



MEDIA ADVISORY - URGENT

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“LOCAL SOLDIER WHO HEADED OPERATION SEND A SMILE GIVES AN UPDATE TO THE PORT OF CORPUS CHRISTI TODAY” *A Community Wide Campaign For The Children In Iraq*

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX – (February 6, 2006) - Last year, The Port of Corpus Christi along with area organizations teamed up to support a community-wide campaign called **“OPERATION SEND A SMILE “**. The Campaign was created to collect items for the children in Iraq. *Today, Monday, February 6, 2006 at 10:30 a.m., at the Port of Corpus Christi Admin. Offices located at 222 Power St, 1LT Flores stationed in Sadr City (In charge of coordinating the efforts in Iraq), will make a special presentation and give a report to the Port.*

“OPERATION SEND A SMILE” was created as a result of The Port of Corpus Christi sending care packages to 2LT Christopher Flores, a Corpus Christi native stationed in Sadr City, Iraq in an effort to support the military serving our country overseas. In thanking the Port for their support, 2LT Flores spoke of the many needs of a country in the process of rebuilding. When he spoke of the children of Iraq and the hope of building trust and character among the youth, it touched our hearts. He stated that the children of Iraq love soccer and are in desperate need of equipment for the boys and teddy bears for the girls. The Port of Corpus Christi then asked how could we help? As a result, **“OPERATION SEND A SMILE”** was formed.

The Port of Corpus Christi was able to create **“OPERATION SEND A SMILE”** because of the support of the following sponsors: Caller Times, KRIS-TV, Clear Channel Radio, the Corpus Christi Fire Department, HEB, Port Industries of Corpus Christi

companies CITGO-Corpus Christi Refinery, Valero, Flint Hills and Lyondell. Also RVE., INC., Vela Consulting, the Railroad Seafood Station, Carlise Insurance, Valls Shipping, Welder, Leshin & Mahaffey, First National Bank, Wellsfargo, C.C.C. Group, INC., San Jacinto Title, Nueces County, C.C> Ice Rayz, Krispy Kream and Soccer Etc.. On the Teddy Bear campaign, we have the commitment of area children from the following CCISD Elementary Schools: Carroll Lane, Evans, Lamar, Los Encinos, Smith, Travis, Windsor Park, Woodlawn, Barnes, Fannin, Shaw and Yeager, and Robstown School District

WHAT: Update of "OPERATION SEND A SMILE"

WHEN: Monday, February 6, 2006 @ 10:30 A.M.

WHERE: Port Admin Offices – 222 Power St.