



NEWS BULLETIN

MARINE TOYS FOR TOTS FOUNDATION

For further information contact: Major Brian A. Murray, USMC (Ret) at 703-640-9433

Washington, DC – September 11, 2006 – The 2006 National Toys for Tots Coordinator Conference was conducted from September 8 – 11. The 2006 conference was held at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria, Virginia. Approximately 330 (60%) of the 545 local Toys for Tots coordinators attended the conference, which was planned, organized and orchestrated by the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation staff with the assistance of the Marine Forces Reserve Toys for Tots Liaison Officer (Captain Tyson Dunkelburger).

Following the arrival of the coordinators on Friday afternoon, the Foundation hosted a “meet and greet” reception in the Terrace Room of the hotel.

The Foundation President & CEO, LtGen Matthew T. Cooper, USMC (Ret), welcomed the attendees and officially opened the conference on Saturday morning with remarks designed to set the stage for the conference program of events. Thereafter, the day was devoted to a series of briefings by members of the Foundation staff. The Saturday schedule of events also included regional seminar sessions designed to facilitate interaction among coordinators and the Foundation staff.

On Saturday evening, the Foundation hosted a special dinner for coordinators. The post-dinner program included a speech by the Foundation President & CEO which reviewed the history and evolution of Toys for Tots plus made an appeal to coordinators to continue to strive to be role models for the needy children the program reaches each year. The final event of the post-dinner program was the recognition of the 2005 national and regional Toys for Tots campaigns and coordinators of the year.

On Sunday, the program of briefings and seminars continued throughout the day. An informal dinner on Sunday evening brought the conference to a close. Coordinators traveled to their homes on Monday.

The principal goals of the conference were:

1. Enhance the spirit of teamwork throughout the Toys for Tots team
2. Help local Toys for Tots Coordinators conduct more effective local campaigns
3. Find ways to make the tasks of local Toys for Tots Coordinators easier

4. Enhance the image of the U.S. Marine Corps and the Toys for Tots program
5. Enhance the administrative proficiency throughout all elements of the Toys for Tots program.

Two of the Foundation's objectives were:

1. To make the conference professionally rewarding, interesting and enjoyable for all attendees;
2. For the conference to enhance the 2006 Toys for Tots campaign.

Based on the comments of attendees, the 2006 National Toys for Tots Coordinator Conference accomplished the goals and objectives and was a success.