



For Immediate Release:

November 1, 2007

Contact:

Bill Hopper, # 433-6536
Portsmouth Int'l Manager
Capt. Ed Johnson, # 964-5929
Pease Greeters

Pease Greeters Unveil Special U.S. Flags at Portsmouth Int'l Airport

Flags from Guadalcanal, War in Iraq and Afghanistan are gifts from visiting Troops



(Portsmouth) With more than 200 veterans, volunteers, dignitaries and a color guard gathered in a hallway at the Portsmouth International Airport, the Pease Greeters dedicated three U.S. flags with tremendous significance from World War II and the War on Terror.

The event began with the unveiling of the first U.S. flag raised over Guadalcanal in 1942. Organizers suspended the 48-star standard from the ceiling of the airport terminal, encasing it in plexi-glass for protection. The flag is on loan to the Pease Development Authority from the family of the late Master Sergeant George Doore (USMC retired) of Kittery, Maine. As a young corporal, Doore was fighting on Guadalcanal and saved the flag from being seized by the Japanese during a counterattack at great personal risk.

The two other flags were mounted on the terminal wall with plaques describing their stories. The first flew over the gunship that helped to take out terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqwai in June of 2006. The third flag was also a gift to the Greeters and was raised over both Kabul and Baghdad by U.S. troops. It was presented to the Greeters as a thank you by Navy Capt. Adonis Arvanitakis who was welcomed home by the Greeters last year.

“All three of these flags mean so much to us,” said Commandant Ed Johnson of the Seacoast Detachment of the Marine Corps League who leads the Greeters. “They were given to us by the bravest of the brave and we are so honored. The fact we’re now able to put them on display and share them, instead of the flags being put away and forgotten, takes on even greater meaning with Veterans’ Day just around the corner. We promise to keep them safe and to always remember the sacrifices they represent.”