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**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to Celebrate Monroe Middle School \$22,000+ Upgrade**  
*AFFF/Taco Bell donation to benefit local military families of MacDill Air Force Base*

**Tampa, FL** – Students in grades 6-8 attending the MacDill AFB Monroe Middle School will be receiving a much-needed upgrade to classrooms. The Armed Forces Families Foundation has donated over \$22,400 to the school serving military families. Funds for the donation were raised in local Taco Bell restaurants during their annual fundraiser in an effort to help serve those who serve us.

To initiate the new equipment and thank all those involved, a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the Middle School. Taco Bell will provide food for the attendees and our local media is welcome to attend this worthy event.

The upgrades to Monroe Middle-School will consist of six Smart Board Suites. The new Smart Boards have proved to be an invaluable tool for teachers in the classroom allowing them to project lessons on a screen facilitating discussion, sharing examples, encouraging active involvement, and more. Additionally, the new equipment allows tactile learners to benefit by touching, manipulating, and marking the boards. Students really want to use these tools at every opportunity which leads to increased achievement due to the higher level of engagement.

As a school serving military families, Monroe Middle-School is currently undergoing several significant changes to improve including a new Principal, Mr. Ken Hart. Mr. Hart has created an aggressive plan with measurable metrics in place that should show marked improvements.

Both the Armed Forces Families Foundation and Taco Bell are proud to support the new efforts to improve school learning conditions at Monroe Middle School. “Our troops’ loved ones are their first line of support. Taco Bell is proud to support our troops by supporting their families,” said Thaddeus Foster, chief operations officer and franchisee for Southeast QSR Inc.

The Armed Forces Families Foundation (AFFF), in conjunction with participating Taco Bell restaurants, has completed numerous projects for military and their families all over the Southeast. Their most recent Fundraiser in December led them over the ONE MILLION DOLLAR MARK, each dollar of which goes toward projects to help those who protect us.

For more information, please visit the following Web site: <http://www.armedforcesfamilies.org/>

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