



Until Every One Comes Home®

“Operation Thriller” USO Tour Proves a Hit Among Service Men and Women Stationed in Middle East

Troops Turn Out as Bestselling Thriller Authors Steve Berry, David Morrell, Doug Preston, James Rollins and Andy Harp Visit and Give Thanks

Twitter Pitch: @the_USO deploys five bestselling thriller writers to Middle East on first-ever entertainment tour

ARLINGTON, VA (November 8, 2010) – The USO recently deployed five of today’s most critically acclaimed thriller writers on a week-long USO/Armed Forces Entertainment tour to the Middle East. The tour, known as **Operation Thriller**, kicked off with a special visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, and National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. During their visit, the authors visited with wounded warriors and extended their heartfelt gratitude. Among the authors traveling on tour are:

- **Steve Berry** (*The Emperor’s Tomb*, *The Paris Vendetta*, *The Charlemagne Pursuit* and *The Venetian Betrayal*, among others)
- **David Morrell** (*First Blood*, in which Rambo was created, and *The Brotherhood of the Rose*)
- **Doug Preston** (*The Monster of Florence* and *Relic*, which later became a number one box office hit)
- **James Rollins** (*Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, and the Sigma Force series including *The Doomsday Key*)
- **Andy Harp** (*A Northern Thunder*)

Details:

- Operation Thriller is scheduled to visit two countries and tour five military posts in just eight days. In addition to visiting military hospitals in and around the nation’s capital, the tour has visited Camp Arifjan in Kuwait and touched the lives of countless troops.
- During their time on the front lines, the authors will share insider writer techniques, pose for photos and shake hands with troops. The group will also distribute advance copies of their upcoming novels and lead Q&A sessions. This is the first USO tour for each participant and the first time the USO has ever sent a group of authors to the combat zone.
- Whether writing about Special Forces soldiers (Rollins), Special Agents (Preston) or German troops (Berry), becoming honorary lifetime members of the Association of Intelligence Officers (Morrell) or serving in the U.S. Marine Corp (Harp), each author is an avid supporter of America’s armed forces and a member of the International Thriller Writers (ITW) -- the nation’s first and only professional organization devoted solely to thriller authors.
- The USO first announced Operation Thriller at ThrillerFest V, a four-day book conference organized by the ITW.

Quotes:

Attributed to Steve Berry:

"Going to the Persian Gulf with the USO is surreal. Nothing compares to the work our men and women in harms way face and overcome every day. History has always been important to me – there's something vital about knowing who you are and where you've been. I want our troops to know they are more than just soldiers, they are heroes."

Attributed to Andy Harp:

"To meet and thank those who serve is a special honor that all Americans would like to have. You sacrifice every day, every night, through every obstacle and threat, without break, to keep us safe and it is greatly appreciated. Without you, the heroes of fiction would never make it to the page. As a Marine who has served it is an honor to tell you thanks."

Attributed to David Morrell:

"I am trained in firearms, am an honorary member of the Special Operations Association and even wrote a novel that became one of the most well-known movies of all time, Rambo; and yet here it seems so small. I don't risk my life every day to keep others safe and I am not a hero. Our men and women deserve so much praise for their efforts and I am here with the USO to ensure they get it."

Attributed to Doug Preston:

"I am in awe of our troops, their courage and dedication. The fictional heroes I've created in my books are nothing compared to these real heroes. I am grateful to the USO for the opportunity to give a little something back to these fine men and women who are giving so much for us. What a moving and humbling experience."

Attributed to James Rollins:

"I've written an array of novels about Special Forces soldiers, but nothing can compare to going to the Persian Gulf and seeing our brave men and women at work. What they go through mentally and physically is nothing short of honorable. I am forever grateful to them and to the USO for this opportunity."

Multimedia:

 <small>Until Every One Comes Home™</small> USO Tour Photos https://uso.box.net/shared/s6346lhslx	 <small>Until Every One Comes Home™</small> USO Fact Sheet http://bit.ly/atEoQZ
 <small>Until Every One Comes Home™</small> USO Logo http://bit.ly/9JHKWv	 <small>Until Every One Comes Home™</small> Operation Thriller USO Tour Bios https://uso.box.net/shared/ltc73urzdl

Social Media and Other Web Sites:

Twitter: http://twitter.com/the_USO, <http://twitter.com/thrillerwriters>, <http://twitter.com/jamesrollins> and <http://twitter.com/armedforcesent>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/theUSO> and <http://www.facebook.com/Armed.Forces.Ent>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/USO4troops>

Web: www.uso.org, www.thrillerwriters.org and www.armedforcesentertainment.com

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About the USO

The USO (United Service Organizations) lifts the spirits of America's troops and their families millions of times each year at thousands of places worldwide. We provide a touch of home through centers at airports and military bases, top quality entertainment and innovative programs and services. We also provide critical support to those who need us most, including forward-deployed troops and their families, wounded warriors and their families and the families of the fallen.

The USO is a private, non-profit organization, not a government agency. We rely on the generosity of our volunteers and donors. In addition to individual donors and other corporate sponsors, the USO is supported by Worldwide Strategic Partners American Airlines, AT&T Inc., BAE Systems, The Boeing Company, Clear Channel Communications, The Coca-Cola Company, Gallery Furniture, Lockheed Martin, Microsoft Corporation, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Procter & Gamble and TriWest Healthcare Alliance. We are also supported through the United Way and Combined Federal Campaign (CFC-11381). To join us in this patriotic mission and to learn more about the USO, please visit www.uso.org.

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