



PRESS RELEASE- For Immediate Release

Contact: John M. Carroll, Virginia Director, National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA)

Phone: 540.967.1076

E-mail:claybrookefarm@veizon.net

2008 Trees for Troops

For the fourth consecutive year FedEx and the Christmas Spirit Foundation are teaming up for *Trees for Troops*. In the coming weeks, Christmas tree growers, retailers and FedEx Corp. are teaming up together in a plan to deliver approximately 16, 000 real Christmas trees to more than 45 military bases in the United States and overseas.

Trees for Troops will kick off its 2008 season beginning on December 1. Christmas tree growers from Virginia and other states are donating the trees and FedEx is donating the transportation and logistical support and services to the Christmas Spirit Foundation, a philanthropic branch of the National Christmas Tree Association.

The program has grown rapidly since its beginnings in 2005 when 4,300 trees were delivered to troops and military families at five bases at home in the United States and overseas. Last year more than 700 tree growers in 29 states donated 17,000 trees which FedEx delivered to over 40 military bases. Since the inception of the program more than 34,000 trees have been delivered in total, being distributed to every branch of the military at over 40 bases in 17 countries. FedEx trucks have traveled an estimated 90,000 over-the-road miles from pick-up to delivery.

This year the Virginia Christmas Growers Association (VCTGA) through many of its members are giving their support and participating once again. FedEx pick-up locations will be at Mount Rogers Christmas Tree Farm in Whitetop, Loweland Farms in Middleburg, Willow Springs Farm in Radford, and Claybrooke Farm in Mineral. The goal for Virginia is over 1000 trees coming from several farms across the state. Trees from Virginia growers will be delivered to Fort Story, Virginia; Fort Eustis, Virginia; Fort Pork, Louisiana; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.

This year the public is also being given the opportunity to participate in *Trees for Troops*. Trees may be purchased at participating farms and a personal message may be written on a *Trees for Troops* tree tag and attached to the trees for delivery. Two Virginia farms, Joe's Trees in Newport and Clouse's Pine Hill Farm in Winchester will offer this opportunity on December 5, 6, and 7.

John Carroll of Claybrooke Farm in Louisa County, Virginia's Director for the National Christmas Tree Association, is coordinating the state's effort this year. Carroll said Virginia is a leading state in the *Tree for Troops* program. Providing trees to our men and women in service is just one small way that growers and consumers can say thank you to our military personnel for risking their lives to defend our freedom.

For additional information on the Trees for Troops program you may visit www.TreesForTroops.org