

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**** MEDIA ADVISORY ****

**SATURDAY: Embassy of Qatar to Sponsor Military Appreciation Night
at Championship Stadium**

IRVINE, Calif. — The Embassy of the State of Qatar to the United States will sponsor Saturday night's Military Appreciation Night at Championship Stadium as the Orange County Soccer Club (OCSC) faces off against the Rio Grande Valley FC Toros. As one of the United States' longstanding overseas military partners, the Embassy has a deep commitment to supporting and celebrating veterans and active-duty military families here at home. Saturday's game will feature a swearing-in ceremony for new recruits, a uniformed National Anthem and color guard presentation, and a halftime ceremony recognizing the partners and sponsors for the evening.

The OCSC Foundation is one of several Embassy partnerships throughout the U.S. designed to support servicemembers and their families. Saturday's game kicks off an ongoing partnership with OCSC that will include a soccer camp and tournament for children of veterans and active-duty personnel as well as a day of professional networking and coaching for service members who are transitioning to the civilian workforce.

WHO:

Lisa Keston, Orange County Soccer Club

Fatema al-Baker, Director of Public Diplomacy, Embassy of the State of Qatar (Phone)

Michael Barrett, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired) Director, VetNet Program, Working Wardrobes

WHEN:

Saturday, July 17

Media Check-in: 4:00 p.m. AT VIP WILL CALL

Game Time: 5:00 p.m. PDT

WHERE:

Championship Soccer Stadium, 8272 Great Park Blvd, Irvine, CA 92618

MEDIA PARKING: Free parking is available in Lot #3 (News van parking available in loading area in front of Championship Stadium.)

VISUALS:

Halftime swearing in ceremony

Halftime presentation with The Embassy of the State of Qatar to the United States

Military Families
Military vehicles

RSVP:

To help with head count and to ensure proper social distancing, media interested in covering the game must complete OCSC's online credential application / registration by July 16th: <https://forms.gle/vxAQ9tZbEvUaNGDH7>.

About the Embassy of the State of Qatar to the United States

The Embassy of the State of Qatar in Washington, D.C. houses Qatar's diplomatic mission to the United States. The primary purposes of the Embassy of Qatar are to highlight Qatar's policies on regional issues, strengthen Qatar-U.S. bilateral relations, and to assist Qatari citizens who travel or live in the U.S. The current Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the United States of America is His Excellency Sheikh Meshal Bin Hamad Al-Thani.

ABOUT ORANGE COUNTY SOCCER CLUB:

Orange County Soccer Club (OCSC) is Orange County's only professional soccer team and is part of the United Soccer League (USL), the fastest growing Division II professional soccer league in the world. The USL is comprised of 35 teams across the United States. The team plays its home games at the 5,500-seat Orange County Great Park Championship Soccer Stadium, located in Irvine, CA. OCSC's strategic partner is historic the European power Rangers Football Club of Glasgow in the Scottish Premier League. OCSC signed the youngest male in United States soccer history to a professional contract, Francis Jacobs, in 2019 at the age of 14. The team also executed the first ever player move from the USL to Wolfsburg of the German Bundesliga with Bryang Kayo in early 2020, followed by the transfer of OC native Aaron Cervantes to Rangers FC in late 2020. OCSC's preceding club, Orange County Blues, was one of 12 founding members of the USL during its inaugural 2011 season. Team owner and Chief Investment Officer of LARO Properties, James Keston, purchased and re-branded the team in 2017. Keston, who actively oversees all operations of the team, is dedicated to providing a pathway to professional soccer and a world-class soccer organization that focuses on the fans, players and youth clubs of Orange County.

For more information about Orange County Soccer Club, and to experience professional soccer in the OC, visit: <http://www.orangecountysoccer.com>. For more information about the United Soccer League, visit: <http://www.uslsoccer.com>.

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