



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 29, 2014

**CONTACT:**

Oname Thompson

703-864-5980

[othompson@uso.org](mailto:othompson@uso.org)

## **Military Cook Turned Celebrity Chef Robert Irvine to Travel to Japan and Participate in the USO's First Entertainment Tour of 2015**

*Food Network star to talk food, nutrition and fitness as well as conduct cooking demonstrations alongside troops and military families stationed in the Pacific*

**WHAT:** USO tour featuring **Chef Robert Irvine**

**WHEN:** January 3 - 9, 2015

**WHERE:** Japan

**WHY:** Star of Food Network's "Restaurant Impossible" **Chef Robert Irvine** heads to Japan to headline USO's first entertainment tour of 2015 from January 3rd – 9th. Jam-packed with six base visits and four spirited cooking demonstrations, Chef Irvine will spend a week visiting, thanking and creating moments for our troops and their families stationed in the Pacific.

When not on set or doing live appearances, Irvine can be found giving back. In November 2014, Irvine teamed up with Marie Callender and long-time USO tour veteran/friend Gary Sinise to thank a wounded warrior and give him the homecoming he deserved. The event debuted on the Food Network and all of its sister channels on November 11<sup>th</sup> as part of the Veteran's Day special "A Hero's Welcome." During the special, Irvine urged viewers to donate to the USO. Later in mid-December, while visiting Naval Submarine Base New London, Irvine announced the launch of his newly formed Robert Irvine Foundation – a nonprofit organization supporting individuals and organizations committed to enriching the lives of military personnel and their families.

A native of England, Chef Irvine joined the British Royal Navy at 15 and spent the next 10 years touring Europe aboard various naval ships, including the Royal Yacht Britannia. Expanding his passion for cooking, Robert quickly rose from mentee to mentor, serving as executive chef for The Trump Taj Mahal, head chef for the 2006 Academy Awards, award-winning author, entrepreneur and host of several Food Network shows including "Restaurant: Impossible," now in its eighth season. Adding to his long list of accomplishments Irvine launched a line of baked protein bars, Fit Crunch, followed by a new fitness and nutrition book, "Fit Fuel" in 2014.

**QUOTE:**

*Attributed to Chef Robert Irvine:*

“If it weren’t for the brave and selfless men and women of our nation’s armed forces currently standing watch, I couldn’t wake up and do what I love each and every day. I am forever appreciative for their sacrifices and am grateful to the USO for the opportunity to spend some quality time with them. I really look forward to the experience and to celebrating the new year with some of America’s finest.”

**NOTE:**

The USO’s “Every Moment Counts” invites Americans to join the USO and Chef Irvine in honoring, saluting and creating moments for our nation’s troops and their families this year. This trip, much like the campaign centers around the countless every day moments – from family dinners and date nights to children’s births and bedtime stories – that our troops and their families selflessly sacrifice due to their commitment and service to our country. To learn more visit [USOMoments.org](http://USOMoments.org) or join the conversation on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) using #USOMoments.

**About the USO**

*The USO lifts the spirits of America’s troops and their families millions of times each year at hundreds of places worldwide. We provide a touch of home through centers at airports and military bases in the U.S. and abroad, top quality entertainment and innovative programs and services. We also provide critical support to those who need us most, including forward-deployed troops, military families, wounded warriors, troops in transition and families of the fallen. The USO is a private, non-profit organization, not a government agency. Our programs and services are made possible by the American people, support of our corporate partners and the dedication of our volunteers and staff.*

*In addition to individual donors and corporate sponsors, the USO is supported by President’s Circle Partners: American Airlines, AT&T, BNSF Railway, Clark Construction Group, LLC, The Coca-Cola Company, Grand Canyon University, JCPenney, Jeep, Johnson & Johnson, Kroger, Northrop Grumman Corporation and TriWest Healthcare Alliance and Worldwide Strategic Partners: BAE Systems, BIC, The Boeing Company, ConAgra Foods, FedEx, Harris Teeter, Lockheed Martin, Microsoft Corporation, Procter & Gamble, TKS Telepost Kabel-Service Kaiserslautern GmbH & Co. KG and Wawa Inc. We are also supported through the United Way and Combined Federal Campaign (CFC-11381). To join us in this important mission, and to learn more about the USO, please visit [uso.org](http://uso.org).*

###