

Operation Eagle's Nest is worthy of everyone's support

There are literally thousands of things on the minds of military families living on or near Fort Campbell these days while their loved ones are at war.

Funds in an emergency should not be one of those things.

There are agencies on post overseen by the Army to assist soldiers and family members when bonafide, unexpected needs arise: the Chaplain's Fund, Combined Federal Campaign, Army Relief Fund.

But many of those funds rely on the presence of large numbers of soldiers to keep the accounts replenished and vibrant. Likewise, when soldiers are home, routine home repairs and family emergencies are likely to be taken care of when they occur on the lower possible level.

So the double-whammy of lower fund levels and the likelihood of more family emergencies looms in the face of the longer-than-normal deployment anticipated by the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Community leaders in both Hopkinsville and Clarksville, Tenn., were wise in setting up "Operation Eagle's Nest" to ensure that the existing funds are replenished when the need arises.

They took the step to make the program qualify for 501(C)3 status, which ensures a degree of supervision by the Internal Revenue Service and qualifies donations as tax-deductible.

It would have been easy to set up an entirely new program, with new screenings, new bureaucracies and new requirements.

But preserving a sense of routine is important during uncertain times and reinforcing existing institutions breeds confidence and faith in those agencies.

There may be less visibility to the respective community donors, but that wisely is taking a back seat to providing a degree of peace of mind for our neighbors.

Our hat's off to the organizers and donors of "Operation Eagle's Nest" and we applaud their concern and efforts.

(Editor's note: Contributions can be sent to Operation Eagle's Nest, Post Office Box 203, Fort Campbell, Ky. 42223.)

