime-light.

Another war and more than a million Troops later, the airport greetings continue. No matter the hour, members of all branches of the U.S. military and our allies are assured of a handshake, use of a free cell phone and a cookie as they pass through the city's airport. Many are headed to and from Iraq and Afghanistan as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom, as well as other hot spots around the globe.

The Bangor Troop greetings can be divided into four sections:

1) Operation Desert Storm: March 8, 1991 through August, 1991.

Troop welcomes grew throughout the spring and summer, at one time topping 1,500 persons to meet a single flight.

2) Post Operation Desert Storm: August 1991 through to the summer of 1992.

In an effort to provide some closure, airport administration ended the official Troop welcomes at the airport with a public ceremony in August

1991. However, the airport agreed to extend the welcomes into the summer of 1992 in response to greeters' concerns that many military flights were not being met.

3) Interim Greetings: 1992-1996.

The bridge between Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom was sustained by four dedicated troop greeters, led by Korean War veteran Everett Steele. During the lull between the two Gulf Wars, the foursome met nearly every military flight that passed through Bangor.

4) Operation Iraqi Freedom/ Operation Enduring Freedom:

As a show of support for the nation's Troops, flag-waving citizens, both former and future Maine Troop Greeters, rallied along Hogan Road in Bangor, Maine in December of 2002. On April 19, 2003 the second Gulf War began and in May of 2003 the official greetings of Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom Troop flights began at Bangor International Airport. Since 2003, the Maine Troop Greeters have greeted well over a million troops at Bangor International Airport.

The Maine Troop Greeters were officially incorporated as a registered non-profit organization in 2008 and have been designated a 501-C3 organization for non-profits.

by Richard Shaw



The Troop Greeter room located in the Domestic Terminal at Bangor International Airport.

The Maine Troop Greeters provide the troops with a warm welcome, free cell phone usage, long-distance calling cards, snacks, toiletries and amenities. This all-volunteer organization relies on monetary and in-kind donations.

If you would like to make a charitable contribution, please mail to Treasurer, Maine Troop Greeters, Bangor International Airport, 287 Godfrey Blvd. Box 6 Bangor, ME 04401 or go to our website at www.themaintroopgreeters.org

