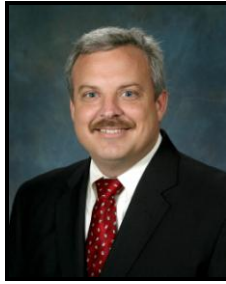


THE COUNTY LINE



I Only Have 2 Requests for Okaloosa County

- 1) Be Counted in the April 1, 2010 Census – Your participation improves our community, it only takes minutes to complete and it is completely confidential!
- 2) Support the brand new USO Freedom Lounge at the Northwest Florida Regional Airport – Become a trained volunteer; donate coffee, snacks or money; give something back to our military! Opening Soon!

The U.S. Constitution mandates a head count every 10 years of everyone, and has done so since 1790. The Census includes everyone: **all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and noncitizens**. The 2010 census is shorter – just 10 easy questions!

Most will receive a U.S. Census form in the mail and are encouraged to fill it out and return it to save time and money. If you do not receive a form, you will most likely be approached by a Census worker to fill out the form, and are encouraged to do so. Safety first – Census workers will wear ID badges and most likely carry a handheld global positioning system (for their safety).

Why fill out the Census form? It means money to your community for programs such as Head Start; Women, infants, children (WIC); public transportation, roads/infrastructure; programs for elderly, emergencies, schools and voting districts, growth and community development – decision making and funding at all levels of government depend on census data.

Be counted in 2010 for the census and be counted for the **USO (United Service Organization)**. The USO reaches out through airports, welcoming weary military travelers with a place to rest. It also organizes celebrity tours to deployed soldiers all over the world. Today, the USO delivers its programs and services at more than 140 locations around the world. A new service of videotaping military parents reading to their child, prior to deployment, is a popular activity conducted at many USO airport locations. **Visit USO.org.**

Thanks to local Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committees (MACs), the USO now has a home in the **Northwest Florida Regional Airport** for our military, called Freedom Lounge. The current Okaloosa County Leadership Class is raising funds to furnish **USO Freedom Lounge**. Volunteer training is being scheduled and overall funds are needed to make this a successful effort. Call the Airport at **850-651-7160, ext. 4**, call Kathy Karstan, **455-8280, option 4 to volunteer**, or email usopensacola@uso.org for more information. Donations can be mailed to PO Box 1576 Crestview FL, 32536, and the USO Freedom Lounge hopes to open in Spring, 2010.

My sincere thanks,
Don Amunds
Okaloosa County Commissioner, District 4
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